

# Media Release

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November 4, 2004

## **Epic South Pacific kayaking chronicle wins 2004 Banff Mountain Book Festival Grand Prize**

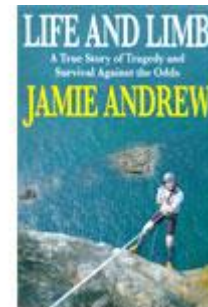
Author and adventurer Chris Duff brings readers into the cockpit of his 18-foot sea kayak to travel the South Pacific and Tasman Sea, and along the wild western coast of New Zealand, and his book chronicling the journey has been named the Grand Prize winner of the 2004 Banff Mountain Book Competition. ***Southern Exposure***, by Chris Duff, Globe Pequot Press (USA, 2003), was awarded the Phyllis and Don Munday Award, sponsored by the Alpine Club of Canada today at The Banff Centre.



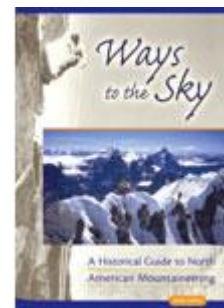
Described by competition jury members as “introspective, meditational, and at times poetic,” Duff’s descriptions of his solo kayak trip in the oceans around New Zealand have both a gripping sense of the uncertainty of nature, and a simple joy in self-reliance and accomplishment. Jury members also appreciated the way that Duff “regularly leavens his acute observations of the natural world with an equally sharp eye for human quirkiness and character among the folk he chances upon.”

One hundred and thirty-seven books were entered in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual competition, and a committee selected the 32 finalists, which were then passed to the 2004 Banff Mountain Book Jury to choose the winners. This year’s jury included U.K.-based mountaineer and author Colin Wells; Lisa Christensen, a writer and curator with Banff’s Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies; and writer, editor, and adventurer Donovan Webster.

The Jon Whyte Award for Mountain Literature, sponsored by the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, went to ***Life and Limb: A True Story of Tragedy and Survival Against the Odds*** by Jamie Andrew, Piatkus Books (U.K., 2004), a book that jury members found had a “compelling and agonisingly suspenseful quality about it.” It tells the story of Andrew’s rescue after five nights trapped by a storm on Mont Blanc.



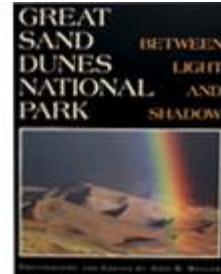
***Ways to the Sky: A Historical Guidebook to North American Mountaineering*** by Andy Selters, American Alpine Club (U.S.A., 2004) won the James Monroe Thorington Award for the Best Work of Mountaineering History, sponsored by the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA). It’s a book that documents the entire scope of climbing history on this continent, with route information on 47 historically significant climbs.



Wade Davis, one of the most acclaimed scientific and adventure writers in North America, won the award for Best Book on Adventure Travel, sponsored by Batstar Adventures in Port Alberni, B.C. His book, ***The Lost Amazon: The Photographic Journey of Richard Evans Schultes***, Douglas & McIntyre (Canada, 2004), is a large-scale history of a scientist who disappeared into the Amazon Basin in the 1940s, to reappear 12 years later after identifying 2,000 new medicinal plants.



John B. Weller's ***Great Sand Dunes National Park: Between Light and Shadow***, Westcliffe Publishers (U.S.A., 2004) takes the award for Best Book - Mountain Image, sponsored by Rocky Mountain Books. The author photographed this Colorado landscape once a month for three and a half years, accompanying the images with his own essays, poetry, and journal entries.



The Best Book - Mountain Exposition award, sponsored by Mountain Lights Bookstore, went to Will Gadd for ***Ice & Mixed Climbing: Modern Technique***, The Mountaineers Books (U.S.A., 2003). A blend of step-by-step instruction and real-life stories, the book is described by jury members as "utterly bang up-to-date, as Gadd's still at the top of his game".



Jonathan Rollins won the Canadian Rockies Award for ***Caves of the Canadian Rockies and Columbia Mountains***, Rocky Mountain Books (Canada, 2004). This award is sponsored by Deuter Sport and the winner is selected by a local committee.

