

Grand Prize

Phyllis and Don Munday Award \$4,000

Sponsored by the Alpine Club of Canada

ONE DAY AS A TIGER: ALEX MACINTYRE AND THE BIRTH OF LIGHT AND FAST ALPINISM

John Porter

Vertebrate Publishing (UK, 2014)



John Porter has taken a huge risk in this biography of his one-time partner and best friend, Alex MacIntyre, by unfolding the short life of a visionary climber through the unusual vehicle of a dual memoir-half MacIntyre, half Porter. The chance to use MacIntyre's story as a pretext for recounting his own adventures in the mountains is a temptation that Porter not only sidesteps, but transmutes into something rare and new.

One Day as a Tiger thus gets at truths that very few biographies of mountaineers have touched. The narrative arc of the book proceeds not as the usual succession of shared great days and climbs, but as the trajectory of a bold mentor who once took all the hard leads turning into an ambivalent elder whom his even bolder protégé all but leaves behind.

The denouement on Annapurna's south face in 1982, where MacIntyre is killed by a falling stone, infuses this chronicle with some of the most gripping and poignant climbing writing in recent memory. That Porter waited three decades to tell the story of his lost comrade no doubt accounts for much of the wisdom and power of this remarkable book.

2014 Book Jury Member David Roberts

Mountain and Wilderness Literature, Non-Fiction

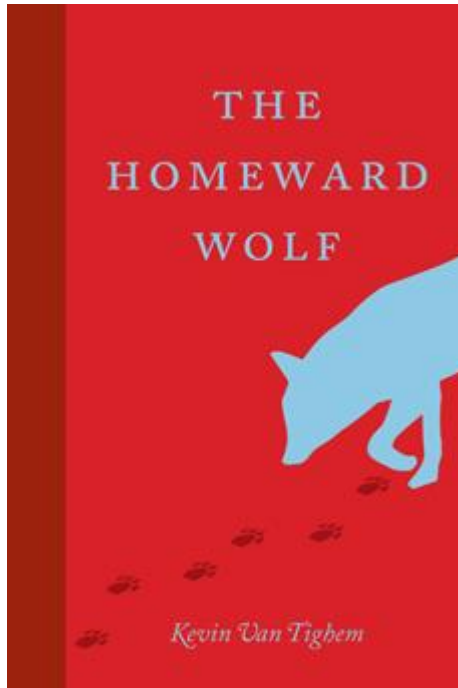
The Jon Whyte Award \$2,000

Sponsored by The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies

THE HOMEWARD WOLF

Kevin Van Tighem

Rocky Mountain Books (Canada, 2013)



We loved this book. Succinct, useful, elegantly written, even-handed and thought provoking, it threads together some stunning nature writing with a clear and engaging explanation of the deep well of politics and prejudice that surrounds the wolf.

The interaction of wolves with elk, caribou, deer, cattle, and humans is so complicated and elusive that it's a wonder that the author succeeds in making that tangle comprehensible at all. A quiet anger against the idiocies of unenlightened bureaucrats hums under the surface of the book. But when Van Tighem ends with hope, we glimpse hope ourselves.

There's some profound wisdom here: Humility tastes bitter only at first; then it starts to taste a lot like belonging. His ideas about ecology are tuned in to the latest thinking and yet he judiciously keeps his distance, which lends weight to his cautious optimism. We felt Rocky Mountain Books deserve credit for the way the book is published. It's an important contribution to the conservation debate beautifully presented.

2014 Book Jury member Ed Douglas

Adventure Travel Award

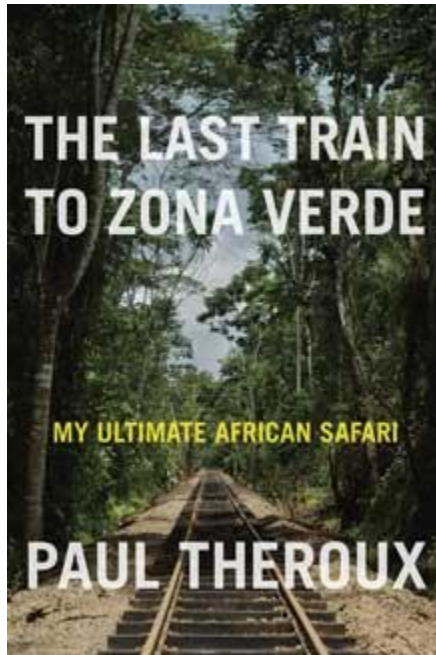
\$2,000

Sponsored by The Juniper Hotel & The Wild Flour Bakery & Café

THE LAST TRAIN TO ZONA VERDE

Paul Theroux

McClelland & Stewart (Canada, 2013)



This is an honest book - Theroux does not sugar coat the westerner travelling in a non-western country+experience, nor does he disguise the fact that this might be his swan song for African travel. His is an understated adventure travel writing that captures the nuances of a changing world and urbanization; well-written and informative, while encouraging curiosity and deftly portraying the complexities of a place and culture. While it would be so easy for someone as successful as him to decide to take it easier for a change, he instead sallies forth, taking on the realities of existence in south-western Africa and its attendant corruption, poverty and despair in striking, evocative scenes. It is also a brave examination of his life's work, and what it all means in the end. Theroux is a more than seasoned traveller who still lets himself be surprised, shedding light onto a little-visited part of Africa and the changing nature of travel, in a way that only a master can.+

2014 Book Jury Member Anik See

Mountain Image Award

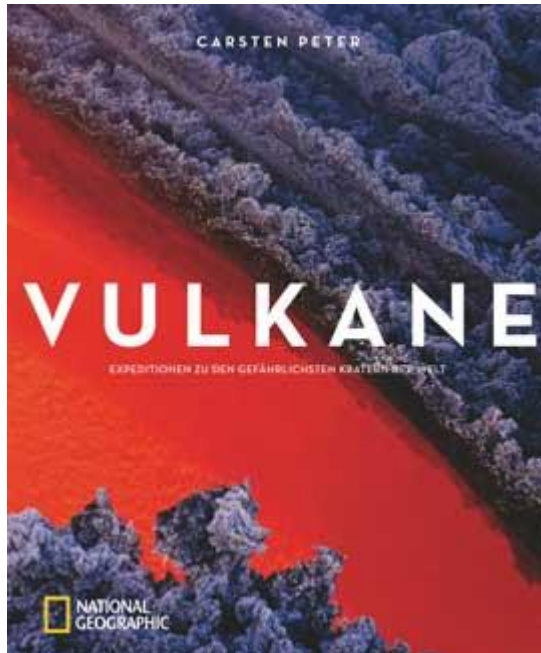
\$2,000

Sponsored by *Alpinist Magazine*

VULKANE

Carsten Peter

National Geographic / NG Malik Buchgesellschaft (Germany, 2013)



+In this stunning volume, Carsten Peter performs the rare feat of showing us the natural world as we've never seen it before. The courage and skill it took for the photographer to get so close to potentially fatal explosions of lava, magma, and scalding geysers are evident, yet there's very little ego involved in Peter's presentation. The human figures posed in silhouette or in safety suits against dwarfing cataclysms have the anonymity of scientists and explorers bent on discovery, not glory.

In the end, *Vulkane* delivers a revelation, as it shows us that the bucolic surface of the planet we inhabit disguises the unfathomable violence that seethes just beneath. Volcanos announce a subterranean world that we will never be able to explore, yet Carsten Peter has edged as close to its beautiful nightmare as we are ever likely to get.+

2014 Book Jury Member David Roberts

Mountain Guidebook Award

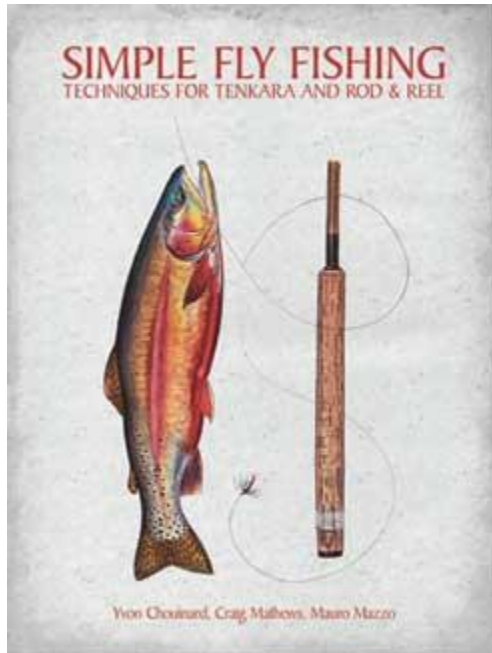
\$2,000

Sponsored by the American Alpine Club

SIMPLE FLY FISHING: TECHNIQUES FOR TENKARA AND ROD & REEL

Yvon Chouinard, Craig Mathews and Mauro Mazzo

Patagonia Books (USA, 2014)



+Good technique guidebooks teach you how to do something. Great ones teach you how to live. This book is certainly far more than a how-to manual. It's a manifesto for embracing the natural world by stripping a complex activity down to a lesson in simplicity and sustainability.

There's a lot of fishing wisdom here, a lot of sage advice, clearly and plainly expressed. But it's the linkage between the essentials of a satisfying activity and a sustainable worldview that is most satisfying. Knowledge gained on the river underpins a philosophical outlook and prompts an environmental education - it might even pitch some readers into activism.

Beautifully illustrated with photos, clean diagrams and drawings, and the occasional cartoon. We yearn for a simpler life based not on refusing all technology, but on going back to appropriate technology, what David Brower describes as 'turning around and taking a forward step'.+

2014 Book Jury Member Ed Douglas

Mountain Fiction and Poetry Award

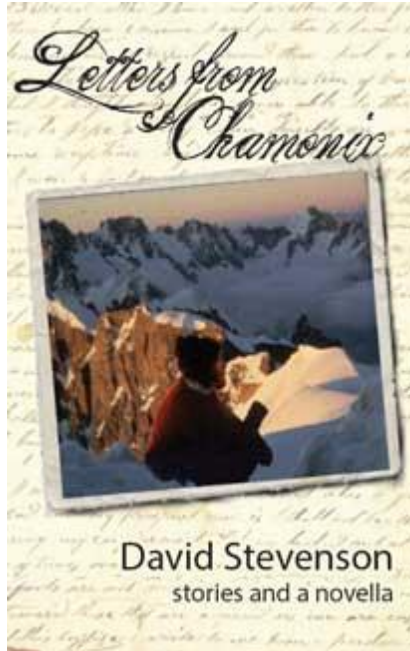
\$2,000

Sponsored by Orofino Wines

LETTERS FROM CHAMONIX

David Stevenson

Imaginary Mountain Surveyors (Canada, 2014)



“*Letters from Chamonix*, Stevenson captures the spirit and passion of climbing without the cliché, jargon and often predictable plots and characters. Each short story is as diverse in characters and challenges as each climb is from the next. Combining authentic scenes and plots with all of the elements that make good stories, the reader is treated to several points of view of what it's like to be a climber - and the never-ending array of psychological states climbers endure to do the thing they love - while also including the experience of non-climbers who are left behind by tragedy. With this collection, Stevenson has made it clear that he is a man as dedicated to the craft of writing as he is to climbing. A boon for mountain fiction.+

2014 Book Jury Member Anik See

Mountaineering History

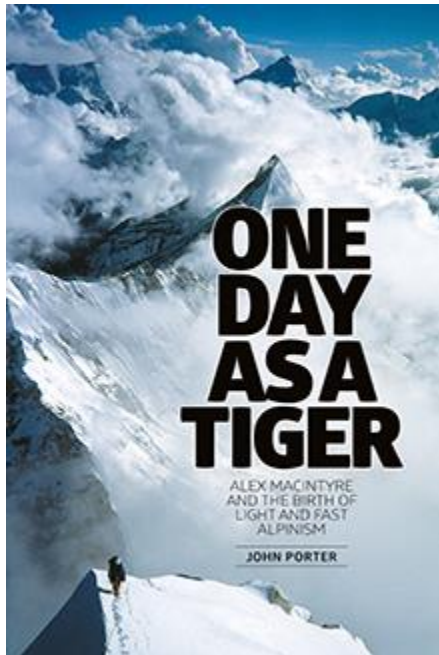
The James Monroe Thorington Award \$1,000

Sponsored by the UIAA and William Putnam

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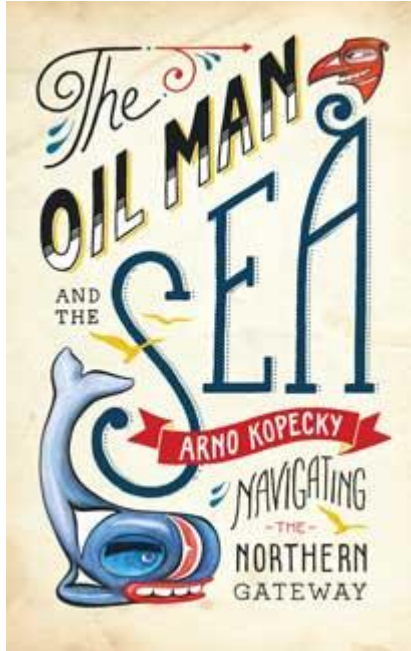
2014 Book Jury Member David Roberts

Special Jury Mention

THE OIL MAN AND THE SEA

Arno Kopecky

Douglas & McIntyre (Canada, 2013)



Arno Kopecky tackles the issue of the Northern Gateway pipeline proposal, asking questions on both sides of the debate that beg to be answered. He deftly explores the complexities of Big Oil in pristine wilderness - not just its potential benefits and downsides, but also the progress that's been made on environmental and aboriginal fronts. Blending entertaining travelogue with environmental witness and a whole host of characters, he reveals the grey areas of the issue and what is at stake for all parties involved. Kopecky never succumbs to the temptations of the soapbox, and makes sense of the human scale of the proposed pipeline that so far has escaped the media or any other writer.+

2014 Book Jury Member Anik See