

## 2015 BOOK JURY

### **Majka Burhardt**



Majka Burhardt (USA) has a passion for creating unusual connections. As an author, professional climber, filmmaker, and entrepreneur, Majka has spent two decades exploring the globe—usually by hand and foot—and her stories of challenge, humanity, and the fine line between extreme and acceptable risk inspire and challenge audiences around the world. Majka is the author of *Coffee Story: Ethiopia* and *Vertical Ethiopia: Climbing Toward Possibility in the Horn of Africa*. Her work and projects have been featured in *The Economist*, *Outside Magazine*, *The Weather Channel*, *NPR* and many other major international media outlets. Majka's articles have appeared in publications including *Afar*, *Men's Health*, *Skiing Magazine*, *Backpacker*, *Patagonia*, *Alpinist*, *Women's Adventure*, *The Explorers Journal*, and *Climbing*, where her column "Whipped," ran for six years. Majka's blog, *The Liminal Line*, can be found here, on her website. Majka has an MFA in Creative Writing from the Warren Wilson Program for Writers and received her BA in Anthropology from Princeton University. She is an ambassador/athlete for Patagonia, Osprey Packs, Positive Tracks, Petzl, Scarpa, and Julbo. She is an American Mountain Guides Association Certified Rock Guide and also recently completed two three year terms on the organizations' Board of Directors.

## Victor Saunders



Victor Saunders (UK) became a member of the International Federation of Mountain Guides in 1996 after a career as an architect in London. He then relocated to Chamonix, France, and became a member of the National Syndicate of French Mountain Guides in 2003. Victor invested a lot of expedition time in the Karakoram and Himalaya, and recently calculated that he has now spent five years of his life under canvas. Some of these adventures have appeared in print. When not working or writing, he spends his time cooking for friends and family, and clambering on steep little bits of rock. Victor has written 4 books: *Elusive Summits: Four Expeditions in the Karakoram* which won the Boardman Tasker prize in 1991, *Trekking and Climbing in the Andes*, *No Place to Fall*, and *Alpes Occidentales: Trekking y Alpinismo*.

## Harry Vandervlist



Harry Vandervlist edited *Jon Whyte: Mind Over Mountains*, Selected and Collected Poems in 2000. He publishes magazine articles and scholarly writing on mountain literature, which he also teaches in the English Department at the University of Calgary. Over the past ten years he has taught several mountain literature courses which bring university students to the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival, and has often served as a panelist and moderator at Festival events. His reviews and essays have appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, *Quill and Quire*, *AlbertaViews*, *Avenue*, and *Swerve* (where his mock expedition journal “The MacLeod Trail Expedition” won a Western Magazine Award).