Challenges Familiar and New

This was a year when everything was great for the Trail Conference, right up until the moment when everything turned tough. When a meltdown of major financial institutions wreaked economic havoc and instability across the country and around the world, the Trail Conference was not insulated from the problems. But those problems began to manifest themselves only at the very end of the fiscal year covered by this report. Their impact on our operations and how we responded are topics for the Annual Report for 2008/2009.

This report is filled with good tidings of our achievements: miles of trails built and improved by dedicated Trail Conference volunteers throughout our extensive region; maps and books updated and published; lands protected for generations to come. We also initiated several new, ambitious projects and began working with new partners.

We joined with Teatown Lake Reservation in Westchester County to create the Hudson Hills and Highlands Community Trails Program. Most people probably think of backcountry trails when they think of the Trail Conference. But for decades, our volunteers have maintained hundreds of miles of trails handy to the densely populated New York metropolitan region. Now we are taking steps to make our work in these areas better known, and to expand it. Our goal is to attract new volunteers, new members, and new support for the Trail Conference and to expand our reputation as THE trail experts in our region. Major grants from generous donors are supporting this effort.

We also took title to a historic schoolhouse in Mahwah, just down the road from our current offices. Our aim is to restore this building and make it our permanent home. We have received excellent support—financial and otherwise—from partners that include preservation organizations and local governments. It is, without question, an ambitious project—but that is familiar ground for the Trail Conference.

That familiarity with tough challenges looks to stand us in good stead in the year(s) to come. The Trail Conference can look back on almost 90 years of service and know that the passion for trails shared by our many volunteers endures through hard times as well as good times.

Contributed Services
1,302 Trail Conference volunteers contributed a total of 55,985 hours of work and travel time during this fiscal year. The value of their work is estimated at $879,905!

Volunteer Contributions by Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Work Hours</th>
<th>Travel Hours</th>
<th>Combined Value**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>3,512</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>$73,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing/Outreach*</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership/Development</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation &amp; Advocacy</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>1,330</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>18,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Builders and Maintainers</td>
<td>32,535</td>
<td>8,679</td>
<td>488,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlington School House</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>29,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Committee</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>12,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Committee</td>
<td>3,286</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>108,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>1,009</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>69,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>2,968</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>74,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>45,930</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,055</strong></td>
<td><strong>$879,905</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary: On-Trail, Off-Trail Volunteer Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On-Trail Volunteer Work Hours</th>
<th>$32,535</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-Trail Volunteer Travel Hours</td>
<td>$8,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Trail Volunteer Work Valuation</td>
<td>$488,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Trail Volunteer Work Hours</td>
<td>$13,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Trail Volunteer Travel Hours*</td>
<td>$3,376</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off-Trail Volunteer Work Valuation*</td>
<td>$391,880</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Estimates based on hours in 2006. Hourly values are based on information from U.S. Department of Labor statistics.
Westchester County

We launched the Hudson Hills and Highlands Community Trails Program in Westchester County in partnership with Teatown Lake Reservation and support from major donors. We appoint our first East Hudson Regional Representative to coordinate activities.

Shawangunks

Trail Conference joins forces with Somers Land Trust, Westchester Land Trust, the Town of Somers, and Teatown Lake Reservation to design and construct a network of trails at Angle Fly Preserve.

Trail Pound Ridge Reservation, with help from the Trail Conference, wins “Most Improved Trails” honor from Westchester Magazine.

Shawangunks

Trail Conference volunteers and staff hauled tons of trash and debris and hundreds of tires out of a 150-acre conservation property owned by the Trail Conference along the Shawangunk Ridge. Congressman Maurice Hinchey and William Janeway of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation honored this work and our land preservation effort at a National Trails Day event on the site in Summitville.

New Jersey

Norvin Green State Forest

More than one mile of the Hewitt-Butler Trail in Norvin Green State Forest (NJ) was relocated away from a power line, to a scenic, wooded route along a ridgeline.

Highlands Trail

A missing link on the Highlands Trail between Windbeam Mountain and the Blue Mine in Norvin Green State Forest was filled in.

Sterling Forest

Two new trails—Red Back Loop and Townsend Trail—opened in Sterling Forest, adding 11 miles of footpaths.

Appalachian Trail (NY/NJ)

A reroute of the trail to a ridgeline in Wawayanda State Park in New Jersey was completed to rave reviews.

The 1.7-mile Beekman Uplands Loop, an AT side trail, was restored in Dutchess County, NY.

A portion of the AT on West Mountain in Harriman/Bear Mountain was rebuilt. Reconstruction of the AT on Bear Mountain continued. Hundreds of volunteers participated and learned trail building and rock work skills as part of the project.

Science & Ecology

Volunteers completed a third consecutive year of tracking the spread of invasive plants in parks in our region. The project is a partnership with Rutgers University and is funded by USDA.

Advocacy & Conservation

Trail Conference joins with other groups to preserve Cankill wilderness threatened by proposed Belleayre Resort. New York State agrees to acquire 1,400 acres of land on the Big Indian Plateau near Belleayre Ski Center. The acquisition will protect views from the Cankill High Peaks and protect watershed lands. Developers at Belleayre agree to scale back their proposed resort.

The Trail Conference transferred 150 acres of Shawangunk Ridge land in Otisville to New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. The parcel abuts the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and includes a connecting 2-mile loop trail and a fire tower.

Trail Business

The Trail Conference is commissioned by the Closter Nature Center in Closter, NJ, to manage a trail rehabilitation project there that includes working with Closter volunteers.

Publications

The first maps of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail are published as free PDF editions available for download from our website.

Revised 7th edition of Shawangunk Trails map set

Revised 8th edition of East Hudson Trails map set

Revised 3rd edition of Hiking Long Island guide book
Darlington Schoolhouse

The Trail Conference takes title to the historic Darlington Schoolhouse in Mahwah from the Morris Land Conservancy.

- Requests for architectural bids issued
- Friends of Darlington Schoolhouse created to raise funds for project
- NJ Historic Trust Awards a grant of $50,000 to the TC for the rehabilitation stage of the project.

Board of Directors FY2008

Chair: Robert Boysen
Vice Chair: Chris Connolly
Treasurer: Mac Higher
Secretary: Daniel Chazin
Directors: Henry Amstbury, Ellen Cronan, Matt Garamone, Jane Gray, John Gander, Peter Kemard, Seth McKee, Anne Oshorn, Mary Smart, Malcolm Specter, Daniel Van Engel

Committee Chairs FY2008

NON-TRAILS

Conservation: Seth McKee
Membership & Development: Mary Smart, John Gander
Administrative: Mac Higher
Technology: Wade Daniels
Publications: Daniel Chazin
Nominating: George Becker
Volunteer: Daniel Van Engel

Strategic Planning Manager: Mac Higher
Darlington Steering Committee: Edward Staff
TRAILS: Trails Council Chair: Jane Daniels
Treasurer: AF Ditchkoff/Patnam: James Haggart
AT New Jersey: Gene Garamone
AT Orange/Beekman: G. Neil Neffinger
West Jersey: J. Bruce Thomson
Catskills: Peter Sommersen
Highlands Trail North: Gary Haugland
Highlands Trail West: Bemidji Hangleman
Long Path North: Clarence Parram
Long Path South: Jack Phi
West Hudson North: James Gebhard
West Hudson South: John Muck
Metro Trail: Joseph, Gishoff, Lathrop, Gonzalez
North Jersey: John Minett
Central Jersey: Ellen Cronan
East Hudson: Jean Gray

Staff Positions FY2008

Executive Director: Edward Goodell
Director of Membership & Development: Judita Howard
West Hudson Regional Representative: Larry Tweedell
Conservation Director: Bob O’Hearn
New Jersey Regional Representative: Brenda Holzinger
Cartographer: Jeremy Appel
Fulfillment Coordinator: Gary Willick
Administration & Information Manager: Catherine Germain
Bear Mountain Project Manager: Matt Townsend
Membership & Development: Leslie Rappaport
Volunteer Coordinator: Kerry Dieter
Help Desk Administrator: J. Cal Razavi
Membership & Volunteer Associate: Heidi Saba
Office Assistant: Kathy Connors
Communications Consultant: Georgie Weir
Graphic Design Consultant: Lisa Landucci

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc.
156 Route 409 #100
Rutgers, NJ 07073
Tel: 201-512-9348
Fax: 201-512-9349
Email: info@nynjtc.org
Website: http://www.nynjtc.org

Treasurer’s Report

Submitted by Mac Higher, Treasurer

Results for our fiscal year ended September 30, 2008, have now been audited and an unaudited audit opinion has been issued.

Total revenues for the year were $2,347,575 including membership dues and contributions $1,377,150, map and book sales $207,285, income from various contracts $196,165, interest and dividend income $41,864, and a net gain from land sales $652,041. We also recorded net losses (both realized and unrealized) on our investments which amounted to $126,930, which includes $8,000 paid for the rehabilitation of the Darlington Schoolhouse.

Our costs for the year were $1,533,027, of which $827,689 (54%) is related to salary and benefit costs for our employees, and $149,564 is for consulting and contractor costs related to trail building and other related activities. Other expense categories are all in line with the prior year.

Turning to our balance sheet, we finished the year with total assets of $2,993,449 of which Trail Lands and Easements items of $1,819,421, and cash and investments of $431,643 are our two primary assets. We have also begun to capitalize costs of our Darlington School House construction project, which amounts to $357,658. Total liabilities increased to $2,993,449 which includes one mortgage of $216,000 (secured against our land assets). During the year all other mortgages approximating $1.4M were repaid at the time the land sales occurred.

Condensed Financial Statements 2007-2008

Year ended 9/30/08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Investments</td>
<td>431,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>226,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>110,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Insurance</td>
<td>15,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>783,448</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trail Land & Easements

- Darlington Schoolhouse: 1,819,421
- Other Assets: 32,922

TOTAL ASSETS: $2,993,449

Current Liabilities: 71,599
Mortgage Payable: 216,000
Other: 37,601

Total Liabilities: 325,200
Net Assets: 2,668,249

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS: $2,993,449

Statement of Activities

Membership Dues: $225,719
Grants & Contributions: 1,151,431
Sales of Maps & Books: 207,285
Gain on Land Sales: 652,041
Contract Income: 196,165
Investment Income: 41,864
Net realized/unrealized losses on Investments: (126,930)

Total Revenue & Gains: $2,347,575

EXPENSES

Program Services: 1,073,570
Management and General: 225,660
Fundraising and Membership: 233,797

Total Expenses: 1,533,027

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: $814,548

FY 2008 Revenues

- Membership Dues: 8%
- Contract Income: 9%
- Grants & Contributions: 28%
- Sales of Maps & Books: 49%
- Gain on Sales: 5%

FY 2008 Expenses

- Program Services: 15%
- Management and General: 15%
- Fundraising and Membership: 70%