

Annual Report

10/01/2009-09/30/2010

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear members and friends of Tin Mountain,

As I write this, I have just returned from a trip to southeastern Arizona, where I enjoyed a week of birding and planning a future trip for high school students. I was traveling with my good friend and former TMCC executive director, Joel Rhymer. It occurred to me, as it often does when I take such a trip, that most people around me don't know much about their natural surroundings, and because of that they miss out on a significant part of what an area has to offer.

I am not saying that I am an expert birder, botanist, or geologist, but I know what to look for and what questions to ask. For most of this heightened awareness and appreciation of the natural world I can thank Tin Mountain naturalists, guest speakers, and other people who have long been associated with our organization. Like many of you, I have hiked, tromped, canoed, and waded with Lori, Mike, and others – watching, listening, and learning about plants, animals, ecosystems, and natural history. Because of this, on my western adventure, I was personally focused on birding, but I was also aware of other environmental and ecological factors and conditions.

I also visited other educational venues such as museums, nature centers, visitor centers, and conservation organizations' headquarters as I explored that corner of the world. All of these organizations are working to educate people about the world around them. I was reminded of Tin Mountain's mission, which is to promote an appreciation of the environment among children, families, and the community through hands-on programs in the schools, at camp, and in the community. We have followed that mission for over 30 years, and today it is more important than ever.

In a time when economic issues dominate headlines and most school budgets are being cut, Tin Mountain programs are increasingly important. We need to continue to find ways to provide the children and young people in our area with the valuable education they need to be able to appreciate the world around them and to learn about the environment and how to conserve it. The same is true for adults. Tin Mountain is all about life-long learning!



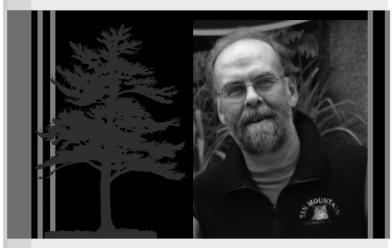
As members, your continued support of Tin Mountain and our programs is crucial, and I thank you for your interest, your participation, your time and your financial contributions. We are always working to improve and expand the scope of our programs and funding solutions as we continue to educate students and adults in **our** corner of the world.

Sincerely,

David Sturdevant

Chair, Tin Mountain Board of Trustees

Cover Photo: Karl Pfeil



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Michael Cline

It's difficult to maintain one's footing on loose ground and steep terrain. In the current economic climate and the frenzied fervor of some to slash public services, including education, Tin Mountain Conservation Center has managed to keep its balance and maintain most of its programming in the local schools. Despite the organization's commitment to absorb half of the cost of presenting these programs to schools, Tin Mountain's staff and Trustees have had to be creative in finding ways to bridge some funding gaps and convey to a larger population the necessity and value of investing in natural science education.

In its 31 years of operation, Tin Mountain Conservation Center programs have made differences in helping people appreciate multiple aspects of the natural environment, but Tin Mountain also can point to many tangible successes in which former students have been inspired, in part through involvement in Tin Mountain programs, to pursue related careers. These include wildlife managers, ecologists, foresters, science teachers, environmental engineers, environmental defense lawyers, and other natural resource-related occupations. As one of my forester friends is fond of saying, "Tin Mountain doesn't teach students what to think, it teaches them how to think about the natural environment."

If there is an upside to the economic downturn, it has forced Tin Mountain to be evermore creative in generating financial support and increasingly efficient in performing all tasks associated with presenting programs. We are presenting a wider range and greater number programs to more people than ever before. All of the Na-

ture Series Programs are at or near capacity, Adult Nature Courses are well attended, Eco-Forums attract excellent speakers each month, and School programs as well as Summer Camp programs continue to hold their own. Committed members, visionary Trustees, and a talented, resourceful staff have made all the difference.

School Programs

Tin Mountain school programs reached five local school districts and are an integral part of 16 schools serving nearly 5,000 students in the greater Mt. Washington Valley and western Maine. Multiple classroom visits and field trips throughout the year greatly magnify the actual contact hours between naturalists and students. Tin Mountain's multi-session, comprehensive approach sets its programming apart from other school-based environmental education efforts. Teacher/naturalists devote classroom lessons and field trips to exploring the many rivers, ponds, forests, mountains, and special natural areas that cover the region. School programs at every grade level emphasize "hands-on" learning during multiple session programs conducted in all seasons of the year. Students have sustained contact with Tin Mountain naturalists throughout their entire school careers. All environmental learning programs are tailored to the individual curricula of participating schools.

School field trips are opportunities to teach natural science and become familiar with the environment in the students own backyards. Therefore, teacher/naturalists adapt lessons to incorporate trips to local natural areas and discuss historic land uses. This past spring was the first year that Tin Mountain taught environmental/natural science in Berlin at Hillside Elementary, Brown Elementary, and Berlin Junior High, and the second year in Gorham's Edward Fenn Elementary. Programs in these two towns alone reached 864 new students. Because the Board of Trustees is committed to providing quality environmental education programs at an affordable price, Tin Mountain school programs typically are offered at half the actual cost to present, and the Board and staff fundraises to cover the remaining costs. Thanks to support from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Tin Mountain was able to offer programs last year in the Berlin and Gorham schools at minimal cost. Tin Mountain also will be offering a series of teacher workshops for these schools focusing on integrating natural history into a variety of subjects.

Tin Mountain programs don't stop at the end of the school day. Many communities in the greater Mt. Washington Valley have well-established after school programs in which Tin Mountain participates. It's a perfect time of day to explore the natural world. Many of the schools have terrific school yards replete with forests, fields, and trails, with views of Mt. Washington and other inspiring peaks, and even an occasional pond to explore. After school programs were presented to students in Gorham, NH as well as students involved in *Project Succeed* at Pine Tree, Conway, and John Fuller Elementary Schools. Tin Mountain also offered programs through *Mustang Academy* in Madison, NH, *School's Out* in Ossippee NH, and *Pequawket Kids* in Fryeburg, Brownfield, Denmark, and Lovell, ME.

Nature Learning Center Programs

Between programs, adult classes, use by the general public, and volunteer projects, the Tin Mountain Nature Learning Center has become a hub of activity. The *Community Nature Program Series* presented over 65 programs attracting enthusiastic participants of all ages. L.L. Bean and the Evenor Armington Fund once again provided critical support, sponsoring of the popular series that reached over 1,000 people this past year and offered numerous opportunities for hands-on learning about the natural world of northern New England. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also sponsored and assisted with several community nature programs, Eco-Forums, and adult courses.

Tin Mountain Adult Nature Courses present an indepth examination of various natural and cultural history topics including a herbarium class, winter bird ecology, becoming a better birder, and nature watercolors to name a few. The Eco-Forum Brownbag Lunch Series provides monthly presentations by noted experts on a wide variety of provocative issues guaranteed to stir debate. Each Wednesday evening through the summer months, Tin Mountain interns led Nature Walks & Talks offered an opportunity for hands-on learning about the local flora and fauna with a short talk and soirée at dusk on the Tin Mountain property. Nature Nuts is a wildly popular weekly morning program for pre-school children and their parents/grandparents that nurtures a curiosity and appreciation for nature at an early age. Nature Authors Series that offers discussions with prominent nature writers from New England and beyond this year included David Sibley, Gary Hirschberg, and others. The Featured Nature Artists program is a revolving monthly exhibit of local nature artists in the lobby of the Nature Learning Center.



After several years in the making, Tin Mountain was excited to launch its Naturalist Certification Program (NCP) in April. Just over one year into the program, 27 naturalists are working towards certification through attending programs, learning skills, and working on independent projects.

The NCP reflects a well-rounded understanding of local landscape and processes as well as the ability to share the knowledge with other members of the community. It is ideal for residents of the Mt. Washington Valley given the area's emphasis on recreational activities and opportunities to disseminate its natural history with visitors. To complete the program, naturalists attend over 50 hours of programming and culminate with an independent project that exhibits an understanding of natural history and the ability to share that knowledge with others.

Over 2,100 hours were logged by volunteers at programs as diverse as the Fryeburg Fair, the First Season Auction, Mt. Washington Century ride, and Mt. Washington Auto Road Bicycle Hillclimb to library support, trail days, and mailings. Tin Mountain could not manage without members like these.

Nature Camps

Tin Mountain camp programs reach nearly 300 local children and families each year. Nature summer camps attracts children ages 4 to 16 to camps in Fryeburg, ME, Jackson, South Conway, Albany, and South Tamworth, NH where they learn firsthand about the local natural environment through handson outdoor exploration. Younger children attend day camp while a variety of weeklong adventures to wild areas in northern New England are offered to the older age groups. The weeklong Winter Camp provided an opportunity for children to spend their school break outside learning and having fun in the snow. True to its commitment to providing high-quality environmental education at an affordable price, Tin Mountain provides financial aid to many local families that would otherwise have great difficulty sending their children to summer nature camps. Nearly one-quarter of all campers received scholarships in 2009/10 amounting to \$8,765.

Other Community Programs

Tin Mountain continues to present summer programs throughout the Mt. Washington Valley. It was the ninth year that Tin Mountain has presented summer programs at the *Wildcat Mountain Ski Area*. These programs continue to draw strong attendance and interest from guests to the greater Mt. Washington Valley.

Tin Mountain's twelfth Annual Meeting Festival was held at the Nature Learning Center in Albany and featured fantastic field trips, an excellent presentation by Ornithologists Chris Lewey and Mason Cline, great food, and much more. The organization's *Distinguished Service Award* was presented to Chester and Lydia Lucy, *Volunteers of the Year* to Chris Tanguay, and *Outstanding Environmental Educator* to Dexter Harding of the Jackson Grammar School. The *Business Partner Award* recognized Abbott's Ice Cream. *Business Volunteers of the Year* were Weston's Farm and The Flatbread Company. The *Trustees' Exemplary Service Award* was presented to Harrison Hoyt.

Special Events

The 38th *Mt. Washington Auto Road Bicycle Hillclimb*, the toughest in the world provided nearly one-third of the financial support for the organization this past year. Most years, the changeable weather on the summit varies from clear skies to wind, rain, and sleet over the course of the race, but this past year was sunny, warm, dry, and calm. Riders who expected the typical natural challenges on the "Rockpile" were relieved more than disappointed.

The ninth annual *Mt. Washington Century Ride* was successful and raised significant support for Tin Mountain programs. The year ride starts and ends at the Tin Mountain Nature Learning Center in Albany. A 100-mile course around Mt. Washington, over three notches and through some of the most beautiful land on earth, the *Century* attracted over 200 registrants last summer.

An online fundraising component was added to summer cycling 2010 events, and the riders responded by raising well over \$12,000. In addition, the membership webpage now offers online giving through easy-to-use membership and a donation pages.

The 24nd Annual First Season Festival Benefit Dinner/Auction was held at the Fryeburg Academy Fieldhouse, and it involved over 400 local businesses and individuals who generously donated articles to be auctioned. In addition, Business Sponsors provided critical support for the event. The majority of Business Sponsors



sors have been supporting Tin Mountain programs for many years. Over 330 people attend the festival enjoying great food and fine quality auction items.

Fryeburg Academy always finds ways to give back to the community, and this year they provided tremendous support to Tin Mountain Conservation Center through hosting the First Season Dinner & Auction.

The Fryeburg Fair display of old fields with stonewalls and abandoned apple trees was a huge hit. The New England Patriot Foundation visited Tin Mountain Conservation Center and former Patriot player Roland James presented Harrison Hoyt with the 2010 Most Valuable Community Volunteer award.

Nature Learning Center

After three winters in the Nature Learning Center, it is now possible to reflect on performance of the solar energy aspects that provide power and heat. It has performed fantastically. During the past winter, about 3.0 cords of wood were burned as backup to the solar thermal collectors in supplying heat for the entire 8,500 ft² building. The photovoltaic (PV) system supplied all of the electrical demands of the center and then some. The PV array at the Center generated 14,000 kWh and used 13,000 kWh. During the past year, an estimated 30 tours of the building were made by a variety of individuals and interest groups.

Facility rentals were very successful during the past year. Tin Mountain Conservation Center offers the ideal setting for a green wedding with its energy-efficient Nature Center and beautiful Rockwell Sanctuary. From the Nature Center's low carbon footprint to planting wedding flowers and recycling wedding leftovers, Tin Mountain can be a great sustainable partner in planning any eco-wedding.

Visitors to the Rockwell Sanctuary will notice two granite benches and plaques cut from the former on-site quarry. These are in memory of Thomas W. Irvine, Sr. and, Rosemarie L. Irvine. Last fall, Tom Irvine placed these memorials in honor of his father and sister reflecting the affinity the family has for New Hampshire, and particularly, Bald Hill.

Membership

The best barometer of successful Tin Mountain programming is membership and the Annual Fund Drive. Over the past year, Tin Mountain membership has continued to grow, and the Trustees and staff have redoubled their efforts to attract new members to the organization by providing tangible reasons for members to sustain their membership. The new membership webpage provides easy ways to become members and to donate to the different programs at Tin Mountain.

Yearly gifts, whether membership or annual fund donations, continue to provide essential support for environmental programs in schools, at summer camps and within the community. Long-term strategies can help sustain Tin Mountain programs into the future through Estate Planning, Charitable Remainder Trusts, or Charitable Lead Trusts.

Tin Mountain Timberlands

The second timber harvest of about 60 acres on Tin Mountain Conservation Center 1,200-acre timberlands in East Conway occurred in fall 2010. This harvest was conducted with a cut-to-length processor and a forwarder. The harvest provided funds for programming and an opportunity to lead by example. Tin Mountain manages these lands in a responsible manner adhering to sustainable forest practices. The goals for owning the lands are two-fold: 1) to demonstrate sustainable forestry methods that provide both high-quality wood products and essential forest habitats and 2) to provide an additional revenue stream to help fund environmental education programs.



Suzy Engler Camp Scholarship Fund

The Tin Mountain Conservation Center provided children with scholarships to attend summer camp programs this past year through their Suzy Engler Scholarship Fund. The Fund honors the late Suzy Engler. Suzy was the Administrative Assistant at Tin Mountain for many years and was especially interested in providing children with "hands-on" nature camp experiences.

Planned Giving Opportunities

Bequests: Bequests must satisfy personal and family obligations first; however, donors may also include Tin Mountain in their estate planning. Making Tin Mountain a beneficiary helps ensure that Tin Mountain's work will continue in future years while reducing estate taxes.

Charitable Remainder Trusts: Remainder trusts allow donors to transfer assets like stock to a trust and still retain its income for life. Ultimately, the assets become TMCC's, allowing the donor to keep an asset's income, avoid capital gains tax on its sale, take an income tax deduction, and make a commitment to TMCC's future.

Charitable Lead Trust: Lead trusts allow donors to keep assets while giving Tin Mountain their income for a specified period of time. Donors receive an immediate gift tax deduction for the full present value of the asset. This is a good way to pass assets on to heirs at full value while supporting Tin Mountain.

For more information on the Suzy Fund endowment, or planned giving options, contact Tin Mountain Conservation Center's Executive Director, Michael Cline at (603) 447-6991 or write to him at 1245 Bald Hill Road, Albany, NH 03818. Tin Mountain also happily accepts and liquidates gifts of stocks and bonds.

Endowment Fund

Tin Mountain Conservation Center maintains an endowment as a designated fund with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) in Concord. The NHCF invests and manages the principal making quarterly distributions to Tin Mountain from the earned interest based upon pre-determined calculations that ensure a certain level of growth in the designated fund. In fiscal year 10/01/09-9/30/10, interest distributions to Tin Mountain's general operations amounted to \$20,864. The NHCF's Combined Investment Fund is recognized as one of the most secure places that a nonprofit can build an endowment.



Financial Statement

October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010 (With comparative totals for Oct. 1, 2008 through Sept. 30, 2009)

Balance Sheet

	Total All Funds		
	<u>2010</u>	/ <u>2009</u>	
Assets:			
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 143,744	77,624	
Accounts Receivable	1,835	2,547	
Capital Campaign Pledges Receivable	21,077	32,919	
Inventories	4,607	9,003	
Property and Equipment (net of depreciation)	2,471,317	2,587,540	
Investment Fund with NHCF	431,507	419,418	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,074,087	\$3,129,051	
Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 39,956	11,181	
Construction Loan	<u>259,510</u>	289,533	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 299,466	\$ 300,714	
Net Assets:			
Unrestricted:	\$ 2,267,743	2,393,314	
Temporarily Restricted	65,731	15,605	
Permanently Restricted	441,507	419,418	
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$2,774,981	\$2,828,337	
TOTAL	\$3,074,447	\$3,129,051	

Statement of Activity	Septe	mber 30, 2009	&	2010
Revenue and Support:	-	,		
Net Endowment Growth		12,089		(1,669)
Grants & Gifts		293,925	1	77,264
School Program Support		43,540		65,440
Camp Revenue & Scholarship		43,983		49,354
Community Outreach Programs		26,232		24,659
Special Events		318,883	3	14,267
Stewardship & Other		19,405		54,379
Capital Campaign Support		5,875		6,923
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	763,932	6	90,617
Expenses:				
Administration	\$	75,419		75,014
Fundraising & Special Events		179,581	1	55,846
School Programs		101,810	1	10,606
Summer Camp		68,263		77,364
Community Outreach Programs		120,115	1	04,217
Stewardship & Other		118,202		68,086
SUBTOTAL EXPENSE	ES \$	663,390	5	91,133
Other Expenses:				
Depreciation	\$	59,133	4	59,740
Loan Interest/Principle Payments		34,838	-	73,685
Capital Reserve Transfer		5,000		5,000
TOTAL EXPENSES		762,361		9,558
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expense	\$	1,571	(3	88,941)

REVENUE \$350,000.00 \$300,000.00 \$250,000.00 \$200,000.00 \$150,000.00 \$100,000.00 \$50,000.00 EXPENSES \$200,000.00 \$150,000.00 \$100,000.00 \$50,000.00 BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP ON LINE WWW.TINMOUNTAIN.ORG

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"Keep close to nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean." John Muir

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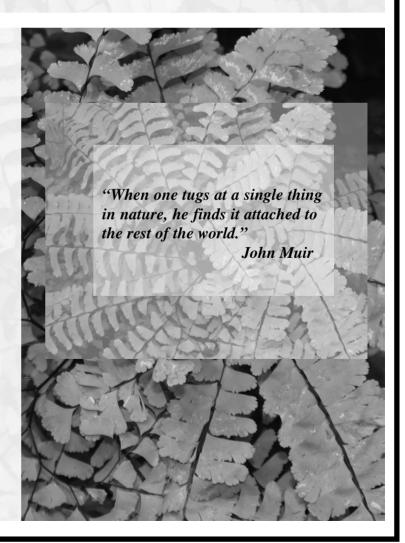
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COMMUNITY NATURE PROGRAM SERIES

TMCC offers a variety of hands-on environmental education programs for adults and families of the Mt. Washington Valley area and western Maine. The Community Nature Program Series supported by L.L. Bean and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a major vehicle for drawing families into the natural world. Over 60 programs are offered throughout the year.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS

Tin Mountain Conservation Center has offered summer camp programs to children ages 4-16 for the past 26 years. *Kindercamp* and *Day Camp* are presented at facilities in four different locations for kids ages 4 to 9 years old. *Farm Camp* is offered in cooperation with the Earle Family Farm. *Nature Theme Camps* integrate nature with art, music, history and water for children 6-12 years. *Peaks and Paddles Intro* allows younger campers (ages 9-10 years) to gain confidence and acquire outdoor skills through day hikes a day of canoeing, and a one-night campout in the White Mountains. *Trekkers* for children 11-12 teaches advanced hiking and camping skills and includes a three-day backpacking trip to the White Mountains. In *Canoe Voyageurs*, campers ages 11-12 learn canoe techniques with two days of canoeing followed by a three day trip to Lake Umbagog! Older children ages 13-16 years hike and camp the Presidential Range of the White Mountains in *Paths and Peaks* and a week canoeing the North Woods of Maine in *Canoe, Camp and Climb*.

NATURE NUTS

Children ages three through five and their parents enjoy a morning full of nature songs, crafts, hikes, and games based upon the theme of the day in *Nature Nuts* held at the Nature Learning Center.

ADULT NATURE COURSES

Tin Mountain *Adult Nature Courses* provide an in-depth look at various natural and cultural history topics. Individuals with all levels of experience are encouraged to enroll. All programs combine time in the classroom and lab with hands-on field studies and may include lectures, slideshows, group discussions, guest speakers, and selected readings.

Eco-Forum Lunch Series

Diverse environmental issues are presented by outstanding speakers the second Thursday of the month sponsored by Flatbread Co of N Conway and Rock House Mountain Bakery. The program is free and open to the public. Views expressed in the Eco-Forum are those of the speaker and not necessarily those of TMCC.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Environmental Year: Developed for elementary schools, a Tin Mountain teacher/naturalist visits the classroom for 34 weeks (51 hours) with a comprehensive set of activities and trips that teach basic principles of ecology and natural sciences. Concepts learned in class are applied to the field through numerous outdoor activities and trips. It is recognized as the backbone of our school programs because it allows our teacher/naturalists to work closely with the same students each week for the entire school year, providing indepth instruction and curriculum support.

Project KITE (Kids in the Environment): A multi-disciplinary program for grades K-8, Project KITE was developed to support existing curricula by providing a special focus on the natural resources that sustain the economic and social underpinnings of the region. Working closely with teachers, Tin Mountain provides three presentations by a teacher/naturalist and a field trip on each unit, including forests, wildlife, wetlands and mountains.

Forests for the Future: Over an 18-week period, a Tin Mountain teacher/naturalist visits junior high or high school classrooms for one entire day each week to teach basic principles of forest ecology and forest resource management. Using a different forest study site each year, students learn field techniques and collect data on weather, soils, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and conduct a timber cruise and forest inventory, complete with recommendations. Students analyze the data and develop a complete forest management plan that they present to school officials, landowners, and the public at a special school/town meeting. The program also includes an over-night field trip to study forest ecosystems, local wood products industries, and the rich forest history of the region.

Extra Hours Program: Teachers and Tin Mountain staff tailor programs to meet special needs of different schools. Examples include leading field trips, identifying special resources and materials, and conducting special projects such as recycling or river studies.

Tin Mountain Nature Learning Center

1245 Bald Hill Road Albany, NH 03818

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