



TIN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT
10/08 - 09/09

Annual Report

10/01/2008-09/30/2009

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Members and Friends of Tin Mountain,

As spring unfolds once again in our beautiful valley, we take this opportunity to present to you, our members and friends, a glimpse of the year past and also the new year ahead for Tin Mountain Conservation Center.

It's been an exciting, event-filled year at Tin Mountain. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to thank the outstanding staff at TMCC for their dedications and leadership as we enter our 30th year in providing quality outdoor education and environmental stewardship to valley residents. We would also like to welcome Nora Beem to the Tin Mountain team.

Nora will serve as Outreach Coordinator and has jumped right into those duties and is doing a fantastic job. A special thank you to the hard working Board of Trustees, without their dedicated efforts, we would not be the outstanding organization that we are today. And most importantly, to all of you, our members, thank you for making all this work possible.

The reach and influence of Tin Mountain continues to be vast. From our classroom presence throughout the Valley and Western Maine to the varied and popular Nature Program Series, to the always interesting Eco-Forum lunch series, Tin Mountain continues to be a leader in environmental education and stewardship. Summer camp, winter camp, and Nature Nuts are extremely popular and merit high praise for their quality youth education. All at Tin Mountain are proud of our reputation as a leader in the field, and we continue to work diligently toward upholding our important mission.

Funding all of this work continues to be a challenge, but thanks to all of our members, volunteers, and friends, we continue to forge ahead. Special thanks also to all of our business partners and sponsors who support us in so many ways. The Mt. Washington Hillclimb, Century Ride, and First Season Festival are great fundraisers for Tin Mountain, and we are thankful for the generous support of our local business partners and volunteers who make these events possible.

We look forward to your continued involvement in Tin Mountain. If you haven't been by the Center in awhile, stop in, hike the trails, tour the Center, or just say hello. We appreciate all you do to make our work possible.

Sincerely,

Larry Hall
Chair, Tin Mountain Board of Trustees

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Michael Cline

As Tin Mountain Conservation Center moves into its 30th year, the organization has experienced great change, but it has held fast to its mission and core values. The overwhelming direction of change has been positive expanding high-quality environmental education programs in schools, providing more summer nature camp opportunities for children, offering family/adult programs and classes, and leading by example through green building and energy choices as well as sustainable forest management on 1,200 acres of timberlands.

The progress and growth in programming did not just happen. The Trustees and others involved with Tin Mountain over the years have not been afraid to move ahead and seize new opportunities. They have always embraced the often quoted saying of Fredrick Wilcox, "You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first base." The past year has been no exception as progress has been substantial across all programs.

One valuable attribute of Trustees and advisors associated with Tin Mountain is their ability to discriminate between effective efforts and less fruitful projects that consume unnecessarily time and financial resources. Attracting pragmatic critical thinkers to an organization who can put ideas into action efficiently differentiates successful and unsuccessful nonprofits. Philosopher Alfred Montpert offers one caution, however, "Don't confuse motion with progress, a rocking horse keeps moving but does not make any progress." Tin Mountain certainly is no rocking horse.

School Programs

Students in school districts within the greater Mt Washington Valley and western Maine have sustained contact with Tin Mountain naturalists throughout their entire school careers. 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. 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 school year was the first presenting programs to students in Gorham. The classes were excellent, and one of the best winter field trips ever uncovered abundant bobcat signs, as well as coyote, fisher, and moose tracks in the town forest. In addition, Tin Mountain teacher/naturalists continue to use of the 140 acres on Bald Hill for field trips to the beaver pond and vernal pools, the 19th century granite quarry, the mountain-laurel, and the many other natural features on the landscape.

The unique nature of the building with over 20 local woods, granite fireplace, and other fine works or craftsmanship provide excellent opportunities to teach students about sustainable lifestyle choices. Perhaps most attention at the Center focuses upon the solar energy components including the photovoltaic and thermal arrays that form the south-facing roof of the building and provide more than 100 percent of the electricity and 80 percent of the heat for the entire building.

It was the fifth year of teaming with Camp Susan Curtis to offer a three-day, two-night *Ecology Explorers Camp* to eighth-grade Fryeburg students. Camp draws upon the natural science acumen and field skills that students accumulate over nine years of Tin Mountain environmental education programs and asks them to apply that knowledge to a specific environmental issue. The camp focuses upon developing field skills, providing in-depth study of science and the environment, gathering data, and participating in a public hearing on a natural resource issue.

Tin Mountain school programs reached five school districts and are an integral part of 16 schools serving nearly 5,000 students in the 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 school programs are offered at half the actual cost to present. Because the Board of Trustees is committed to providing quality environmental education programs at an affordable price, the Board and staff fundraise to cover the remaining cost.

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 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. New this past year has been the involvement and support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that sponsored and assisted with several community nature programs, Eco-Forums, and adult courses.

Tin Mountain *Adult Nature Courses* present an in-depth examination of various natural and cultural history topics including plant science, history through stone walls and cellar holes, becoming a better birder, and nature watercolors to name a few. The *Eco-Forum Lunchtime Lecture 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, *Nature Walks & Talks* offer an opportunity for hands-on learning about the local flora and fauna with a short talk and soiree 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* offers discussions with prominent nature writers from New England and beyond on a wide array of environmental topics. The *Featured Nature Artists* program is a revolving monthly exhibit of local nature artists in the lobby of the Nature Learning Center.



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 hands-on 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 2008/09 amounting to \$7,000.

Other Community Programs

Tin Mountain continues to present summer programs throughout the Mt. Washington Valley. At the *Libby Museum*, children enjoyed a special nature program series presented by Tin Mountain naturalists. In addition, it was the eighth year that Tin Mountain has presented summer programs at the *Wildcat Mountain Ski Area* and the third year for programs at *Attitash Mountain Village Resort*. These programs continue to draw strong attendance and interest from guests to the greater Mt. Washington Valley.

Tin Mountain's eleventh Annual Meeting Festival was held at the Nature Learning Center in Albany and feature 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 Tom and Ruth Earle of the Earle Family Farm, *Volunteers of the Year* to Russ Lanoie, and *Outstanding Environmental Educator* to Matt Krug of the Brett School in Tamworth. The *Business Partner Award* recognized Marc Donaldson of

Special Events

The 37th *Mt. Washington Auto Road Bicycle Hillclimb*, the toughest hillclimb 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 saw warm temperatures, dry conditions, and little wind. Riders who expected the typical natural challenges on the “Rockpile” were relieved more than disappointed. The eighth annual *Mt. Washington Century Ride* was successful and raised significant support for Tin Mountain programs. The ride started and ended 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.

The 23rd *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* have been supporting Tin Mountain programs for many years. Over 300 people attend the festival enjoying great food and fine quality auction items.

Bruce Buxton again conducted a wonderful *Antique Appraisal Day* fundraiser for Tin Mountain. The Fryeburg Fair display, contrasting the nocturnal and diurnal forest, was a huge hit. Staffers Carol Foord and Donna Dolan presented a historic tour of the barns of the Mt. Washington Valley, and their gingerbread woodland house took second place in the holiday competition.

Nature Learning Center

Having two complete winters behind us 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, only 3.0 cords of wood were burned to augment 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 60 tours of the building were made by a variety of individuals and interest groups.

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 webpage provides new, easier ways to become members and to donate to the different programs at Tin Mountain.

Tin Mountain Timberlands

The first timber harvest of 65 acres on Tin Mountain Conservation Center 1,200-acre timberlands in East Conway occurred in fall 2008. 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 twofold: 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.

Tin Mountain Conservation Center’s Endowment Fund

Tin Mountain Conservation Center maintains its 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 10/01/08-9/30/09, interest distributions to Tin Mountain’s general operations amounted to \$20,820. The NHCF’s Combined Investment Fund is recognized as one of the most secure places that a nonprofit can build an endowment.

Planned Giving Opportunities Through Tin Mountain

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.

Financial Statement

October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

(With comparative totals for Oct. 1, 2007 through Sept. 30, 2008)

	FY 2009	FY 2008
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 52,241.00	\$ 35,859.00
Accounts Receivable	\$ 2,547.00	\$ 7,887.00
Capital Campaign Pledges Receivable	\$ 32,919.00	\$ 33,278.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 25,383.00	\$ 20,409.00
Inventories	\$ 9,003.00	\$ 7,004.00
Property & Equipment (net of depreciation)	\$2,587,540.00	\$2,584,482.00
Investment Fund with NHCF	\$ 419,418.00	\$ 450,358.00
Total Assets:	\$3,129,051.00	\$3,139,277.00

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 11,181.00	\$ 17,464.00
Construction Loan	\$ 289,533.00	\$ 342,652.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 300,714.00	\$ 360,116.00

Net Assets:

Unrestricted General Fund, Equip. & Prop.	\$2,393,314.00	\$2,312,224.00
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 15,605.00	\$ 17,279.00
Permanently Restricted	\$ 419,418.00	\$ 450,358.00
Total Net Assets:	\$2,828,337.00	\$2,779,861.00

Total Liabilities Net Assets:	\$3,129,051.00	\$3,139,977.00
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Statement of Activity

Revenue and Support:

Endowment (NHCF) Net Growth	\$ (20,820.00)	\$ (99,894.00)
Endowment Distribution	\$ 22,487.00	\$ 19,694.00
Grants, Gifts, Membership	\$ 177,264.00	\$ 124,483.00
School Program Support	\$ 65,440.00	\$ 61,081.00
Camp Revenue & Scholarship	\$ 49,354.00	\$ 55,273.00
Community Outreach Programs	\$ 24,659.00	\$ 21,147.00
Special Events	\$ 314,267.00	\$ 279,497.00
Stewardship, Interest, Store, Other	\$ 54,379.00	\$ 32,791.00
Capital Campaign Support (pledged & new)	\$ 6,923.00	\$ 54,662.00
Total Revenue:	\$ 690,617.00	\$ 548,734.00

Expenses:

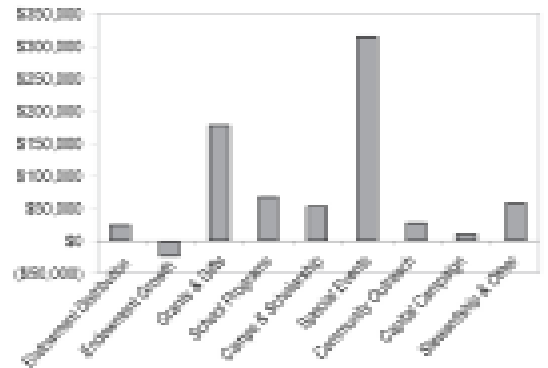
Administration & Operating	\$ 75,014.00	\$ 53,372.00
Fundraising (including special events)	\$ 155,846.00	\$ 157,619.00
Community Outreach Programs	\$ 104,217.00	\$ 128,402.00
School Programs	\$ 110,606.00	\$ 120,039.00
Stewardship & other	\$ 68,086.00	\$ 39,405.00
Summer Camp	\$ 77,364.00	\$ 85,112.00
	\$ 591,133.00	\$ 583,949.00

Other Expenses:

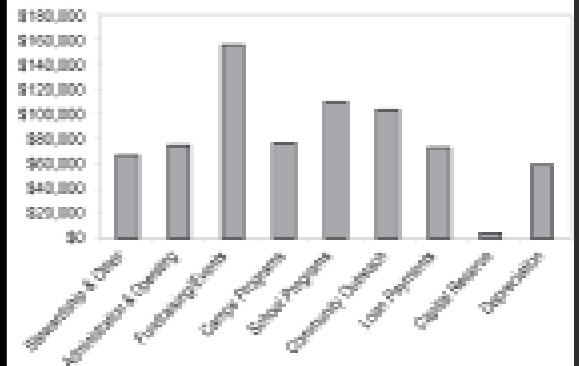
Depreciation	\$ 59,740.00	\$ 60,507.00
Loan Interest/Principle Payments	\$ 73,685.00	\$ 107,473.00
Capital Reserve Transfer	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 729,558.00	\$ 761,929.00

Excess/deficit of revenue over expenses:	\$ (38,941.00)	\$ (213,195.00)
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REVENUE



EXPENSES



Full Financial Report
available on request



**BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP
ON LINE**
WWW.TINMOUNTAIN.ORG

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Bob Santoro

Tara Taylor

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Nathaniel Brown

Honor of David & Rosemary Armington

David & Dorothy Brownell

Honor of Dick & Clare Devillian

Steve Haseltine



NATURE LEARNING

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Circle of Home & Family

Dixie Coleman

Cormack Construction Management Inc.

Crosby & Andrea Kennett

Mountain Garden Club

Jean Sweeney

Imre & Deborah Szauter

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Memory of Brett Thibodeau:

Jennifer Forsman

Jacklyn & Gary MacFarlane

Thibodeau Family

General:

Kiwanis Club of Mt. Washington Valley

Chick Kouns



Donita Dolan

GRANTS AND GIFTS

ADULT NATURE COURSES

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS)

ECO-FORUM SERIES

Flatbread Company of North Conway

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rock House Mtn Baker

FRYEBURG FAIR DISPLAY

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS)

GENERAL SUPPORT

The Evenor Armington Fund

NATURE PROGRAM SERIES

L.L. Bean

Natural Resources Conservation Service

TRAIL & MARKERS

Pequawket Foundation

NLC LIBRARY

Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Emily & Peter Benson

Bushee Thorn Mountain Retreat Trust

Coldwell Banker-Wright Realty

Calvin & Dixie Coleman

Eaton Conservation Commission

Eastern Mountain Sports

Kiwanis Club of Mt. Washington Valley

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"I go to nature to be soothed and healed, ..." ~John Burroughs

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121fit	Fryeburg Veterinary Hospital	Mountain Streams Music	Toy Chest
1785 INN	Funspot	Mountain Top Music	Tribal Trills/Barbara Boxer
A Better Body	Gail Boucher	Mt Washington Auto Road	Valley Originals
A Sweep Above the Rest	Galloping Horse Earrings	Mt. Washington Cog Railway Co	Ward Simonton/Chamberlain Farm
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All Things Arctic	GBZ	Mudgett Fleece	Weston's Farm Stand
Alvin J. Coleman & Sons	Gemini Signs	Nancy & Dan Grant	White Birch Books
AMANA	George Ryan DDS	Nancy Simonton	White Mountain Hotel
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Attitash Ski Area	Gold Leaf Frame & Gallery	North Country Whittler	White Mountain Puzzles
Audley & Angel Williams	Good Earth Gardening	North Country Wholesale	White Mt. Cider Company
B.N.I.	Granite State Glass	Northeast Gems	Wild Light Images
Banners Restaurant	Great Glen Trails	Old Village Bakery	Wildcat Mountain Ski Area
Barbara and Mike DeNuzzio	Green Thumb Farms	One Good Turn	Wildthings
Barbara Sperling	Ham Arena	Orvis	WMWV 93.5 Radio Magic 104
Bavarian Chocolate Haus	Harrison Hoyt	Ossipee Valley Bluegrass	Zeb's General Store
Bear Notch Ski Touring Center	Harry Fowler	Outdoor Images	
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Freedom Computer	Midas Muffler	Tin Mountain Conservation Center	
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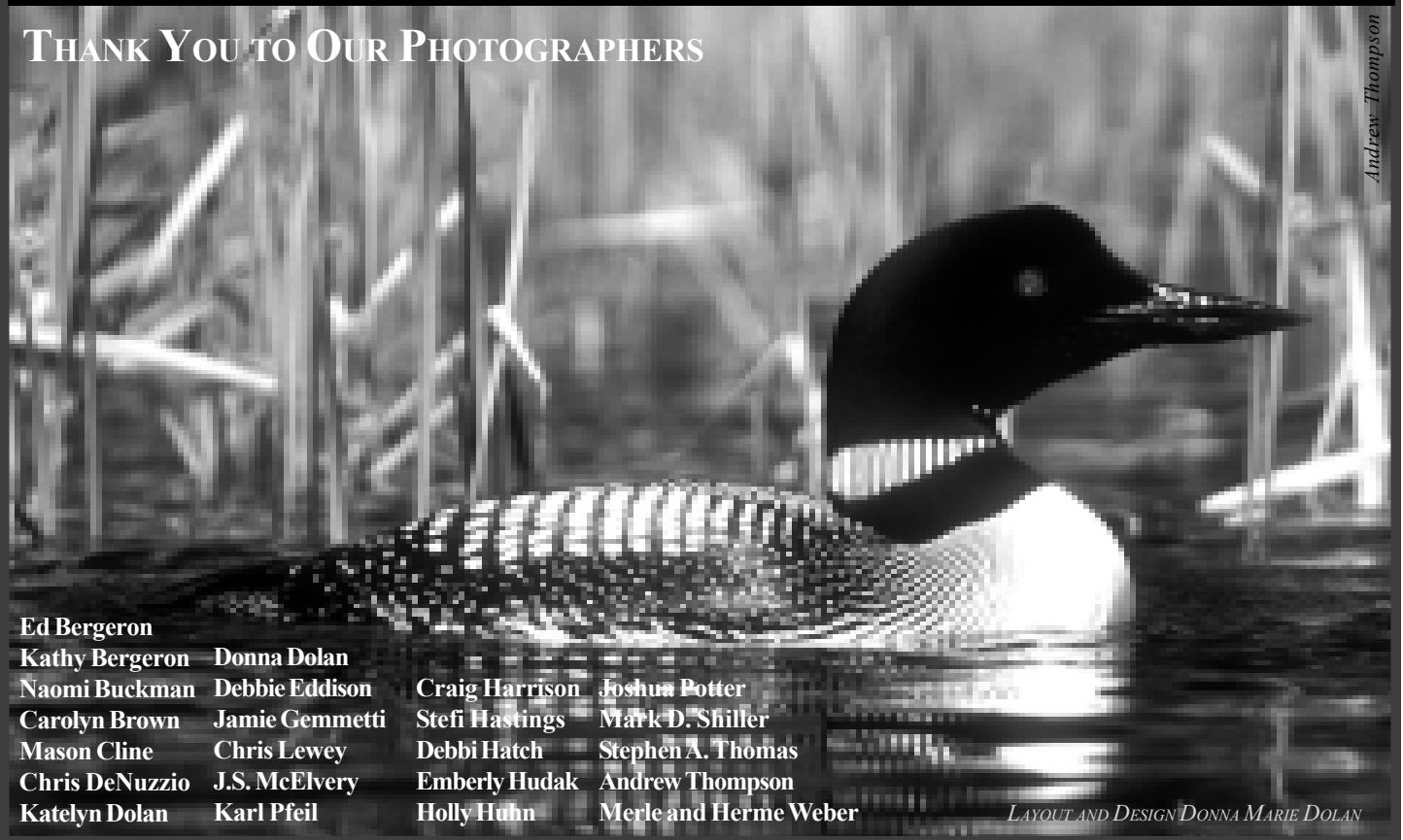
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Donna Dolan

THANK YOU TO OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS



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LAYOUT AND DESIGN DONNA MARIE DOLAN

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 25 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. *Peaks and Paddles Advanced* for ages 10-11 combines paddling the Old Course of the Saco River with hiking trips. *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 in-depth 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

Facility and Grounds Rentals
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TIN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION CENTER

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Website: www.tinmountain.org

Tel # 603-447-6991

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Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. ~John Muir