

TIN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION CENTER ANNUAL REPORT



OCTOBER 2004 - SEPTEMBER 2005

Annual Report
10/01/04-09/30/2005

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Tin Mountain Family,

It seems to me that there are no more slow seasons. It used to be that one could count on some down time in the cycle of a year, in the life of a family, in a community’s activities, or in an organization such as Tin Mountain. I’m sure that there are moments of respite still, but they seem to be presenting themselves at less frequent intervals!

In our fast-paced lives, we often move hurriedly from one activity or task to the next, and events seem to fly by and blur into each other. When I came back on to the Tin Mountain Board at the beginning of this year, I must admit, I had no idea how much was happening in our organization. Staff and trustees have all been working hard to organize and implement regular activities and events, along with emergent projects that have come along with our newest and biggest endeavor – the planning and completion of our new campus in Albany.

In addition to this good work, more opportunities and challenges have emerged, and we are looking to our mission and purpose as we consider new and varied projects for the near future and beyond. This is an exciting time; each time I visit the new Tin Mountain Center, I am more impressed with its uniqueness in design and craftsmanship. The building, itself, speaks to our mission, and I know that you will be pleased to be associated with such a beautiful and functional facility.

In a sense, Tin Mountain is all about slowing down a little – taking some time out of our busy lives and schedules to appreciate a new idea, to discover a new flower, to rediscover birds as they migrate through. Just as important is the idea that we help others – both children and adults – do the same things. I urge you to take advantage of all that Tin Mountain Conservation Center has to offer, and to help and encourage others to do the same, and I sincerely thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the organization.

Sincerely,

David B. Sturdevant

David B. Sturdevant





DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Michael Cline

It would be difficult to imagine a busier or more eventful time than this past year. Tin Mountain Conservation Center broke ground in August for its long-awaited permanent site on Bald Hill in Albany, NH. This event was possible because the capital campaign has raised \$1.7 million toward a total project goal of \$1.8 million. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Capital Campaign Committee, the Building Committee, the Board of Trustees, the staff, as well as support from the greatest group of individuals, businesses, and organizations on this green earth, Tin Mountain will be offering much more environmental programming starting in the summer of 2006. Tin Mountain plans to make their investment of time and resources one of the wisest this community has ever made.

Despite the demands of finishing the capital campaign and overseeing the building of the new Nature Learning Center, Tin Mountain developed and presented numerous new and exciting environmental education programs during the past year. The trademark education programs that Tin Mountain takes to the local schools and the various communities in the greater Mt. Washington Valley continue to foster strong member participation and a sense of inclusiveness. With the addition of a permanent home, Tin Mountain truly will become a membership organization offering many more tangible benefits for members. The following summary describes some of the highlights from the last fiscal year.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Based upon the problems facing society today, future wise stewardship of the environment will play a prominent role. Today's thorny environmental issues present our young people with major problems that they will need to solve. They will need new ideas and a solid knowledge base in the natural sciences. As Albert Einstein stated, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used to create them."

What sets Tin Mountain school programs apart from other school-based environmental education is their multi-session, comprehensive approach. The sustained contact that local students have with Tin Mountain naturalists continues through their entire school careers in school districts within the greater Mt Washington Valley. School programs emphasize "hands-on" learning during all seasons of the year. Throughout the school year, Tin Mountain tailors environmental learning programs to the individual curricula of participating schools. Teacher/Naturalists devote classroom lessons and field trips to the many rivers, ponds, forests, mountains, and special natural areas that cover the region.

Last spring, Tin Mountain teamed with Camp Susan Curtis in offering a three-day, two-night *Ecology Explorers Camp* to 58 eighth-grade students from Molly Ockett Middle School. The camp focused 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. Plans are underway to repeat the camp next year.

This past year, Tin Mountain school programs reached five school districts and were an integral part of 16 schools serving over 3,000 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 fundraises to cover the remaining cost.

Tin Mountain also provides direct support for teachers. In addition to teacher workshops, Tin Mountain lends teachers kits on 10 natural science subject areas that provide lesson plans, references, props, and other teaching aids for many hours of quality hands-on instruction.





SUMMER CAMP

Nearly 300 local children and families benefit each year from Tin Mountain summer camp programs. Nature summer camps attracts children ages 4 to 16 to camps in Fryeburg, ME, Jackson, South Conway, Albany, and South Tamworth, NH where they have an opportunity to learn through outdoor exploration. Younger children attend day camp while a variety of weeklong ventures to wild areas in northern New England are offered to the older age groups. 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 2004/05 amounting to \$5,573. New for this year was an Explorers Camp called *Boats & Beaches*, a sailing/nature camp on the coast of Maine in which participants learned to sail and explored marine and estuarine ecology.



Berkley Cline



NATURE PROGRAMS

The Community Nature Program Series continues to grow in attendance and numbers of presentations/field trips. Enthusiastic participants of all ages attended 62 programs during the past year. The Evenor Armington Fund and L.L. Bean provided critical support in sponsoring the popular series. L.L. Bean has been a major sponsor for 13 years. Among the most popular presentations were Ben Kilham’s “*Black Bears of NH*” and Mark and Marcia Wilson’s “*Eyes on Owls*”, both of which drew crowds of 200 people. Donald Kroodsma, researcher and author of *The Singing Life of Birds*, led two excellent birdwalks and a fascinating presentation. Popular field trips were hiking to Table Mountain 20 years after the forest fire, the Christmas Bird Count, and canoeing on Pontook. The weekly birdwatching trips to Brownfield Bog in May continue to attract many enthusiastic individuals and curious avian sightings. The Community Nature Program Series reaches over 1,000 people each year offering numerous opportunities for hands-on learning about the natural world.



Andrew Thompson



COMMUNITY EVENTS

During the past three years, the Libby Museum and Libraries in Wolfboro and Lovell have presented summer children's nature program series presented by Tin Mountain. In addition, it was the fifth year that Tin Mountain has presented summer programs at the Wildcat Mountain Ski Area, and these continue to draw strong attendance and interest from guests to the greater Mt. Washington Valley.

Tin Mountain's seventh Annual Meeting Field Day was held at our founding site, the field station in Jackson, and featured fantastic field trips, a visit from legendary Native American Molly Ockett (Carol Foord), great food, and much more. The organization's *Distinguished Service Award* was presented to H.E. Bergeron Engineers, *Volunteer of the Year* to Ed McKenzie, and *Outstanding Environmental Educator* to Penny Merrill and Sally Smith of Pine Tree Elementary School. The *Trustee's Exemplary Service Award* recognized Doug Burnell. The *Employee of the Year* award was given to Executive Director Michael Cline.

SPECIAL EVENTS



2005 MUSIC FESTIVAL

New this past year was the *First Annual Tin Mountain Conservation Center Music Festival*, which was held outside at the base of the Mt. Washington Auto Road last July. Joining many great local acts were Carol Noonan, Cormac McCarthy, and Bill Morrissey. It was a great way to raise funds for environmental education programs and listen to very talented local musicians.



FIRST SEASON FESTIVAL

The 20th Annual *First Season Festival Benefit Dinner/Auction* involved over 400 local businesses and individuals who generously donated at record number of articles to be auctioned. In addition, a record number of *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.

Mt. Washington Auto Rd Bicycle Hillclimb



The 33rd *Mt. Washington Auto Road Bicycle Hillclimb*, the toughest in the world, sold-out in a record two weeks and once again provided a large portion of the financial support for the organization. The fourth *Mt. Washington Century Ride* was very successful and promises to raise significant support for Tin Mountain programs. A 100-mile ride around Mt. Washington and through three notches and some of the most beautiful land on earth, the *Century* attracted over 400 registrants last summer.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Tin Mountain capital campaign has raised \$1.7 of a goal of \$1.8 million dollars to build and maintain a Nature Learning Center on its 98-acre property on Bald Hill in Albany. The Capital Campaign Committee comprised of current and past Board members and other friends plan to raise the additional \$100,000 before the construction is completed on the center in the summer of 2006.

NEW NATURE LEARNING CENTER

Tin Mountain broke ground on the new Nature Learning Center in August 2005, and plans call for its completion in July 2006. The Building Committee has worked hard to ensure that value is received on every detail of the building. The construction manager and the entire crew of contractors have readily embraced the building philosophy and are making the center an example of the value that is possible using local materials and local craftsmen. In addition, the solar applications that are planned for the building will save money and be a great teaching tool for children and adults, as well as developers and business owners interested in similar applications.



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.

Inquiries about donations to the scholarship fund can be made to Tin Mountain Conservation Center, PO Box 1170, Conway, NH 03818, 603-447-6991 or e-mail tinmtn@tinmtn.org.

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 10/01/04-9/30/05, interest distributions to Tin Mountain’s general operations amounted to \$18,100. 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 Tin Mountain’s. It allows 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 Tin Mountain’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 endowment or planned giving options, contact Tin Mountain Conservation Center’s Executive Director, Michael Cline at (603) 447-6991 or write to him at P.O. Box 1170, Conway, NH 03818. Tin Mountain also happily accepts and liquidates gifts of stocks and bonds.

Balance Sheet

Statement of Activity September 30, 2005 & 2004

Revenue and Support:

Expenses:

Administration:

Fundraising:

Program Services:

Building & Barn Projects	\$330,165	65,232
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TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$910,195</u>	<u>621,259</u>
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Excess (deficit) of revenue over expense	\$262,418	\$763,754
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Endowment Distribution 2%

Category	Percentage
Capital Campaign Support	50%
Special Events	26%
Community Outreach	2%
Net Endowment Growth	5%
Grants & Gifts	6%
School Programs	5%
Camps	4%
Other	<1%

Program Area	Percentage
Building Project	35%
Administration	13%
Special Events	14%
School Programs	9%
Camps	9%
Capital Campaign	9%
Other Programs	4%
Community Programs	4%
Fundraising	3%
Investment Fees	<1%

**Full Financial Report prepared by
Grondin & Chandel, P.A. *available on request***



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Paris Farmers Union

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Snowvillage Inn

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Spruce Hurricane

Squam Lake Natural Science Center

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Storyland

Tatto Lube

The Antarctic Connection

The Bethel Inn

The Children’s Museum of Portsmouth

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TMCC

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Presented by Mt. Washington Auto Road

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PERFORMERS:

- Beau Chadinha & Matt Connors
- Jug
- Adamma & Heather
- Swift River Jazz Band
- Celtic Round
- Masceo
- Jill Ducai
- Jeremy Dean & Friends
- Tin Mountain Singers
- Cormac McCarthy
- Bill Morrissey
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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS!

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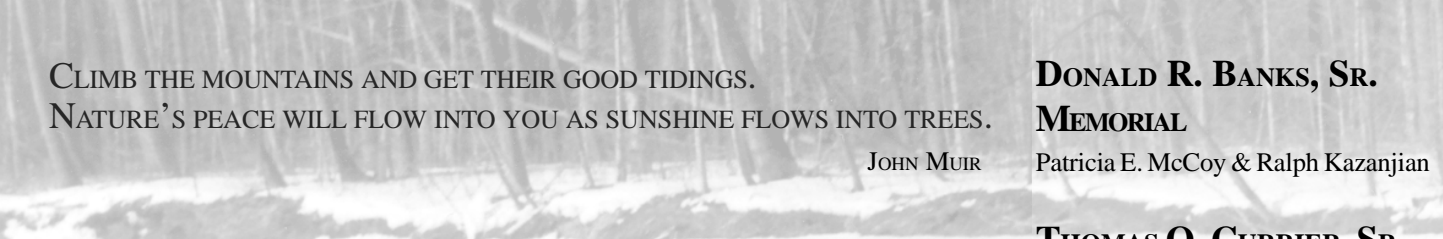
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COMMUNITY NATURE PROGRAM SERIES

Tin Mountain 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 Evenor Armington Fund is our major vehicle for drawing families into the natural world.

Over 50 programs are offered throughout the year. This year's Community Nature Programs included Eyes on Owls, Bears with Ben Kilham, Winter Birds of Plum Island, Alpine Ecology, Vernal Pools, and Canoeing Umbagog.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS

Tin Mountain Conservation Center has offered summer camp programs to children ages 4-16 for the past 18 years. *Kindercamp* and *Day Camp* are presented at facilities in four different locations for kids ages 4 to 9 years old. *Farm Camp* is another day camp offered in cooperation with the *Earle Family Farm*. *Nature Theme Camps* integrate nature with art, music, history and water for children 6-12 years. *Trekkers* allows younger campers (ages 9-11 years) to gain confidence and acquire outdoor skills through day hikes and a two-night campout in the White Mountains. *Peaks & Paddles* is geared to children 10-12 years of age and teaches canoeing techniques and more advanced hiking/camping skills with a two-day canoe trip to the North Country. Older children ages 13-16-years old spend a week hiking and camping the Presidential Range of the White Mountains in *Paths and Peaks*, a week canoeing the North Woods of Maine in *Canoe Voyageurs* and *Canoe, Camp and Climb*.

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Natural history information, activities, handouts, and time in the field provide teachers with a better understanding of a wide range of topics from the mountains to the winter ecology of birds. Teachers fully immerse themselves in the experience with opportunities to dig and discover soils, measure tree heights, diameters, and age, observe, sketch, and write about great blue herons, interpret maps, and explore a beaver pond in winter. The far reaching effects of these workshops ripple out for miles as participants return to their students and share their new found discoveries.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Environment 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.

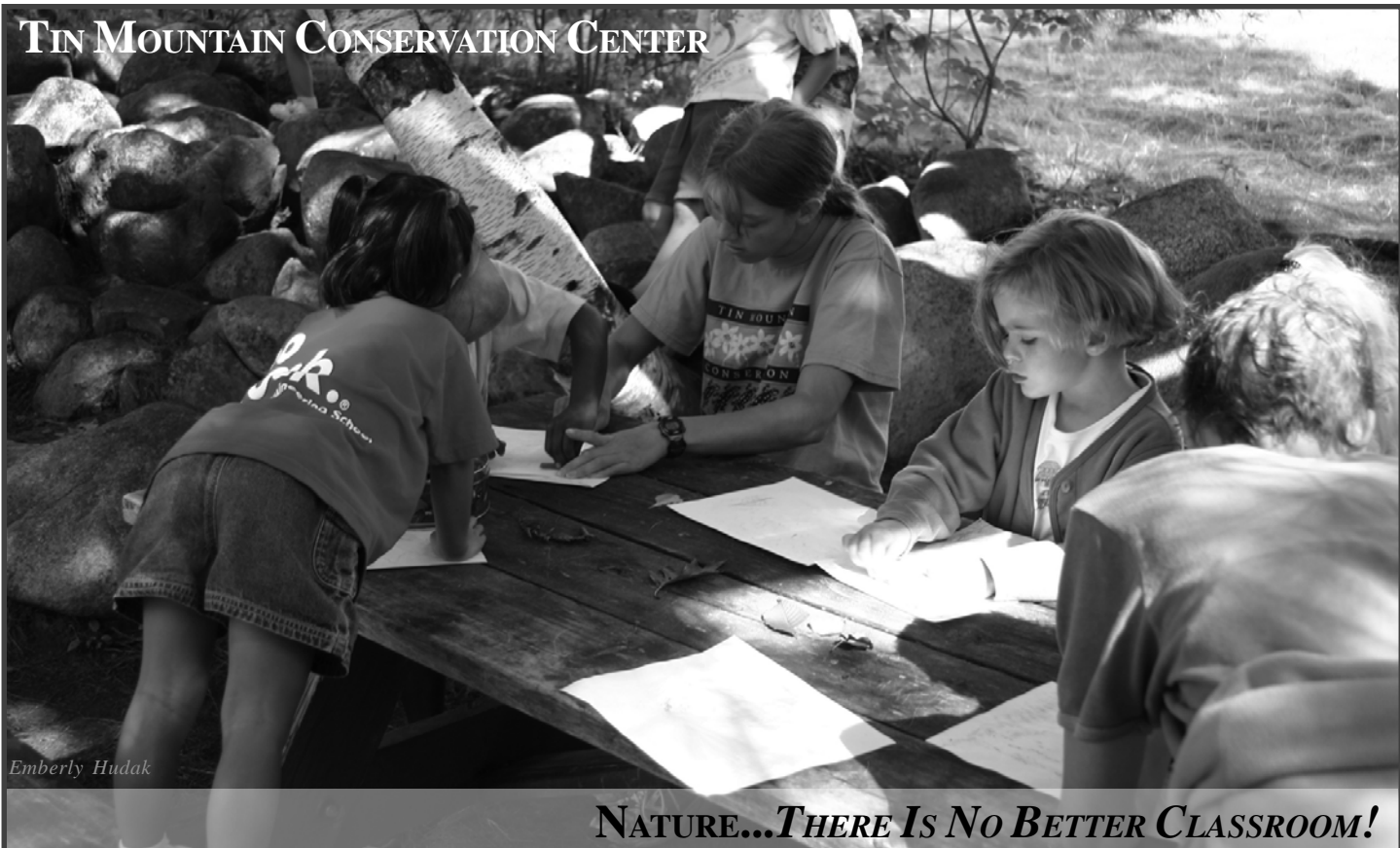
Forests for the Future: Over an 18-week period, a Tin Mountain teacher/naturalist visits junior high or high school classrooms for one entire day each week to teach basic principles of forest ecology and forest resource management. Using a different forest study site each year, students learn field techniques 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 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.



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