

# ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008



## 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

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

### Summary: On-Trail, Off-Trail Volunteer Contributions

On-Trail Volunteer Work Hours	32,535
On-Trail Volunteer Travel Hours	8,679
<b>On-Trail Volunteer Work Valuation</b>	<b>\$488,025</b>
Off-Trail Volunteer Work Hours	13,395
Off-Trail Volunteer Travel Hours*	1,376
<b>Off-Trail Volunteer Work Valuation</b>	<b>\$391,880</b>

\*Estimate based on hours in 2006. Hourly values are based on information from U.S. Department of Labor statistics.

## Trails

### New York

#### 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.



■ 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.

■ Ward 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.



■ We open the 2.7-mile South Gully Trail on the west side of the Shawangunks. This beautiful footpath extends from Route 52 to Sam's Point.

■ A major reroute of the Long Path/Shawangunk Ridge Trail in the Cragmoor area takes advantage of the new South Gully Trail and eliminates a significant segment of road walk. The new route now follows an old woods road, that parallels Route 52 before crossing it to connect with the South Gully Trail.

■ Volunteers eliminate 1.3 miles of road walk on the SRT by reopening of the trail over Gobblers Knob in Mount Hope.

■ The Minisink Trail, just outside Port Jervis, was extended nearly 2 miles, from a new trailhead on Route 6 at the Deerpark/Greenville town line. With a connection to the Lenape Trail, hikers can enjoy a 6-7 mile lollipop hike. This trail network is accessible with a walk from the Metro-North station in Port Jervis.

#### Storm King State Park

■ Volunteers begin work on replacing a bridge on the Stillman Trail.



#### Sterling Forest

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

### 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.



■ The new 1.9-mile Lake Sonoma Trail and 1.5-mile Overlook Rock Trail were completed in Norvin Green State Forest. The trails offer possibilities for a variety of loop hikes.

#### 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.



## 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.



## 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.

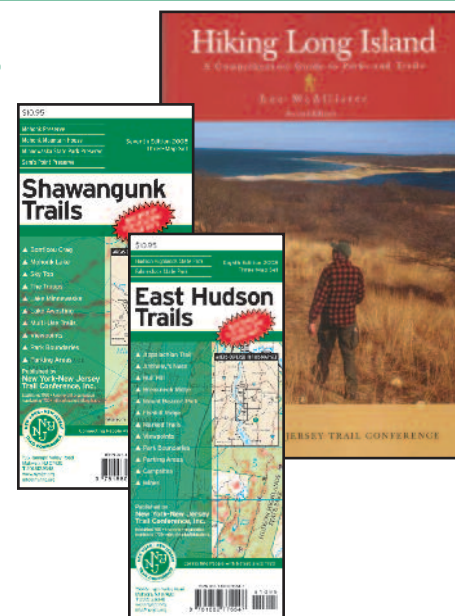
## Publications

■ 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



## Advocacy & Conservation

■ Trail Conference joins with other groups to preserve Catskill 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 Catskill 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 Conference fights park closings in New Jersey; parks are kept open to the public.

■ Trail Conference continues to lead fight for ATV regulations in New Jersey.

■ Trail Conference joins the Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership. The partnership comprises nonprofit organizations and public agencies that aim to use science and land management strategies to preserve the sensitive wildlife habitat and other natural resources of the Shawangunks.

# 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.

## Condensed Financial Statements 2007-2008

Assets	Year ended 9/30/08
Cash & Investments	\$ 431,643
Receivables	226,528
Inventory	110,162
Prepaid Insurance	15,115
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>783,448</b>
Trail Land & Easements	1,819,421
Darlington Schoolhouse	357,658
Other Assets	32,922
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,993,449</b>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	71,599
Mortgage Payable	216,000
Other	37,601
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>325,200</b>
Net Assets	2,668,249
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,993,449</b>
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)
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Gains</b>	<b>\$ 2,347,575</b>
Expenses	
Program Services	1,073,570
Management and General	225,660
Fundraising and Membership	233,797
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,533,027</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 814,548</b>

### Board of Directors FY2008

#### Chair

Robert Boysen

#### Vice Chair

Chris Connolly

#### Treasurer

Mac Highet

#### Secretary

Daniel Chazin

#### Directors

Henry Atterbury  
Ellen Cronan  
Matt Garamone  
Josie Gray  
John Gunzler  
Peter Kennard  
Seth McKee  
Anne Osborn  
Mary Smart  
Malcolm Spector  
Daniel Van Engel

### Committee Chairs FY2008

#### NON-TRAILS

**Conservation**  
Seth McKee

**Membership & Development**  
Mary Smart, John Gunzler

**Administrative**  
Mac Highet

**Technology**  
Walt Daniels

**Publications**  
Daniel Chazin

**Nominating**  
George Becker

**Volunteer**  
Daniel Van Engel

### Strategic Planning

Mac Highet

### Darlington Steering Committee

Edward Saiff

### TRAILS

#### Trails Council Chair

Jane Daniels

#### Trails Chairs

#### AT Dutchess/Putnam

James Haggert

#### AT New Jersey

Gene Giordano

#### AT Orange/Rockland

G. Gail Neffinger

#### West Jersey

J. Bruce Thomson

#### Catskills

Peter Senterman

#### Highlands Trail North

Gary Haugland

#### Highlands Trail West

Brenda Holzinger

#### Long Path North

Clarence Putnam

#### Long Path South

Jakob Franke

#### West Hudson North

James Gebhard

#### West Hudson South

John Mack

#### Metro Trails

Joseph Gindoff, Lizbeth Gonzalez

#### North Jersey

John Moran

#### Central Jersey

Ellen Cronan

#### East Hudson

Josie Gray

### Staff Positions FY2008

#### Executive Director

Edward Goodell

#### Director of Membership & Development

Joshua Howard

#### West Hudson Regional Representative

Larry Wheelock

#### Conservation Director

Bill O'Hearn

#### New Jersey Regional Representative

Brenda Holzinger

#### Cartographer

Jeremy Apgar

#### Fullfillment Coordinator

Gary Willick

#### Administration & Information Manager

Catherine Gemmell

#### Bear Mountain Project Manager

Matt Townsend

#### Membership & Development

#### Program Manager

Leslie Rapparlic

#### Volunteer Coordinator

Katy Dieters

#### Help Desk Administrator

J. Cal Rizzuto

#### Membership & Volunteer Associate

Hedy Abad

#### Office Assistant

Kathy Goldman

#### Communications Consultant

Georgette Weir

#### Graphic Design Consultant

Lou Leonardis

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e-mail: info@nynjtc.org

World Wide Web: http://www.nynjtc.org

## Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Mac Highet, Treasurer

Results for our fiscal year ended September 30, 2008, have now been audited and an unqualified 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 and which is included as a reduction to our revenues. This revenue is significantly higher than the prior year because of the land sales income.

Our costs for the year were \$1,533,027, of which \$827,630 (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.

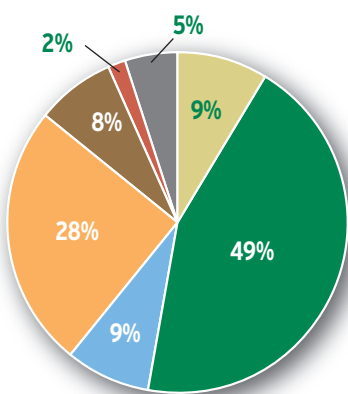
Our net surplus (termed "change in net assets") for the year was \$814,548, but \$162,507 if we deduct the significant gain from land sales.

Turning to our balance sheet, we finished the year with total assets of \$2,993,449 of which Trail Lands and Easements 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 amount to \$357,658. Total liabilities amount to \$325,200 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.



### FY 2008 Revenues

- Membership Dues
- Grants & Contributions
- Sales of Maps & Books
- Gain on Land Sales
- Contract Income
- Investment Income
- Net Investment Gains (Losses)



### FY 2008 Expenses

- Program Services
- Management and General
- Fundraising and Membership

