



# ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

## Behind Every Scenic Picture...



...there is someone who cares.

It's said that a picture tells a thousand words. But neither pictures nor words substitute for the experience of hiking a mountain summit and being rewarded with a magnificent view.

They can't replace the pleasure of spotting first-hand Indigo Buntings flitting among trees while one walks the Wyanokie Circular Trail in Norvin Green State Forest.

They only suggest the visual and audible spectacle of water dropping 180 feet in a narrow gorge, as it does at Verkeerder Kill Falls in the Shawangunks, accessible only by hiking on the Long Path.

Pictures and words are informative, sometimes inspiring, but they are not the same as walking a footpath with children at Ramapo Valley County Reservation or Bear Mountain State Park and giving them the chance to delight and investigate for themselves the mysteries of ponds and streams.

**The work of the Trail Conference is to make such first-hand, personal experiences available to millions of people by providing them with the trails and resources to explore nature safely and respectfully. The fact that in so doing we enjoy being out in nature ourselves is icing on the cake.**

This report is our annual celebration of the work achieved by the Trail Conference and its volunteers. Check it out, then go outside and experience the rest of the story.

Robert Boysen  
Chair, Board of Directors

Edward K. Goodell  
Executive Director

## Contributed Services

1,301 Trail Conference volunteers contributed a total of 55,896 hours of work and travel. The value of their work is estimated at \$843,177!

### Volunteer Contributions by Committee

Committee	Hours	Travel Hrs	Value
Publications	1,888	131	\$62,678
Marketing/Outreach	98	14	1,432
Membership/Development	36	9	750
Trail Land Conservation & Advocacy	110	17	1,780
Science	698	180	13,200
Trail Builders & Maintainers	32,083	10,798	450,117
Darlington School House	672	61	15,675
Volunteer Committee	16	8	710
Ramapo ATC Conference 2007	3,850	269	129,883
Communications	1,991	—	95,317
Administrative	2,968	537	71,635
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,410</b>	<b>12,023</b>	<b>\$843,177</b>

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

On-Trail Volunteer Work Hours	32,083
On-Trail Volunteer Travel Hours*	10,798
On-Trail Volunteer Work Valuation	\$450,117
Off-Trail Volunteer Work Hours	11,787
Off-Trail Volunteer Travel Hours*	1,228
Off-Trail Volunteer Work Valuation	\$393,059
Total Volunteer Work Hours	43,870
Total Volunteer Travel Hours*	12,026
Grand Total Volunteer Hours	55,896
Total Value of Volunteer Work Hours	\$843,177

Value is based on information from U.S. Department of Labor statistics.

\*We currently do not include travel time in our calculations for valuating volunteer contributions.

# Trails

The Trail Conference works with land-owning partners, including state, county, and local agencies and nonprofit conservancies and preserves in the New York-New Jersey region to make open space and nature accessible to the public. In fiscal year 2007, **1,192 trail volunteers** kept **1,682 miles of hiking trails** in the region open and well maintained for the public.

## Pursuing Major Projects

**New trail lands, trail erosion, trails damaged by floods or ice storms: all present challenges and opportunities for significant trail building projects.**

### Bear Mountain

During year two of this seven-year project to improve the AT and related trails on Bear Mountain, 297 volunteers contributed 4,185.5 hours of work to help build a stretch of the AT in a challenging area requiring heavy construction. During the season, our crews, many comprising youth and volunteers in training, built:

- 2,375 square feet of cribwall
- 465 square feet of stone paving
- 53 stone steps
- 710 linear length of new trail

### Long Path

Crews built a **new three-mile trail in the Catskills** that connects the Warner Creek Trail/Long Path directly to the Devil's Path on Plateau Mountain, eliminating a five-mile detour that included a road walk.

### Shawangunk Ridge

Crews completed **seven miles of new trails** in the southern Shawangunks on land protected by the Trail Conference:

- a five-mile loop that connects the City of Port Jervis to the Lenape Ridge, comprising two trails: Lenape Ridge Trail and Minisink Trail;
- a two mile loop dubbed the Ravine Trail in the Town of Mount Hope that links the Shawangunk Ridge Trail to an old (closed) fire tower.

### Ramapo Mountains

The **Indian Rock** and **Wanaque Ridge Trails**, which combine to make a 5.5-mile loop, were planned and built in the Ramapo Mountain State Forest and Wanaque municipal lands in New Jersey.

### Catskill Storm Recovery

The months of April and May 2007 saw extensive **trail closures in the Catskills** due to ice storms in April. Much of the Long Path and many other trails above 2,400 feet were closed for some time. Volunteers provided many backbreaking hours helping to clear the **Long Path**, especially in the northern portion of the park.

## Supporting Our Trail Volunteers

**Our Trail University offers novice- to advanced-level training in trail building and maintenance.**

- In its second year, Trail U offered specialized workshops at Bear Mountain, from basic trail construction to advanced stone working skills, as well as the Trail Conference's "core curriculum" of Trail Maintenance 101, Construction and Restoration, and Chainsaw Safety Certification.
- Through the help of Lydia Silman Zakim and the Harry B. Silman Tool Fund and with Gary Haugland's editorial help, the *Trail Maintenance Manual* was revised and printed.

## Improving Our Trails

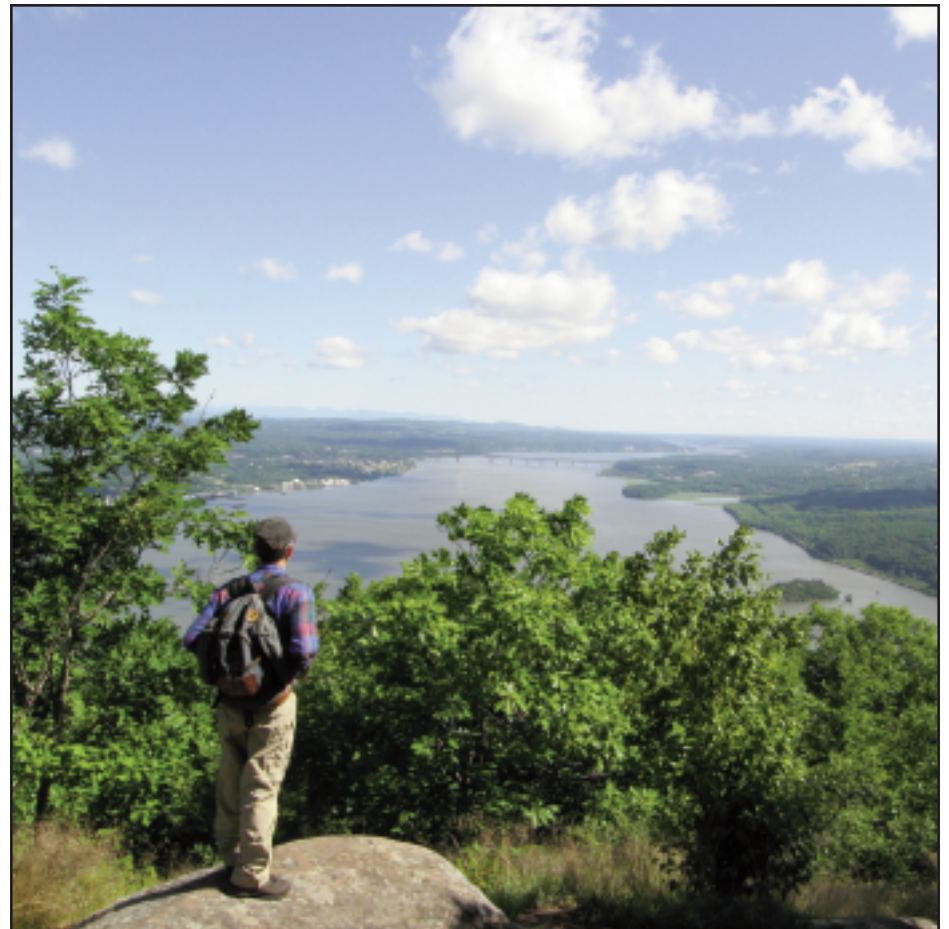
Each year Trail Conference volunteers build new trails to create links in the trail network or give access to new lands. Trail sections are relocated to avoid road walks, accommodate land-owner requests, skirt environmental problems such as erosion, or improve views. **During 2006/07, volunteers:**

- extended the **Hillburn Torne Sebago Trail** on top of the Ramapo Torne;
- relocated a short section of the **Long Path** across a bridge over the Minekill Creek in the Catskills;
- relocated eastern end of the **Timp-Torne, 1777W and 1779 Trails** in Harriman State Park;
- relocated portions of the **Wyanokie Circular Trail**;
- built a new connector between the **Castle Point** and the **Hoeflerlin Memorial Trails** in Ramapo State Forest, named the **Skyline Trail**;
- adopted part of the Canal Greenway Committee's **Greenway Trail** in Warren County, NJ;
- completed extensive work on the **Warren Trail** in Warren County, NJ;
- completed bridge and trail repairs in the **Dunnfield Creek** area;
- relocated a segment of the **AT** in Wawayanda State Park.

## Expanding Our Network

**The Trail Conference regularly adopts new trail areas. We also work to identify routes for extending or protecting existing trails. Last year, we:**

- adopted trails in the **Kitchawan Preserve and Montrose Point State Forest, NY**;
- adopted trails in **Idlewild Park** in Queens, NYC;
- adopted trails in **West Brook Park** in West Milford, NJ;
- identified route segments in Wonder Lake State Park in Putnam County for the **Highlands Trail**, which we seek to extend from the Hudson River east to the Connecticut state line;
- identified a route for the **Highlands Trail** across Route 15 in Sparta, NJ.



# Publications

Ten map sets and 11 guidebooks published by the Trail Conference were available to the public during the year. Trail Conference maps and guidebooks provide people with the information they need to access and enjoy public open space in our region.

## Books

- *Scenes and Walks in the Northern Shawangunks* by Jack Fagan; new third edition, published in 2006
- *Hiking the Jersey Highlands*, by George Petty; new book, published in 2007
- *Walkable Westchester*, by Jane Daniels and Walt Daniels; new book, in development

## Maps

Two completely new digitally-produced map sets were produced:

- *North Jersey Trails*
- *Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails*
- Work progressed on an updated edition of the *Shawangunk Trails* map set

# Science

## Tracking Wild Invasives

The Trail Conference, working with Rutgers University, completed the second year of a three-year project supported by the US Dept. of Agriculture to study the spread of invasive plants in public parklands. Trail Conference volunteers were trained as "citizens-scientists" and hit the trails to collect data in the field. An explicit part of the research is to test whether hikers can collect accurate data regarding invasive plants.

# Special Events & Initiatives

## ATC at Ramapo 2007

The Trail Conference, a maintaining member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, hosted ATC's biennial gathering in July 2007 at Ramapo State College of New Jersey. Under the leadership of Conference Chair Jane Daniels, 387 volunteers made the eight-day festival of hikes, workshops, trail work, and conviviality a major success!

- 856 attendees
- 161 hikes with 1,762 hikers (individuals hiked more than once) and 180 hike leaders
- 28 excursions
- 78 workshops, including 22 Trail U workshops at Bear Mountain, where 57 volunteers contributed 867 hours of service
- 52 exhibitors

## Darlington Schoolhouse

The Trail Conference announced plans to preserve through purchase and restore as its headquarters a landmark 19th-century schoolhouse that sits at the gateway to Bergen County's Highlands. Working with several partners—Bergen County, Township of Mahwah, New Jersey Green Acres Program, and The Morris Land Conservancy (MLC)—the property was purchased in January 2007 for the Trail Conference with bridge financing provided by MLC. Work to complete the transfer of the property to the Trail Conference and joint owner Mahwah township, as well as to stabilize the structure and prepare for fundraising and design stages continued through the fiscal year.

# Conservation & Advocacy

## Advocacy

Protecting land and promoting trails through political action.

Trail stewardship includes heavy work off trail as well as on. Trail Conference staff and volunteers were vigilant and active throughout FY2007, testifying at planning board meetings to protect trail corridors from development, writing and speaking to government officials to advance funding for open space protection, and promoting the interests of hikers at every opportunity.

### In New York

#### We celebrated 'closing the hole' in Sterling Forest.

In November 2006 New York State purchased 575 acres at the center of Sterling Forest State Park, capping a nearly 20-year fight to preserve this extraordinary open space. The Trail Conference and AMC NY-NoJ Chapter co-founded the coalition that eventually included 30 groups and successfully pushed for the creation of the 15,000-acre state park.

#### We joined with others to expand the Environmental Protection Fund.

Legislation that will increase New York's Environmental Protection Fund to an all-time high—\$300 million by fiscal year 2009 was signed into law in July 2007. The Trail Conference advocated for an increased EPF as part of a coalition that included the Adirondack Mountain Club, Environmental Advocates of New York, the Adirondack Council, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the New York League of Conservation Voters, the New York Farm Bureau, the Coalition of Living Museums, NYPIRG, Scenic Hudson, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

#### We promoted the Bigger, Better, Bottle Bill.

The Trail Conference participated in a statewide coalition pushing for New York to revamp and update its bottle bill. The BBBB aims to increase container recycling in the state and generate—through state collection of unpaid bottle deposits—new funds for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

#### We supported the Community Preservation Act.

The Trail Conference strongly advocated on behalf of the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act (HVCPA), which authorizes towns and cities in Westchester and Putnam counties to establish community preservation funds through the imposition of a small real estate transfer fee, of up to two percent, on the portion of the sale price over the municipality's median price. The local tax must be approved by voters through a referendum. The lower Hudson Valley has been particularly affected by rapid growth and development, and this legislation will allow the voters in these communities to decide their future direction themselves.

#### We worked to protect the Highlands Trail in Chester.

Trail Conference staff testified at a Chester Planning Board hearing against allowing a housing project to move forward without acknowledging that the Highlands Trail lies in its path. The existence of the trail was included in the scoping document; the project seems stalled due to the gloomy economy.

#### We promoted a Long Path National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study.

Trail Conference staff began working with the Adirondack Mountain Club and National Park Service to secure Congressional funding for a Long Path feasibility study to aid in completion of northern trail sections as well as move some Orange County road walk sections into the woods.

#### We submitted comments on the Shawangunk Ridge Unit Management Plan.

Trail Conference staff attended an information session and submitted written comments to NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation as part of its process of revising its management plan for its holdings on the Shawangunk Ridge.

### In New Jersey

#### We participated in development of the State Trails Plan.

Trail Conference staff members represented the interests of hikers during the entire year-long process, from from initial information sessions to guided discussions with consultants to commenting on draft plan. The final plan is expected to be released in mid 2008.

#### We worked tirelessly and successfully for passage of the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund/ NJ Ballot Question No. 2, Park Improvements legislation.

This legislation passed in November 2006 with 60% public support. The Trail Conference worked with a coalition of environmental groups called Keep It Green to inform the public about the need to establish a stable source of funding for park capital projects. This coalition continues to work together to find a long-term source of revenue for the Garden State Preservation Trust fund to protect open space in New Jersey.

#### We advocated for the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

Trail Conference staff testified at public hearings, submitted written comments, held information sessions for TC members, and issued action alerts. This work is ongoing.

#### We continued to push for ATV regulations.

The effort to pass statewide ATV legislation is non-stop. The Trail Conference formed a coalition with Pinelands Preservation Alliance and other groups to pursue this goal. Legislation moved through the Assembly but it did not make it through the Senate before the end of session.

## Conservation

Saving and extending trails by saving open space.

### In New York

The Trail Conference Land Acquisition Fund worked to protect the following trail lands through acquisition and stewardship (parcels are identified by the names of the former/current owners):

#### Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- Ferretti, 18.5 acres, Greenville, Orange County: Signed contract, title work completed (closed March, 2008)
- Karvellas land swap, 18 acres, Greenville: In progress
- LaFarge, 140 acres, Mamakating, Sullivan County: Clean-up planned and funded by LTA NE grant
- Completed land transfers to NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation totaling more than \$1 million; worked toward additional transfers valued at \$640,000

#### Appalachian Trail

- Shirazi-Monroe, 63 acres, Monroe, Orange County: Secured funding commitment from Palisades Interstate Park Commission (land would be added to Sterling Forest State Park); applied for match from Orange County Open Space program (signed contract March, 2008)
- Shirazi-Warwick, 72 acres, Warwick, Orange County: Met with Town of Warwick, Orange County Planning, and landowner (donation in progress)

#### Long Path North

- Beretz, trail easement, Middleburgh, Schoharie County: Working with Long Path North group and landowner (no agreement yet)

### In New Jersey

#### Highlands Trail

- Washington Township, 74 acres, Morris County: Two parcels purchased October, 2006, and one February, 2007. Transferred to Morris County Parks June, 2007. These parcels will connect Stephens State Park in Mount Olive to Schooley's Mountain County Park via the Highlands Trail and Patriots' Path.
- Appello Tract, 128 acres, West Milford Township, Passaic County: Applied for funding from Victoria Foundation, and project was taken over by NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection's Green Acres program.
- Lake Lackawanna Investment Corp., 280 acres, Byram, Sussex County: Toured site with landowner and prospective buyer, but have not made offer.



## Trail Support

Protecting and extending trails by offering technical expertise.

In addition to acquiring land, the Trail Conference uses a number of other tools to protect or extend hiking trails. It may help negotiate easements of less formal agreements to allow trail access across a property, arrange for insurance coverage of a landowner who allows access, or work to acquire a key connector piece along a trail corridor. The following trails were supported through one or more of these kinds of ways:

- Long Path, NY and NJ: Worked on federal legislation to fund National Scenic Trail feasibility study
- Iron Belt Trail, Sussex, Morris, and Passaic Counties, NJ
- Highlands Trail east of Hudson, Putnam County, NY
- Highlands Trail in Byram NJ, Sussex County, NJ
- AT connector/Warwick trails system, Orange County, NY



# Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Mac Highet, Treasurer

Our financial results for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007, show that we had another strong year.

Our preliminary financial statements show revenues for the year of \$1,708,806, which include membership dues and contributions of \$689,023, Ramapo Conference revenue of \$162,992, map and book sales revenue of \$226,280, land sales \$444,560, and other miscellaneous revenue of \$185,951.

Total expenses for the year were \$1,522,866, almost half of which goes to salaries and benefits for our employees. Note that while we continue to rely heavily on volunteer labor to support all our activities, this is not reflected in our financial results as it was in prior years. Other major categories of expense include Ramapo 2007 conference expenses, printing and production costs, land holding costs (principally interest), and rent and occupancy costs.

Our net surplus for the year (which is termed "change in net assets") was \$185,940, which compares with \$32,732 at the end of our prior fiscal year.

As of September 30, 2007, our Statement of Financial Position shows that we had total Assets of \$3,502,407 and that our two primary assets are cash and investments of \$608,538 (in line with last year), and Trail Land and Easements of \$2,453,011. Total Liabilities were \$1,670,197, which mostly includes mortgages payable of \$1,549,700. The land resale process is slow but we expect that in the current fiscal year we will be selling some of our acquired land, which will allow us to repay some of the related mortgage debt.

Our accountants have completed their audit field work for fiscal 2007 and will be issuing their unqualified audit report and statements shortly.

# Condensed Financial Statements 2006-2007

Assets	Year ended 9/30/07
Cash & Investments	\$ 608,538
Receivables	214,756
Inventory	145,768
Prepaid Insurance	14,600
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>983,662</b>
Trail Land	2,453,011
Other Assets	65,734
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,502,407</b>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	85,583
Mortgages Payable, Long Term	1,549,700
Other	34,914
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,670,197</b>
Net Assets	1,832,320
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,502,407</b>
Statement of Activities	
Membership Dues	\$ 199,317
Grants & Contributions	489,706
Sales, Maps & Books	226,280
Land Sales	444,560
Contract Income	138,276
Investment Income	47,675
Ramapo AT Conference	162,992
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,708,806</b>
Expenses	
Program Services	1,312,635
Support Services	210,231
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,522,866</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 185,940</b>

# Membership and Development

A heartfelt thank you to the 802 individuals, organizations, and corporations that generously supported the Trail Conference's mission in 2006-2007. The value of these donations reached \$489,706. These generous contributions enabled the Trail

Conference to be the region's leader in training and supporting active volunteers who maintain and protect hiking trails and the lands surrounding them.

We acknowledge our donors in *Trail Walker* throughout the year as gifts are

received. But we take this opportunity to extend special recognition to two extraordinary groups of donors: our Trail Champions and our Foundation supporters who funded special projects during 2006-2007.

## Trail Champions

The *Trail Blazer Society* recognizes and honors individuals who support the Trail Conference's activities above and beyond their annual membership dues. Within that group are our *Trail Champions*, who distinguish themselves by supporting the Trail Conference's activities with annual donations at the highest levels.

Our *Trail Champions* in 2006-2007 were:  
 Dr. George L. Becker Jr.  
 Robert & Rose Marie Boysen  
 John & Marianne Gunzler  
 Peter L. Kennard  
 Robert W. Messerschmidt  
 Bob & Alma Newton

Anne & Fred Osborn  
 George P. Perkinson  
 Hedley M. & Barbara Weeks  
 Mary Smart  
 Mary & Gay Mayer  
 Gaylord C. Holmes  
 James & Barbara Hanson

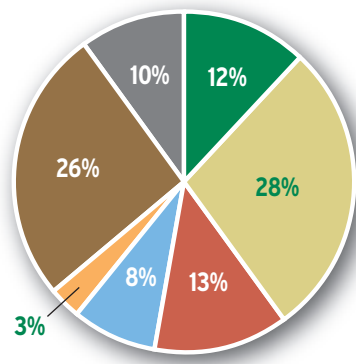
## Support for Special Projects

We received generous support from several foundations and agencies that made possible a range of special projects.

Foundation	Project	Amount
Marie Baier Foundation	Volunteer Recruitment	\$10,000
Land Trust Alliance	Clean up of La Farge property	\$15,000
LL Bean	Trail maintenance on the AT	\$1,140
New Jersey Historic Trust	Planning grant for Darlington Schoolhouse	\$50,000
New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection	Central Jersey and Highlands Trail Crew development	\$25,000

## FY 2007 Revenues

- Membership
- Contributions
- Publications
- Contract Income
- Investments
- Land Sales
- ATC Ramapo Conference

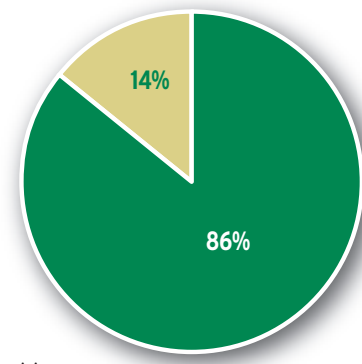


## FY 2007 Expenses

- Programs\*
- Support\*\*

\*Programs include: Trail building and maintenance; Trail land conservation and advocacy; Outreach, Publications, Membership, and Science

\*\*Support includes: Management; fund raising



## Board of Directors FY2007

- Chair**  
Jane Daniels
- Vice Chair**  
Peter Kennard/Robert Boysen
- Treasurer**  
Herb Hochberg/Mac Highet
- Secretary**  
Daniel Chazin
- Directors**  
Henry Atterbury  
Chris Connolly  
Ellen Cronan  
Matthew Garamone  
John Gunzler  
Peter Kennard  
Seth McKee  
Anne Osborn  
Mary Smart  
Malcolm Spector  
Daniel Van Engel

## Committee Chairs FY2007

- Advocacy Chair**  
H. Neil Zimmerman
- Conservation Chair**  
Seth McKee
- Science Committee Chair**  
Anne Todd Osborn
- Development Committee Co-Chairs**  
Mary Smart and John Gunzler
- Administrative Committee Chair**  
Mac Highet/Herb Hochberg
- Technology Committee Chair**  
Walter Daniels
- Publications Committee Chair**  
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- Nominating Committee Chair**  
George Becker
- Strategic Planning Chair**  
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Peter Heckler
- Trails Chair, AT Dutchess/Putnam**  
Jim Hagggett
- Trails Chair, AT New Jersey**  
Gene Giordano

- Trails Chair, AT Orange/Rockland**  
G. Gail Neffinger
- Trails Chair, West Jersey**  
Robert Boysen
- Trails Chair, Catskills**  
Peter Senterman
- Trails Chair, Highlands**  
Gary Haugland
- Trails Chair, Long Path North**  
Clarence Putnam
- Trails Chair, Long Path South**  
Jakob Franke
- Trails Chair, West Hudson North**  
James J. Gebhard
- Trails Chair, West Hudson South**  
John Mack
- Trails Chair, Metro Trails**  
Joseph Gindoff
- Trails Chair, North Jersey**  
John Moran
- Trails Co-Chair, East Hudson**  
Vacant
- Trail Chair, Central Jersey**  
Ellen Cronan

## Staff Positions FY2007

- Executive Director**  
Edward Goodell
- Operations Director**  
Josh Howard/Elizabeth Bleiweiss
- Director of Membership & Development**  
Josh Howard
- Advocacy/Conservation Director**  
Bill O'Hearn
- Advocacy/Conservation Associate**  
Brenda Holzinger
- Trails Director**  
Larry Wheelock
- Trail Projects Coordinator**  
Eddie Walsh, Jr.
- Volunteer Coordinator**  
Heidi Adami
- Member & Volunteer Associate**  
Katy Dieters
- Land Acquisition Director**  
John Myers
- GIS Specialist/Cartographer**  
Allison Werberg
- Information Manager**  
Catherine Gemmell
- Fullfillment Coordinator**  
Gary Willick
- Bear Mountain Project Manager**  
Leslie Rapparlle
- Administrative Assistant**  
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Georgette Weir
- Graphic Designer**  
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