

TIN MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT



Photo Credit: Donna Marie Dolan

OCTOBER 2005 - SEPTEMBER 2006

Annual Report

10/01/2005-09/30/2006

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear fellow members,

For the first time in the history of Tin Mountain Conservation Center, its president can write to you from a permanent home! As I sit in this beautiful new center in Albany, New Hampshire, I am cognizant of the significant events of the past year. As I mentioned at the annual First Season Auction, many of you have been patiently awaiting this day for over 20 years. Thanks to your generosity and the hard work of the Tin Mountain staff, trustees, and many volunteers, the dream has become a reality.

We moved into our new nature center in August, and it truly feels like home. Not only is it an impressive structure aesthetically, it also has been modeling efficient use of energy, the technology of solar energy in particular, and the practical value of using local woods and craftsmanship. Most importantly, though, we have had the opportunity to expand our educational offerings, based on our mission. We have added exciting new programs, including our monthly Eco-Forum lunchtime lecture series and our weekly Nature Nuts programs for pre-schoolers and their parents.

We continue to work on the property as the seasons change; we are marking boundaries, cutting and improving trails, and landscaping the area around the center, itself. Because of a grant from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), we have recently arranged to buy about 40 acres that are directly adjacent to our Albany property, thus protecting a significant population of mountain laurel, small whorled pogonia, three birds orchid, and providing a buffer on the east side of our pond.

In addition, through the generous donation of an anonymous donor, we have obtained about 1,200 acres of timberland. This purchase supports our mission and purposes, as we will be able to model positive aspects of managing woodlots, and perhaps even form some cooperative programs with other local landowners, loggers, and sawyers. On the organizational side of things, we have separated our annual fund from membership, and we have launched our first membership drive.

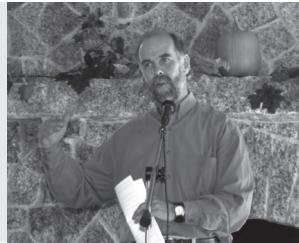
As you can see, we have been busy this year, and we are growing quickly. There are, of course, some growing pains, but they come mainly in the form of positive challenges. With your continued support for and belief in the Tin Mountain organization, we will meet these challenges in a responsible, reflective, and positive manner, and we will continue to grow and serve our communities, as we look to our mission.

Please come and visit the center if you have not done so, attend a program, volunteer for an event, and know that we value your participation in your local conservation educational center.

Sincerely,



David B. Sturdevant
April, 2007



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Michael Cline

Fourteen months after breaking ground, two years after restoring the barn, three years after the onset of the capital campaign, four years after purchasing the land, and after more than 10 years in the planning stage, Tin Mountain Conservation Center finally has a permanent home. Was it worth the wait? You bet! With strong leadership from the Board of Trustees and tireless efforts of volunteer members of the Capital Campaign Committee and the Building Committee, the new Nature Learning Center is a strong testament to the soul of Tin Mountain and embodies the values of the lessons it imparts in the many programs offered.

Built with local materials, much of the wood harvested and sawn on-site, the new facility showcases unparalleled results that can be accomplished by local craftsmen using indigenous northern New England tree species. The center also incorporates numerous energy conservation choices appropriate to a building of its size and location, as well as operational-level solar applications designed to furnish all electric and more than 70 percent of the annual heating demands. During the long procession from planning to construction, it became clear that members of Tin Mountain wanted to seize this opportunity to teach by example about sustainable choices.

An anonymous donor with a passionate interest in sustainable forestry and the natural environment will provide funds for Tin Mountain to purchase 1,181 acres of timberland in Conway from The Nature Conservancy this fall. The donor believes that Tin Mountain has earned the support and confidence of local communities and is uniquely positioned to teach by example about sustainable forest management and to impart a strong stewardship ethic. The new Nature Learning Center was constructed with locally harvested and processed wood in the hands of local craftsmen. Now, owning its own forestland, Tin Mountain can demonstrate responsible forest management to supply that local timber and conserve the forests that underpin our traditional way of life.

Completing the new Nature Learning Center and purchasing timberland have been exciting enterprises; however, school programs, summer nature camp, and community nature series programs, as well as many new programs in various stages of development, are the reason that Tin Mountain exists. Trustees and staff have been working hard to develop a full slate of expanded programming and other ways to become actively engaged with Tin Mountain. It has truly become a membership organization now providing numerous tangible benefits for becoming a member. Highlights from the last year are many and diverse.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The multi-session, comprehensive approach sets Tin Mountain programs apart from other school-based environmental education efforts. Throughout their entire school careers, students in school districts within the greater Mt Washington Valley have continued contact with Tin Mountain naturalists. School programs in every grade level emphasize “hands-on” learning during multiple session programs conducted in all seasons of the year. Tin Mountain tailors environmental learning programs to the individual curricula of participating schools. Teacher/naturalists devote classroom lessons and field trips to exploring the many rivers, ponds, forests, mountains, and special natural areas that cover the region.

For the past two years, Tin Mountain has teamed with Camp Susan Curtis offering a three-day, two-night *Ecology Explorers Camp* to 70 eighth-grade students from Molly Ockett Middle School in Fryeburg. 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. New this year was a class-by-class contest that tested the natural science acumen and field skills that eighth-grade students accumulated over nine years of Tin Mountain environmental education programs.

During the past year, Tin Mountain teacher/naturalists made extensive use of the 98 acres at the new site for field trips to the beaver pond, the 19th century granite quarry, and the many other natural features on the landscape. Students also had a unique opportunity to see post-and-beam construction from round logs to the completed great room frame. They were also afforded a chance to see all of the solar components in the process of installing the photovoltaic and thermal arrays on the roof of the building.

Tin Mountain school programs reached five school districts and are 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.

Tin Mountain was fortunate to be asked to teach a science methods class for the University of Southern Maine as part of the ETEP program. Students admitted into the program with a four-year non-teaching degree are able to obtain a teaching certificate and masters degree in education through the program that combines classes and hands-on teaching.

SUMMER CAMP

Doing its best to combat “nature deficit disorder,” Tin Mountain summer 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. 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 2005/06 amounting to \$6,939. The second year of an Explorers Camp called *Boats & Beaches*, a sailing/nature camp, was held on Cape Cod, and participants learned to sail and explored marine and estuarine ecology.



NATURE PROGRAMS

A slate of 70 Community Nature Series presentations/field trips attracted enthusiastic participants of all ages this past year. Once again, 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 14 years. Among the most popular presentations were the perennial favorite "Eyes on Owls" by Mark and Marcia Wilson, the Lake Umbagog canoe trip, a snake program, animal tracking, birding by ear, and a post-and-beam demonstration. The sunrise canoe trip to the Brownfield Bog featured a cow moose and calf emerging from foggy marsh at dawn. The Community Nature Program Series reached over 1,000 people this past year offering numerous opportunities for hands-on learning about the natural world.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

For the past several years, Tin Mountain has presented 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 sixth year that Tin Mountain has presented summer programs at the Wildcat Mountain Ski Area and the first 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 eighth Annual Meeting and Field Day was held at the nearly completed new facility in Albany and featured fantastic field trips, an extraordinary presentation by author/naturalist Ted Levin, great food, and much more. The organization's *Distinguished Service Award* was presented to West Oxford Agricultural Society, Fryeburg Fair, *Volunteers of the Year* to Frank Mann and Katrine Biddle, *Business Volunteer of the Year Award* to Joel Clement, and *Outstanding Environmental Educator* to Karen Shackford of Freedom Elementary School. The *Trustee's Exemplary Service Award* recognized Stan Bodkins. *Special Staff Appreciation Awards* were presented to Steve Thomas and Liz McCann

SPECIAL EVENTS

The 34th *Mt. Washington Auto Road Bicycle Hillclimb*, the toughest in the world, sold-out in a record less than an hour and provided nearly one-third of the financial support for the organization. The fifth annual *Mt. Washington Century Ride* was successful despite the rainy weather, and it 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.

The 21st *Annual First Season Festival Benefit Dinner/Auction* involved over 400 local businesses and individuals who generously donated 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 attended the festival enjoying great food and fine quality auction items.

The second *Annual Tin Mountain Conservation Center Music Festival* was held at the Brass Heart Inn last summer. It was a great way to raise funds for environmental education programs and listen to very talented local musicians.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The final construction cost for the building including architectural and engineering was \$1.9 million. The Tin Mountain capital campaign has raised a little over \$1.6 of a goal of \$2.2 million dollars to cover building construction and establish an endowment to maintain the 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 funds over the next three years.

NATURE LEARNING CENTER

Tin Mountain moved into the new Nature Learning Center in August 2006 and plans call for many new programs in 2007. Already planned are adult courses, field courses, a monthly lecture series, parent/grandparent morning program, weekly building tours, countless nature programs, and Saturday hours.



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, 1245 Bald Hill Road, Albany, 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 10/01/05-9/30/06, interest distributions to Tin Mountain’s general operations amounted to \$17,784. 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.

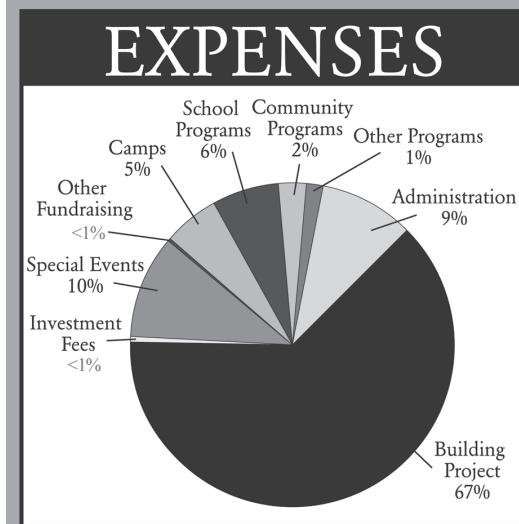
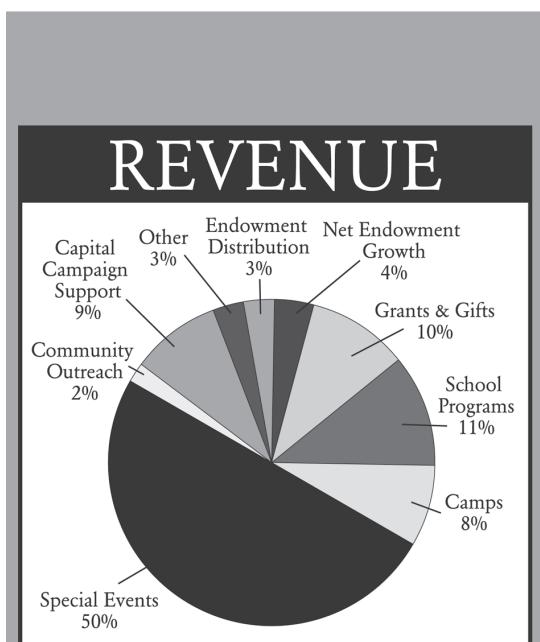
For more information on endowment or planned giving options, contact Tin Mountain Conservation Center’s Executive Director, Michael Cline at (603) 447-6991 or write to him at 1245 Bald Hill Road, Albany, NH 03818. Tin Mountain also happily accepts and liquidates gifts of stocks and bonds.

Financial Statement
October 1, 2005 - September 30, 2006
(With comparative totals for Oct. 1, 2004 through Sept. 30, 2005)

Balance Sheet

	Total All Funds	
	2006	2005
Assets:		
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 81,030	560,277
Accounts Receivable	6,931	1,959
Capital Campaign Pledges Receivable	163,031	503,183
Pre-paid Expenses	1,331	1,331
Inventories	6,451	3,926
Property and Equipment (net of depreciation)	2,139,612	687,920
Investment Fund with NHCF	<u>479,800</u>	<u>455,350</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,878,186	\$2,213,946
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 97,591	18,382
Line of Credit	500,000	0
Retainage Held	<u>12,182</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 609,773	\$ 18,382
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted:		
General Fund	\$ 125,587	50,030
Equipment & Property Fund	1,639,612	677,837
Temporarily Restricted	23,414	1,012,346
Permanently Restricted	<u>479,800</u>	<u>455,351</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$2,268,413	\$2,195,564
TOTAL	\$2,878,186	\$2,213,946

	September 30, 2006 & 2005			
Statement of Activity				
Revenue and Support:				
Endowment Distribution (from NHCF)	\$ 20,558	18,100		
Net Endowment Growth	24,449	55,019		
Grants & Gifts (2004 included LCHIP grant)	60,474	69,710		
School Program Support	66,945	62,800		
Camp Revenue & Scholarship	49,341	48,034		
Community Outreach Programs	14,396	18,173		
Special Events	300,253	303,134		
Other	16,296	5,779		
Capital Campaign Support	<u>57,261</u>	<u>591,864</u>		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 609,953	\$ 1,172,613		
Expenses:				
Administration:				
Personnel	\$ 104,724	77,979		
Other	<u>40,851</u>	<u>40,759</u>		
Subtotal	\$ 145,575	118,738		
Fundraising:				
Personnel	\$ 41,886	52,274		
Special Events	110,524	107,964		
Capital Campaign & Other	3,160	68,560		
Investment Fees	<u>2,774</u>	<u>2,797</u>		
Subtotal	\$ 161,118	231,595		
Program Services:				
Personnel	\$ 173,517	162,100		
School Programs	10,990	9,235		
Summer Camp	31,201	34,685		
Community Outreach Programs	10,300	10,076		
Other	<u>4,403</u>	<u>13,601</u>		
Subtotal	\$ 230,411	229,697		
Albany Building Project	\$ 1,014,601	330,165		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,551,705	910,195		
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expense	\$ (941,752)	262,418		



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

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2006 FIRST SEASON



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The Mountain Ear
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Bavarian Chocolate Haus

Beadunique
Bear Notch Touring Center
Becca Van Fleet Pottery
Bert Weiss Studio
Betty's Quilts
Blooming Vineyard
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Bobby-Sue's
Botanical Lampshades
Brenda and Don Thibodeau
Brittany Cline
Brook Pottery
Bum Wraps
Burnham Shaker Products
Buttertown Florist
Café Noche
Canobie Lake Park
Cape Cod Crafters
Carol Noonan Music
Center for Natural Health
Center for Reflective Arts
Chase Hill Farm
Chequers Villa
Cheryl's Clipper Cuts
Chester Eastman Homestead
Chinook Café
Chinook Trails Designs
Chocorua Village Pottery
Christa McAuliffe Planetarium
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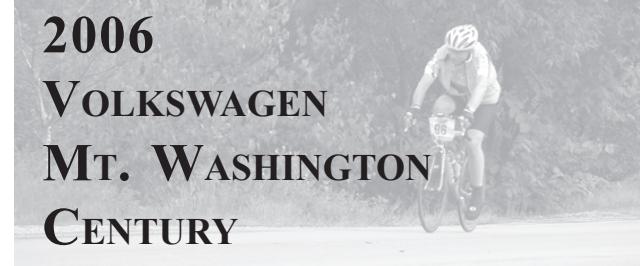
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Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.

~Albert Einstein

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IN MEMORY OF BETTY WHITNEY

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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 a major vehicle for drawing families into the natural world.

Over 60 programs are offered throughout the year. This year's Community Nature Programs included Eyes on Owls, Nature Pastels, Winter Birds of Plum Island, Alpine Ecology, Vernal Pools, and Canoeing Lake Umbagog.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS

Tin Mountain Conservation Center has offered summer camp programs to children ages 4-16 for the past 19 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. *Peaks and Paddles* 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 years of age teaches more advanced hiking and camping skills and includes a three-day backpacking trip to the White Mountains. In *Canoe Voyageurs*, also for children ages 11-12, campers learn canoe techniques with two days of canoeing locally followed by a three day trip to Lake Umbagog! Older children ages 13-16 years old spend a week hiking and camping 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*. Back for a second year, *Boats and Beaches* for 13-16 year olds explores estuarine habitats and introduces nautical skills on a gaff-rigged sailboat.

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

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.



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