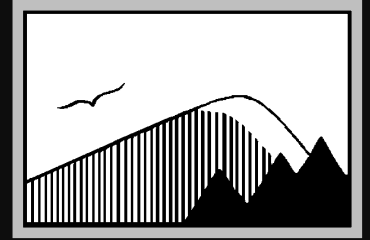


Autumn/Winter 2005

TinMountain



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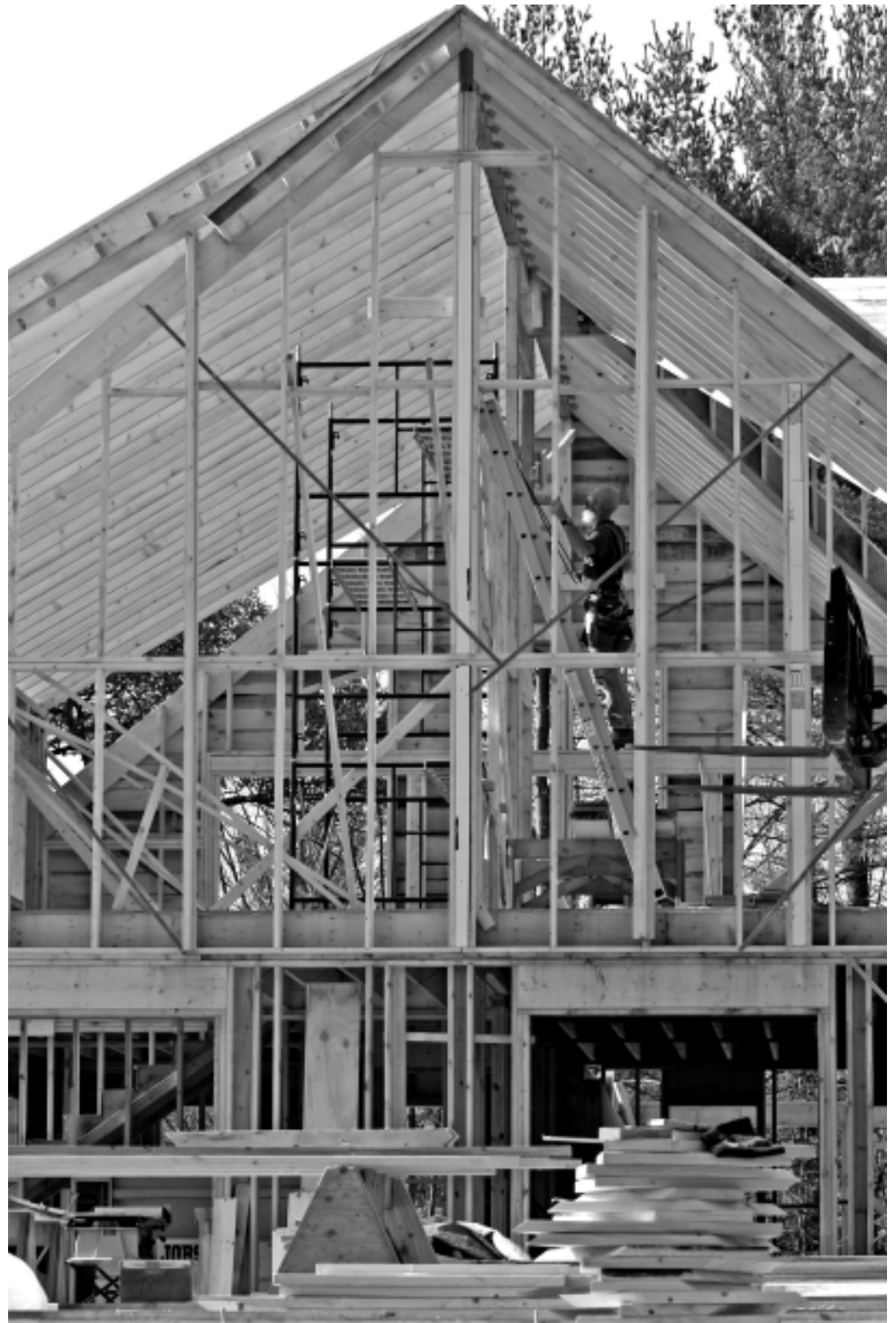
LOOK INSIDE FOR



BUILDING UPDATES



SURPRISE VISITOR



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Education Director
Lori Jean Kinsey

*Communications/
Public Relations*
Donna Marie Dolan

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Cover Photos:
Layout and Design
Donna Marie Dolan



TIN MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE

Work began in earnest in July on the Tin Mountain Nature Center on Bald Hill. The foundation was excavated, concrete poured, and the walls are being framed. It is exciting to see things come together after the long planning process and the fundraising that was necessary to start the project. Tin Mountain staff and Trustees have been working toward this goal since 2000 when an exhaustive property search was undertaken.

Once the Board decided to purchase the 98 acres on Bald Hill in the fall of 2002, a plan was developed to restore the historic barn and protect important adjacent lands with conservation easements. The NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) helped provide funds for this comprehensive project to conserve the important historic and natural features of the property.

The barn, originally constructed in ~1800, was restored in 2004 by a local crew of craftsmen that sawed timbers and lumber from nearby forest stands and quarried granite from adjacent land using the old pin and feather method to split the rock. Many of the exterior barn boards are two-feet wide, and close examination will reveal that most are installed "book matched". One of the original barn doors was discovered nailed to the wall. Although it could not be re-used, one set of original door hinges remained attached to the door. A local blacksmith made up the remaining hinges that now hang the front and back doors.

Late last winter and early spring, timber was harvested to clear the building site. A portable sawmill was brought on-site to saw logs into timbers for the post-and-beam great room and lumber for the nature center building. The barn is being used to scribe and cut the timber frame that will be erected later this fall. In addition to timber frame construction with a beautiful open truss system, the great room will have a stone fireplace made of stone taken from the small abandoned quarries on site.

Construction of the center will capitalize on the beauty and utility of proven traditional craftsmanship, as well as incorporate cutting-edge energy technologies to heat and light the building. Roof-mounted solar thermal energy panels coupled with radiant floors will supply 60 percent or more of the center's heating requirements. The remaining heating requirements will be satisfied with wood or biofuel in a dual-fired boiler. Photovoltaic units will supply all electrical needs of the building through a net metering arrangement with Public Service of NH where excess electricity generated during the low-demand summer is "banked" for use during remainder of the year. The building will be an excellent vehicle for sharing solar technology and energy conservation applications with contractors and homeowners.

High value was placed upon securing local suppliers and materials for the project, and as such, emphasis is being placed on showcasing local woods and underutilized tree species. Except for slate in the high-traffic lobby area, floors will be wood throughout, and different tree species will be featured in different rooms. Native hardwoods, such as beech, birch, red maple, and red oak, will be used for flooring as well as pitch pine. Local woods will also be used for cabinetry, wainscot, chair rail, and accents.

The time schedule calls for the building to be enclosed by early December and completed by July 2006. Tin Mountain will schedule a few public opportunities to view progress on the project; however, anyone interested in having a personal tour can contact the office and Mike will be happy to arrange a visit.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

HEADS TOWARD FINISH

The Capital Campaign Committee is raising **\$297,500** to complete the final lap of campaign efforts. Committee members are approaching a few donors for the first time and other supporters a second time. If we haven't approached you yet, now is the time you can step forward and help grow Tin Mountain's future. This also is an opportunity for area businesses and individuals to become sponsors of Tin Mountain by supplying In-Kind donations of building materials.

Your support is essential to help Tin Mountain Conservation Center complete the Capital Campaign. This is our last push. Now that the building is going up ...

LET'S FILL THE CENTER!

Your donations can help to:

- Provide comfort in the Great Room;
- Design Lab Stations in the Classroom;
- Light up the Nature Center;
- Afford Library supplies; and
- Create lobby displays.

Our Yearning List includes In-Kind donations of:

- Two 250-gallon oil storage tanks;
- One-year supply of oil;
- Cabinetry work;
- Slate tiling;
- Lighting fixtures;
- Tyvar house wrap 8/9x100';
- Decking material;
- White cedar shingles - 300 bundles;
- Toilet partitions (wooden)

MURAL TO RAISE FUNDS

Trustee Stan Bodkins brought a great idea to Tin Mountain for helping raise funds to help furnish the new nature center. Stan, who is an accomplished artist in many media, will create a mural to be displayed in the reception area. It will picture a natural Mt. Washington Valley forest setting featuring the trees, flowers, and animals native to this bountiful area.

With a donation, a name can be permanently inscribed on a flower, leaf, animal, or "family" tree within the mural. A gift in honor or in memory of someone will help maintain this new environmental learning center so that we can continue to provide teaching and research resources and offer a greater number of on-site programs. Whether a parent, grandparent, sibling, son or daughter, we hope your family will be among the many represented on the Tin Mountain mural.

Stay tuned for details as this exciting project develops. We plan to place the mural on public display in bank lobbies, popular restaurants, and art galleries throughout the Valley.



CLASSIC POST & BEAM CONSTRUCTION IN CENTER'S GREAT ROOM

The post and beam design for the Great Room is truly exceptional and is based upon a rather complex timber framing model, some examples of which still stand in New England.



With wall heights of 8-9 feet, the standard post and beam design would have made the overhead beams appear very low. The accepted design moves the overhead cross-ties higher up on the rafters, and oblique ties provide the required additional supporting strength.

The entire timber frame is being constructed from white pine except for the posts, which are from large red oak timbers. Most of the pine frame was sawn from trees harvested on site and the oak was sawn from trees cut from a woodlot in Bartlett. Some steel is required to provide strength at particularly stressed joints; however, it should not be that noticeable. The design and engineering of the frame was quite involved, but the final product promises to be a functional work of art.

The crew of David Shedd, David Condoulis, and Nate Beaulieu, who were responsible for the excellent preservation of Tin Mountain's ca.1800 barn, are heading up the team working on the Great Room post & beam. They were very fortunate to have the Timber Framers Guild work with them and provide on-site instruction on the intricacies of cutting the elaborate frame. The preserved barn has been handy since this is where the frame is being cut and assembled. Stepping into the barn transports one back several centuries. Many old tools are present, but closer examination reveals the use of very large power saws and mortising tools that make the process less arduous.

CLASSIC POST AND BEAM



Doug Burnell



Dave Mason



Dixie Coleman



Laura Jawitz

Photo Credits: Donna Marie Dolan



August 11th, 2005 was a truly auspicious day for Tin Mountain Conservation Center. After 25 years of a nomadic lifestyle, Tin Mountain broke ground for its new Nature Learning Center on Bald Hill in Albany. Old friends from all over the Valley and beyond were on hand when Board Chairman Doug Burnell officially launched the festivities and recounted some of the Tin Mountain history that served to bring us together for the celebration. Governor John Lynch was represented by his North Country liaison Peter Benson, who read a proclamation from the Governor and related personal stories of his longtime association with Tin Mountain and its programs.

Dixie Coleman, a past Board Chair and current Capital Campaign Chair, spoke of Tin Mountain as a valuable community asset. Citing the importance of environmental literacy in solving the problems of today and tomorrow, Dixie introduced past Tin Mountain *Environmental Educator of the Year* recipients Val Ford and Jon Marshall, both from Josiah Bartlett School. Val and Jon talked about the importance of having outside resources and long-term partners like Tin Mountain to effectively convey to students the bedrock principles of natural science. Pine Tree Elementary Principal, and longtime supporter, Laura Jawitz spoke about her first experience with Tin Mountain in 1991 working on a week-long unit on mountains. She was surprised and chagrined that children raised here in the Valley knew little of the natural world around them. She said there is no education challenge that Tin Mountain will not take on and do an excellent job.

Executive Director Michael Cline remarked that the new center will provide expanded education opportunities and be a major public gathering place for both formal and informal discussions. When people drop by and see all that is offered, they will know their investment in Tin Mountain was a good one. Cline also noted the many longtime supporters present at the ceremonies, including Seth Rockwell, son of Founder Barbara Rockwell Henry, who continues his active involvement in his mother's dream.

Past Trustee Dave Mason called Tin Mountain a non-profit organization that stands out from the crowd. He said that Tin Mountain delivers to this community, not only high quality services, but services at a cost that is a fraction of what it would normally cost for a school. Mason added that he should know since he was the past Treasurer of the Board. Mason added that he and his wife Jean have been dedicated supporters of Tin Mountain both for what the organization stands for and the efficient manner in which it is run.

Following the speakers was the official groundbreaking when past Tin Mountain students and campers grabbed shovels and hardhats to turn the soil for the actual groundbreaking. Fantastic desserts, maple-lemonade, and coffee were provided by *The Chinook Cafe*, *Flatbreads*, and *Primos*. Please say thanks when you drop by any of these fine establishments.



ADORNS TIN MOUNTAIN BARN

This past summer, Cheryl Carlson from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), visited Tin Mountain Conservation Center's preserved ca. 1800 barn and brought with her a bronze plaque to recognize the partnership that made the work possible. The plaque monuments completion of work that saved the Allard Barn that was part of the Allard-Moulton neighborhood during the pioneer days of Burton (Albany), NH. The restoration of the barn was made possible by LCHIP.



The Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (NLMA) provided much appreciated volunteer help earlier this summer when Fryeburg member Steve Card arranged for a crew of lumber graders to grade the post-and-beam components for the great room. The timbers were harvested during site clearing and milled on site with a portable band sawmill. In addition to being great lumber graders, the NLMA crew also proved to be accomplished trail bridge and picnic table builders. The NLMA affiliate the Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Institute has also awarded Tin Mountain a generous grant for the *Forests for the Future Program*. Thanks!

SURPRISE



VISITOR

Another day at the office turned into a real treat when a call arrived asking if we had a camera. The rather odd request was from Allen Russell who found a Blanding's turtle crossing the road in Fryeburg near the Saco River, and he wanted to make certain that we had a chance to see it. A turtle crossing the road is not unusual, but finding a Blanding's turtle in this area is rare. Blanding's turtles are a species of special concern in New Hampshire due to population decline and are found mainly in the southeastern part of the state. These turtles are listed as endangered in Maine and found only in southern York and Cumberland Counties. They are part of a larger population of Blanding's turtles that extend from southeastern New York to southeastern Maine along the coast. The next closest population occurs in the Midwest.

Staff had not seen a wild Blanding's turtle before, so it was a pleasant surprise to know they are present in the area. Their speckled shell is helmet shaped and may be as long as 10½ inches. This male was really big and in great shape showing the telltale long neck with yellow throat and chin. The rest of the body was dark with large scales on the skin. The upper shell, or carapace, was dark green or black with many little yellowish grey spots or streaks. The bottom of the shell, or plastron, was yellow with black splotches along the edge. The plastron has a hinge that allows the turtle to pull his head and legs in and close its shell like a box turtle.

Blanding's turtles do not breed until males are 12 and females are 16 years of age; however, they can live to be 70 to 80-years-old. These turtles are found in and around wetlands, but they will leave them to travel from wetland to wetland, especially in search of vernal pools where they will eat the eggs and larvae of amphibians and insects. In Maine, they are most often found near vernal pools and small acidic wetlands. In New Hampshire, they inhabit a variety of water systems, especially where soft muddy bottoms and lots of plants are present. Blanding's turtles eat a variety of water animals including snails, amphibians, fish, worms, crayfish, and mussels, but they will also eat berries and other vegetation.

Our turtle was probably moving to its hibernation site as the fall rains fill vernal pools and forested wetlands. They spend the winter under 1-3 feet of water buried in the leaves and mud at the bottom and will not re-emerge until the water approaches 60° F in the spring. So keep your eyes open as you travel the area. You never know when you may see a surprise visitor of your own.

by Emberly Hudak



Photo Credits: Lori Kinsey and Emberly Hudak



Sally Smith and Penny Merrill



Ed and Kathy Bergeron



Doug Burnell

TIN MOUNTAIN HONORS THE VALLEY'S BEST

Earlier this year at the Annual Meeting, Tin Mountain recognized several individuals that have made a difference in the community through their actions supporting education and the environment. Teachers Penny Merrill and Sally Smith of Pine Tree Elementary School received the *Environmental Educator of the Year* for their work on the Mill Street Project, which was a comprehensive learning experience involving cultural and natural history of the Mill Street area. Tin Mountain teacher/naturalist Carol Foord, who worked with them on the project, made the presentation.

Ed McKenzie, a long-time friend and supporter of Tin Mountain, received the *TMCC Volunteer of the Year Award*. Ed put together an archeological dig and demonstration at Tin Mountain's barn on Bald Hill for school classes and for the nature program series. It was a great deal of work, but it was a great education program. Archeological finds included an 18th Century clay pipe, a button inscribed with *The Portland*, numerous bottles, and much more.

HEB Engineering has been there for Tin Mountain many times over the years, and they were presented the *Distinguished Service Award*. Past Trustee Kathy and husband Ed Bergeron have always lent a helping hand with any task, from providing construction assistance to presenting numerous nature photography workshops for Tin Mountain. Another HEB individual, Doug Burnell, received the *Trustees' Exemplary Service Award*. Besides being the current Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Building Committee, Doug has provided many hours of professional services to Tin Mountain and has been an excellent ambassador for the organization. Doug ends his second six-year stint as a Trustee this fall.

Tin Mountain is appreciative and thankful to these recipients and all who volunteer their time, energy, and expertise.

TMCC & CAMP SUSAN CURTIS TEAM UP



Last May, staff from

TMCC and Camp Susan Curtis hosted 58 eighth grade students from Molly Ockett Middle School for a three-day Ecology Explorers Camp in Stoneham, Maine. For these students, this was a culmination of eight

years of Tin Mountain programs spanning their entire elementary school career. Located on beautiful 88-acre Trout Pond, there were 2,500 acres to explore on eight miles of hiking trails - a perfect venue for natural science education. The focus of the three

days was to develop field skills, provide in depth study of natural science and the environment, gather natural resource data, and participate in a public hearing on a natural resource issue. Students rotated through different field sessions including aquatic, plant, forest, and wildlife ecology, land-use history, and team building activities (including a high and a low ropes course).

Assistance with lessons and supervision during the course of the three days was provided by a select group of students from Fryeburg Academy, many of whom were involved in a variety of Tin Mountain programs over the years. Other highlights included storyteller Matt Krug sharing star stories, a visit from native American Molly Ockett at the evening campfire, and a visit from developers "Huey and Lewey" at the public hearing. The hearing was a great opportunity for students to become fully engaged and share data they had collected. The Ecology Explorers Camp was very successful. TMCC naturalists look forward to this coming spring when they will partner with Camp Susan Curtis for another nature learning adventure.

(Camp Susan Curtis's mission is to provide affordable camp experience for under-privileged youth in Maine. To learn more visit: www.susancurtisfoundation.org)

by Lori Jean Kinsey



TMCC & USM TEAM UP FOR ETEP SCIENCE COURSE

Tin Mountain is teaching a graduate course in science education this fall for a University of Southern Maine program. Designed to provide teacher certification to individuals that have completed a four-year college degree, the Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP) is an excellent method for experienced adults to make a career change to teaching. As part of ETEP, Tin Mountain staff is teaching science education methods to a group of students who are performing internships in regional schools in Maine. Classes last all day and are conducted in a variety of settings in the greater Mt. Washington Valley.

The ETEP is a graduate level teacher education program consisting of two distinct phases. An internship phase provides the coursework and experience required for Maine certification in either a full-time or part-time two-year format. After successfully completing an internship and securing a teaching assignment, students may complete an additional 13 credits of advanced professional study to earn a M.S. Ed with a concentration in Teaching and Learning. To learn more about this program, call Mike or Lori at (603) 447-6991.

NEW TEACHING KITS & TEACHER WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE

Attention teachers, home-schoolers, and youth leaders! Thanks to a grant from the Cogswell Benevolent Trust, Tin Mountain has updated and expanded its natural history kit offerings for teachers in the Mt. Washington Valley and western Maine. Kits are subject based and include a variety of activities, resource books, and natural history items that are exciting and unusual, such as turtle shells, an insect collection, bird nests, a rock and mineral collection, animal skulls, children's books, and pictures. Each kit is comprehensive in approach and provides many hours of planned lessons. Topics covered include the following: *Winter Ecology, Rocks and Minerals, Incredible Insects, Tremendous Trees, Amazing Avians, Wild Wetlands, Farm and Food, and Mammals of Maine and New Hampshire*. Kits may be borrowed for a nominal fee of \$15 for two weeks and may be reserved by calling 447-6991.

Tin Mountain also provides teacher workshops to local schools on a variety of topics and will tailor workshops to address specific needs. Providing both in-class and outdoor instructional components, workshops help teachers incorporate natural history concepts into their daily teachings. Topics range from mushrooms to mountains and many more. Please call TMCC for a complete list of programs and costs.

LETTER

Tin Mountain is teaching a college-level science methods course this fall, and reviewing the scientific method made me think about the importance of education. What value do we really place upon a good education, and how can we recognize a well-educated individual when we see one?

A number of years ago while doing research/policy work for a well-known Maine conservation organization, I had many opportunities to provide testimony before state legislative committees as well as the U.S. congressional delegation. I often left these sessions contemplating the true value of a good education. The problem was that folksy anecdotes and unsubstantiated opinions, mixed with a dose of native humor, was perceived to be the "common person's view" and carried the day. It handily trumped the well-reasoned and factual testimony provided by numerous articulated mainstream citizens, who much better represented the common person. Unfortunately, these episodes seem to continue today in too many situations.

Even less well received by many is scientific research presented by "the expert" with advanced college degrees. "Book-learning" in "ivy-towered" universities is too often viewed as a strike against rather than an asset. No amount of scientific findings based upon years of sound research wins the kind of influence associated with a carefully turned phrase in a "down-home" dialect. We see this happening from town meetings to national policy discussions. What message does this send about education?

There is immense value in knowledge gained through years of on-the-job experience, but when we lecture our children about the importance of "a good education", we are referring to schooling. Are we duplicitous in demanding that our children attend the best schools, pile up advanced degrees, and graduate at the top of their class, yet discount the knowledge acquired when they attempt to apply it to real situations? Politicians run on it, parents preach it, we all wish we had more of it, and we are told that great nations are built upon it. Knowledge should be revered, never ridiculed.

There are no age boundaries in the discounting of formal education, and this is particularly true for the sciences, consider for example, the debate on global warming in light of overwhelming research substantiating its sources. This is not an appeal to accept blindly all research results; however, well-educated people should discern facts from fiction and demand rigorous study.

The derogatory term "educated elite" is seldom appropriate and definitely sends the wrong message, i.e., "if you study hard and become well-educated, you will be a snob." It's not much different than the slander to which U.S. Senator Barack Obama alludes to in "a black youth with a book is acting white." It is counter productive to pit formal education against lessons learned from experience since both are responsible for today's extensive body of knowledge. Real life experience and formal education are important, but not mutually exclusive. Neither should be effective alone. A hands-on experience grounded in a rigorous educational program is Tin Mountain's goal.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FIRST SEASON

Sunday, March 19th, 2006 at the North Conway Grand Hotel
Come enjoy Tin Mountain Conservation Center's 19th First Season Benefit Auction and Dinner. What a wonderful way to start the spring! Over 300 exciting items and gift certificates are donated by local craftsmen, shops, restaurants and services. Auction items are being accepted and tickets are on sale for \$35 each. Please call the office for detailed information at 603-447-6991.

MUSIC FESTIVAL



Tin Mountain's first Music Festival held this past summer was such a great success that it will be back in 2006 by popular demand. Keep the web posted at www.tinmtn.org for updated information.



NATURE PHOTO SHOW

Sat and Sun, Dec 3rd and 4th, 2005

Tis the season to view some of the Valley's best nature photographs with the opportunity to purchase.



BICYCLE HILLCLIMB



Saturday, August 19th

Weather Date: August 20th

Known as one of the most challenging bicycle hillclimbs in the world, racers compete on the historic 7.6 mile Mt. Wash-

ington Auto road. Proceeds from the event benefit TMCC. Register on line Wednesday, February 1, 2006 at: www.mtwashingtonbicyclehillclimb.org



CENTURY RIDE

Sunday, August 20th, 2006

Enjoy a breathtaking 100 mile course around Mount Washington and the surrounding National Forest. This benefit of TMCC has

caught on, so be sure to register early beginning on Wednesday, February 1st 2006 at: www.mtwashingtonbicyclehillclimb.org.

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 20th, 2006,
Nature Learning Center Site
Mark Your Calendars! All members are invited to the TMCC annual meeting. Enjoy field trips, see the progress of the nature learning center and celebrate in the year's accomplishments.



E-RECYCLE PROJECT

We need your help to send kids to camp!

Why not donate no-longer-needed items to Tin Mountain? We will recycle them via the internet, and you take a tax deduction by supporting our Suzy Engler Memorial Camp Scholarship Fund. Here's how it works. First, find those no-longer-used treasures in the home or workplace that are worth \$50 or more, e.g., TV, DVD players, artwork, appliances, kitchenware, etc. Next, bring or send items to the collection point for cataloging and receipt for a tax deductible donation. Then, the items are sold, and Tin Mountain receives "dollars for camp scholarships." That's it!

Spread the word! Start looking for those items and call, e-mail, or drop by for more information. This exciting new enterprise will be launched on January 1, 2006. Call 603-447-6991 for more info.



T-SHIRTS AND HATS

Here is a great way to make a fashion statement and promote your favorite environmental education non-profit organization. The fabulous designs that Tin Mountain t-shirts have sported over the years are the work of Andrea Johnson Kennett. Andrea has produced another original design that graces the back of our new t-shirts featuring a great-horned owl in flight. And, while you think of it, pick up a new hat to accent that new t-shirt! There is a plethora of colors from which to choose. Stop by the office in Center Conway or call (603) 447-6991.



TinMountain



NATURE PROGRAM & EVENTS CALENDAR

WWW.TINMTN.ORG 603-447-6991 TINMTN@TINMTN.ORG

Climate Change

Thurs, Dec 1, 7 PM

Jackson Community Church

Nature Photo Show

Dec 3-Dec 4, 10 AM-5 PM

Salyards Museum, Conway

Winter Bird Ecology

Thurs, Dec 15, 7 PM

Green Granite Inn

Christmas Bird Count

Fri, Dec 30

Mount Washington Valley Area

First Season

Sunday, March 19

North Conway Grand Hotel

Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 20th

Bald Hill Road, Albany

Music Festival

Summer 2006

TBA

Bicycle Hillclimb

Saturday, August 19

Mount Washington Auto Road

Century Ride

Sunday, August 20

Mount Washington Auto Road

Our thanks to L.L. Bean and Evenor Armington

Fund for their continued sponsorship.

BECOME A TIN MOUNTAIN MEMBER!

BENEFITS INCLUDE:



10% Discount for Campers

Free Admission to Nature Programs

Tin Mountain Newsletter

Nature Program Schedule

10% Off Our Popular Hats and Shirts

Free Use of Our Resource Library

Support An Appreciation of Nature

Yes, I want to become a Tin Mountain member.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please charge my donation to:

____ MC ____ Visa

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to Tin Mountain Conservation Center,

PO Box 1170, Conway, NH 03818

603-447-6991

TIN MOUNTAIN LOSES DEAR FRIENDS

During the past two years, Tin Mountain has seen the passing of many strong supporters age 23 through 102 years. In their own way, each was involved in Tin Mountain programs whether as students, teachers, participants, and/or strong supporters. We will miss them all and are thankful for their friendship and the legacy that they left behind through their strong spirits and their memorial donations.



Larry Kinsman was the purveyor of the Forestry Building at the Fryeburg Fair. He was always there to lend a hand as we recreated a different ecosystem each year for our display. Tin Mountain was never far from Larry's mind throughout the year as he always saved interesting artifacts for us including a beam from an old covered bridge on the Saco that was destroyed by the 1938 hurricane and had sprouted numerous hemlock seedlings. Another time, Larry found a snag riddled with pileated woodpecker holes that he sawed in half and fashioned to open revealing the inside of the tree! Larry was also a true steward of the Saco River.



Nancy Chandler worked with the Tin Mountain Program as an elementary teacher at Conway Elementary School for many years. She was very enthusiastic about the Tin Mountain school program as well as the entire natural world, especially monarch butterflies. After retiring from teaching, she was a naturalist with Attitash where she continued to share her love of the natural world. Her enthusiasm was contagious!



Elizabeth "Betty" Whitney was a long-time Jackson resident who participated in many of our Nature Program series programs, as well as volunteered with school programs. Betty knew her stuff when it came to the natural environment and had traveled far and wide from the Galapagos to Africa exploring the natural world.



Elizabeth Coleman was an active supporter of children far and wide including children here in the Mt. Washington Valley. She was very supportive of Tin Mountain's Summer Camp programs helping many children have the opportunity to participate in Tin Mountain summer camps.



Nancy Freeman was a local Jackson resident and participant in Tin Mountain programs since its inception. She was a long-time friend of Tin Mountain founder Barbara Henry and enthusiastically supported Barbara's "new" environmental education organization. She loved the outdoors and was an avid hiker.



Nancy Ann Cleland Earle was a true environmentalist. She loved the outdoors and worked hard to protect green space in the Mt. Washington Valley. She also was instrumental in establishing the milfoil prevention program for Conway Lake. She loved the sounds of children participating in many of the school or summer camp programs that took place at the Earle Family Farm.



Thomas Currier was an avid outdoorsman who always was eager to learn more about nature and was often a participant in Tin Mountain programs. A committed conservationist, he also was co-founder of the Madison Conservation Commission. The conservation commission has since protected several unique properties to which many Tin Mountain classrooms visit throughout the school year.



Jean Lees was an avid outdoorswoman and naturalist who wasn't happy unless part of her day was spent outside! She held a great appreciation for the natural world around her and was an accomplished hiker, skier, canoeist, and photographer.



Brett Thibodeau was an enthusiastic Tin Mountain student in our *Forest For the Future* program as well as an Explorer camper under the wings of Dick Fortin and Joel Rhymer. He spoke fondly of his experiences many years later to his friends and acquaintances. Brett was an avid fisherman and hunter and was at his best when he was outdoors.

AUDUBON BIOGRAPHY IS EXCELLENT READING –

REVIEW BY MICHAEL CLINE



Photo Credit: Mark D Schiller

Richard Rhodes

has written a great biography in *John James Audubon: The making of an American*, and anyone that has an interest in both cultural and natural American history should give this book a read. Through Rhodes' own research and the many diary entries and letters penned by Audubon, a new appreciation is gained about life in the early 1800s. As an ecologist myself, the book provided a first-hand description of the primeval forest and its inhabitants prior to and during the westward expansion. Having been raised in Ohio, the ac-

counts of wolves, passenger pigeons, ivory-billed woodpeckers, and Carolina parakeets filling the majestic ancient Ohio forests were both fascinating and distressing.

While the book provides a wonderful glimpse into the life and landscape of bygone days, Audubon's life is also a remarkable tale of overcoming failure, following one's true passion, and dogged perseverance. Audubon's life path crosses those of a multitude of historical figures to the point that Forrest Gump comes to mind. A self-taught artist and naturalist, Audubon put aside business failures resulting from the financial panic of 1819 and other circumstances to focus all of his efforts upon writing and illustrating the definitive work on North American birds. The result was 435 life-size bird prints with text on their natural history and anecdotes of Audubon's travels in the woods of frontier America.

Audubon often is described as an egotistical, bloodthirsty hunter, a failure in business, and an absentee father and husband. Rhodes' account and passages from Audubon's diary tell a different story. Having failed in business once, Audubon was determined to provide for his family, and in doing so, applied his talents to many different situations successfully. He was wholly committed to his wife Lucy and their children.

The widespread slaughter of birds and animals was a part of the "life-on-the-frontier" mentality of the time. Audubon shot many animals as a woodsman and in preparing his manuscript and paintings. Later in life, his writing reveals that he lamented the senseless slaughter of birds and other animals, as well as the drastic alteration of the virgin forested landscape of the Ohio Valley. Rhodes' biography of Audubon is excellent reading and provides unique insight about the life and driving forces behind this American pioneer and icon of natural history.



SUMMER CAMP

Tin Mountain Summer Camp 2005

was greeted by great weather and enthusiastic campers and newly introduced camps were well received. Children in the Tuftonboro area had the opportunity to attend a week-long TMCC day camp, thanks to the generosity of Brian and Anika Hastings who opened up their barn and adjoining property. Campers at our field station in Jackson became historians for the week as they explored cellar holes, visited an old logging camp, and took a look back in time at the natural and cultural history of the area. Young artists met at our Pictures and Poems camp and sketched, painted, photographed, and wrote about the natural history of the area. The week culminated with an art show throughout the forests of Fryeburg.

At Explorer's Camp, campers could be found on the peaks and lakes of Northern New Hampshire as they hiked and paddled from Mt. Madison to Aziscohos Lake. Among the highlights was a 10-mile hike from Carter Hut to Madison where the temperature fluctuated from stifling 90 degree heat to freezing hail. Campers sighted bald eagles, loons, and heron while paddling on Aziscohos. New this year, thanks to the generosity of Frank Mann and Katrine Biddle, was Boats and Beaches Camp, an exploration of the Maine Coast aboard "Katy", a small gaff-rigged wooden cutter. Campers spent three days sailing and three days hiking, canoeing, and generally exploring the coast of Maine from Freeport to Boothbay.

We look forward to more exciting camp opportunities for the summer of 2006. Look for camp brochures in early March. Log onto www.tinmtn.org for updates.





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Happy Holidays!



Photo Credit: Mark D Schiller

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From all of us at Tin Mountain

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