

Wild for Wilderness



Adirondack Mountain Club
2009 Annual Report

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Sunset at Marcy Dam courtesy of Mark Epstein



'09 Summit Steward Seth Jones on summit of Algonquin looking at Colden slides

View from the Top



Sept. 3, 2009 marked the 45th anniversary of the signing of the federal Wilderness Act, which today protects more than 100 million acres. Although little federal wilderness is located in New York, this landmark legislation is rooted in the state and its wild places. In the 19th century, the writings of John Burroughs, the Philosophers' Camp at Follensby Pond, and the Hudson River School of painters contributed to the idea that our forests, mountains and waterways had more than just commercial value. The creation of the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves and the adoption of the "forever wild" clause created models for wilderness protection. In the 20th century, Bob Marshall, who was also a charter member of ADK, co-founded the Wilderness Society, which pushed for passage of the Wilderness Act, and Howard Zahniser drafted the legislation in an Adirondack cabin with a view of Crane Mountain.

Today, New York is blessed with millions of acres of state-protected lands, from the Adirondacks and Catskills, to the Hudson Valley, the Finger Lakes and Allegany State Park. It is a good time to reflect on what we have and renew our commitment to protecting it for future generations to enjoy. This annual report highlights what ADK staff and volunteers did in 2009 to further the cause of wilderness conservation. We lobbied to restore the wild character of an important canoe route, built and maintained trails and informed hikers about the fragile ecosystems atop the state's highest peaks. More importantly, just about everything we did in 2009—leading an outing, publishing a guide book, teaching natural history to young people, renovating an ADK lodge—helped instill a love of nature in others. And by teaching people to love wild places, we are building a constituency for these places. People who play in the woods learn to love the woods and will work to protect the woods.

Sincerely,


Neil F. Woodworth, *Executive Director*


Curt Miller, *President*

ADK's conservation and advocacy staff spent countless hours fending off public policy proposals that could have had devastating impacts on open-space protection and the New York environment in general. Our efforts paid off, with major victories on several fronts.

Governor Paterson's budget proposal for fiscal 2009-10 would have reduced the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to \$205 million, a cut of nearly 20 percent, and introduced a fundamental change to the way the state finances the EPF, a change that threatened the integrity and future survival of this crucial program. The governor proposed replacing most of the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT), which funds the EPF, with money raised from an expanded Bottle Bill, which added a nickel deposit on bottled water. ADK had supported a Bottle Bill expansion for more than twenty years, but we were concerned that it would not generate the sufficient revenue. Thanks in part to ADK's extensive lobbying efforts, the Legislature increased the EPF to \$222 million (later cut to \$212 million), passed the Bigger Better Bottle Bill, and retained the more-reliable RETT funding stream.

ADK also lobbied successfully against a proposed freeze on state tax payments on Forest Preserve land. A freeze would have devastated many Adirondack and Catskill communities and hampered future efforts to protect open space.

Our actions to protect Lows Lake, a popular wilderness canoe route in the Adirondacks, took many twists and turns. In April 2009, in response to a lawsuit filed by ADK and environmental allies, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) voted to ban floatplane

use on Lows Lake after 2011. The following month, APA and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) proposed classifying Lows Lake, Bog Lake, Bog River, and the Upper Dam as "Wilderness" and adding them to the Five Ponds Wilderness. In September, the APA voted to classify part of Lows Lake as "Wilderness" and part "Primitive." A technical glitch prompted the scheduling of a re-vote on the classification for November. The governor, pressured by local governments within the park, directed his representatives to reverse their earlier vote, thus leaving the lake bed and waters unclassified. The state is the sole owner of the water and bed of Lows Lake, the lake is part of the Forest Preserve, and the APA is required under both the APA Act and the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan to classify it. ADK filed a lawsuit to compel the APA to abide by the law.

Conservation Director Allison Beals testified at an Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) meeting in Buffalo on a proposed master plan for Allegany State Park. At 65,000 acres, Allegany is the largest park in the OPRHP system and is rich with scenic beauty, large stands of mature forest, rugged terrain, and biological diversity. ADK believes that undeveloped portions of Allegany State Park, some of which qualify for designation as park preservation areas, should receive enhanced protection under Article 20 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. ADK believes these portions should be managed to preserve their special scenic, ecological, and geological qualities while providing the public with

Conservation—Advocacy



Top: Drill site in Allegheny National Forest.
Middle: Beals with US Energy permit.
Right: Park sign within feet of drill site

compatible recreational opportunities. When ADK learned that a Buffalo-area energy company had claimed subsurface rights to 2800 acres in the park and planned to begin drilling for natural gas, ADK pressed the state to get proof of valid real property title to the acreage, which OPRHP has requested. The company has yet to respond.

ADK also submitted detailed comments and analysis on DEC's proposed regulations for Marcellus Shale high-volume hydrofracking, which could threaten the lands and waters of the Catskills through the Southern Tier. Gas drilling under the proposed regulatory scheme poses a substantial risk of groundwater contamination and would lead to extensive forest cutting, road building, and habitat fragmentation, with unavoidable consequences for animal and plant communities near drilling operations. ADK believes this activity should be prohibited in Allegany State Park and in state-owned forests that are extensively used by members of ADK and the Finger Lakes Trail Conference.



Lows Lake aerial courtesy of Carl Heilman, II, www.carlheilman.com

Conservation—Field Programs

Trails Program

There is never enough room to showcase the sheer volume of fieldwork completed by the volunteer and professional trail crews during the season. Forty seasonal staff and two hundred volunteers participated in the 2009 Trails Program.

Volunteer Trail Crew

Volunteers, led by professional staff, completed numerous Adirondack trail projects. Highlights included:

- Elderhostel Service Project: Improved the Mr. Van Ski Trail, the trail to Marcy Dam, and ski trails located on the Heart Lake property
- Trail Steward/Maintainer Workshop: One-day training necessary to become official trail stewards
- Long Island Chapter Trip: Maintained 3.7 miles of trail to The Brothers, an annual commitment fulfilled
- Johns Brook Valley Trail Work Weekend: 8 miles of trail patrolled and blowdown removed
- Three One-Day Projects: Trail work completed on Silver Lake, Baker Mt. and Azure Mt.
- Two NEW Five-Day Projects: Volunteer crews staying at Heart Lake Campground



Volunteer Trail Crew on Cascade Mtn.

- for the duration worked to counter the effects of severe erosion on trails to the summits of Mt. Van Hoevenberg and Cascade Mt.
- Five Week-Long High School Projects: Included boardwalk replacement on Hurricane Mt, clipping out new trail in Siamese Ponds Wilderness, and installing stepping stones and earthen waterbars on a new section of multiuse trail in Wilmington Wild Forest
- Fall Trails Day: Over fifty volunteers patrolled 16 miles of trail, removing significant blowdown

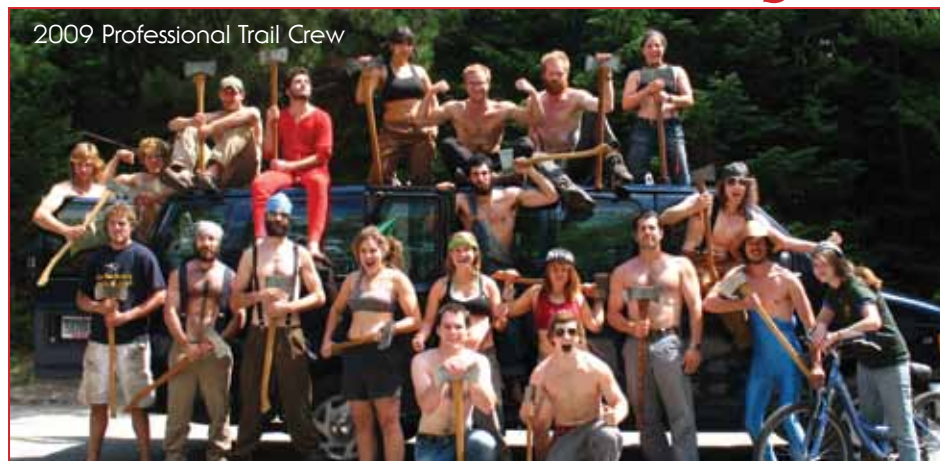
Professional Trail Crew

The pro crew spent over 9500 hours working on trails throughout New York State in 2009 in the Catskill and Adirondack Parks. Highlights of this work are as follows:

Catskill Park, Regions 3 and 4

To get a head start on the upcoming season, a pre-season crew spent two weeks in May patrolling close to 100 miles of trail and removed 165 blow down in Region 3 of the Catskills, resulting in one pro crew spend-

2009 Professional Trail Crew



ing seven weeks in Region 3. Many Catskill trails are overgrown as a result of defoliation by tent caterpillars and the subsequent increased amount of sunlight filtering through the tree canopy. Thus the majority of the work involved side-cutting in both regions. In Region 4, crews improved the Escarpment and Black Dome trails, completing rock and earthen waterbars, steps and ditching.

Adirondack Park, Regions 5 and 6

Most work here centered on Region 5 and the long-awaited rerouting of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail off Cedar River Road in the Town of Indian Lake. The reroute is over 6 miles long and passes through some exceptional Adirondack wilderness. The crew also built a 20-foot-long bridge with abutments over Browns Brook and 36 feet of bog



Bridge on Northville-Lake Placid Trail Reroute

bridging. Along with the volunteer trail crew, the pro crew also worked on the Long Pond/Kunjamuk trail.

In the post season, a crew returned to the multi-use Fly Brook Trail near Lake George to complete an intricate, 60-foot-long boardwalk bridge over an exposed bedrock section of the trail.

Thanks to a grant from the **Charles R. Wood Foundation**, ADK worked on a new hiking trail route leading to Prospect Mt. in Lake George. Because the Unit Management Plan was not completed for the Lake George Wild Forest, the crew was limited in

completing the entire reroute, which resulted in mainly sidehilling new trail. Nonetheless, they were able also to build 20 rock waterbars containing 118 boulders, three rock steps, and over 350 feet of new ditches. The crew succeeded in making this popular trail safer and more accessible to the public.

The highlight of working in Region 6 was the construction of a new hiking trail up Coney Mountain which is located between Tupper and Long Lake. The new route, built to accommodate more use, is just over a mile long and leads hikers up the mountain on a more gradual slope. Fourteen rock steps, 80 feet of bog bridging, and close to 100 square feet of turnpiking are now part of a more durable, long-lived trail.

National Trails Day (NTD) was held in Wanakena, NY in celebration of the completion of the Cranberry Lake 50, a beautiful trail encircling the Park's third largest lake. Corporate and ADK Chapter sponsors: **Stihl, Cranberry Boat Club, Entergy Services, Inc., RMG Enterprises, Onondaga and Laurentian Chapters**. More than twenty individuals also made gifts in support of NTD, or found local businesses or organizations to "sponsor" their participation.

Camping was available at the DEC Cranberry Lake Campground. Approximately 150 people participated in the event and were on hand at the barbecue held at the Pinecone Restaurant.

ADK thanks the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) for their overwhelming support this season in spite of the dismal economy. ADK remains grateful for the opportunity to partner with the DEC in maintaining New York's trails and wild places.

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Susan Forst
Cynthia and Eliot Fried
Andrew Garvey
Dawn Giese
Dan and Elise Gilbert
David Glenn
Don and Georgia Gogel
Margi and Bob Gores
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Gullo
William and Gwen Guthrie
Alan and Joan Guthrie
Georgette Harrell
Eric and Debbie Hirschfeld
Mary Inman
Michael and Julia Katz
Robert D. Kennedy
Christopher Kirsten
Patricia and Kevin Kitson
Steve and Sarah Kraemer
Joe and Mary Landy
Paul LaPiana
Peter and Giselle Licursi
Lightyear Capital
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lodal
Patricia Lupinetti
Tim and Sharon Luttazi
Mr. James H. Manges
John and Sara Marshall
David Mayo and Carol Quinn
Lance and Carriane McCormak
Timothy and Joan McDonald
Stafford and Doug Meyer
Robin and Jack Minson
Anthony and Candida Montalto
Heimar and Beverly Niit
North American Capital Corp.
Northern Westchester Hospital
John Oberlies
Susan and Patrick O'Brien
Bob and Fran O'Loughlin
Jim Osterman
Kimberly and Edmund O'Toole
George and Jackie Paletta
Helen Pass
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Percival
Lois Perelson-Gross and
Stewart Gross



Jane C. Neale

Jane C. Neale Scholarship Fund

ADK's Board of Directors established the Jane C. Neale Scholarship Fund at the recommendation of ADK's Trails Committee, Albany Chapter of ADK and friends and family of Jane C. Neale. The endowment fund was established in memory of Jane Neale who served as Chair of the ADK Trails Committee up until her untimely death in 2007. The purpose of this fund is to provide scholarships to high school students each year to enable them to participate as a member of a trail crew. The first "scholarship" recipient participated in a week-long high school crew this year.

ADK would like to acknowledge Wendy Ungar who instituted a fundraising campaign, followed by organizing a hike dedicated to her good friend. Likewise, the Albany Chapter held a raffle during its annual dinner, and designated the proceeds to the Jane C. Neale Scholarship Fund. ADK thanks all of the donors who have made gifts in Jane's memory, thus giving high school students an opportunity to work on the trails—precisely what Jane was all about.

2009 Gifts to the Jane C. Neale Scholarship Fund

Albany Chapter—ADK	Sue Cannon	Ann Gunning	Barbara Russell
Anonymous	Donna Dixon	Paul Hai	Dr. Wendy J. Ungar
Jane Ainslie	Michael J. Fields	Frank and Mary Krueger	Goldie and Stanley Ungar
Peter and Linda Biesemeyer	Karen Gardner-Athey	Deborah Lawrence	George D. VanArsdale and Elizabeth A. Osta
Roger Bonner	Marilyn and Peter Gillespie	James Lynch	Joan Varsics and Jerome Bowers
Thomas and Alana Both	Julia Goren	Neil and Jackie Parker	Tom Wemett and Genevieve Morley

William Petrarca and Jane Strathman Petrarca
Phoenix Brands LLC
Jonathan Pollack
William Pritts
James and Lucy Probert
Barbara and Chuck Purcell
John and Tracy Regan
Sarah Reynolds
Nina Richter
Ed and Katharine Rockstroh
Barbara Ruisi
The Samaha Family
SCP Worldwide
Tom and Sue Senf
Marilyn Sobel
Richard Sterne
Frederick Tanne
Mary and Richard Thaler
Wray Thorn
Robert W. Tice
Steve and Ann Tighe
Trilantic Capital Partners
c/o Lehman Brothers
Merchant Banking
Max Almodovar
Elliot Attie
Gina Chon
Linda Due
Glenn Jacobson
Mike Khutorsky
Steve Lessar
Jeremy Lynch
Jamie Manges
Grant Palmer
Li Zhang
Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.
Mr. Mish Workowski
Brennan and Melissa Warble
Marlissa and John Westerfield
Gene and Tish Wilson
James and Janet Zilinski

In Memory of Emily Ladue
Lynn Valenti

In Memory of George Cook
Harold and Sudaphorn Boyce
William and Mary Coffin

In Memory of George Lindner
Arline and Bill Rafter

In Memory of Gerald O'Grady
Robert Jacon

In Memory of Harry Bott
Herbert Coles and June Fair

In Memory of Henry Mazanek
Stephanie Gabris

In Memory of Howell Cheney
Martyn
Dudley and Marion Bolyard
Carol Cheney
John Hooker and Cynthia Root
Donald and Valerie Kaufman
Walter and Sarah Morrison
Joseph and Mary Sargent
Anthony and Barbara Silva
James Smeallie
David Tognalli and Mark Tyszka
D.G. and A.V. Trenary
Wilbur Wagner
Co-workers of Christine Martyn
at Computer Sciences Corp.
Western Regional Health
Office, Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

In Memory of Jo Koenig—
JBL Endowment
Anonymous
Jae Lyn Burke and Barbara Reed
Robert and Florence Grimm
Mr. Norm Landis
Nathaniel M. Stokes
Nicole A. Virdone
Susquehanna Chapter

In Memory of Jon Barger
Virginia and Clifford Barger

In Memory of Jon Wetzel
James and Anne Bailey

In Memory of Joseph O'Sullivan
Bill O'Sullivan
Tim O'Sullivan
Tom O'Sullivan

In Memory of Kenneth (Josh)
Storms
Ben Carr and Suzanne Blake
Norris Blake
Samantha Chamberlain
Nancy and David Gooding
Hilda Leonardis
Trudy McCabe
Barbara Mitchell
Anthony and Marianna Ricci
Matthew Storms
John and Sharon Williamson

In Memory of Kurt Trolenberg
Jacqueline M. Matson
Edward and Norma Miller

In Memory of Margaret
"Peggy" Hohmann
Mrs. Constance Miller

In Memory of Mary Howells Clark
Ann and Dan Charlebois
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stitgen

In Memory of Nathan Linck
Sonja Martinson

In Memory of Charles Moeller
Lynn Wortman

In Memory of Patricia McDonald
Brian and Jennifer Ward

In Memory of Richard Hayes
Kevin Cunningham

In Memory of Richard Moomaw
David and Beverly Fish
Donald and Alice Gray
Mrs. Virginia Richter
Patti Sheldon
JoAnn Wahl

In Memory of Richard Swetz
Patricia and Charles Swetz

In Memory of Richard W. Akin
Donald H. Akin
Brenda Bradley
Peter and Susan Gage
Ruth Gunderson
Joann and Daniel Madigan
Billy Mickey and Melissa Dennis

In Memory of Russell LaTour
Neal and Deb Brown
Nathan and Marie Yost

In Memory of Ruth Jarvis
Helen Strnad

In Memory of Wayne &
Margaret Byrne
Nancy Olsen

In Memory of Wilfred (Shin)
Murnane
Cmdr. Robert J. Allen
Donald Altman
Jim and Kathleen Bates
Kevin and Diane Becker
Millie Blaackman
Kenneth Blakely
Donald and Linda Blauvelt
John and Jenn Bradano
Tracy Brunette
Robert and Susan Buckley
Sandy and Don Caldeira
Richard and Colleen Carpenter
Gayla and Charles Cepka
Brian and Judith Chanatry
Chris Colarusso and Rita Nolan
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Conte
Donna and Terry Corcoran
Louise and Robert Cosmer
Terrence Cummings

John and Judith Curtin
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Dagata
Thomas Doody
Annette Doucette
Mary Drescher
Amy and Steven Dunn
Mark and Ialeen Dunn
Catherine and Paul Ehnle
Chuck and Betty Jo Erickson
Thomas and Corinne Ferrante
Michele and James Foley
Pauline Franz
Jennifer and Kenneth Fruehauf
Fust Charles Chambers LLP
Clara Garvey
James Gill
Drs. Wendy and Michael Gordon
Anthony and Janice Greco
John Grimm
Anne Halpin
Katherine and William Halsey
James and Janet Hanyak
Heidi Hartman
John and Christina Henderson
Karen Hopkins
Sue and Greg Hrynyk
Milton and Kay Johnson
Roxann Kavanagh
Stacy and Christopher Keppler
William and Pamela Keyes
Luke Lazzari
William and Deborah LeClair
Jeffrey Lindstadt
Dr. John R. Lintz and
Marlene Lintz
Tony and Deborah Lobello
Joni Lore
Joseph and Josephine Lore
Harry and Anne Louise
Daniel and Mary Malay
John and Carol Marra
Craig and Cynthia Mattingly
Vincent J. Metallo
Christina Monroe
Mary Moon
Shelly and Tom Nevins
James Ockenden
John and Rose O'Connor
Joanne and Michael O'Connor
Alexander Pasquale
Richard and Carol Perry
Christopher and Patricia Perry
George and Mary Pis
The Prior Family
Jill and John Prior

Joan Reed
Christine Salmon
Richard and Linda Scanlon
Bruce and Joyce Sizing
Michele Somelofske
Joanne R. Sowalsky
Ted and Betty Stark
Leo Sweeney
Beth and David Townsend
Jeannette and Jonathan
Townsend
Kari Vanhoose
Stephanie Wacholder
Michael and Susan Donnell

Estate Gifts

Louise Gebelein

Honorary Gifts

In Honor of Alejandro del Peral
Beverly Meginley
In Honor of Andrew Whalen
Beverly Meginley
In Honor of Andy Coney and
Terry Myers
Milt Kahn and Betsy Herrick
In Honor of Andy McNamara and
Zoe Sylvester Wedding Guests
Andrew McNamara and
Zoe Sylvester

In Honor of Anne and David Daniel
Paula and Brian Field
In Honor of Benjamin Montesanti
Mary Ellen and David T. Denz
Mary and Leo Harwas
David and Jacqueline
Montesanti
Dona and Ignazio Napoli
In Honor of Bob Hauser and
Sam Scherer
Christopher Lehfeldt
In Honor of Dave Pisaneschi
Gerald and Irit Magnes
In Honor of David and Carol White
William J. Rudge III
In Honor of David and
Marilyn Lange
Suzanne Perry
In Honor of Jack Freeman
Bruce and Kate Beveridge
Jean Blair Dolan
In Honor of Jae Lyn Burke
Justin and Holly Seiferth
In Honor of Janice Joyce/Henry
Freuh Wedding
Philipp and Mary Joyce
Harold and Margaret Joyce
Michaela Joyce
Veronica Kavanaugh
Meg Maney
Amy Singiser
In Honor of Jason Gurtz and
Amy Ingalls
Francis and Colette
Gurtz Miller
In Honor of Jeff Johnson and
Alissa Ferlito
Deborah Langford
In Honor of Jennifer Kazmierczak
Michelle Chank
In Honor of Lethe and
Frank Lescinsky
Al and Virginia Hood

In Honor of Marion and Ken Klauach
Al and Virginia Hood
In Honor of Martha Loeffler
Leonard Walton
In Honor of Mary and Paul Loomba
Beverly Meginley
In Honor of Neil F. Woodworth
Eleanor and John Brown
In Honor of Ollie L. Simpson
Lorraine Dellheim
In Honor of The Webster Peters
Family
Nancy Peters
In Honor of Theresa Evans
Harold and Sudaphorn Boyce
In Honor of Tom Ford
Elizabeth Sieber-Ford

2009 Life Members

Doug Brush
Andrew Entwistle
Thomas Farrell
David B. Harrison
Ian and Lea Hight
Domino MacNaughton
Ken and Teresa Stabler
Frank Strickler
Delia Weinstein
Samuel Weinstein

2009 Chapter Gifts

\$5,000 and Above
Adirondack Loj Chapter
Albany Chapter
Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter

\$1,000-\$4,999

Hurricane Mountain Chapter
Iroquois Chapter
Keene Valley Chapter
Laurentian Chapter
New York Chapter
Niagara Frontier Chapter
North Woods Chapter
Onondaga Chapter
Schenectady Chapter
Susquehanna Chapter

\$100-\$999

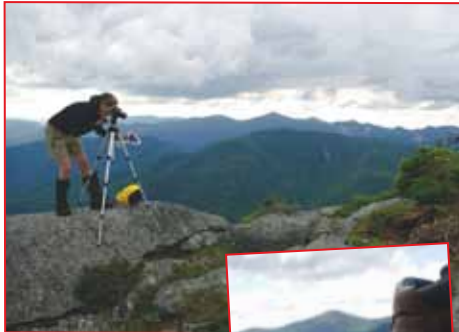
Algonquin Chapter
Binghamton Chapter
Cold River Chapter
Lake Placid Chapter
Mid-Hudson Chapter
Mohican Chapter
North Jersey Ramapo Chapter
Shatagee Woods Chapter

This Annual Report lists those individuals and organizations that made gifts in addition to basic dues to ADK from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. ADK makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of these lists and to publicly acknowledge donors in accordance with their wishes. In the event we have omitted or incorrectly reported your gift to ADK, please accept our apology and contact our development office at 518-668-4447, ext. 42.

Thank you,
gracias, merci to
all of our donors,
for each and
every gift.

Summit Steward Program

Despite the less than optimal weather conditions, Summit Stewards spoke to a record-breaking **18,330** people this summer, a 33% increase over the 2008 season. Several different factors account for this extremely high number of contacts. Stewards provided coverage on the very popular Cascade Mt. seventeen days this season, speaking to a total of 2035 people. (For context, Stewards spoke to more people in seventeen days on Cascade than they did on Algonquin Peak during the entire month of July!) The program was extremely fortunate to have a larger crew this year. A grant from the Northern States Research Cooperative meant that an additional steward could be



Above: Summit Steward Lynn Metcalf taking photopoints
Right: Alpine Growth



hired to assist with photopoint monitoring. Thus there were five paid stewards this year. There were also more volunteers than ever before (**Kathleen Wiley, Katie Britton, and veteran Frank Krueger**). Katie volunteered almost fulltime from the middle of July through the early September, providing an estimated 400+ hours of coverage on Algonquin Peak, Wright Peak, Mt. Marcy, Mt. Colden, and Cascade Mt. With five stewards and three volunteers, peak coverage was much higher than usual, with a 29 percent increase in coverage days over 2008. Comparing the average number of visitors per day, 2009 was slightly higher than 2008, but lower than 2007 (the latter a sunny, dry summer). The slightly higher average visitation may be related to the economy, with more people taking camping or hiking vacations closer to home.

Two thousand nine marked the twentieth season of the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship program. Highlights and accomplishments include:

- The Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering, funded in part with grants from the **Adirondack Forty-Sixers, Inc.** and the

Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund

and hosted by ADK: This was the first time the event was held in the Adirondacks and drew the largest attendance in its history. The conference provided a forum for the latest alpine vegetation research, the effects of climate change, and resource protection techniques.

- Tripling the volunteer base: Thanks to volunteers, the Stewards were able to expand both coverage days and the number of peaks that are covered and thus were able to reach almost 33 percent more hikers than the previous year.
- Conducting thirteen public outreach programs, including a presentation at a national professional conference.
- Expanding ADK participation in citizen science projects such as Mountain Watch and joining a pilot visibility program.
- 20th Anniversary of the Summit Steward Program Celebration — the other big 2009 event showcasing the accomplishments of the three collaborating organizations — ADK, NYS DEC, and Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Representatives from each of the partnering agencies attended, along with a number of past Summit Stewards and all of the current Stewards. This event was planned and hosted by L. John and Dory VanNorden and the **Adirondack 46R Conservation Trust**, also a major funder of the program.
- Project days and trail work: Stewards constructed two new cairns on Wright and reconstructed three cairns on Marcy, one the victim of summit vandalism. Another project focused on the protection of the remaining vegetation on Cascade. This work began in early summer with the implementation of the Carry-A-Rock program. With the help of three Nature Conservancy interns, two truckloads of rock were harvested from the potato fields at the end of the Loj road, power washed to prevent accidental transmission of invasive soil pathogens, and placed at the Cascade trailhead. Hikers were enthusiastic about carrying rocks, and by September the entire pile of rocks at the trailhead was gone!
- Photo-Point Monitoring Project: Established in 1999, the photo-point monitoring project provides a long-term data set that illustrates



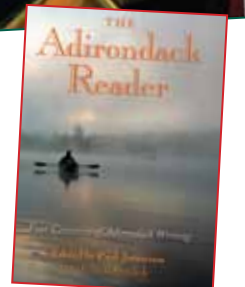
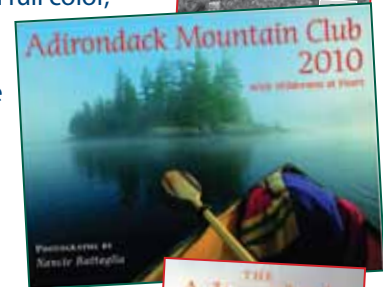
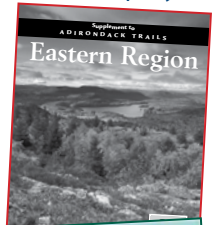
2009 Summit Stewards, L-R: Lynn Metcalf, Rocío Fernandez, Seth Jones, Grace Vajda, Julia Goren – Coordinator

rates of trampling, erosion, and vegetative regrowth in the alpine zones of the Adirondack High Peaks. Historical photographs from the mid-1960s through the mid-1980s were used as a baseline in establishing fifty photo-points. Thanks to the crew's skill at relocating the photo-points and getting the photographs taken, stewards were able to retake forty photo-points on Marcy, Algonquin, Wright, Whiteface, Colden, Gothics, Dix, and Cascade. An analysis of the photopoints will quantify and document the effectiveness of the Summit Steward Program and reflect its impact on vegetative regrowth of these unique alpine zones in the High Peaks. This analysis will take place over the winter of 2010.

Publications

ADK's Publications Department developed and distributed a new 24-page supplement to accompany

Adirondack Trails: Eastern Region. The supplement describes 12 additional trails in the region. All issues of *Adirondack* magazine were published in full color, with plans for page expansion in 2010. A third edition of *The Adirondack Reader*, hardcover version, edited by Neal Burdick, was released in 2009, along with the 2010 ADK Calendar.



For the third year, Heart Lake was host to a delegation of thirty-five top land managers from China. Renovations completed throughout the year included campground washhouse upgrades, decking at HPIC, Trails Cabin roof replaced, Campground Cabin bathroom renovations and the HPIC men's room renovation.

At the Johns Brook Lodge (JBL) property, the lodge received a complete kitchen renovation, an upgrade to the family bunkroom, and had all its windows replaced. Volunteers and staff completed the expansion of the Young Cabin (staff housing).



Aerial photo Johns Brook Lodge

Visitation to ADK facilities was at an all-time high in 2009, with the Wilderness Campground producing over \$200,000 in revenue as compared with other years showing 67% occupancy and generating \$110,000 on average per season.

The economy played a major role, complemented by a strategic advertising campaign targeting residents in the capital district, encouraging destinations closer to home to save on travel expense.

Gourmet magazine featured pictures of Adirondak Loj and Heart Lake in a story about the Adirondacks, complete with photos. The Loj was described as a great place to stay and the best way to enjoy a guided hike of the area.

A special note of recognition this year belongs to the group of volunteers at Heart Lake who took on the task of firewood procurement. The recently enacted regulations prohibiting movement of firewood placed a great burden on the Heart Lake Property maintenance staff to keep up with the demand from the ADK Wilderness Campground. Based on past usage, it was estimated that over 100 cords of wood would be needed. This group of volunteers worked with a DEC Forester to develop a sustainable forestry plan that would allow ADK to harvest our own firewood and help our guests comply with the DEC regulations. Special thanks to HLP Committee Chair **Tom Andrews** and Campground Host Coordinator **Doug Paquette** for getting this effort off the ground. And many thanks

to all the volunteers who wielded a chain saw, dragged a log, split some firewood, or stacked it high for the winter season.

ADK facilities and properties are the quintessential example of how volunteer-driven ADK is as an organization. Volunteers drawn from each of ADK's property commit-



Adirondak Loj

tees work with staff to make decisions about the future of the properties and buildings. This group of volunteers, affectionately known as the "Construction Bugs," conduct over 85% of the Heart Lake construction projects and supervise more than sixty volunteers over the course of a year. An estimated \$400,000 in labor and materials are provided by these dedicated members. ADK extends its deepest appreciation and recognizes their dedication.



Interpretive hike around Heart Lake

ADK is deeply grateful to **Art Haberl** whose sustained generosity enables thousands of young children to explore their own sense of wonder about the natural world through "Three Seasons at Heart Lake" and other wilderness education programs.

Elizabethtown, and Bloomingdale. ADK Education Staff visited kindergarten, 2nd and 4th grade classes in preparation for the "Three Seasons at Heart Lake," a program where students explore a different outdoor adventure based on the season. These explorative "adventures" include learning how to snowshoe, track wildlife, use a map and compass, identify flora and fauna, and understand lake ecology.

ADK's Education Program knows that it is through exposure to nature coupled with environmental education that will result in another generation of stewards and conservationists. In 2009, 1,500 students in elementary schools throughout the region participated in "Three Seasons at Heart Lake."

In 2009, ADK became certified as a national *Leave No Trace* Master Educator

Education

Course Provider. *Leave No Trace* awareness workshops were conducted to 150 Queensbury Elementary 3rd



Intern educating youth on amphibians

The Summer Naturalist Intern Program (SNIP) is an essential component of ADK's Education Program. By providing an opportunity for interns to teach outdoor recreational and leadership skills, environmental education, and natural history, ADK education staff mentors a new generation of outdoor educators and environmental activists. In 2009, three interns reached over 8,000 visitors to Heart Lake through a variety of programs, guided hikes, the Nature Museum, and as Mt. Jo Summit Hosts. Interns play an essential role in educating the public about the wilderness environment and recreating safely within it.

The **Marie L. Haberl School Outreach Program** served the five school districts of Saranac Lake, Long Lake, Lake Placid,

grade students, Rochester School Without Walls High school students and several Girl Scout groups. ADK participated in the Wild Center's event featuring Richard Louv and the "Leave No Child Inside" national movement in which educators have been encouraged to combat the detrimental effects of children who spend all their time in front of video or tv screens by creating opportunities for children to form attachments to the natural world, a critical part of positive youth development. Additional outdoor recreational workshops were held for Beekmantown Middle School and Westport Central School as well as three "Friends and Family Snowshoe Day", a program intended to introduce children and their parents to the fun and thrill of snowshoeing.

ADK's membership totaled 27,335, reflecting 16,203 member households. In 2009, the US economy showed little or no movement towards improvement, and the Club felt fortunate that membership numbers, while not substantially increasing as desired, held steady.

Two direct-mail acquisitions yielded 2,260 new members, which included members who chose to re-join after many years. From acquisition to fulfillment, numerous tasks are necessary to service, retain, and keep members involved. Each month, between three and four thousand renewals must be processed and mailed, 300 new-member packets collated and mailed, 2,000 membership cards processed and mailed, premiums sent, and 1,000 membership records updated. Volunteers have always played an important role in all ADK programs, and Membership is no exception. ADK would like to acknowledge and thank the wonderful volunteers help keep the "membership machine" greased and oiled each month. ADK is deeply grateful to all



2009 ADK Membership Volunteers

of the volunteers working in their chapters, on the trails, in our programs and facilities.

Events, events, and more events!

2009 was one of the most challenging years in recent decades for fundraising. Charitable giving declined across all revenue sources as a direct result of the economy and instability in the market. In the area of special events, however, the Club fared better than in previous years.

Black Fly Affair: A Hikers Ball

ADK moved its gala benefit from November to May and aptly renamed it the Black Fly Affair: A Hikers Ball. Over 350 guests arrived at the Fort William Henry Resort and Conference Center on the evening of May 21, dressed in formal attire and hiking boots, as required! The Frank Conti Band provided music from ballroom dancing to rock n' roll, while the chocolate fountain served up delicious fondue, and wine tastings provided by **Frederick Wildman & Sons Wine Distributors** were made possible by **Greg Taylor**. Silent and live auctions kept things lively, and several local eateries showcased samples of



Membership & Development

their specialties. Our ale sponsor, **Cooperstown Brewing Company**, was back for a fifth straight year and served up all seven of the company's brews. Our honorary chair for the event was John Ruge, MD and CEO of Hudson Headwaters Health Network, the largest healthcare provider in the Adirondacks. ADK member Bob Wilcox was the evening's Master of Ceremonies. The event raised \$40,000 for ADK's core programs and celebrated the connection between outdoor muscle-powered recreation and a healthy lifestyle.

ididaride! Adirondack Bike Tour August 16, 2009 Cycling for Wilderness!

The fourth annual *ididaride!* was marked by one of the hottest days of the summer when 173 cyclists left North Creek and began their 75 mile ride around the central Adirondacks. Rest stops located every 20 miles provided riders with hydration, fruit, protein, and carbs. Support and gear (SAG) vehicles and drivers were provided by major sponsor **Garvey Auto** in Glens Falls. The



support team, comprised of ADK member volunteers, numbered 29.

Adirondack 2-Way Radio of South Glens Falls donated radios for the event. **Coleman Outdoor Company** donated canopy tents for rest stops. **Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS)** provided a bike technician to do minor repairs when needed. An additional 34 cyclists began their 20 mile journey from Indian Lake to North Creek after being shuttled to the starting point. Following the tour, riders cooled down with a variety of brews donated by **Cooperstown Brewing Company** and wines provided by **Frederick Wildman & Sons**. A barbecue spread provided by local caterer MJ Lang and rock n roll musician Jen Gadway created the perfect celebration of the riders' challenge. Together we "fun-raised" \$12,000 for ADK's conservation and education programs—all to protect our wild lands and waters. Thank you, *ididariders!*

Presidents' Dinner

The Presidents' Dinner is ADK's opportunity to recognize outstanding service and achievement in the areas of conservation, environmental education, and open space protection and advocacy, during which ADK bestows its most prestigious awards. The evening's keynote speaker was Terry Martino, the new executive director of the Adirondack Park Agency (*photo 1*).

James Bird, ADK's president elect, introduced presenters who in turn announced the following awards: The **Eleanor F. Brown ADK Communication Award** was

awarded to Phil Brown, editor of the Adirondack Explorer for his extensive and thorough reporting and writing about the Adirondack region (*photo 2*).

The **David L. Newhouse ADK Conservation Award** went to David Pisaneschi, Chair of ADK's Conservation Committee, for his effectiveness in organizing grassroots letter campaigns and motivating ADK members to speak out on important conservation issues (*photo 3*).

The **Arthur E. Newkirk ADK Education Award** went to ADK's Mid-Hudson Chapter for its Breakfree Program, which seeks to enrich the lives of low-income urban youth providing exciting, educational, and safe outdoor wilderness experiences. **ADK's Trailblazer Award** was awarded to Marilyn Gillespie for her three decades of service and philanthropic leadership, including long stints as ADK secretary, a term as ADK president, Development chair, JBL chair, North Woods Chapter chair, and other contributions too numerous to name here (*photo 4*). The **ADK Distinguished Volunteer Awards** went to Woody Glebe for his 30 years of tireless membership efforts with the Niagara Frontier Chapter, and to Jane Geisler, who has been working for 56 years to maintain trails and lead trips with the Mid-Hudson Chapter. President Curt Miller presented the **ADK President's Award** to Executive Director Neil Woodworth and Neil presented Paul Ertel, communications director, with the **ADK Staff Recognition Award**.



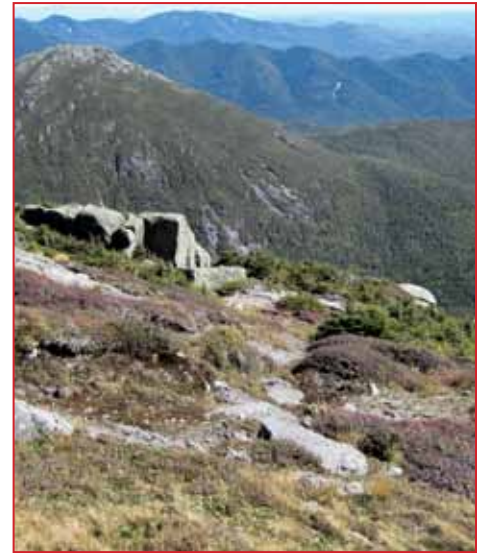
Financial Overview 2009

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) finished 2009 with an increase in net assets of \$100,000 (from here on, all dollar amounts will be based on units of one thousand). Reported revenues declined by \$192 from 2008, and we were able to continue to control expenses, which were reduced from 2008 levels by \$117. ADK's membership increased by 700 households in 2009, and dues receipts increased by \$27 compared to 2008. Reportable dues revenues declined \$89 as increasing numbers of our members opted for multiyear memberships.

With the national economy in recession,

not for profit organizations everywhere experienced a reduction in charitable gifts received. ADK enjoyed good success in 2009 with fundraising events such as the Black Fly Affair, *ididaride!*, and National Trails Day. Individual donations revenue declined by \$93 in 2009 as compared to 2008, however, most of this difference owing to a 2008 donation of \$150.

Contract revenues declined by \$56 from 2008, largely due to NY State budget woes. Revenues from both program and lodging services, and publication and merchandise sales increased by \$48 over 2008, as more people decided to vacation closer to home. The North Country facilities continue to



2009 Income Statement

Revenue

Net Member Dues	\$674,000
Donations/Special Events	\$455,000
Contracts (Advocacy/Trails)	\$260,000
Program Services	\$1,164,000
Publications/Merchandise	\$794,000
Other	\$26,000
Total	\$3,373,000

Expenses

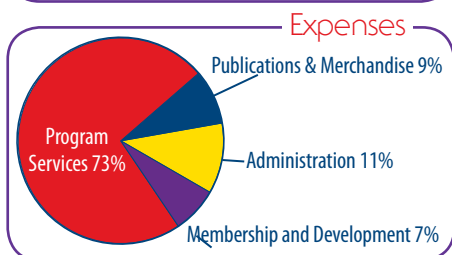
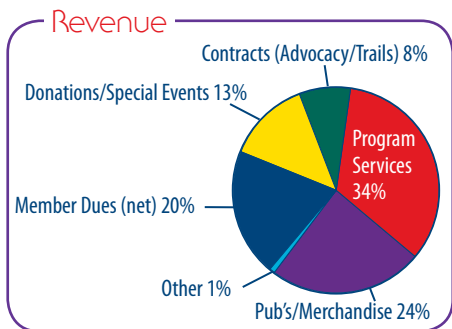
Membership and Development	\$248,000
Program Services	\$2,494,000
Publications & Merchandise	\$294,000
Administration	\$375,000
Total Expenses	\$3,411,000

Net Operating Surplus (Deficit) . . (\$38,000)

Investment Gain (Loss) 138,000

Change in Net Assets 100,000

Notes:
1. Net member dues is the amount retained by the club. (Full report is available upon request.)



2009 Balance Sheet

Assets

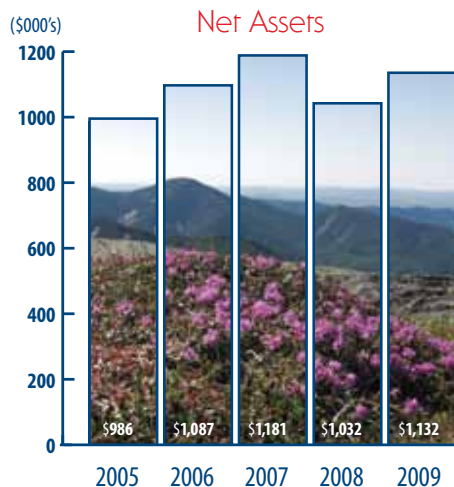
Cash & Receivables	\$276,000
Investments	\$995,000
Inventories & Prepaids	\$267,000
Net Buildings & Equipment	\$782,000
Total Assets	\$2,320,000

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$231,000
Deferred Income	\$659,000
Notes Payable	\$230,000
Charitable Gift Annuity Liability	\$68,000
Total Liabilities	\$1,188,000

Net Assets \$1,132,000

Notes:
1. Investments are valued at market as of year-end.
2. Buildings and equipment are valued at actual cost less accumulated depreciation.
3. Deferred income includes member dues amortized over the membership period, lodging, deposits, and adventure outings deposits.



operate very close to capacity during the vacation season, and sales of books, maps, and related merchandise sales were strong, in support of this trend.

Spending for expenses was carefully considered, and reduced or deferred as much as possible. One benefit of these difficult economic times has been increased competition for printing and mailing business. *Adirondac*, ADK's bi-monthly magazine, is now being published in full color for essentially the same cost as black and white. Color enables us to present a more visually impressive appearance, as well as obtain advertisements from businesses that did not wish to place advertisements in black and white. We are also able to send *Adirondac* magazine and other sizeable mailings to a larger audience at a lower cost than in the past.

ADK ended 2009 with a deficit of \$38, reflecting 43% increase to the better than the budgeted deficit of \$67. Our Balance Sheet position was favorably comparable to last year. Cash plus operating investments less accounts payable totaled \$170, compared to \$210 at the end of 2008. The reduction of \$40 compares to our operating deficit of \$38. We invested \$65 in property and equipment acquisitions, and total assets have increased \$67. Total liabilities have decreased \$33, including a \$34 increase in deferred revenues. Net worth has increased \$100, and we did not need to access our \$200 line of credit during 2009. ADK's volunteers, leadership, members, supporters and staff together, comprise our greatest asset. ADK thanks you for meeting the challenges of 2009 and strengthening ADK's effectiveness in achieving our mission.



The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) is dedicated to the protection and responsible recreational use of the New York State Forest Preserve, and other parks, wild lands, and waters vital to our members and chapters. The Club, founded in 1922, is a member-directed organization committed to public service and stewardship.

ADK employs a balanced approach to outdoor recreation, advocacy, environmental education, and natural resource conservation.

ADK encourages the involvement of all people in its mission and activities; its goal is to be a community that is comfortable, inviting, and accessible.

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