



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

Summary Annual Report



October 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

Program Highlights

Four new trail crews launched after training at Trail U

- Jolly Rovers (specializing in technical rock work)
- Invasives Strike Force
- Orange-Rockland Long Distance Trails Crew
- Bear Claw Crew in northern New Jersey

Right: Jolly Rover
Crew volunteers at
work





Connecting People with Nature since 1920

Program Highlights

New trails built and opened:

New York

- Sylvan Glen Preserve in Westchester County
- Wonder Lake State Park in Putnam County
- Angle Fly Preserve in Westchester County
- An ADA-compliant trail that includes a section of the Appalachian Trail on the summit of Bear Mountain

New Jersey

- Jenny Jump State Forest in Warren County, NJ



We celebrated the opening of the ADA-compliant section of the Appalachian Trail at the summit of Bear Mountain on National Trails Day, June 2010.



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

Program Highlights

Major trail relocations and improvements made:

- Manaticut Point Trail in Norvin Green State Forest, NJ
- Silver Trail in Ramapo Valley County Reservation

Advocating for parks and trails

- State parks were kept open in the face of threats to close them in New York and New Jersey thanks to public support generated by partnerships in which we participated.
- Money for open space protection in New York's Environmental Protection Fund was included in the state budget after proposals to eliminate it.



West from Burnt Meadow Rd towards Hewitt Butler trail on top of ridge.

We worked to mitigate impact of Tennessee Gas Pipeline project on parks and trails.



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

Program Highlights

Land Conservation

- Trail Conference worked with partner, OSI, to acquire an easement on 2.3 acres that closed a gap in the Long Path on the Shawangunk Ridge.
- We transferred two large parcels to NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation for permanent protection: 389 acres in Greenville (Orange County) on the Shawangunk Ridge and 205 acres in Greene County. Both parcels offer protection to the Long Path.
- We celebrated the addition of land around Arrow Lake in Monroe to Sterling Forest State Park in Orange County. The land adds to the buffer for the Appalachian Trail.



We joined with partners and supporters to mark the transfer of 389 acres on the Shawangunk Ridge to NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation.



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

Program Highlights

Catskills

We strengthened our work in Catskill Mountain Region with the addition of a Program Coordinator

Invasives

Launched Invasives Strike Force by training more than 100 volunteers to identify and monitor 14 common invasive plants along our trails. More than 132 miles of trails in New Jersey and New York were surveyed in the first year.



Invasive Strike Force volunteers learned to identify 14 common invasive plants and were trained in monitoring and documenting techniques.

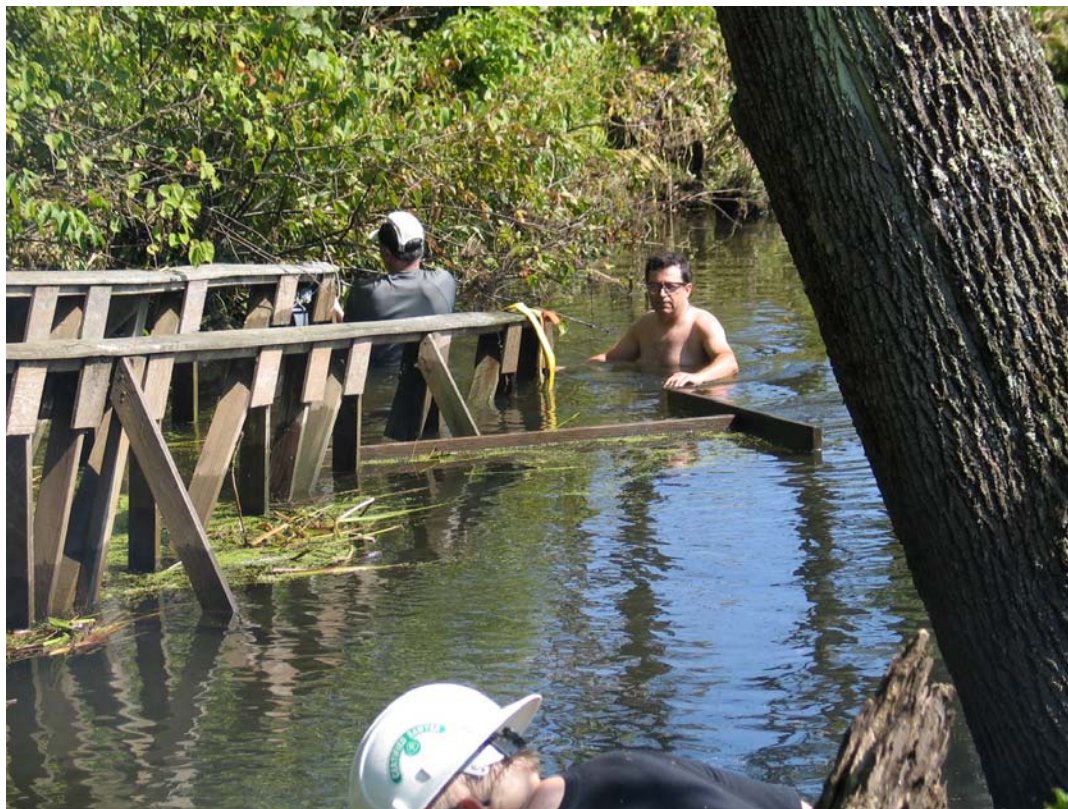


Connecting People with Nature since 1920

Program Highlights

Hurricane Response

Our volunteers and staff responded quickly to impacts of Hurricanes Irene and Lee on trails and communities, collecting and sharing information, food, clothes, money, and moral support where it was needed.



A.T. volunteers put Swamp River bridge back where it belongs after Hurricane Irene.



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

Program Highlights

Building for Our Future

We broke ground on Phase 1 of the restoration of the historic Darlington Schoolhouse in Mahwah, NJ, as our future headquarters.





Connecting People with Nature since 1920

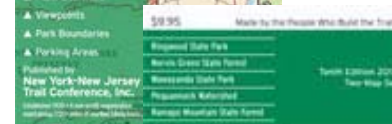
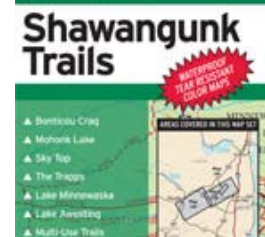
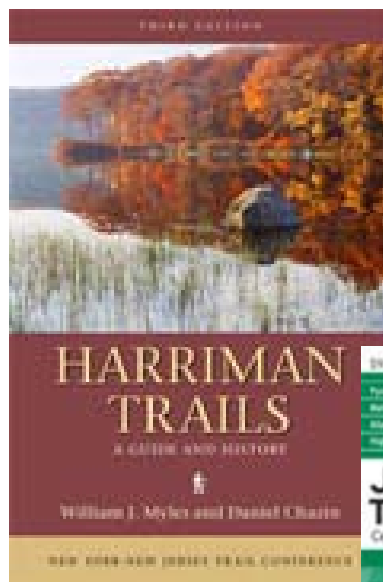
Program Highlights

Publications & Communications

Published

- New edition of *Harriman Trails* (book)
- New edition of *Shawangunk Trails* (maps)
- New edition of *North Jersey Trails* (maps)
- Brand new map set: *Jersey Highlands-Central North*

Our website was the destination for 641,609 unique visitors; pageviews totaled 3,087,660.





Treasurer's Report

For the year ended September 30, 2011 and the three months ended December 31, 2011

- Due to the change in our fiscal year-end from September 30 to December 31, we have two sets of financials for 2011 - one for the year ended September 30 and one for the three months ended December 31. Results for both periods have been audited and an unqualified opinion was issued by the Trail Conference's auditors, WithumSmith + Brown, PC. The numbers below are for the entire 15 months ended December 31, unless otherwise indicated.
- Total revenues of \$3,022,656 came principally from membership dues and contributions (\$1,478,588); income from various grants and trail building contracts (\$662,140); gains from sales of previously purchased land (\$395,129); and map and book sales (\$299,722). In-kind contributions of services accounted for another \$175,867 of revenues.
- Our expenses totaled \$1,974,140. Major components were trail programs (\$1,132,174) and publications and other program services (\$344,068). The balance were expenses related to fundraising (\$340,346) and management/general (\$157,552).
- With such a large excess of revenues over expenses, our net income (a.k.a. "change in net assets") for the 15 months was over one million dollars. This extremely favorable result is a testament to the generosity of the Trail Conference's supporters, our ability to garner grants to support our program services and Darlington School House construction, and the wise stewardship of available funds. As of December 31, total net assets of the Trail Conference were \$3,892,121, an increase of 37% since the end of fiscal 2010. Those assets consist principally of land and investments of the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund (\$1,601,337); cash and investments (\$1,192,912, of which \$500,000 has been designated as an operating reserve fund); and receivables (\$142,662). We also have an investment of \$1,089,648 in the Darlington construction project. The Trail Conference has no debt outstanding.

--Jim Gregoire, Treasurer



Volunteer Report for Calendar Year 2011

Category	Work Hours	Travel Hours	Total Hours	Value*
Trail Work	35,919	9,838	45,756	1,173,184
Off-Trail Work	8,816	1,143	9,959	\$255,349
Workshops	3,552	533	4,085	\$104,739
TOTAL	48,286	11,514	59,800	\$1,533,272

*The value of volunteer time presented here is \$25.64, the average wage plus benefits of non-management, non-agricultural workers in New Jersey as determined by Independent Sector: independentsector.org/volunteer_time



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

October 2010

We marked 90 years of connecting people to nature.



To view independent assessments of the Trail Conference as a charitable organization, please Visit CharityNavigator.org and GuideStar.org and look for our profiles.