

## Stark Mountain Foundation - Program Service Accomplishments

The following briefly summarizes the SMF's Program Service Accomplishments for the fiscal year ending 9/30/2008.

### **Historic Preservation:**

The SMF continued its partnership with the "*Preservation Trust of Vermont*" to solicit and provide funds to PTV's program for the restoration of the historic "Single Chair" tramway located on Stark Mountain. The restored tram was placed in service in December 2007. The Foundation granted \$385,500 for this purpose this Fiscal year. Last year \$415,000 was granted for a total of \$800,500. This program will last for up to five years and is based on the pledges and donations of hundreds of individuals.

Grants: \$385,500

**Environmental Outreach:** The Foundation continues to contribute funding to sponsor an outreach program for "at risk" inner city youths who are given a week of winter outdoor experiences including nature hikes, snowshoe treks, ski lessons, and environmental education. The SMF has also provided targeted donations to the Mad River Cooperative's "Naturalist Program" in order to offset the fees charged for nature, animal tracking, and forest ecology hikes provided to individuals and groups.

Grants: \$705

**Environmental Preservation:** The *Long Trail*, the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the United States, passes along the ridgeline of Stark Mountain for one and one-half miles. The Foundation, in partnership with the *Green Mountain Club*, is soliciting and granting funds to forever endow the future maintenance of this section of the trail. The Foundation has a goal to provide 2/3 of the \$15,000 program cost.

Grants: \$2,500

**Environmental Education:** The Foundation continues to maintain the *Kent Thomas Nature Center* located on Stark Mountain. The Center is a popular year round stop by hikers and skiers, and the SMF continues to increase the variety of its bird, geologic, and mammal displays. The SMF sponsors several open houses at the Nature Center that serve a wide range of visitors from young to old. Several physical upgrades are planned for the coming year.

**Environmental Preservation:** Last year, the SMF teamed with *Middlebury College* and the *Mad River Glen Cooperative* in a study to determine the carbon footprint of the Cooperative, which is located on Stark Mountain, that resulted in establishment of a carbon offset program. The Foundation issued a \$3,500 grant as seed funds to purchase one year's worth of carbon offset credits for the Cooperative that were used to help build manure to methane to electricity plants on Vermont farms. An overwhelming success, the program raised over \$9,000. The Cooperative purchased carbon offsets to render the entire ski area operation carbon neutral, and thousands of persons also voluntarily donated to offset their commute to Stark Mountain. The Cooperative was also able to donate funds nearly equal to the seed funds back to the Foundation.