

Stark Mountain Foundation Inc. 2009-2010 Annual Report



The Officers and Directors of the Stark Mountain Foundation are pleased to present the Foundation's Annual Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010.

Thanks to the success of several fundraising initiatives and the continuing generosity of its donors, the Foundation was able to continue its commitment to the preservation and protection of Stark Mountain. This year's notable achievements include:

◆ **Historic Preservation**

The Foundation continued its commitment to preserving the historic value of Stark Mountain with a grant to the Mad River Glen Cooperative to assist with the preparation of its application for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The grant partially funded the services of a graduate student whose duties included working on the draft application, defining the boundaries of the historic district and establishing contributing and non-contributing structures.

◆ **Trail Restoration**

The devastating ice storm that struck Stark Mountain in 1998, and the aftermath of that storm and of Hurricane Floyd a year later, have continued to negatively impact Stark Mountain and its historic trail network. The Foundation made a grant to enable a dedicated trail crew to work on the mountain for several weeks this past summer and the results are dramatic. Hazards were removed, mature regeneration zones were culled, and ski lines were preserved.



◆ **Paradise Landslide Repair**

One of Stark Mountain's signature ski trails, Paradise, sustained a major landslide last year. Thanks to a grant from SMF, a work crew was able to remove rock from the slide area, re-grade the slope and dig a water bar to channel water away from the slide. The work crew then installed a biodegradable erosion control blanket specifically designed for steep terrain and seeded the area. The blanket will stay in place for about two years before it degrades; by then, the slope should be stabilized.



◆ **Erosion Control**

After a hiatus of several years, the Foundation was once again able to provide funds to replace and/or install culverts on the mountain. Going forward, these efforts will pay off by reducing soil loss and additional damage to the ecosystem.

◆ **Stark's Nest Improvements**



Seasonal visitors to the summit of Stark Mountain will now find an untreated renewable water source on the Stark's Nest deck. Funded by SMF, the rain barrel has already proven to be a welcome addition to the shelter.

A new Vista Board, commissioned by SMF in conjunction with Mad River Glen's Naturalist Program, features a panoramic view from Camel's Hump to Mt. Mooselauke in New Hampshire and identifies significant natural features in the Mad River Valley, the Worcester Range, and the Green and White Mountains.



◆ **Long Trail Endowment**



The Foundation has now committed \$10,000 towards securing the future maintenance of the one and one-half mile section of the Long Trail that traverses the ridgeline of Stark Mountain. The new steel rungs installed by the Green Mountain Club permit hikers to safely negotiate Stark's Wall without damaging adjacent tree roots on steep terrain.

◆ **Electronic Newsletter**

The second edition of the Foundation's electronic newsletter, the "Stark Mountain News", was published in February 2010. We plan to continue to use electronic media as a tool to update our supporters on the Foundation's activities.

◆ **Environmental Education**

Kent Thomas Nature Center

Thanks to the generosity of the Tauck Foundation, the Foundation has been able to continue its support of the Kent Thomas Nature Center. The center continues to attract many skiers, snowshoers and hikers, particularly those who look forward to our seasonal open houses. Ongoing improvements to the KTNC include a black bear exhibit planned for next year.

◆ **Fund Raising Events**

The Foundation continues to sponsor successful fundraising events such as **Stark Mountain Day, our biennial GALA and AUCTION** and the **Stark Mountain Hill Climb**. Our most important assets are our donors and volunteers, without whom we would never be able to fulfill our mission of preserving and protecting Stark Mountain

◆ **Greenwood Week**

The Foundation, through a restricted contribution from a generous donor, once again provided an outdoor education experience for at-risk teens from Camp E-Wen-Akee attending the Mad River Ski Patrol's Greenwood Week. The students participated on a snowshoe nature hike led by Naturalist Program staff and enjoyed an evening slide presentation.

The Board of Directors of the Stark Mountain Foundation

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