

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Natural Heritage Trust 2009-10



*Saratoga Spa State Park*



*Niagara Falls State Park*



*2009 US Open*



*DEC Camp Rushford*



*Albany Pine Bush  
Preserve Commission*



*Advancing Parks, Land and Water Conservation and Historic Preservation  
in New York State since 1968*

## Table of Contents

<i>Overview</i> .....	1
<i>Background and Mission</i> .....	2
<i>Continuing a Tradition of Philanthropy</i> .....	2
<i>Project and Programmatic Highlights</i>	
<i>Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation</i> .....	3
<i>Historic Preservation Services</i> .....	11
<i>Department of Environmental Conservation</i> .....	12
<i>Department of State</i> .....	14
<i>Commissions and Other Entities</i>	
<i>Hudson Fulton Champlain Quadricentennial</i> .....	15
<i>Albany Pine Bush Preseve Commission</i> .....	16
<i>Niagara River Greenway</i> .....	17
<i>Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership</i> .....	18
<i>Financial Highlights</i> .....	19
<i>Our Supporters</i> .....	22
<i>Ways to Give</i> .....	22
<i>NHT Staff and Contact</i> .....	24

# Overview



*Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park*



*Henry Hudson's Half Moon Replica*

Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 proved to be an active and successful year for the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT). At the close of the year, the NHT held almost \$24 million in trust for a wide variety of parks, recreation, cultural, land and water conservation and historic preservation purposes throughout the State of New York. While safeguarding trust funds is of primary importance, of equal importance is putting trust resources to work.

During FY 2009-10, the NHT expended approximately \$16 million on a host of programs and projects throughout the State, while at the same time raising \$13 million from a variety of sources including grants, programs and activities, donations and other fundraising initiatives. The \$3 million net reduction in trust fund assets is attributable primarily to significant expenditures in two major areas: almost \$1.9 million was disbursed through the Historic Barns Grant Program, a program which last received funding in State Fiscal Year 2006-07 and is coming to a close; and just over \$1.9 million in funds held in trust since 2005 were

transferred to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to support capital renovations at Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Site. The NHT is pleased to report that FY-2009-10 administrative costs were held to under three percent of total assets held in trust.

The NHT partners with New York state agencies, as well as a number of other public and private entities, not-for-profits and friends groups to administer funding for programs supporting conservation, preservation, outdoor recreation and land stewardship. During FY 2009-10, the NHT managed 181 program accounts dedicated to specific projects and programs throughout the State.

This report provides a sampling of the many ways in which dollars raised and administered through the NHT are put to use to serve the public interest. The NHT supports major capital projects such as the renovation of the former Staatsburg School to serve as OPRHP's new Taconic Regional Office and capital improvements at Sonnenberg Gardens, as well as smaller projects

like tree plantings in Allegany State Park and interpretive sign displays for East River State Park. The NHT is involved in numerous public/private partnerships and supports annual events such as the Bethpage Federal Credit Union New York Air Show at Jones Beach, and festivals and summer concerts series at parks throughout the State. In FY 2009-10, NHT dollars were raised and used to provide programmatic support to a number of initiatives, as well as a once-in-a-lifetime event, the year long celebration of the 400th anniversaries of the explorations of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain in 1609, and the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's first successful steamship voyage up the Hudson River.



*Bethpage Federal Credit Union New York Air Show*

## Background and Mission

The Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) was established in 1968 as a public benefit corporation of the State of New York. The NHT is tax exempt pursuant to Section 170 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code and is a publically supported 501(c) (3) charitable organization.

The NHT's mission is to receive and administer gifts, grants and contributions to further public programs for parks, recreation, cultural, land and water conservation and historic preservation purposes of the State of New York. The NHT accomplishes its mission by accepting donations, raising funds, building public/private partnerships, and through cooperative programs and projects with its agency partners: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Department of State (DOS). The NHT ensures the safekeeping of funds held in trust and invests such funds prudently and in a manner consistent with the objectives of the underlying gift, grant, program and/or project.

The NHT is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the Commissioner of OPRHP, the Commissioner of DEC, the Secretary of State, and the Chair of the State Council of Parks, a statewide advisory body that provides guidance and makes recommendations on matters affecting parks, recreation and historic preservation.

### Board of Directors as of March 31, 2010

**Carol Ash**, Chair, *Natural Heritage Trust Commissioner, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*

**Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez**, *Secretary of State*

**Pete Grannis**, *Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation*

**Lucy R. Waletzky, M.D.**, *Chair, State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*

## Continuing a Tradition of Philanthropy

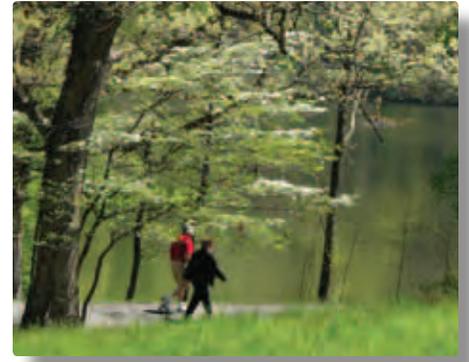
Just as New York State has been blessed with an abundance of unique and inspiring natural assets, we are also fortunate that many generous benefactors have stepped forward to protect and preserve those assets in the finest system of state parks and open spaces in the nation.

Dating back to the conservation movement of the late 19th and 20th centuries, philanthropic gifts formed the backbone of the State Park System – gifts that millions of visitors continue to enjoy to this day. The magnificent Genesee River gorge in Letchworth State Park and the breathtaking views from atop the Helderberg escarpment in John Boyd Thacher State Park are examples of treasures preserved in public parks through gifts made by philanthropists like William Pryor Letchworth and Emma Treadwell Thacher.

In 1910, Mary W. Harriman bestowed 10,000 acres and \$1 million to help establish public parks in the Palisades region. Moreover, she challenged her fellow New Yorkers to step up and contribute \$1.5 million more. Philanthropists like J. Pierpont Morgan and John D. Rockefeller rose to meet the challenge – and their combined generosity endures in park system jewels like Bear Mountain State Park and Harriman State Park.

The Rockefeller family is well known as a champion of conservation and public parks – helping protect assets in the Palisades, Rockefeller State Park Preserve and other remarkable natural areas along the Hudson River.

In the 1970's, the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) donated 7,100 acres of Pine Barren lands on Long Island to the State Department of



*Rockefeller State Park Preserve*

Environmental Conservation, which now protects the Island's precious underground water supplies and provides terrific outdoor recreational opportunities.

More recently, in 2005, DEC received a gift easement of more than 15,800 acres of land in the heart of the Adirondacks from International Paper, to help create what has become the John Dillon Park, the first wilderness area designed specifically for people with disabilities and their caregivers.

Whether as donations on a grand scale or modest gifts by an average family to a park they've come to love, benefactors large and small continue to sustain and enhance the quality of our state parks and open spaces. The Natural Heritage Trust is proud to have been a part of the tradition of philanthropy in this area and to have been at the forefront of some of the State's most progressive parks, environment and community enhancement initiatives. The NHT works professionally and creatively with donors, corporate sponsors, public partners and friend groups to further efforts to enhance parks, historic preservation, as well as protect the State's wealth of land and water resources. Every contribution is welcome and needed to provide clean, safe and attractive public parks and open space, into the 21st century and beyond.

# Project and Programmatic Highlights



Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center



Bear Mountain State Park

## Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

For over four decades, the NHT has assisted OPRHP by facilitating private investment in parks and historic sites throughout the State. Millions of private dollars have supported capital rehabilitation and other facility improvements as well as educational, cultural and recreational programs which may not otherwise be possible or which would otherwise be reduced or eliminated.

While the NHT has long-standing relationships with many private supporters, the NHT also provides vital assistance to OPRHP by accepting public grants and other funds to help to further agency goals and initiatives. Funds received and administered by the NHT enhance the agency's ability to carry out its mission by supplementing scarce State resources.

Since its creation, the NHT has assisted OPRHP in a myriad of programs and projects supported by a combination of public and private funds. Through this cooperative working relationship, the NHT provides fiscal and administrative assistance to OPRHP

and achieves efficiencies that cannot be duplicated by other organizations. For example, the NHT has provided support since 2008 for OPRHP Master Planning initiatives, and in doing so has received a combination of public, foundation and gift funds to provide staffing assistance, as well

as administer contracts to support the development of master plans at Hallock State Park Preserve (formerly Jamesport State Park), Caumsett State Historic Park and Fahnestock/Hudson Highlands, Robert G. Wehle, Green Lakes, Allegany, Midway, Saratoga Spa and Minnewaska State Parks.

*Below is a sampling, listed by region, of noteworthy projects and programs on which the NHT and OPRHP collaborated during FY 2009-10.*

### **Allegany** **Allegany State Park**

During FY 2009-10, the NHT supported a number of environmental and interpretive programs at Allegany State Park. The Junior and Senior Naturalist Program is a family oriented program which has been recognized by the Roger Tory Peterson Institute for its excellence in place-based environmental education. Participants complete a series of tasks and attend a set number of environmental programs to earn the title of Jr. Nats (Jr. Naturalists), Nits (Naturalists in Training) or Snits (Senior Naturalist in Training). The NHT accepts



Allegany State Park

donations to support the program. Girls Day brings middle school girls together with woman professionals

## NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST

in the natural science fields to learn about different careers and to promote the pursuit of natural sciences as a curriculum choice. The NHT accepts sponsor donations and provides materials/supplies and presenters' transportation costs. This was the park's fifth year of participating in National Public Lands Day, the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. This year the NHT funded the purchase of native plants and trees which volunteers then planted around the Administration Building and in the Butterfly Meadow. The NHT also enabled sponsors to donate cash toward the cost of the volunteer picnic.

### Central

#### Betty & Wilbur Davis State Park

Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park located in the Town of Westford in Otsego County, is named for the generous New York couple who donated the land to the State via the NHT. All totaled, the Davises have donated more than \$2 million to the NHT which supported the initial development of the park, as well as ongoing capital improvements. In FY



*Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park*

2009-10, these contributions supported over \$300,000 in improvements unveiled on August 18, 2009. These projects come in the form of a new playground, public restrooms and pavilion. With expansive views and tranquil surroundings, Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park is a favorite

among birdwatchers and other nature lovers. The 200-acre park is intermixed with hardwood forests, gently rolling meadowlands and two ponds. The park also features an extensive network of hiking trails and a woodland stream.

### Hyde Hall

The NHT has partnered with Hyde Hall, Inc. to accept donations on its behalf to further fundraising efforts for the historic site, located on the shores of Otsego Lake. Hyde Hall was



*Hyde Hall State Historic Site*

built by George Clarke (1768-1835) who wanted an estate similar to his childhood home in England. Philip Hooker, whose previous design work included the original New York State Capitol, Albany City Hall, and the facade of the Hamilton College chapel, was tapped to design the mansion. Hyde Hall, Inc., in collaboration with OPRHP, operates, maintains and supports Hyde Hall State Historic Site. Hyde Hall, Inc. is currently in the process of obtaining its 501(c)(3) status. In the interim, the NHT has agreed to act as a fiscal agent and receive donations on its behalf. The funds are held until Hyde Hall, Inc. requests expenditures in accordance with donor and/or foundation requirements.

### Green Lakes

At Green Lakes State Park in Fayetteville, a newly constructed bathhouse replaced a deteriorated



*Green Lakes State Park*

1960s-era structure, providing a modern, accessible and green facility. The bathhouse provides accessible public restrooms and changing areas; a new food service concession; and lifeguard locker rooms, training area, office and first aid station. Installation of a new playground, funded by Nestle Juicy Juice, began on June 12, 2009 with assistance from the local community. The unconventional playground equipment, with multiple climbing, sliding and interactive play features, provides play areas for children in age groups 2-5 and 5-12. Rehabilitation also continues for the historic "Old Administration Building" located near the beach, which is open for public events. The NHT continues to accept donations in support of these ongoing projects.

### Finger Lakes

#### Taughannock Falls Concert Series

The Summer Concert Series at Taughannock Falls State Park in Trumansburg highlights the Finger Lakes region's rich, local talent. FY 2009-10 marked the 31st year of the concert series which is one of the most popular events in the region. The annual series features a wide variety of high quality music performed on the shore of beautiful Cayuga Lake. The concerts take place on seven consecutive Saturday evenings from



Taughannock Falls State Park

July through August. Approximately 17,000 attend the summer concert series each year, which is supported by local business sponsors and donors through the NHT.

### Sampson WWII Naval Veteran's Museum

Today's Sampson State Park was the site of the US Navy's second largest training facility from 1942-1945 during WWII and was an Air Force training base from 1950-1956 during the Korean Conflict. In total, more



Sampson State Park

than 750,000 servicemen and -women were trained at the base. Between the two wars, the base was converted to Sampson State College to educate returned servicemen and -women. In 1960, Sampson became a state park. It is also home to the Sampson Naval Veteran's Museum and Memorial. The Museum has been operated by a volunteer group of veterans and is in the process of transferring assets to the NHT. The NHT has signed a cooperative operation and maintenance agreement to keep the museum running and accepts donations on the museum's behalf.

### Invasive Species Management

The NHT has hired field staff to work on behalf of and in partnership with OPRHP on the Finger Lakes Invasive Species Management project. The project surveyed a number of parks for two forest pests, hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) and elongate hemlock scale. HWA is a small insect native to Asia which infects Carolina and eastern hemlock trees. Once infested,



Finger Lakes Invasive Species Management

hemlocks usually die within 4-10 years. The surveys will help to locate where HWA is present and the level of infestation. Elongate hemlock scale is a pest which also infests Carolina and eastern hemlocks and is often found in conjunction with HWA. The need for these surveys was identified by a Cornell researcher who located a serious outbreak of HWA at Watkins Glen State Park, and potential serious outbreaks at Robert Treman and other regional parks.

### Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion

Located in Canandaigua, Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park is

one of the nation's most extensively preserved country estates from the



Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park

Victorian Era. The gardens, the brainchild of Mary Clark Thompson nearly 100 years ago, include thousands of perennials, annuals

and other plants. The property is operated by a not-for-profit which recently embarked on a \$3.2 million rehabilitation project that includes reconstruction of the mansion's veranda and several architectural features in the historic gardens. As part of this, a \$1.9 million project to refurbish two verandas on the mansion and garden structures on the grounds started in October 2009 and is expected to be completed mid-summer. The project is supported through gift funds made to the NHT as part of the overall 2006 purchase agreement through which OPRHP acquired the property. The work will include restoration of verandas on the south and west sides of the 1887 building, a colonnade, a marble pavilion and a pergola.

### Genesee

The NHT funds the publications of two media that are currently being sold at Letchworth State Park; a video entitled "Echoes from the Glen," a documentary of Letchworth History



Letchworth State Park

from Mary Jemison to present day and a coffee table book entitled "Canyon Light: The Seasons of Letchworth State Park," a pictorial display of Letchworth with photos by local photographer Ray Minnick. The NHT also supports festivals and events at Letchworth, as well as other parks throughout the region such as Lakeside Beach, Hamlin Beach and Darien Lakes State Parks. Some of the events at Letchworth include the William Pryor Letchworth

## NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST

Birthday Celebration, the Letchworth Luau, Blues & Barbeque and the Letchworth Arts & Crafts Show.

The NHT also supports the production of park maps and brochures distributed throughout Letchworth State Park, as well as the Genesee Naturalist. Donations to the NHT support The Genesee Naturalist, a free quarterly publication sent to nearly 500 subscribers across the Northeast and made available at state parks throughout the region. The Naturalist is also sent to hundreds of schools, libraries, not-for-profit organizations, tourist promotion agencies and news agencies across a ten county area of Western New York.

### Long Island

#### 2009 United State Open Golf Championship

The United States Golf Association brought the US Open back to the Black Course at Bethpage State Park



2009 United State Open Golf Championship

from June 15-21, 2009. Approximately 300,000 spectators made their way to Bethpage to watch the world's best golfers compete. Bethpage Black was the first publicly owned and operated golf course to host the event in 2002. The NHT partnered with OPRHP in the operation and fiscal management of the New York State Hospitality area at the Open. In addition, the NHT received donations and sponsorship money from a variety of businesses to support volunteer expenses such as equipment, refreshments and apparel.

### Jones Beach Air Show

The 2009 Bethpage Federal Credit Union Jones Beach Air Show was held Memorial Day weekend. The annual show took place on Saturday May 23rd and Sunday May 24th. More than 360,000 spectators attended over the two days, despite inclement weather.



Bethpage Federal Credit Union Jones Beach Air Show

The lineup was headlined by the US Air Force Thunderbirds who performed a precision demonstration over the Atlantic Ocean, as did aerial performers from all branches of the US military. The NHT received money from corporate sponsors and from the sale of chalet tickets; this money was used to cover expenses related to the show. Thanks to the generous contributions of over \$75,000 from sponsors, there was no fee charged for admission to the air show beyond the standard per vehicle park entrance fee.

### Summer & Winter Run Series

The Long Island State Parks Summer Run series is held every Monday night from June through August, each week in a different park throughout the region. The length of the run varies depending on the park location and



15th Annual Winter Run Series

available trails. The schedule for 2009 included runs at Caumsett State Historic Park and Heckscher, Sunken

Meadow, Robert Moses, Hempstead Lake, Belmont Lake, Bethpage and Jones Beach State Parks. The Long Island State Park Region also hosted the 15th Annual Winter Run Series beginning in January 2010. The series began at Heckscher State Park. Additional runs were held at Robert Moses State Park, Caumsett State Historic Park and Jones Beach State Park. The NHT receives funds through participant registration and event sponsorships, which are then used to fund these and other related programs throughout the region.

### New York City

#### Recreational Programs at Riverbank State Park

Riverbank State Park provides youth programming, funded through



Riverbank State Park

the NHT, from swim meets to cheerleading competition and college fairs. The park hosts a number of youth athletic teams; some compete solely in-house while others travel throughout the area to compete. The teams include youth basketball, baseball, ice hockey, football, swimming and cheerleading. Registration revenue from the participants is held at the NHT and expended on league and tournament entry fees, uniforms and transportation. Other funds are raised through bake sales and other community fundraising events. During 2009-10 the NHT received funds from an event hosted by The Cartoon Network and a youth baseball clinic

run by Steiner Sports and hosted by Derek Jeter.

### Interpretive Center at Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve

The Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve is located within a 250 acre natural area near the southwest shore of Staten Island which was once the site of a clay mining operation. Today the park supports a variety of habitats such



Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve

as wetlands, fields, sandy barrens, spring-fed streams and woodlands, and the area is rich in plant and animal life. The Clay Pit Ponds Park Preserve Interpretive Center located within the park was made possible through a public/private partnership. The new Interpretive Center houses three classrooms and exhibit space. It provides the Preserve with the space needed to display the area's natural environment and man made history while hosting interpretive programming. The \$1.5 million Interpretive Center was supported by City and State Capital Funds, as well as \$200,000 in private donations to the NHT. OPRHP broke ground on the Center with its funding partners and friends on May 3, 2007. It opened to the public in November of 2008. The NHT continues to work with regional staff to support interpretive programming and other improvements, including a recently installed security system.

### East River State Park

For the past two years East River State Park has hosted a Summer Concert Series, managed cooperatively by OPRHP, the NHT and the Open Space Alliance of North Brooklyn. A new play area was also constructed and unveiled in early 2010, supported through a donation from Nestle Juicy Juice in conjunction with additional funds raised through the NHT. The play area is set in a newly planted grove of trees and incorporates many of the historic features of the 19th century shipping dock that previously inhabited the site. Playground equipment includes a wooden train that lines up with historic railroad



East River State Park

tracks embedded in the concrete, a see-saw-like human scale, and jumping platforms. In addition, five new interpretive signs with information about the history of Williamsburg and the park site have been installed.

### Niagara

#### Golden Hill State Park

A variety of interpretive programs and public amenities at Golden Hill State Park are made possible through donations to the NHT. The Thirty Mile Lighthouse at the park has been furnished and serves as a public museum through the efforts of the Friends of the Thirty Mile Lighthouse. The lighthouse was built in the 1870's, and served to warn mariners of a sandbar hidden at this location. The light operated until 1984, when it was transferred from the U.S. Coast



Golden Hill State Park

Guard to NYS Parks. The lower floors are set up to suggest the home of the lighthouse keeper Glenn Seeley and his family. On the second floor, a two bedroom apartment is available for weekly rental in the summer.

### Evangola State Park Tomato Festival

The 7th Annual Tomato Festival was held at Evangola State Park in Brant, New York in August 2009. Activities included crafts, games, food and refreshment areas, hay rides and a



Evangola State Park

farmers market. The Miss Evangola Pageant was held the first night, followed by a car/motorcycle show the following day and the 5K Tomato Trot run. In addition to live entertainment, there were contests for biggest tomato, best dressed, best sauce and tomato eating. NHT provided support in the administration of event revenue by contracting with vendors and performers, and purchasing supplies for the three day event.

## NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST

### Palisades

#### Bear Mountain Trailside Museum

During FY 2009-10, the NHT received a \$1.2 million gift from the estate of Robert J. Drew for the benefit of the Trailside Museum at Bear Mountain State Park. Mr. Drew spent time at the park as a child while growing up in New York City in the 1920s and 30s. The park introduced him to nature and wildlife, which he would continue to enjoy throughout his life.



*Bear Mountain State Park*

The NHT is working with the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission (PIPC) which will manage and administer the donation. Today's Trailside Museum and Zoo occupy 40 acres on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River. The trails are some of the oldest in the nation and include the first section of the Appalachian Trail. Along the trail are the homes to various species, from birds to bear. The atmosphere makes for an enriching experience for all ages and will continue to do so for future generations.

#### Invasive Species Management at Minnewaska State Park Preserve

The NHT has partnered with OPRHP to manage grant funds to support invasive species management staff. The NHT staff work with and on behalf of OPRHP to manage invasive species at Minnewaska State Park Preserve. The Minnewaska State Park Preserve project involves eradication of invasive species and creation of an invasive species prevention zone (ISPZ) comprised of 12,000 acres

of quality habitat where the level of invasive plants is such that eradication is possible and the area can be declared invasive free. The goal is to reduce



*Minnewaska State Park Preserve*

the level of infestation to less than 5 percent on any one acre within the prevention zone and to monitor and maintain this level both in the zone and within a 50 meter buffer created around the zone.

### Saratoga

#### Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center

The Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center, located at Thompson's Lake State Park, was made possible through the generosity of Fred and Martha Schroeder. The Schroeders donated \$750,000 to the NHT



*Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center*

to establish the nature center, designating \$400,000 for the building construction and \$350,000 to establish an endowment fund. The NHT manages the endowment in support of programming at the Center. Situated on the shore of Thompson's Lake, the Nature Center opened in July of 2001.

The building serves as an interpretive center and is open to the public year-round, six days a week. Exhibits and displays include a geologic model of the area, a live honeybee observation hive, amphibians and reptiles, fossils, skulls, furs and lots of other hands-on materials. Educational and interpretive programs are presented to school groups and the general public throughout the year.

#### Saratoga Spa State Park Capital Campaign

2010 marks the 100 year anniversary of the effort which saved the mineral springs of Saratoga and led to the



*Saratoga Spa State Park*

creation of the Saratoga Spa in the 1930s. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the preservation of the springs, the "Geyser Park" area of the springs will be revitalized. Projects include a new stairway and overlook at Geyser waterfalls, landscaping, access and pavilion improvements and interpretive signage. The Saratoga Capital District Regional Parks Commission is leading the private fundraising initiative, with assistance from community volunteers and the Friends of Saratoga Spa State Park. Over half of the funds have already been raised or pledged and work has commenced.

#### Crailo State Historic Site

During FY 2009-10, Crailo debuted a new, permanent exhibit entitled "A Sweet and Alien Land: Colony of the



*Crailo State Historic Site*

Dutch in the Hudson River Valley,” in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s voyage up his namesake river. The project was supported in part through mitigation payments received by Crailo from Besicorp-Empire Development Company, LLC. In addition, funds were used to match a local grant from the Howard and Bush Foundation for a Discovery Game Book developed with Chatham Hill Games called Discover Dutch New Netherland—a full color 24 page book with a board game at its center geared for 6th grade and above. The NHT funding also helped to develop an upscale museum marketplace shop, including high quality museum reproductions from the Netherlands in order to offer visitors an opportunity to purchase items representative of those seen in the exhibit.

## Taconic

### New Regional Office

The former Staatsburg School was transformed into a new Taconic Regional Office within Margaret



*New Taconic Regional Office*

Lewis Norrie State Park in Dutchess County. The historic school building was completely renovated and is not only the first LEED-Eligible Building in the New York State Park system, but has also achieved a LEED-Platinum certification and it is the only State building in New York to be so certified. The Staatsburg School, built in 1930, was renovated as a public-private partnership using a \$3 million private grant from Dr. Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky. Relocating the regional offices to the restored schoolhouse from the Staatsburgh State Historic Site will increase public access to both the converted schoolhouse and the historic site. The former auditorium will provide a large-scale meeting place for State Parks and other groups. The move to the new headquarters, located just off Route 9 in the town of Hyde Park, will further protect and preserve environmental resources by diverting vehicular and operational traffic to the outskirts of the park. In addition, a “no-pesticide” program will be instituted at the site.



*Taconic Outdoor Education Center*

### Taconic Outdoor Education Center

Open year-round at Fahnestock State Park, the Taconic Outdoor Education Center (TOEC) provides environmental education, outdoor recreation, Project Adventure, maple sugaring, retreats, and public programs for elementary schools to high schools, scout troops and

clubs. Highland Lodge, with a wood-burning stone fireplace, colorful nature displays, comfortable woodland cabins, friendly service, excellent meals and knowledgeable educators is a perfect fit for these activities. The Center’s programs have benefitted children throughout the downstate area. It is partly funded from foundation, corporate and individual support, and the NHT.

### Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park

Two basketball courts that were in poor condition from heavy use



*Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park*

were rehabilitated into two NCAA regulation basketball courts. The project was completed in June 2010. Improvements include new playing surface, goal posts, paint striping, hoops, benches, and bleachers. The NHT invested over \$100,000 in gift funds for this project. In addition, preliminary construction activities have commenced on a new picnic pavilion. Work already completed includes stripping of topsoil, rough grading, and installation of a perimeter construction fence. Construction contract document submittals for the structure are currently being reviewed. The NHT has set aside just more than \$140,000 toward this project. Both projects are being funded through the generosity of Dr. Waletzky.

## Thousand Islands

### Robert G. Wehle State Park

Robert G. Wehle State Park, the former estate of Mr. Wehle, is the Thousand Island's newest state park, boasting 1,100 acres and over 17,000 feet of spectacular Lake Ontario shoreline. After Mr. Wehle's death, the Wehle Trust was established to fund



*Robert G. Wehle State Park*

development and long term upkeep of the park. Annual distributions

from the Wehle Trust are received by the NHT to support a wide variety of projects and programming at the park. During FY 2009-10 Wehle Trust funds in the NHT supported programming to educate visitors about the invasive pale swallow-wort plant that is present throughout the park. Funds also supported equipment purchase for upkeep of the park and master planning. The NHT also supported the construction of a visitor center and year round maintenance facility.

### Wellesley Island State Park

One of the main attractions of the Wellesley Island State Park is the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center, which includes a museum, varied habitats such as wooded wetlands, three miles of shoreline and open granite outcrops, and miles of trails for hiking, cross-country skiing and nature education. The nature

center provides educational and recreational programs for all ages. Thousands of school children visit the center each year from fall through spring to learn about the environment.



*Minna Anthony Common Nature Center*

Each season features unique programs. The NHT provides administrative support for the nature center funded through gift shop revenues and donations.



# Historic Preservation Services



Town Hall in midtown Manhattan



NYS Barns Grant Program

## The Battle Flag Preservation Project

The NHT supports the Battle Flag Preservation Project by hiring staff to provide specialized services including curatorial and conservation services to the state's historic flag collection. The NHT has also joined in an effort to raise funds for further flag preservation to fill the gap in funding resulting from cuts to the State budget. Over the past ten years, the NHT has received approximately \$100,000 in private donations to support the project, and outreach efforts for continued private support are ongoing. A significant part of the NYS Military Museum's permanent collection is a group of nearly 2,000 flags dating from the War of 1812 to the present. Included in this nationally significant collection is the largest collection of state Civil War battle flags in the country. To ensure the flags' long-term preservation, textile conservators from the NHT and OPRHP recommended a program of care to include the establishment of a flag archive. During 2009, 71 flags were added to the collection. Currently, some of the collection's flags are on display at the New York State Capitol and the New York State Military Museum, as well as on loan to The American Civil War Center at Historic



Tredegar in Richmond, Virginia. The staff is also in the process of conserving the flag owned by the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey that was damaged on September 11, 2001, as well as an upcoming project to preserve the last remaining artifact from the Hotel Frontenac, which burned in 1911. The flag that flew on top of the hotel was saved and will be displayed in Clayton, NY for the centennial of the fire.

## NYS Barns Grant Program

For over ten years, the NHT has assisted OPRHP in administering the historic barns grant program. In addition to being symbols of the culture and lifestyles of earlier generations, New York's historic barns tell a unique story of New York State's agricultural history and heritage. The purpose of the competitive grant program is to preserve the historic character and extend the useful life of these historic agricultural structures.

Beginning in 2000, barn owners that met certain historical criteria were eligible to apply and receive grant funds for restoration and preservation of their barns. Since that time 545 barn grants, totaling just over \$12 million have been awarded to historic barn owners statewide. The grant application and award period have ended and the program is steadily winding down. In FY 2009-10, over 100 barn projects, totaling \$1.9 million came to completion. As of year end, just

over \$1.6 million in program funding is left to support the last 93 open barn projects which will be completed by 2011.

## Town Hall National Historic Landmark Designation Application

The NHT entered into an agreement with the nonprofit Town Hall Foundation which provided for the preparation of a National Historic Landmark nomination (a distinction reserved for properties that are exceptionally significant in the history of the nation) for Town Hall in midtown Manhattan in concert with OPRHP's Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau. Built in 1921 for the League of Political Education, Town Hall is nationally significant for its association with the history of American public affairs radio broadcasting as the site from which America's Town Meeting of the Air (ATMA) originated and was broadcast between 1934 and 1956. These innovative, live audience forums addressed a wide range of controversial topics, such as civil liberties, war, and racism. The 1930s witnessed some of the most ambitious experiments in public service broadcasting and the ATMA was touted for its efforts to bring substantive issues of national importance before the American people.

# Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)



*The Repass family*



*Mount Loretto*

Over the years, the NHT has worked with the DEC on a variety of projects to preserve and sustain our state's natural resources and serve as responsible stewards of public land.

## Five Rivers Pledge

The NHT and Friends of Five Rivers, a citizens' group, facilitated a \$500,000 donation to build a new "Guided School Program" building for students at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. Located in Delmar within an area of rapid residential development, the Center consists of 446-acres that includes 12 miles of trails and interior roads, 16 ponds and wetlands, and expanses of forest, field and brush land habitats. On October 26, 2009 DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis joined Herb and Peggy Repass to break ground on the new building. The guided school program provides on-site, outdoor lessons to classes throughout the school year. The program had been run in an outdated building on the site, but thanks to a generous donation a new building is being constructed.

The Repass family of Massachusetts made the donation in memory of

their daughter Wendy Repass Suozzo. Wendy was an educator at Five Rivers for many years and will now be part of a lasting legacy at the site. The new building will serve as a classroom for students and will provide space for teaching materials. The program is run by volunteers and provides instruction to nearly 6,000 children each year. The new building will be a "green" structure and will be LEED certified. The NHT is currently negotiating terms of a cooperative agreement with DEC and the Friends of Five Rivers setting forth terms related to administration of the gift funds.

## Mt. Loretto

In 1999 New York State purchased the 194-acre Mount Loretto property, a crown jewel of undeveloped open space along Staten Island's south shore, overlooking Raritan Bay. The State was assisted in the acquisition by the Trust for Public Land (TPL), which reached agreement on behalf of the State with the Archdiocese of New York to acquire the property for \$25 million in EPF and Bond Act funds. The property contains extensive meadows and sensitive shore front with freshwater and tidal wetlands that contain

grassland species, a rare ecosystem type in New York City. The property is now being managed by DEC to conserve these important natural resources and to provide exciting new outdoor educational opportunities for New York City residents.

The NHT entered into a gift agreement with TPL and DEC under which the NHT received just over \$1.5 million in gift funds to establish an endowment to be dedicated toward maintenance, operation and programming of the Mount Loretto Unique Area. The property contains the only natural red clay bluffs in NYC and ecologically rich and diverse habitats including grassland, coastal woodland, freshwater and tidal wetlands, shorelines, beach and open water and bay bottom. The endowment enables the State to manage the property as a nature preserve and outdoor educational resource for visitors and school groups. At present, the endowment has grown to almost \$1.9 million and the NHT is working with DEC to identify additional projects and programs to be supported with the investment earnings.

## Wilson Hill Management Area

In November 2009, the NHT and the DEC entered into a cooperative agreement whereby the NHT will provide fiscal and administrative support to implement projects in the Wilson



Hill Wildlife Management Area (WHWMA) adjacent to the St. Lawrence River. As part of the New York Power Authority's (NYPA) relicensing of its St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project hydroelectric facility, NYPA and DEC entered into a settlement agreement whereby NYPA agreed to provide funding for certain habitat improvement projects, improvements to the WHWMA and various public access projects. The project funds are paid by NYPA to the NHT, and the operation, management and maintenance of the projects are overseen by DEC.

Wilson Hill WMA is an open water wetland located in St. Lawrence County approximately six miles west of the village of Massena. The 3,434-acre area consists of several large open water pools of approximately 1,800 acres bordered by cattail, shrub swamp, forest, and meadows. The area is ideal for nesting and migrating waterfowl, and provides habitat for wading birds, shore birds, song birds, and raptors. The area also supports abundance of wetland furbearers and terrestrial wildlife. The projects supported by the funds will enhance and protect water quality, fishery, bird, waterfowl and terrestrial resources impacted by the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project.

## DEC Camps

DEC runs four environmental education camps across New York State: Camp Rushford in the Genesee River Valley, Camp DeBruce in the Catskills, as well as Pack Forest and Camp Colby in the Adirondacks. These camps connect children to the wilderness and instill in them a

life-long appreciation of nature. Campers participate in a variety of educational programs and activities that teach about water quality, forests, environmental stewardship, and outdoor sports and survival skills. Campers participate in week-long summer sessions and oftentimes children's camp fees are supported by community, environmental groups and individuals. In August 2009, the NHT began accepting donations to help sponsor underprivileged children for week-long summer camp sessions. These funds were used to provide camper scholarships during the summer 2010 camp season.



*Camp Rushford*

*Camp Rushford*



*Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area*



# Department of State



South Shore Estuary Reserve



The NHT and the Department of State (DOS) partner on waterfront revitalization projects.

## South Shore Estuary Reserve

The South Shore Estuary Reserve (Reserve) on the south shore of Long Island was created by the New York State Legislature in 1994 to protect and restore the resources of several bays and the watersheds and barrier islands which separate them from the Atlantic Ocean. NHT staff work with DOS to implement the projects and recommendations identified in the Reserve's Comprehensive Management Plan completed in 2001. Recent projects address water quality issues, habitat restoration, dredging, economic revitalization and citizen involvement.

NHT staff have guided and aided in the preparation of local government watershed management plans. Recent successes include implementation of best practices for storm water pollution prevention, development of local laws to prevent pet waste contamination, workshops for local governments and industry experts to facilitate information sharing, and declaration of the bays as "no discharge zones" for recreational boaters.

## Habitat Restoration

The NHT has also worked cooperatively with local governments, academic institutions, and other not-for profits on two habitat restoration projects: fish ladders at tributary dams and rebuilding the South Shore bays' shellfish populations. The ladders allow certain fish species to swim upstream to spawn and then return to the saltwater environment. With the ladders in place, the fish populations are steadily showing progress towards pre-dam levels. At one time, the South Shore bays provided more than 50% of the clams eaten in the U.S. Due to many factors, however, the clam population was practically decimated. Through clam seeding projects, establishment of spawner sanctuaries and water quality improvement projects, gradual progress is being made to restore the bays' clam population. Although there are signs of improvement, much still needs to be done and the NHT will continue to have an integral role in these efforts.

## Dredging

Dredging is required to maintain commercial and recreational uses of the bays, but disposal of material can be an environmental issue. The NHT

and DOS completed a draft report on dredging needs and options for dredged material disposal in the Reserve. The final report will serve as a basis for preparation of a dredged material management plan for the region.

## Bayway

The Bayway is a unique trail system designed to facilitate tourism in the region and is designed jointly by the NHT and DOS. The trail system provides educational and interpretive opportunities for visitors by way of bicycle, roadways and water routes. A website identifying all points of interest on the trail is in the development stages and will increase the utility of the Bayway when its operational.

## Coastal Consistency

The NHT provides vital assistance in performing "Consistency Review." Under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, NYS prepared a Coastal Management Program to guide decision making in the State's coastal area. All projects, including permit actions, must get prior approval from DOS. NHT program staff review applicant proposals and provide recommendations to DOS on whether such proposals are consistent with the policies identified in the NYS Coastal Management Program.

## Commissions and Other Entities



*Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park*



*Half Moon Replica on River Day*

### Hudson Fulton Champlain Quadricentennial

The Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission (HFQC) was created by Chapter 590 of the Laws of 2001 to plan and develop the 400th anniversary celebrations of the voyages of discovery made by Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain, as well as the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's steamship voyage along the Hudson River. These voyages were some of the most significant events in European exploration, and initiated some of the earliest contacts between Native Americans and Europeans. These anniversaries were observed in 2009.

#### Year Long Celebration

In honor of the momentous voyages, in 2009 the NHT, DEC and HFCQ Commission oversaw a year-long celebration of New York State's historical, cultural and environmental achievements of the past four centuries. During the multi-year planning process, the NHT received grants, both public and private, and donations to support the planning, promotion and organization of the celebration, as well as individual events. The NHT provided ongoing administrative, programmatic and personnel support in these efforts on behalf of the Commission. Numerous exciting activities and events were planned and held from New York harbor to the Canadian border.

#### Walkway Over the Hudson

The NHT played a vital role in the planning, financing and implementation of the grand opening celebration for the Walkway Over the Hudson, the world's longest pedestrian bridge. The Walkway spans from Poughkeepsie to Highland, 212 feet above the Hudson River. The Walkway Opening celebration weekend was during the first weekend in October and drew an estimated 40,000 visitors. The celebrations included a lantern launch, giant puppets and circus performers, among other festivities.

#### Crown Point

The Crown Point Legacy Celebration took place the weekend of September 18-20 and highlighted the importance of the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's 1609 journey on the lake that now bears his name. The event at the Crown Point State Historic Site was aimed at celebrating discovery and connecting people with nature. The program included the rededication of the memorial lighthouse at Crown Point, constructed for the Champlain Tercentenary in 1909, and recognition of the bas-relief sculpture by Auguste Rodin for the lighthouse which was donated by the French and recently conserved. Dignitaries from New York, Vermont, Quebec and France attended the

rededication. The NHT was instrumental in arranging for the planning and marketing of the event and funded services throughout the Celebration weekend.

#### Mini-grants for Local Projects

The Dyson foundation provided \$250,000 to the NHT to be dispensed as grants to local organizations around the state to implement their own projects in celebration of New York's Quadricentennial celebration. The grants were administered through the NHT. Grantees used the money to fund projects such as parades, educational programs, booklets, re-enactments and refurbishing of historical memorabilia.

#### River Day

River Day and the Great River Day Flotilla comprised an eight-day voyage (from June 6-13, 2009) of 120 miles from New York Harbor to the Port of Albany. The parade of water vessels was led by a replica of the Half Moon - Henry's Hudson's ship - as well as other historical replicas. During the voyage, there were over 120,000 spectators lining the waterfront, more than 1,500 civilian vessels on the water and in excess of 100 shoreline events, all flying "400th" flags. River Day was modeled after the Parade of Ships in 1909 commemorating New York's 300th anniversary.

# Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission (APBPC)



*Discovery Center achieves LEED Gold*



*Fire information exchange with China*

## Summary of Relationship

In June 2009, the Natural Heritage Trust and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission (APBPC) entered into a formal partnership where the NHT became the fiscal agent for the Commission and the employer of the Commission's staff. The respective missions of the Commission and the NHT reflect significant overlap and identity of purpose regarding environmental protection, public education and recreation. The Commission is funded in part through an annual appropriation from the Environmental Protection Fund, which is managed by a three-way contract between the NHT, Commission and NYSDEC.

Located within the Capital District Region, the Albany Pine Bush represents one of the best remaining examples of an inland pine barrens ecosystem left in the world. This gently rolling sand plain is home to a variety of rare plants and animals, including the endangered Karner blue butterfly. The 3,200 acre Albany Pine Bush Preserve also creates a special habitat for a number of other rare and unique plants and animals, while providing visitors with an assortment of non-motorized recreational opportunities including hiking, jogging, nature study, cross-country skiing, horseback riding,

mountain biking and hunting, complete with nearly 20 miles of official marked, multiple-use trails. The Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center offers fun and educational outings and programs about the ecology, natural and cultural history of the pine bush area.

## Programs

**Discovery Center achieves LEED Gold.** In February 2010, NYSDEC Commissioner Pete Grannis co-hosted a press event with Tracey Hall from the U.S. Green Building Council announcing that the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center sponsored by TrustCo has been awarded a LEED Gold rating. The planning and design of the Discovery Center began in 2004. During the next 5 years of planning, design, implementation and review, the LEED program had become the key guiding principle for the transition of a former bank building to the development of the Discovery Center. What initially began as an effort to achieve a Basic LEED level rating, soon, with an energetic design team, turned to a goal of Silver and ended in Gold.

**Bird Research with Partners.** In October 2009 APBPC partnered with the NYS Museum, students and volunteers to complete a third season of banding migrating songbirds in the Albany Pine

Bush Preserve. The research is the first of its kind in the Preserve and has revealed that the Preserve's pitch pine scrub oak barrens are important staging areas for more than 30 bird species as they migrate from their northern breeding grounds to winter areas in Central and South America. Palm warblers and Nashville warblers were the most common species in 2009; Wilson's warbler and fox sparrow were two of the rarest captures. A DNA analysis of feathers from these birds will reveal their breeding season latitude and tell researchers just how far these birds have flown to get to Albany.

**Prescribed fire information exchange with China.** In April 2009, the Commission hosted eight delegates from China including those from the China State Forestry Administration in Beijing, the Fire Prevention Office of Heilongjiang Province, and The Nature Conservancy's China program. The Albany Pine Bush was part of a week-long tour that brought them to the northeastern U.S. to talk about fire management programs at specific sites. Also joining the delegation were representatives from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Forestry Department in Rome, Italy.

# Niagara River Greenway



*Cycle along the shoreline section-Tonawanda, NY*



*Freedom Crossing Monument-Village of Lewiston, NY*

The NHT acts as fiscal agent for and provides administrative support to the Niagara River Greenway Commission. The Commission was created to develop and implement a plan to incorporate the parks, conservation and ecologically significant areas of the Greenway into a cohesive, accessible space. Key elements of this plan include increased public access to the Niagara River, development of a trail system with complimentary connections to land access points, balanced economic growth that compliments the natural and scenic environment, preservation and enhancement of environmental resources and the celebration of the region's cultural and industrial heritage. During FY 2009-10, almost \$3 million for eight projects to benefit several New York State Parks in Western New York was announced by the New York State Parks Greenway Fund Standing Committee which is overseeing a portion of the funds dedicated to the establishment of the Niagara River Greenway as a result of the relicensing of the New York Power Authority's (NYPA) Niagara Power Project. The projects include construction of trails and boat launches, operations plans,

safety improvements and rehabilitation projects at various parks in the region. During FY 2009-10 operational costs of the Commission were supported through a grant of \$300,000 from the State's Environmental Protection Fund, which has been administered by the NHT.



*Spaulding Trail-Grand Island NY*

*Annual "Paddles Up Niagara" – 5.8 mi leisurley paddle in the Niagara River*



# Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership



*View Looking East of the Hudson River Valley*



*Washington County Farm*

The Partnership's mission is to preserve, enhance and develop the historic, agricultural, scenic, natural and recreational resources and the significant waterways within the Partnership region. The Partnership fosters collaborative projects with pertinent non-profit and governmental entities with an emphasis on both agricultural and open space protection, economic and tourism development, and the protection and interpretation of the region's natural and cultural heritage. Communities in the Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership include the Towns of Easton, Greenwich and Fort Edward in Washington County; and the villages of Fort Edward and Greenwich. Membership from Saratoga County includes the Towns of Northumberland, Saratoga, Stillwater, Halfmoon

and Waterford; and the Villages of Schuylerville, Victory, Stillwater, Waterford and the City of Mechanicville. In recent years, municipalities and non-profit organizations along the Upper Hudson River have independently initiated local projects that foster the regions rich natural and cultural heritage, as well as provide for sustainable economic growth. The Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership was created by Chapter 737 of the Laws of 2006 to comprehensively support the local efforts through an innovative and voluntary framework of public and private groups, including local and state government. In FY 2009-10, the NHT

received grant funds on behalf of the Partnership which it used to contract for the development of the Partnership's stewardship plans and award individual grants for community projects in the region in support of the goals of the Partnership.



*Champlain Canal Lock 2, Halfmoon*

*Greenwich Farmers Market*



# Financial Highlights

## Condensed Statements of Activities

(For year ended March 31, 2010)

### Revenues, Gains and Other Support

Contributions, Grants and Contracts	\$9,050,000
Activity/Program Revenue	\$3,051,000
Administrative and Other Income	\$367,000
Investment Income	\$536,000

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**Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support** **\$13,004,000**

### Expenses

Program Expenses	\$7,640,000
Construction/ Capital Projects	\$3,789,000
Grant Awards/Gift Assignments	\$3,510,000
Administrative	\$708,000
Miscellaneous	\$425,000

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**Total Expenses** **\$16,072,000**

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**Results from Operations** **\$(3,068,000)**

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**Net Assets at Beginning of Year** **\$24,621,000**

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**Net Assets at End of Year** **\$21,553,000**

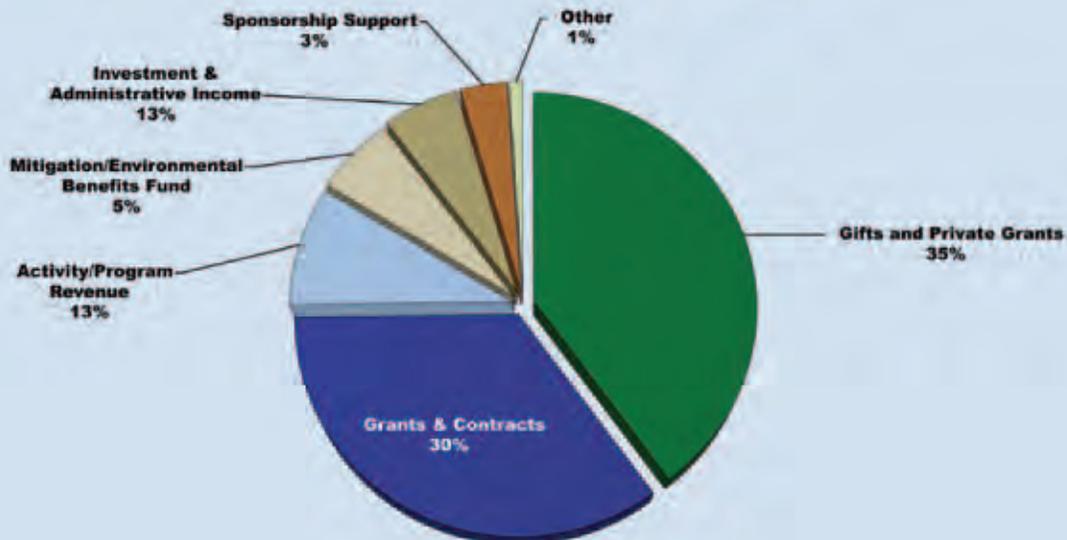
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**Fund Balance** **\$2,440,000**

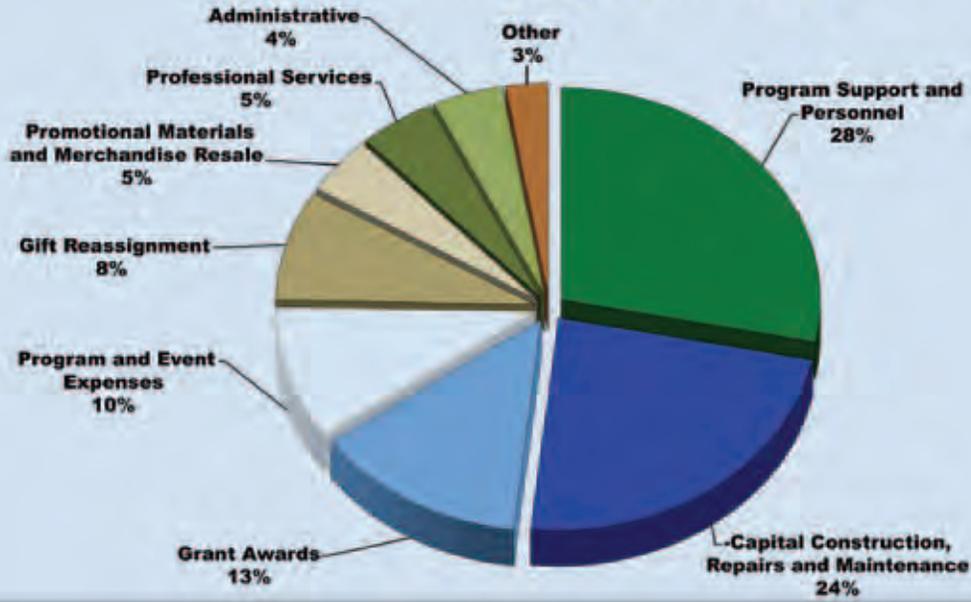
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**Total Assets Held in Trust** **\$23,993,000**

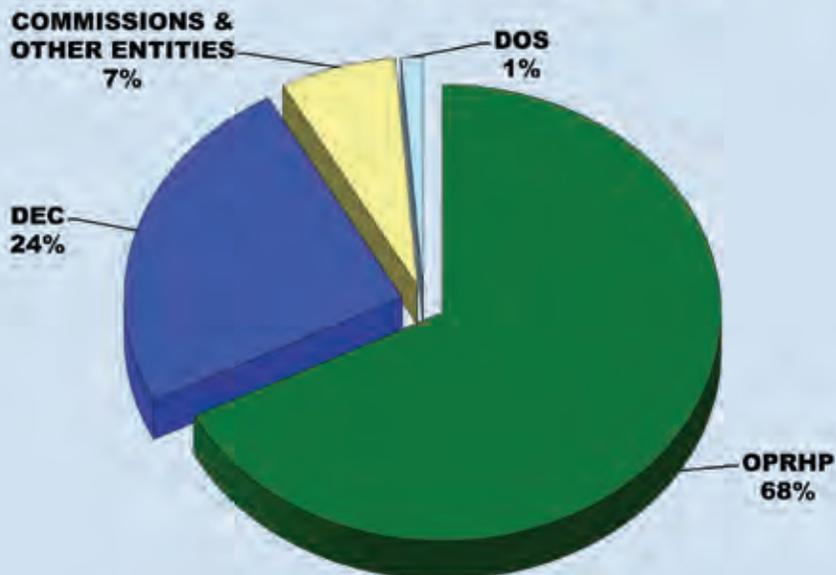
### Revenue by Source



## Expenses by Source



## Project/Program Funds Managed by NHT



## Investment Accounts

<b>Capital Projects/Reserve</b>	<b>Balance 3/31/2010</b>
Hallock State Park Preserve	\$3,913,000.00
Columbia Greene	\$266,000.00
Davis Park	\$182,000.00
Taconic Capital Projects	\$514,000.00
<b>Total Capital Projects</b>	<b>\$4,875,000.00</b>

### Long Term/Endowment

Mount Loretto	\$1,887,000.00
Emma Treadwell Thacher	\$465,000.00
Huttleston	\$85,000.00
<b>Total Endowment</b>	<b>\$2,437,000.00</b>

### Operating

Main Management	\$16,669,000.00
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>\$16,669,000.00</b>

### Investment Targets

	<b>Capital Projects</b>	<b>Endowments</b>	<b>Operating</b>
Fixed Income	85%	40%	95%
Equities	15%	60%	0%
Cash/Money Market	0%	0%	5%



# Our Supporters



Northampton Beach (DEC)



Opening Ceremony - Taconic Regional Office

The NHT thanks our many donors, partners, foundations and sponsors who, despite this difficult economy, contributed to the preservation of New York's historic treasures and natural resources. Our supporters have given to the NHT in a multitude of ways and at a variety of levels. Contributions, both large and small have enhanced programs and projects that directly benefit parks, conservation and historic preservation. The NHT deeply appreciates the personal commitment and dedication of its generous supporters.

## Ways to Give

For over 40 years, thousands of individual and private organizations have contributed the financial resources that make the work of the NHT possible. We realize that many supporters are considering how to include philanthropy in effective personal financial planning. We are dedicated to assisting those who wish to make gifts now and in the future in ways that can contribute powerfully to the mission of the NHT and be effective tools for managing your own money. A broad range of flexible ideas are available to plan gifts whether you

are single, married, raising a family, planning for retirement, or already retired.



Riverbank State Park

## Direct Gifts

You can make a one-time or recurring donation online at [www.naturalheritagetrust.org](http://www.naturalheritagetrust.org) or mail a check directly to the NHT.

## Employer Matching Gifts

You can double or even triple the impact of your gift if you or your spouse's employer participates in a matching gift program.

## Gifts of Stock and Securities

The NHT accepts stock, bonds, mutual funds, and other securities. Donors receive a formal acknowledgment and tax substantiation upon successful completion of a gift. If you are considering a gift of stock or securities please contact us so we can provide you with the correct transfer information.

## Bequests

By remembering the NHT in your will, you will make a lasting contribution. You can designate a specific amount, a percentage of your total estate, or a share of the residual amount after gifts to your heirs. Your bequest can be designated for general purposes or to a specific park, historic site, or program area.

## Charitable Remainder Trust

Charitable remainder trusts are popular plans because of the flexibility they offer. They are similar to other types of trusts, except that the NHT receives the remainder interest. You assign cash or securities and specify how trust income and the remainder interest will be distributed.



Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve



Taconic Outdoor Education Center

### Charitable Lead Trust

Charitable lead trusts are the reverse of charitable remainder trusts in that payments from the trust are given to the NHT for a specified term in years. Upon your death or the end of the term, the net assets of the trust pass to your family or other designees.

### Gifts of Life Insurance

When your life insurance policy was originally purchased, you had a need for the benefits. Perhaps today you don't need the coverage. To contribute your life insurance policy, simply name the NHT as its beneficiary or partial beneficiary.

If we can be of assistance to you or your advisors in your charitable gift planning, please don't hesitate to contact us. And if you've made the NHT the beneficiary of your charitable planning, please let us know. We would like very much to acknowledge your special gift.

## Natural Heritage Trust Contribution Form

**Yes**, I would like to support projects and programs of the Natural Heritage Trust. Enclosed, please find my contribution in the amount of:

\$25     \$100     \$50     Other (\$ \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Designation:

**Please make checks payable to:**  
**Natural Heritage Trust**

**Mail your contribution, with this form, to:**  
Natural Heritage Trust  
Empire State Plaza , Agency Building 1  
Albany, New York 12238  
(518) 474-2997



# Natural Heritage Trust



*Minnewaska State Park Preserve*

## NHT Administrative Staff

**Alexander Roth,**  
*Executive Director*

**Sarah Purcell,**  
*Program Manager*

**Michelle Phillips-Conlen,**  
*Office Manager*

**Paul Laudato,**  
*General Counsel and CFO (Acting)*

**Michael Caccese,**  
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**Cinzia Tschantret,**  
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