

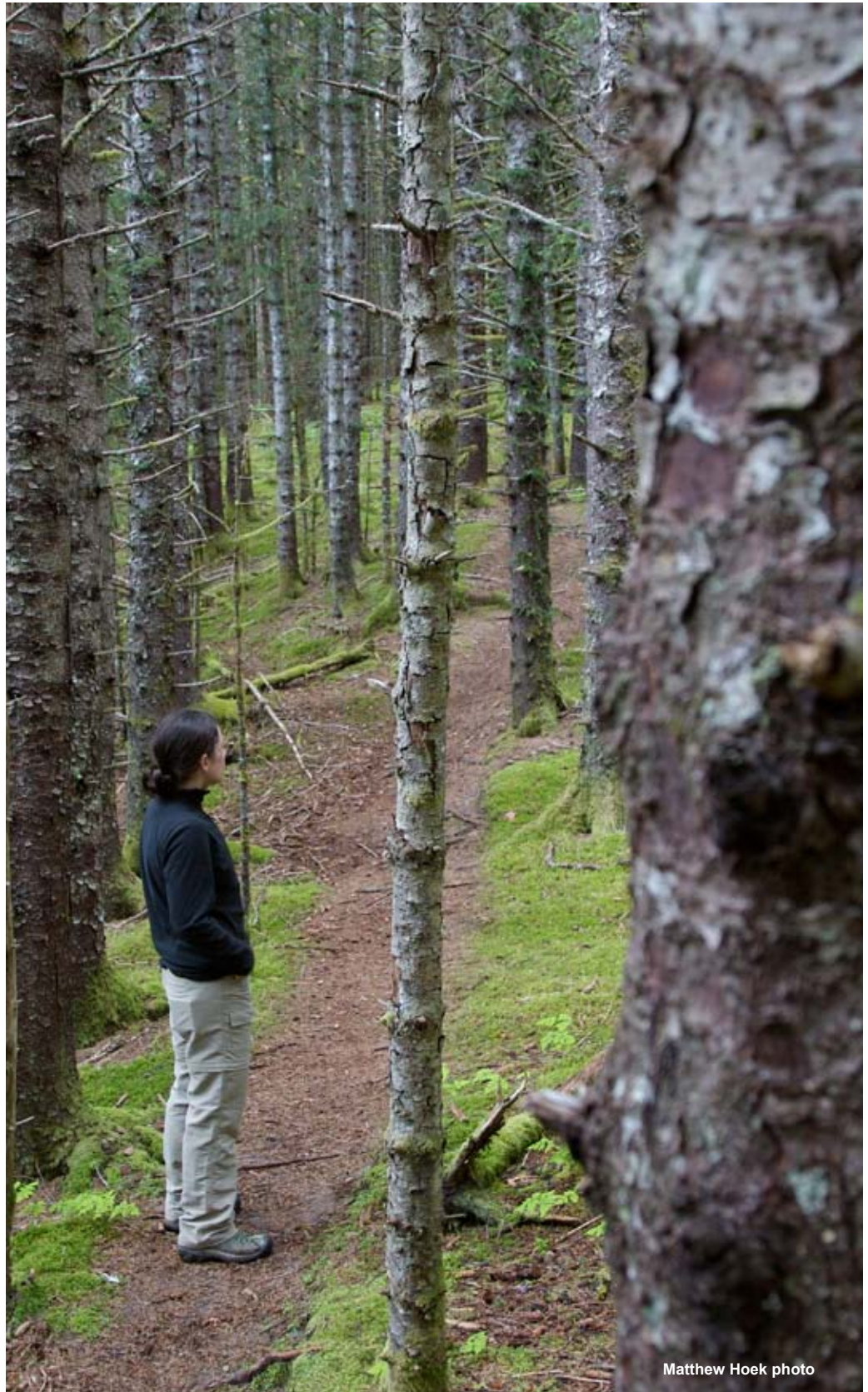


ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

Each November, the board and staff of Island Trails Network come together for strategic plan review. We discuss our path up to this point, the obstacles in the trail ahead, and if we're standing on solid ground. This year saw several firsts for our organization—our first new trail, a tool cache, a new film festival, and the assembly of our first complete crew, as well as new challenges associated with growth. With some minor adjustments, we are moving forward optimistically into a new decade.

Annual Report

2009



Matthew Hoek photo

Our organizational structure and infrastructure continues to evolve. In November, the board voted to elevate the Executive Director's seat to a full-time position beginning in January 2010 and to hire temporary staff in May to carry out field operations throughout the summer. Although we don't rent office space, our website continues to serve us well as a storefront, providing an introduction to our operations, staff, board and events of the year. Early this year we expanded our online presence to include a Facebook site, which as of the close of the year attracted 126 fans. Our tool cache has grown to serve the growing needs of the community. This means more Pulaskis, more McCleods, more hand saws and more shovels, but also specialty items ranging from personal protective gear to chainsaws to our new off-road utility vehicle.

This year our board strengthened our commitment to trail user education and safety. Our education programs ranged from offering Trail Building 101 for prospective volunteers to sponsoring skill-building sessions and equipment maintenance workshops for the general public to supplying local schools with classroom materials. We brought a group of students from a New York city high school out of the classroom and into the backcountry for a three week service internship. Weaving a theme of land and water trail maintenance through a three week itinerary of work and play projects, we provided the students with an introduction to local culture, flora and fauna, outdoors-related career opportunities, and exposure to principles of teamwork and leadership that are equally relevant on the trails and in life. Encouraged by the success of this program, we will expand our youth program next year to employ youth trail crews throughout the summer. Meanwhile we will continue to offer service, leadership and educational opportunities for ITN members of all ages through our community volunteer projects.

Once a year at Island Trails Network we take a moment to showcase our most inspiring trail users. Our second annual Trails Summit spring fundraiser highlighted three noteworthy expeditions by our members. Guest speakers Sharon Wielebski, Patrick Saltonstall and Phillip Tschersich kept audiences captivated with their presentations, and ITN met our fundraising goal through new memberships and silent auction. This fall we also sponsored the debut of the Radical Reels film festival in Kodiak. Together with the Banff Mountain Centre we rocked the audience with nine adrenaline-packed outdoor films spanning just more than two hours, showcasing some of the world's elite athletes as express themselves in creative ways outdoors. Our next fundraiser will combine the local flavor of past trails summits with the high energy of a film festival, resulting in the reprogramming of the



Erin Whipple photo

island [ahy-luhnd] *n.* The Kodiak Island Borough of Alaska to include all the islands of the Kodiak archipelago and their interior and coastal waterways

trail [treyl] *n.* Any route over land or water used for recreational purposes

network [net-wurk] *n.* 1. A series of connections among trails 2. A series of connections among trail user groups, organizations, and landowners

trails summit in 2010 as a film festival featuring short productions of, by, and for Kodiak trail users.

Trail development and maintenance is one of our core services, and for many members is the most visible and satisfying result of their volunteerism and financial support. In our third field season we broke ground on our first new trail construction project—a one-quarter-mile connection between two city parks on Near Island—while providing much needed improvements and routine brushing of existing trails. Our current emphasis is on achieving sustainability throughout the existing trails network, while providing limited new trail development in urban areas to improve connectivity, increase recreational opportunities, and facilitate safe urban transportation routes for pedestrians and cyclists. Guided by documents like the forthcoming Kodiak Island Borough Comprehensive Trails Plan, we will continue to work closely with private and public landowners to facilitate development of a sustainable, interconnected network of trails throughout Kodiak.

Our commitment to promotion and stewardship of water trails remains strong. This year, with the help of 75 volunteers and from our partners at the Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation and the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak we pulled 11 tons of marine debris from the beaches of our ocean, fjords and bays making them cleaner, safer and more beautiful for recreational users and for wildlife. We also educated hundreds of stakeholders from students to harvestors to harbor masters about the causes, effects and prevention of marine debris and will continue to do so into the next decade.

As summer calms gave way to winter gales, and our beloved trails once more became entombed in snow and ice, ITN staff and volunteers wrapped up our projects, sharpened our tools one last time and put them in storage for winter.

Income Statement

INCOME	
Grants (all other)	\$67,378
Fundraisers	\$5,332
Individual Contributions	\$31,328
Sale of Goods	\$255
TOTAL INCOME	\$104,293
EXPENSES	
Advertising	\$811
Bank & Credit Card Fees	\$314
Cost of Goods Sold	\$1,278
Donations, Memberships, Prof. Assoc	\$235
Contract Labor	\$30,593
Equipment	\$13,244
Freight	\$6,966
Insurance	\$600
Meals	\$3,523
Materials	\$229
Printing, Postage & Stationery	\$1,810
Professional Services	\$1,677
Rent	\$1,277
Supplies	\$3,608
Travel & Meetings	\$10,446
Utilities	\$331
Salaries & Wages	\$26,644
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$103,586
NET INCOME	\$707

Our Purposes

- Raise and provide funds for development, maintenance, and promotion of sustainable trail systems.
- Educate the community through informational materials, training and other activities about the health, social, environmental and economic benefits of trails and public access.
- Promote safety during trail use through awareness, education, and instruction.
- Help maintain existing trail systems throughout the island.
- Preserve and improve public access to trails.
- Develop and promote conservation, restoration and beautification projects for trails.
- Engage in any activities necessary or incidental to the development, maintenance, and promotion of trails.
- Commit board and staff resources to ongoing organizational development.

It's then that those dormant dirt trails really come to life, as we not only discuss what to build, restore or improve upon the following summer, but how to make our entire trail system better serve the health and recreation needs of the community, and how to recruit more trail users.

Early this year we inventoried several urban trails for the City of Kodiak, and provided recommendations on how to improve the trail system within the city limits. They responded favorably, and within months we began construction on the Rotary Park trail. Others, such as a proposed trail connecting Mission and Rezanof drives, are still works in progress but the planning and advocacy of urban trails continues.

This winter season is an auspicious one for trail planning, as our efforts take second stage to the Kodiak Island Borough trail planning process, which began in earnest this fall and will be complete by early 2011. ITN is playing a key role in this process by helping to assess the current health of the trails network through a system-wide GPS assessment of our trails which began in November and will continue through the spring as snow levels permit.



Matthew Hoek photo

2009 By the Numbers

3	Years (and two months) since our inception
121	Volunteers assisted with trail maintenance & construction
183	Members have joined since 2006
574	Trail users attending fundraisers and educational events this year.
30	Miles of trail mapping and assessments completed or updated.
294	Miles of documented trail on the Kodiak road system
1,600	Feet of new hiking trail constructed in Near Island Rotary Park
2,300	Feet of trail geoblock hardening on the Portage trail
423	Acres of coastline rid of marine debris
22,140	Pounds of marine debris recycled

Winter is also a great time to make connections within the greater trails community. We continue to attend relevant trails seminars and conferences to help learn from trails organizations, land management agencies, and professional trail builders across the region. In 2009 we traveled to Anchorage to attend the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association trails conference and the Alaska Forum on the Environment to share our experiences and to learn from others.



Board of Directors:
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 Patrick Saltonstall, *Secretary*
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 Pam Foreman
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 Laura Slater
 Brian Glaspell

Staff:
 Andy Schroeder, *Executive Director*

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Matthew Hoek photo

While we're enthusiastic about the successes of the past year, we are even more excited by the prospects of the coming year. Our slate of field projects for 2010 will include a second phase of new trail construction on Near Island, improvements to the Cliffside Trail at Fort Abercrombie State Park, and hardening of the Three Pillar Point easement trail originating at Anton Larsen Bay, as well as several new beach clean-up sites both on and off the road system. Our members will notice more frequent volunteer opportunities as we undertake more and larger projects, as well as an increase in our efforts to encourage safe and responsible trail use through outreach and education.

We thank our members, sponsors and partners for making 2009 so successful and ask for your continued support.