



December 2011

Dear MTHS Member:

The rain started to fall during the last hour of MTHS Open House on Saturday, August 28. Little did we know as we ducked under tents and threw down tarps that Tropical Storm Irene would be the storm of the century on the Mountain Top. We were fortunate that our campus withstood the storm's ravages. Other organizations did not fare as well and MTHS directors and members have pitched in with the effort to speed their recovery.

Our headline story for 2011 is that construction of the MTHS archives has begun. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on August 7. Delayed by the storm and its aftermath, foundation work started at the end of September. The addition, on the north side of the existing Visitor Center building on Route 23A, is named the Justine Hommel Room in honor of our president emeritus. It provides approximately 140 square feet of storage space and is constructed of concrete and has an independent climate-control system.

This year our continuing educational programming for the schools supported a student art show and poetry contest in conjunction with the Windham Arts Alliance. The works, created on the theme of waterfalls, were displayed at the August Open House and prizes were awarded to the winners. Catskill waterfalls were the theme of several hikes and a lecture as well. Our Spring Fling in May has become an annual event and our evening lectures focused on topics as diverse as Hudson River Landscape Gardens and Songs of the Railroad.

Our dedicated groundskeeping volunteers kept the campus neatly groomed. Despite the challenges presented by our new residents, a ground hog family, we persevered with our horticultural efforts and received a community garden award from the Twilight Park Gardening Club. With the help of our faithful volunteers, we kept the Visitors' Center open for another year from May to October five days a week, including weekends.

The first stage of the Kaaterskill Rail Trail, extending from the MTHS Train Station to Laurel House Road, is in the active planning stage. Together with MTHS, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Parks and Trails New York and the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, among others, are engaged in planning and promoting the trail.

We need your support to continue our work. Please remember to renew your membership or make your gift to our Annual Appeal before the end of this calendar year. We have made it convenient to pay online securely with a credit card at www.mths.org. We are moving ahead on several fronts and your interest and support mean a great deal to our continued progress.

Sincerely,

Larry J. Tompkins
President



Justine Hommel dons a hard hat for the August 7 groundbreaking ceremony for the archives named in her honor.



A new turquoise sign promoting trail maps and visitor information attracts more tourists to the Visitors' Center.



A colorful trail logo has been designed with the profile of Kaaterskill High Peak and Round Top mountains in the background and symbolic tracks in the foreground.