

WOOLMAN HILL ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009

Whew! Woolman Hill got through the economic morass that was 2009. Our fiscal year began October 1, 2008, just as the stock market fell on its face, jobs were disappearing faster than anyone could count, and non-profit organizations were suffering existential trauma.

Woolman Hill pulled through thanks to good leadership, a fortuitous market position, and the unfailing support of our donors. Our modest savings had been transferred out of stocks and into bank certificates of deposit only six months before the crash. Our ten workshops (on topics ranging from appreciating nature to vitality in monthly meetings) were well-attended, despite the whirling uncertainty being trumpeted daily on the news. Last but not least, our donors came through with generosity and love, at a time when many other non-profit organizations saw sharp drops in giving. **Thank you, thank you, thank you.** May the current fiscal year be prosperous, and a little less exciting for all!

A few **highlights** from the past year on the Hill:

- The new septic system for the Brown House was completed in October. That concludes the two-year renovation of the building. The upstairs apartment is now occupied by Woolman Hill staff, and the beautiful downstairs is available to medium-term (one- to four- month) sojourners. Our first retreatant loved the quiet and simplicity during her three-month stay.

- The Red House, a sweet two-bedroom cottage across the driveway from the conference center, is now being enjoyed by workshop attendees, group rentals and individual retreatants. It has been transformed into a cozy, pleasant space, thanks to hard-working volunteers.

- A new trail has been opened, running along the north and east perimeters of our property. Beautiful vistas, a delightful stream, and a very old stand of white pines are now accessible to visitors.

- In June 2009 we offered our first annual Summer Solstice retreat, part of our new four-seasons retreat initiative. Participants engaged in four fabulous days of interfaith exploration, including Quaker faith, yoga instruction, and Celtic Christianity. A lively concert of Celtic music was open to the wider community on Saturday evening.

- Last April, Mark Fraser shifted into a maintenance and development position, and Margaret Cooley took on the sole executive directorship. We are pleased to report that the staff is adapting well to their new roles and we haven't lost any institutional memory in the process!



Andy Grant

“My sister was in tears over how wonderful her experience was up on the Hill. She has been very stressed out and needed time to reflect and re-center. Your flexibility with accommodating her was key...thank you so much. The Hill means an awful lot to our family; it is a place of healing and magic. Trust that if I am ever blessed with money, the Hill will benefit!”

Fiscal Year 2009 Finances (10/1/08-9/30/09)

INCOME	Facilities rentals:	\$ 65,500	56%
	Donations:	\$ 23,370	20%
	Programs:	\$ 21,910	19%
	<u>Misc. income:</u>	<u>\$ 5,970</u>	<u>5%</u>
	Total income:	\$116,750	100%
EXPENSE	Personnel:	\$ 63,410	53%
	Occupancy:	\$ 32,640	28%
	Programs:	\$ 14,475	12%
	Administrative:	\$ 5,550	5%
	<u>Outreach:</u>	<u>\$ 2,630</u>	<u>2%</u>
	Total expense:	\$118,705	100%
	NET INCOME:	-\$1,955	

In FY2009, we saw a slight dip in group and individual rental income, though program attendance and donations held relatively steady. Overall our income was \$14,000 less than we had budgeted. Fortunately we were able to keep our expenses down in almost every category, so that we spent \$11,000 less than budgeted.

Board and staff are diligently seeking ways to better align our income with our expenses. While we know this may directly affect our constituents in terms of increased rates, we also know that it will ultimately benefit all of us if we can make Woolman Hill more sustainable over the long term.

Two of my significant life decisions had major turning points at past Woolman Hill retreats. It's sort of cool that such a small amount of time can have such a big impact.

WOOLMAN HILL STAFF

Margaret Cooley	Executive Director
Mark Fraser	Maintenance and Development
Steven Howes	Conference Center Coordinator
Becca Howe	Cleaner
Molly Snedden	Kitchen Manager

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 David Zevin (Glastonbury CT)



*Your work at Woolman Hill goes very well...
 I was so impressed with how well
 cared for all the buildings are.*

**We thank those who have donated to Woolman Hill
between October 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009:**

Acton Monthly Meeting
David Ahlfeld and Victoria Dickson
Anna Andrews and Arthur Wood
Helen Armstrong
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Virginia Bainbridge
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Rod Zwirner

We also want to thank Friends Fiduciary Corporation (www.friendsfiduciary.org) for helping with stock transfer and donor advised fund gifts to Woolman Hill recently. Friends Fiduciary's purpose is to provide Quaker meetings and organizations with high-quality financial services on a cost-effective basis, with an investment philosophy grounded in the beliefs of the Religious Society of Friends.

WOOLMAN HILL

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info@woolmanhill.org

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Organization
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WOOLMAN HILL, a Quaker retreat and conference center situated on 110 ridge-top acres in western Massachusetts, is dedicated to fostering, developing and strengthening the testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends. Named for John Woolman, an 18th-century Friends' minister and abolitionist who preached simple living and economic and ecological responsibility, our rustic and comfortable facilities offer a quiet, peaceful atmosphere for retreats, meetings, gatherings and celebrations.



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