



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Squam's Land Trust

Dear Friends,

What does living or spending time in the Squam region mean to you? What makes it feel special, and what parts of it do you most identify with? Chances are, the land itself -- from the shorelines to the forests, the fields to the hills and mountains -- would feature prominently in your answers to these questions. Our organization's mission, simply put, is to help protect the unique quality and character of these lands, not just for ourselves, but for the larger community and for future generations. I am happy to report that during this past year, 2015, we made great strides in the pursuit of that goal. Here are just some of the highlights.

First, our organization completed a number of new conservation projects that enabled even more of our local lands to be protected. Perhaps the most notable was the Whitten Woods project, where a broad-based coalition of organizations, town officials and local community members worked together in a partnership that is a model for our future work. For Whitten Woods, the New England Forestry Foundation will own title to the land and manage the timber resources, SLCS will hold a conservation easement to ensure the preservation of the land, and the Squam Lakes Association will hold a trail easement allowing for a universal public access trail system for all to enjoy.

Second, we again fulfilled our obligation to carefully monitor each of the many existing conservation easements that SLCS is responsible for. This is no small task, and the mastermind behind all of the oversight and coordination necessary to make it happen is our expert Stewardship Director, Pete Helm. Pete couldn't achieve this result, though, without YOU -- his army of volunteer monitors who walk the land and boundary lines each year to ensure that the conservation requirements on each property are being upheld. As many of you know, the monitoring walks themselves can be great fun. If you haven't yet given it a try, contact Pete to learn more.

Third, SLCS hosted a number of events this year that got people out on, and involved with, the land. From moonlit hikes, to orienteering, to birding, or to tackling invasive plants in the watershed, we strive to be active stewards of the land and engaged with the community. We welcome your continued participation in such activities and are always looking for new ideas you may have.

Finally, our organization itself is firing on all cylinders, operating both efficiently and cost-effectively. This couldn't be done without the exceptional work of our professional staff Roger Larochelle, Pete Helm, Alicia Abbott, Doug Hill and Zak Brohinsky -- we owe them a debt of gratitude for their efforts and continued dedication. If you haven't already, please don't hesitate to drop by the SLCS office to meet them and to learn more about our work. As to our finances, SLCS finished 2015 "in the black" with a balanced budget and a clean bill of health from our auditor. Our all-volunteer Board cares deeply about deploying your dollars wisely because, in the end, none of SLCS's work would be possible without your continued financial support for this organization. In that vein, I hope that you, too, take pride in all that SLCS has accomplished in 2015. You deserve credit, and we look forward to our continued partnership with you in the years ahead!

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Metzger".

Carl Metzger, President

2015 SQUAM LAKES CONSERVATION SOCIETY



Sometimes, we get asked: "How do I become a member of the Squam Lakes Conservation Society?" Simple, just make a financial contribution.

What is the benefit of membership? It's not discounts or front-row trailhead parking. SLCS membership offers something else, something bigger than any one of us; it is the opportunity to conserve the beauty of Squam today all the way to forever.

Together, we are investing in a brighter future for all the generations to come. It doesn't get much bigger than that. Thank you!

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2015 Conservation Projects

Sturtevant Woods III
 Sturtevant Woods II
 Sturtevant Woods I
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 Overlook Farm
 Watch Rock
 Whitten Woods

Project Donors *Overlook*

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Continued on next page

Project donors continued
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In Memoriam

Ellen Bennett
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**2015
Davenport Award
Recipient**

Betsy Whitmore

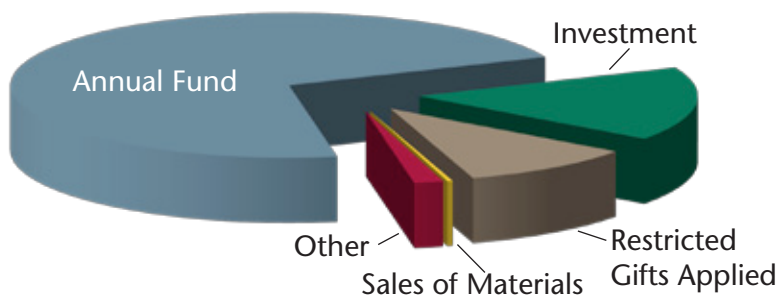
Betsy served 10 years on our Board including seven years as Vice President. She chaired the Stewardship Committee for many years and was active on numerous other SLCS committees. She worked tirelessly to get SLCS nationally accredited through the Land Trust Alliance. She also spearheaded the effort to place the Squam watershed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thank you Betsy!

2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Operating Income

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Annual Fund | 71% | \$280,279 |
| Investment | 16% | \$64,721 |
| Restricted Gifts Applied | 10% | \$40,000 |
| Other | 2% | \$6,617 |
| Sales of Materials | 1% | \$1,192 |

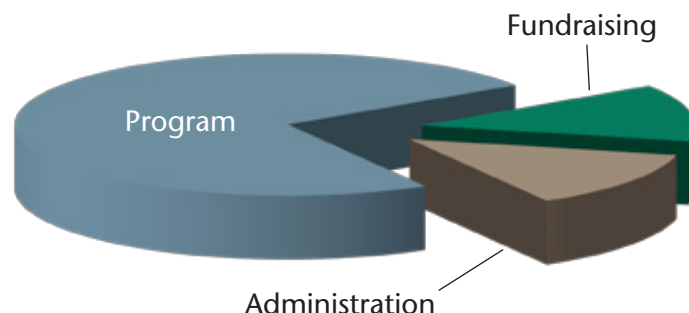
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME **\$392,809**



Operating Expenses

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----------|
| Program | 74% | \$278,909 |
| Administration | 13% | \$49,387 |
| Fundraising | 13% | \$48,933 |

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES **\$377,229**



Endowment, Funds, and Assets

Permanently Restricted **\$1,670,430**

Stewardship **\$1,049,742**

Donations made specifically to steward the existing conservation easements and the fee-owned properties we hold in trust.

Nancy W. Grady Monitoring Fund **\$360,343**

A permanently restricted fund established in 2014 in memory of Nancy Webster Grady which supports the monitoring of conserved land.

Memorial Funds **\$163,129**

Pooled gifts made in memory of departed family members and friends. This pooled fund is dedicated to the conservation of land in the Squam watershed.

Ellen F. D. Bennett Education Fund **\$54,390**

A permanently restricted fund created in memory of Ellen F. D. Bennett supporting broad educational purposes.

Ellen Barry Memorial Fund **\$42,826**

Our first permanently restricted fund, this fund was created in memory of Ellen Barry, a strong supporter of conservation and the simple life at Squam.

Land Value (fee-owned) **\$5,581,379**

SLCS owns 22 parcels totaling 1,057 acres in the Squam Watershed. This includes the 453-acre Whitten Woods parcel in Ashland temporarily held in 2015, which will be conveyed to the New England Forestry Foundation in 2016.

Temporarily Restricted **\$2,483,381**

Active Projects **\$2,141,871**

Pooled funds held for ongoing land acquisition projects. The Squam Uplands Initiative is the largest of these projects.

Barnes Legal Defense Fund **\$210,534**

Funds reserved for legal defense of conservation easements. This fund pays the annual premium for \$500,000 of legal defense costs per property through the Land Trust Alliances Terrafirma Insurance Program.

Kusumpe Fund **\$33,228**

A fund dedicated to advancing conservation in the Squam watershed, and the Kusumpe Pond area in particular.

Webster Land Acquisitions Fund **\$97,748**

Pooled gifts in memory of founder Frank Webster dedicated for the purchase of land and to assist with the related costs of land conservation, such as land surveys and recording costs.

Unrestricted Net Assets: **\$507,193**

Board Designated **\$173,856**

Operating **\$333,337**

Notes:

1. SLCS's financial records are examined by Rowley Associates, PC, CPA, Concord, NH. Audit available upon request June 1, 2016.
2. SLCS serves as fiscal agent for the Mary Perry Fund on behalf of the White Oak Pond Watershed Association. December 31, 2015 value was \$15,513.
3. Total Net Assets on December 31, 2015 was \$10,343,171.



Squam's Land Trust

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2015 Property Monitors

What a year it was...amazing weather and an amazing group of volunteer monitors. The folks listed below deserve a huge round of applause for their efforts and dedication in giving back to all that we love about Squam. They give their time, and they make a difference. And you know what? They have fun, too! Land stewardship is an on-going, and growing, function of SLCS as we uphold our conservation promises, both new and old. If you, your friends, or your family want to help make a difference (and have fun at the same time), do give us call. The whole SLCS stewardship team would love to meet you!



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The Society's mission is to preserve the unique quality and character of the Squam watershed by protecting lands for present and future generations.

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