

SQUAM LOOKOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SQUAM LAKES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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“Squam’s Land Trust”

FALL 2012

ENSURING PERMANENCE



Holderness – The Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) has achieved land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

“Acquiring conservation land is just the beginning of a process that runs all the way to forever. It is important to backstop Squam’s commitment for permanent conservation with an organization ready for such daunting responsibility. This rigorous accreditation program laid out a framework for ensuring we are up to the task.” said Roger Larochelle, SLCS executive director.

Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. Of the 1,700 land trusts across the country, only 181 land trusts have earned this mark of distinction in land conservation.

“Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The accreditation seal lets the public know that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land,” added Land Trust Accreditation Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn.

The Commission, established in 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, is governed by a volunteer board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from

around the country. The Land Trust Alliance is a national conservation group that works to save the places people love by strengthening conservation throughout America, while increasing the pace and quality of conservation by advocating favorable policies, training land trusts in best practices, and working to ensure the permanence of conservation in the face of continuing threats.



National Recognition

On October 1, 2012, Vice President Betsy Whitmore, walked across the stage of the Land Trust Alliance’s 2012 Rally in Salt Lake City, Utah and accepted the certificate recognizing SLCS as an accredited land trust. In a room of 1,500 land conservationists from across the nation, and with her own photo of the Squam Lakes watershed taken from Mt. Percival as the backdrop, it was a moment to savor. “More than anything, I felt proud to represent SLCS because it took a total team effort to achieve accreditation. This process touched every aspect of our organization, requiring something from many, including land owners, the Board, the various committees, and especially the staff. Getting the accreditation seal wasn’t easy, but it was clearly well worth the effort.”



Preserving our Past: For over three years a group of local conservationists, historians, preservationists and concerned citizens has been working to recognize and protect the numerous historic properties within the Squam watershed. This summer the National Park Service endorsed a Multiple Property Documentation Form (also known as the Cover Form) for nearly the entire Squam watershed.



This National Register of Historic Places initiative is groundbreaking: it's the largest watershed-wide listing in NH and among the largest anywhere in the country. SLCS serves as the group's fiscal agent.

Five individual properties anchored the listing: Beede Farm, Burleigh Brae and Webster Boathouse, Camp Carnes, True Farm and Pratt Family Camps. Protecting the area's cultural heritage is a natural complement to the ongoing efforts to conserve land and water quality. By raising awareness about the value and significance of the cultural landscape within the watershed, we hope to preserve it and ensure that the traditions of

Squam are passed along to future generations. National Register designation is strictly honorific: there are no restrictions placed on landowners in terms of building renovation or design review. Furthermore, the property remains private and does not require any public access. With each property listed, protection for the Squam watershed at-large is increased and its cultural heritage is further preserved. *"Squam: The Evolution and Preservation of a Lakeside Community,"* which is the cover document for the National Register initiative, is available for \$25 from SLCS. To learn more about the National Register initiative, please visit our website: www.squamlakes.org

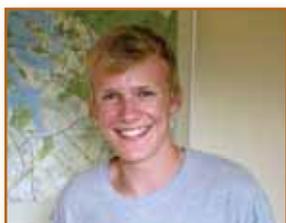
Securing our Future: Reaching out to young adults and children is vitally important to fulfilling our pledge of perpetuity. Over the summer SLCS offered opportunities to educate and involve the next generation in land conservation within the Squam watershed.



In partnership with the Holderness Recreation Department, SLCS Director Molly Whitcomb led weekly excursions over SLCS properties throughout the

watershed. These hikes were geared to educating young and old on the value of conservation lands in their own community.

Stewardship Coordinator Joan Turley shared her expertise with student volunteers. Colorado College senior Burr Tweedy and Bates College freshman Welles Mathison took on multiple tasks including office work, property monitoring and helping to develop training materials for a GPS workshop.



Congratulations to the TEAM SLCS members Susan Laverack, the Metzger family and Joan Turley for a strong finish at the recent Circle Triathlon sponsored by the Circle Program and held on the shores of Little Squam Lake.



Look for info on joining Team SLCS 2013 early next year!

2012 Annual Meeting



Despite a week of rain, the skies cleared to a vibrant blue just in time to welcome 150+ SLCS members to the 2012 Annual Meeting

on August 18th, held at Cotton Farm in Moultonboro. Our hosts, Judy and Will Mack opened the meeting with a bang, literally, when Will fired a small cannon bringing cheers and applause from the crowd.

Members voted on officers and new board members and recognized Sam Laverack whose term as President has ended but who will remain on the Board - a true asset to this organization.



In addition to the usual 'business' of Annual Meeting, Lisa Wardlaw gave a fascinating and amusing account of the history of Cotton Farm and the many generations of her family who enjoyed its charms.

Meet Our New Directors



Tom Beale and his wife Laura Nash have been coming to Squam Lake since 1972, and currently enjoy the lake as summer residents on Shepard Hill and Piper Cove, inhabiting one of Squam's earliest camps (1895). They also reside in Cambridge, Massachusetts where Tom is currently a Managing Director at

Cambridge Associates in Boston, a global consulting firm.

Laury Coolidge is a life long summer resident of Squam living on Long Island and shares an active interest in conservation with his wife Nancy. He is the senior trustee at the Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge Office specializing in financial management and investments. He and his wife enjoy rowing, canoeing, and hiking in the White Mountains while up at the lake.



Congratulations 2012 Davenport Award Winners

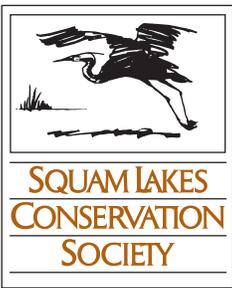


"We recognize and honor Will & Judy Mack for their ongoing commitment to the preservation of the Squam Watershed as donors of conservation land and property monitors."



SLCS Takes Center Stage at LTA Rally

Stewardship Coordinator Joan Turley and Black Canyon Land Trust Stewardship Director Olivia Bartlett (and former SLCS intern) stepped "behind the podium" at this year's Land Trust Alliance national conference (aka RALLY) held in Salt Lake City, UT. Their full day workshop, *Using GPS and GIS for Property Monitoring*, walked participants through the use of GPS and GIS technology for monitoring properties as diverse as a 14,000 acre ranch in Colorado to a 2.5 acre shorefront parcel at Squam. It was quite a thrill to see SLCS be so visible on the National Land Trust scene!



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Stewardship

Herons in Flight

The Heron Society is a planned giving initiative formed two years ago to ensure SLCS has the resources in the future to fulfill its perpetual obligations with a growing number of properties. It is a testament to Squam’s conservation ethic that the Heron Society is already comprised of 45 members. John Thompson summarized their family’s participation this way:

“Carol and I drew up a new will recently and we have named the SLCS to receive a legacy gift because we want to ensure that Squam will look the same for our grandchildren as it has for us. But it’s more than that. By taking money out of our estate before we leave the rest to kids and grandkids, we are explicitly signaling to them that not only do we want them to enjoy the property, we want them to understand that they also inherit the responsibility of maintaining and conserving this place.”

For more information about the Heron Society, please contact Roger.



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

