Camp Chocorua is known as the very first American summer youth camp. Ernest Balch, founder of the camp on what is today Church Island, purposely reached out to twelve to sixteen year-old boys, when “the foundations are laid and the shape of the building determined.” The objective of camp was to build strong individual character in order to build strong community character. Outdoor youth camps would eventually become one of America’s greatest ideas and exports.

In this edition of the Squam Lookout, we celebrate the increasingly defining role land conservation is playing in shaping the current and future character of our community. It’s a celebration of individuals and organizations working together, of people pooling resources, and of a vision for the community that strikes a balance between the impacts of people and the protection of places in which the forces of nature prevail. Mostly, it’s a celebration of many, both past and present, pulling on their oar.

The Squam Uplands Initiative is a current example of many putting their oar in the water and pulling together. With the announcement of a successful Forest Legacy application to fund the protection of 6,372 acres along the northern slope of the Squam Range, the successful acquisition of Whitten Woods and its proliferation of hikers, and now the acquisition of the Doublehead Preserve in Sandwich, we are making considerable headway.

None of our progress would be possible without the dedication of our capable staff, vision of our Board, and support of our members. For pulling on your oar, we are both grateful and fortunate. Together, we can make the conservation of a place as worthy as Squam America’s next great export.
The Beebe River Uplands Project encompasses two parcels totaling 6,372 acres: The Beebe River lands, 5,435 acres owned by The Conservation Fund, and the Spencer Brook Headwaters, 937 acres owned by Burleigh Land Partnership. The Project contains 32% of the Beebe River watershed and is ranked Highest Value Habitat in the state and region in the 2015 NH Wildlife Action Plan, providing critical habitat for wild brook trout.

In March 2016, the project was awarded $2.6 million from the USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program to permanently protect this land and critical wildlife habitat, providing recreational opportunities and public access. In addition, The Conservation Fund and Trout Unlimited have received a $524,000 award from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services’ Regional Conservation Partnership Program to replace bridges and culverts to restore fish habitat and return these streams to their remarkable potential.

The Conservation Fund extends immense gratitude to the Squam Lakes Conservation Society for their encouragement, support and continued partnership as this special area is protected and restored!
Forever Squam . . .

Doublehead Preserve

In late April, SLCS purchased an 82-acre parcel of land at the end of Thompson Road in Sandwich from Laury Coolidge and others. Doublehead Preserve is situated above Squaw Cove, rising from 640’ to 1,130’ above sea level, with a five-acre clearing. It is a perfect fit for the Squam Uplands Initiative. We own an abutting 60-acre property, and have since merged the two lots, creating the 142-acre Doublehead Preserve.

This property is a classic example of an evolving New England landscape, with side-hill terrain, rocky soils, and numerous stonewalls, including around the entire perimeter. The forest cover is varied hardwood and softwood, but includes both individual and small clusters of very large oaks and maples that harken back to the early 19th century when the land was cleared as pasture for sheep, cattle and agriculture. The Old Holderness Highway, one of the first roads in the area, traverses the parcel. The land has been known as the “Seavey Pasture” which is evidenced by the Seavey homestead cellar hole.

One highlight of this parcel is the 1/2 mile of the Doublehead Trail leading up to Doublehead Mountain. It is our hope that the addition of a dedicated parking area and the permanent protection of this land will lead to greater public enjoyment of the property while improving access to the spectacular Crawford-Ridgepole trail.

Sabine Point II Conservation Easement

Through the extraordinary generosity of Marshall and Gerry Fisher, SLCS has conserved 2.2 acres at the northern end of Sabine Point including 940’ of lake frontage on Sandwich Bay. This highly desirable lot contained an approved building lot making it at risk for future development.

The donated Conservation Easement prohibits all development on the lot. Combined with our abutting easement on Sabine Point I, we now protect more than 1350’ of pristine shoreline for substantial public scenic and ecological benefit.

An ecological review of the property revealed that it contains one of the rare nearly old-growth shoreline forest stands on the lake. The quality of the forest and intact wetlands suggest that it has not been developed or otherwise altered since Colonial times. The near absence of invasive plant species testifies to this fact.

Numerous very large trees provide quality habitat for a wide variety of birds and small mammals and the shoreline affords excellent waterfowl habitat. This pristine tract will forever provide unaltered views from the lake, from Squam Lake (Bean) Road, and from the Sandwich Town Beach.

We are deeply grateful for the Fishers’ commitment to conservation.
I’m sure you’ve heard the phrase, “The only constant is change.” We’ve all had our doses of it, eh? It was just nine years ago, in 2007, when the smart phone was unveiled. Talk about a game changer for the world! We can all find positives and negatives in change, but the trick is to acknowledge that it happens, to learn from it, and to prepare for it.

In managing SLCS owned lands, we try to find a balance between preserving, forever, what made these lands so special when they were acquired, with a landscape and human uses that change as time marches on. Toss in some technology, a little bit of climate change (or maybe a lot!), ongoing cultural changes, and it’s beginning to look like a big responsibility, and one with no end in sight. So, how do we handle it?

The SLCS Land Management Work Group meets regularly to assess and update management and maintenance needs on each SLCS owned property. Let’s take a look at a couple of examples, one property conserved 36 years ago and one conserved about 36 days ago, to see the differences and similarities of how they are treated.

SLCS’s Unsworth Preserve was conserved 36 years ago! This parcel has been loved by many (and cared for by volunteers). Back then, mountain bikes didn’t exist. There were no fit bits or group runs. Invasive plants hadn’t taken hold, and the trees weren’t as big. While trail infrastructure is in place, signs/maps fade and need to be replaced, duck boxes need to be cleaned, boundaries need paint. At Unsworth, we have some work to do this summer to refresh the property so you can have a memorable walk with your kids and grandkids. If you’re looking for a quiet walk for contemplation or to see wildlife, this is a terrific place.

In contrast, SLCS’s purchased the Doublehead II Preserve about 36 days ago (see page 3). Talk about fresh! Essentially, we have a clean slate. Located at the end of a dirt road one mile from Route 113, management of this property will present its own challenges. The SLCS Land Management Group is now developing plans to manage this new property for the long term. Items on the immediate to-do list include: installation of a small parking area and vehicle barriers, relocation of 1,000 feet of trail, installation of water bars, trail signs, etc. This work is being done in partnership with the Squam Lakes Association. These changes will take time (and money), but we’re working hard at getting these completed soon. Longer term planning will consider what to do with the open fields, maintenance of views, revegetating areas, timber stand improvement, etc. ...a lot to think about, a lot to do. And who knows what changes will be lurking around the corner! If you’d like to help out in any way, financially or physically, I hope you’ll give us call!

Many thanks to Win Brown, John Coolidge, Ken Evans, Peter Gross, Fred Lavigne, and Pam Simonds for their continuing efforts on the Land Management Work Group!
In late fall, 2015, the students in the Land Conservation Techniques course at Plymouth State University visited Squam Lake Conservation Society with our instructor Dr. June Hammond Rowan. Land Conservation Techniques focuses on the methods used to conserve parcels of land and the challenges encountered during this process. The class is composed of undergraduate and graduate students with majors varying from biology and environmental planning to business. Our visit with SLCS focused on the work of land trusts and stewardship.

When we arrived at SLCS we were welcomed by Peter Helm and Zak Brohinsky. After introductions, we reviewed a short video tour over Squam Lake by Will Strathmann, and learned, “the Society’s mission is to preserve the unique quality and character of the Squam watershed by protecting lands for present and future generations.”

Our visit to SLCS gave us the opportunity to learn, first-hand, the work involved in land conservation to ensure that each easement is maintained and the land protected forever. We walked to Mill Brook Preserve, a 3-acre conserved property owned by the SLCS. There, we discussed the rigorous maintenance of invasive bittersweet and the control on harvesting the white sucker, a fish species that spawns in Mill Brook and other streams around the lakes. We also got insight into the history of the land, walking over an old road through the forest and the old stone work of a mill site that was once at the brook.

Following our tour of Mill Brook we were shown the “business end” of conservation. We reviewed conservation easement templates, baseline documents, and management plans. We learned about campstead easements; a type of easement put on parcels of land in order to protect both the natural environment and the historical building structures on the property. Finally we learned of the importance of maintaining accurate files on each property that include current information such as monitoring reports, violation and resolution reports, and forest management plans. Dr. Hammond Rowan has often said that every easement is as unique as a snowflake. Our visit with SLCS illustrated just how true a statement this is.

First Fridays at Mill Brook Preserve
Join us from 4-6 PM on the First Friday of Every Month until October 7th!

Give back...for a couple of hours each month...and help the native plant populations on Squam Lake! It’s a big job and we need your help. We promise you’ll feel good about it when you’re done AND still have time to enjoy your Friday evening!

Removing invasive plants is hard work but extremely important to maintaining the health of our local ecosystems. It’s also a great way to meet like-minded people who care. All are welcome to join us for a couple of hours on the First Friday of each month to restore an important area adjacent to Squam Lake. We’ll provide the tools, snacks and beverages, and we’ll teach you how to identify the plants that should be removed. Come prepared with sturdy work clothes and gloves. Bring some loppers if you have them.

For more information contact Pete Helm, at pete@squamlakes.com or at (603) 968-7900. Registration isn’t required, but a quick call is helpful to ensure we have sufficient snacks and beverages...and bring along a friend!!
On Friday, August 12th, from 5 to 7 p.m., the Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery will host an Art Event showcasing artists Sara Goodman, Ashley Bullard and Robin Dustin and three unique creations inspired by their visits to the Uplands or the lake. These pieces will then be auctioned off with proceeds to benefit SLCS. You can view these pieces at the gallery until Friday, August 19th. The winning bid will be announced at the SLCS Annual Meeting on August 20th. We encourage you to visit the Gallery and check out the Point of View exhibit, bring friends, and be sure to bid! Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Squam Uplands Initiative.

**SARA GOODMAN, Center Harbor**

Sara, a weaver and dyer, has had a lifelong interest in the resist dyeing techniques of ikat and shibori, which she has traveled the world to experience first hand. Since 2008, she has been committed to using only natural dyes and has devoted herself to developing a full, rich color palette, using only non-toxic mordants and dyes that are derived from natural materials collected throughout the world.

Sara’s five panel mosaic, *Squam Ridge Line*, was inspired by the distinctive line of the Squam Range as seen from her Center Harbor home and is the impetus behind our Point of View event. This extraordinary piece will surely, and deservedly, draw great interest.

**ASHLEY BULLARD, Sandwich**

Full immersion into creative process is one of the most important aspects of Ashley Bullard’s life. Not one to adhere to a conventional career, Ashley has spent her adulthood exploring and creating art, in a myriad of ways. Appealing to human sensuality has become an underlying theme in her work thus far, demonstrated as an oil painter, a landscape designer, and recently, as a chef. Her paintings speak to the viewer with a lush interpretation of color and emotion, saturated with movement and a passion for the outside world.

**ROBIN DUSTIN, Sandwich**

Robin Dustin is a woodturner. Her bowls, trays and vessels are unique pieces of art. Smooth to the touch and quieting to the eye, this work combines her interest in texture, design and innovation. Robin finds her wood in the forests of Center Sandwich. She is well acquainted with every species of tree and has a perfect perspective on what each piece of wood will give her. Working her lathes and gouges Robin combines the natural patterns and imperfections she finds in a piece of wood with her own creative vision. The results are spectacular.

*Both Ashley and Robin are busy creating a new and unique art piece just for the Point of View exhibit.*
That reminds me of a story…

We all have them, those wonderful memories that take us back to when we were young. They make us laugh or cry or cry from laughing. These stories make our thirteen year-olds cringe at each retelling, but are the same stories they will someday tell their own kids. Stories about time spent at Squam tend to bring people together and encourage more and more stories. If you are interested in sharing your Squam story in the Squam Lookout, please contact alicia@squamlakes.com.

The “Eating House”

By Dapne Mowatt, reprinted from the Fall 1999 Squam Lookout.

As a child I used to go to the Dodges for supper in the “Eating House.” Their ‘camp’ was comprised of several separate buildings – main house, studio, eating house, guesthouse, and woodshed, ice house and privy. (Father called it the house of seven stables.)

There were French doors toward the lake and casement windows on two sides. The back wall held the wood stove and a tiny icebox. A round “chair table” was set for dining with blue willow china and bone-handled flatware. Under one window was a huge picnic hamper, elegantly outfitted by Hammacher Schlemmer. Watercolors of fish caught by the family decorated the walls above the windows as well as bits of Quimper pottery.

Hannah Dodge (who posed as a young woman for Charles Dana Gibson) cooked with as many native ingredients as possible so we would have trout, corn bread, omelets with Glenn Smith store cheese, blueberry desserts with the Nichols’ rich cream and fresh eggs.

After dinner, John did the dishes on a shelf outside, using lake water heated on the stove. Their friend would play his banjo and sing while we watched the sunset. It was a time of simplicity, enjoyment of nature, and friendship that seems very long past.

Happening This Summer

Saturday, July 16, 9 am - 12 noon, Trail Work Day at Unsworth Preserve - Old Harvard Camp Road off Bean Road. For more details contact Pete at pete@squamlakes.com or call 603-968-7900.

Monday, July 18, 7:00 pm - Full Moon Walk on Whitten Woods with ‘Moonlight serenades’ by New Hampshire Music Festival Musicians - Highland Street, Ashland. Shuttle bus transportation from Ashland Town Hall to Whitten Woods. For more details contact Alicia at alicia@squamlakes.com or call 603-968-7900.

Thursday, August 11, 9 - 11:30 am, Passing it on… Generational Property Transfer - SLA Fisher Family Barn, US Route 3, Holderness. A discussion for property owners seeking to ensure the land they love will become part of a family legacy that will be enjoyed for generations to come. R.S.V.P. alicia@squamlakes.com.

Friday, August 12, 5 - 7 pm, Point of View - The Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery, 69 Maple St, Center Sandwich. Reception premiering three works inspired by land conservation around Squam. (See pg 6) This exhibit continues through August 19.

SLCS Annual Meeting

August 20, 2016, 10:00 am Home of Laurey and Jinks Millspaugh 275 Mill Bridge Road Sandwich, NH

SLCS Wish List: Fireproof Filing Cabinet & Game Camera
New Hampshire Music Festival and New Hampshire Master Chorale

in cooperation with Squam Lakes Conservation Society, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, and Squam Lakes Association

invite you to...

SQUAM
A Celebration of Community

Sunday, June 12 from 5–7 p.m. at Burleigh Farm

Performances by New Hampshire Music Festival and New Hampshire Master Chorale

This lovely venue offers 200 seats with additional seating on the lawn. Summer fare will be served and a cash bar will be available.

Please RSVP by May 30 to Deb Kosits at deb@nhmf.org or call (603) 238-9007. $20 suggested contribution at the door • Children and families are welcome!

Burleigh Farm Road is located on Route 113, 3 miles from Holderness village. Event parking will be clearly marked.

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

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