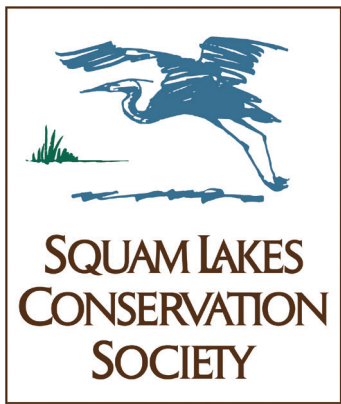


November 2021



SQUAM Lookout

A LOOK INSIDE

ANNUAL MEETING

New Board Members
Davenport Award

STEWARDSHIP

NEXTGEN

FOREVER SQUAM

MUSINGS ON SQUAM

FEATURED PROPERTY

HERON SOCIETY

DID YOU HEAR?

AMERICORPS HAPPENINGS

Annual Meeting

In spite of hopeful plans for an in-person Annual Meeting in 2021, we decided five days from the scheduled meeting that, with an abundance of caution, we would go virtual once again. Although we missed seeing you in person and savoring John Moulton's treats, we are very appreciative of Vicky West and Brewster Lee's willingness to host, the wonderful videotaped messages from Fred Lavigne and Desmond Butler, and the flexibility of the SLCS Board and staff to swing into action to deliver an inspiring virtual Annual Meeting, which can be seen at foreversquam.org.

Excerpts from Desmond Butler's presentation:

"In 1960, a group of people who cared about this corner of the world like we do set out to restore and conserve its natural wonders. They succeeded to a remarkable extent - in the spirit captured in the SLCS mission statement: "for future and present generations."

"Those of us born since then are in fact the future generations they had in mind. And I want to take a moment in gratitude to the founders of SLCS and to all of the lovers of Squam including you who have contributed to this vision over six decades. We have all enjoyed the bounty of that work...Let's all keep this sacred mission on track, so that we can pass on the enormous gift of previous generations."

Welcome New Board Members



Sandra S. Baker began coming to Squam in the summer as a child and is now a part-time resident of Sandwich with her husband Geoff Stewart. Sandra

was managing producer of the Diane Rehm Show, a live talk show syndicated nationally by NPR, and continues to produce Diane's podcasts. Sandra has served on the boards of Garrison Forest School, Beauvoir Elementary School, National Cathedral School for Girls, and the Anacostia River Keepers.



Philip Bennett has been spending lots of time at Squam since retiring in 2018 after serving as First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Phil has more than 40 years of experience in the global financial markets and in the management of international commercial and public sector financial institutions. He is married to Lisa Valentine Bennett, with three adult children.



Nancy Myers Coolidge is a longtime resident and champion of Squam, living most of the past summers on Long Island with her husband and

former SLCS Director, Laury Coolidge. Nancy served as co-founder of Citizens United for Charter Public Schools in Boston and advocated for changes throughout Massachusetts. Nancy has been a Social Worker, psychotherapist, and teacher and has served on several Boards.



Peter Gross

John Coolidge

Davenport Awards

Peter Gross has been a long time monitor/ambassador for stewardship of SLCS properties. He was instrumental in limiting a proposed development in the Sturtevant Cove area from 500 lots down to 35 lots. He serves on the SLCS Board as Vice President and on the Lands, Stewardship, Executive and Strategic Planning Committees. He is directly responsible for the protection of the Sturtevant Bay II property (now SLCS owned). It is very fair to say that Squam would be a very different place if it were not for Peter's vision and care.

John Coolidge is a community and conservation advocate. John and his wife Anne Richards have been monitoring properties for SLCS for many years. John was instrumental in convincing 37 owners of Hoag Island that its protection was important for Squam. John and Anne also conserved their farm in Ashland to add to the conserved area around Whitten Woods. John also worked to conserve the historic Coolidge Farm in Sandwich. John has served for years on the SLCS Stewardship Committee, and, most telling of his character is, his efforts towards keeping lands open for the public to enjoy.

Stewardship

It's About Time!

This is the response, often thought but not voiced, when someone finally gets around to doing something that should have been done sooner. Time is such an interesting word. There is so much wrapped up in it. It's good to have time, but too much time on your hands isn't a good thing. There are good times and there are bad times. In some instances, time marches on, but in others, time stands still.

I think we can all agree that we are living in an interesting time. Even before the pandemic, divisiveness within our community was on the rise. The pandemic has served to accelerate it. We've all retreated somewhat, into self-absorption and shielding our individual spaces. So, maybe it's about time we all re-group and re-think how we can re-create a kinder and gentler time? I have an idea on how to start.

We can all agree that time spent in the fresh air is a good thing, right? Well, SLCS can help you get out and enjoy a lot of fresh air, all while outwardly serving the greater good for the Squam community.

Here's a short list:

- You can join the 85 volunteer monitors who annually walk our permanently conserved lands around the watershed, spending time in some cool spots with which you may not be familiar.
- You can help keep our air and water clean by becoming a member of the Conservation Society. If you enjoy Squam at any time of the year (and who doesn't), it's about time you become a member...especially for those who spend some time here while paddling, hiking, and relaxing!
- You can contribute to our new *Forever Squam* campaign to energize the conservation and permanent protection of the views and scenery you've come to know and love over time.
- Lastly, give your time or dollars to another group that helps keep our community intact, such as a food pantry or shelter.

So, ask not what Squam can do for you....ask what you can do for Squam (apologies to JFK). Let's all act outwardly and acknowledge how fortunate we are to have a place like Squam. Let's work together to ensure our community and environment stands the test of time.

We've got work to do. Now is the time to dig in.

pete

NextGen

SLCS NextGen Fall Hike...

By Corinna Beale

On October 9th the warm sunshine and crisp fall air showed up for our SLCS NextGen hike at Whitten Woods in Ashland. With excitement and chatter, we forged up the trail to the North Peak to take in the beautiful view of Squam Lake and the surrounding green forested hills which were sprinkled with the yellows and reds of early fall. We decided to take a picture of the group to document the moment, at which point I realized in my excitement about getting to talk in-person with my NextGen friends, I had left my 2 children (Quint 4, and Sloane 7: the next-next genners) and my husband Joe, a bit farther behind than I had intended. With the help of a felled tree, we were able to capture a somewhat un-centered selfie of the group before heading over to South Peak where we met up with my kids and husband for another incredible view. This time we were able to capture a decent picture of the group with the help of my husband, kids, and the picnic table.

The hikers log at South peak was full, so we borrowed a corner of an artistic elementary drawing of scribbles to sign our names and document the moment.



After the hike, we stopped at the Holderness Library patio where we met up with some more mixed-gen SLCS members. While the adults enjoyed some breakfast and coffee treats from the Squam Lake Marketplace, the kids explored the children's room of the Holderness Library. Although the event was only a subset of our group, after many, many, zoom get togethers in 2020 and early 2021 it was encouraging to gather in-person. We are looking forward to seeing additional faces in person at our winter SLCS NextGen in-person event for some more fresh air, conserved land, and mingling in February 2022. All community members, SLCS members, two and four legged creatures welcome! Details on our website soon!

conserve what you

Now we are three generations who have wrapped the cores of our lives around the seasonal cadence of the lake.

— Penelope Beal

**Learn how you can get involved.
Visit our website at foreversquam.org**

Photo: Belknap Woods by Ben Wymer

LOVE



FOREVER SQUAM

Initiative and Campaign

The highlight of SLCS's 2021 Annual Meeting was the announcement of the "Forever Squam Initiative and Campaign." Forever Squam is about conserving what we love by building on past conservation successes while challenging the entire community to extend its commitment to protecting Squam's natural resources at this critical time.

What makes the Squam community so attractive also makes it threatened. Forever Squam will expand the sacred trust of stewarding our natural resources while conserving up to 60 additional projects. The means to achieve this goal is a campaign to create a pool of \$4 million to encourage landowners to donate or execute "bargain sale" conservation easements.

We believe...

- Land conservation is a significant part of Squam's history and character.
- We all benefit when people have equitable access to nature.
- Conservation land contributes to mitigating climate change.
- Nature has intrinsic value that helps us lead healthy, well-balanced lives.
- Only by working together can we accomplish our goals.
- Learning about the wonders of nature begins in childhood and lasts a lifetime.
- Each of us has a role to play to steward and conserve this place we love.

To learn more about the Forever Squam initiative and campaign, please go to www.foreversquam.org, where you will also find a link to make a financial contribution. Conserve what you love!



Musings on Squam

From SQUAM by Rachel Carley

... in these days of scattered families, Squam has become really "home" in the sense that it is the spot where all generations come together, not only from all parts of the country, but from all over the world, to maintain a sense of family unity and continuity.
– Francis Pratt 1975

On a hot summer day in 1923 anyone at Squam who turned a glance north toward the Sandwich mountains would have seen what was visible from twenty five townships: smoke from a forest fire that broke out on Flat Mountain on July 12. The most catastrophic fire in the region's history burned so fast and intensely that by the time it was under control four days later, flames had charred 3,500 acres. Workers from the dozen logging camps operated by the Parker Young Co. in the Squam Range and Beebe River Valley who could not escape by rail were forced to run south into the village of Center Sandwich on foot. The scarred mountainside smoldered for weeks.

According to state foresters, blame lay directly with the Parker Young Company's careless lumbering practices. Loggers cut too close to right-of-ways clogging the rail sidings with refuse, and ran trains during the heat of the day, throwing sparks in to the slash. ...

By 1920 the Beebe River RR, which ran from the main tracks in Campton east to the slopes of Whiteface Mtn, was carrying out 35 loads of timber a week. By 1925 about 160 million board feet of old growth spruce had been milled and removed. In the decades following the Flat fire, the Draper Co (Peter

continued on back pg.

Featured Property

Jackson Pond

In a little known part of our watershed lies the great pond called Jackson Pond. Jackson Pond is one of two ponds in the town of New Hampton that fall within the Squam Watershed. Despite being over 50-acres, the banks of Jackson Pond remain undeveloped, save for one house that is tucked away from the shore. Such a quiet place feels especially important in our otherwise hectic and noisy world. This summer, the Town of New Hampton granted a conservation easement to

SLCS on a 2.6-acre property with frontage on Jackson Pond. Formerly known as Old Flowers Place, this is the first conserved parcel on the banks of the pond. Keeping this pond as natural

as it is today is going to offer migratory waterfowl, such as the common and hooded mergansers that have been seen in the past, an additional respite as they migrate through in the spring and fall.

Such a quiet place feels especially important in our otherwise hectic and noisy world.



photo: Ben Wymer

The Heron Society

What is the Heron Society & Why it's Important?

If you include SLCS in your estate plans, you become a member of the Heron Society and, importantly, you help to ensure the long-term conservation of the Squam Lakes and the surrounding watershed.

A significant tool in achieving our mission is an endowment that provides the funds to maintain our stewardship in the future. Gifts that are received through a bequest are transferred to the endowment (unless a specific designation has been agreed to in advance.)

Susan Gutches, a lifelong summer resident of Sandwich, is a member of the SLCS Board and current chair of the Heron Society. Her grandmother first came to Squam in the 1900's - supposedly arriving by stagecoach, although perhaps that is apocryphal. In any case, the Squam community has been an important constant in her family's life for generations and she wants to ensure that it will be there for her nephews - that is why she has included a bequest to the SLCS in her will.

Learn more about the Heron Society, by visiting our website foreversquam.org.

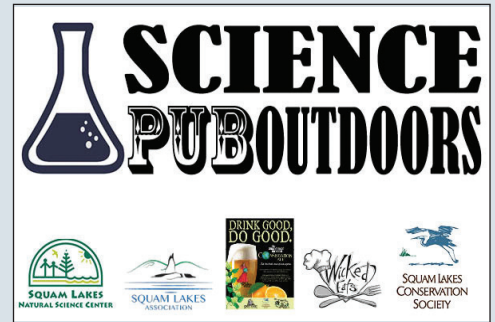
Did You Hear?

Denise Siraco Joins Our Team

SLCS welcomes Denise Siraco, our new Communications and Development Coordinator. She comes to us at a critical time during the launch of the Forever Squam initiative & campaign. Denise has extensive experience with web design and print media marketing as well as event planning.



We teamed up with Squam Lakes Association and Squam Lakes Natural Science Center for two incredibly successful SCIENCE PUB OUTDOORS focusing on Local Effects of Climate Change. Guest speakers included Dan Leonard of Weather.com and Steve Hamburg, Chief Scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund. Both are local home owners with a vested interest in how climate change impacts us here in the Lakes Region. Guests who attended enjoyed complimentary Uncommon Woman Conservation Ale from the Common Man as well as great food provided by local food truck, Wicked Eats. Stay tuned for our Winter Science Pub series to kick off in January 2022.



Our Time at Squam

SLCS's Americorp Team

By Skye (Gittle) Fenton & Cathlin (Cat) Lord

During our team meeting to prepare for the upcoming Fall Newsletter, Roger asked us to contribute a reflection of our time at SLCS, as the end of our service term was nearing. As we brainstormed and struggled on how to somehow summarize six months here, our minds wandered to all the places and species we've seen, people we've met, and the things we've learned. We quickly realized putting such a list together would be no small task. However, these things can be boiled down to a fairly simple list:

- SLCS's efforts have conserved the Squam Watershed allowing the natural beauty of Squam to persist today and into the future.
- We've seen an abundance of plants and wildlife, including many sightings of moose, herons, and bears (oh my!).
- The SLCS community never seems to run out of great, generous people.
- Lastly, the list of things we have learned is extensive, coming from a variety of sources that make up the wealth of knowledge that is the SLCS community.

In 2016, the Land Trust Alliance estimated that land trusts across the US have conserved a total of 56 million acres, more than double the amount of land conserved by the NPS across the lower 48 states. We've seen first hand why land trusts like SLCS work so well because

it's a community coming together to voluntarily conserve what they love. All those who come enjoy this place have inherited the responsibility of protecting and maintaining the landscape by interacting with it respectfully. It has been a joy to take part in conserving Squam, even if for just a short time. We hope to continue to contribute, whether we end up near or far from the watershed, to play our part. After all, conservation is a community endeavor. It truly takes a village, as they say.



Officers

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Anne Lovett

Vice-President

Peter Gross

Vice President

David Martin

Treasurer

Patricia Ladd Carega

Secretary



foreversquam.org

603.968.7900

Squam Lakes Conservation Society

PO Box 696

Holderness, NH 03245

Directors

Sandra Baker

Penelope Beal

Philip Bennett

Winthrop Brown

Ashley Bullard

Martin Carmichael

Nancy Coolidge

Leo Dwyer

Ken Evans

Susan Gutches

Chip Harris

Bonnie Hunt

Pamela Simonds

Georgie Smith



We have the gear. Stop by to get a special something for your favorite conservationist, including the little ones. Also consider annual gift memberships. Visit our website foreversquam.org for details or call 603-968-7900.



Shopping List:

- ☐ Short sleeved Tee shirts
- ☐ Long sleeved Tee shirts
- ☒ Hats
- ☐ Ovsies
- ☐ Stainless Steel Tumblers
- ☐ Forever Squam Book

Honorary Directors

Laurie Beeson

John Morgridge

Daphne Mowatt

Peter Richards

David Sinkler

Tim Vaill

Peter Van Winkle

R. Angus West

Betsy Whitmore

Staff

Roger Larochelle

Executive Director

Pete Helm

Stewardship

Doug Hill

Ben Wymer

Land Protection

Denise Siraco

Communications

Sara Hixon

Bookkeeper

Musings...

continued from pg 6.

Young Co. successor) logged heavily in the valley between Mt Israel and Sandwich Dome. Until this period, conservation efforts in the Squam vicinity had been limited to ridding the lake waters of pollutants and protecting the land from clearing and development through private ownership. By the 1920s and 1930, however, incidents such as the unchecked tree harvesting near Mount Israel brought specific conservation threats more clearly to the attention of Squam residents, but also galvanized certain members of the community to action.

One of the most notable among these concerned citizens was Susan Bacon Keith, then summer resident, of Shepard Hill and Sunset Point. In 1926 Mrs. Keith became the first person to protect a piece of land in the greater Squam watershed through purchase and gift by buying a tract including Cow Cave/Beede Falls area then owned by E Harris Metcalf. In 1931, alarmed about ongoing logging and clear cutting in the region, Mrs. Keith gave the land, located about a mile up Sandwich Notch Rd near the Draper harvesting area, to the town of Sandwich for a recreational area. This is probably the earliest gift of Squam property intended as a conservation measure.

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