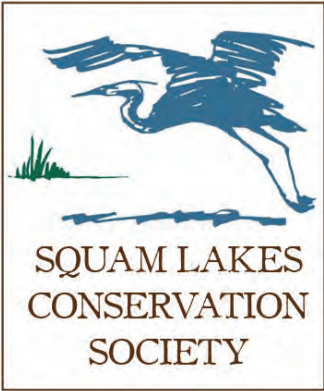


Fall 2022



SQUAM



A LOOK INSIDE

LETTER FROM ROGER

PHOTO CONTEST

STEWARDSHIP

In Memory

WELCOME ANDY

FOREVER SQUAM

Merrill Island

Haskell Preserve

Avery's Woods

FEATURE ARTICLE

Reflections with Tom Kelsey

AMERICORPS

SUMMER IN REVIEW



Photo contest winner: Jim Viar "Squaw Cove, Squam on a foggy morning"

Reflections ...

Calm...a necessary component when viewing a reflection on the lake's surface, or when looking back thoughtfully on some experience. With the busy summer of 2022 sunsetting, this is a good time to reflect on all we have achieved together, and to give thanks to you for setting the stage for a brighter future.

As you will read in this newsletter, the campaign to conserve what we love, called Forever Squam, marks a huge step in accelerating the pace of conservation in the Squam watershed. I am glad to report that through your generosity, we were able to wrap up the fund-raising portion of Forever Squam this summer.

These funds provide a compelling incentive and catalyst to encourage landowners to protect the lands they love. The idea is to make it easy for landowners by covering the related costs of donated and bargain-sale conservation easements. It's working! So far this year, we've completed seven projects, including a bargain-sale conservation easement protecting Merrill Island and the purchase of the 45-acre Haskell Preserve (see page 3 for details).

While Forever Squam is getting off the ground, it's been wonderful to once again gather in person. We participated in several outdoor events over the course of the summer and it was inspiring to feel the passion this community has for conservation.

Years from now, we will reflect on this time as being highly productive in conserving what we love. The challenge we leave to the next generation is to continue the stewardship of this remarkable place. Onward...

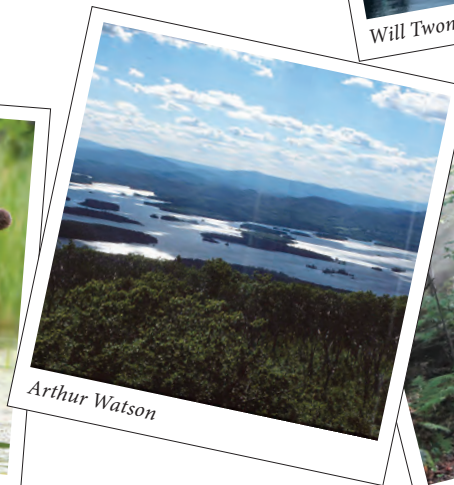
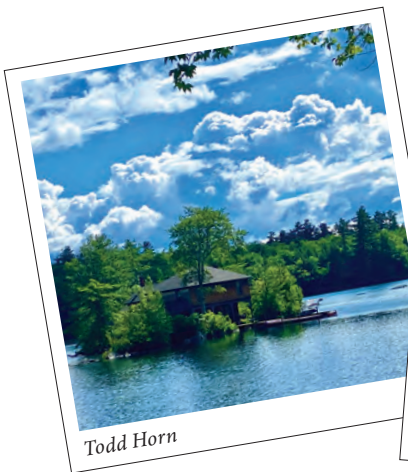
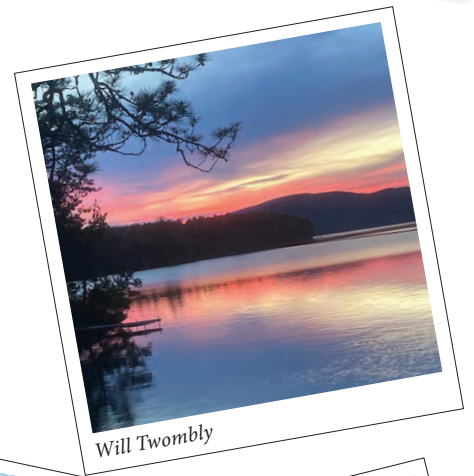


Photo Contest

Congratulations to our 2022 photo contest winner, Jim Viar, for his hauntingly beautiful image of a lonely boat floating in Squaw Cove (now Eastman Brook Cove) on a foggy morning. Its somber imagery makes one pause for reflection (see cover).

Thank you to all who participated. Squam is special to each of us in our own way and the images submitted reflect that. We would love to see your photos representing your special connection to Squam.

Send them to denise@foreversquam.org and look for them in upcoming newsletters and social media.



Stewardship

Reflections on Connections by Peter Helm

Boy, when I look back on the last couple of years, I can't help but reflect on the importance of both the physical work that SLCS monitors do while walking conserved lands, as well as the personal connections they make with many landowners and each other. Walking conserved land is a) good for you, b) makes you feel good for giving back, and c) it's a fun way to invite friends for a play date! Plus, you get to go to properties and parts of the watershed you might not normally consider visiting!

But getting the job done - the physical part - is only one part of the equation. The personal connections that are made by landowners and monitoring volunteers (and their friends) are what really drives forward the conservation work we all love. People telling stories about the bear they saw, landowners sharing stories about "how dad used to...", seven-year-old Sloane drawing pictures of what she saw on her monitoring report, knowing the land will look the same forever, and it goes on and on. It's this part of the SLCS stewardship work that is awesome. And, it builds the fabric of caring that is a part of living and working in this area.

All of us here at SLCS are so grateful to be part of a team with such great volunteers. The commitment of the Squam community inspires us and serves as a shining example of what makes Squam so special!

"I'm thrilled to put my skills to work in my own community and help the Squam Lakes Region stay beautiful for future generations"

– Andy Crowley
Land Protection
Specialist

Welcome Andy Crowley



Welcome Andy to the SLCS family as our new Land Protection Specialist! Andy comes to us from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests where he was a Land Steward Program and Volunteer Coordinator as well as a Stewardship Projects Manager.

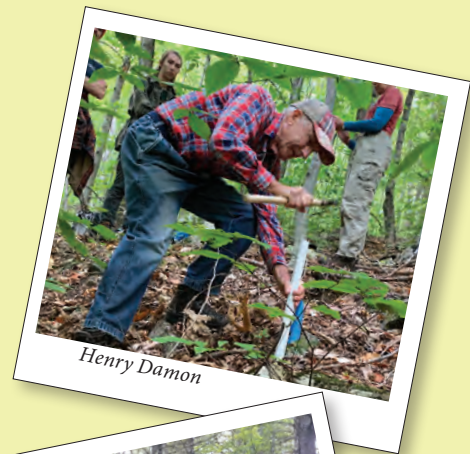
Andy's expertise in land protection comes at a perfect time as we turn towards the ambitious initiative of protecting another 60 projects over the next 4 years.

Andy has already started building relationships in the Squam community and supporting

landowners as they navigate the process of putting their land in permanent protection. He works closely with Doug Hill doing deed research and learning the complexities of Land Management, Current Use, Zoning, and creating Baseline Documentation Reports.

IN MEMORY

The Conservation Society and the Squam community lost two Stewardship icons: George Gurney and Henry Damon. They both passed away unexpectedly this fall. Henry and George were unique in their own way, but both belonged to a select group of individuals who donated conservation easements on land they loved, AND volunteered as conservation easement monitors, water quality monitors, and forestland monitors. If you ever wonder what the Squam "ethos" is all about, you need to look no further than what these two accomplished for Squam...for all of us. Their friendship, experiences, and dedication live on. May their kindness and commitment to Squam be a gentle reminder to all of us that what makes Squam so special are the people who care for this place we love.



Henry Damon



George Gurney

Forever Update

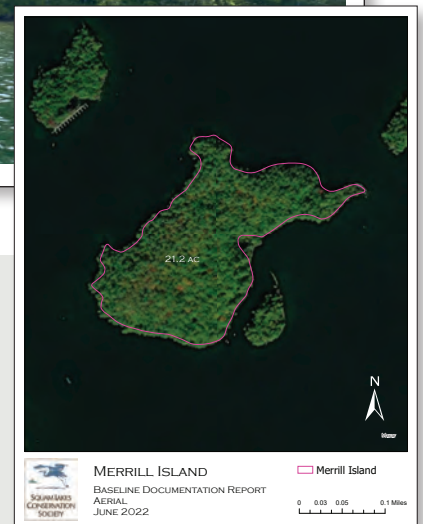
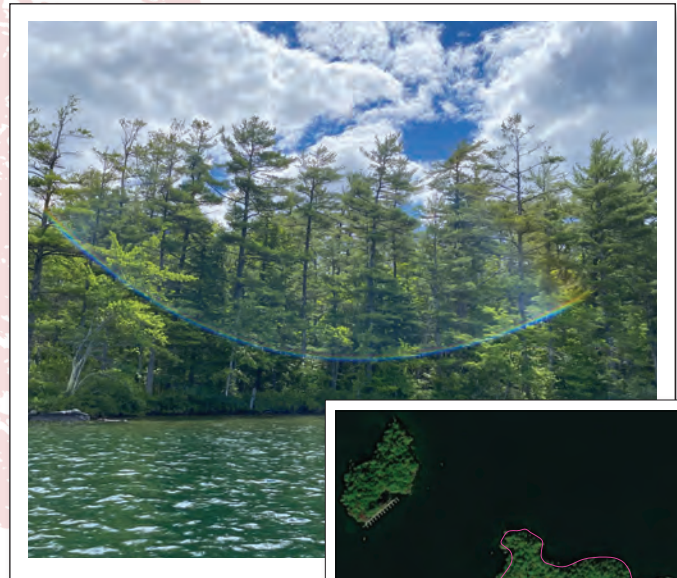
The idea of Forever Squam is to accelerate the pace of conservation while we still can. But first, we needed the resources that would make it easy for landowners to consider donating a conservation easement on their Squam property. When we started in the summer of 2021, we set a goal to create a pool of funds to pay for the surveys, title work, legal review, appraisals, stewardship funding, recording, and all the other related expenses related to transacting conservation projects.

Nowhere else, to our knowledge, has a land trust created an Opportunity Fund to broadly advance land conservation across an entire watershed. With almost 250 participants, the Forever Squam campaign generated over five million dollars now to be used over the next three years to put another 10% of the Squam watershed into permanent protection. Congratulations, and thank you!

We are now headlong into the protection of properties, and the pace is increasing. With the three projects highlighted below, we've completed seven projects thus far, with six more teed up to be completed by the end of 2022! We are on the move, and again, thanks to you!

Merrill Island – August 2022 BARGAIN SALE Conservation Easement

The largest of Squam Lake's undeveloped islands, Merrill Island in Holderness lies at the heart of Big Squam Lake. With one mile of shoreline and 22 acres of land rising 40 feet above lake level, Merrill Island was the largest undeveloped, unprotected island in the Lakes Region. It provides important habitat for plant and animal species, including a variety of aquatic and semi-aquatic species. Fortunately, since 1897, this scenic island across from Church Island has been stewarded by the Webster family, with the current ownership in the hands of Burleigh Land Limited Partnership, owners of 3,500 acres of conserved forestland on the Squam Range. With the bargain-sale purchase of this highly protective conservation easement, Merrill Island will remain undeveloped and a scenic highlight from the public waters of Squam Lake and its ring of mountains.



A Note About Accreditation

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet the highest national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands. SLCS is in the process of applying for renewal of our accreditation. This is the third cycle of being accredited. This newest round will be valid for seven years.

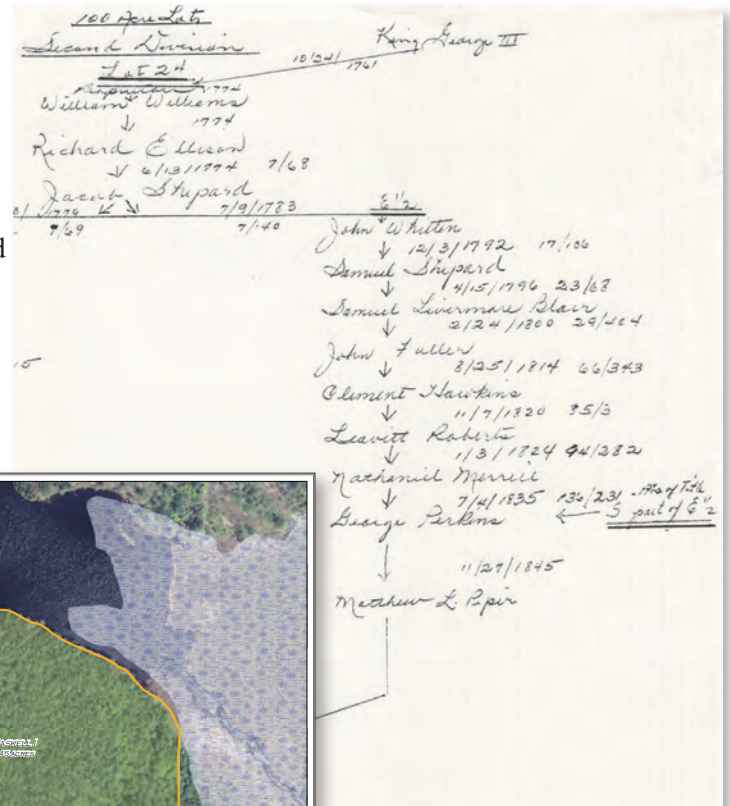
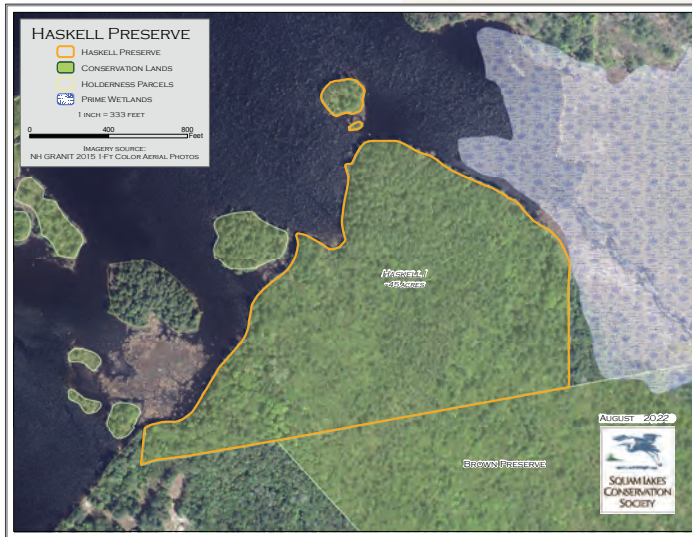
The public comment period is now open. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Squam Lakes Conservation Society complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on SLCS's application will be most useful by 1/14/2023.

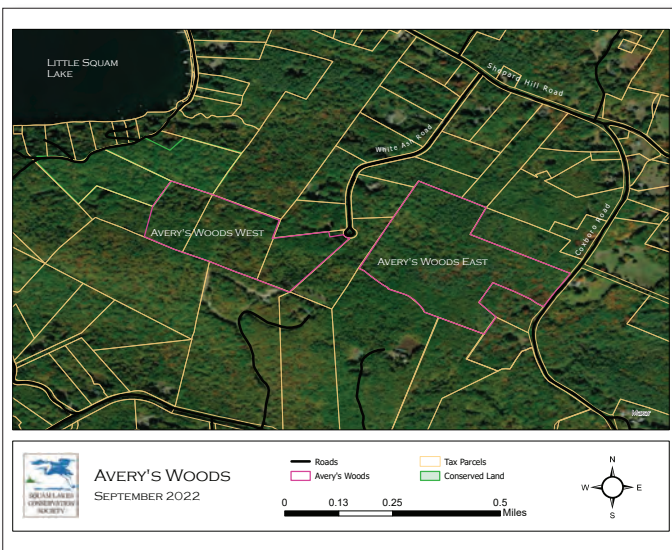
Haskell Preserve – September 2022 BARGAIN SALE Fee Title

The Haskell Preserve is a 45-acre tract with almost one mile of lake frontage on White Oak Pond in Holderness, and includes Pine Island. This special property has a long lineage that dates back to 1774 when King George III granted the land to William Williams. The land was conveyed to a series of familiar local names, including Whitten, Shepard, Livermore, Merrill, and Piper.

We are grateful to Bob Haskell for selling the land to us to eliminate any possibility of disturbing this unspoiled land comprising the longest stretch of land under single ownership on White Oak Pond. This land abuts the Brown Preserve and Lamb Brook Swamp. The shore is covered with huckleberries and highbush blueberries, and the land is one of the most mature forests in the Squam watershed, providing a haven for an abundance of wildlife, including deer, moose, bear, hawks, turtles, amphibians, and racoons.



Avery's Woods – November 2022 DONATED Conservation Easement



Avery's Woods is a 64-acre donated conservation easement between Coxboro Road and Perkins Lane in Holderness, otherwise known to us as part of the White Oak Pond Highlands. This gift is from Anne Lovett and Steve Woodsum. The name of the property, Avery's Woods, is a memorial to Avery Bray-Ong, the young child of Jordan Lovett Bray and Julia Ong. Jordan is Anne's Lovett's nephew.

The property is comprised of two separate tracts under common ownership. The East parcel, 37 acres, is former agricultural land that has matured back into a beautiful forest. Old foundation walls and extensive stonewalls are relics of the property's prior use as farmland and pasture during the nineteenth century. The West parcel is a 26.7-acre forested property defined by steep, northerly facing slopes spanning an elevation of 760' to 1044'. Its contiguous, even-aged canopy is comprised of varying forest compositions, including stands of

beech, hemlock, pine, and oak. Stands of mature hemlock exist on the steepest terrain where a rocky ledge and boulders protrude. We found at least four dens showing porcupine activity and abundant evidence of deer. Avery's Woods is a great example of the dedication of our community leaders to conserve what they love.

Reflection



Tom Kelsey with his three children: L to R Bill, Margen, Suzanne

Photo: Heron by Tony Wagner

tions

Remembering a Century on Squam

An Interview with Tom Kelsey

by Denise Siraco

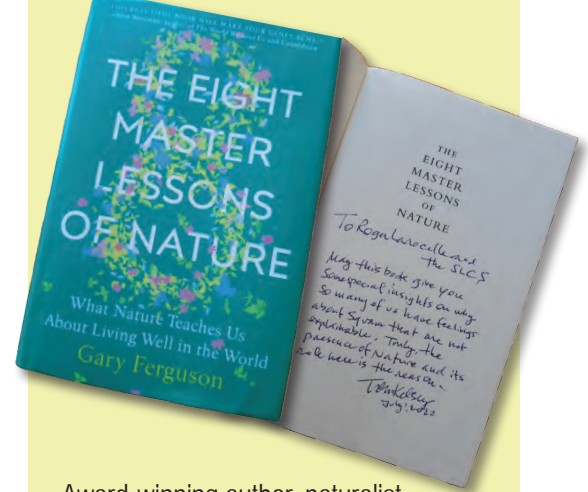
When you ask Tom Kelsey to tell you about his earliest memory of Squam, he will probably talk about being brought here by his parents in 1933. He was less than a year old. Not a first-hand memory, obviously, but he loves to tell it along with the tale about the big fish that hangs on the wall over his dining room table.

Five generations of Kelseys have made Squam their special place. Tom himself turns 90 years old on Thanksgiving Day, so we thought it would be a great time to reflect back on his (almost) century on Squam.

Growing up, Tom would spend summers on Squam at the cottage his grandparents rented every year on Mooney Point. He recalls a simpler life spent swimming, fishing with his grandfather, walking to the candy store in Holderness to get a *Hoodsie*, or ride in his uncle's truck to the *Smith-Piper General Store* for groceries. Back then, the mailboat would actually deliver your groceries right to your dock. Later, Tom enjoyed watching the wooden boats race across the "measured mile" between Potato Island and Piper Cove, engines roaring and rooster tails spraying.

After marrying Liz and starting a family, Tom wanted to share his love of Squam with them so he requested a reservation at Rockwold-Deephaven Camps. He quickly found that he was a special guest there thanks to the presence of a 14 pound, 33 inch, landlocked salmon, caught in 1937 by his grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Preston T. Kelsey, hanging on the wall of the Deephaven diningroom. That same fish now graces the wall above the diningroom table at Tom's house in Sturtevant Bay.

In 1980, Tom and Liz built their own small cabin in Dog Cove, that their children and grandchildren still use to this day. It was a special place to get away and appreciate the outdoors. That appreciation turned into a deep conviction of one's connection with the land and that conviction led Tom to become involved with SLCS in its early days. He has watched the organization grow and expand into what it is today. Wanting to ensure that his special place on Squam could never be developed into something that did not reflect his deep connection with nature, he and Liz put portions of their property into conservation, not once, but twice.



Award-winning author, naturalist and public speaker, Gary Ferguson, demonstrates how the careful observation of the many forms of life, from mushrooms to elephants can teach us about the interconnectivity of everything. It will inspire you to look again at the world around you with a renewed sense of wonder.

... *Man's heart, away from nature, becomes hard. Lack of respect for living things soon leads to lack of respect for humans too.*

– Luther Standing Bear
Oglala Lakota Chief

Tom strikes me as a caring and spiritual person. His deep conviction in the connectivity of everything shows in how he talks about the land that we inhabit. An avid reader, Tom kindly gifted us the book, "The Eight Master Lessons of Nature" and offers the following observations:

"First, you get the feeling of how cooperatively and supportively, without any contention or discord, all the living things in nature live together. When I (and many of us) are here at Squam, surrounded by life living in that manner, it embraces and envelops us with a feeling of peace and tranquility. It renews us.

Second, if you substitute the words 'God' or 'Creator' for 'Nature' as you read it, you will get a distinct idea of how our Creator meant for us to live. For the most part, I think that is how the Squam community has largely tried to live; cooperatively and supportively. If all of us, old and new residents, would heed that message ... it would make our time here even more peaceful and renewing."



AmeriCorps Team

Emily and Emerson reflect on their time at Squam



Emily Carty • Emerson Phares

As Emily and Emerson's service term came to an end, we asked them to write a little something about their time here. They were indispensable in moving forward on the Forever Squam initiative's influx of projects. Emily and Emerson are both strong, independent, intelligent and adventurous young women with bright futures. We miss them already (and their incredible baking treats they often brought into the office!).

Emily Carty Six months is a long time. That is, at least, what I thought when I began my term of service at SLCS this past May. However, it turns out that when you are learning how

to make maps, monitor easements, use a compass, and assess properties, six months is no time at all! Still, I managed to spend plenty of time adventuring in the Squam Range, swimming at Chamberlain Reynolds, and exploring all that Squam has to offer. Plus, I have had the opportunity to work with some great people, including the SLCS staff, other LRCC members, and volunteers, all of whom have made my stay here in New Hampshire both memorable and enjoyable. All in all, I have enjoyed my time serving as an LRCC AmeriCorps member and feel lucky to have spent the summer on Squam with so many wonderful people. So, while my six months may have flown by, I know I have gained experience which will last a lifetime, and memories which won't be soon forgotten.

Emerson Phares Working at SLCS has given me so much insight into the process of protecting land. Before I applied for this position, I had never heard the term conservation easement before.

When a land trust acquires an easement they create a baseline documentation report with pictures, maps and a description of plants, animals,

structures, and natural features found on the property. My fellow AmeriCorps member, Emily, and I have spent most of our summer monitoring lands and gathering information for these reports. We've learned how to put these reports together by compiling all the information and creating maps to display what we know about the land.

I learned that conservation is a top priority for most people around here. I'm guessing this is in part due to being surrounded by the beautiful scenery. Of course, you do not need to live in a beautiful place to value conservation. However, living here definitely puts this in the forefront of your mind. Luckily, we have so many great organizations partnered with SLCS that are dedicated to protecting this beautiful region.



Share your reflections on squam to stories@foreversquam.org and we will publish them in our newsletter and social media.

Our family came to Squam Lake in 1991, when our two sons were barely old enough to ice skate. During one of those first winters there was the rare occurrence when cold, still, and dry weather created beautifully clear and smooth ice on the lake. Wonderful conditions for ice skating. We skated from our cottage on Dog Cove over to "First Beach" at the Chamberlain Reynolds Forest Preserve. The ice was so clear that we could easily see large fish swimming near the sand below. It was a little unsettling, since it seemed like we were skating on nothing at all. But later that year I attempted to chop with an axe through the ice at our cottage. I failed because the ice was too thick. It was one of the first times that I realized Squam Lake could be the home of gorgeous extremes.

— Paul C. Shellito MD (he/him/his)

The Summer in Review

Annual Meeting at Willoughby Ridge Farm

It was great to gather once again in person to celebrate what we all hold dear; the protection of our beloved Squam watershed and community. We couldn't have asked for a more picture-perfect day or a more beautiful spot in which to meet and share all that has been accomplished over the past year. About 160 people attended. Our deepest gratitude to the deChazal and Beck families for the use of Willoughby Ridge Farm in Holderness. We also extend our gratitude to Heidi and Matt Emmons for their hospitality as caretakers and to John Moulton, who every year donates his delicious cider donuts and coffee.

The meeting started with a welcome from Jane Beck, who took us back through the history of the land, including well before the Webster Family acquired the farm. Roger then provided an update on the success of the Forever Squam Campaign, and publicly thanked each of the

staff members on our team for their dedication to our mission. The keynote speaker, Larry Seltzer, president of The Conservation Fund, joined us after celebrating the closing of a key project that we partnered on: the conservation of the 6,400 acre Beebe River Uplands. Larry spoke of the future of conservation as a balance between the needs of people and the needs of nature.

Chair, Chris Grant thanked Patsy Carega for her nine years as a Director and for her many contributions including chairing our Communications Committee. Our members then elected Bill Nesheim to serve a 3-year term as a new Director. Ken Evans and Pete Helm presented this year's Davenport Award to Tom Stepp for his tireless efforts as a volunteer property monitor, a committed member of our Lands committee, and as an active community member. Next year's Annual Meeting will be on August 19, 2023.



Bill Nesheim and his family have been regular visitors to Squam since 1989 and full time residents of Holderness since 2019. A graduate of Cornell University, Bill spent his professional career in the IT industry, leading R&D teams at Sun Microsystems and Oracle Corporation until retiring in 2019. Bill and his wife Melanie purchased Melanie's "Auntie Olive's" place on Little Squam lake in 1997 and built a new home on the property in 2014 where they love to host their two children, two grandchildren and other family and friends. Bill enjoys hiking, skiing, boating and flying small airplanes and is active in the AMC and the Lakes Region Search and Rescue team. Bill serves on the Holderness Planning Board and Conservation Commission, is an SLA water quality monitor, and is a regular contributor on the SLCS Stewardship Committee as well as being a volunteer property monitor.

Beebe River Bell Ringing

After our annual meeting was over and all the good byes were said and the chairs were stacked, we headed over to a spot on the Beebe River about half way between Eastern Corners Road in Campton and the Sandwich Notch Road. Most people took advantage of the beautiful weather and road their bikes on the old Grade Road. Laury and Nancy Coolidge recalled the work that brought us here and vigorously rang the bell signifying the protection of this magnificent 6,400-acre tract of land FOREVER.



Passing It On

Every year SLCS partners with the NH Preservation Alliance offering a unique opportunity for the community to gain insight into the intricacies of passing on property to the next generation. Two residents of Squam who have recently gone through the process shared their experiences and different approaches. We were also lucky enough to have a retired estate lawyer to review the process, answer questions and provide an outline. Offered free to the public, this is an invaluable source of information on how to keep your special place in the family for generations to come. To round out the event, Squam Lake Marketplace generously donated an amazing platter of sandwiches, coffee and dessert.



MOO

For the second time this year, we were given the opportunity to work with one of our community partners, Camp Hale. We were asked to participate in this unique event that brought local artists and conservation partners together for Museum Of the Outdoors, MOO for short. Another picture-perfect fall New England day brought almost 200 people together to celebrate the outdoors and creativity. Patrons strolled through the forest and along the shores at Camp Hale and gathered around to enjoy hot cider and donuts from Moulton Farms. It was a great community out-reach opportunity.



Science Pubs

The Science Pub this fall was focused on Climate Change Effects in Our Community. Speakers included Dr. Robert Dewey of the NHHealthcare Workers for Climate Action, who spoke about Climate Change Impact on the Health of Granite Staters; Craig Cadieux, a designer for ReVision Energy spoke about Clean Energy for Your Home and Community; NHPR's Sam Evans Brown talked about the Effect of Renewable Energy Technology Prices on the Energy Sector; lastly, Sandwich Climate Action Coalition showed us how to organize locally for climate advocacy.

Science Pubs are a collaboration between Squam Lakes Conservation Society, Squam Lakes Association and Squam Lakes Natural Science Center. Like us on social media or sign up for our online newsletters to learn about the upcoming winter series.



NextGen

There is always a next generation. The kids who grew up in the Squam community, spent summers on Squam, and hold Squam near and dear to their hearts eventually grow up and some have families of their own! The NextGen committee shares their love and commitment to Squam by inviting new community members to join them a couple times a year in a hike, paddle or boating social event. This year they had a Flotilla in July and a Fall Family Hike to the beach in Chamberlain Reynolds. They are also known to have the youngest property monitor on our volunteer list! For more information on joining the NextGen committee email nextgen@foreversquam.org.



Camp Hale Overnight Adventure



In 2020, we received a generous grant from the Pritchard Foundation to be used to provide educational services. Part of our Forever Squam campaign is to reach further out into the community to energize a new generation of participants to continue the sacred trust of stewarding Squam's lands and natural resources. To that end, we approached Sandwich Central School with a program involving an overnight stay at Camp Hale, a nature walk & talk on the Dot Banks Trail, team building activities, and inspired-by-nature art projects.



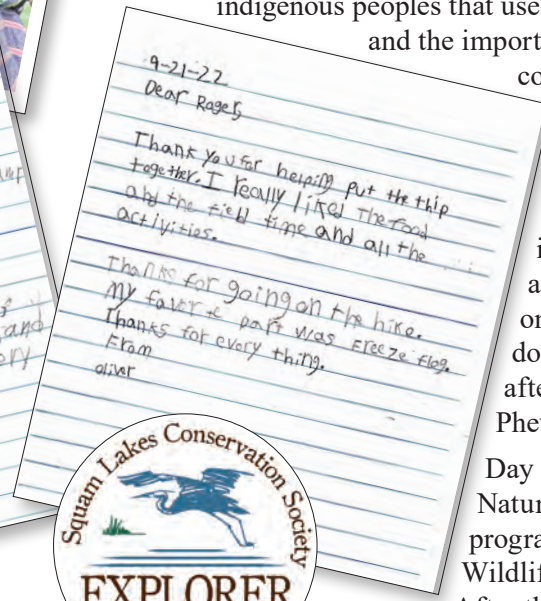
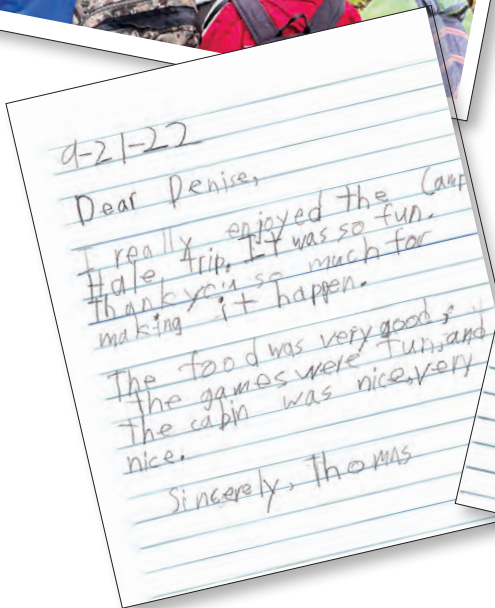
Day #1: 9AM, September 19th, twenty-two 4th and 5th graders arrived, sleeping bags in tow. Most of the children and some of the teachers had never been to Camp Hale. They dropped their gear in the dining hall and loaded back onto the buses and headed over to the Dot Banks trail head. There they were greeted by Roger Larochelle and Ashley Bullard (one of board members and a former teacher at SCS). Roger provided a history of the property including the indigenous peoples that used to inhabit the land; who owns it now; and the importance of putting it and other land into

conservation. The children split into two groups named the Eagles and the Ospreys which they stayed in for the whole program. The nature walk was fun and educational. The rest of the day included team building games, crafting a banner that related to what they learned on the trail, great food (much of which was donated by Moulton Farms), a talent show after dinner and a campfire with songs... Phew!

Day #2: After a big breakfast, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center brought a live animal program to demonstrate Human Impacts on Wildlife using a peregrine, a bat and a turtle. After that the kids did a mapping activity that helped them learn where they are in the community. We wrapped up the day with a

ceremony in which they each received a certificate and an explorer sticker.

Despite the fact that it rained the ENTIRE time, it was a HIT! A debt of gratitude to The Pritchard Foundation, Camp Hale staff, Wes Sulloway, our AmeriCorps, Ashley Bullard and Sandwich Central School teachers for making this event so memorable.



Squam Lakes Conservation Society is responsible for the stewardship of 170 properties. That number will increase significantly in the next three years as a result of the successful Forever Squam Campaign. Whether we own a property or have a conservation easement, our professional staff works full-time, year-round to ensure that the land entrusted to SLCS is protected. In addition, a group of over 85 volunteers puts in over 600 hours helping monitor EVERY property EVERY year.

Your gift today helps to protect the Squam watershed for present and future generations FOREVER. Consider becoming a monthly sustaining member or a gift membership for someone special this holiday season. Any amount makes you a member. Visit www.foreversquam.org for details or call (603) 968-7900.

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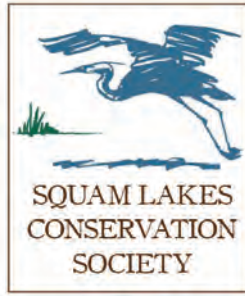
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The Society's mission is to preserve the unique quality and character of the Squam watershed by protecting lands for present and future generations.