



Nelson Marsh Announcement

Kenric Nelson and his extended family are pleased to announce the permanent conservation of 40 acres of marshlands and forest in the Squam Lakes Watershed. The property is located in Center Harbor and Holderness NH along the west side of Rt 3 just north of Rt 25 B and across from Savoie's Lodging.

Conservation Value of Nelson Marsh

Ecologically, the Nelson property is of great importance, with fourteen acres of Prime Wetland designated by Center Harbor and Holderness. These wetlands comprise the majority of the Swainey Brook wetland system, ideal habitat for state endangered turtle species, such as wood and spotted turtles, beaver, and an abundance of wildlife. These wetlands provide critical filtration of waters that flow into Squam Lake via Swainey Brook.

Much of the wetland in the southwestern corner is dense, shrubby vegetation and grasses with pioneer white pines and red maples along the water's edge. Along the stream, ferns dominate the ground cover layer and are abundant on both sides. Dense shrubs line the edges, taking advantage of the open canopy created by the stream.

Aside from the wetlands, the property is primarily Appalachian oak-pine forest. Along Route 3 the forest is dominated by red and sugar maples, red oak, and white pine, with occasional basswood and ash. This area also abundant Japanese knotweed, which has overtaken the woods roads. In the northeastern corner of the property, the inner forest is primarily made of beech, with some white pine, red oak, and red maple. Further inland, much of the forest is relatively young, composed of pole-sized white pine, hemlock, beech, red oak, and red maple.

Lorey Family History of Property

The conservation property is named Nelson Marsh in recognition of the donor, Kenric Nelson and his family whose, ancestors purchased the property in the 1800s. André Lorey and his wife Katherine Koch were immigrants to the United States from the southern suburbs of Frankfurt, Germany. They married in Boston in 1846 and were naturalized in 1852. The Loreys were so fond of their new country, they named their third of seven children, George Washington Lorey. The popularity of America's founding President in the 1800s is reflected in the fact that George's wife Emma Blackler had a brother also named George Washington. George Lorey served as a Boston City Councilor in 1999, 1901, and 1902.

The land in New Hampshire reminded them of the mountain countryside of Alsace-Lorraine, France. During much of the 1900s, the 52-acre property included a home. Unfortunately, in the 1970s a fire destroyed the home.

George and Emma's daughter Marguerite, her husband John Miller, and their nephew Gardener Hopkins were the last residents of the property. Marguerite gave the New Hampshire property to her niece, Kenric's grandmother, Edna Lorey Roman in 1985.

Four generations of the Lorey family property are pictured in this photo from 1942. Standing in the back are George and Emma Lorey. In the foreground are Harriet Lorey on the left and her husband Arthur Lorey on the right. Arthur was Marguerite's brother. Edna (Lorey) Roman and her oldest daughter Nancy (Kenric's mother) are in the middle.

Nancy Nelson and her sister Lorey Tam were given the Center Harbor/Holderness property in 1996 by their mother Edna. The two families initially planned to reestablish a home on the property, unfortunately, Nancy's husband Bill was suffering from cancer during those years. A disreputable logger took advantage of the family's unfamiliarity with managing a forest property. In 2003, Kenric and his former wife, Lydia Zhang, purchased the property. The logging was halted and while a vacation property may be constructed on the southeast portion of the property at a later date, the principal objective has been to preserve the forest and marshes.