



# Nelson Marsh Announcement

Kenric Nelson and his extended family are pleased to announce the permanent conservation of 35 acres of marshlands and forest in the Squam Lakes Watershed. The property on the west side of Rt 3 and north of Rt 25 B (across from Savoie's Lodging) contains a significant portion of Hale's Swamp, which feeds Squam Lake via Swainey Brook and Lake Winnepesaukee via Hawkins Brook. Given the significant conservation value and long family history of ownership, preserving this wilderness has been very important to Kenric and his family.

Kenric fondly remembers walking the land with his grandparents and extended family. He developed a passion for wilderness as a counselor at Deerfoot Lodge in the Adirondacks. During the isolation of the COVID pandemic, he memorialized those high school experiences in a series of poems, [An Adirondack Guide](#). A turning point in deciding to move forward with permanent conservation of the family's wetlands and forest was reading Richard Powers' *The Overstory*. Our scientific age has objectified the plant and animal kingdoms, while Powers' vivid novel returns us to the living relationship we have with wilderness. As property values in rural areas escalated and economic pressures crystallized the difficulty of long-term preservation, Kenric began a series of conversations with Roger Larochelle that led to the conservation agreement with SLCS.

## Conservation Value of Nelson Marsh

Ecologically, the Nelson property is of great importance. As the second largest wetland within the Squam watershed, the Hale Swamp complex supports an abundance of wildlife and provides critical filtration of waters that flow into Squam Lake. The Nelson property protects 9.75 acres of this wetland.

The nearly 14-acres of conserved prime wetland stretches between the large, main wetland complex that had been dammed by beavers and a smaller pond and connected wetland. Much of the wetland in the southwestern corner is dense, shrubby vegetation and grasses 1.5-3' high with pioneer white pines and red maples that are encroaching from the edges.

The outlet of the pond lies on the north end where a small beaver dam with an old pipe expels water. The outflowing stream also has considerable signs of beaver activity in the form of dams, meadows, and felled trees and shrubs.

Along the stream, ferns dominate the ground cover layer and are abundant on either side of the stream, dense shrubs line the edges, taking advantage of the open canopy created by the stream. Although no surveys have been conducted, the Swainey Brook wetland system could support state endangered turtle species, such as wood and spotted turtles.

Aside from the wetlands, the property is primarily Appalachian oak-pine forest. Along Route 3 the forest contains a variety of trees, including red and sugar maples, red oak, and white pine, as well as a few basswood and ash trees. This area also has a significant amount of invasive plant presence, primarily knotweed, which can be seen overtaking the old woods road where it intersects with the main road.

In the northeastern corner of the property the inner forest is primarily made of beech; although white pine, red oak, and red maple also populate the area. Further inland, much of the forest is relatively young, and much of the interior forested stands are composed of sapling to 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 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 named George Washington. George Lorey served as a Boston City Councilor in 1900, 1901, and 1902.

The land in New Hampshire reminded them of the mountain countryside of present day Alsace-Lorraine, France and during much of the 1900s, the 50-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. Harriet Cooke's family were immigrants from Nova Scotia and Ireland. Edna (Lorey) Roman and her oldest daughter Nancy 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 disrepute 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.

## **Notes on Land Deeds**

September 7, 1985

Marguerite L. Miller, for \$1 dollar, grants to Edna L. Roman the property

November 14, 1969

John Homer Miller, for consideration paid, grants to Marguerite Miller the property.

Shirley W. Miller, John's wife, also signs the deed.

August 28, 1952

Marguerite L. Miller grants the land to John Homer Miller.