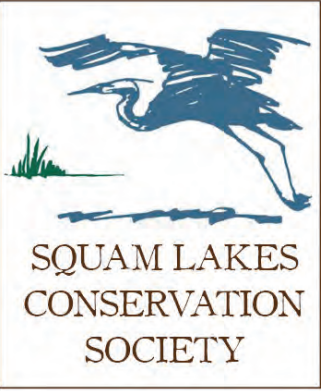


Summer 2023



SQUAM



A LOOK INSIDE:

Onward
Member Photos
Welcome Katie
AmeriCorps
In Perpetuity
Green Burials
Forever Squam

Nelson Marsh, Wood's Woods,
Stonehenge, Howe Commons

Great. Full.

A farewell message from Pete Helm:

Conservation 101
Planned Giving
Event Calendar

Onward...

Summer is a time for connections. We connect with family, friends, and neighbors. We celebrate weddings, engagements, births, and lives well-lived. We connect with stories of today and those who came before us. We draw on adventures, traditions, challenges, and history; who built our home or camp, how we repaired that roof, who caught the fish that grows bigger every year, who skated on black ice last winter, and what was grandma's favorite dish?

Stories are an integral part of the Squam experience. Their telling is part of how and why this area is so special and precious. How have you shared your own traditions with new people, especially the next generation? How often have you found yourself sharing the Squam way of appreciating nature with those new to the area through your own story?

While the stories we share are drawn from experiences, both our own and others, land also has a story to tell. How were those stonewalls built, and why; how has that wetland changed (beavers?); how was Hubble Island created; and how did the glacier shape our landscape?

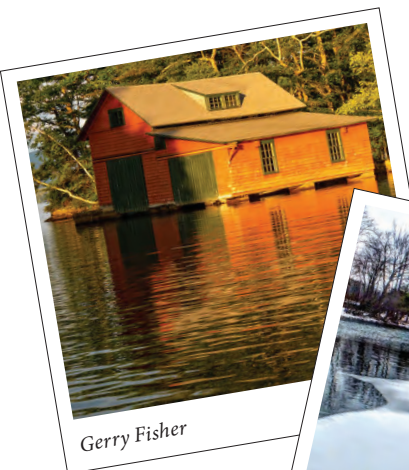
Beneath the land's surface, we look for clues on how the land has changed, and how it was used. This summer at our Annual Meeting on August 19th, we will take a deeper dive into our past, a past that stretches over 400 generations of contiguous human interaction. This is a question that has always interested me. It's a story of connection; to the land, to each other, to nature, to our past.

Dr. Robert Goodby (see page 10) will share what we now know about the people and time before our recorded history. There are lessons embedded in that contiguous chain of human occupation, lessons about reciprocity with nature, conservation, stewardship, and in short, about connections. Hope to see you there. Onward...



Photo Album

We love it when you share your stories and memories with us. Look for more shared memories throughout the newsletter. If you would like to share a special Squam moment, send them to denise@foreversquam.org then look for them in upcoming newsletters and social media.



Gerry Fisher



Bob Snelling - "Squam in Winter"



Bill Villalpando - Dog Cove



Joanna Strapp



Bob Kozlow

Welcome Katie Currie-Huggard

Stewardship Director



It's been over two months since I started working with SLCS and the Squam community, and it's been busy! Everyone I've talked to has a unique connection to this area and the organization. I've heard some amazing kind-hearted stories... "That reminds me when..." and "I remember this one time..." It has helped me to gather a sense of place and add perspective to the conservation work here on Squam.

The story of conservation hinges on love and loss. Landscape amnesia is forgetting how different the surrounding landscape looked because the change from year to year has been so gradual. The change creeps from profound to normal. Environmental degradation can also be gradual even though change can be sudden. It's easier to

It has helped me gather a sense of place and add perspective to the conservation work here on Squam.

— Katie Currie-Huggard
Stewardship Director

consider all the other non-environmental factors when the potential adverse outcomes could be in the distant future. Out of a profound love of the area and the unique community, many reacted proactively over the last sixty years to preserve the Squam watershed and its uplands. Thank you!

In a world of creeping normalcy, I intend to learn about Squam and remember it forever. I look forward to working alongside you; monitoring, stewarding, collaborating, hiking, paddling, and swimming, but mostly exchanging stories and creating some new ones.

... and AmeriCorps Erika Looman

It has been a while since I got home from school, quickly unpacked, and repacked to head north for a summer serving the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) as an AmeriCorps Member. Throughout my drive up I began to wonder if I was truly qualified; after all, I'm a Geology Major and spent the last semester learning about igneous rocks and fossils. Not quite sure what to expect, I promised myself that I would soak up every opportunity presented to me by the Lakes Region Conservation Corps (LRCC) and SLCS. In my first weeks, I hiked West Rattlesnake with fellow LRCC members, monitored several boundaries, met members of the community, cleared drainages on Mount Percival, and became Wilderness First Aid and CPR certified. It has been action packed to say the least.

One of my favorite off-time outings so far was a run that I planned in the office parking lot after a full day of service. I had been out a handful of times on my mountain bike at the Holderness School since arriving in town, but I hadn't gone for a run, and I knew that I wanted to see what was out there from the perspective of a trail runner, in other words, slowly. The route that I designed took me up by the Bradley Field property which is protected by SLCS before summiting Mount Livermore and Cotton Mountain along the Crawford-Ridgepole Trail. Afterwards, I returned to the lovely Hillside cabin on Little Squam that I am so lucky to be staying at throughout my term. Throughout my run, I couldn't help but feel extreme gratitude for the people who chose to protect these lands forever so that I and others centuries from now can enjoy the fields, forests, and scenic vistas of Squam. Whenever I go for a run or a ride, I am always struck by the time and effort that has gone into creating these oases. Before getting here, I wasn't aware of conservation easements and the rules allowing for such activities. After reading up on conservation easements and learning more from Pete Helm and Katie Currie-Huggard, I had a new concept to ponder and take my mind off the physical pain as I climbed each hill. As the weather warms up, I anticipate runs like this one with slight breezes and low humidity will be few and far between, but the beauty of the Squam watershed will remain the same.



Perpetuity *noun* [per·pe·tu·i·ty]

1. endless or indefinitely long duration; eternity

With climate change and the increase of climate migration, the conservation of land and natural resources is a critical issue that affects us all. One crucial aspect of land conservation is the concept of perpetuity - the permanent protection of land for conservation purposes. It means the land will remain undeveloped and protected forever. This is a crucial aspect of land conservation as it



Carl & Sandra Lehner monitoring

ensures that the natural habitats and natural resources will be preserved for all future generations to enjoy. By protecting land in perpetuity, we are investing in the future, ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and beyond will have access to the same beauty and natural resources that we do today.

Taking on the responsibility of stewarding the land in perpetuity comes with challenges. One challenge is the monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement through time. This requires yearly monitoring visits to ensure that the land is being used in accordance with the easement restrictions.

At SLCS, the stewardship of conserved land is chief among our duties. We rely heavily on volunteer monitors, a group of people dedicated to the stewardship of locally protected lands. Celebrating the completion of another conservation project is important, but signing the paperwork and ringing the bell is only the start of the land



Pulling invasives



Next generation getting involved

protection story. If you really want to protect land, it is imperative to have an effective stewardship program and the long-term commitment and financial resources to back it up.

At SLCS, we visit and walk every property we own or hold a conservation easement, all 9,677 acres. We are committed to doing it every year, forever. These visits allow us to keep track of any changes and ensure that conservation easements are being upheld.

Monitoring visits entail walking the boundaries, roads, and trails on properties for which SLCS holds an easement or on properties owned by SLCS. Monitors collect information on these properties by observing the conditions of the land, location of buildings, previous or potential changes to land use, and boundary conditions. Volunteers range in age and physical abilities. Some like to monitor solo, others like to make it a family activity, but all share a dedication to the preservation of Squam's unique landscape.

SLCS's volunteer monitors are provided training which is offered periodically throughout the year (see calendar of events on pg 10). Training may include learning how to use a mapping application and writing monitoring reports.

Volunteer monitors typically dedicate a few hours for each property monitored. Most volunteers monitor one property, but some monitor up to nine! Other aspects of monitoring include:

- *Keeping accurate and detailed reports of our inspections*
- *Responding to violations with appropriate action including mediation and/or litigation*
- *Consulting with other land trusts regarding standards and interpretation*

Monitoring also serves as a regular reminder that a landowner is legally bound to adhere to the conditions defined in their conservation easement. As an easement passes down the line from the original donor (grantor) to subsequent property owners, regular monitoring reduces the risk that the new owners might misinterpret or forget the terms of the easement.

While perpetuity in land conservation is a vital aspect of preserving natural habitats and resources for future



Covered in hitch-hikers

generations, it cannot be achieved without public education and advocacy. It is essential to raise awareness about the importance of land conservation and the impact it can have on our planet, our local community, and our lives.

We are all stewards. At SLCS, our goal is to ensure that when conserved land is passed on, it is done so with the same care as the landowners expected when it was originally conserved. That is our promise. Forever.



Volunteers tagging trees for Forest Monitoring Project

Green Burials

Digging into the subject

As the global population continues to grow, the impact of our activities on the environment becomes increasingly clear. One area in which this impact is felt is in the traditional burial process. Traditional burials involve toxic embalming fluids, exotic hardwood or metal lined caskets, and concrete burial vaults, all of which can have a significant impact on the environment.

Green burials usually involve the use of biodegradable materials such as bamboo or wicker baskets or cloth shrouds in place of the traditional casket. Instead of embalming, the body is prepared naturally using refrigeration and dry ice. Additionally, many green burial sites are located in natural settings, such as forests or meadows, which provide a natural habitat for local wildlife.

Green burials are becoming popular once again as people become aware of the benefits they offer, such as preserving natural spaces, and offering our bodies as gifts to the land as the land has offered its gifts to us.

To learn more about Green Burials in New Hampshire visit nhfuneral.org. If you want to dig deeper (pun intended) into how land trusts can partner with natural burial initiatives, visit the Conservation Burial Alliance at conservationburialalliance.org.





Pete with Fred Lavigne doing boundary maintenance at Levi Smith Preserve



View of Piper Cove from SLCS office

Great. Full. by Pete Helm

As many of you know, I'll be retiring in August. My time here has been great, and the days have been full (and sometimes, overflowing). I can't think of any better place than Squam, and SLCS, to close out a career in conservation land stewardship. I've been driving the stewardship boat for SLCS trying to avoid the rocks, staying in the marked channels, and putting the pointy end of the boat straight into any big waves when things got rough. We took on some water a couple of times, but there was never any concern about sinking. In the 21 years of monitoring conservation easements before coming to Squam, things weren't so predictable, so secure. Let's just say that I donned the life jacket on several occasions, not sure how things would end up!

Naturally, I've been doing a lot of thinking as I approach my departure from SLCS. After all, it is a big deal with me leaving, right? Well, not really. In fact, not at all. You see, while I may have been at the "helm" of the SLCS stewardship boat, the numerous SLCS volunteers have been the spotters/lookouts that have guided me, so kindly and adeptly, through the narrows, around the rocks, and safely back to shore. And guess what...these folks are so committed to Squam that they'll be helping Katie Currie-Huggard, the new stewardship director the same way they have helped me! So, all will be fine! And, if you're still reading this, perhaps you should be a "lookout," too!

Lastly, I am so grateful for all the friends I have met while "working" at SLCS, and for all the wise lessons I've learned. Truly, it has been an honor to have helped ensure, in a small way, the promises we've all made, to protect this place we all love, Forever...Squam.

By the Ringing of a Bell...

At SLCS, we have a unique way to recognize and celebrate a piece of land that has gone into conservation. It's called a Bell-Ringing ceremony and its origin story includes pieces of the French Resistance of WWII, US patriotism and one very special bell.

As the story goes, two gentlemen got together over a glass of scotch one evening. As both of them were fiercely dedicated to land conservation, the discussion soon turned to a way of properly recognizing the incredible effort put into permanently protecting land. After much debate (and scotch), they settled on a ritual that would gather neighbors together with the symbolic act of the ringing of a special bell.

Well, it just so happened that one of the gentlemen had such a bell. The elder of the two gentlemen had fought with the French Resistance in WWII where he was captured and imprisoned in Spain. Arguing for nine months that he was in fact Canadian, he was released and sent there. Soon after his arrival in Canada he began his training as a French pilot by the U.S. Air Force. Alas, the war ended one week after getting his wings! Rather than returning to war-torn France, he chose to make his way to the U.S. He loved his adopted country, eventually retiring in Laconia, NH where he met and befriended the younger gentleman, who now tells this story. Among the possessions the older gentleman brought with him was a very special bell.

The gentleman's very special bell now lives with us at Squam Lakes Conservation Society where it is used to celebrate every new property in the Squam watershed that is permanently protected.

Land Conservation 101



The people of the Squam Lakes Region enjoy a landscape shaped by a tradition of conservation. More than 30% of the land in the Squam Lakes watershed is permanently protected, mostly by private land owners. Land conservation offers landowners the opportunity to make an enduring impact on New Hampshire's natural landscape and resources as well as making it easier to pass cherished property on to the next generation.

Many techniques exist for conserving land and each option is tailored to the unique circumstances and features of your land. Some even offer tax advantages.

If you want to provide permanent protection for your land while maintaining ownership, a conservation easement may be for you. A conservation easement will give you the peace of mind that the natural resources on your property are permanently protected.

Get the basics on Land Conservation from our Land Conservation 101 booklet. Download from our website www.foreversquam.org/publications or stop in for a copy.

The New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition has many helpful resources. Visit nhltc.org/resources/conserving-your-land-publication.

Forever Squam

The idea of Forever Squam is to accelerate the pace of conservation, while we still can. The campaign is over, but the work is ongoing. The objective of the campaign was to generate the resources that would make it easy for landowners to consider donating a conservation easement on their Squam property by covering the cost of 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 advance land conservation across an entire watershed.

With over 250 participants, the Forever Squam campaign has set the foundation to place another 10% of the Squam watershed into permanent protection. We are on our way! Please get in touch with us to discuss your options as we conserve what we love.

Forever Squam Update	
No. of Projects	11
Acres	257
Donated Projects	8
Bargain Sale Projects	3
Conservation Easements	8
Fee Acquisitions	3
Miles of Shoreline	2

Nelson Marsh – January 2023 DONATED Conservation Easement

Kenric Nelson and his extended family are pleased to announce the permanent conservation of 39 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*.



Woods Woods– February 2023 DONATED Conservation Easement

Wood’s Woods was originally part of Mead Farm owned by renowned aeronautical engineer, George “Jack” Mead and his wife Cary Mead. In the 1920’s the Meads purchased the lots on Center Harbor Neck from Albert and Julia Sturtevant Hutchins creating a family farm known as Mead Farm. The Mead family donated two natural resource treasures in the George & Cary Mead Memorial Forest and Center Harbor Point properties.

JoAnn and Peter Wood acquired their five-acre property in 1995 and built a home on the lakeside portion of the property. Both JoAnn and Peter were dedicated to the preservation of Squam Lake. Peter was an SLCS Director from 2005 to 2014 and was a volunteer property monitor for decades. Peter passed away in 2017 following a long battle with cancer. In 2022, Jo Ann made the decision to put the 2-acre portion of land west of Mead Farm Road in conservation by donating a conservation easement to SLCS as part of the Forever Squam initiative. The conserved property abuts the SLCS-owned George & Cary Mead Memorial Forest.



Stonehenge– April 2023 **BARGAIN SALE** Fee

Stonehenge is an 8.5 acre parcel on the shore of White Oak Pond in Holderness. All but two acres are designated as Prime Wetland as part of the extensive Lamb Brook Swamp Wetlands Complex. Conservation of this land ensures the protection of a relatively untouched natural habitat or ecosystem for fish, wildlife, and plants. The land was acquired by the Town of Holderness via Collector's deed in 2006. In March 2023, the voters at the Holderness Town Meeting overwhelming voted to transfer the ownership to us for permanent protection and stewardship with the understanding that we will manage Stonehenge as a wildlife preserve in conjunction with the abutting 45-acre Haskell Preserve. Why is this property called Stonehenge? It's because there are nine large, round, stone heaps of various sizes scattered on the land of unknown origin. Send us your ideas! But to get there, you'll need to access it by boat. Thanks to the residents of Holderness for entrusting Stonehenge to us.



Howe Commons– June 2023 **DONATED** Conservation Easement

You've all driven by the fields on Pinehurst Road in Holderness on your way to Rockywold-Deephaven Camps or perhaps to hike the Rattlesnakes or Five Finger Point. It is this property, Howe Commons, owned by six members of the Howe Family, that is the subject of our latest donated conservation easement!

Howe Commons is a 33.5-acre parcel with some of the most diverse habitats in the watershed with 9 acres of open field, well-managed woods, talus slopes, drainage seeps, the Undercut Trail, and even a section of old growth forest. The property abuts the Armstrong Natural Area and drains into Bennett Brook, one of Big Squam Lake's major tributaries. If you hike to the top of Mt. Morgan, you can now see nearly 500 contiguous acres of permanently protected land!

The legacy of conservation and history of Howe Commons can be traced back to the late 19th century when Mary Alice Armstrong bought land to build Rockywold Camp, later joining sister camp Deephaven to become the Rockywold-Deephaven Camps. In 1920 Mrs. Armstrong purchased the adjacent Greenleaf Farm, which included the previously mentioned fields and the area encompassing West Rattlesnake. The fields were used to provide food for the camps, and the rest was later donated to UNH becoming the Armstrong Natural Area.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Margie Emmons, Arthur Howe III, Sam Howe, Sarah Thorne, Peter Howe, Phoebe Howe, and the spirit of Tom Howe for fulfilling Mrs. Armstrong's vision of conserving the area and for their ongoing commitment to sustaining her tradition of stewardship and making the outdoors available for all.

For more history on Rockywold-Deephaven see *"Roots and Recollections: A Century of Rockywold-Deephaven Camps"* by Megan Thorn.

For more information on our conserved properties visit www.foreversquam.org/forever-updates/



Heron Society—Planned Giving

Ensuring the Future of Squam

Another summer at Squam. Maybe you started coming here as a child, maybe you have been introduced to Squam more recently and have come to love the pristine environment and the community. Not only did you return summer after summer after summer, but now your children and grandchildren share in the same magic that you felt, the magic that shapes the community of Squam. SLCS is part of what sustains that magic by ensuring that Squam's treasured lands, wildlife and natural resources are protected for now and all future generations.

When SLCS obtains a conservation easement, it is a commitment to protect that land forever. Forever is a long time. Planned Giving strengthens our ability to safeguard the wild spaces that make this community so unique.

The Heron Society, launched in 2010 in celebration of our 50th anniversary as Squam's land trust, is a way to honor those members who provide future support for our mission through a planned gift. The Heron Society thanks its members who have chosen to support a cause that is close to their hearts. To date, over 60 families have included SLCS and the protection of Squam's lands, community, and natural resources in their estate planning. You can also, it's easier than you think. To learn more, visit www.foreversquam.org/heron-society or call Denise at (603) 968-7900.

THINKING OF A PLANNED GIFT?

There are several ways to give, but here are the three simplest and most common:

- 1. Will/Bequest:** Designate a specific amount or a percentage of your estate in your will.
- 2. Life Insurance:** If you have policies with benefits that you no longer need, by naming SLCS as the beneficiary you may receive a charitable deduction and may reduce your estate taxes.
- 3. IRA:** If you are subject to a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you may save on income taxes by directing all or a portion of your RMD to SLCS

We encourage you to seek professional financial advice before making any planned giving decisions.

It is our collective and individual responsibility to preserve and tend to the environment in which we all live.

— Dalai Lama

Squam Lakes Conservation Society is responsible for the stewardship of almost 10,000 acres. That number will continue to 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 100 volunteers puts in many hours helping monitor **EVERY** property **EVERY** year.

We thank you!

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 like-minded friends and family. Any amount makes you a member.

Visit www.foreversquam.org for details or call (603) 968-7900.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars

JULY 11
AUG 08

MONITOR TRAINING
12:00pm - 4:00pm
SLCS Office
534 US Rte 3, Holderness

SEPT 07

THE ART OF CONSERVATION
4:30pm - 6:30pm
Squam River Studio
32 Main Street, Ashland

SEPT 17

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION
2:00pm - 5:00pm
Betsy's Park
Rte 3, Holderness

JULY 19

INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL
10:00am - 12:30pm
Michael Preserve
Rte 113 & Coolidge Farm Rd, Sandwich

AUG 03

DOUBLEHEAD VIEW CLEARING
10:00am - 1:00pm
Doublehead Preserve
Thompson Rd, Sandwich

AUG 15

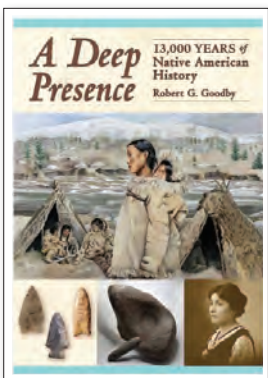
NIGHT WITH THE STARS
Turn out your lights and enjoy the magic of dark skies
9:00pm
Squam Community

2023 ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 2023

SUNSET HILL FARM
57 Center Harbor Neck Road

Please join us for our 63rd Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 19th at 10:00am. This year's meeting will be held at the home of Tom & Sandra McClaskie, Sunset Hill Farm, 57 Center Harbor Neck Rd in Center Harbor. There will be a special tribute to Pete Helm, as he retires from his 8+ years as SLCS' Stewardship Director. We will also be electing four new board members. Visit foreversquam.org/events for the slate of directors.

Come early to enjoy complimentary coffee and cider belly donuts provided by Moulton Farms starting at 9:30am. Enjoy the view of the Moulton Farm fields, get the latest SLCS merchandise, and meet the staff and volunteers.



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Robert Goodby, professor of Anthropology, Franklin Pierce University
Title: A Deep & Enduring Presence: Native American History & Archaeology in the Lakes Region

The science of archaeology has laid to rest the notion that the Squam Region was a sparsely inhabited wilderness before the arrival of European settlers. This land, known as Ndakinna, was the traditional homeland of the Western Abenaki. The archaeological record shows their continuous and extensive presence for more than 11,000 years. Locally, artifacts found along our lake shores confirm thousands of years of seasonal use and a dugout canoe likely dating to the 17th century was found in Veery Cove and is now housed at the Holderness Historical Society. In the 18th century, Indians were the targets of scalp-bounty hunting militias. More recently, older tourists can still recall purchasing beautifully made ash splint baskets from Native people often misidentified as "gypsies." Dr. Goodby brings a deeper understanding to the long, complex human story of this region.

Officers

Chris Grant

President

Anne Lovett

Vice-President

Peter Gross

Vice President

Winthrop Brown

Vice President

David Martin

Treasurer

Martin Carmichael

Secretary

Directors

Sandra Baker

Penelope Beal

Philip Bennett

Winthrop Brown

Ashley Bullard

Nancy Coolidge

Leo Dwyer

Ken Evans

Susan Gutchess

Chip Harris

Bonnie Hunt

William Nesheim

Pamela Simonds

Georgie Smith

Honorary

Directors

Laurie Beeson

John Morgridge

Daphne Mowatt

David Sinkler

Tim Vaill

Peter Van Winkle

R. Angus West

Betsy Whitmore

Staff

Roger Larochelle

Executive Director

Katie Currie-Huggard

Stewardship

Pete Helm

Doug Hill

Land Protection

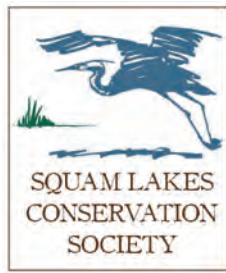
Denise Siraco

Development &

Communications

Sara Hixon

Bookkeeper



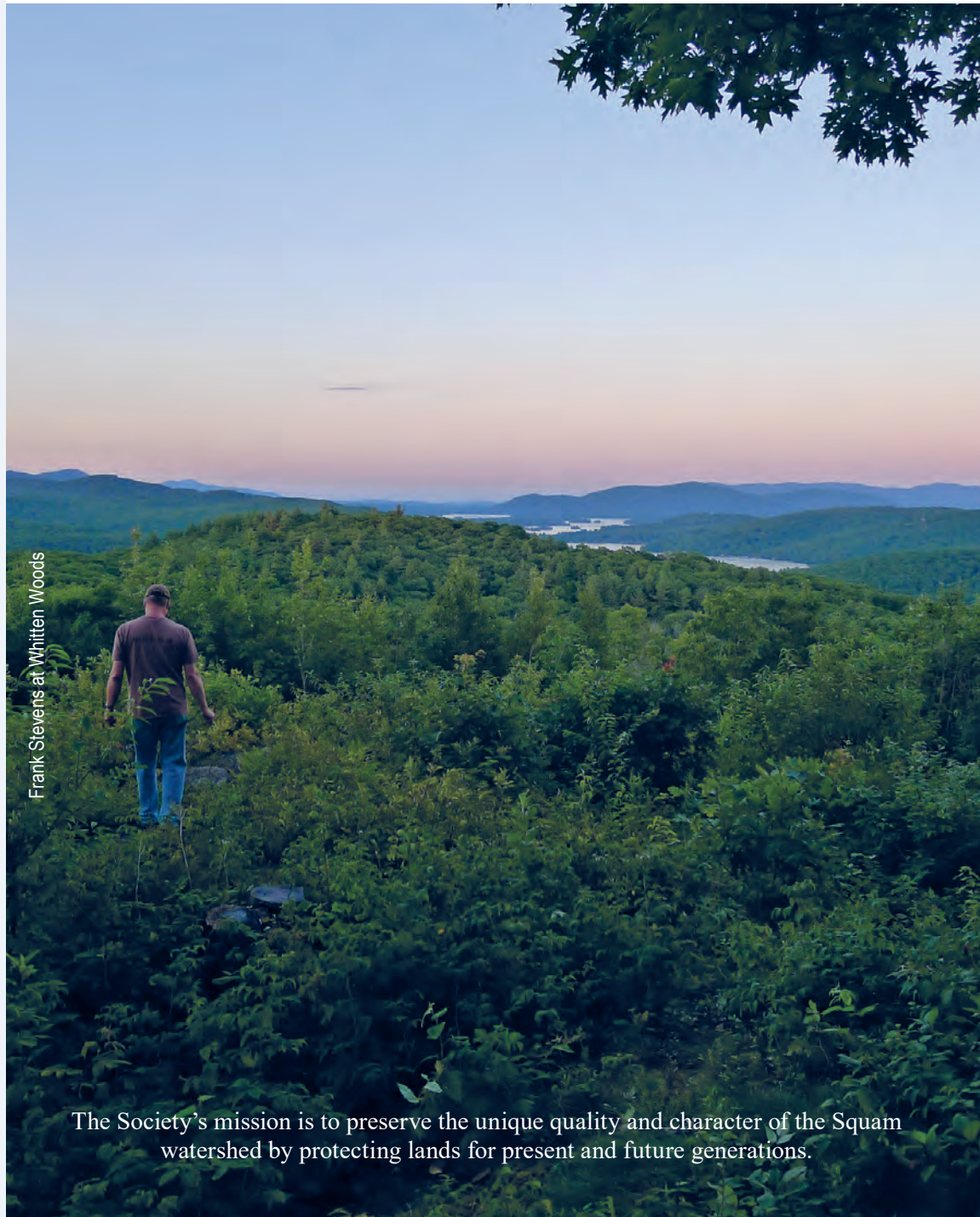
foreversquam.org
603.968.7900

Squam Lakes Conservation Society

PO Box 696

Holderness, NH 03245

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOLDERNESS, NH
PERMIT 2



Frank Stevens at Whitten Woods

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