

"Squam's Land Trust"

SQUAM LAKES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

2005 Annual Report

From the Executive Director . . .

The year 2005 was one of the busiest and most exciting years in SLCS history. The highlights include: conservation easements on six new parcels, completing mapping of all parcels within the watershed, hosting over 200 friends at our Annual Meeting, doubling our Stewardship Endowment Fund, monitoring all 59 properties in our care, purchasing options on two parcels (140 acres) on the Squam Range, and opening a whopping 50 new projects!

As "Squam's Land Trust," we are stewards of one of New Hampshire's most pristine and breathtaking natural resources. We continue to rely on volunteers to monitor properties that we protect, and for the donations that make your Squam Lakes Conservation Society possible. Thanks to each of you for helping keep Squam the special place that it is.

. . . and the President

Inasmuch as I have been President for a short time, my report looks more to the future than the past. Roger Larochelle, our wonderful Executive Director, has covered the highlights of 2005 above, so I'll review some goals for the year ahead:

Mission: Our work and focus is exclusively within the Squam Lakes watershed. Although there are other fine organizations doing important conservation here, we are uniquely positioned to help coordinate all the efforts in the Squam watershed.

Membership: Our membership now stands at 475. It is very important that we continue to build on this base by urging our members to acquaint their friends and neighbors with the SLCS and invite them to join with us.

Communications: Our door is always open, and everyone is welcome.

Community relations and visibility: We will continue to work with the eight towns in the watershed by lending our support to the Selectmen, Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions, and to residents and land owners.

Organization: We are a relatively small "working board," with each director making a substantial commitment. We are most grateful for their willingness to serve, and we are actively studying our committee and board structure with an eye to making it more effective.

Development: Conservation is an on-going process. Our supporters are sometimes confused by repeated appeals and projects. In spite of our best efforts, some of this will probably continue. But if you have suggestions for improving our development efforts, we would be delighted to hear them.

For those of you who are members, serve on committees, monitor conserved property, lend financial support, or otherwise offer a helping hand, I extend my deepest gratitude.



Board members Laurie Beeson, Peter VanWinkle, David Sinkler and Lisa Wardlaw review plans with Executive Director Roger Larochelle.

2005 in Review

January was a busy start to the year. We recorded two easements in January, the *Bierer Easement* on Moultonborough Bay, and the *Harris Meadows* easement of High Haith - - both on the 5th. Work on the watershed mapping project began in earnest as Roger attended a 16-week course on GIS mapping and we were able to identify 372 high-priority parcels throughout the watershed. We added to our Stewardship Endowment



Fund, helping fulfill a Board directive made in December 2004. As we continued on to **February**, we maintained the momentum and recorded a conservation easement deed on 28 acres named *Lyle-Stoye Woods* on the 18th. This parcel is located on Keiser Road in Meredith. Progress on the Red Hill Project - - begun in 2002 - - was made in **March**



when we recorded a conservation easement on Cotton Farm IV (gift from Lisa Wardlaw) on the 14th. The Piper Cove/Harrison property that we purchased in

conjunction with the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) was evenly divided through the recording of a boundary line adjustment. We own the lake-side half. In **April**, with the help of one of our Board members, Lisa Wardlaw, SLCS hosted a well-attended seminar for Lakes Region realtors. Sponsored by Lamprey & Lamprey, 35 realtors discussed the benefits of conservation easements and other issues relating to real estate. Later that same day, we presented our digitized maps of the watershed, including over



3,000 lots, to a joint meeting of Squam Area Conservation Commissions. The objective was to find ways to use the incredible information amassed by several organizations. Erin Geraghty joined the staff in a part-time capacity during the month of **May**, just in time to help with the many inquiries pouring in. Erin revised the information on all 56 properties, at that time, in our care. **June** found us meeting with several land-owners and discussing the possible purchase of a parcel in the Squam Range. The Monitor Training Workshop was held in **July**. Monitor Leaders John Thompson and Peter Wood led the discussion, along with administrator Jane Blaine. After the workshop, John, Peter, Judy Mack, and Larry Blaine took the volunteer monitors on a field excursion, using recently recorded conservation easement properties as their testing ground. **August** is Annual Meeting for SLCS. We held our most well-attended meeting ever on a rainy morning on the 20th at the Burleigh Barn, thanks to the generosity of Peter Harris



and the entire Webster Family. Over 200 people were on hand to hear Will Abbott speak about the very exciting "Forever Squam" vision. SLCS happily welcomed Tom Kelsey, Betsy Whitmore, and Peter Wood to our Board of Directors, and added Dick Davenport as an Honorary Director. We ended the month on a high note with the protection of our 58th property. Will and Judy Mack donated a conservation easement on 26.64 acres on Red Hill in Moultonborough and Sandwich. The quiet of **September** was met with an increase in active projects and funding into the Stewardship Endowment Fund. Each year the Land Trust Alliance hosts a National Rally during the month of **October**, bringing



together members of the land trust community from all over the country and the world. Executive Director Roger Larochelle and Board member Paul Guyre both attended this year's LTA Rally held in Madison, Wisconsin. In **November** we took the first steps toward purchasing two properties on the Squam Range, and in **December** both offers were accepted. The Fowler Trust property in Sandwich and the Green Acre Woodlands parcel mark the first parcels where the SLCS negotiated and began fund-raising for Squam property, a part of the "Forever Squam" vision.

Contributors to the Squam Lakes Conservation Society

January 1 to December 31, 2005

**Donors for 5 or more consecutive years are indicated by italics.*

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(Permanent Endowment)

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John Gephart & Monica Hargraves
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(Conservation Easement)
Will & Judy Mack
(Conservation Easement)
Lisa Wardlaw
(Conservation Easement)

2005 Financial Summary

Operating Income

Annual Fund	\$ 125,464	73%
Pledges	\$ 17,250	10%
Grants	\$ 11,500	6%
Membership	\$ 15,093	9%
Investment	\$ 2,667	2%

TOTAL OPERATING INCOME

\$171,974

Operating Expenses

Program	\$ 141,118	85%
Fundraising	\$ 13,282	8%
Administration	\$ 11,621	7%

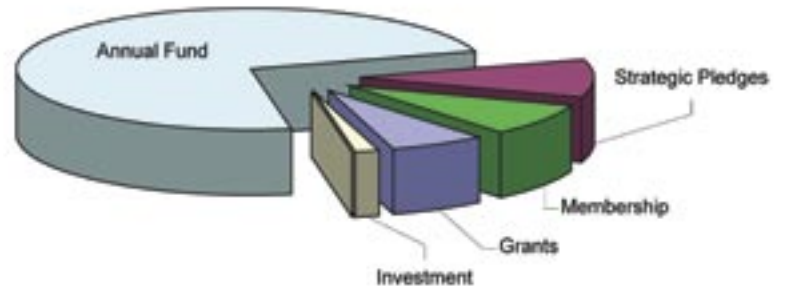
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

\$166,021

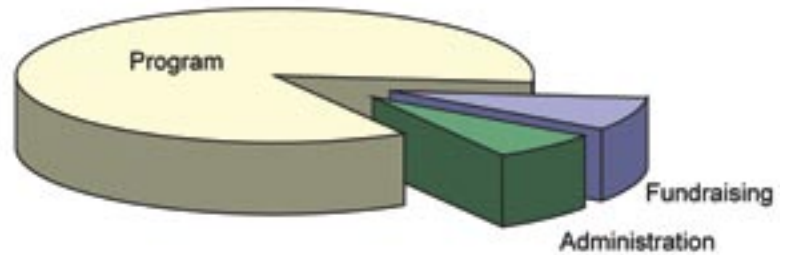
Surplus/Deficit

\$ 5,953

Operating Income



Operating Expenses



Funds Serving as Endowment

PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED

\$ 145,779

Memorial Maintenance Funds \$125,137

Income used to protect and defend existing conservation easements and to maintain the properties we hold in trust.

General Memorial Funds	\$97,955
Ellen G. F. Barry Memorial Fund	\$27,182

Squam Stewardship Fund \$ 20,642

Income supports stewardship of protected land.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:

\$ 156,339

Board Designated \$156,339

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED

\$29,045

Barnes Legal Defense Fund \$15,945

Fund used for the legal defense of conservation easements.

Land Acquisitions Fund \$6,543

Dedicated for the purchase of Squam watershed property.

Webster Conservation Easement Fund \$6,557

Donations provide front-end money to assist landowners with costs associated with land protection.

TOTAL FUNDS SERVING AS ENDOWMENT

\$ 331,164

Notes:

1. SLCS's financial records are examined by the firm of Rowley Associates, PC, Certified Public Accountants, Concord, NH. A detailed copy of the audit will be available upon request June 1, 2006.
2. On December 31, 2005 the fair market value of the SLCS endowment was \$331,164. This does not include unrestricted operating reserve.
3. The December 31, 2005 value of land, leasehold improvements, and equipment was \$2,907,063.

Special Thanks

SLCS relies on the help of many individuals and organizations who contribute their time, talent and resources to help us achieve our mission to protect and preserve the Squam Lakes watershed. Special thanks to:

Property Stewards

Alex Beal	Jenny Bodwell
Barbara Beal	Jim Colthart
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Squam Lakes Conservation Society
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 Phone: 603-968-7900 Fax: 603-968-7903
 www.squamlakes.com

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

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