



SQUAM LOOKOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SQUAM LAKES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

VOL. XV, No. 2

"Squam's Land Trust"

FALL 2006

2006 Annual Meeting

President David Sinkler opened the 45th Annual Meeting of the Squam Lakes Conservation Society held at the Pinehurst Barn on August 19, 2006 by pointing out that the past year has been a remarkable period for conservation in the Squam watershed. More land has gone, or is about to go, into conservation than at any other time in our history.



David and Roger ringing the bell for Squam

About 200 friends were on hand as David described this organization as a prism. "On one side is a spectrum of inputs from members, donors of conservation land, investors in conservation, residents, neighbors, and the eight towns in the watershed. On the other side of the prism is the future of the Squam watershed. Our job is to serve as a focal point between the Squam community and its future. We understand that it's important to have an organization ready and focused on conservation outcomes. We're glad to serve as agents, but we depend on you, our members. Thanks for supporting our efforts and we'll do our very best to stay in touch."

David took some time to thank the SLCS Board, its donors, property owners, staff members Roger Larochelle and Jane Blaine, and past president Laurie Beeson for their invaluable contributions and support. He thanked the Swindell Family for allowing us use of their barn and space. He also emphasized the importance of working cooperatively with other organizations such as the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, Squam Lakes Association, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center. He particularly urged all to support the efforts of the LRCT for its current Burleigh Land Limited Corporation conservation easement campaign.

Roger Larochelle, Executive Director, spoke next by announcing the start of a new tradition; ringing a bell for each new property that is permanently conserved. Roger rang the bell announcing the conservation of 30 acres on Red Hill, the Mayer Conservation area, and then rang the bell again heralding the donation of land in fee on Kent Island now known as the Cook Conservation Area, our 65th conserved property!

Paul Guyre, chair of the Conservation and Acquisitions Committee, thanked everyone who had participated in the many completed projects this year, and especially to all who helped with the Koenig Forest Conservation Area campaign, a huge win for the entire Squam Community.

Please be sure to check our website (www.squamlakes.com) for all the latest information and updates.



A terrific gathering at the Pinehurst Barn

Hello to Three New Directors . . .



Barbara Grossman is a scientist by training. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College and the Harvard School of Public Health, where her research centered on environmental carcinogens. Since retiring as a scientist many years ago, she has been an active volunteer in the areas of elder care, education, and reproductive rights. With her husband Jerry, Barbara has been active in promoting charter schools in the cities of Massachusetts. She is the past chairman of the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts and is currently vice-chair of the Center for Reproductive Rights, in New York. As a devoted summer resident of Sandwich, Barbara looks forward to working on the issues around watershed conservation.

Thomas N. Masland is a shareholder and director of the Concord, NH law firm of Ransmeier & Spellman, Prof. Corp., and represents both landowners and conservation organizations in land protection projects and conservation transactions. A Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, he also concentrates his practice in the areas of estate planning and administration, elder law and probate matters. In addition, Tom is a frequent lecturer on both conservation and estate planning topics to professional audiences as well as the general public. He is a member of the Board of the Granite State Conservation Voters Alliance, a statewide political advocacy and education organization, the Turkey River Basin Trust, and the Lakes Region Advisory Board of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Tom is a native of New Hampshire, and currently resides in New Hampton with his wife, Sylvia Bates.



Timothy L. Vaill and his wife, Lucy, first started coming to Squam in the early 80's, and purchased their camp in Moultonborough in 1987. Tim previously served on the SLCS Board of Directors from 1991 to 1999, and was instrumental in the development of our stewardship program. He has remained an enthusiastic monitor throughout the years. He holds a BS in Mathematics from Tufts University and an MBA from Harvard University. Tim is currently Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Boston Private Financial Holdings where he has been since January 1, 1993. He is also Chairman of the Board of Borel Private Bank & Trust Company in San Mateo, California, of Boston Private's investment management subsidiary, Sand Hill Advisors, Inc. in Palo Alto, California, and at RINET Company, a financial planning subsidiary in Boston. In addition, he is a Director at several additional financial institutions.



. . . and Farewell to Four Retiring Directors

SLCS is fortunate in having the opportunity to welcome Barbara, Tim and Tom as our newest Board members. The other side of this equation is bidding farewell to retiring Directors. Peter Coolidge, Peter VanWinkle, and CC Stockly all said goodbye as Board members, and Peter Richards moved up to Honorary Director. Peter has been active in the SLCS right from the beginning, serving as President for a total of nine years and as a Director for fifteen. We welcome Pete as our newest Honorary Director.



Peter Coolidge, Peter Richards, and Peter VanWinkle

Personnel Update

In the history of the SLCS, **Jane Blaine** has been by far our longest standing and valuable employee. As office administrator for the past eight years, Jane has guided our growth from an organization protecting 28 properties to today's organization protecting 66 properties and many more in the near future. Jane was a "one-man band" for much of that time and has helped the SLCS grow considerably in depth and mission. She had a very unique skill set in being bookkeeper, land steward, and just about everything else for this organization. We will be forever grateful to Jane and will miss her sense of humor, company, and charm. Jane has moved to Tennessee, so please let us know if you would like her contact information.

We are very pleased to welcome **Alicia Abbott** to our team as our new office administrator. Alicia is a devoted parent of three children and is well known to the Squam community through her husband Will, a longtime SLCS Board Member. Alicia has left her post as Holderness Deputy Town Clerk and Tax Collector and will be working 25 hours weekly, and generally each work-day between nine and two. Her email is alicia@squamlakes.com.

We are in the process of hiring a part-time land stewardship coordinator to round out the team. Please see our website for a job description.

Projects Completed

Kent Island Charlie Cook has donated a build-able parcel in fee to the SLCS on Kent Island, making that our second conserved property on Kent Island. The parcel, with 100 feet of lake-frontage, will be held as a wildlife area in perpetuity and is further testimony to the cumulative effect of the conservation of even small parcels. This is our 65th conserved property, and is added to over 15 miles of protected Squam shoreline. Many thanks to Charlie Cook for his tremendous donation and patience in negotiating a boundary line adjustment prior to gifting this parcel to us.



Ponzi Easement On a remarkably warm morning the day after Thanksgiving, Dagmar Ringe-Ponzi gave all of us something else to be thankful for by donating a key conservation easement on 5.2 acres and 960 feet of prime Kusumpe Pond lake frontage. This conservation easement links over 9,000 feet of protected shoreline on this remarkably unique wild pond. Kusumpe Pond is the jewel at the center of an 800+ acre wildlife corridor, preserved in the past 5 years, which connects the conserved lands of Red Hill and Squam Lakes to the White Mountain National Forest to the north. It is the home of otter, mink, bobcat, pine marten, moose, deer, wood duck and beaver, with frequent visits from Squam's bald eagles. This marks our 66th protected property in the Squam watershed.

Squam Range Study

The Squam Range Study, an ecological assessment of the Squam Range, is phase II of a long-term bio-monitoring partnership project. This project focuses on the 20,000 acre Squam Range and environs because of its ecological integrity, rare and endangered species, and importance to the water quality of the Squam Lakes. Dr. Rick Van de Poll is the principal scientist and has written a ten-page report entitled "Conservation Values of the Squam Range: Campton, Holderness, and Sandwich, N.H.," which is available on our website. Dr. Van de Poll concludes his summary by stating "With such a tremendous natural resource surrounding one of the finest recreational lakes in the state, there can be no better legacy than to leave the beauty and integrity of the Squam Range unspoiled for future generations."

The conservation potential for the Squam Range is tremendous. Land-owner turnover has been minimal, several environmental organizations are involved, and most importantly, it has a history of conservation-minded land owners. Earlier this year, the SLCS purchased two Squam Range parcels; the Doublehead Conservation Area and the Metcalf Preserve, and last year, the SLA purchased the Cotton Mountain Parcel, of which a conservation easement to the SLCS is in the works. The SLA, with the assistance of the Student Conservation Association, maintains over 35 miles of trails on the Squam Range that are used by over ten thousand hikers each year. Its affiliation with Plymouth State University, and the top-quality research being supported by PSU's Center for the Environment, makes the Squam Range a superb laboratory for long-term research and graduate education. The Lakes Region Conservation Trust has long held the Squam Range in its strategic vision and is in the midst of conserving 2,500 acres of the Burleigh Farm lands. The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center continues its excellence in environmental education to students and visitors to the area. Finally, the Sweet Water Trust has already invested its time and financial support to each of the above organizations, and continues to be an advocate of forever wild lands in the Squam Range. Each of these organizations recognizes the intrinsic value of the natural landscape on the Squam Range and each is playing a critical role in its permanent protection.



Dr. Rick Van de Poll presented his report at the SLCS Annual Meeting

New Conservation Tax Incentive

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Alicia Abbott

Office Administrator

Section 1206 of the pensions bill (HR 4) recently passed by Congress will help donors of highly valued property, farmers, and moderate-income landowners get a significant tax benefit for donating a conservation easement. This proposal will:

- Raise the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%;
- Allow qualifying farmers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI; and
- Extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.

This provision is effective for donations made from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007. After that, the law reverts back to previous provisions, unless Congress extends the provision prior to the deadline. There is also a provision allowing for tax-free donations from an IRA account from individuals over age 70 and a half. Please contact us for additional information about these tax incentives. Information can also be found at the Land Trust Alliance website – www.lta.org.

For a meaningful and lasting gift, consider a membership or a gift in someone's honor to the SLCS. We will notify them of your gift with a card that says, "A gift (or a membership gift) in your honor was given to the Squam Lakes Conservation Society by YOUR NAME." If you have questions, please contact our office.



Andrew Thompson

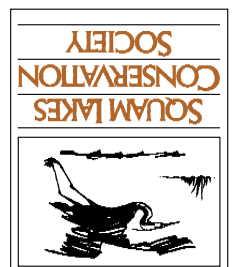
The Society's mission is to preserve the unique quality and character of the Squam watershed by protecting lands for present and future generations.

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