

# SQUAM LOOKOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SQUAM LAKES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

VOL. XIII, No. 3

*"Squam's Land Trust"*

FALL 2004

## SLCS Annual Meeting 2004

SLCS hosted its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup> in the SLA Great Room. Over 100 SLCS supporters and friends gathered on a beautiful summer morning to review the past 12 months and elect new officers and directors.

Laurie Beeson was elected to his 3<sup>rd</sup> term as President, and Will Abbott, Paul Guyre and Peter VanWinkle as Vice-Presidents. Angus West was elected for his second year as Treasurer, and Winky Merrill as Secretary. Rachel Armstrong and Peter Richards were re-elected for a three year term, and Paul Beck for a one year term. Two new Directors joined the Board for three year terms - - Peter Harris and David Sinkler.

Following the regular business meeting and election of officers and directors, conservationist Dave Eastman gave a presentation entitled "Promoting Wildlife in Your Backyard."



Photo by Karlene Schwartz

Hobblebush Fruit

### President's Letter

With apologies to anyone who heard this at our annual meeting, here's a little summary of how the SLCS has been performing. I think the message bears repeating.

As of last fall, we had protected an average of one new property in each of our 43 years of existence. Since then, we've closed nine new properties.

In 2001 we had 17 active conservation projects, which we considered to be an all-time high. Today we have over 50 active projects, and we're adding new ones every week. These aren't just casual inquiries, they're people who are serious about conserving their property.

I submit that a three-fold increase in projects and a 9x improvement in our rate of acquiring new properties (easements and fee) represent pretty solid progress.

Certainly the towns' tax reassessments moved some people in our direction. But I think we had positioned ourselves well for this "influx of business" – and have sustained it – by getting our organization and staffing right. The decision to hire a full time professional was key, and we learned how to define the job and the attributes someone would need to be successful in it.

I also think we did a pretty good job of targeted communications. And I think we've gotten better at partnering. The partners in question, SLA and LRCT, have been especially welcoming. But it helps a lot that *we've* gotten better at reaching out, and that *we* come to the table with some expertise and capability.

All of these improvements have their roots in the 1999 strategic plan. That plan emphasized our need to be more proactive, to communicate better, to partner better...and to add professional staff.

Of course, none of our actions would amount to much if we were working with an uninformed, unconcerned lake community. Squam's community is the opposite, and that makes everything possible. I've said this before too, and this too bears repeating: it's families and individuals who care desperately about keeping Squam the way it is that make Squam different, and make it better.

## Meet Your New Directors

**Peter Harris** has been coming to Squam Lake since 1953, the year he was born. He and his brothers built a house on Squam in 1985. Peter has been president of the Webster



Land Corporation since 1992. WLC owns over 5,000 acres on the northwest corner of Squam Lake in addition to large family holdings. The entire family is committed to keeping these holdings in their natural state. Peter is a founding member of *Save NH Lakes, Inc.*, a non-profit organization, and served as a Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in the early '90s. He and his wife, Harriet, and

their children have dabbled in farming at Burleigh Farm, and over the years have had a horse, llama, several pigs, and upwards of 35 sheep! From 1976 until 1998 he served in the US Navy (12 years active, 10 years reserve), and attained the rank of Captain. Currently he is Director, President and CEO of Rapor, Inc., a high-tech access control company. When asked about his involvement and role as a Director, Peter responded, "Having been fortunate enough to be around Squam Lake for most of my life I have come to know its unique serenity and unspoiled qualities. . . I am hoping that through my term as a SLCS Board member I can further the organization's efforts and legacy in protecting this special place."

**David Sinkler** is a resident of Sandwich, New Hampshire. He and his wife, Rebecca, are major stockholders in the Sandwich General Store. David graduated from St.



Paul's School and later, Princeton University. After serving two years in the Army, he began a career in investment banking. In 1969 he founded Mitchell & Sinkler (later Mitchell Sinkler & Starr), an investment management firm in Philadelphia. He was Chairman of the Board upon his retirement in 1995. David has served on numerous Boards, including Chestnut Hill Hospital, Philadelphia

Child Guidance Clinic (Chairman of the Board), Traveler's Aid Society, and White-Williams Foundation (President). He currently sits on the board of the Lakes Region Charitable Foundation (of the NH Charitable Foundation). He and Rebecca have three children and seven grandchildren.

### A Very Special Gift



Thanks to the generosity of SLCS Director **Dick Davenport**, SLCS is now the proud owner of a 1931 Reed & Pratt "Harpoon." This spectacular gift will enhance our ability to visit potential sites for protection and monitor existing properties. Thank you, Dick!



*Photo by Andrew Thompson*

### Loon Call

*Chris Agee*

Its black head might surface midafternoon off a dock of planks weathered gray as wasp's nest: or its call sound hauntingly across the placid light of Squam

at duskfall, the sky the inside of a seashell: catching me at a desk in lamplight, back to a screendoor filled with the endless rattle-shake of summer insects:

standing, gazing upwards in tall meadow grass shadowed with moonlight, in thrall to the constellations and the galaxy-mantle of the Milky Way: in ferny birchwoods

aswim with sun-mottle on lichened boulders: reminding me, like the Möbius of thought turned on itself, of the life of the moment it mortalizes.

*From June 1999 "Wilderness Society Magazine"*



## Squam Lakes Conservation Society

"Squam's Land Trust"



### Officers

**Laurie Beeson, President**  
**Will Abbott, Vice President**  
**Paul Guyre, Vice President**  
**Peter K. VanWinkle, Vice President**  
**R. Angus West, Treasurer**  
**Winky Merrill, Secretary**

### Board of Directors

**Rachel Armstrong**  
**Paul R. Beck**  
**Peter Coolidge**  
**Richard Davenport**  
**Jerry English**  
**Peter Harris**  
**John Morgridge**  
**Peter Richards**  
**David Sinkler**  
**CC Stockly**  
**John Waldhausen**  
**Lisa Wardlaw**

### Honorary Directors

**Ellen Bennett**  
**Nancy Grady**  
**Daphne Mowatt**  
**Bertram Read**  
**Beverly Ridgely**  
**Rawson Wood**

### Staff

**Roger B. Larochelle**  
*Executive Director*  
**Jane R. Blaine**  
*Administrator*

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*Photo by John Hurd*

## BIRDWALKS 2004



*Photo by Andrew Thompson  
[www.wildlightimages.com](http://www.wildlightimages.com)*

### *Waxwing with berry*

With the addition of one new bird walk leader, and despite an inordinate amount of rain, the SLCS was fortunate to be able to offer four bird walks during the summer of 2004. Cyrus "Chuck" Gibson joined the team of leaders, which includes Tony Vazzano, Bob Ridgely, Betty Valentine, and Drewry Cromwell.

Twenty-two SLCS members and friends braved the early morning hours and unpredictable weather to enjoy the sights and sounds of birds in the Chamberlain Reynolds Forest, Unsworth Preserve, and Thompson Refuge.

Chuck Gibson even provided an extra "rain date" walk for those participants who preferred not to join him in the rain.

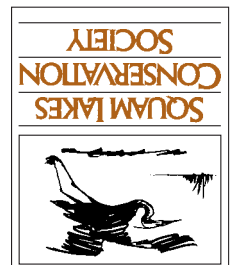
SLCS will be offering bird walks once again during the 2005 summer season. If you are not on our mailing list for the walks but would like to participate, please write, call or e-mail the office. Schedules and offerings for 2005 will be sent out in April or May.

*Photo to left: Participants in the July 14<sup>th</sup> birdwalk at the Thompson Refuge in North Sandwich, from left to right: Sara Foster, Roger Larochelle, Betty Valentine, Chuck Gibson, Joe Kabat, and leader Bob Ridgely.*

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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