



SQUAM LOOKOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SQUAM LAKES CONSERVATION SOCIETY

VOL. XIII, No. 2

"Squam's Land Trust"

SUMMER 2004

Stewards of Squam

"Monitoring is perhaps the most important volunteer position at Squam." Monitor Leader Tim Vaill declared this during our inaugural, and now annual, monitor training held on May 29, 2004. With all the tremendous volunteer work performed in the Squam Community, from water testing to visiting shut-ins, it may seem a stretch to consider walking land as the highest priority. However, Tim's message is abundantly clear — protecting land is vitally important to our community.

Many of you may have read the May 30th *New Hampshire Sunday News* article "Squam and Winnepesaukee: The State's best known lakes a few miles – but worlds – apart." At the heart of the comparison between Winnepesaukee and Squam was the amount of development taking place. Developers have built condominium complexes and large marinas with shared access to one beach on the larger lake. Squam has not had any such funnel development. "New Hampshire was a state of conservative means, but now we've come to the point of excess and a 'keep up with the Jones' mentality. This is foreign to everything New Hampshire was built upon."

As the fastest growing state in the Northeast, and one of the fastest in the country, rapid development threatens the fabric of our communities. Squam continues to have good things going for it because we've done something right. Namely, the biggest difference is the remarkably strong and pervasive sense of low-impact use and conservation. I'd call it the "ethic of Squam." More than anything, that is what has defined this community historically, and continues in strong fashion.

Recently, through the goodwill of the Fisher, Adriance, Copeland, and Keith families, we completed six new land conservation deals, permanently protecting another quarter-mile of prime Squam lake-frontage and 30 acres of land. Piece by piece, we're protecting more and more of the Squam watershed. Once again, it's proven that people don't come to Squam to turn over a quick profit. Rather, they come to Squam to slow down and profit from life's lessons and enjoy its beauty.

Tim Vaill was right — it's vitally important to be a steward of Squam. Together, we're defending what Squam symbolizes, today and for generations to come. Thank you for supporting our efforts as Squam's Land Trust, and please contact us about being a "Steward of Squam."



"The eagle has landed," and taken up residence for a second year on Little Loon Island.

Photograph by Andy 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.

SLCS Protects Six New Parcels

George Hodges Easements I, II, III ⇨⇨

Grantors: Betsy & Van Adriance, Margaret & Scott Whitcomb, Emily & Kurt Magnus, Barbara Smith

SLCS Status: Conservation Easement Holder

Date: March 25, 2004

Description & Features: 4.3 acres with 1,072 feet of shoreline in Holderness, NH. Three lots were subdivided into backland and shoreline lots, with conservation easements placed on all three shoreline lots.



Copeland Woods ⇨⇨

Grantors: Susan & William Copeland

SLCS Status: Conservation Easement Holder

Date: July 7, 2004

Description & Features: 22.4 acres in Moultonborough, NH. Area I consists of 10.5 acres covering the highest elevation lands. Area II is 11.9 acres with 430 feet of shoreline. These two conservation easements are part of the larger “Pine Hill Farm” project, which prevented the development of an 80 unit condominium development.

The *Squam Lakes Conservation Society* is the only land trust focused exclusively on the Squam Lakes watershed. The SLCS offers an opportunity to help secure a haven for present and future generations while helping preserve the region’s natural heritage. Each year we also sponsor seminars on land protection strategies for landowners. Our staff is available year-round to assist in these endeavors.

Please contact us for further information about our services, for volunteering opportunities, or to make a donation.

www.squamlakes.com

603-968-7900



⇨⇨ Carnes Cove

Grantors: Audrey & Timothy Fisher, Lilah Fisher, Matthew Fisher, Justin Fisher, Nina Fisher

SLCS Status: Title Holder

Date: April 1, 2004

Description & Features: 1.68 acres with 660 feet of shoreline on Route 113 in Holderness, NH. The parcel was a viable building lot prior to transfer of title. The Squam Lakes Association has been named as title reverter.



Berry Mill II

(not pictured)

Grantor: Rowland Keith

SLCS Status: Title Holder

Date: March 29, 2004

Description & Features: 212 square feet, south side Route 3, intersecting Shepard Hill Road. This parcel is directly adjacent to and completes SLCS’s protection of Berry Mill.

THE WAY IT WAS

“Summers in Holderness, New Hampshire, 1924 – 1978

by Eugenia Lovett West and Sidney Lovett

*Excerpted from “Summers in Holderness, New Hampshire, 1924 – 1978” by Eugenia Lovett West and Sidney Lovett, which appeared in Uncle Sid of Yale, edited by the Yale Alumni Foundation. What follows is a loving tribute to summers in Holderness and, most of all, their beloved father, Augustus Sidney Lovett (ASL).**

ASL was rarely interested in lakeside activities, but one annual high point of the summer was his unrehearsed and totally unpredictable “fall in” in full dress. To the dismay of a child rower, ASL would roll out of a boat, or perhaps teeter off a dock, but the finale was always the same: with pipe tightly clenched, clothes hanging limp, hair parted in the middle, he would surface to the accompaniment of laughter, and retire shyly homeward as if the whole incident had been an accident. This streak of horseplay would emerge in the theatrical productions in the Playhouse. They featured slapstick comedy interspersed with high drama created around the theme of the fictitious Coxboro Fire Department which inevitably arrived after the fires had done their worst. Formal productions gradually gave way to more informal gatherings, often around the piano where, in one key and with a thumping rhythm, ASL would sing out the Pine Island camp favorites: “Casey Jones,” “In My Castle on the River Nile,” and “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho.” A collection of ASL hats, largely acquired by Esther and friends, became a regular part of spirited social gatherings -- police hats, derbies, training caps -- available for any and all whims. In fact, mock parades and marches would be instigated at the putting on of a hat.

Undoubtedly, ASL’s greatest props were an old red rocking chair and a costume which featured his father’s Grand Army of the Republic coat and campaign hat. Seated on the front lawn, smoking a pipe and holding a stuffed elephant of childhood acquaintance under his left hand and the American flag with his right, he would quietly wait to entrap the expected guest or unexpected stranger. The sight of the ancient veteran, sandwiched between senility and devotion, was enough to stop the most casual passerby. It still remains vintage, never-to-be-forgotten ASL. The humor was so seldom hidden that it came to be taken for granted.

ASL’s respect and affection for the year-round residents resulted from over a half-century of acquaintanceship. He had come to a rural community and knew full well how hard the people worked to make a living. He also knew that character is never concealed by lack of privilege. Few realized at the time how much visiting took place on the front porch or at hospital bed, for ASL made pastoral tracks without benefit of collar or professional call. He swapped stories and listened so attentively that many sermon illustrations came from these visits. On one occasion he sought instruction in the proper use of a chain saw, lethal under any conditions. The salesman lifted up the saw, held it before ASL and stated, “You kin shift yer grip, but you mustn’t loose your holt.” And therewith was born a magnificent illustration shared with many a congregation.



Photo courtesy of Sid Lovett

“Sidney & Esther”

ASL’s mid-career in driving was his finest. In the last two decades, with visual impairment due to glaucoma and cataracts, he gaily referred to Esther as his co-pilot, intimidated grandchildren by asking them to spot the side roads, and cajoled his children by announcing that in the good old days the motto for speed was “drive your age,” which he did until over 80. When a truck driver screamed some unprintables at his performance on a main street in nearby Laconia, ASL reported with glee that his rejoinder was, “Would you repeat that, please? I’m a bit deaf.”

The shadows lengthened. . . A mid-September departure was the plan in 1978. ASL and Esther looked carefully at the mountains just prior to the final closure. Each privately said to their son that this might be their last look, a benediction. In the process of locking up, ASL came to the back door carrying a case in one hand, a cane in the other. Young Sid stood aside in order that the master of the house could attend to the details. Up went the crook of the cane. The door slammed shut. Then they set off on ASL’s final trip from Holderness to New Haven.

In July of 1979, the following summer, the family placed ASL’s ashes in the pine grove across the road from the brick house. Against a granite boulder, in company with a beloved friend and with his pipe and pouch, there he has found a “safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last. Amen.”

**Copies of the complete article are available from SLCS upon request.*

Squam Lakes Conservation Society

"Squam's Land Trust"



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Mark Your Calendars!

SLCS Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, August 14, 2004

Time: 9 a.m. (coffee at 8:30 a.m.)

Location: SLA Resource Center
Holderness, NH

STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

Thirty-five SLCS members and friends gathered on May 29th to participate in a SLCS's first annual stewardship workshop. Paul Beck, chair of the Stewardship & Review Committee, welcomed the participants. SLCS administrator Jane Blaine presented a general overview of stewardship and monitoring, followed by a more detailed explanation of conservation easements and our responsibility. Monitors Peter Wood, Tim Vaill and John Thompson then led three "teams" of monitors for hands on experience on three of our properties – Mill Brook, Berry Mill, Mill Brook II.

SLCS currently owns or holds conservation easements on 51 separate parcels. It is our responsibility to yearly monitor the condition of each property and to ascertain compliance with the terms of the conservation easement deed. We rely solely on volunteers for this most important task. If you are interested in being a part of our monitoring team, please contact Jane Blaine by phone or e-mail (603-968-7900 or jane@squamlakes.com).



Monitor leaders and teams write up their monitoring reports after walking Piper Cove, Berry Mill, and Mill Brook.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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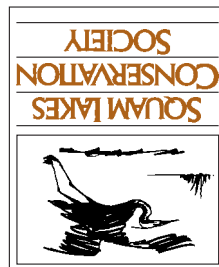
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