

Fall 2023



SQUAM



A LOOK INSIDE:

Moving Onward

Welcome Emily

Neat Nature Moments

Welcome New Board

Connections

An interview with Karlene & Lowell Schwartz:

Conservation 101

Annual Meeting

Planned Giving

Great Island

NextGen



Moving Onward...

Land conservation is a team sport. Everyone on this team has one or more roles, whether it's as a member, volunteer, landowner, staff, director, partner, provider, or something else. It has been my privilege to serve the role as your Executive Director since 2003. The time is approaching for me to hand the baton over to a new leader to take this remarkable organization to new heights.

This transition will occur over the course of the next year, culminating at our Annual Meeting in August 2024. The goal is to ensure we have plenty of time to hire the right person and allow for a smooth transition. Meanwhile, I have plenty to do between now and then wrapping up projects, documenting procedures, and passing along the many stories.

I am fully confident SLCS will not only continue to thrive but will flourish in ways beyond my vision and capacity. For starters, we have you, our loyal and dedicated members. Then we have a stellar staff. This past summer, when veteran stewardship guru Pete Helm retired, we wondered about its impact. Enter Katie Currie-Huggard, who is expanding the role of Stewardship Director. Emily Landry is coordinating much of the project work as our recently hired Land Acquisition Director. Denise Siraco continues to thrive in her development and communication roles. Sara Hixon has expanded her responsibilities as she now prepares all the financial reports. And Doug Hill continues to wisely guide our land conservation projects.

Another example of our resiliency and growth came this summer as five Directors termed off: Ashley Bullard, Ken Evans, Chip Harris, Bonnie Hunt and Anne Lovett. While we will miss their wisdom and guidance, we elected four new Directors: Doug Hart, Alli Stepp, Bryan Sweeney, and Kathy Weymouth. In October, the Board filled the vacant slot by appointing Molly Whitcomb back onto the Board (pg. 4)

High performing teams share a common purpose, communicate well, and build a trusting environment. They also embrace change and build on previous successes without relying on them. There's no doubt in my mind that we will continue to build on the trajectory of conserving this place we all love.

Thank you for the role you play on this team, for welcoming my wife Jennifer and me into this community, and for your continued support, friendship, partnership, guidance, and love. You can be certain that my love of Squam and the people who make it so special will never diminish. There is no other community that is as generous, community-oriented, and conservation-minded as Squam. Squam deserves the very best from all of us. I am tremendously fortunate to call this place home with all of you. Onward...



The Board has formed a search committee and retained Kittleman & Associates to help recruit a new Executive Director. We will begin the active candidate recruitment process next year in March with the expectation of hiring the new staff leader prior to the Annual Meeting on August 17, 2024 to be held at Camp Hale in Sandwich.

Cover photo: Jackson Pond - DONATED Conservation Easement in New Hampton

Welcome Emily Landry

Land Acquisition Director



As you may already know, the Squam region has a way of engraining itself on you. A big part of why this happens may be the scenic mountains, pristine waters, or rich history, but also significant are the people and

community. Five years ago, I wrapped up my 6-month AmeriCorps term at the Squam Lakes Conservation Society, not quite sure where I would end up. For the next few months, I worked for various organizations in various positions, and then ended up at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in easement stewardship where I stayed for two years. Most recently, I completed a master's degree in natural resources at the University of New Hampshire.

When I learned the Land Acquisition Director position was opening up, I could feel the Squam region pulling me back and I seized the opportunity. Today as I write these words from my comfortable office at SLCS, it almost feels as if I never left. It's been a pleasure to see familiar faces and

explore familiar properties and I am excited to meet new faces and explore new properties! Squam is a special place, and it wouldn't be that way if it weren't for the generous, conservation-minded community members like you. I look forward to working with you to protect the quality and character of the Squam watershed!

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– Emily Landry
Land Acquisition Director

Katie's Neat Nature Moments ...



Fall is prime time for spotting owls! When the leaves fall, owls become more visible in the trees. Owls are nocturnal, so you will most likely see an owl at dawn or dusk or napping in the trees during the day. The Barred Owl is the most widespread and common owl in the state, and they do not migrate. When I think of owls, I

remember when I was in second grade dissecting sanitized owl pellets. Did you know ejecting pellets is common in all raptors and gulls? Many other birds, including flycatchers, corvids, herons, sandpipers, and kingfishers, have been recorded ejecting pellets. All these birds have been spotted on Squam! For the most part, owls eat their prey whole. They have a two-chambered stomach, and the first chamber breaks down any soft tissue, and anything undigested, such as bones, fur, and teeth, passes to the second chamber, called a gizzard. All birds have gizzards, but some eat small rocks or grit for the organ to function properly. An owl starts digesting its food immediately because it cannot eat again until it ejects a pellet. Neat!

– Katie Currie-Huggard
Stewardship Director



photo credit: Ben Wymer

Meet The Board...

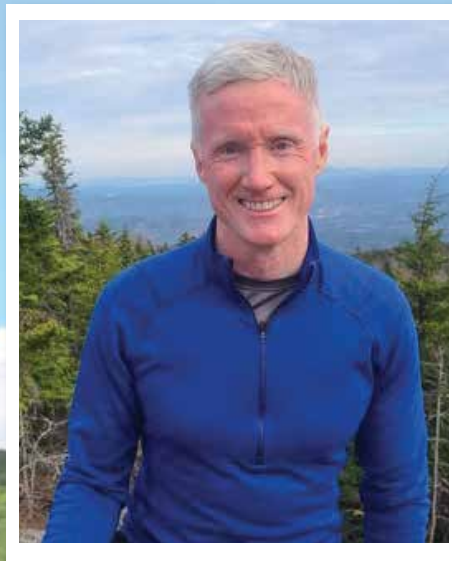
Welcome to our new board members

This year we bid farewell to five active Directors who termed off the board. Ashley Bullard, Ken Evans, Chip Harris, Bonnie Hunt and Anne Lovett dedicated a combined 39 years to protecting the natural environment of the Squam Lakes area with its unique quality and character.

At our August annual meeting we elected four new Directors: Doug Hart, Alli Stepp, Bryan Sweeney, and Kathy Weymouth. Molly Whitcomb was elected back onto the Board after a 7 year hiatus. Each of the new board members are active on our various committees and Molly will serve as our Communications Committee chairperson as well as oversee the Heron Society (pg 9).

Our board members provide tremendous value as they selflessly volunteer their time and expertise helping to achieve our mission of preserving the Squam watershed for present and future generations.

Bryan Sweeney and his wife Yvonne Von Gessel and their son Calvin live on White Oak Pond in Holderness, NH. They have been SLCS members and volunteer monitors since 2017, and active volunteers at Betsy's Park and the White Oak Pond Watershed Association. Bryan serves on the Holderness Zoning Board of Appeals. He grew up in Chicago and served 8 years as a Marine Aerial Navigator (KC-130 aircraft) during Desert Storm in 1990. He has a BS in Finance and Accounting, an MA in History and Teaching, and an MBA in Finance. He was a Program Manager for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Armed Forces in Bangkok and later in Kenya for the US Army Medical Unit as a consultant. More recently, he was an Account Manager for Dandelion Energy. Bryan is a very active father to Calvin, a woodworker, tireless volunteer, skilled manager, and team player.



Kathy Lovett Weymouth is the third generation of the Lovett family on Squam Lake. She and her husband Rich met at Rockywold-Deephaven, were married on Chocorua Island, and are now year-round residents of Holderness residing in their home over-looking the Squam waters and the Squam Range. Kathy's career in education spanned forty years and began at Noble and Greenough School and concluded at Holderness School where she was the Dean of Students, English teacher, coach, and student advisor. She earned her BA in English Literature at the University of New Hampshire and her MS in Educational Leadership at George Washington University. Now out of the classroom, Kathy looks forward to working with others to steward and protect these lakes and their watersheds.



Allison (Alli) Stepp grew up on Stonehouse Road in Holderness, where she attended Holderness Central School and Plymouth Regional High School. Despite living throughout the U.S. and internationally, Holderness has always been home base for her and her entire family. After graduating from Williams College, she spent three years teaching skiing full-time in Aspen, Colorado and on the South Island of New Zealand. Returning to the East Coast, Allison attended law school at Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts and has spent her legal career working in the non-profit sector. Her experience includes working for Bowdoin College and Sarasota County Government and she currently is a senior member of the legal team at MIT's Office of the Vice President for Finance where she drafts and negotiates contracts for commercial goods and services. Allison has volunteered for a number of organizations including the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Habitat for Humanity (Maine), Mote Marine Laboratory (Sarasota), and the Sarasota Film Festival. She has worked as a Community Ambassador at MIT and currently serves on the Next Gen Committee of the Squam Lakes Conservation Society. Since 2020, remote work has allowed Alli to split time between Cambridge and Holderness.



Douglas (Doug) Hart and his wife Lydia are relative newcomers to the area. They discovered Sandwich in 2021 and own a house on Diamond Ledge Road. Doug and Lydia have lived in Duxbury, MA for the past 22 years and are planning to make Sandwich their home in the near future. Doug was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a graduate of Boston University (1976) and is the co-founder of Penobscot Investment Management Company in Boston. Doug has a history of serving non-profit organizations. He is an Honorary Trustee of Emma Willard School, Troy, NY, an Honorary Trustee of Plimoth Patuxet (formerly Plimoth Plantation) and Chairman Emeritus of The Wildland's Trust in Plymouth, MA. Doug is the President of the Board of Directors of the Hardrock 100 endurance run in Silverton, Colorado. Locally, Doug is a member of the Board of Sandwich Home Industries and is joining the board of the Bearcamp Center for Sustainable Community. Doug also serves on the Stewardship Committee of SLCS.



Molly Whitcomb grew up in Sandwich. She and her husband Scott returned to the area in 2004 to raise her children. A graduate of the University of Vermont, Molly served as Health Services Coordinator for the Manchester Chapter of the American Red Cross. In 1998 she pursued a Masters Degree in Architecture at Boston Architectural Center. Molly now works with home owners to create living spaces which match their lifestyle and take advantage of the natural features of their property. Molly and her family became acquainted with SLCS when they donated a conservation easement on their property in Holderness and she is committed to preserving this pristine area so future generations can hike, swim and ski on a daily basis as she and her children do.



Connect

Once Upon a Simpler Time...

An Interview with Karlene and Lowell Schwartz

by Denise Siraco

Karlene and Lowell Schwartz are the perfect example of the Squam ethos: modest living, keep your footprint small, and live within your natural surroundings instead of outside if it.

Having grown up around freshwater lakes and being avid skiers, they were both drawn to the Lakes Region. They originally purchased on Lake Kanasatka, but when it started to become over developed, they began searching on Squam. It was 1972 and they heard the same thing people are told today when looking for real estate around Squam, "Sorry, there is not much available as most people pass their camps down to family."

Their luck changed when Lowell saw an ad in the Sunday Globe for a small camp available on Squam. They drove up the same day, walked through and decided to take it. Karlene and Lowell were now the proud owners of a 1928 30' x 18' Sears-Roebuck prefab fishing camp, complete with a 30' x 13' boat house and a one-hole outhouse! The camp was constructed by the Fischer family shortly after they purchased the property in 1927 from Julia Hutchins who was given the property by her father, William Sturtevant in 1891.

With their love of skiing, it was natural that Karlene and Lowell would want to come up in the winter time. This brought its own set of challenges which were met with a sense of adventure. Just getting to the cabin meant leaving the car at the mailboxes which was



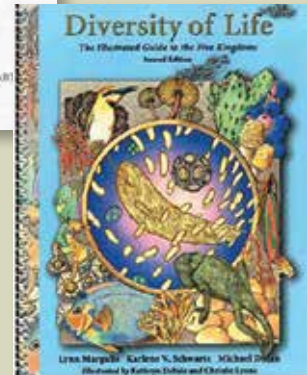
as far as the town plowed back then. Supplies were loaded onto a plastic sled and pulled on foot or skis. Heat was entirely by wood in the fireplace or wood burning stove. Pumping water from the lake only lasted a few years as they found it could only be done if the temps were 25 degrees or more. After that they would walk out on the lake with a shovel and an ice chisel and good old fashioned elbow grease.

Not much has changed on the Schwartz estate. Some modern conveniences were added, like heat, insulation and indoor plumbing. Some indulgences like a sunporch to enjoy a peaceful summer afternoon and a garage/workshop. Karlene and Lowell come from an era before cell phone, video games and streaming services that distract one from what is important. What is important to them is spending time among people who understand the importance of stewarding the shoreline, not for recreation but for

the plants and wildlife that share it with them. It is the Schwartz's wish that when they pass, their property is returned to its natural state and they hope to inspire others to keep their environmental impact as minimal as possible.



ions



Karlene grew up in the Midwest where she graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. After spending a couple years on field expeditions in Peru and Chile she made her way back north where she received advanced degrees in Biophysics and Physiology from the University of Illinois. Then, making her way to Boston, she met Lowell at the newly established UMASS-Boston where they were both faculty members.

Lowell was raised in Brooklyn, New York and later, Brookline, MA. His remarkable academic resume includes M.I.T. and Cal Tech as a Physical Chemist, and a post doc in Norway. After a short time working for the Shell Corp, he found himself on the original faculty of the newly established UMASS - Boston where he and Karlene met. They worked together at UMASS until they both retired.

Karlene and Lowell have been involved with SLCS since their arrival. They have been long-time volunteer property monitors and, despite Karlene's many academic and professional achievements, her "favorite award of all time" is the Davenport Award which she received in 2009. When asked what she enjoyed about being a volunteer monitor for SLCS, she said it allowed her to walk on lands that she otherwise would not have access to.

Karlene co-authored two books with her former classmate and long-time friend and colleague, Lynn Margulis. Karlene and Lynn were classmates at the University of Wisconsin when Lynn was married to her first husband, Carl Sagan (shameless name drop). They re-connected years later at a faculty event at Boston University. While working together at BU, they discovered most graduate students were lacking in a broad understanding of biology making it hard for them to assist in teaching undergrad courses. The research that filled the gaps resulted in their first book, *Five Kingdoms: An Illustrated Guide to the Phyla of Life on Earth*.

Five Kingdoms, a reference book providing an overview of life on earth is an extraordinary, all-inclusive catalogue of the world's living diversity. *Five Kingdoms* defines and describes the major divisions, or phyla, of nature's five kingdoms—bacteria, protocists, animals, fungi, and plants in a wonderfully illustrated and easy to follow volume.

Their second work, titled *Diversity of Life* is a stunningly illustrated, sophisticated coloring book of the world's living diversity. It was written for science students, teachers, and anyone else who is curious about the extraordinary variety of living things that inhabit this planet.

Conservation 101

Campstead Easements – Getting Creative

In 2009, a group of local conservationists, historians, preservationists and concerned citizens, with support from the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS), was able to put the Squam watershed on the National Register of Historic Places. The idea was to help preserve the unique character of Squam by recognizing and protecting historic places like the iconic barns, farms, camps and landscape features that define the Squam landscape. The goal of protecting the cultural heritage of the watershed is a natural complement to SLCS's ongoing efforts to conserve land and water quality.

In Derek Brereton's "Kinship and Landscape at Squam Lake", published in 2003, seventy one "old rustic camps" were studied at Squam. The main theme of Derek's work was that small traditional camps hold a significant place in our character, history, and sense of community.

Characteristics of a Typical Squam Camp

- Summer seasonal use (for the most part).
- Rustic setting.
- The land is significantly underdeveloped (> 20% of the total).
- Camp is well established (> than 50 years old).
- Long-standing tradition as a mecca for family gatherings.

SLCS, created in 1960, has completed 177 projects, protecting almost 10,000 acres of land in the Squam watershed. In 2004, SLCS completed its first campstead easement, the Kusumpe Brook Association camp in Sandwich. We currently hold six campstead easements.

In short, SLCS is promoting a relatively low-impact land use pattern while sustaining the cultural landscape that has long defined the Squam Lakes.

Campstead Easements combine a historic preservation model for the structures within a land conservation easement framework, thus conserving on-going, low-impact use and sensitive shoreline habitat.

The effort to conserve and preserve campsteads is significant at three levels:

1. From the perspective of those who gain scenic enjoyment of the shoreline from a distance, the waterfront appears natural and largely undeveloped. Campstead residents enjoy a moderately dappled view of the lake through the border of trees and shrubs at water's edge. It is this "peephole effect" that helps preserve Squam Lake's native beauty and image.
2. It is in stark contrast to the unrelenting pressure of "highest use" development.
3. Finally, the campstead easement is a laudable testament to Squam's ethos of conservation and preservation, and of utmost importance, a willingness to achieve an unselfish balance between personal enjoyment and public good that is relatively uncommon today. This balance may well become precarious as succeeding generations assume ownership of the property.



2023 SLCS Annual Meeting

Welcomes and Farewells

On Saturday, August 19th, approximately 230 members gathered to celebrate their shared commitment to the conservation of our beloved Squam Lakes. The day unfolded to a spectacular view of Squam Lake overlooking John Moulton's farm fields from Sunset Hill on Center Harbor Neck Road. Tom & Sandra McClaskie graciously opened their property to fellow SLCS supporters.

The day was unseasonably chilly, but that didn't stop everyone from taking the opportunity to gather with like-minded neighbors and community members.

It was a chance to say farewell to our friend and colleague, Pete Helm as he moved into retirement. Pete has been with the organization since 2015. His dedication to Squam Lake and community along with his unwavering commitment to its protection will be missed. Our new Stewardship Director, Katie Currie-Huggard is well qualified to fill Pete's shoes. Pete was honored by presenting him with the 2023 Davenport Award.

Thank you to our 2024 AmeriCorps intern Erika Looman.

Thank you to John Moulton for providing delicious complimentary coffee and baked goods every year.

Thank you to the Center Harbor Fire Department for providing shuttle service.

Thank you to Showcase Events in Moultonborough as well as Randletts in Ashland for providing chairs and port-a-potty.

Thank you to Doug and Ben McLane for sharing their private collection of indigenous artifacts. It was a perfect complement to our guest speaker, Dr. Robert Goodby.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who came early and stayed late. Many hands make light work.

Our 2024 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2024 at Camp Hale. Make sure you save the date!



DAVENPORT AWARD

In 2007 the SLCS Stewardship Committee created the Davenport Award to recognize an individual or individuals for their exceptional commitment and service to the Squam community as stewards of its protected properties. This award is named in memory of long-time SLCS monitor, board member and honorary board member, Dick Davenport.

Employees are not generally considered for the Davenport Award, but in Pete Helm's case, he fit the bill because of his exceptional commitment. It also means he is locked in as a volunteer...

Previous Award Honorees

Pete Helm	2023	George & Susan Gurney	2017	Carl Lehner	2011
Tom Stepp	2022	Barbara Beal	2016	Nancy Grady	2010
John Coolidge	2021	Betsy Whitmore	2015	Karlene Schwartz	2009
Peter Gross	2021	The Beij Family	2014	Bertram Read	2008
John Thompson	2019	Fred Lavigne	2013	Hamilton Coolidge	2007
Lisa Wardlaw	2018	Will & Judy Mack	2012		



Your Donation Matters

Consider Monthly Giving

- Monthly recurring donations allow you to spread the financial impact of your gift across the entire year, making your commitment more manageable.
- Monthly sustaining members will get the inside scoop on the latest conservation projects.
- The majority of non-profit giving is done at the end of the year. Monthly giving helps even out the operational support throughout the entire year.

Ways to Give...

Squam Lakes Conservation Society stewards almost 10,000 acres in the Squam watershed. Through the generosity of our members, that number will continue to increase. Whether we own a property or hold 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 for as little as \$10/month. Visit www.foreversquam.org for details or call (603) 968-7900.

Heron Society Welcome new chair, Molly Whitcomb

The Heron Society was created in 2010 by former board members David Sinkler and David Preston as a way to celebrate 50 years as Squam's Land Trust with 50 Planned Gifts. Planned giving ensures that the important work of protecting the Squam watershed for all present and future generations will continue in perpetuity.

Thirteen years later, sixty-six families have chosen to include Squam Lakes

Conservation Society in their estate planning.

Molly Whitcomb was there for its inception and has now re-joined our board of directors and will be overseeing the Heron Society. She returns with the same energy, passion and inspiration for seeing the Heron Society continue to grow and succeed.

Molly states, *"I am excited to ensure these most valued members of SLCS*

are up to date on progress being made to ensure the watershed continues to provide a vibrant natural environment for generations to enjoy."

If you would like information about how you can become a Heron Society member by naming SLCS in your estate plan, contact Denise Siraco, SLCS Development Director at denise@foreversquam.org or call (603) 968-7900.

THINKING OF INCLUDING SLCS IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

Here are three simple and common ways of Charitable Gift Planning:

- 1. Will/Bequest:** This is the simplest and most common way for you to continue to support SLCS, even when you are gone. You can designate a specific amount or a percentage of your estate in your will.
- 2. Donor Advised Funds** This option allows you see the impact of your giving during your lifetime, and also gives you the opportunity to continue your impact after you pass. You can let your DAF sponsor know now how you would like your funds distributed at the end of life. Please consider including SLCS as a beneficiary.
- 3. IRA:** This option also allows you see the impact of your giving during your lifetime. If you are of the age when 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. You can also leave instructions for the remainder of your IRA to be donated when you pass.

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

Great Commitments

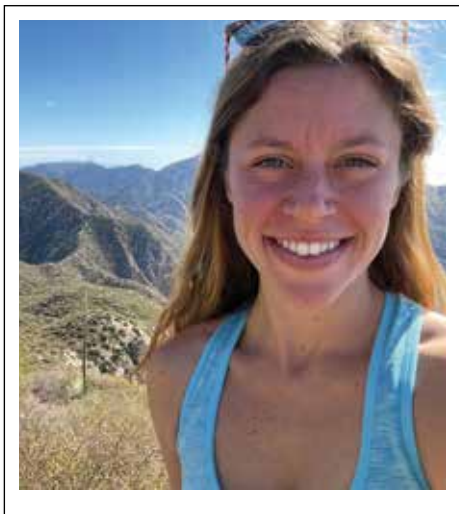
Great Island is the largest island on the Squam Lakes, totaling 166 acres and 2.3 miles of shoreline, with impressive white and red pines, numerous pockets of mountain laurel and an extensive growth of hemlock along the northern shores. William W. Dunnell Jr. had been involved in the stewardship of Great Island since his early teens and assumed full ownership in 1941. William Jr. was one of SLCS's founders and passed away in 1980. In 1990, William Jr's wife Ellen F. Dunnell and their three children, Ellen F. D. Bennett, Jacob Dunnell and William W. Dunnell III, donated an easement on 105.44 acres of the island to preserve its conservation values forever. It was our 16th conserved property (we now have 177!).

Sadly, William III and Jacob passed away in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Their older sister, Ellen, predeceased them in 2010 and was a guiding member of our board of directors for many years. Following Ellen's passing, her family created the Ellen F. D. Bennett Education Fund in support of our ongoing education efforts. Recently, we learned that Jacob made a significant unrestricted bequest to SLCS. The SLCS Board decided to invest those funds long-term in our Dedicated Funds by creating the Dunnell Family Fund. The Squam we treasure today would not be the same if it were not for the Dunnell family's ongoing commitment to conservation.



NextGen

A letter from NextGen Chair, Elizabeth Wolf



I exhaled through my regulator and big bubbles tickled my face and raced for the surface. My neutrally buoyant, wetsuit clad body descended toward my last milfoil root ball of the summer. It was a “perfect pick up” as my fellow interns and I had called it. I took that moment underneath the water to take stock of the last three months as a Conservation Intern for SLA (yes, I know this a SLCS Newsletter!). So many happy scenes came to mind. But the enduring takeaway was of deep gratitude and allegiance. Gratitude for

prior generations and for my family and friends, who make the accumulated, deliberate actions that have given us Squam, and Squam forever. Allegiance because it was kneeling in the silt of the Squam River in 2017 that I decided I would join them. I was going to be part of the group that decides, year after year, that this is a place worth fighting for and does something about it. That it's worth sharing with others to inspire stewardship of land and lakefront, whether in our watershed and beyond it.

I've been in love with Squam my entire life. Canoeing down Owl Brook into Little Squam, scrambling up and down every mountain, running through late fall hayfields, crashing the boat on Diamond Ledge (still sorry, Mom and Dad), laying in the snow looking at the Milky Way, and most recently riding on the ATV at Annual Meeting. It's been a lifetime of joy. I know many of you who are reading this are now playing back your own Squam memories, too.

What I realized acutely that summer, and more as I've stayed involved with conservation organizations and most importantly the people behind them, is

that Squam didn't happen by accident and it didn't happen overnight. I felt a deep call to make my Squam love play out in the Greek agape, love as a verb.

Now, I'm the President of the NextGen Committee for SLCS. We range from 16 to 45-year-old members, and our mission is to ready ourselves for the honor of being the stewards of tomorrow. We're bringing “Squam2You” and gathering SLCS members in their primary geographies to foster friendship and action year-round. We're working on connecting SLCS Board Members to NextGen members for direct partnership and to get us up to speed on specialty areas like land use law. And, since the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts, we're linking arms with other NextGen members of mission-aligned organizations in our watershed. It's an especially exciting time to be moving Onward.

If you or someone you know wants to join us, we'd be delighted. Please reach out to me – elizabethwolf1095@gmail.com (203) 446 6541.

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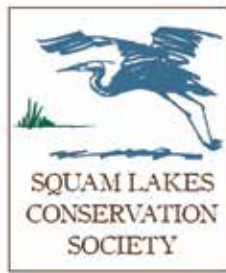
Development Director

Doug Hill

Land Protection Specialist

Sara Hixon

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Squam Lakes Conservation Society

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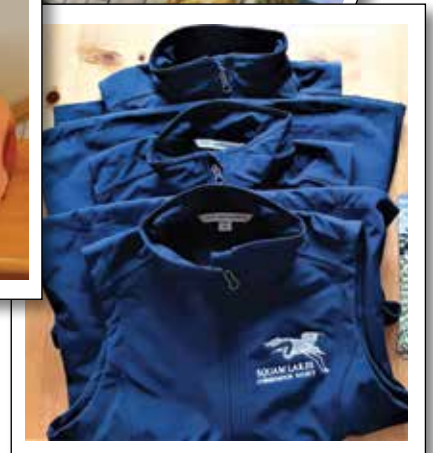
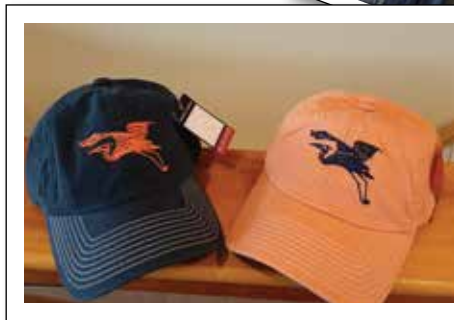
Holderness, NH 03245



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

hats
onesies
long-sleeve tees
short sleeve tees
sustainable tees
toddlers
kids & adults
vests
books
steel tumblers
flags

Stop by the office.



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