

# The Loon Flyer

Published by the Squam Lakes Association

## SLA appoints new Executive Director

Just two months after the search for SLA's new executive director commenced, the SLA is pleased to announce that EB James will fill the vacancy. Under the guidance of the SLA board of directors, a search committee was formed and began advertising for the executive director position. "We started with around 60 resumes, interviewed twelve, and refined that number to five finalists," says Tom Enright, the chair of the search committee.

The committee ultimately decided on EB James "partially because he is currently the executive director of a similar watershed association and also because he had demonstrated skills in the areas the board felt were critical to SLA achieving its goals in the strategic plan," according to Enright. The SLA board unanimously approved EB's appointment and is excited to introduce him to our Squam watershed community.

EB was drawn to the job opening "because the skills and experiences I have mesh so completely with the SLA," he explains. The SLA is a stand-out organization for EB. He describes "the interest it has in the rich culture of the lake and the robust recreation and access that it supports" as being key in his interest in leading the Association into the future.

The James family had planned to eventually settle in New Hampshire, where EB's wife, Lisetta, grew up, but the executive director opportunity with the SLA quickly turned a long-term plan into an instant reality. EB's experience and personality are a logical fit for the SLA, its staff, and surrounding community. His enthusiasm for this upcoming transition is apparent: "Finding an opportunity at a place like the SLA, where all my professional experience and all my personal passions come together in an exciting nexus, is truly a wonderful thing," he says.

EB first came to the Lakes Region in 1978. He and his family attended a camp on Winnepesaukee, where he also worked for two summers during college. "Through these experiences I have explored many of the lakes and rivers and mountains-- usually with a fishing rod in hand," said EB. "New Hampshire, in general, and the Squam area, in particular, are filled with things I love."

EB joins us from the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, where he has served as executive director since 2006. The Alliance is a non-profit watershed organization located on the eastern shore of Maryland with an interest in the health of the Nanticoke River. While there, EB oversaw the capacity of the organization grow from a single-employee entity using borrowed office space into a four-person organization with a headquarters that will soon be a John Smith National Water Trail orientation center. He supervised the development of a volunteer water monitoring program and a comprehensive bi-state watershed management plan and an ambitious



*EB James begins at the SLA on October 17.*

*"Finding an opportunity at a place like the SLA, where all my professional experience and all my personal passions come together in an exciting nexus, is truly a wonderful thing."*

*-EB James*



*SLA teams up with LPC in a loon and lead study. Full story and more photos on page 4.*

*EB James continued on page 7...*



**The Squam Lakes Association**  
*is dedicated to conserving for the public benefit the natural beauty, peaceful character and unique resource values of the lakes and surrounding area. In cooperation with local and state authorities and other conservation organizations, the Association promotes the protection, careful use and shared enjoyment of the lakes, mountains, open spaces and wildlife of the Squam Lakes region.*

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The Loon Flyer is published by  
The Squam Lakes Association  
PO Box 204  
Holderness, NH 03245  
(603) 968-7336  
email: [info@squamlakes.org](mailto:info@squamlakes.org)  
website: [www.squamlakes.org](http://www.squamlakes.org)

## Letter from the President

I take great pleasure in writing my first editorial for the Loon Flyer, and, more importantly, to have the opportunity to lead the SLA for the next three years. As some of you know my grandfather, Laurence Webster, was one of the original founders and the first President of the SLA in 1904. So for me to be able to transition the SLA into a new era with a new Executive Director is serendipitous.

We have great core programs that have advanced our mission for decades. We need to breathe some freshness into them and introduce some new efforts that expand the appreciation of what the SLA does for the watershed beyond the shores of the lake. Squam Lakes and its watershed are the attracting force that provides a sound economy for our entire area. The dedication and efforts of those who love this lake and its surroundings have kept its pristine beauty viable. We need to reach back from the shores of the lake and show others how their stewardship of the watershed can benefit them as well. We will be striving to do this over the coming years. You as members have the opportunity to help carry this message, and we will be providing you with some tools to help in that effort.

It's been a great summer, hope you had time to truly enjoy it. Thanks for your dedication and continued support of our association.

Peter Webster



**Peter Burghardt and Luke enjoy the view from West Rattlesnake.  
Photo courtesy of Pamela Burghardt.**

## New bridge improves access to facilities and events at the SLA



*The new bridge safely connects the Resource Center to the Fisher Family Activity Barn.*

The Fisher Family Activity Barn has been a great addition to the SLA facilities. Though we fortunately had little rain during July and August, the barn offered a respite from the hot summer sun and from the occasional thunderstorm. In June, the SLA board practiced their rock climbing skills on the newly added rock climbing wall, which both the Community Youth Sailing Program (CYSP) and Junior Squam Lakes Association (JSLA) kids also enjoyed (full story on the climbing wall on page 6). The Squam community enjoyed a Family Movie night and two packed contradances in the barn.

Until recently, the only way to travel from the SLA Resource Center to the Fisher Family Activity Barn was either by a narrow, rocky footpath or directly on Route 3, both of which can be a bit scary in the daytime, but especially harrowing during the evening events. With that in consideration, the SLA has constructed a bridge joining the parking lot to the barn. The wide wooden planks cross a small stream and deliver pedestrians to the barn safely. This is an exciting step toward making the barn accessible for many more activities. We look forward to planning new events in the barn next summer, and anticipate hosting more barn dances, especially considering the successful dances we held this past summer. Next summer JSLA campers will check-in on Monday mornings at the barn since campers and their parents can now easily and safely traipse across the bridge to meet their counselors and fellow campers on the first day of camp.

### Purchase a Plank to support new bridge

There is a unique opportunity for members and non-members alike to financially support the new bridge that connects the SLA Resource Center and the Fisher Family Activity Barn. With a minimum donation of \$50, contributors can have their name, or the name of someone whom they wish to honor, displayed on the planks across the bridge. Those interested can learn more on our website (<http://www.squam lakes.org/support/purchaseaplank.php>), or by contacting the SLA.

We invite you to take a stroll across the new bridge and take a peek at the names already there!



**CHRISTOPHER P. WILLIAMS, ARCHITECTS**

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[www.cpwarchitects.com](http://www.cpwarchitects.com)



*Your name here? For a minimum \$50 donation you can see your name routed into the planks of the new bridge. Contact the SLA for more information (603-968-7336 or [info@squam lakes.org](mailto:info@squam lakes.org))*

## SLA divers take a break from milfoil to participate in a loon study

From hosting the boat for the Squam Lakes loon biologist to providing interns and other volunteers for an entire night of live loon banding, the SLA has worked closely with the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) for many years now. This year the SLA teamed up with the LPC in a different capacity: in a research project studying how loons were getting poisonous lead into their system.



*LPC's Tiffany Grade helps load equipment back aboard the Calypso.*

boat) a rest and set out with LPC Squam loon biologist Tiffany Grade.

SLA divers established multiple two by three meter plots in high loon activity areas, as determined by Grade, and then visually searched the plot for lead sinkers, fishing tackle, and any other fishing debris. After the visual search, the divers used metal detectors to located any lead or metal objects not already identified. All objects found would be located within the grid, bagged and brought to

For SLA divers typically working long days in the field, sometimes spending up to ten hours removing invasive variable milfoil, it was a welcome change of pace. The divers were able to give Millie (the milfoil

the surface.

The project assessed how much lead fishing tackle that is available for loons to ingest on the lake bottom. Among dead loons collected by LPC, lead poisoning from fishing tackle accounts for 50% of these deaths.



*SLA Eco Interns Tim Zimmermann and Tom Zimmerman spend a day away from milfoil removal to work with the LPC.*



*Rebecca Harvey takes notes under water.*

SLA divers found no lead fishing tackle within the plots and only four pieces of lead tackle surrounding the plots, found while swimming to the plots, suggesting that there is a low density of lead tackle on the bottom of the lake available to loons. This supports other LPC findings that indicate loons ingest most lead by consuming fish with lead tackle in or on their bodies rather than from lost tackle accumulating on the lake bottom. Anglers can help protect loons and other lake wildlife by only using safe and effective fishing weights made from non-lead materials such as tungsten, steel, tin, ceramic, or stone.

The divers had a great day in the field, and the SLA looks forward to a continuing partnership with the LPC in the years to come.

Respect. Integrity.  
Teamwork. Excellence.  
Stewardship.

*Values for success.*

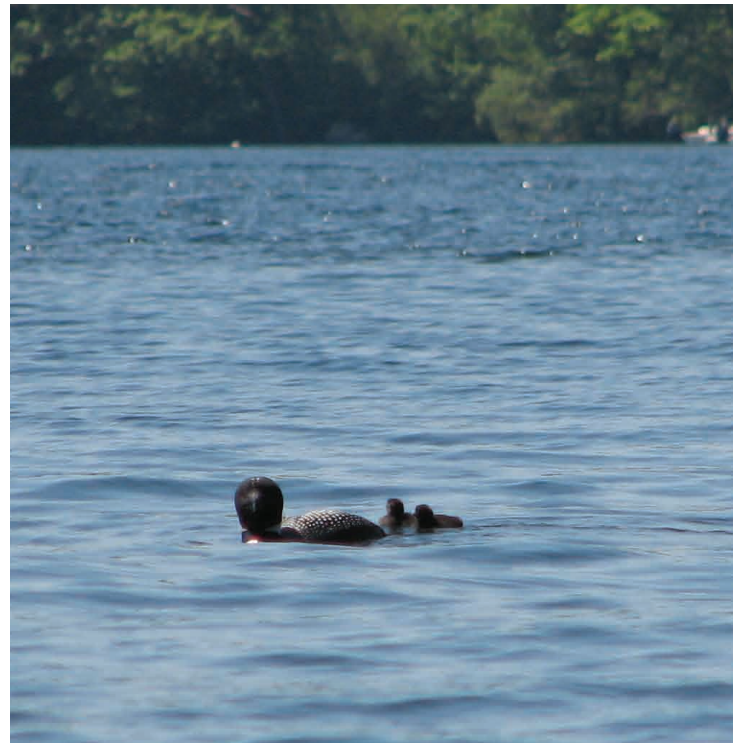


[www.mvsb.com/values](http://www.mvsb.com/values)

# Squam Loons in 2011

by Tiffany Grade, Loon Preservation Committee Loon Biologist

The loons of the Squam Lakes produced five surviving chicks this year. All the chicks were from Squam Lake, as the loons on Little Squam Lake had two failed nesting attempts. On Squam, nine chicks hatched from eight nesting pairs. Four of these chicks died in the space of one week. Fortunately, the remaining chicks survived, including one set of two chicks. This is the best result that the Squam loons have had since the decline in 2005 and subsequent reproductive failures. However, it is still below normal levels. Please visit [www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org) for the latest findings from the Squam Lake Loon Initiative, LPC's ongoing research into the decline of loons on Squam.



*These Great Island loon chicks are just one day old!  
Photo courtesy of Tiffany Grade.*

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## Summer on Squam 2011



## SLA's Youth Programs Climb High in 2011

Our Youth Programs, the Junior Squam Lakes Association (JSLA) and Community Youth Sailing Program (CYSP), welcomed the addition of the Fisher Family Activity Barn to its programming menu this summer. The barn was completed last summer and now provides a safe place for summer programs during inclement weather. In the barn, campers typically play confidence and team building games and work on natural arts and crafts projects. Now one more activity adds to the youth programming experience.

This past June, the installation of a climbing wall was completed just in time for the start of the Youth Program season. All summer staff spent time training on the climbing wall with area climbing guide Jim Shimberg of Rhino Guides during staff training week. Not only was it an important training for counselors who would later be working with kids on the wall, but it was a great team building exercise for all of our employees, both seasonal and year-round.

The climbing wall is a modular panel system constructed of a special two-part surface texture that is applied, stamped, and painted to provide a realistic-looking rock finish. The texture has amazing feel for climbing and the granite-like material provides excellent traction for smearing and edging climbing techniques. This texture is specifically engineered for climbing, and is designed to be quite flexible while appearing and feeling very rigid. The surface is stamped with micro features molded from actual rock, and closely resembles a flat granite wall. The wall safely holds three climbers at a time with three routes of varying difficulty. These routes can be



*A JSLA camper reaches the top of the climbing wall.*

changed, and difficulty levels can be adjusted as necessary.

JSLA and CYSP utilized the wall frequently throughout the summer, on both rainy and dry days. Campers and sailors alike learned and improved on important techniques such as safe belay, anchoring, and communication skills.

Having a variety of activities like the climbing wall available for JSLA and CYSP provides an opportunity to emphasize a love for the outdoors, responsible use of natural resources, and a life-long commitment to healthy, physical activity, all important aspects of our Youth Programs.



*Not all days are picture perfect, like this one (with Sailing Instructor Garr Corcoran and a fleet of beginner sailors). The climbing wall has improved the summer program experience on those less-than-ideal days.*

**EB James** *continued...*

agriculture buffer program to help remove nutrients from the Nanticoke.

EB holds a BA in English and Psychology from St. Olaf College and an MS in Forestry with a minor in Conflict Management from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. He was also trained in mediation and environmental dispute resolution through the University of Minnesota Hubert Humphrey Institute's Center for Conflict and Change.

EB will join the SLA in the middle of October. Much of his time will initially be spent acquainting himself with both the organization and the community. In describing how he will approach the transition into this new position he said:

My beginning plan is to immerse myself, literally and figuratively, in the Squam experience and the SLA. I plan on learning the programs and culture of the organization, to explore and experience the lake and watershed, and to get to know the communities and people. I am looking forward to being a part of the SLA team, to work as a team to set our sights high, and to develop and achieve our mission goals.

We are excited to welcome EB to the SLA and look forward to working with him.



*SLA's new director  
EB James.*

## WORD SEARCH SQUAM AREA MOUNTAINS, HILLS & TRAILS



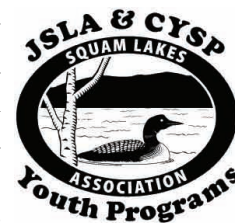
Words to Find:

- |                    |              |                  |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------|
| ALGONQUIN          | HILL         | RED              |
| BACKPACK           | ISRAEL       | RIDGE            |
| BLACK              | LAKE         | SACHEM           |
| BOOTS              | LIVERMORE    | SANDWICH         |
| BUTTERWORTH        | MEAD         | SKI              |
| CAMP               | MORGAN       | SLA              |
| COL                | MOUNTAIN     | SQUAM            |
| COTTON             | OLD BRIDLE   | TEEDIE           |
| CRAWFORD RIDGEPOLE | OLD HIGHWAY  | TRAILS           |
| DINSMORE           | OLD MOUNTAIN | TREE             |
| DOUBLEHEAD         | PASTURE      | UNDERCUT         |
| EAGLE CLIFF        | PEAK         | VIEW             |
| EAST RATTLESNAKE   | PEAKED       | WEBSTER          |
| FIVE FINGER POINT  | PERCIVAL     | WENTWORTH        |
| GUINEA POND        | PRESCOTT     | WEST RATTLESNAKE |
| HIKE               | RAMSEY       |                  |



### Online JSLA Program Survey

We are regularly reevaluating our programs and offerings so they mesh with the needs of our members and community. This holds true for the Junior Squam Lakes Association (JSLA) We would love to hear from the parents of campers. Please visit the JSLA page on our website ([www.squamlakes.org/programs/jsla.php](http://www.squamlakes.org/programs/jsla.php)) to fill out an online survey.



*JSLA campers enjoy a beautiful day on Mt Chocorua.*

Tell us about your experiences, and help us make the program even better!



## Squam Lakes Association

P.O. Box 204

Holderness, NH 03245

(603) 968-7336

email: [info@squamlakes.org](mailto:info@squamlakes.org)

Address Service Requested



## Squam Lakes Association 2011-2012 EVENTS CALENDAR

*For a current listing of events, visit [www.squamlakes.org](http://www.squamlakes.org) and click on Events Calendar.*



- Oct 8 Fall Celebration, Fisher Family Activity Barn, 9:30-11:30am
- Oct 10 Boat Rentals closes for the season
- Nov 1 Campsites close for the season
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month Lapsit/Storytime: 10am. For parents and children up to three years. SLA staff will engage youngsters with stories that have an environmental or conservation theme. Call for more details.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month Hikes on Squam area trails. Join SLA staff and explore some of the 50 miles of trails that the SLA maintains. Hikers should meet at the Resource Center at 9:30am. Transportation to the trail-head provided. Call for more details.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month Crafternoon at the SLA: 1:30-3:30pm. Find inspiration at the SLA Resource Center. Bring your portable craft and art projects. Enjoy the view and good company as you work on your latest creation. Call for more details.
- January 1-20 Campsite Lottery registrations accepted.
- January 14 Winterfest
- February 8 Open campsite reservations.
- February 20 Youth Program registraton begins
- May 1 Campsites open
- May 26 Boat Rentals open
- May 26 Pancake Breakfast

### **Member Address Change**

*Contact our office if your mailing address has changed or to share your email address with the SLA.*

*Also, if you have separate winter and summer addresses, please let us know the dates you are in residence at each address.*

*SLA is fined \$0.70 for every piece of forwarded mail.*

*You can either call the office at (603) 968-7336 or send an email to [info@squamlakes.org](mailto:info@squamlakes.org).*