



the *Loon Flyer*

Published by the Squam Lakes Association

Summer 2004



PILOT PROGRAM FOR MILFOIL TREATMENT

by Christopher Devine

For the past three years the cove off Little Squam Lake occupied primarily by Kimbell Marina has been treated with the herbicide diquat. Diquat is a contact herbicide that is applied by a licensed contractor under a special permit granted by the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture Division of Pesticide Control. Diquat has a short-term effect on controlling milfoil infestations and in the Kimbell Marina area it has suppressed growth for a period between six and eight weeks in length. The objective in using diquat in this area has been to reduce growth and subsequent fragmentation during the peak boating season and in this respect it has been effective.

In April 2004, it was observed that variable milfoil growth in this area had commenced earlier than typical with hearty, viable plants growing immediately after ice out. This observation was consistent with invasive milfoil growth in other areas of the state. The herbicide treatment originally scheduled for mid-June was moved to May 26 to address this early growth.



JSLA and Camp Deerwood complete in the annual Kids Canoe Day between Moon and Bowman Islands on Wednesday, July 28th. Photo by Eric Morse.

SLA VOLUNTEERS HELP BALD EAGLES NEST SUCCESSFULLY AGAIN

By Joe Kabat

During the summer of 2003 a pair of bald eagles began raising two eaglets on an island in Squam Lake. One of the eaglets died in July but in August the other fledged and flew away. Wildlife biologists felt that these first time eagle parents perhaps could not deliver enough food to the two eaglets and that is why one died. Volunteers put up a few buoys but they were not adequate to prevent many boaters from coming close to the island and even landing.

Over the winter a group from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Hampshire Audubon, the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, the Squam Lakes Conservation Society and the Squam Lakes Association met and developed a plan to help the eagles if they decided to use the same nest in 2004.

This plan consisted of building substantial buoys and placing them around the island and developing information for the public to educate them about the sensitivity of human activity near the nest.

Shortly after ice out a group consisting of volunteers Rick



Brett Durham (SLA Ecological Manager) and Jeremy Mears (Plymouth State University Biology Intern) install a 10 foot square pipe to measure the injection of lime slurry at Kimbell Marina. Photo by Eric Morse.

Over the winter SLA collaborated with researchers at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) to develop a pilot

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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, forests, open spaces and wildlife of the Squam Lakes region.

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The Loon Flyer is published quarterly by Squam Lakes Association
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REFLECTIONS OF PAST PRESIDENTS

By Monique Devine

As we reflect upon the history of the Squam Lakes Association, it is clear that each President has had a different agenda or important task to accomplish; yet the grander issues of water quality and conservation remain a steady focus for the organization. The leadership of the SLA has been impressive and we take this time to share their moments in SLA history with our membership.


RAWSON WOOD 1973 – 1975

Like so many of the people who have chosen Squam as their home, Rawson Wood visited a friends cottage years ago and found the visit so pleasant that his family eventually purchased a place of their own. Since that time, he feels there has been little change to the area thanks to the efforts of the Squam Lakes Association and other local organizations that have protected land from subdivision and overbuilding.

Considering Rawson's passion for nature and specifically the common loon, it is no surprise that during his tenure the first loon count was taken with the Audubon Society and volunteers also providing summer-long protection. To complement these conservation efforts, the SLA published "Birds of Squam" by Bev Ridgely. During his presidency, the board also worked to raise awareness about the need to control boat traffic

and speed by not only holding informational workshops at the annual meetings but also testifying at hearings to urge the New Hampshire legislature to take action.

Pollution of the waters is still a major concern for Rawson and he is troubled by the recent state warning that it is hazardous to eat any fish caught in NH waters. Dangerously high levels of mercury continue to be a threat to all wildlife on the lake and he believes this should be a priority for the SLA. Another important issue for Rawson is communicating the important issues to the public. "If new residents and visitors are informed about the tradition of Squam as a unique, natural lake community, they will continue the tradition," stated Rawson. "They must be reached every year."

The community support, both seasonal and year-round are clearly an asset for the organization in Rawsons opinion. Though the danger may lie in the elitist image to those who resent conservation minded restrictions on land use. However, Rawson states, "The SLA has grown with the growing pressures and successfully prevented overuse," and continues by describing the SLA as "well organized by visionary and competent leaders and staff." 

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WEED WATCHER UPDATE

By Earle Jenkins

During the past few years 75 weed watchers have been trained in the process of surveying and treating milfoil infestations. While this appears to be a large number of eyes, focused on the problem it is a relatively small number considering the 7,173 acres and 65 miles of shoreline that the Squam Lakes encompasses. Given that milfoil is generally found in water depths less than 15 feet, the lakes have been divided into 54 areas that meet this criterion and weedwatchers have been assigned accordingly. But it's still a big job. Every year new areas of infestation are discovered.

This year the SLA Ecological Monitoring Committee has taken a different approach to training and surveying. In addition to our baseline Weed Watcher program, we are working with homeowners associations and individual property owners to conduct area (cove) specific survey days.

The survey day process begins with the identification of a local area coordinator who assists with the recruitment of people in their respective areas who are willing to participate. Once a convenient date and time are established, the SLA staff trains the volunteers on site and helps to perform a survey of the area.

The training and survey takes approximately 3-4 hours. The SLA provides all of the required materials, and the local coordinator provides the manpower. There are tasks for all ages, in and out of the water. The training is focused on plant identification, survey techniques and infestation management methods. The local shoreline is surveyed, and infestation areas are managed and mapped utilizing GPS for follow-up monitoring.

To date, survey days have been



Alex Edelman, a member of Squam Conservation Corps, collects variable milfoil from Riveredge Marina and passes it to Brett Durham for disposal. Photo by Eric Morse.

conducted in a number of areas including: Bennett Cove, Dog Cove, Sturtevant Bay, and Little Squam. Others are scheduled for the month of August. It is interesting to note that milfoil has been found in all areas with one exception, and successfully managed. More importantly, we have a team in each of the areas that have taken ownership of the monitoring and ongoing management process.

The SLA would like to expand this program to all areas of the lakes. If you are willing to be a coordinator for your area, please contact Earle Jenkins, (603) 968-3829, ejshs@adelphia.net. 🐟

SLA VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

The SLA will host a luncheon on Saturday, September 4th for all SLA Volunteers, including: Water Quality Monitors, Weed Watchers, Trail Adopters, Visitors Center Assistants, and Mailing Volunteers. The event will take place from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm and will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the SLA and UNH collaboration in the NH Lay Lakes Monitoring Program. Invitations will be sent in mid August and please RVSP by August 26th by calling 603-968-7336 or send an email to: info@squamlakes.org.

MOON ISLAND LOG BOOK - 2004

July 17 - This land is what makes America so special. We will always remember Moon Island as a special summer hideaway. - Di

July 22 - Bright sunny day. Our little piece of heaven for an hour or two. Great place for beginner swimmers. The bugs are on vacation. - The Phippen clan

July 30 - To whom it may concern, Can I live here? I'll do all the house keeping! - Beth

August 2 - Came with 3 grandsons and 3 daughters. Had a great time, beautiful spot! - The Bando family

MILFOIL PILOT PROGRAM CONTINUED

program to treat sediments in areas of invasive aquatic plant

growth. The UNH Center for Ocean Engineering has been developing a prototype injection vessel designed to treat oil contaminated salt marshes. Discussions with researchers and a review of scientific literature resulted in a pilot program to treat sediment in milfoil infested areas via the injection of lime slurry. Prior research has indicated effectiveness of lime in reducing plant growth. It is believed that lime acts to reduce phosphorus availability resulting in fewer nutrients available to foster plant growth.

On June 21, 2004, test plots established in Kimbell Marina were subjected to lime treatment using the UNH prototype vessel. The pilot program involved injection of lime into the sediments in two plots, one of which also had lime distributed or spread across the surface after injection and in one additional plot, lime addition was limited to surface spreading. These areas are being monitored throughout the 2004 season to evaluate plant growth and future detailed sediment chemistry evaluation is planned with researchers at Plymouth State University. 🌊



50 bikers and hundreds of sponsors helped raise \$2,350 for the JSLA Scholarship Program during the Eighth Annual Bike Around The Lake, which was held on Sunday July 11. Larry Mowbray and Murry Swindell (pictured above) were biking along Sandwich Bay on Squam Lakes Road. Many thanks to all the bikers and sponsors for making this the most successful Bike Around The Lake ever! Photo by Eric Morse.

REFLECTIONS OF PAST PRESIDENTS

By Margie Howe Emmons

TONY UNGER 1993 -1996

Tony Unger first came to Squam in 1971 when he vacationed with his family on Little Squam for two weeks. Prior to his Presidency, he chaired a committee to overhaul the By-laws.

There were three important developments during Tony's tenure. First, efforts to secure a low-impact public access site for canoes and kayaks

resulted in the acquisition of the current Resource Center property. Secondly, the Board led and joined with four other conservation groups to seek permanent protection of Red Hill, an initiative that has proven largely successful to date.

Thirdly, in a magnanimous gesture, the Richard King Mellon Foundation purchased and donated Bowman Island to SLA in the middle of its membership fund-raising campaign which, in turn, enabled the Board to create its endowment fund with the donations.

Tony suggests that our organization, as stewards under the motto of "Squam: New Hampshire's Quiet Lakes," has a key role in emphasizing to members (particularly newer ones), as well as the public, the virtues of "low-impact" living and recreation on the Lakes. He also feels that, with the creation of the state-owned public access site, SLA may be in a position to rely on its attendant good will with the state to seek renewal of legislation to create the 250-foot Nearshore (no-wake) Activity Zone. 🌊



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EAGLE NEST CONTINUED

Van de Poll, Will Grinnell, Audubon biologist Chris Martin and SLA members Chris Devine and Joe Kabat built the buoys on Long Island. Rick and Will placed eighteen orange buoys that were visible to boaters but not offensive to the natural landscape. Funding was provided by the NH Conservation Moose License Plates.

This has seemed to work as one eaglet has grown to a size almost as big as its parents and when you read this will have flown on its own.

SLA also employed two interns from Plymouth State University, Chris Martin and Jeremy Mears who anchored an SLA boat near the island and monitored boat activity and cautioned boaters with a printed brochure if they were swimming nearby or had dogs on their boats, two activities that keep the adults from returning to their nest.

SLA can be proud of its involvement with the bald eagles on Squam and hope to welcome them back in 2005.

Eagle Update: Will Grinnell reports that the eaglet fledged on the weekend of July 24 and was seen back at the nest on July 27th. Thanks to all who helped make this a successful season! 🦅



Chris Devine (pictured on left) builds an Eagle nesting Area sign with the help of Rick Van de Poll, Chris Martin, Joe Kabat, and Will Grinnell. Photo by Joe Kabat




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SLA & NHLA: A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP

By Nancy Christie, NHLA

You know and appreciate the fact that the Squam Lakes Association is a significant force in protecting the Squam Lakes. But did you know that this protection is greatly enhanced by SLA's membership in the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA)? By partnering with NHLA, SLA's lake concerns are effectively heard in the state legislature through the advocacy work of NHLA's full-time staff lobbyist.

Besides advocacy, NHLA and SLA partner on other initiatives that impact New Hampshire's lakes in general and the Squam Lakes in particular. Perhaps the most notable example is the Lake Host Program. The Lake Host program places trained Lake Hosts at motorized public boat launch ramps to educate boaters about exotic plants and conduct courtesy boat and trailer inspections.


While SLA had been doing its own ramp monitoring several years before NHLA became involved, NHLA was able to garner significant federal funds – as well as state funding through a bill initiated by NHLA and its member lake associations – to award grants this summer to SLA and 50 other lake associations. Sixty-four ramps are

being staffed by paid and volunteer Lake Hosts on 50 New Hampshire lakes and ponds.

NHLA conducted an economic research study to determine the annual dollar contribution of the state's lakes, rivers, streams and ponds to New Hampshire's economy. A report published in June 2003 found that just five uses: fishing, boating, swimming, shorefront property taxes, and drinking water supplies garner 1.8 billion dollars for the state annually. This data was made available to policy-makers at all levels of government to assist them in making informed choices regarding the multiple and sometimes competing uses of public waters.

NHLA's work is made possible through the generous financial support of the Squam Lakes Association and that of our other 128 local lake association members. Thank you! Your annual contributions are critical to our work.

If you would like to do more to help protect New Hampshire's beautiful lakes, please consider joining NHLA as an individual member.

For more information, please visit our website www.nhlakes.org or contact us at: 603-226-0299 or by email at: info@nhlakes.org. 

BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF BOYD

By Michele Hutchins, PSU


Partnerships with regional organizations are an important outreach mission at the Plymouth State University (PSU) Center for the Environment. In the natural sciences, the multidisciplinary Center for the Environment is among the newest enterprises, providing environmental stewardship of freshwater, forest and mountain ecologies.

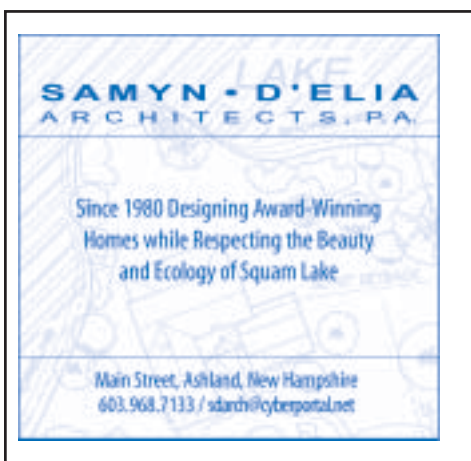
The Center is an exciting collaboration among University departments and external partners such as Squam Lakes Natural Science Center and the Squam Lakes Association.

Provost Virginia Barry says, "The Center will proclaim science as a way of knowing, and empower citizens who are aware of the roles of science and technology in modern society. Science teachers will have opportunities to keep current with advancements in their disciplines, and consulting support will be available for organizations in surrounding communities. The Center will extend the impact the University science programs have on the region."

The local environment is an invaluable resource for quality of life and tourism. This accessible, experiential natural classroom for biological information inspires investigation of current environmental issues such as the impact of human development on ecosystems, the introduction of invasive or exotic species, atmospheric contamination of watersheds, or impact of healthy ecosystems on the tourism industry.

The Center will apply classroom theory and hypotheses, work with experts and students both on and off campus in projects such as milfoil infestation.

For more information, visit: www.plymouth.edu/biology 



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WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

By Coleen Mainville, USFS

The White Mountain National Forest is managed to provide a variety of uses, including recreation, wilderness, wildlife habitat, timber products and clean water. There are campgrounds, hiking trails, scenic drives and historic places. Recreation opportunities are the most popular attraction at the White Mountain National Forest and people visit year round to camp, hike, fish, ski, snowmobile, or take a scenic drive.

The White Mountain National Forest is revising its Forest Plan. Forest Plans outline broad goals and priorities for a National Forest. The Forest Plan Revision will address changes to determine how the Forest will be managed in the future.

The Proposed Plan will suggest a framework for future management decisions.

Its accompanying document, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), will detail the environmental consequences of both the proposed action and the alternatives which were considered. These consequences are the foreseeable impact on the physical, natural, and human environment if the Plan is put into effect. The release of these two documents, anticipated for mid September, will also be followed by a period of public review and comment.

Please visit our website to learn more about the White Mountain National Forest at: www.fs.fed.us/r9/white

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The hikers pictured above are leaving the summit of Mt. Percival during the Sixth Annual Hike For The Trails, held on Saturday, July 24th. Photo by Eric Morse.

HIKE FOR THE TRAILS

Forty-two hikers and 158 sponsors participated in the Sixth Annual Hike For The Trails, which raised \$8,250 for SLA Trail maintenance and Mead Conservation Center. Twenty participants completed the Intermediate Hike on the 5.5 mile Morgan & Percival Loop. Seven participants completed the new Beginner Hike on the Old Bridle Path to West Rattlesnake, including 3-year old Wyatt Rothschild Sutter and 4-year old Ella Morse.

Fifteen hikers completed the Advanced Hike from Mt. Morgan Trail to Mead Conservation Center on the Crawford-Ridgepole Trail, including 6-year old Cedar Mead and 74-year old Henry Metzger. Peter Kampf won a pair of Merrell hiking boots by raising \$1,705. Sarah Sherrill, Jay Mead and Eric Morse took a break from the hike to clear the trail to Uncle Paul's Potholes, which are glacial potholes located east of Mt. Squam.

Congratulations to the hikers and many thanks to all their sponsors!



SLA BOATS FOR SALE

1 Necky "Cruiser II" Double Sit-on-Top Kayak	\$450
2 Necky "Eskia" Single Kayaks	\$600 each
1 Necky "Elaho" Single Kayak w/ Rudder - Used	\$850
1 Necky "Elaho" Single Kayaks w/ Rudder - New	\$1,050
1 Wood Canvas Canoe - used	\$500

For more info visit www.squamlakes.org or call SLA (603) 968-7336.

SLA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, AUGUST 7TH, 2004 AT BURLEIGH FARM



Photos by Eric Morse

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