



the *Loon Flyer*

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SLA TRAIL CREW RECONSTRUCTS MT. PERCIVAL TRAIL

Leah Smith, Jeanette Prost, and Ben Gaglioti, Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns and Darcy Knight, SLA Trail Crew Leader completed the Mt. Percival Reconstruction Project with a total of 1,687 hours worked. The project was supervised by Eric Morse, Natural Areas Manager and was funded by a NH Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant for \$10,707 and Hike For The Trails donations.

The SCA used Mead Conservation Center (MCC) to house thirty participants for their national Work Skills program, which trains leaders for the SCA Conservation Crews. The SCA Work Skills program completed the 0.4-mile Morgan-Percival Connector Trail, including a 24-foot long native timber bridge. The new connector trail allows hikers to complete the popular 5.5-mile Morgan-Percival loop hike, without hiking along NH Route-113.

“It’s great that we can help out like this. I regularly speak with people from all over the country about conservation service opportunities and I often refer to SCA’s partnership with SLA as a model,” said Tom Moore, SCA Director of Northeast Programs.

This fall the SLA hosted a five member SCA Trail Crew from August 19th to November 8th and they lived at MCC in Sandwich Notch. The trail crew’s main project was the reconstruction of the Mt. Percival Trail. In this project they constructed 33 rock waterbars, set 43 check steps with large rocks to slow down water runoff and also constructed a total of 56 stairs in eight staircases on steeper terrain to prevent erosion. The rock stairs and waterbars blend in with the natural environment around the trail and mountains, yet they will protect the trail from erosion by hikers and water runoff.

“I think maintaining trails is important because it gives people a designated path to enjoy nature, yet practice low impact recreation. My favorite part of the internship was the idea of starting my work day by climbing a mountain,” said Leah Smith of Tallahassee, Florida.

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The SLA Trail Crew reconstructed the Mt. Percival Trail with stairs and waterbars. Pictured from left to right: Leah Smith, Jeanette Prost, Darcy Knight, and Ben Gaglioti. Photo by Eric Morse.

SLA AND HOLDERNESS CENTRAL SCHOOL PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL WATER MONITORING DAY

On October 18, 2002 the Squam Lakes Association and Holderness Central School celebrated National Water Monitoring Day and the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. These events were celebrated across the country with citizen monitors, volunteer monitoring organizations, area schools, federal, state, local and tribal organizations.

Through the 60’s and 70’s pollution in rivers, streams, beaches, and lakes was causing fish kills, closed beaches, and contaminated drinking water. In 1972 Congress passed the Clean Water Act to initiate an effective means that would assist in cleaning up America’s waterways. The Clean Water Act set the goal of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.

In the three decades since its passage, Clean Water Act programs have yielded measurable improvements in water quality. Lakes and streams that were once devoid of fish and other aquatic life now support numerous and varied aquatic populations. Point source discharges from municipal and in-

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PO Box 204, Holderness, NH 03245
(603) 968-7336
e-mail: info@squamlakes.org
website: www.squamlakes.org

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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FISHING TOURNAMENTS

Over the past year, members of the SLA Wildlife Committee have worked with the NH Department of Fish and Game, the NH Bass Federation and NH BASS to address issues related to tournament fishing on the Squam Lakes. Communications facilitated by Steve Perry, the Chief of Inland Fisheries for Fish & Game encouraged discussion on the biological, environmental and social issues related to tournament fishing.

One of the more noticeable local changes in the 2002 season was a reduction in the overall number of boats involved in tournament fishing. This was the result of a Department policy limiting permitted tournaments at Squam to usage of no more than half of the available parking at the Route 113 boat ramp. This policy was adopted here as well as at other public ramps to provide for a more equitable use of public facilities.

The Wildlife Committee members are currently working on developing an alternative low impact fishing tournament for the Squam Lakes that is strict catch and release.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BASS FEDERATION

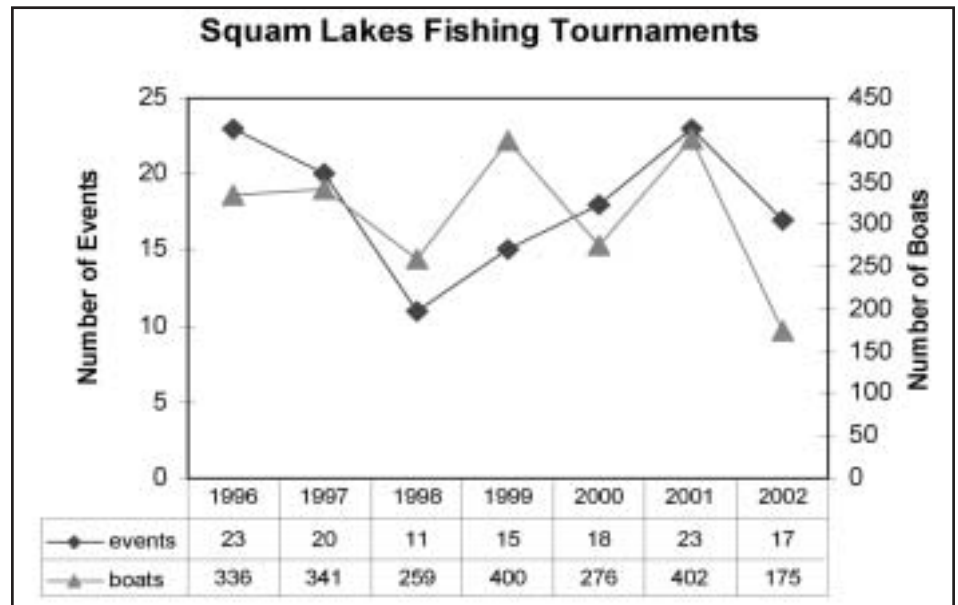
By Rob Frye, President

SLA staff met with Rob Frye, President of the NH BASS Federation and discovered many issues of mutual interest – milfoil, mercury, boating safety, fish resources, and public access. As a result, we decided to write articles for each other's newsletters, to promote understanding and collaboration on issues of common concern.

The New Hampshire BASS Federation (NHBF) is an affiliate of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (BASS). The NHBF is a non-profit organization established to preserve and promote the sport of bass fishing; to practice and promote sound environmental policies to conserve our natural resources; and to promote youth and public interest in sport fishing and conservation.

With approximately 300 members representing 22 charter clubs in NH, the NHBF offers tournaments all over the state. These competitions mandate catch and release, to preserve the fish stock. Fish are caught, kept in a live well, weighed, and then released in deep water. These tournaments offer opportunities to see old friends, meet new people, and engage in some friendly

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WATER MONITORING DAY CONTINUED

dustrial sources are being monitored and controlled. There are no more lakes catching on fire, large pollution-based fish kills are a rarity, and almost all drinking water meets the minimum criteria for health and safety.

Dana Bisbee, Barbara McMillian, Charles Knox, and Ed Rushbrook from the Department of Environmental Services attended the event and spoke to the students about the importance of their role in preserving our natural resources. Also assisting at Holderness Central School was Rick DeMarck and Pat Tarpey from the Lake Winnepesaukee Association and Bob Snelling who is a volunteer water quality monitor for the Squam Lakes Association.

Ruth Harlow's 5th grade students headed out to Owl Brook which is located directly in front of the school. Five groups of students visited different stations that were set up along the brook. They measured temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity. They also looked for macroinvertebrates (bugs) which can be indicators of the pollution level in streams.

At the end of the testing Lisa Vickers, an AmeriCorps member at the SLA, showed the students an EnviroScape model that visually shows students point and non-point sources of pollution and the importance of Best Management Practices (BMP's) to prevent pollution from reaching our waterways.

After the data was collected it was entered into a national database along with hundreds of other groups that participated in the event. The purpose of this is to get a snapshot image of lakes, rivers, and streams across the country and to show adults and children alike the vital need in continuing the effort



Fifth grade students at Holderness Central School determine the PH of Owl Brook with Lisa Vickers, SLA Environmental Coordinator. Photo by Eric Morse.

to protect our waters.

If you would like to access the information or learn more about the Clean Water Act, visit the Year of Clean Water website at: www.yearofcleanwater.org.

SLA CAMPING NEWS

SLA Campsites on Moon Island, Bowman island and Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest were very popular in 2002, with a total of 877 campsites rented, an 11% increase from 2001. Moon # 2 was rented for 114 days, including 60 days in a row from July 12th to September 9th. The new policy requiring campers to bring campfire wood or purchase it from SLA helped to protect the natural resources.

Student Conservation Association interns Leah Jacobs and Jason Williams and SLA Caretaker Tom Morse monitored camping and day use at SLA Natural Areas.

Camping reservation requests for 2003

can be placed by sending the Campsite Request Form to SLA between January 6th and January 24th. The form will be mailed in December to all campers who have made a reservation in the last three years. The form is also available in Adobe Acrobat Reader format on the SLA website: www.squamlakes.org. The form can be sent by mail or fax. Reservations will be accepted by phone, in person, mail, or fax beginning on February 3rd.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The Squam Lakes Association has joined the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program. Route 3 in Holderness is our adopted highway, beginning just east of the SLA Resource Center. It runs for approximately 2 miles from College Road to the Center Harbor town line.

Cleanup will take place twice a year in the spring and fall. If you are interested in assisting on a cleanup day, call Lisa Vickers at SLA.

MT. PERCIVAL TRAIL CONTINUED

I enjoy being outdoors and building stairs with raw materials from the earth,” said Jeanette Prost of Versailles, Indiana.

Two relocations were created to avoid eroded sections, which were beyond repair. The first relocation is 150 feet and crosses a boulder field. Seventeen large rocks were set as a retaining wall to prevent the trail from eroding on the steep hill. The second relocation is a 335-foot switch back with 15 stairs and two turnpikes. The old sections of trail were closed with brush and rock scree to promote revegetation.

“I really like trail work because it levels my head and eases my mind to work outdoors,” said Ben Gaglioti of Cleveland, Ohio.

Many hikers enjoy the Morgan and Percival Loop hike and the new trail construction will protect the natural resources while providing a beautiful hike for the public. SLA plans to similarly reconstruct the Mt. Morgan Trail in



Jeanette Prost and Ben Gaglioti build a rock staircase on a steep section of the Mt. Percival Trail. Photo by Eric Morse.

2003. Letters of support for the Mt. Morgan Trail Reconstruction Project are requested for the Recreational Trails Program grant. Please send letters to Eric Morse at SLA.



SLA Trail Crew members build a rock waterbar to provide drainage on the Mt. Percival Trail. Photo by Eric Morse.

SUPPORT THE SLA TRAIL CREW

The SLA Trail Crew performed 3,032 hours of trail maintenance and reconstruction in 2002. In addition to the 1,687 hours on the Mt. Percival Trail, the trail crew also worked 572 hours on the Cotton Mountain Trail and 773 hours performing trail maintenance on other SLA Trails.

The annual cost of the SLA Trail Crew is projected at \$24,684 for year 2003. While grant funding and Hike For The Trails donations help support the SLA Trail Crew, we need additional support to properly maintain SLA Trails. Please consider a donation to support our trail program.

How will SLA use your gift?

- \$1000 supports the SLA Trail Crew for one week
- \$500 constructs a rock staircase
- \$200 constructs a bog bridge
- \$100 constructs two rock waterbars
- \$50 funds a new trail sign

Send your donation to: SLA Trails, P.O. Box 204, Holderness, NH 03245. For more information contact Eric Morse at SLA (603) 968-7336 or visit the SLA Website at: www.squam lakes.org.



LAKE HOSTS MONITOR BOAT RAMPS TO PREVENT SPREAD OF MILFOIL

Chances are that if you launched or pulled your boat on Squam this past season, you probably encountered one of the Lake Hosts staffing the launch sites. Under federal grant funding provided to the NH Lakes Association, the Lake Host program was implemented statewide this past season to educate boaters about invasive aquatic plants and to instruct them how to perform boat inspections to prevent the spread of plants from water body to water body.

Locally, the Squam Lakes Association, the Town of Sandwich and the White Oak Pond Watershed Association all participated in the Lake Host program with a total of four launch areas staffed. Lake Hosts, who focus their efforts on weekends and holidays, inspected 2,100 boats and found that 96 entering the lakes had aquatic plant material present and 86 leaving the lakes had aquatic plant material present.



Don Mayer, the Squam Lakes Public Access Ramp Lake Host performs a boat inspection in August. Don monitored the ramp on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Ramp Host program was funded by a federal grant to the NH Lakes Association. Photo by Eric Morse.

SLA USED BOATS FOR SALE

Wilderness Systems "Manteo" kayak	\$450
Necky "Looksha IV" kayak	\$700
Necky "Eskia" kayak	\$700
Escape "Captiva" sailboat	\$1,700

For more information view SLA's website or call Steve Sanders at SLA.



The SLA Resource Center renovation began on October 17th. Photo by Eric Morse.

SLA RENOVATION UPDATE

The summer season has come to an end, but the flurry of activity here at SLA has just begun. Conneston Construction Inc. (CCI) began renovation work to the SLA Resource Center building on October 17th. The renovation will be a 22 week long process scheduled to be completed in mid to late March.

The renovations will provide many needed upgrades to the existing offices and facilities. We will be adding a water quality lab, installing new restrooms, and upgrading the flow patterns to the office spaces to make them more user friendly. Look for photos and updates in future Loon Flyers.



SLA OFFERS FUN WINTER EVENTS

The SLA is planning a variety of fun winter events for the whole family, including Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing and the popular Squam Winterfest.

The fun starts on Saturday, January 4th, with the **Squam Skating Tour** from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The skating location will be determined later, based on the ice conditions. Last year we skated from Belknap Woods in Dog Cove to Moon and Bowman Islands and we enjoyed four inches of smooth, black ice. Learn how to determine if the ice is safe for skating and how to use ice safety equipment. Meet at the SLA Resource Center at 12:30 pm for this fun tour. Jamie Hess, owner of The Nordic Skater, will provide free demo Nordic Skates, which clip into cross-country skate ski boots. Please contact Eric Morse at SLA to reserve a pair of Nordic Skates. Cost is \$5 per person.



Jamie Hess and Steve Sanders enjoy smooth, black ice on the Squam Skating Tour. Photo by Eric Morse.

Squam Winterfest will take place at SLA on Saturday, January 18th from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. Over 300 people enjoyed skating and outdoor winter fun last year and we hope for a similar turnout this year. Activities will include: ice skating, demo Nordic Skates, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and NH Fish & Game ice fishing demonstration. A Chili-fest competition will be held with entries from local restaurants. Purchase a \$5 mug to taste and vote for your favorite chili and enjoy free



Many skaters enjoyed the plowed skating oval at last year's Squam Winterfest. This year's event is scheduled for January 18th from 12:00 to 3:00. Photo by Eric Morse.

hot chocolate and cookies.

SLA will offer guided and catered **Full Moon Snowshoe Tours** on January 18th and 19th to the Rattlesnakes. On Saturday, January 18th we will take the Old Bridle Path to West Rattlesnake. On Sunday the 19th, we will follow the Col and Ridge Trails to East Rattlesnake. Cheese fondue and hot beverages will be served on the summit under full moonlight. The tours are from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and the cost is \$25 per person. Rental snowshoes are available from SLA for an extra \$10 per person.

Cross-Country Ski Tours will be offered on Saturday, February 1st and Saturday, March 1st at Belknap Woods and Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest, respectively. These fun tours will explore Squam's Natural Areas from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bring your own skis and lunch and the fee is \$10 per person for guides and trail maintenance.

The Bowman Cabin Overnight Ski Tour is scheduled for February 15 & 16, which is a full moon weekend. Enjoy cross-country skiing on Squam Lake to Five Finger Point, Church Island, and Chamberlain-Reynolds Me-

morial Forest. Breakfast, dinner, and accommodations at the Bowman Island Cabin are included in the \$80 per person fee. Space is limited to 10 participants – sign up early!

On Saturday, February 22nd SLA will offer a **Snowshoe Tours** to Mt. Morgan on the Mt. Morgan Trail from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The cost is \$10 per person, or \$25 including snowshoe rental. On Sunday, February 23rd A **Family Snowshoe Tour** will hike the Old Bridle Path to West Rattlesnake from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The cost for this family paced tour is \$5, or \$15 with snowshoe rental. Saturday, March 15th is the final tour of the season, a **Snowshoe Tour** to Mt. Israel on the Wentworth Trail from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The cost is \$10 per person, or \$25 including snowshoe rental.

Please call SLA at (603) 968-7336 for more information on SLA Winter Events. Ask for Eric or Steve to sign up for a tour or to reserve equipment.





Twenty-two sailboats participated in the Around The Lake Race on August 4th.
Photo by Eric Morse.

NH BASS CONTINUED

competition. All tournaments must be permitted through the NH Fish and Game Department, which maintains a list of upcoming tournaments on its website (www.wildlife.state.nh.us).

NHBF offers events for youth and the general public to involve them in sport fishing. Casting Kids is sponsored by local chapters to educate youth ages 7-14 about fishing. Junior Bassmasters is a new program that has a similar format for the adults.

This summer, local chapters conducted more than 40 cleanups of public ramps on lakes and ponds in the state. Tons of trash was hauled away from both the land and water. The public is always welcome to participate in these cleanup activities.

Federation members are very concerned about the state of the fishery, especially since bass – at the top of the food chain – can contain high levels of mercury in their tissue. Milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants can also impact the fishery by depleting oxygen levels and stunting fish growth. The Federation has been actively educating its members about milfoil. At a Federation club tournament on Pawtuckaway Lake in Nottingham this summer, the Lake Host on duty at the public launch ramp

was invited to speak to anglers about the threat of milfoil and other invasive species. The anglers were aware of the issue and the need to inspect their boats, trailers and recreational equipment upon entering, and leaving, a lake or pond.

This January NHBF will offer a new event open to the public from the 10th thru the 12th – the New Hampshire Family Outdoor Sports Expo at Rockingham Park in Salem. Many groups will be exhibiting and making presentations. For more information about this or any other Federation activity, please contact Rob at (603) 490-4199 or visit their website at www.nhbassfederation.com.

NOTES

The SLA Store will be closed until Spring 2003, due to renovations of the SLA Resource Center. We apologize for any inconveniences.

EQUIPMENT WANTED

2000 or newer Lap Top Computer with Windows Operating System.

Outboard Engine: 4 Stroke 25 h.p.

PLANNED GIVING

Non-profit organizations such as the SLA rely heavily on the financial support of our membership. This support allows the organization to remain viable and to continue our mission of protecting and preserving the Squam Lakes Watershed. Recently, the Squam Lakes Association received a generous gift from the disposition of the Anne Hallowell Richards Preedy Trust and this gift is an example of planned giving. There are a wide variety of planned giving options that provide opportunities for donors to recognize charitable organizations while fulfilling their personal financial needs. For further information please contact your financial advisor or attorney and consider a gift to the SLA.

JSLA SEEKS DONATIONS TO IMPROVE KAYAK INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

JSLA introduced children in the Explorer Program (ages 10-12) to kayaking this summer, however they found kayaking in adult sized kayaks to be very challenging. The JSLA Explorer group had to be rescued on a windy July day, because the kayaks were simply too large for children. JSLA hopes to raise \$4,700 to purchase six youth sized kayaks, paddles, and safety gear.

The JSLA Expedition Program (ages 13-15) has been teaching the fundamentals of kayak touring for five years while camping at SLA Natural Areas. The SLA Boat Rental fleet consists mostly of adult sized kayaks, which fit the Expedition kids well.

Please send your contribution to: JSLA - Kayaking, P.O. Box 204, Holderness, NH 03245 or call (603) 968-7336 for more information.

SLA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 4	Squam Skating Tour 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Meet at SLA at 12:30.
January 6	Camping Reservation Request forms are accepted by mail or fax through January 24.
January 18	Squam Winterfest 12:00 - 3:00 pm at SLA
January 18	Full Moon Snowshoe Tour to West rattlesnake 7:00 - 9:00 pm
January 19	Full Moon Snowshoe Tour to East Rattlesnake 7:00 - 9:00 pm
February 1	Cross-Country Ski Tour to Belknap Woods 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
February 3	Camping reservations are accepted by phone, Monday - Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
February 15 & 16	Bowman Cabin Overnight Ski Tour
February 22	Snowshoe Tour to Mt. Morgan 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
February 23	Snowshoe Tour to West Rattlesnake 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
March 1	Cross-Country Ski Tour to Chamberlain-Reynolds Forest 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
March 15	Snowshoe Tour to Mt. Israel on Wentworth Trail 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

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