

the *Loon Flyer*

Published by the Squam Lakes Association Summer 2003



EAGLES NEST ON SQUAM

This summer, a pair of bald eagles nested successfully on Squam Lake for the first time in at least 70 years.

In his 1934 book, *The White Hills: Mountain New Hampshire Winnepesaukee to Washington*, author Cornelius Weygandt mentions “the Squam eagles, well-known from old time throughout all this countryside.” His book, however, does not contain any specific reference to an actual nest location on Squam, but suggests that Squam Lake was an active bald eagle breeding territory prior to the 1930s.

Over the past 4 years, local observers have been reporting an increasing number of bald eagle sightings, from every month of the year, to Chris Martin, Senior Biologist for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, who coordinates monitoring and management of bald eagles in New Hampshire under a contact with the NH Fish & Game Department. Based upon the different ages (plumages) of eagles seen together at Squam over the past few years, apparently several different individual eagles have been involved in the gradual establishment of a new breeding territory on Squam Lake and surrounding wetland areas.

Bald eagles are classified as threatened on the federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife, and listed as endangered on New Hampshire’s state list. During the spring and summer of 2003, only 5 eagle pairs attempted to hatch eggs in the Granite State. The pair at Squam Lake was the only pair nesting south of the White Mountains that successfully fledged young in 2003.

In Spring/Summer 2000, 1 adult and 1 nearly adult plumage bald eagle were seen frequently on the islands in middle of Squam Lake, but no clear evidence of breeding. In Spring 2001, several sightings of 1 adult bald eagle on Squam, Little Squam, Garland Pond, and Lees Mills Pond; no clear evidence of breeding. From July 2001 through end of December 2001, 2 adult or nearly adult plumage bald eagles were present, often perching together, on islands in middle of Squam Lake, especially on Little Loon Island.

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A pair of bald eagles has nested on Little Loon Island. Photo by Michelle Sirles.

WHAT’S OUR WATER WORTH?

New Hampshire waters are valuable both as a natural and economic resource. Their beauty draws people who spend money on recreation and pay a premium for waterfront property. Public water utilities depend on surface waters to serve customers and businesses. Until now, no one has estimated the economic value of these uses.

The Lakes, Rivers, Streams & Ponds Partnership recently conducted an economic study on the value of New Hampshire’s surface water. The partnership includes: New Hampshire Lakes Association, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, New Hampshire Fish and Game, SLA, New Hampshire Rivers Council, Lake Sunapee Protective Association, Newfound Lake Region Association, Rockywold-Deephaven Camps, and many other non-profit organizations.

The study accounted for just five of the many uses we make of public waters: boating, fishing, swimming, public drinking water and waterfront property. The goal of the study is to help policy makers understand the significant financial con-

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NEW SLA LOGO

As you may have seen in other publications, the SLA has adopted a revised logo. True Colors in Plymouth designed the new logo, which represents the unique values of Squam.

CENTENNIAL HISTORY BOOK: SQUAM

The first draft of Squam, the SLA-sponsored book, is nearing completion. The initial chapters are written and the Images Committee is selecting approximately three hundred maps, photos and paintings from the New Hampshire Historical Society and State Archives, from the historical societies of our five towns, and from the thousands of family photographs you have shared with us.

As we finalize our decision on the images, we will continue to seek specific items:

- Generational photographs of excel-

lent quality

- Photographs of the transportation boats from Sandwich (earlier than Ashland Transportation)
- The original Sandwich Creamery
- Photographs of the early SLA people or initiatives
- Wildlife (herons, eagles, loons)
- Fishing scenes
- Loon Rangers
- Family activities on or around the lakes since the 1950s
- Photos from JSLA activities
- Atmospheric scenes
- Anything relating to Native American and Abenaki history
- Pictures from any of the youth camps, and Harvard Engineering Camp

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our sponsorship letter. As we said in the letter, your sponsorship dollars will help bring down the retail cost of the book. All contributors will be listed in a special section of the book. The deadline is September 15!

AROUND THE LAKE RACE

Frank Whitehead won the Around The Lake Sailing Race on August 4th with a time of 2:42:49. Christian and Allan Whatley placed second and third, respectively. Due to light winds, the course was shortened to Perch Island to Duck Island and back.

The Squam Lakes Association gratefully acknowledges the support of

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MEMBER FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

whose generous contributions underwrite this issue of the Loon Flyer.

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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CHAMBERLAIN-REYNOLDS MEMORIAL FOREST 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On August 2nd New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) and SLA celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest. The forest was donated to NEFF in 1953 by John “Jack” C. Wister, who was the Director of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation at Swathmore College. The forest was named after Allen Chamberlain and Harris A. Reynolds, who positively influenced the condition of New England Forests. Chamberlain cofounded the Massachusetts Forest and Parks Association in 1898 and Reynolds was instrumental in establishing NEFF in 1944. Several generations of the Reynolds family joined the celebration, including Clint (pictured above), the son of Harris Reynolds.

In addition to the official comments, participants enjoyed an early morning bird walk, a forestry tour led by Peter



Clint Reynolds, Tim Storrow (NEFF), Tim Fisher (SLA), Chris Devine (SLA), Allan Fulkerson (SLA), and Cynthia Wood (NEFF) celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest on August 2nd. Photo by Eric Morse.

Farrell, New England Forestry Consultants Forester, and trail work with Eric Morse and Vicki Estok of SLA. The SLA has managed recreation at Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial

Forest since 1960 and recently renewed the management agreement with NEFF.

CLIVUS COMPOSTING TOILET

The SLA is constructing a Clivus composting toilet at Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest’s First Beach. The toilet facility is funded in part by the New Hampshire State Conservation Committee “moose” license plates, and through donations by builder Greenside Company and solar provider Solar Works, Inc.

The building is a timber frame style shed and is constructed of native sustainable materials. The Clivus composting toilet will protect water quality by safely decomposing human waste. The solar panel provides power to a fan, which pumps out carbon dioxide and a pump, which pumps liquid fertilizer to a leach field. Composting toilets are an eco-friendly solution for lakefront and island homes.



Phil Strother of Greenside Company constructs a timber frame outhouse over a solar powered Clivus composting toilet at Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest. Photo by Eric Morse.

EAGLES ON SQUAM CONTINUED

In Spring/Summer 2002, sightings of an adult and an immature eagle together on Little Loon Island were becoming quite regular; in June, Rick Van de Poll reported that a “witches broom” in the top of a white pine tree (the eagles’ favorite perch tree) on Little Loon Island had accumulated an increased amount of sticks.

In early Spring 2003, we began watching for signs that eagles might be nesting near Squam, and lake resident Will Grinnell was the first to report in late April that the eagles appeared to be incubating eggs in the nest.

In consideration of potential disturbance, day usage and unauthorized overnight camping on Little Loon Island was restricted by the landowners, Webster Land Corp. and Rockywold-Deephaven Camps has removed the campsite from their reservation system. In mid-May, floating buoys with warning signs were deployed around Little Loon Island to create a buffer area around the nest.

At least two eggs hatched at the end of May, and on June 12 two chicks about 2-3 weeks old were seen in nest. Using a high-magnification spotting scope, Chris Martin was able to see that the adult male eagle had a gold leg band on his left leg that read “W86”, which indicated that this was a 6 year old eagle produced in 1997 from a nest on Quabbin Reservoir in Franklin Co., MA. The female eagle was a not yet fully mature bird, likely only 4 years old based on her plumage.

Word spread and by mid-June many local lake residents and visitors were flocking to have a look; volunteer eagle-watcher Will Grinnell estimated about 100 boats stopped near Little Loon on one weekend. Tour boats from the Squam Lake Natural Science Center,

and other tour operators on the lake have made Little Loon Island a part of the regular circuit of the lake.

By July it was clear that only one of the eagle chicks was still alive; wildlife biologists from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, NH Fish & Game Dept., and Audubon Society visited the site to consider long-term solutions to the human visitation pressure at Little Loon Island.

By early August the nearly fully-grown chick was standing on the edge of the nest, stretching and exercising its wings. Due to take its first flight by mid-August, the chick will continue to be partially dependent on its parents for food into September.

Successful nesting in 2003 increases the odds that bald eagles will continue to nest on Squam Lake, at Little Loon Island or elsewhere, for decades to come, adding to the magic and mystique of this beautiful natural area.



BIKE AROUND THE LAKE

Bike Around The Lake raised \$2,000.00 almost to the dollar to support the JSLA Scholarship program. Approximately 40 participants and several kids participated in the ride as well as adults up to the age of 70.

T-shirts and water bottles were given to nearly all and special prizes were given out to the youngest riders; youth raising the most money; adult with most pledges; adult raising the most money and all who raised over \$100.

Three rest stops with food and drink, a sag wagon and sponsors who donated goodies and prizes made our event especially fun this year.

Special thanks to Mike Bombara from Rhino Bikes who performed bike safety checks, and gave away water bottles, and 2 Gift Certificates!! Also thanks to: Long Haul Farm, The Endeavor Cafe, Power-Aid, Walter’s Basin, Riverside Cycle, Corner House Inn, Golden Pond Country Store, Lyn Porter, Rockywold Deephaven Camps, The Loon Center; and the wonderful volunteers who provided tables and rest stop support all around the lake.



Bikers enjoy the Bike Around The Lake on Squam Lakes Road in Sandwich. The fun biking event raised \$2,000 for the Junior Squam Lakes Association’s (JSLA) scholarship and equipment fund. Thanks to all the sponsors and riders! Photo by Eric Morse.

POETRY BY MATT YODER

Student Conservation Association (SCA)
intern Caretaker at Chamberlain-Reynolds
Memorial Forest, June - August, 2003

“Young Man on the Shores of Squam Lake”

I don't have to leave this spot

But I will

And I'll come back

Things the same

Just as if no one else had ever came

The mountains will rise

The water will sing

Eyes will open wide

To the beauty they bring

“Day”

Rising above is the blue

Of beautiful days we just can not choose

And the lake is a reflection of scenes

Trees, clouds, and children's dreams

“Night”

Check the sun's exciting glare on the water

It's golden and perfectly linear

Rippling slightly

Falling to the west nightly

*If I came back here in a hundred years it
might look the same*

Stretched on the lake like an eternal flame

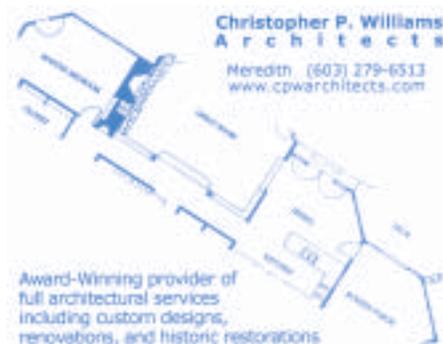
*If I see you in a hundred years, maybe you'll
still have that same glow*

*As the person I once met and wish more to
know*



SLA Staff Matt Yoder, Garr Corcoran and Lisa Vickers pick up trash along Route-3 for the Adopt-A-Highway program. Photo by Eric Morse.

The Squam Lakes Association gratefully acknowledges the support of



whose generous contributions underwrite this issue of the Loon Flyer.



The JSLA Discovery group canoes to Moon Island for a camp out. Photo by Eric Morse.

MOON ISLAND LOG BOOK

June 28, 2003

Hi All,

If you are here, you are truly blessed. Last year I found an arrowhead (big game we presume). Its been so hot; the water is lovely. What a nice clean beach. I am so grateful to all those that keep this place so clean. I hope it will be this way always. I can't help saying a prayer whenever I come here. We live locally and come here often.

- Tom and Karen, New Hampton

tributions of surface waters to the state's economy, so they can make fully informed choices when faced with decisions affecting our public waters.

The total sales generated by recreational uses (i.e. boating, fishing and swimming) of New Hampshire's fresh waters and by public drinking water supplies range from \$1.1 billion to as much as \$1.5 billion annually.

Days spent boating, fishing and swimming collectively generate approximately:

- \$320 to \$340 million in annual household income
- 9,000 to 15,000 full and part time jobs
- \$850 million to \$1.2 billion in annual total sales

A preliminary estimate suggests that waterfront property owners on lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds pay \$247 million per year in property taxes.

The study found that approximately 195,000 boats are in use on New Hampshire's waters and there are 3.6 million visitor days boating annually (excluding fishing). There are approximately 2.6 million fishing days and 8 million swimming days annually on New Hampshire waters. The funds generated by these activities are estimated from direct sales, such as lodg-



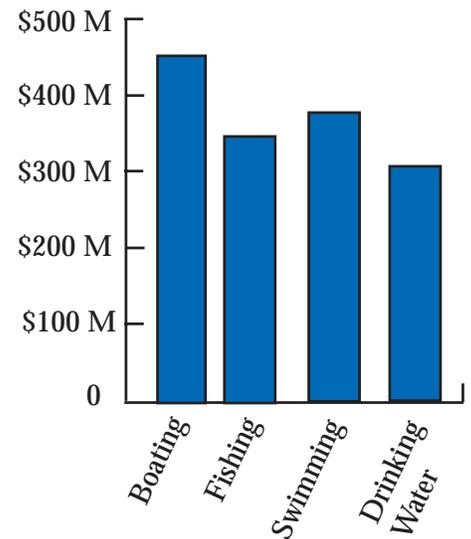
Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns Matt Yoder and Meg Ballard and SLA Crew Leader Vicki Estok clear a waterbar on the Mt. Percival Trail during National Trails Day. Photo by Eric Morse.

ing, meals, transportation, shopping and equipment sales as well as indirect sales, when expenditures cycle through the economy.

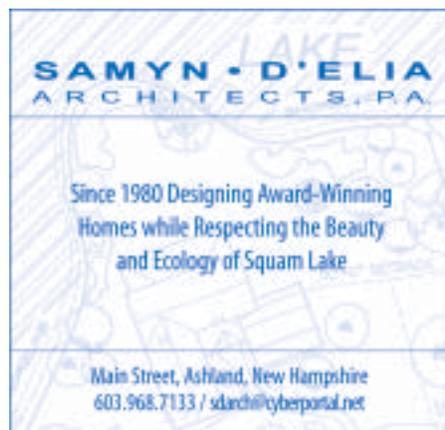
The economic study was conducted by Dr. Lisa Shapiro, Chief Economist of Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell P.A. of Concord, NH.

Visit www.nhlakes.org to view the "Estimates of Economic Values of New Hampshire's Lakes, Rivers, Streams and Ponds Phase II Report." 

Millions of 2002 Dollars



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SQUAM ROWING

As our rowing program comes to the end of its first season, we are offering our single and double shells for sale. Included are an Alden 16 Single Scull, an Alden 18 Single/Double Scull, an Alden Star Single Scull, and a Peinert Zephyr Single Scull. Please contact us for additional information at mccomas@rcn.com or 603.968.9601.



Chuck Gibson and Betsy Whitmore hike along the summit of Mt. Morgan during Hike For The Trails fund-raiser. Twenty-one hikers raised \$7,110 for SLA Trails and Mead Conservation Center. Photo by Eric Morse.

HIKE FOR THE TRAILS

The Fifth Annual Hike For The Trails was held on Saturday, July 26. Twenty-one hikers and 104 sponsors raised \$7,110 for SLA Trails and Mead Conservation Center. Hike For The Trails was sponsored by Rockywold-Deephaven Camps, Summit Rehabilitation and Bridgewater Power Company. Prize and gift sponsors included: Merrell hiking boots, The North Face, Golden Pond Country Store, Cliff Bar, and Thorlo hiking socks.

Peter Kampf won a pair of Merrell hiking boots as the most successful fund-raiser with \$2,835 from 42 different sponsors! Sarah Sherrill won the second place prize, a \$25 gift certificate to the SLA Store for raising \$800 from 22 sponsors. The top ten fund-raisers received a pair of Thorlo hiking socks.

The Advanced hike travelled across the Squam Range from Cotton Mountain to Mt. Percival on the Crawford-Ridgepole Trail (9.5 miles). The Intermediate hike followed the Morgan and Percival Loop (5.3 miles). The fund-raiser will support the SLA Trail Crew for five weeks this fall and will improve facilities at Mead Conserva-

tion Center. Special thanks to all the sponsors and hikers!

NH TRAILS DAY

Forty-one people attended SLA's New Hampshire Trails Day event at Mead Conservation Center on July 19th. Fifteen girls from Pleasant Valley Camp brushed Cotton Mountain Trail and Crawford-Ridgepole Trail to Old Mountain Road. Fourteen boys from

North Woods Camp brushed the Crawford-Ridgepole Trail from Sandwich Notch to Doublehead and cleaned waterbars along the trail. The remaining volunteers cleared brush on the Algonquin Trail in Sandwich Notch.

MT. PERCIVAL TRAIL RELOCATION

A quarter mile section of the Mt. Percival Trail was relocated after timber harvesting impacted the trail. The impacted section was originally a farm road and has coexisted as a trail and logging skid road for many years. Webster Land Corp., the landowner and Wagner Forest Management, the forester for the recent harvest each contributed to the trail relocation. The new trail was constructed by SLA's trail crew of Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns.

Mt. Morgan Trail and Mead Trail (to Mt. Israel) will be reconstructed this fall with new stairs, waterbars, step stones, and bog bridges. The SLA Trail Crew will work from August 19 to November 8 and will be housed at Mead Conservation Center.



Forty-one people participated in SLA's New Hampshire Trails Day event at Mead Conservation Center. A Barbecue was sponsored by Common Man, The Corner House and Sandwich General Store. Photo by Eric Morse.

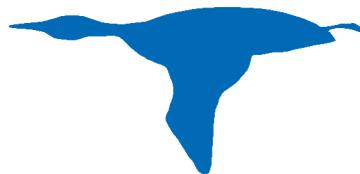


SLA's Community Youth Sailing Program 2003



Photos by Eric Morse

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