

# *the Loon Flyer*

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## MILL BROOK CONSERVATION PROJECT

The SLA and Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) are working together to protect the 3.1 acre Harrison property, located east of the SLA Resource Center. The property is easily recognizable by the abandoned and decaying rental cabins and it contains 675 feet of shorefront along Mill Brook wetlands. Based on zoning laws in Holderness, the property could have been used as a variety of businesses, including: motel, rental cottages, offices, bank, restaurant, campground, or boat tours.

The Mill Brook wetlands were dredged in the 1950's and it is likely that it could be dredged again, which would disturb the wetlands and may contribute to milfoil infestations. Variable milfoil tends to grow in disturbed areas, such as dredged channels and boathouses. Wetlands protect water quality by filtering nutrients as well as providing fish and bird habitat.

SLA and SLCS plan to purchase the property cooperatively, to prevent development and to conserve this environmentally sensitive property. SLA would fund the acquisition with its Conservation Fund, while SLCS would raise money through a Capital Campaign. According to SLA bylaws the stated purposes of the Conservation Fund are:

“to acquire or participate in acquiring lands, or interests in lands, in the Squam Lakes watershed which have ecologically significant characteristics and which are threatened by development in ways or for uses detrimental to the ecology of the watershed or to the preservation of the quality of the water in the Squam Lakes...”

Given the close proximity of the Harrison property to the 20 acres of wetland subject to a conservation easement (held by SLCS and owned by Cromwell Point), and sandwiched between 2.2 acres owned by SLCS and SLA's 5.8-acre Resource Center, one could argue that it would be irresponsible not to make every effort to protect this wetland property. The real estate closing is scheduled for November 24, 2003. Look for more information in the Winter Loon Flyer in February.



*SLA and Squam Lakes Conservation Society are working to conserve the Harrison Property along Mill Brook. Photo by Eric Morse.*

## SLA'S FALL TRAIL CREW IMPROVES THE MT. MORGAN TRAIL

The SLA's fall trail crew improved the Mt. Morgan Trail with new and reconstructed waterbars, check steps, stepping stones, staircases and a trail relocation. Student Conservation Association (SCA) Resource Assistants: Brandon Kielbasa, David Morrill, Bob Struble and Atticus Doman were supervised by Nelson Bruni, SLA Trail Crew Leader. The trail crew logged over 2,200 hours on Mt. Morgan Trail, working from August 17th through November 8th. The project was funded by a \$11,390 grant from the Recreational Trails Program, which is administered by the NH Trails Bureau.

“On the outside, I think most people just see a bunch of folks working hard. What I think is overlooked is the fact that all five of us are different - age, background, education, etc. And yet after a few weeks, you'd think that we've known each other for ages,” said Nelson Bruni.

The trail improvements were necessary to combat erosion, due to the popularity of the trail and water runoff. The lower

*Continued on page 7*





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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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## EAGLE PRESERVATION ON SQUAM

SLA is working cooperatively with NH Audubon Society, NH Marine Patrol, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, and Squam Lakes Conservation Society to protect the eagle nest on Little Loon Island. Chris Martin, Senior Biologist from NH Audubon Society is leading the effort to protect the eagles and to educate the public.

Next season we plan to improve the signage and buoys around Little Loon Island, produce a brochure to educate boaters, and coordinate interns to monitor the nesting area. We are all very excited to have nesting eagles return to Squam and these efforts are designed to ensure their continued presence.

## SLA MEMBER'S FORUM

Please send us your comments and/or questions about the Loon Flyer or the SLA in general. We want to hear from you and will publish comments in the new SLA Member's Forum in the Loon Flyer. Send your comments by e-mail to: [loonflyer@squamlakes.org](mailto:loonflyer@squamlakes.org). You can also join discussions on the Squam Forum at SLA's website: [www.squamlakes.org](http://www.squamlakes.org).

## SQUAM CONSERVATION CORPS

SLA is planning to establish the Squam Conservation Corps (SCC), a youth conservation program for high school aged students. SCC will be offered for two sessions, each one week long, for a maximum of six students per session. The students will perform three days of trail work in the Squam mountains with the SLA trail crew, one day of conservation work on Moon or Bowman Islands with SLA Caretakers, and one day of milfoil management with the SLA Environmental Coordinator. For their hard work, the students will receive a free kayak campout on Moon Island.

Squam Conservation Corps will be free to students for the initial season of 2004. This is an excellent opportunity for students to receive community service credits. The schedule will be published in the Winter Loon Flyer and the SLA Youth Programs brochure. Please contact Eric Morse at SLA for more information about this unique educational opportunity.

## WEED WATCHERS NEEDED

Please contact SLA if you would like to volunteer to monitor invasive aquatic species. See page 5 for more info.

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*whose generous contributions underwrite this issue of the Loon Flyer.*

## SLA CELEBRATES 2004 CENTENNIAL

Protecting the Squam Lakes watershed is an important task. It is a task that the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) has been committed to for 100 years. As a member of the SLA you have been a vital part of this important effort. The support we have received over the past 100 years from our membership has enabled us to successfully protect the Squam Lakes watershed and has brought the SLA to this celebratory point in history.

Over the next year, the SLA has planned a number of activities and projects to commemorate this milestone including special gatherings of the SLA Next Generation and the publication of "Squam", an historical book on the Squam Lakes watershed.



The culmination of events will take place on August 7, 2004 at the SLA's centennial annual meeting and gala at Burleigh Farm, the home of the first president of SLA, Laurence J. Webster. This event will be a wonderful celebration that includes a delicious clambake, dancing to the Bo Winiker Orchestra and concludes the evening with a spectacular fireworks display!

Please mark your calendars for August 7, 2004 and join us as we return to the home of the first president to reflect on many of the SLA's big accomplishments over the past 100 years. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate 100 years of stewardship. Join us to usher in a second century of SLA's commitment to the magnificent Squam Lakes.



This historic photograph of Squam mail boats was provided by Roger Hawkins for "Squam".

### "SQUAM"

The SLA-sponsored book *Squam* is nearing completion. Author Rachel Carley has completed two-thirds of the copy and is working closely with designer Dean Bornstein on the layout. The Images Committee has sorted through thousands of photographs and is in the process of selecting the top 300 for inclusion in the book. Our thanks to all of the generous individuals and families who have lent us their images for this wonderful project.

For all of you who responded to our requests for sponsorship – a huge THANK YOU. Your support and generosity have been tremendous. For those who would still like to participate in the sponsorship – it's not too late.

**Mt. Morgan**, \$1,000 – four signed book copies, a limited edition print, and a historical map reproduction

**Red Hill**, \$500–two signed book copies and a historical map reproduction

**Rattlesnake**, \$250 – one signed book copy

**General**, any amount

The names of all sponsors will be included in an alphabetical list within the book. However, your donation must be received by December 15th. There will also be an early-release reception for sponsors when *Squam* is published next summer and, of course, the book will be available at the SLA and other local stores.

Many of you have asked "What kind of book is this?" *Squam* is a rich portrait and fascinating chronicle of the many people, places, and events that have created this special place. It is not a history of the SLA, but a history of the dreams and schemes that have shaped the Squam watershed and its lakes and towns as we know them.

We are planning a limited onetime printing so express your interest now! In the next Loon Flyer there will be an order form – please return it promptly so that we may reserve your copies.

#### BOWMAN LOG BOOK

8/20/2003

*It's great to return to Bowman & Moon Islands - I worked as the Caretaker in '94 - time sure does fly! Everything looks great - changed just enough for the better. We had a lovely kayak paddle from Sturtevant Bay. Hope to be back soon! Becky & Chris*

## SLA WINTER EVENTS 2004

Once again, the SLA is offering several fun outdoor events and excursions for the winter of 2004. Be sure to join us for the very popular [Squam Winterfest](#) on Saturday, January 17th.

The [Squam Skating Tour](#) will be led by Jamie Hess, owner of the Nordic Skater and the date and location will be determined in late December. The Nordic Skater provides recreational speed skates that clip into Nordic ski boots, as well as ice safety equipment. Jamie led an SLA tour from Dog Cove to Bowman Island on beautiful black ice in January 2002. Registration is required and the fee is \$5 per person.

The [7th Annual Squam Winterfest](#) will be held on Saturday, January 17th from 12:00 to 3:00 PM. Last year over 200 people enjoyed the fun winter activities despite the cold winter weather. Winterfest provides outdoor family fun for all ages. The activities will include: skating (plowed oval and hockey type rinks), snowshoe demos and games, Nordic Skate demos, Winter Golf on the lake, NH Fish and Game demonstration, and the very popular Chili-Fest. Last year we had chili entries from: Common Man, Walter's Basin, Golden Pond Country Store, Sandwich General Store and Yankee Trail Motel and we expect even more restaurants



*Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy Squam Winterfest 2003. Photo by Eric Morse.*

will join the competition this year. Winterfest is free for all, although there will be a nominal fee for a mug to sample chili at the Chili-Fest.

[Catered Snowshoe Tours](#) to West Rattlesnake will be offered on Saturday and Sunday, January 17th and 18th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. We will follow the Old Bridle Path and will enjoy cheese fondue, hot chocolate and hot spiced wine at the summit. The fee is \$25 per person for the tour and rental snowshoes are an extra \$10 per person. Registration is required.

[The Bowman Island Cross-Country Ski Tour](#) will be held on February 7th and 8th and again on February 28th and 29th. This popular ski tour includes lodging at the rustic Bowman Island

cabin as well as dinner, breakfast and tour guides. While the cabin is not insulated, it does have an efficient wood stove and was comfortable despite very cold temperatures last year. During the day we will tour Squam, including stops at: Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest, Five Finger Point, and Church Island. Registration is required.



[Full Moon Catered Snowshoe Tours](#) will be offered on Saturday and Sunday, March 6th and 7th at Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. We will meet at the west parking area and snowshoe 0.5 miles to Squam Lake. We will enjoy cheese fondue, hot chocolate and hot spiced wine and will tour along the lake by moonlight. The fee is \$25 per person for the tour and rental snowshoes are an extra \$10 per person. Registration is required.

To register for any of these events, please contact Eric Morse at SLA:  
Phone: (603) 968-7336  
E-mail: [ericmorse@squamlakes.org](mailto:ericmorse@squamlakes.org)



*Bowman Island Cross-Country Ski Tour skis along Great Island. Photo by Eric Morse.*

## MILFOIL UPDATE

The SLA's Ecological Monitoring Committee is managing variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) on the Squam Lakes. SLA's Ecological Coordinator, Lisa Vickers, coordinated volunteers through the Weed Watcher program to monitor milfoil and to control its presence. The infestation areas include:

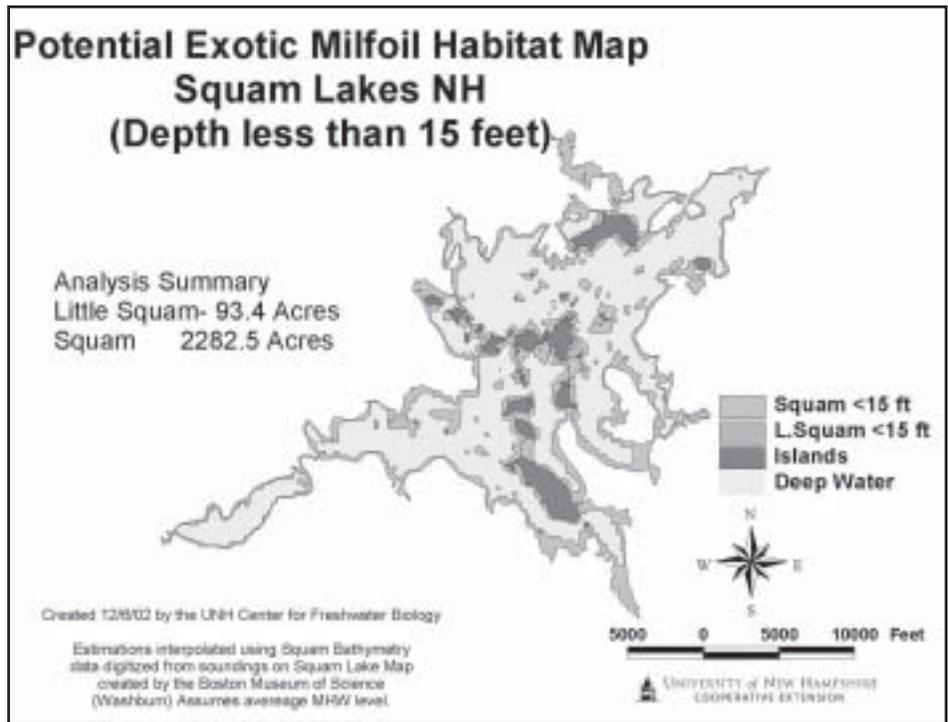
- Mill Pond: 17 acres (below the dam)
- Squam River: 4 areas 1/2 acre
- Kimbell Marina: 1.6 acres
- Little Squam SE: numerous patches 1/4 acre
- Squam Channel: 2 areas 1/2 acre
- Dog Cove SE: 400 ft<sup>2</sup>
- Sheep Island: 150 ft<sup>2</sup>



Lisa Vickers displays milfoil that was hand pulled from Squam.

Milfoil management techniques include: plant survey and mapping, handpulling, benthic barrier, herbicides and drawdown. The map on the upper right shows potential milfoil infestation areas, which are less than 15 feet deep. Hand pulling is a moderately effective technique for small infestations (1-2 ft<sup>2</sup>), but you must get all of the root structure, or the plants will come back.

Benthic barrier works by blocking sunlight to kill the plants. While it is very effective, it is also expensive and labor intensive. Benthic barrier has been installed along the Squam Channel and in southeast Little Squam, where fragments have floated from Kimbell Marina. SLA has installed 12,500 ft<sup>2</sup> of benthic barrier since 2001.



Aquatic herbicides diquat or 2,4-D are an effective short term solution for dense infestations. The herbicides prevent fragments from spreading to new areas, but at a cost of \$3,000 per acre. Diquat was applied to Kimbell Marina in June 2002 and June 2003 and it eliminated growth and fragments for 8 to 10 weeks. 2,4-D was applied to the Squam Bridge Landing in May 2003 and has been effective to date.

Drawdown displaces a large volume of water from the lake using a dam and relying on cold weather with no snow to kill the plants. Drawdown was un-

successful in the Mill Pond area in January 2002.

Since 2001 the SLA has spent \$60,000 on milfoil management and it required a full time position in 2002 and 2003. We have trained 70 volunteer Weed Watchers and have recruited 15 volunteer scuba divers. We are also staffing boat ramps to educate boaters about invasive species.

Please contact SLA if you will volunteer as a Weed Watcher. We hope to recruit 150-200 volunteers to monitor the 65 miles of shoreline!

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## CAMPING RESERVATIONS

Now that the camping season has ended, it is time to start thinking about next year's camping adventures on Squam. Early camping reservations must be placed between January 5th and January 23rd, by sending the Campsite Request Form by mail or fax to SLA. The form and camping brochure will be mailed to those who reserved SLA campsites in 2002 or 2003. You can download the form at [www.squam lakes.org](http://www.squam lakes.org) or call Carol at SLA. Camping reservations will be accepted by phone beginning on February 2nd.

## CAMPING NEWS

SLA rented 813 campsites at SLA Natural Areas in 2003, including: Moon and Bowman Islands, and Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest. Moon 2 is the most popular site and it was rented 110 days, including 75 days in a row from June 20 to September 3. 2003 was the first year to show a decline in camping, as is pictured in the chart below:



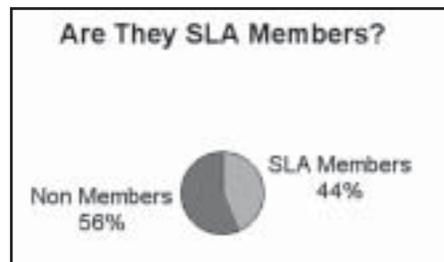
For the past two seasons we have required campers to bring their own firewood, or purchase it from SLA. The policy has helped to protect the Natural Areas and brought in \$1,000 of income.

## SLA NATURAL AREAS SURVEY

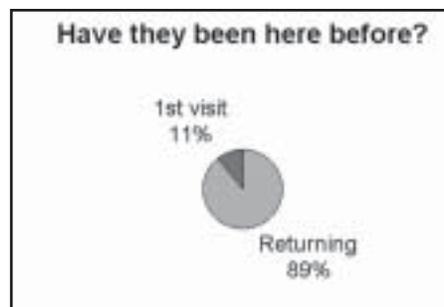
SLA's Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern Caretakers monitored the number of visitors to the

Natural Areas this summer and completed a survey on three busy weekends, including: July 5th, July 26th and August 31st. 511 visitors in 101 groups were surveyed.

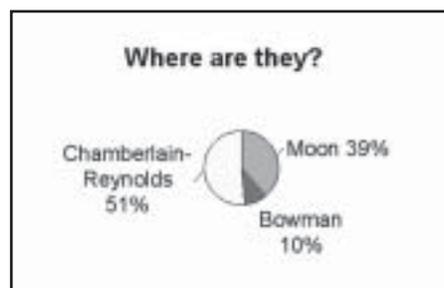
The goal of the survey is to track where people are coming from, if they are SLA members, if they have visited the Natural Areas before and what type of boat they are using.



44% of the visitors surveyed are members of SLA, which is up from 28% in 2002.

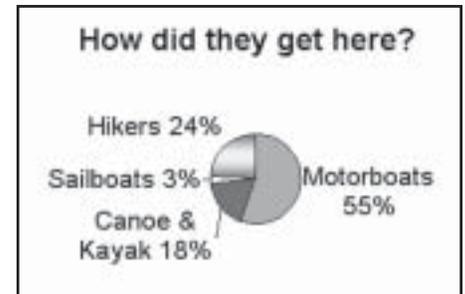


89% of the visitors have visited SLA Natural Areas before.

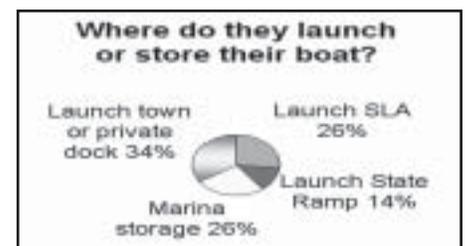


The average number of visitors per day was: Chamberlain-Reynolds = 81, Moon Island = 60, Bowman Island = 15. Compared to 2002, Moon and Bowman Islands are unchanged, while Chamberlain-Reynolds increased over 200%. Hikers at Chamberlain-Reynolds were 51% of the visitors surveyed and the forest is very popular for

hiking, bird watching, picking blueberries and of course swimming.



Motorboat use at SLA Natural Areas increased from 46% to 55% of the visitors, and canoe and kayak use declined from 32% to 18% compared to 2002. Hiking use was up from 19% to 24%, which is reflected in the increased use at Chamberlain-Reynolds.



Only 14% of the visitors launched their boats at the State of NH public access ramp. 26% of the visitors store their boats at a marina on Little Squam, and 26% launched or rented from SLA. 34% of the visitors launched from a town ramp (Center Harbor or Sandwich) or store their boat at their lake house.

## MOON IS. LOG BOOK

9/21/03

*A bonus day on beautiful Squam. The best place I know to celebrate my birthday - not telling you which! - and the fall equinox. Moon Island is such a gift and I thank those with the foresight to have set it aside for all to enjoy as well as those who contribute time and energy to keep it clean and healthy! This place is a wonderful gift.*

Lyn, New Hampton, NH

## MT. MORGAN TRAIL

*Continued from page 1*

section of the trail has many wet areas, which were improved with stepping stones. The large rocks allow hikers to stay in the middle of the trail, rather than widening the trail to avoid the muddy areas. A trail relocation project avoids 600 feet of muddy trail where the existing bog bridges were rotting and reduces the trail's width from 15 to 4 feet.

Hikers should wear waterproof hiking boots and hike through wet areas, rather than widening the trail by hiking around muddy sections. Hiking boots also provide good traction on steep terrain.

Log and rock waterbars were built on the trail to provide adequate drainage, which will prevent erosion (see picture below). The waterbars are raked in the spring and fall by SLA Trail Adopters (volunteers) and SLA staff. SLA is always looking for dedicated hikers to assist with trail maintenance - contact Eric Morse at SLA if you are interested.



*Nelson Bruni and Atticus Doman construct a waterbar and step on the upper section of the Mt. Morgan Trail. Photo by Eric Morse.*

"These mountains and this amazing crew have been with me through a wonderfully turbulent three months. I've learned more than I can ever explain and will never forget my time here; New England makes me sing," said Brandon (Hank) Kielbasa.

The trail crew also built rock and log check steps, which slows water runoff and decreases erosion. The steps blend in with the natural environment and offer hikers a brief rest. Please do not hike around the waterbars or steps, as over time, water will follow your foot steps. The long staircase near the summit of Mt. Morgan was reconstructed with new rock and log stairs. The original staircase was built by Sandwich Range Conservation Association in 1989 and the log stairs have rotted away.

"The time I spent in the Squam Lakes area is priceless. The people and scenery are beyond words. Working with the crew, giving my sweat for a purpose I believe in has taught me more than school ever did," said Atticus Doman.

The SCA interns had a great season living at Mead Conservation Center and working in the Squam Lakes area. As winter approaches, the interns return home with many fond memories of challenging trail work and we appreciate their dedication and passion for conserving SLA trails.



*The SLA Trail Crew (Nelson Bruni, Brandon Kielbasa, David Morrill, Bob Struble and Atticus Doman) install a log waterbar on the Mt. Morgan Trail. Photo by Eric Morse.*



## SLA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TBA	Squam Skating Tour (late December or early January)
January 5	Camping Reservation Request forms are accepted by mail or fax through January 23.
January 17	7th Annual Squam Winterfest 12:00 - 3:00 pm at SLA
January 17	Catered Snowshoe Tour to West Rattlesnake 7:00 - 9:00 pm
January 18	Catered Snowshoe Tour to West Rattlesnake 7:00 - 9:00 pm
February 2	Camping reservations are accepted by phone, Monday - Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
February 7 & 8	Bowman Cabin Overnight Ski Tour - Full Moon
February 28 & 29	Bowman Cabin Overnight Ski Tour
March 6	Full Moon Catered Snowshoe Tour to Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest 7:00 - 9:00 pm
March 7	Full Moon Catered Snowshoe Tour to Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest 7:00 - 9:00 pm



### SLA BOATS FOR SALE

4 Necky "Cruiser II" Double Sit-on-Top Kayaks	\$500
2 Necky "Eskia" Single Kayaks	\$650
1 Old Town Canvas Canoe (1960's - needs new canvas)	\$700
3 Necky "Elaho" Single Kayaks w/ Rudder - Used	\$900
4 Escape "Captiva" Sailboats	\$1,000
2 Necky "Elaho" Single Kayaks w/ Rudder - New	\$1,200

Visit [www.squamlakes.org](http://www.squamlakes.org) for more info or call Steve Sanders at SLA.

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