



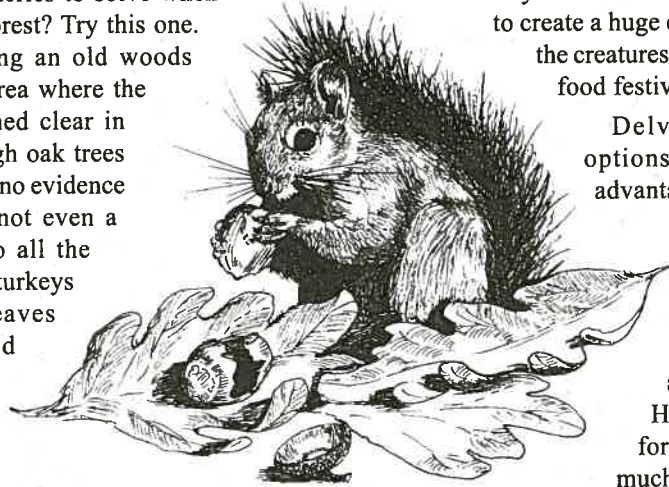
ACORNS ON THE MENU

By Margaret Gillespie, Illustration by Cheryl Johnson

Do you look for mysteries to solve when you are walking in the forest? Try this one. Last fall, when following an old woods road, I came across an area where the ground had been scratched clear in a wide patch. Even though oak trees surrounded me, there was no evidence of acorns in the patch, not even a shell. What happened to all the acorns? I suspected wild turkeys because they scrape leaves away with their feet and consume acorns whole, leaving the work of breaking down shells to their muscular gizzards.

Deer are voracious acorn eaters too but don't "rake" the leaves as much with their hooves. In fact, acorns are an integral part of the fall diet of many animals like bears and porcupines as they store fat for the winter or squirrels, which cache nuts. The trick to the acorn trade is that not all acorns are created equal.

Some years we dodge falling acorns and roll them under our feet as we walk – they are everywhere! Other years are lean. It seems impossible to predict the acorn crop and certainly many factors are involved including weather and health of trees. A heavy spring frost during oak flowering or a hot, dry summer can reduce acorn production. In addition, not all oak tree species generate acorns every year, with the white oaks maturing acorns each fall and having a superior crop maybe every third year while the red oak group produce acorns every



second year. When all the factors work together to create a huge crop, it is good news for all the creatures which benefit from this fall food festival!

Delving deeper into acorn options, we find that there are advantages and disadvantages to particular acorns. Deer prefer the sweeter white oaks; red oaks contain more bitter-tasting tannins which are also difficult to digest.

However if you are looking for energy value, red oaks are much higher in fat content and deer eat these too. Another factor involved is time of acorns sprouting. Red oaks sprout the following spring while white oaks develop soon after dropping from the trees so caching animals beware! Does working out the best acorn to choose sound like a nightmare third grade word puzzle? Fortunately oak trees and acorn eaters have long since solved this puzzle and all kinds of acorns are utilized, leaving some behind to sprout.

Is it possible to tell which animal ate the acorn by what is left? Deer, bear and turkeys leave nothing, but rodent gnawers leave hints, which Paul Rezendes details in his book, *Tracking and the Art of Seeing*. Mice, with tiny teeth, make small openings, often starting at the top and working down the side until they can get at the acorn meat, frequently leaving much of the acorn intact.

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FORGING TRAILS

They say that time flies when you are having fun . . . well, I must be having too much fun! I can't believe that it has been a year since I joined the staff here at the Science Center. All of my preconceived expectations about the Science Center have been proved in that twelve months. I was pretty sure that we had a dedicated, and talented staff . . . check! I had every reason to believe that we had an amazing, hard working corps of volunteers . . . check! All evidence suggested that the Science Center was an extremely well run business . . . check! I was confident that we had an exceptional Board of Trustees and an enthusiastically generous donor base . . . check, check!!

I also believed that we could continue to improve and grow and achieve the visitation levels envisioned in the Horizon Project (a \$5 million Capital Campaign completed in 2003). I am delighted to report that so far this season we are seeing record numbers of visitors on our trails and lake cruises. As of the date of writing this column (July

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FORGING TRAILS continued from page 1

25) we are on track to meet or beat the year-to-date admissions revenue for the 2003 "Mountain Lion" year. Every time I look out at the parking, it is full (with license plates from all across the US). We hear rave reviews from happy visitors. Our Moose Tours have all filled and we are adding more in August, our summer Guided Discovery programs have waiting lists, and we have more boat charters than ever before.

We are doing something right . . . many things, I suspect. When I say "we" I include all of you . . . our members and friends. Every time you bring a friend to the Center, every time you say a good thing about our programs, whenever you wear a Science Center t-shirt or display our decal on your vehicle you are promoting the Center; you are an ambassador – a priceless advertisement for us.

As I look at the next year, a cause for concern is the declining school group attendance. Over the last few years we have noticed a steady reduction in the number of school groups coming. We have asked teachers why and the answers are diverse: gas prices, high price of buses, field trip budget cutbacks, schedule conflicts with standardized testing, national curriculum standards, fear of West Nile virus. Many of these things are outside our control, but we cannot sit back and accept this trend. Providing exceptional natural science education for our children is at the core of our mission and we will seek ways to ensure that we continue to do that.

There is a growing movement recognizing the vital importance of early childhood exposure to the outside world. The "No Child Left Inside" ethic underscores the sociological, health, and developmental advantages of hands-on outdoor learning during the formative years. We are positioned to be a leader in this movement; it's what we provide every single day.

So, be proud of your Science Center and the work that we do and share our success with others. I don't expect the days to stop flying by anytime soon.

Forging Trails is written by Executive Director Iain MacLeod.

You may contact Iain at 603-968-7194 x 23 or iain.macleod@nhnature.org.

NEWSBRIEFS

- ◆ At the end of May Tiffany Teaford left her position here as Marketing Manager. Thanks to Tiffany, we have a vibrant new look to our general brochure and a freshening up of our logo. Likewise, we eagerly anticipate the launch of dramatic improvements to our website – including a virtual tour trail map, a new audio pod cast series, and eventually 'CritterCams.' In June we welcomed Laura Dentel as our new Marketing Manager. Laura holds a B.S. in Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin. Before moving to NH in 2006, Laura worked in Dallas as an E-news Editor at Stevens Publishing and then in Marketing Communications at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas.
- ◆ After almost four productive years as Volunteer Coordinator, Audrey Eisenhower left her position here in June to take on a new challenge at the Rey Center/Curious George Cottage in Waterville Valley. Carol Raymond joined the staff as Volunteer Coordinator in June. Carol holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts, focusing on education, from Norwich University. Carol previously worked in the book business.
- ◆ In June, Carol Raymond and Iain MacLeod were proud to accompany Jan Welch to the State House in Concord as she was honored as NH's Volunteer of the Month.
- ◆ We are very pleased to announce that award-winning filmmaker and photographer George Butler will generously present



Laura Dentel



Carol Raymond

Continued on page 3



SQUAM LAKES NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

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The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center is a non-profit educational institution incorporated in 1966 as a charitable organization under statutes of the State of New Hampshire with its principal place of business in Holderness. Our mission is to advance understanding of ecology by exploring New Hampshire's natural world. Tracks & Trails is a regular publication of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center sent to all members. Comments about the newsletter are welcomed by newsletter editor Janet Robertson at 603-968-7194 x 12 or janet.robertson@nhnature.org.

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE

JEAN AND JULIAN SHLAGER

By Laura Dentel



LD: What made you interested in volunteering at the Science Center?

When we first arrived in New Hampshire, we had young kids and they loved coming to the Science Center. We enjoyed the sawmill, exhibits, and hiking the trails. We even made it to the top of Mount Fayal! It was a wonderful experience that we felt would be good for all kids, so when we got to the stage of our lives where we could be a part of sharing this experience with them, we volunteered.

LD: When you aren't volunteering, what are some of your favorite activities in the Lakes Region and beyond?

For a number of years we had a sailboat on Squam Lake and hiked on short trails. Julian fishes, shoots sporting clays, and hunts. Together, we spend time with our families when we can. We enjoy some traveling, frequently to see our children in California, and sometimes just to see new places.

LD: What are some positive changes you have seen during your time at the Science Center, and what do you think the future holds?

We have watched continuous growth and development sparked by great imaginations. The additions and improvements to the Science Center challenge children's curiosity, and curiosity makes for great learning. The Howling Coyote Gift Shop gives them the opportunity to take something away that will keep their memories vivid. Even in our short stint as docents, we have seen the advent of the otter enrichment, the enthusiasm of the school groups, and the addition of numerous props to pique children's interest.

LD: Do you have favorite exhibits, animals, or events?

Everyone loves the otters! And that includes us. Wouldn't it be nice to play all day! We enjoy seeing the habitats for the animals, which makes it as close to their homes as possible, while providing good viewing.

LD: Tell us a little bit about your backgrounds.

When Julian finished his Ph.D. at Boston College, he came to Plymouth State College as Director of Continuing Education. Then, wanting to return to the classroom, he became a member of the Business Department. Jean came to New Hampshire as the teaching principal at the Waterville Valley Elementary School, then was the principal at Inter-Lakes Elementary School for 21 years. She then worked for the College for Lifelong Learning as coordinator of the Paraprofessional Training Program. We have four children, eight grandchildren, and a ninth one on the way. We make sure they all visit the Science Center as often as possible.

LD: In your opinion as educators, what are the most important things the Science Center offers teachers and students?

The mission statement explains it best of all – To advance understanding of ecology by exploring New Hampshire's natural world.

NEWSBRIEFS continued from page 2

an advance preview screening of his new documentary, *The Lord God Bird*, as a benefit for the Science Center. See the enclosed flyer for details and ticket information.

- ◆ Squam Lakes Natural Science Center is now more accessible for visitors with hearing impairment, thanks to a grant from the Finlay-Lamb Family Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation-Lakes Region and a generous donation from Hear Clear, LLC of Meredith. The new FM and electro-magnetic induction loop systems are now available for use and will provide clearer hearing, better accessibility, and improved communication. The devices work by amplifying the speaker's voice and helping block out background noises.
- ◆ A special event was held on July 5 as Executive Director Iain MacLeod presented "The Return of the Osprey" in appreciation of our generous donors. We thank EOS Research of Rochester and Black Bear Bakery and Café of New Hampton for sponsoring the evening.
- ◆ Over 700 people enjoyed the third annual Animal Enrichment Day on July 19. Activities "to come play the animal way" and many special presentations explaining the enrichment activities provided for our captive animals were held throughout the day. A special thanks to sponsor Tootsie Roll Industries.
- ◆ Thank you to Tanger Factory Outlets, Bill Driscoll Associates, and Cross Insurance for sponsoring the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on August 29.
- ◆ We are grateful to Community Guaranty Savings Bank of Plymouth for sponsoring Autumn Festival on September 29. We are pleased to announce that Ben Kilham, a local independent wildlife biologist and renowned lecturer on bear behavior, will be speaking at this year's event. Ben is the author of *Among the Bears, Raising Orphan Cubs in the Wild*, and his work has been featured on National Geographic's *Bear Man* and Discovery Channel's *Papa Bear*.
- ◆ Mark your calendars for our annual Halloween Hoot N Howl on October 26 and 27. We are grateful to Maxfield Real Estate for sponsoring this fun family event.

WISH LIST

2-quart and gallon plastic plant pots for Kirkwood Gardens

Garden-related items for next year's Kirkwood Gardens Day sale

Pontoon boat trailer

250 to 300-quart cooler for transporting snakes

Laser or inkjet printers

Pine needles for animal enclosures

KIRKWOOD CAFÉ
Snacks, Sandwiches, Beverages
Open daily through September 2

NATURAL ADVENTURES

YOUNG MINDS IN MOTION SERIES

Wednesdays, September 12

9:30-10:30 AM ■ Ages 3-4

The mind and body of a young child are constantly on the move. Join us to foster your child's "natural curiosity" and explore motion from an animal's perspective—jump like a frog, swim like a fish, crawl like a caterpillar, and fly like a bird. Sharing these experiences with your child will build foundations and memories for a lifetime.

Adult MUST attend with child; no charge for adults.

Cost: \$5/member; \$7/non-member

LIFE AND HEALTH OF THE FOREST

Sunday, September 16

1:00-3:00 PM ■ Age 12+ only

Join local resident Bill Smith, retired Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies professor, for an autumn woods hike. Discover what trees are doing during this season of transformation. You will also learn signs and symptoms to help you assess forest health.

Cost: \$8/member; \$10/non-member

WISE ABOUT PORCUPINES

Saturday, October 13

10:00-11:30 AM ■ Ages 5+

Where does the name porcupine come from? It's Italian! *Porco* means pig, and *spino* means spine or quill. A nickname for porcupines is "quill pig!" Find out much more about porcupines through activities, story-telling, a wild snack, and a visit with a live porcupine.

Cost: \$7/member; \$9/non-member

BIRD I.D. SERIES

SESSION VII-RAPTORS

Thursday, Sept. 6, 7:00-9:00 PM ■ Age 12+ only

Saturday, Sept. 8, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM ■ All Ages welcome

Join Iain MacLeod for another in this series of in-depth bird identification workshops, this time focusing on the raptors. Every fall, thousands of migrating raptors fly from their nesting areas in northern North America to their wintering ranges in the southern U.S. and Central and South America. Join us Thursday evening to learn raptor identification using detailed color images to demonstrate the finer points of distinguishing these birds up-close and afar. On Saturday, we will watch the open skies over the Science Center property to see what raptors we can identify (last year we saw hundreds of Broad-winged Hawks as well as Ospreys, American Kestrels, and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks).

Cost for both days: \$20/member; \$25/non-member

Cost for Thursday only: \$8/member; \$10/non-member

Cost for Saturday only: \$16/member; \$20/non-member

Reservations and advance payment required unless otherwise stated. Programs are subject to cancellation if minimum enrollment is not met.

SCIENCE CENTER LAKE CRUISES

EXPLORE SQUAM

Daily through October 14

11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 3:00 PM

This guided tour has something for everyone. Experience the wonders of the area where *On Golden Pond* was filmed. Hear a bit of Squam's human history through stories of those who have enjoyed this area for more than 5,000 years, from Native Americans to modern moviemakers. Learn about loons and other wildlife that make Squam so special, as well as the natural forces that created and still shape this beautiful lake. Enjoy the spectacular display of autumn colors mirrored on the water.

Cost: \$18/adult member; \$20/adult non-member

\$16/senior member; \$18/senior non-member (Age 65+)

\$14/youth member (Age 3-15); \$16/youth non-member (Age 3-15)

Age 2 and under free.

SPECIAL EVENTS

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 29 ■ Trails open at 9:30 AM

Celebrate autumn at this enjoyable family festival and learn about changes that take place in the natural world. There will be activities from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, including a presentation at 1:00 PM by Ben Kilham, local independent wildlife biologist and renowned lecturer on bear behavior, and author of *Among the Bears*, *Raising Orphan Cubs in the Wild*. Crafts for children and live animal presentations will take place throughout the day, and lunch will be available for purchase.

Generously sponsored by



Community Guaranty Savings Bank



No reservations are required. Cost: no charge for members.

Non-members: \$13/adults, \$11/seniors (65+),

\$9/youth (ages 3-15), 2 and under free.

HALLOWEEN HOOT N HOWL

October 26 and 27

Tours start at 6:00 PM ■ Rain or Moonshine

Enjoy an eerily entertaining 40-minute guided tour around the Science Center grounds. Tours feature live skits with a seasonal theme, every 10 minutes starting at 6:00 PM on both nights. Come in costume; dress suitably for outdoor weather conditions. After your tour, warm up inside with games and treats. \$1 off each reservation if paid by October 19, 2007!

Cost: \$8/members; \$11/non-members

PROGRAMS FOR HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS

Join us for these monthly sessions especially for homeschoolers! Both programs run at the same time for two different age groups. All programs start at 10:00 AM on the second Thursday of the month from November through April. Sessions are designed to be taken in sequence, but it is not required.

ALL ABOUT SERIES

Second Thursday of the month, November – April

10:00-11:00 AM ■ Ages 2-5 only

Learn about different New Hampshire animals through stories and activities. Come enjoy these programs for the very young. Parent/Guardian requested to attend with child.

November 8	All About Porcupines
December 13	All About Skunks
January 10	All About Owls
February 14	All About Groundhogs
March 13	All About Hawks
April 10	All About Turtles

HOME SCHOOL HOUR

Second Thursday of the month, November – April

10:00-11:00 AM ■ Ages 6-10 only

November 8	Living Wild
December 13	Animals in Winter
January 10	Winter Birds
February 14	Animal Signs
March 13	Habitats
April 10	Tree-mendous Trees

Cost for each program is \$5/member child; \$7/non-member child. One adult attends for free. Each additional adult pays child fee.

Reserve all six programs for a discounted rate: \$4/member child; \$6/non-member child per program.

GREEN FACT

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center is committed to keeping things green. We use recycled paper in our offices, for this newsletter and brochures, we print on the second side of papers, and we recycle paper in-house for animal bedding, and other uses. We use biodegradable paper plates, send electronic reports when possible, and increasingly make use of electronic member communications.

Why should we (and you!) reduce paper consumption and use recycled paper?

- Saves water and energy
- Saves landfill space
- Reduces water and air pollution
- Reduces our carbon footprint
- Decreases environmental degradation

For more information, visit the Energy Information Administration's Energy Kids page at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/> or the National Recycling Coalition <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/aboutnrc.aspx>.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NATURE QUIZ

These are questions students have asked Science Center naturalists. Answers are below.

1. What is the largest owl in the world?
2. How far can porcupines throw their quills?
3. Which animals are the closest relatives to bats?
4. Do beaver ever eat fish?
5. Why can't turtles come out of their shells?

1. The Eurasian Eagle Owl is the largest in weight and average size is length. Great Gray Owls come close in length but their large size is more plumage than weight.
2. Trick question! Porcupine quills are a kind of fur or hair and porcupines do not throw or shoot them.
3. Bats are in their own order, Chiroptera, and scientists think their closest relatives are primates but not rodents, which some bats resemble.
4. No. Beaver are strictly herbivores (plant-eaters).
5. A turtle's shell is made up of ribs and backbone – not something to leave behind!

ACORNS *continued from page 1*

Chipmunks tend to chew off one side of the acorn while squirrels peel off long strips. In contrast, porcupines chew right into the acorn, leaving irregular edges.

Acorns are considered too bitter for our menu but the native Abenaki of New Hampshire knew exactly how to utilize this precious resource. In *A Time Before New Hampshire*, Michael Caduto describes how tannins were removed from acorns by successive boiling. After drying and grinding, acorns could be mixed with cornmeal, used as a soup thickener or made into acorn cakes when baked in green leaves over ashes.

On my fall walks, I often pass by massive oaks growing right out of stone walls. The parent oak trees did well indeed to put acorns on the forest floor menu – squirrels retrieved maybe a quarter of what they stored and some of those forgotten acorns grew into these majestic giants. See what you can find on your next walk and take time to appreciate the benefits of those acorns from the sky!

NATURALIST'S CORNER

SQUIRREL SURPRISE

By Beth Roy

Several years ago, I was enjoying lunch with my partner on Ragged Island on Lake Winnepesaukee when we noticed a ruckus up in a pine tree. We had been watching this tree closely in recent days since we observed a hummingbird laying her eggs in a nest on one of its boughs. To our amazement the ruckus was caused by a red squirrel that had found the nest. The squirrel devoured the entire contents of the nest as the hummingbird flew around wildly. We watched with mixed emotions. Yes, the hummingbirds wouldn't nest there again that year but how often does one get to witness such an extraordinary event? Before this incident my image of a squirrel was always of a cute, fluffy-tailed, acorn-nibbling animal. Do all squirrels dine on some meat or was this just one very strange squirrel? This question sent us running to fetch field guides and other books to do some research. Come to find out, all the squirrel species that live in New Hampshire eat a wide array of foods, ranging from acorns and pine seeds to slugs and small nesting birds.

The four species of squirrels found in New Hampshire are the gray squirrel, red squirrel, northern flying squirrel and southern flying squirrel. The flying squirrels have the most varied diet of all and eat many insects, bird eggs, small rodents, lichen, and fungus as well as several types of nuts and berries. Flying squirrels store food for the winter in their nests or underground. The red squirrel also eats plenty of animal material like insects, young mice, bird eggs, and nestlings, but a large part of its diet is pine seeds. Red squirrels hide seeds and pinecones in piles or "middens" around the forest or underground. These stores of food will be used throughout the winter and early spring when other food is running low. Gray squirrels eat mostly plant materials such as acorns or beechnuts but will also occasionally dine on insects or bird eggs too. A gray squirrel hides each food item in a different location around its territory, later revisiting the area when food is scarce using their incredible sense of smell to locate the hiding spots. Gray squirrels have been known to find their food under a foot of snow!

Before you sit down and watch that television special about an animal you may never get a chance to meet, take a moment and pick up a local wildlife guidebook and learn some interesting facts about the animals in your backyard. There is always more to learn about even the most common animals around you. Plus, they may even surprise you at times!

Renew your membership online at
www.nhnature.org

GARDENER'S NOTEBOOK

NON NATIVE, INVASIVE & RUNNING WILD ON THE TRAILS

By Volunteer Joan Mayerson

No - not children - they're usually quite well behaved. It's a plant species - a vine. Any guesses as to which one? If you thought Bittersweet you are absolutely correct.

Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is a good example of a non-native, invasive plant that can take over eventually forcing out native plants thus reducing the bio-diversity of an area. Unfortunately this species is now found on Science Center property. You may recognize it as that vigorous, woody vine seen at some points along the trails where it scrambles up trees and fences, particularly in the vicinity of the Ecotone Mammal Exhibit and across from the Raptor Exhibit.



Here's what to look for -

- It's a woody, deciduous, perennial, scrambling vine
- Leaves are oval, positioned alternately along the stem
- In May or June, small male and female flowers bloom on separate plants. Flowers grow from the axil of leaf and stem, unlike that of the native Bittersweet (*C. scandens*) which develop at the end of a branch.
- In September the fruit turns yellow and peels back to expose the bright orange berry much loved by flower arrangers and decorators
- Roots are orange and in time, spread widely, sending up suckers; these roots become very difficult to control

Brought to this country in the mid-1800's as an attractive garden plant, Oriental Bittersweet soon spread extensively up and down the east coast. Recently, New Hampshire has added Oriental Bittersweet to the State's list of Prohibited Invasive Species (meaning it can no longer be sold or distributed).

Here are some ways you can help reduce its spread:

- Remove blooms before the plant can set seed
- Do not use the plant to decorate (once a very common practice)
- Dispose of the seed in such a way that it cannot sprout and grow elsewhere
- Catch new growth in time - pull out the seedlings (with its orange root is easy to identify) and dig out young plants before roots can spread. But watch where you put them so they can't resume growth
- Manually cut and pull up the suckers and roots ... and keep at it for as long as it takes!

Gardener's Notebook and Kirkwood Gardens are sponsored by the Belknap Landscape Company, Inc.
www.belknaplandscape.com

TRAIL'S END

ACCEPTING THE BATON

By the time you read this, the Annual Meeting will be over and, if all goes according to plan, I shall have the honor of being your Chairman. I tremble. Many have contributed, over more than 40 years, to making the Science Center the thriving New England institution it is today - the only AZA accredited institution of its kind in northern New England - staff, trustees, and most especially, our volunteers. Not least, I owe a debt of gratitude to the chairmen and chairwomen who have gone before me - most recently, Bob Snelling and Mike O'Leary who have chaired the Board of Trustees since I joined in 2003. Thanks!

Most of you know little about me other than that I speak with a funny accent! Some know that my wife, Jo Ann, and I became full-time residents of Center Harbor in 2004, after almost 40 years in New York City. Others know that we first encountered Squam, and the Science Center, in the early '90s, bought our house in 1995, and spent increasing amounts of time here in subsequent years, such that a full-time move here was inevitable. We all know that there is something special about Squam, but what is it that makes me excited to become more involved with the SLNSC?

Well, maybe it's because the natural sciences have always appealed to me. I took my first degree in "Natural Sciences." although in those far-off days of the late '50s Oxford University included many majors under this rubric - chemistry (my major) and physics, as well as the biology, botany, and other life sciences that one might anticipate. Or maybe it was going birding as a boy in the late '40s/early '50s with Colonel Tuke in Andalusia when I lived in Gibraltar; I vividly remember hawks swooping on unsuspecting rabbits in the desolate barrens between Gibraltar and Cadiz. It could even have been watching Gerald Durrell's zoo become established and grow in the grounds of an old manor house on the Island of Jersey where I was born and to which my parents returned when they retired. The Jersey Zoo is now a world-famous collection of unusual mammals, birds, and reptiles (unlike the SLNSC, almost none native to the British Isles); have any of you seen a baby potto?

I have to conclude, however, that it is the vibrancy, the dynamism, of the Science Center that has reawakened my passion for natural sciences. When you think of it, Squam Lakes is an unusual spot for such an institution to have taken root. It's a tribute to the vision, and generosity, of its founder, Frank Webster, that it was established in the first place, in 1966. Even more, it is a tribute the generations "of people like you." I look forward to the continued support of our newest Executive Director Iain McLeod (hard to believe he's been here a year already), his crackerjack staff, and all of you who give so generously of your time and donations. You are the heart and soul of this wonderful organization and I would never consider taking on this job without you.

*Trail's End is written by Peter M. Wood, Chairman of the SLNSC Board of Trustees.
You may contact Peter at 603-968-7194 x 27 or peter.wood@nhnature.org.*



OPENING A WINDOW TO THE NATURAL WORLD

Later this fall you will receive a request to contribute to the 2007 Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is a key part of the yearly operating budget. This year the Annual Fund has a goal of \$241,500. With the support of people like you, the leadership of our board and committees, and the dedication and excellence of our staff and volunteers, the Science Center continually strives to fulfill its

mission to advance understanding of ecology by exploring New Hampshire's natural world, thereby becoming the preeminent ecological educational institution in the region.

One way to leverage your Annual Fund contribution is to participate in a matching gift program that many businesses offer their employees. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center qualifies for matching gift programs.

Please consider making a new gift or increasing your gift this year. Together we can ensure that the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center remains a very special place for you, your children, and grandchildren, for years to come.

*Opening a Window to the Natural World is written by Development and Communications Director Janet Robertson.
For more information, contact Janet at 603-968-7194 x 12 or janet.robertson@nhnature.org.*

Naturalist's Legacy Society *If you have already named the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in your will or trust, please let us know so that we can thank you and welcome you into the Naturalist's Legacy Society. The Naturalist's Legacy Society was established in 2006 to celebrate the Science Center's fortieth anniversary and to recognize and honor those who have made gifts which will help to continue its work into the future.*

Autumn Festival

Saturday, September 29

TRAILS OPEN AT 9:30

Celebrate autumn with us at this enjoyable family festival and learn about the seasonal changes that take place in the natural world.

Live animal presentations • Crafts for Children
Lunch available for purchase

1:00 Program by Ben Kilham, author of
Among the Bears, Raising Orphan Cubs in the Wild
followed by a book signing

No reservations are needed. No charge for members

Non-member admission:

\$13/adults, \$9/youth (ages 3-15), 2 and under free.

For more information please call 603-968-7194
or visit www.nhnature.org.

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The Howling Coyote Gift Shop



This summer's surprise bestseller in Howling Coyote Gift Shop is our **custom lampshade with a one-of-a-kind granite base**. Mary Ellen Downing designed it using vintage postcards of the Squam area. These custom shades are only available at Howling Coyote; the bases are made in New Hampshire of simple granite stones. The combination is natural and elegant.

Now online at www.nhnature.org

Squam Lakes Artisans

A non-profit cooperative of art gallery
specializing in unique and locally crafted gifts

Open Daily, May 25 to September 17

Open Friday through Monday, September 18 to October 8
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM



OCTOBER 26 AND 27 HALLOWEEN HOOT N HOWL

Enjoy an eerily entertaining 40-minute guided tour around the Science Center grounds. Tours feature live skits with a seasonal theme, every 10 minutes starting at 6:00 PM on both nights. Come in costume!