



**SQUAM LAKES
NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER
ANNUAL REPORT
2015**



The mission

of Squam Lakes Natural Science Center is to advance understanding of ecology by exploring New Hampshire's natural world.

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Staff in costume at the Halloween Hoot 'N Howl.

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Note: Former (2015-16) Trustees and Staff are marked with an asterisk*.

2015 IN REVIEW

2015 was a wonderful year for the Science Center. We once again broke all records with more than 53,000 trail visitors. The major new attraction was the Gordon Interactive Playscape, which opened on July 1. Our goal was to create an exciting, aerobic predator-prey adventure for children with low ropes elements, wooden climbing structures, tunnels, slides, and other “hazards” that allowed participants to play the role of a red squirrel making its way through the forest. The staff pulled out all the stops and created a unique exhibit that we found was equally popular with children and adults of all ages.

The Playscape is one of the feature elements of the Nature Matters Capital Campaign. Two other major new structures funded by the campaign also neared completion. The exterior of the Water Matters Pavilion was completed in the summer and staff began creating and installing the 18 or so interactive exhibits. That exhibit building opened in May 2016. Behind the scenes we also built a brand new raptor mews and winter bird quarters to house our large collection of ambassador raptors. These are the birds that we use in programs (not on exhibit). That structure was completed in November and 18 raptors moved in to their new state-of-the-art facility.

In addition to the trail visitors, we had more than 25,000 program participants including the 12,787 school students visiting the Science Center. Out on the lake, we welcomed 9,895 cruise passengers. Squam’s eagle pair failed in 2015 so there were no chicks to view, but the loons enjoyed a better year, while still having a long way to go to get back to their historic numbers.

We partnered with the nonprofit organization, Art for Water, to stimulate thought about water issues and to create a three-dimensional Stream of Conscience public participation art installation in the Trailhead Gallery. The installation is on display through November 1, 2016.

A comprehensive Forest Management Plan was created in 2015 to help us manage our 200 acre property for wildlife, education, and forest stewardship. Our forester recommended a timber harvest be done over the winter

on a tract encompassing about a third of the property. That harvest was done in January 2016. The plan does not recommend another harvest for four or five years.

The Holderness Inn received a much needed facelift in the fall and winter. All roofs were re-shingled, 16 windows were replaced, and the entire building painted, so the Inn is sound and weather-tight for many years to come.

We won a Certificate of Excellence on TripAdvisor. This is the third consecutive year the Science Center has received this award, which celebrates excellence in hospitality and is given only to establishments that consistently achieve great traveler reviews on TripAdvisor. We were also named a 2015 Family Favorite by *Parenting New Hampshire Magazine* for Favorite Environmental and Educational Center.

In August we welcomed two new trustees, Tom Samyn and Justin Van Etten, and bid farewell and thank you to outgoing trustees Ken Colburn, Carol Thompson, Bryant Tolles, and Bruce Whitmore. We were also delighted to bestow Honorary Trustee status on John McRae.

So . . . your Squam Lakes Natural Science Center is strong and healthy and we thank you for helping make all our success possible.

Thanks,



David F. Martin
Chair, Board of Trustees




Iain MacLeod
Executive Director

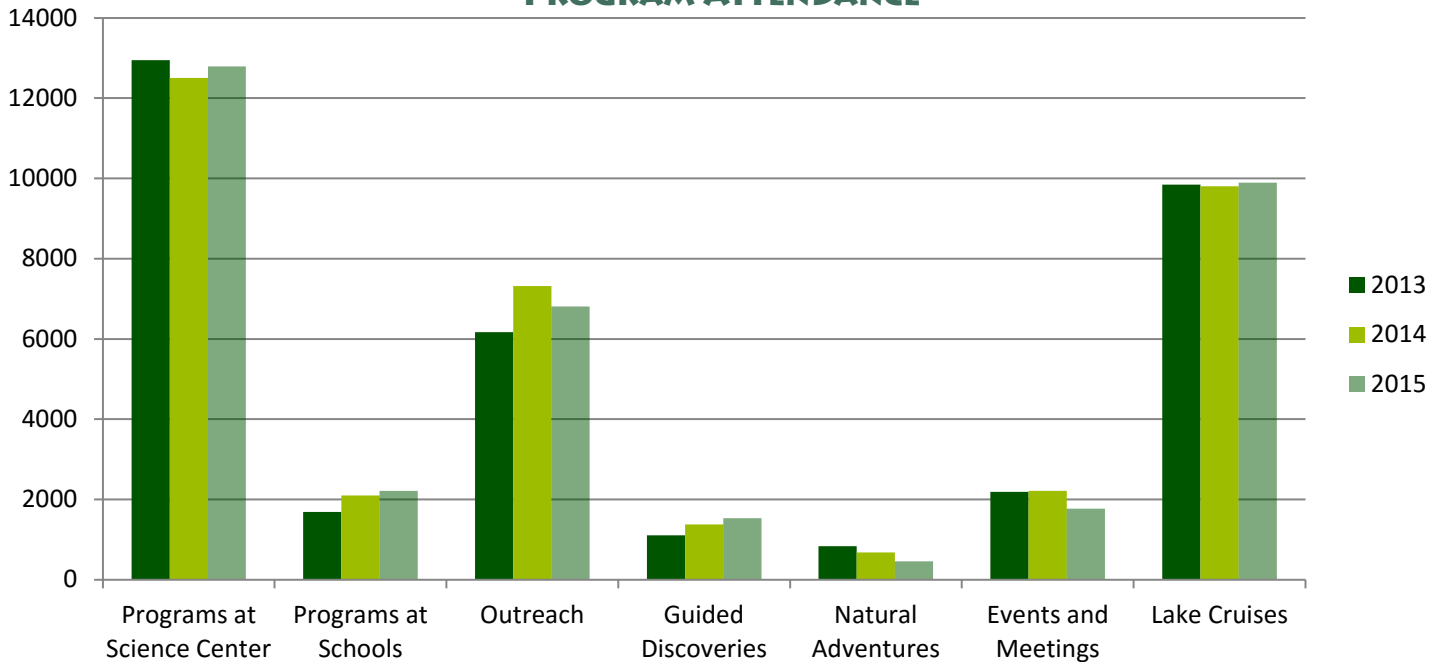


Coyote



AUDIENCE

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



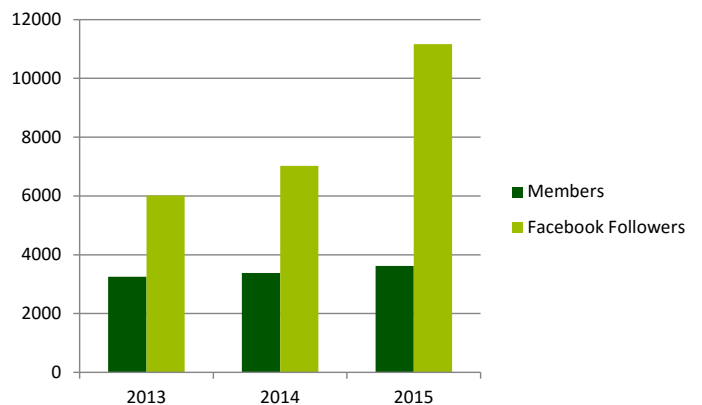
	2013	2014	2015
Programs at Science Center	12,942	12,505	12,787
Programs at Schools	1,692	2,103	2,218
Outreach	6,173	7,314	6,810
Guided Discoveries	1,108	1,380	1,533
Natural Adventures	839	681	462
Events and Meetings	2,189	2,214	1,775
Lake Cruises	9,844	9,803	9,895

TRAIL VISITORS



	Non-Members	Members and Guests
2009	35,059	11,875
2010	37,434	11,339
2011	33,293	11,195
2012	32,766	11,486
2013	35,865	13,060
2014	36,328	13,860
2015	37,584	15,910

MEMBERS AND FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



	Members	Facebook Followers
2013	3,253	6,016
2014	3,384	7,025
2015	3,621	11,160

VOLUNTEERS

The annual Parsons Volunteer Recognition Dinner recognizes volunteer efforts from the previous year. In 2015, it was held in September at Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant in Meredith. Almost 80 volunteers and staff attended the dinner, which was generously sponsored by Cross Insurance Agency, Patty Stewart Associates, and Hart's Turkey Farm. At the dinner, Senior Naturalist Dave Erler recognized a volunteer group of 23 Blue Jay Observers for their help during the three-year project, which was completed at the end of 2014. Volunteer observers were: Shaun Flynn, Elizabeth Fortson, Pat James, Mary Kahn, Kathy Letsky, Dom Marocco, Irene Marocco, Don Margeson, Peggy Martin, Missy Mason, Denise Moulis, Ron Piro, Nance Ruhm, Bill Sharp, Ashley Spooner, Pam Stearns, Susan Stepp, Rob Stewart, Carol Stewart, Lisetta Silvestri, Jan Welch, Marc White, and Betsy Whitmore.

"Volunteers Complete the Picture" in the Trailhead Gallery is updated annually to show cumulative hours of volunteer service. Volunteers Bob Gosselin and Liz Hager reached 200 hours in 2014. Lisa Davis, Dan Kemp, and Steve Hackett advanced to the 500 hour level. Pat James, Karin Karagozian, Denise Moulis, and Susan Stepp achieved 1,000 hours.

The President's Service Award is a national program honoring Americans who inspire others to volunteer through their example. Executive Director Iain MacLeod awarded pins and certificates to those volunteers eligible for the President's Volunteer Service Award for service in 2014. Jim Barry received the Silver Award for donating over 250 hours. Bronze Award recipients who donated between 100 and 250 hours were: Lisa Davis, Nancy-Jane Duncan, Kenneth Evans, Dennis Hager, Pat James, Barb Laverack, John McRae, Elaine Melquist, Denise Moulis, Gary Robertson, Nance Ruhm, Judy Sniffen, and Lea Stewart.

Service Area	Volunteers	Hours
Animal Care	22	489
Docents and First Guides	81	1,150
Education Assistants	22	285
Exhibits, Trails, Maintenance	39	1,105
Fundraising, Development	2	23
Greeters	29	416
Kirkwood Gardens	30	875
Lunches and Other	93	561
One-time Projects	172	506
Office	22	278
Partner Volunteers	3	1,196
Special Events	102	643
Training	132	1,327
Trustee	41	653
Volunteer Instructor	6	62
Total Number of Hours		9,569

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

~ Author Unknown



Volunteer Natalie Parsons



A group from J. Jill helps on Clean Up Day.



Docents and First Guides show off a live owl.

PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Highlights from 2015 Made Possible with Your Help

RIGHT: To raise awareness about water and the upcoming Water Matters Pavilion planned to open in 2016, the Science Center partnered with the non-profit organization, Art for Water, to create a three-dimensional Stream of Conscience public participation art installation. It is on display in the Trailhead Gallery through November 1, 2016. This project is made possible by funding from the Steinwachs Family Foundation, an anonymous donor, the Science Center's Innovative Project Fund, and Cottage Place on Squam Lake.



LEFT: In spring 2015 forester Daniel A. Stepanauskas of Northern Forest Resources was hired to create a comprehensive Forest Management Plan. He also helped implement the first phase of logging in January 2016. The plan covers 169.3 acres, including managed forest and 15.9 acres of steep and inaccessible forest and ledge, near Mount Fayal, 25 acres of both open and brushy fields, and remaining acreage to serve the educational needs of the Science Center.



RIGHT: Dead River Company and the New Hampshire Electric Co-op Foundation have generously supported New Hampshire Day for several years. Their support allows the Science Center to offer reduced admission fees to New Hampshire residents for one day each May. In 2015, Dead River Company representatives shared energy efficient ideas with visitors numbering 1,277. New Hampshire Electric Cooperative also provided free admission to Co-op Members.

RIGHT: Raptor Spectacular was held on Saturday, September 12, featuring Nancy Cowan of the New Hampshire School of Falconry. She displayed the raptors from her school, followed by outdoor flight demonstrations with birds such as Peregrine Falcon, Lanner Falcon, and Harris's Hawk.



RIGHT: Unique lesson plans were created and used by more than a dozen schools to follow Project OspreyTrack, the osprey tracking program led by Iain MacLeod. The school program launch coincided with World Osprey Week and helps teachers and students join schools from across the United States, Europe, and Africa that are following and learning about ospreys.



LEFT: On July 1, the much anticipated Gordon Interactive Playscape opened to the public. The nature playground teaches children about the concept of predators and prey through active play, which simulates obstacles faced by a red squirrel.

THANK YOU ANNUAL FUND DONORS!

Thank you for your Annual Fund contributions. Your gifts were made between January 1 and December 31, 2015, and provided support for educational programs, exhibits, and general operations.

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*Deceased



Docent Judy Sniffen teaches young visitors at a summer Turtle Talk.

Names in bold have given to the Annual Fund for at least five consecutive years (2011-2015).

We gratefully acknowledge all Squam Lakes Natural Science Center supporters and have prepared this report with care. Please notify Development and Communications Director Janet Robertson if any listings are inaccurate in any way.

SQUAM LAKES NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

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Shasta Daisy, *Leucanthemum x superbum*, in bloom at Kirkwood Gardens.

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Bobcat

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Thank you to these donors for their gifts to support Kirkwood Gardens.

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Peter and Jo Ann Wood

WILD TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Wild Trivia Challenge was held on July 25. Guests enjoyed an open bar and appetizers, buffet dinner, live auction hosted by Lisa Lovett, 50/50 raffle drawing, and a friendly trivia competition. Animal art drawings by Inter-Lakes 8th Grade Art students decorated the tables. Biederman's Deli and Six Burner Bistro donated trivia prizes. Grand prize winners received a cocktail cruise on Squam Lake. The 50/50 raffle drawing ended the evening with a lucky local from Meredith winning the \$5,000 prize. All proceeds benefited educational programs.

Special thanks to these generous Event Sponsors: Meredith Village Savings Bank, Squam Boat Livery, Squam River Landing and Riveredge Marina, and Wells Fargo Advisors. WLKC 105.7 the River was Media Sponsor.

Priscilla Alvord, Robert Chapman, Ehlers Management Group, Frank J. Hawley, Jr., George Longo Design, H. James and Esther Marshall, Joan and David Martin, Plymouth Law Center, and Pam and Larry Tarica made donations to the event.

Program Sponsors included: Ambrose Brothers, Bridgewater Power, Children's Dentistry of the Lakes Region, Custance Brothers Woodworking, Golden Pond Country Store, Lovering Volvo of Meredith, Malone, Dirubbo & Company, McLane Law, Mid-State Health Center, Mill Falls at the Lake, Moulton Farm, O'Neill Orthopaedics, Peabody & Smith Realty, Pike Industries, Plymouth Optical Shoppe, Samyn-D'Elia Architects, and Christopher P. Williams Architects.

Thank you also to these in kind donors of goods and services: 603 Brewery, Asquam Marina of Holderness Harbor, Cathy and Wes Avery, Belknap Landscape Company, Cackleberries, The Common Man, Ehlers Management Group, Sally Grand, Mary Kahn, Lakes Region Tent & Event, Sandy Larsen, Barb Laverack, Owl's Nest Resort & Golf Club, and Squam Brewery.

Committee members Nancy Beck, Andy Eaton, Mary Kahn, Sandy Larsen, Barb Laverack, Deb McNeish, Pat Sava, Pam Stearns, and Lea A. Stewart planned and implemented the event.



The gala committee. L to R: Nancy Beck, Deb McNeish, Andy Eaton, Barb Laverack, Lea A. Steward, Pat Sava. (Missing: Mary Kahn, Sandy Larsen, Pam Stearns)



Winners of the trivia challenge.



Science Center Interns enjoy the meal.

VOLUNTEERS

These volunteers donated 20 or more hours in 2015. Names in bold gave 100 or more hours.

Rosie Angell
Christine Barbanti
Jim Barry
Adin Bartlett
Clara Bates
Nancy Beck
Laurie Beeson
Odin Bickford
Christine Bird
Caitlyn Bourret
Dawn Bourret
Nikki Brady
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Laura Clarenbach
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Shirley Stockwell
Abi Sutcliffe
Jenna Sutcliffe
Charlene Swainhamer
Sabrina Tedeschi
Carol Thompson
Joan Tremblay
Hannah Tuohy
Bob Tuveson
Joey Tuveson
Tony Wagner
Jan Welch
Marc White
Betsy Whitmore
Bruce Whitmore
Bebe Wood



Kirkwood Gardens



A sharp-shinned hawk at an Up Close to Animals presentation.



Iain speaks to meteorologist Josh Judge for Weather Wednesday on WMUR TV.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Thank you to these donors for their gifts to support Special Projects.

Anonymous
Belknap Landscape Company
Jane Bindley
Jackie and James Colthart
Helen Clay Frick Foundation
Missy Mason
Peter Richards
Steinwachs Family
Bryant F. Tolles, Jr.
Steve Woodsum and Anne Lovett

LAKES REGION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Thank you for your support to provide scholarships for children to attend Guided Discoveries.

Holly Webber

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Asquam Marina of Holderness Harbor
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Great Northern Cleaning
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WLKC/105.7 the River



Blue Heron School students explore outside with Naturalist Eric D'Aleo.



Barred owl



A student learns about water quality in a lake ecology program.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2015	2014
Cash	\$259,624	597,921
Capital Campaign Pledges Receivable	653,262	1,075,200
Other Assets	216,820	181,376
Unrestricted Investments	1,966,610	1,980,056
Temporarily Restricted Investments	868,777	1,024,680
Permanently Restricted Investments	781,926	766,926
Total Fixed Assets	4,396,758	3,882,705
TOTAL ASSETS	\$9,143,777	\$9,508,864
LIABILITIES		
Total Liabilities	\$62,282	\$69,466
EQUITY		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$6,540,562	\$6,129,106
Temporarily Restricted Funds	1,749,007	2,523,751
Permanently Restricted Funds	791,926	786,541
Total Equity	\$9,081,495	\$9,439,398
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$9,143,777	\$9,508,864



Visitors explore the Upper Pond.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE	2015	2014
Contributions	\$328,113	\$387,386
Capital Campaign Contributions	181,482	708,504
Program Service Fees	927,145	866,785
Memberships	176,960	164,105
Other Revenues	256,068	258,207
Total Revenue	\$1,869,768	\$2,384,987
EXPENSE		
Personnel	\$1,244,308	\$1,113,204
Capital Campaign	1,163	7,915
Other Operating Expense	639,146	615,780
Depreciation	287,831	282,227
Total Expense	\$2,172,448	\$2,019,126
INVESTMENT INCOME/(LOSS)	(55,223)	226,371
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$(357,903)	\$592,232



A loon and its chick.

This year we again summarized our audited financial information to show the impact of our Nature Matters capital campaign in 2015 and 2014 as compared to regular operations. Complete Audited Financial Statements and the Form 990 Tax Return may be found on our website, www.nhnature.org, under the tab for Support.

Operationally, (not including depreciation, investments, and capital campaign) 2015 ended with a surplus of \$29,293 compared to a surplus of \$12,285 in 2014. In 2013 there was a deficit of \$32,151.

As you can see from the financial information shown here, 2015 results reflect the winding down of our capital campaign, collection of pledges, and build out of new exhibits. Our non-capital campaign contributions in 2014 benefited from two bequests and two grants. However, the decrease in 2015 contributions was more than offset by increases in revenue from program service fees and memberships. Overall, our total net assets decreased slightly during 2015 due to a decrease in the value of our investments and increased expenses associated with the new exhibits. With \$9.1 million in total equity, your Science Center continues to be in a healthy financial condition.

If you have questions about the Science Center's financial information, please contact Finance Director Brian Eaton or Treasurer Ken Evans.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth H. Evans

Kenneth H. Evans
Treasurer



CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU

to these members of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center family...

At the Annual Meeting on August 8, 2015, Executive Director Iain MacLeod recognized several staff members for their service:



L to R: Blue Heron School Lead Teacher Jordan Fitzgerald (5 years); Blue Heron School Director Laura Mammarelli (5 years); Development and Communications Director Janet Robertson (25 years); Gardens and Exhibits Assistant Brenda Erler (35 years); and Facilities Assistant Clare Eckert (10 years).



Facilities Supervisor
Dean Smith (5 years)



Development Assistant
Susan Stepp (10 years)



Two new trustees, Justin Van Etten and Tom Samyn, were elected to three-year terms.



Officers were re-elected to serve one-year terms: Kenneth Evans, Treasurer; Nancy Beck, Vice Chair; Lea A. Stewart, Secretary; David Martin, Chair.



Vice Chair Nancy Beck presented Laurie Beeson with the Horizon Award for his service and dedication.

Trustees Mark Goldstone, Liz Hager, and Tony Wager were re-elected to serve three-year terms. Four trustees retired and were honored for their dedicated service: Ken Colburn, Carol Thompson, Bryant Tolles, Bruce Whitmore. John McRae was elected as Honorary Trustee.



The annual Parsons Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held in September at Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant in Meredith.