



SQUAM LAKES
NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

IMPACT REPORT

NEWS AND SUCCESSES • WINTER 2025



FROM OUR DIRECTOR

As we look forward to our 60th year in 2026, it is timely to reflect on the many ways that the Science Center touches lives and enriches experiences in the natural world. The work that we do every day to make learning fun and memorable has made us a leader throughout the region and beyond. It is simple to share numbers of how many visitors we welcome in a year or how many participants engage with an outreach program, but this impact report goes a little deeper and highlights some stories not obvious to the public.

We share details of our ambassador animal policy that establishes standards for how we manage the needs of furred and feathered teaching partners. We explain how we problem-solved a Mountain Lion's wild instincts, share some details on the research and citizen science projects we carry out and celebrate the impact that our amazing volunteers have on our daily work.

The Science Center is truly a special place where learning and fun intersect and everyone is welcome to get nearer to nature.

Iain MacLeod, Executive Director
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FROM OUR BOARD



Lisa Bennett, Chair

As we prepare to celebrate a momentous year, the Board of Trustees reflects with deep pride and gratitude on six decades of Squam Lakes Natural Science Center's service as a leader in environmental education in Central New Hampshire. Since opening our doors in 1966, the Science Center has welcomed individuals and families to connect with New Hampshire's natural world via innovative programs, encounters with our animal ambassadors, and our mission-driven commitment to stewardship and learning.

Planning for our 60th anniversary, we are working with staff and volunteers to design events that treasure our past, promote the meaningful impact we've had and share our unique story built by generations of supporters, educators, and members. Across each chapter, we've strengthened our founding vision, demonstrated lasting impact, and grown to meet new challenges, thanks to the collective vision and generosity of this community.

We are also fortunate to recognize the 20th anniversary of Iain MacLeod's leadership as Executive Director. Iain's enduring commitment, wisdom, and vision have shaped our journey over the last twenty years. The importance of a strong and capable Executive Director cannot be understated. In recognition of this, we are thrilled to announce the establishment of the MacLeod Leadership Endowment, an endowed Executive Director chair. Income from this endowment will help fund annual personnel costs of the Science Center's Executive Director. As an endowed position, the board recognizes Iain's invaluable service while securing the Science Center's ability to remain sustainable and grow for generations to come.

In this special year, we invite you to join us for special and enhanced programs celebrating our history, raising awareness of our mission and ongoing engagement, and preparing for a hopeful future. Together, we continue to foster pride and connection among our volunteers, employees, donors, and members and nurturing the sense of community that has always been the heart of the Science Center.

Thank you for your invaluable support and for all the ways you help sustain this treasured organization. Whether you have walked our trails and enjoyed our animals, volunteered your time, or made a gift to honor this milestone, your involvement is woven into the very story we celebrate.

We look forward to seeing you for events, programs, and the continued celebration of the role the Science Center has played in your life and in our community.

With gratitude,

The Board of Trustees

SQUAM LAKES NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

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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. Its mission is to advance understanding of ecology by exploring New Hampshire's natural world.

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RECLAIMING A MEADOW

by Emma Erler, Lead Horticulturalist and Exhibits Assistant



Though the Science Center may be best known for its live animal exhibits, it is also home to a wide range of habitats across the 207 acres, providing food and shelter for insects, birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Unfortunately, as in many other areas in the region, invasive plants are threatening to create an ecological crisis by rapidly spreading and out-competing native species, reducing biodiversity, altering habitats, and disrupting food webs. That's where staff and volunteers come in, by managing invasive plants and encouraging and planting native species in their place.

The spring of 2025 saw the start of an ambitious project to reclaim a half-acre field which had been taken over by invasive species such as multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), with the end goal of transforming this area into a wildflower meadow. Why plant a wildflower meadow? Native bees and other pollinators are essential to the reproduction of many plants in our environment – not to mention the successful production of many of the fruits and vegetables we eat. Unfortunately, pollinator populations are in decline, which puts the health of the natural ecosystem at risk. Habitat loss, alteration, and fragmentation, as well as pesticide use and climate change, threaten native pollinators. To help combat this major issue, we're planting a wildflower meadow which will give pollinators the habitat and resources they need to succeed. Cynthia Worthen Vascak, a dedicated Kirkwood Gardens volunteer, generously funded this endeavor. In her words, "Having such a meadow at the Science Center serves as an inspiration for what we can each do at home and in our communities to support the health of our environment in so many ways."

Successfully establishing a perennial wildflower meadow takes several years, starting with elimination of existing grasses and perennial weeds. We opted to use a process called "smothering." To start, the field was mowed as short as possible with a brush mower several times in the spring and early summer to weaken existing vegetation. Next, the entire area was covered with heavy-duty black plastic which excludes light from the weeds growing underneath and eventually kills them. Due to the tenacity of the invasive plants in this area, the tarps will remain in place until the fall of 2026.



In July, volunteers helped remove invasive species and cover the field with black plastic. photos: M. Sevigney

After a full season of site preparation, we will be ready to plant. Since we are working with such a large area, the most economical approach is to establish the meadow by seed. Many wildflower mixes contain annuals that provide amazing color the first season but are not native or persistent. Perennial wildflower mixes are more expensive and take longer to establish but are a better deal in the long-term. Thus, we will be sowing a perennial wildflower and grass mix that is composed

of species native to New Hampshire, providing a continuous sequence of bloom from spring through fall. Sowing is best done in the fall because wildflower germination is improved with exposure to cold winter temperatures and damp soils. With any luck, the first plants will begin to emerge in the spring of 2027.

Seed-grown perennial wildflower meadows require patience. Assume it will take one year to prepare the site, a second year for wildflowers to germinate, and three to four years for the meadow to become established. While the meadow is a work in progress, it will be well worth the wait. Stick with us over the next several years to watch as it changes and grows.

PARTNERSHIP WITH AMBASSADORS

by Sharon Warga, Compliance Officer

At the beginning of 2025, the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center implemented a comprehensive Ambassador Animal Policy to better serve our collection of ambassador animals and our amazing staff that work alongside them.

The funny thing about ambassador animals is that people assume the job is all about the humans—educators holding owls, or kids gasping at a porcupine during a school program, but the truth is flipped. The animals set the tone. They play a role in how the lesson lands. And at Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, we've built our entire approach on that very idea: their comfort, their confidence, their say-so comes first.

Some days that looks straightforward: a barred owl chooses to step onto a gloved hand because the choice has been offered a dozen times in calm, quiet ways. Other days it's less glamorous—say, a skunk turning up its nose at a program and retreating to its crate. And that's fine. Actually, that's the point. Animals aren't our props; they're our partners. If they don't feel like showing up, we don't make them.

With the launch of our new Ambassador Animal Policy, we've reshaped how we approach training, for both our staff and ambassador animals. For new staff, there's a clear path forward: coursework, videos, mentoring, and a step-by-step evaluation system. You don't just walk in and grab a hawk. It can take months before both the handler and the bird are comfortable with each other. And here's the thing—this isn't a "one and done" setup. The way we train is always shifting, always improving, as our staff learn more and as industry standards keep moving forward. In other words, the process grows with us—just like the animals and the people do.

For our animals, we focus on positive reinforcement. A porcupine steps willingly into a crate because he knows there's a treat waiting, not because someone nudged



Naturalist Victoria Brown shares her knowledge about porcupines at an Up Close to Animals presentation.

photo: Don Hyde

him in. Raptors are eased into programs by associating the glove with calm consistency, not coercion. The emphasis is on an animal's behavior: what we saw, what it looked like, why they reacted the way that they did, and how to respond.

Our enrichment program is a rotating buffet of options: sensory toys, foraging puzzles, outdoor time, new textures underfoot. Nothing sits in an enclosure for days on end because novelty matters. A hawk might shred paper one day, splash in a water bath the next. Snakes stretch out on peg boards in the sun when the weather allows. A skunk searches for a special treat hiding in a snuffle mat to encouraging foraging. It sounds simple, but to them, it's everything.

And here's where the magic circles back to people. When an animal is relaxed and confident, the audience feels it. That's when the broad winged hawk's sharp eyes spark a conversation about rodent control, or a woodchuck's burrow leads into soil aeration and hibernation cycles. Folks walk away not just with facts but with a sort of wonder buzzing in their heads—maybe even a nudge to leash the dog at dusk or put up a bat house.

That's the real impact. Not just the science, but the story. When animals are given space to thrive, they choose to stand beside us as ambassadors. And in doing so, they give our community a gift: a closer look at the wild neighbors we too often overlook.

TAMING WILD INSTINCTS

by Iain MacLeod, Executive Director

One of the great thrills of being up close to any of the animals at the Science Center is seeing them do natural “wild” things. Even though they are here and not in the wild, our animals demonstrate their wildness every day. Our goal as stewards of these animals is to provide them with opportunities to act as they would in the wild as much as possible.

Our two male Mountain Lions, Washington and Olympia, like nothing more than to watch small children walking up to their exhibit. Their tails start to twitch and it clearly arouses their innate hunting instincts. Like many predators, Mountain Lions often single out the weakest, most easily-caught prey.

Over the summer of 2024, when the cats were about eighteen months old (just about the time they would be starting to make it on their own in the wild without their mother’s care), the stalking instinct became particularly strong in Washington. Toddlers were just too tempting. He would focus in on the tiniest morsel in a family group of visitors and fix his sights, trembling with nervous anticipation. If the toddler turned its back and moved quickly away from the window, he would pounce with incredible speed and power hurling himself at the window. He always deflected off the glass with great agility.

Usually his antics would thrill the family, some parents would even encourage their precious defenseless offspring to approach the glass again to repeat the “attack.” The cat’s behavior is natural (maybe not so much the human behavior) and certainly provided very stimulating enrichment for the cats. Unfortunately, Washington would sometimes get so stimulated that he began biting chunks out of the wooden window



Mountain Lion and child marvel at each other at the Mountain Lion Exhibit. photo: Ann Erhart

trim in frustration. That is obviously not something that we wanted to encourage or reward and we didn’t want Washington to injure his mouth. But, what to do? The whole point of the exhibit is for people to watch the cats, and clearly it is more interesting for the cats if they can see the people.

Facilities Director Keith Hosking and his crew repaired the sills and tried adding a little olfactory deterrence like pepper spray or bear spray. Sills were repaired and the destruction would be repeated. We contemplated replacing the wood sills with metal, but that might result in a broken tooth. As the season closed, the everyday child temptations were

removed and, over the winter, the window trim survived. But much pondering was underway to come up with a good solution.

As the 2025 season started we decided to install one-way film to the lower sections of the viewing windows as an experiment. The side facing in was mirrored so the cats could not see through it. The film was not particularly observer-friendly and we quickly realized this wasn’t going to be a permanent solution, but perhaps it would take away the temptation long enough for the behavior to change.

Gradually, each panel of film was removed. By mid-summer all the one-way film had been removed. Both cats still eagerly watch and stalk the toddlers, but the level of aggression was gone and the window sills survived. Patience, ingenuity and an understanding of natural instincts and behaviors resulted in a solution that is safe for the cats while still allowing them to demonstrate their wildness.



CONNECTED LEARNING ECOSYSTEM

by Heidi Emmons, Connected Learning Coordinator

“I liked learning how I can help the earth,” remarked one student who participated in the second annual Middle School Sustainability and Action Summit, held on Earth Day at the Science Center. It’s just one example of the enthusiasm and lasting impact that thoughtful and collaborative environmental education can have on young adults through the Squam Lakes Connected Learning Ecosystem (CLE). Bringing together over sixty educators, the Squam Lakes CLE is an effort to enhance science education in the Lakes Region and beyond by intentionally connecting both in-school and out-of-school opportunities for a student to engage with an environmental science concept within their community.

Squam Lakes CLE builds relationships between those who are passionate about providing impactful, rich environmental education experiences for students, including classroom teachers, informal educators, librarians, 4-H Leaders, subject matter experts, and community members. Meeting on a regular basis, educators learn about available resources and opportunities, brainstorm ideas, support one another, and design and implement connected learning projects. Students who participate in the resulting innovative projects engage in hands-on, project-based learning, and are able to initiate real and meaningful action in their communities. Below are a couple examples of the many projects Squam Lakes CLE is helping to fund and support this year.

STUDENTS TEACHING STUDENTS: MIDDLE SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY AND ACTION SUMMIT



Middle School students working with model houses during the green energy workshop.

Planned and led by high school students passionate about enacting climate action projects at their school and in their community, the second annual Middle School Sustainability and Action Summit brought together 60 middle schoolers for a day of hands-on learning. Hosted at the Science Center, this student-led conference featured workshops covering the topics of renewable energy, the importance of pollinators, waste reduction and composting, and sustainable eating and cooking. Representing schools as far north as Bethlehem and as far south as Nashua, the event doubled in size from its first year, with middle schoolers from ten schools all over the state in attendance. Some activities included conducting an energy audit of the facility using power meters during the green energy workshop, clearing a future pollinator garden space during the pollinator workshop, baking muffins with local ingredients during the cooking workshop, and compost-themed Jeopardy! during the waste reduction workshop. Teachers and chaperones participated in a separate workshop on how to support students in taking action in their local communities.



High School SAS organizers. photos: Aubrey Nelson

The students were also afforded time to regroup with others from their school to brainstorm their ideal environmentally-friendly future, which helped groups to reflect and envision project ideas to bring back to their schools. The enthusiasm from the students was palpable as they enjoyed “being creative while working together,” as one student commented, and the day was an overwhelming success. The summit was jointly supported and organized by members and staff of New Hampshire Environmental Educators, New Hampshire/Vermont Energy Education Program, Hopkinton High School Environmental Action Club, Holderness School Students, Coe-Brown Northwood Academy Youth Environmental Activists, Uplift NH, 350NH Youth Team, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Squam Lakes CLE, and Prescott Farm as well as other volunteers from the community.



One groups' vision for the future.

WILDLIFE DATA LITERACY PROJECT: A NEWFOUND WATERSHED COLLABORATION

Another project funded through the Squam Lakes Connected Learning Ecosystem is the Newfound Wildlife Data Literacy Project. Students and campers in the Newfound Watershed are becoming experts in local wildlife at the same time that they develop data literacy skills in a project that brings together Newfound-area schools & summer camps, a library, conservation organizations, university students, and local landowners. Now in its second year and co-led by the Newfound Lake Region Association, Minot-Sleeper Library, and Newfound Memorial Middle School, the wildlife camera project asks 5th & 8th grade students and campers to take on the role of researchers, collecting data from wildlife cameras placed in all

seasons at different locations in watershed towns. Students are also responsible for going through the images to identify wildlife and graphing the data from each location. So far, they've found evidence of bears in forests, red foxes by playing fields, and even trick-or-treaters on Halloween. In fall 2025 the project added a new element as wildlife camera kits, complete with user's manuals developed by Plymouth State University students, became available for general check-out at the Minot-Sleeper Library. The images collected give students and campers a chance to think about the relationships between wildlife, humans, and habitats while also working on data interpretation & analysis.



5th graders at Bridgewater-Hebron Village School set up a camera by the back sports field.



Caught on camera: a coyote crossed a frozen pond in the Hebron Town Forest.



5th graders at Danbury Elementary School set up a camera behind the playground.

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center is proud to be the convener of the Squam Lakes CLE. By supporting educators in collaborating on meaningful environmental education experiences for students throughout the Lakes Region, we expand our impact beyond what we could achieve on our own.

In 2025, the Squam Lakes CLE supported the following projects, directly reaching 699 elementary, middle, and high school students:

60
STUDENTS

2nd Annual Middle School Sustainability and Action Summit at the Science Center

365
STUDENTS

Wildlife Data Literacy Project: A collaboration between Newfound Lakes Region Association, Newfound Middle School, Minot-Sleeper Library

13
STUDENTS

2nd Annual Middle School Earth Camp at the Science Center.

54
STUDENTS

Bats in Local Ecosystems: A collaboration between Thornton Central School, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, & Dartmouth College

30
STUDENTS

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project: A collaboration between the Science Center, Squam Lakes Conservation Society, Holderness Free Library, & Holderness Recreation Department's Summer Escape

85
STUDENTS

Food Waste Diversion, Elementary Earth Club & Middle School Environmental Club: Holderness Central School

28
STUDENTS

Teen Leaders in 4-H STEM: Building assistive devices for children with disabilities using 3-D Printers: A collaboration between Carroll County 4H, Chocorua Public Library, Moultonborough Public Library, and UNH

40
STUDENTS

Year-round Project-Based Environmental Learning: Bethlehem Elementary School

24
STUDENTS

Weather Stations Project: How space and changes on our planet affect what we call home: A collaboration between Sant Bani School, Mount Washington Observatory, and Plymouth State University

The Squam Lakes CLE is part of the larger Learning Ecosystems Northeast network coordinated by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and funded by Science Activation funds through NASA. In response to anticipated budget cuts next year, three generous supporters have stepped up to keep the program running in 2026.



EYES ON WILDLIFE

by Iain MacLeod, Executive Director

An important and growing part of the Science Center's work includes citizen science, research and wildlife monitoring carried out by our staff and volunteers in conjunction with partners.

Our longest running bird monitoring project is the fall hawk migration count that we do with 4th graders at Interlakes Elementary School in Meredith. 2025 marked the 45th consecutive year of counting involving our staff. All of the data collected is put into HawkCount, an online database run by the Hawk Migration Association. Our data, along with that from hundreds of other hawkwatch sites across the Americas, helps us understand the population trends of all our migratory raptors.

For almost as long, we have monitored the bats that inhabit a variety of bat boxes on the property. Every summer, Volunteer Manager Carol Raymond coordinates volunteers to carefully count the bats leaving the boxes as they head out for their evening feeds. Our counts documented the precipitous decline (from 400+ to 25!) in Little Brown Bats as White Nose Syndrome spread like wildfire throughout North America. In recent years we have documented a nice rebound. In 2025, 716 bats were counted.

Since 2017, our Hidden Stories project has used dozens of strategically-placed trail cameras to monitor the activities of wild animal species throughout our 207 acres. Close to 250,000 images and video clips have been collected through every season documenting the presence of these wild inhabitants. An interactive exhibit and website help interpret what we have found. Almost a hundred species of mammals and birds have been documented.

Bald Eagles first nested on Squam Lake in 2003 (the first pair to do so in the Lakes Region in more than 50 years). Since 2003, thirty-one chicks have fledged from this territory. In spring 2024, a second pair of Bald Eagles built a new nest on Little Squam Lake. In 2025, they successfully fledged an eaglet. Each year, we monitor the eagles and record their nesting activities. The data collected is shared with NH Audubon and added to the statewide database.

In May, 2021, we sponsored the installation of a Motus Receiver Station in New Hampton. The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is an international collaborative research network that uses cooperative automated radio telemetry to track small flying organisms (birds, bats, and insects). Lightweight transmitters are affixed to the animals and then tracked by a network of strategically-placed receiver



photo: M. Sevigney

Education Director Audrey Eisenhauer teaches students at Interlakes Elementary School how to use binoculars to spot, identify and count migrating birds.



A Black Bear caught on one of many hidden cameras strategically placed around the 207-acre Science Center campus.



photo: Iain MacLeod

A mature Bald Eagle sits in its nest on Little Squam Lake.



Installation of a Motus Receiver Station in New Hampton.

stations. Typically, the stations are located on high terrain where there is a good “viewshed” to maximize detections. As of this writing, there are over 2,000 receiving stations in 34 countries and more than 49,000 animals tagged. Here, in New Hampshire, we currently have 17 receiver stations.

In September 2024, we helped NH Audubon install a second tower on top of Red Hill in Moultonborough. Between those two towers, we now have the entire Squam Watershed covered. Through the fall of 2025 our towers have detected 71 different birds of 21 species, including birds tagged in multiple Canadian Provinces, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania, as well as Panama, Colombia, and Jamaica.

In 2025, the Science Center partnered with Hawk Mountain to sponsor a Broad-winged Hawk satellite transmitter. Researchers from Hawk Mountain visited us in July and attempted to trap adult Broad-wings at nests located by staff and volunteers near the Science Center. After two days of field work they were unsuccessful at tagging a Broad-wing here, but they successfully deployed our transmitter on a hawk they caught near Hancock in SW New Hampshire. We named this bird “Granite.” As we write this, Granite is in South America. We hope to follow this bird on its return migration to NH next spring.

In the summer of 2025, we coordinated a count of Monarch Butterfly eggs and caterpillars in an area of protected land along the floodplain near Plymouth. We also started a new collaboration with researchers from the state studying Fisher. Traps are set on the Science Center campus in the hope of catching Fisher in order to collar them and learn about their movements and ecology.

This publication is generously underwritten by:

SCIENCE PUB SERIES

January 13 March 3
February 10 April 14

Doors open 5:00 pm, Presentation 6:00 pm
Walter’s Basin Restaurant, Holderness

BACKYARD CONSERVATION: WHAT CAN I DO?

You can make a difference! Join us for a casual evening over food and drinks learning about and discussing conservation



actions you can take in your community or right in your backyard. Visit nhnature.org Calendar of Events for speaker details. Sponsored by Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Squam Lakes Association, and Squam Lakes Conservation Society.

Cost: No charge to attend. Order and pay individually for food and drinks. Seating is limited. Advance registration for each date is required at www.squamslantrust.org/events.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jamie and Hayden

Most Tuesdays, Jamie Davis and his four-year old grandson, Hayden, set out for their favorite ritual: visiting the Science Center. As members, the duo can visit as often as they want, and move along the Live Animal Trail at their own pace. Jamie shares, "Walking the trail feels like a hike in the woods while also providing a safe environment for Hayden to explore freely and gain independence." Hayden makes frequent pauses to visit his favorite animals, listening to frog calls and delighting in frolicking River Otters. Some days Hayden races to explore creative play at the Beaver Lodge. Other days he builds confidence while navigating the challenges at Gordon Interactive Playscape and Raptor Zipline.

Membership means more than entry for Jamie; it's the chance to spend quality time in nature while admiring how Hayden discovers something new and grows developmentally. "The Science Center is a unique experience. There is no other place like it in the area. I take Hayden to other places, but by far, he loves the Science Center best." Inspired by his own grandfather, an avid outdoorsman, Jamie's love for nature started in his youth. He now hopes to pass along that same passion on to Hayden. "We need people crusading for the environment, now more than ever."

For families seeking meaningful time in nature, membership opens the door to discovery, connection and countless memories waiting to be made, while confirming a commitment to the importance of environmental education for our youth, like Hayden.

SEEKING
MEMBERSHIP?



SCAN FOR
NEW MEMBERS
OR RENEWALS



SCAN TO GIVE
THE GIFT OF
MEMBERSHIP

WINTER PROGRAMS



NEW! SNOW MUCH FUN!

FEBRUARY VACATION WEEK CAMP

Join us for some winter fun during the week of February 23! Visit nhnature.org for dates, ages, details, and registration.

WILD WINTER WALKS

Saturday, Jan. 6	Sunday, Feb. 1	Saturday, Feb. 28
Sunday, Jan. 11	Saturday, Feb. 7	Saturday, March 7
Saturday, Jan. 17	Sunday, Feb. 15	Sunday, March 15
Saturday, Jan. 24	Saturday, Feb. 21	

10:00 to 11:30 am or 1:00 to 2:30 pm
Ages 6 and up

What do the animals at the Science Center do when winter arrives? Bundle up and find out! Join one of our naturalists for a guided walk along the live animal exhibit trail to see our animal ambassadors sporting their winter coats. Discover the remarkable strategies these animals use to stay warm, find food, and survive the season. It's a wild winter adventure you won't want to miss!

Cost: \$15/member; \$18/non-member. A registered adult must accompany children. This program is all outdoors; dress in warm layers with insulated snow boots, hats, and gloves.

HANDS-ON LEARNING FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

January 8	March 5
February 5	April 2

10:00 to 11:30 am
Ages 4-6 and 7-10

A monthly series for homeschooled students to learn about the natural world through hands-on activities and investigations. Each program ends with a visit with one of our live animal ambassadors.

Advance registration required. Attend one program or the whole series. Indoor and outdoor activities; dress in warm layers with insulated snow boots, hats, and gloves. Visit the Calendar of Events at nhnature.org for monthly program topics.

Cost \$12/member child; \$15/non-member child. An adult must participate with children at no additional cost.

A HOME FOR JACKSON

by Marylena Sevigney, Marketing & Communications Director

Have you ever wondered what it takes to give an animal a home at Squam Lakes Natural Science Center? For some, the process can stretch across months of searching, paperwork, medical testing, anxious waiting, and hope. When visitors see our animals, each now named with a plaque sharing their origin, and the reason they are with us, it's easy to miss the deep dedication and effort behind every rescue.

Bringing Jackson, our newest Bald Eagle, to the Science Center took nearly a year of unwavering commitment. Jackson's story began hundreds of miles away in Wyoming, where a head trauma nearly ended her life. She arrived at Teton Raptor Center suffering from nerve damage and maggot infestation, unable to fly straight despite tireless rehabilitation. She was still immature and could never survive in the wild.

Animal Care Director Lauren Wilmerding searched national listings for a suitable companion for Cody, our lone Bald Eagle, to ensure emotional comfort



*Cody and Jackson at the Science Center.
photo: M. Sevigney*

for her. But finding Jackson was only the first step. The journey continued through the exhaustive permit process, including state and federal clearances, extensive documentation, veterinary health certificates, avian flu testing, and travel before she finally reached New Hampshire.

Once here, Jackson underwent a careful month-long quarantine and, when cleared, met Cody for the first time. Staff observed anxiously to see if the two would accept each other. To their relief, Jackson and Cody quietly settled into each other's company, more than ten months after the process began.

Today, Jackson and Cody do more than share their lives with one another. They inspire thousands of visitors every year. Up close, visitors witness their strength and beauty, learn their stories, and gain an appreciation for our native wildlife.

SMALL FOOTPRINT GIVING

Looking for a meaningful gift that's easy on the planet and uplifts your local community? Giving through Squam Lakes Natural Science Center is a simple, thoughtful way to support wildlife and environmental education. Each of these options is low-waste, deeply rewarding, and helps sustain the programs and habitats you love.

SPONSOR A SPECIES

Celebrate an animal lover, or honor someone's memory by sponsoring a native animal ambassador in their name. Every sponsorship supports animal care and conservation, and comes with a certificate, photo, and fun facts.

MARSH BOARDWALK PLAQUES

Looking for a lasting and local tribute? Personalized marsh boardwalk plaques honor loved ones in a natural setting, while supporting Science Center programs and giving back to wildlife and nature-lovers alike.

JOIN THE LEGACY SOCIETY

If the Science Center is part of your family's heritage and you'd like to ensure it is available for generations to come, please consider becoming a member of the Naturalist's Legacy Society by including Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in your estate planning.

Find out more at www.nhnature.org/support, or contact Rachel Saliba at rachel.saliba@nhnature.org.

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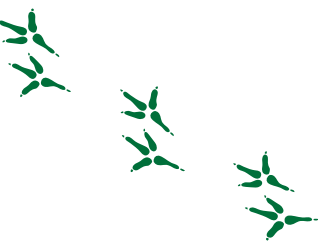




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