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## BLOG: SQUAM LAKE & HOLDERNESS TOUR

09 Sep 2016 1:16 PM | [Kelly Bryer](#) (Administrator)

### BLOG: Up Close to Nature!

By: Donita Schoech, Hooksett Welcome Center South  
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I thought our trip was absolutely wonderful. It was such a gorgeous day and the weather was just perfect. I loved the boat ride even if it got a little wet at times. The lake was so beautiful and not being a native of New Hampshire I didn't realize it was the 2nd largest lake after Winnepesaukee. I thought the chapel on the island was a nice touch for all the visitors that vacation on the lake.



When we docked at [Rockywold Deephaven Camp](#) I was so impressed, with that camp. The cabins, lodges, and dining hall were so rustic and I loved the stair case made from birch logs. I would love to go and stay there. It's like the summer camps for kids – only the parents get to stay too. It was so awesome!



Lunch was delicious, I think it was the best sandwich I have ever eaten. The bread was amazing. The [Squam Lakes Natural Science Center](#) was nice and my biggest surprise was of course a real live bear standing on the trail staring at me. I think he was more worried about what I was going to do, than I was worried about what he was going to do! But nice to be up close and personal with nature. I now have a funny bear story to tell.

[The Inn On Golden Pond](#) was so beautiful, I would love to stay there sometime also. The décor was so inviting and it had such a peaceful feel about the place. I loved all the quilts that were on the beds. Our hosts were so nice and informative. All in all it was a great trip and I want to thank you for the opportunity to go. I gathered knowledge that I can now pass on to our visitors.

### Lions, and tigers, and bears! Oh, my!

Submitted by Debbie H.



These words were spoken in the Wizard of Oz. Although we weren't in the land of Oz, we were in a fascinating place in Holderness, NH – the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center. We roamed among the trails to discover live native animal exhibits such as mountain lions, black bears, bobcats, otters, raptors and more! Adults and children alike can learn from the informative placards and hands-on displays describing each animal and their habitat. A number of buildings feature other interesting exhibits such as aquariums, etc. Attached is one such cute creature hiding among the vegetation.

Keeseenunknipee is an Abenaki name for “goose lake in the highlands” – now simply called “Squam Lake”. Our knowledgeable pontoon boat guide provided an informative, peaceful tour of this pristine lake, the second largest lake in New Hampshire which has 35 named islands! Common loons (an endangered species) can be seen. An interesting fact is that the loons don't head south for the winter. They look for open water and fly to the Atlantic Ocean. As they are very territorial, they come back to the same cove every spring. Also, look for the American bald eagles (eagle triplets were born this year) as well as a variety of fish including rainbow trout, brown trout, bass, catfish and perch to name a few. The deepest part of the lake is 97' deep!

I realized during our tour of the Rockywold-Deephaven Camp that this was a place

I would like to visit again for a long vacation stay in one of their cabins or cottages. It has been in operation since 1897 and I can see why – beautiful lake views, exceptional dining halls, recreation, and inviting atmosphere! An interesting ritual is held when Winter arrives and the lake is 12" thick – that's when ice is harvested and stored in ice houses at the Camp to keep items cool.

The movie “On Golden Pond” was filmed in Holderness and we toured a charming Bed and



Breakfast named "The Inn on Golden Pond" with its beautiful guest rooms and suites. Of course, like many, we had to have our picture taken outside by the Inn's sign!



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### More Impressions from our Holderness / Squam Lake Tour...

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By: Kathleen Kozak

*Rockywood-Deephaven Camp* – Really is a 'resort' in nature's backyard and is on the National Register of Historic places. The real white birch handrails, the old ice chests and knowing there is someone who goes around daily with a wooden wheelbarrow to fill them – such a true natural experience. But the variety of activities they offer for all ages – the dining hall with specific tables for each family and those near the windows for the families who have been there the longest – 1 1/2 miles of coast line and 60 cottages! Truly a delight.

Pontoon Boat Ride – It felt like we were floating in a bowl surrounded by nature's green trees, mountains and a beautiful blue sky! Squam Lake is the second largest lake entirely in NH with 30 named islands and many smaller ones. Church Island is known for weekly summer church services as well as weddings. Since there is no electricity there, they have a manual pump organ for music.



*Squam Lake Natural Science Center* – It's 50 years old and still a great place to spend a day. They have live animals, many displays, docents that walk around with and /or give talks with some animals at certain times. All the informative displays they have, including their newest pavilion with frogs, toads, fish and a mink who hides his head in a hole in the wall, and the new children's playground make it a day to be remembered. Everyone felt sorry for the bear who was still molting!

*Inn on Golden Pond* – with beautiful rooms, really suites, so spacious and super clean. They provide a great menu for daily breakfasts while trying to cater to dietary restrictions. Cross-country skiers and folks who like to get away from city life for a few days are some of their guests.

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