LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018

Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

The Loon Preservation Committee
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The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) is a non-profit, self-directed and self-funded organization affiliated with New Hampshire Audubon. Autonomous in membership and fundraising, LPC works to preserve loons and their habitats in New Hampshire through monitoring, research, management, and education.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Old and The New

It was a busy summer for the Loon Preservation Committee, and a promising one for loons, and I will speculate that the two are not unrelated. LPC biologists fanned out across the lakes of New Hampshire to count, research, manage, and educate about loons—something that happens every year, but this summer to a degree not seen before. The enthusiasm of a youthful corps of eager field biologists, interns, and our stalwart volunteers resulted in a record 116 pairs of loons protected by LPC ropes and signs, and pairs protected by these measures hatched a record number of chicks. LPC biologists floated loon nesting rafts, a record number of which were used by nesting loons, and talked about loons and their needs to anyone who would listen. And people are listening—there is a growing awareness and appreciation in New Hampshire of loons and their importance as indicators of environmental health.

The news is not all good though. Lead fishing tackle continues to be a persistent problem for our loons, claiming seven loons to date this year. Our new lead tackle buyback program (see page 16) offered vouchers for anglers to turn in their old lead fishing sinkers and jigs and buy loon-friendly, non-toxic tackle. This novel initiative attracted support from people and foundations and the attention of the media for its earnest and innovative methods to address this continuing scourge and remove lead tackle from our lakes and our loons.

At the same time we are demonstrating our resolve to tackle this persistent problem, we are also gearing up to help our loons deal with the emerging threat of climate change. We are preparing to publish a landmark study on the effects of temperature and precipitation on nesting New Hampshire loons over 40 years. And LPC expanded its work with Caroline Hughes (now pursuing her Master of Science degree at Antioch University through this research) to investigate and institute new management techniques (see pages 7 - 8) to help loons cope with this new reality. We are following a venerable tradition at LPC of bringing best science to bear on an issue, not to dispassionately study it, but to come up with practical and implementable solutions—even solutions to such a seemingly insurmountable issue as climate change.

These two initiatives demonstrate LPC's strengths and the key to our success over these past 40+ years: persistence in dealing with current challenges facing loons, and forward thinking to assess and then mitigate future challenges. It's a combination that has made LPC uniquely successful in carrying out its mission, and with your continued support it will continue to serve loons well in the future.

Harry

2018 Field Survey Summary

New Hampshire's Loons Regain Lost Ground and Return to Breeding Success

When the final loon chick had been tallied and the last floating nest raft was stowed and recorded, the Loon Preservation Committee's 2018 monitoring found a breeding loon population that, at least for this year, had hit its stride in the gradual, ongoing climb back to historic levels. LPC staff and volunteers recorded 309 breeding pairs (occupying and defending a territory for at least four weeks), surpassing 300 pairs for the first time. We documented nesting for 226 of these pairs, also a new high. The number of loon chicks hatched from these nests (224) and the number that survived to mid-August (157) represented only modest success, and were not record-setting, but we saw higher breeding success than last year in seven out of the nine monitoring regions. Newly established pairs were also spread throughout the state, as was the all-out effort to manage and protect the increased number of vulnerable nesting and brooding sites.

LPC's monitoring data continues to provide a remarkably high-resolution picture of the population, by combining field crew surveys and volunteer observations. For example, we tracked the in-filling of available habitat on lakes like Wicwas Lake in Meredith and Ossipee Lake, carefully delineating sites where an existing loon pair was joined by a new neighboring pair on the same lake. These neighboring territories reflect a population that is increasing in density even on lakes that have been occupied for decades, in the heart of "loon country." The same close monitoring also turned up newly colonized lakes and ponds in regions where the recovering population is expanding into suitable but unoccupied habitat, for example on Pool Pond in Rindge, and Great Pond in Kingston. LPC's 2018 monitoring included thousands of individual surveys by our small field crew, thousands of field volunteer observation hours, and covered a total of 357 lakes and ponds, including just over 500 occupied or potential loon territories.

As usual, many monitoring surveys doubled as active nest site management. LPC staff and volunteers floated 95 nest rafts in 2018, with a record number (47) used for nesting. The 54 chicks hatched from nesting rafts tied the record set in 2015, and we saw individual rafts used for the first time on Sunapee, Umbagog, and Lake Winnipesaukee. Nest site protection also reached new highs, with Loon Nesting Area signs for 116 nesting pairs. This protection involved over 250 individual floating signs, and, for

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Results and Highlights for the 2018 Common Loon Breeding Season in New Hampshire

Population and Productivity	2018	Pre-Loon Recovery Plan (2005-2009 avg.)	2018 vs. Pre-Loon Recovery Plan
Territorial Loon Pairs	309	231	34%
Immatures	1	5	-80%
Nesting Pairs	226	155	46%
Chicks Hatched	224	138	62%
Chicks Survived to mid-August	157	105	50%
Nest Failures	90	78	15%
Chicks Surviving/Territorial Pair	0.51	0.46	11%
Management Activity			
Rafts (including five on Lake Umbagog)	95	56	70%
Signs/Ropes	116	61	90%
Loons Rescued	17	6.4	166%

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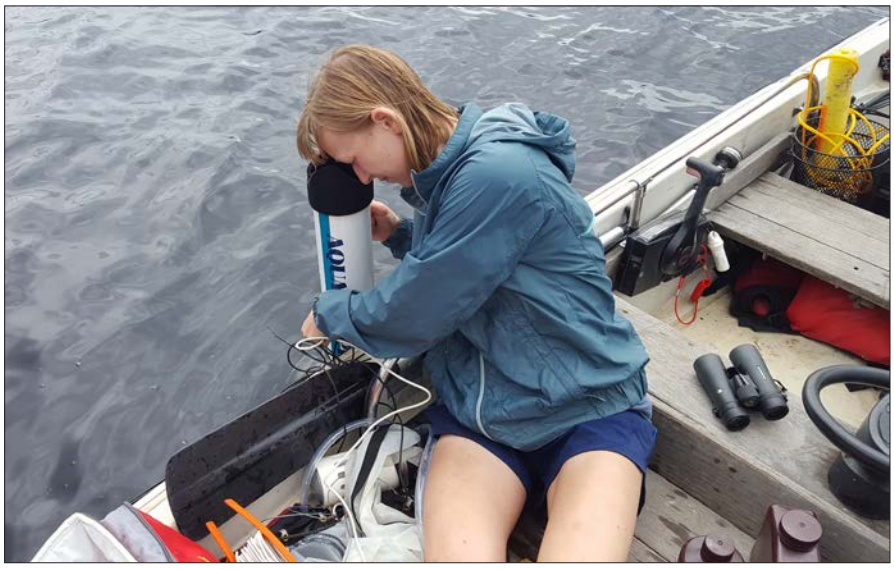
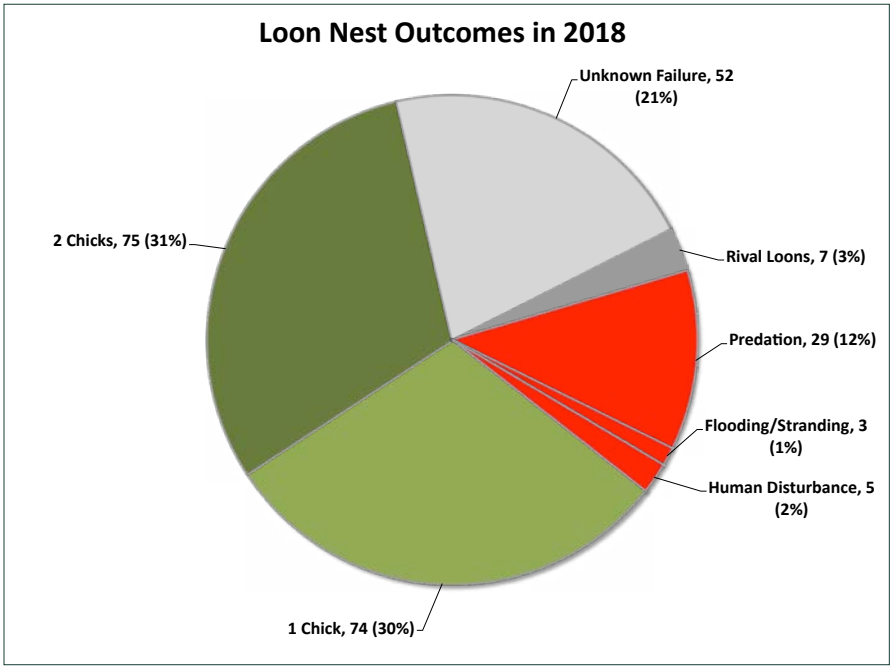
the 60 nest sites protected with ropelines, over a mile of float lines. Over half of all loon chicks hatched in 2018 came from one of these protected nest sites, and altogether, including outreach to promote stable water levels on lakes with dams, 92% of loon chicks hatched in the state benefitted from one of these forms of management (rafts, ropes and signs, and water level outreach). Scattered throughout the state, New Hampshire's protected loon nest sites represent a tiny fraction of the state's shorelines, coves, and islands. But for the dedicated volunteers and field crew members placing the nest signs, the 2018 season reached new heights in the ongoing work to buffer each of these most vulnerable locations on busy lakes.



Tufts veterinary student Kim Freid collects water clarity data on Lake Francis.

Climate and Loons

Compared to most recent summers, New Hampshire's loons enjoyed an exceptionally normal weather regime during early summer this year, when most nests were active. Peak loon nesting in June coincided with temperatures close to the long-term average, and precipitation a little below average—near perfect conditions for shoreline nests. In fact, we recorded only three flooded nests this season, the lowest number since 2007. On the other hand, record heat and humidity in the second half of the summer was consistent with recent trends in NH summer climate—mean temperature has increased by about two degrees Fahrenheit and precipitation by about two inches (total, June-July) over the last four decades. When higher temperatures and increased precipitation coincide with active nesting, LPC's analyses to date have found that they are both associated with reduced nesting success. As we refine and finalize these results this winter, we will also summarize loon health and behavioral data collected in 2018, to investigate the role of climate-related pathogens and contaminants, and other physiological indicators of climate-dependent stress.



Thank you, Kim and Olivia!

LPC's 2018 loon health and mortality research, including capture work, rescues, and necropsies, benefitted greatly from the contributions of Tufts veterinary students Kim Freid and Olivia Bolus. Kim and Olivia each conducted individual research projects building on loon sampling with LPC. Although further sampling will be needed, Olivia's initial results have confirmed the utility of a new, simpler way to test for aspergillosis, an especially common secondary ailment in loons stressed, for example, by injury, poor winter nutrition, or captive rehabilitation. Kim collaborated with researcher James

Haney, Ph.D., at the University of New Hampshire to look at the accumulation of algal toxins of potential public health significance in the Common Loon food web. We don't know yet what kinds of health impacts these toxins have for loons, but with the increasing incidence of bloom activity on New Hampshire lakes and worldwide, she wanted to investigate how they might be exposed. Working with LPC field biologists, Kim collected blood samples from 27 loons, as well as fish and plankton from their nesting territories. Interestingly, she found some significant differences in blood toxin concentrations between male and female loons. Kim is excited to continue her data analysis and to think about next steps for understanding what these toxin levels mean for loons in New Hampshire. Thanks to Kim and Olivia for their excellent work, and to Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts; and, especially, to Dr. Mark Pokras for recruiting, mentoring, and fundraising for these internships.

Lake Winnipesaukee biologist Erin Haley shows off her "2018 Rock Rearranger Award" at the year-end barbecue.

Banding and Band Returns

In 2018 LPC captured and banded 25 adult loons and recaptured 11 adults. We also banded loons that were rescued and released, including three adult and two juvenile loons. Together with other previously banded loons that are still alive, these marked individuals now comprise over a quarter of the adult loon population in New Hampshire. Recaptures and band sightings this summer revealed fascinating details about the health, survival, and behavior of individual loons. For example, we were excited to find that New England's oldest known loon, the Sweat's Meadow female on Lake Umbagog, originally banded in 1993, was back and nested successfully at the ripe old age of at least 29, with a mate that was banded as a juvenile in 1994, now 24 years old. We were eager to document the return of previously rescued loons. A twice rescued male loon (in 2015 and 2016) nested this year on Long Pond in Benton. The Martin Meadow Pond male, originally banded in 2001, and rescued and treated for lead poisoning from ingesting lead fishing tackle in 2014, hatched two chicks this year! We were also able to confirm the return of all four loons that were successfully rehabilitated and released after their rescue on Lake Sunapee in January 2016. One of these has returned each year to breed on Millen Pond in Washington. A second nested successfully in 2018 on Tewskbury Pond in Grafton. A third was spotted this year on Blaisdell Lake in Sutton, and the fourth loon turned up 90 miles north on South Pond in Stark. The return of these loons to the breeding population is good news, and added encouragement for would-be loon rescuers that the effort is worthwhile.

Rescues and Mortalities

With a network of volunteers, veterinarians, and wildlife rehabilitators, LPC rescued 12 adult loons and five juvenile loons this summer; four other loons were rescued and released by members of the public. Beached or entangled loons often turn out to be suffering from lead poisoning or are severely debilitated or injured, making rehabilitation an uphill battle. Ten of the loons rescued this year did not survive, but four adults and three juveniles were successfully rehabilitated and released. Given the inherently long odds, this success rate is not bad and—with growing expertise and a strong rescue network—the odds get better each year. In addition to the live rescues, seven adult loons, two immature (1-2 year old), and 12 juvenile loons were collected as mortalities. Unfortunately, lead poisoning from fishing tackle continued to be the primary cause of adult mortality, and we saw an increase in juveniles and chicks killed by intruding adult loons.

Exploits from the Field

Many accomplishments by LPC field crew and volunteers are undocumented (and sometimes that's a good thing) but we do want to recognize this year's winner of the annual "Rock Rearranger Award," Winnipesaukee field biologist Erin—"oops, that's

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what those X's on the nav. chart mean"—Haley, with runner-up honors to Caroline Hughes. Accolades, if not a formal prize, are due to the North Country banding crew who dealt with all manner of mechanical problems, including a blown out trailer tire at 1:00 a.m., still a few hours drive from home. North Country field biologist Noah Belliveau, absent for the late-night tire change, restored his honor a few weeks later with a cooperative catch-and-release rescue of a tangled loon on Back Lake in Pittsburg, working with Fish and Game staff and a much appreciated rental boat from Tall Timbers Lodge. Another on-the-spot rescue involved volunteers from Bow Lake, who discovered, carefully restrained, untangled, and released a beached and tangled loon, all before LPC staff could have arrived at the lake. As "Cheryl M" of Bow Lake remarked, "*It was a team effort. We needed all four of us. And even then we had trouble keeping the loon restrained as we tried to find and cut away each piece of fishing line that was wrapped around it in various ways. My main concern was not hurting it each time it tried to squirm away, and hoping it could breathe when we had a hand around the bill to keep it locked shut. Yes, that bill is really dangerous! I'm glad Jeannie and I had watched some of your fishing line rescue and banding events in past years, so we had an idea on the best way to restrain the loon.*"

Photo Courtesy of Beth Downs

LPC Lakes Region biologist Henry Stevens took loon surveying to a new level by biking or hiking to Long Pond on a washed out Forest Service road, and then swimming this wilderness pond to conduct his loon surveys.

Lastly, all of LPC's field crew and many volunteers put in epic paddles to traverse New Hampshire's lakes and ponds for the sake of a loon survey, nest sign, rescue, or abandoned egg. For the Seacoast's Owen Brennick it may have been six hours placing signs on Northwood Lake; for Hillary Seiner, in the Monadnock region, it might have been paddling the length of 5-mile long Highland Lake; and for Sunapee's Sarah Cantwell it was two separate searches for an elusive tangled loon on 4,400 acre Newfound. But this kind of endurance field biology was epitomized by the Long Pond swim-a-thons for Lakes Region field biologist Henry Stevens, who biked or hiked several miles over a washed-out Forest Service road on three separate occasions to survey—by swimming—this wilderness pond, successfully documenting a nesting attempt and re-sighting a banded, rescued loon (and a moose!). The 11-mile hike by volunteers into Sawyer

Photo Courtesy of Brian Reilly

Pond in Livermore was a similar all-in survey by Tin Mountain Birding Society loon watchers.

Acknowledgements

LPC's field season depends each year on a generous network of volunteers, partner conservation organizations, businesses, lake associations, veterinarians, and rehabilitators. We extend special thanks for help with injured and rescued loons to: Meadow Pond Animal Hospital; Avian Haven Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center; Maria Colby at Wings of Dawn; Dr. Mark Pokras, DVM; Kappy Sprenger in Bridgeton, ME; Capital Area Veterinary Emergency Services; Elaine Conners Center for Wildlife; and Dr. Dutton at Weare Animal Hospital. We received donations and discounts for boat repair and field supplies from Squam Boat Livery, Middleton/Lavallee Lumber, Heath's Hardware, Aubuchon's-Moultonborough, and OptechU-SA. We relied on lake access and moral support from Robert's Cove Basin and Balch Lake Marinas. Field crew housing was provided in part by the Fiske, Glover, and Risley families, and the Friends of Mead Conservation Center. And we are grateful for extensive help with many different aspects of our field program from cooperating agencies and non-governmental organizations: NH Fish and Game; NH Marine Patrol; Dept. of Environmental Services/Dam Bureau; US Fish and Wildlife Service including Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge; NH Audubon; Squam Lakes Association; Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests; Harris Center for Conservation Education; NH Lakes Association; and many individual lake and watershed associations.

~John H. Cooley

Raft Covers and Nest Temperatures Update

If you are a consistent reader of LPC's newsletters, you may recall that over the past year we have been experimenting with methods of modifying the design of our nest rafts to help relieve heat stress on nesting loons. LPC typically deploys 90-100 nest rafts annually within the state of New Hampshire, and nearly one in four chicks hatched within the state comes from a raft. Given their levels of use, we understand that our rafts have the potential to play a key role in helping nesting loons adapt to face the threats posed by global climate change, which include increased breeding season temperatures and storm-driven water level changes.

The nesting period is likely one of the most vulnerable times of a loon's life with regards to heat stress. Because they spend the vast majority of their time in the water, many of loons' body systems are adapted for aquatic living. This includes the thermoregulatory system: one of the most efficient mechanisms that loons use to cool down involves dissipating heat into the water through their feet. However, when they are on the nest, loons are unable to thermoregulate in this manner. In addition, their dark plumage and layers of downy feathers likely make nesting loons even more vulnerable to heat stress—consider how it would feel to sit outside in a dark colored down jacket for 28 days straight in the middle of June! Nesting loons often resort to panting (similar to the panting of a dog) to lower their body temperature; however, if heat stress becomes too extreme a loon might leave its nest and slip into the water for some temporary relief. If warmer temperatures become the norm during the nesting season in coming years (as is anticipated) it is likely that nesting loons will face increasing levels of heat stress. This has several consequences for their eggs. If nesting loons are forced to leave the nest more frequently in order to cool down in the water, their eggs may face increased rates of predation by opportunistic animals or increased mortality due to high temperatures. If heat stress is severe enough, it may cause loons to abandon their nests before their eggs hatch.

Given the dire nature of the climate change problem, LPC is eager to adapt our management strategies to help nesting loons cope with projected threats. While our floating nest rafts already help to mitigate the problem of water level fluctuations, they are not currently designed to reduce nest temperatures. This summer LPC continued to assess our ability to modify our raft design. Our goal was to determine whether we could easily create a shadier version of our usual rafts that might provide nesting loons with a cooler nesting environment and reduce heat stress during nesting. Our experimental raft design was simple: we introduced a layer of UV-blocking shade fabric to the raft cover. To test the effectiveness of this experimental raft, we set up three study sites throughout New Hampshire. At each site, we set out three rafts, each equipped with a different cover treatment. One raft had no cover in order to simulate the temperatures that an unprotected nesting loon would face. One raft had our current cover design, and the final raft had the experimental cover. At each raft we used

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iButton temperature loggers to measure ambient temperature inside of the raft (the temperature that the nesting adult would have to cope with). We also built a nest bowl on each raft and placed a mock loon egg with an embedded temperature sensor in it. The purpose of this was to simulate the temperatures that unattended loon eggs may face. This was done because we wanted to determine whether unattended loon eggs may reach temperatures high enough to kill developing embryos. We collected temperature readings every 10 minutes for a 28-day period (the typical duration of loon nest incubation).

The preliminary results of this study suggest that the rafts that incorporate new shade materials into their covers functioned as we hoped they would (see Figure 1). Across all three sites, both ambient and egg temperatures were consistently cooler on the experimental rafts than on either our current model rafts or the rafts with no cover. During the afternoon hours (12 PM-4:30 PM) ambient temperatures on the experimental rafts were an average of 2.52 degrees Fahrenheit cooler on the no cover rafts. In comparison with the current cover rafts, the experimental rafts provided only a modest temperature reduction (0.36 degrees Fahrenheit) during that same time frame. However, during the height of the July heat waves that we experienced this summer (when heat stress on our loons would be greatest), ambient temperatures on the experimental rafts in some locations were up to 9.5 degrees cooler than our current model rafts and up to 18.9 degrees cooler than the no cover rafts! These preliminary results indicate that our rafts have great potential for relieving heat stress on nesting loons and loon eggs. As we move forward we will continue to think of and test different modifications to improve heat-reducing performance. This is a hopeful finding for loons in New Hampshire! Because they are located towards the southern boundary of their breeding range, New Hampshire's loons will likely be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than more northern populations. We hope that our ongoing research in this area will allow us to reduce heat-stress related nest failure and significantly increase loon nesting success within the state. We look forward to performing a more in-depth analysis on our results in the coming year and will use the conclusions to inform the construction of future loon nest rafts.

~Caroline Hughes

For the first time in LPC's forty-four years, field staff and volunteers recorded more than 300 breeding pairs (a pair occupying and defending a territory for at least four weeks) — at 309! This historic milestone is in part a result of the dramatic increases in LPC's monitoring, research, management, and education to recover loons funded by donations to the Loon Recovery Plan.

For more information about the Loon Recovery Plan, or to make a donation, please contact Harry Vogel, LPC Senior Biologist/Executive Director, at 603-476-5666 or hvogel@loon.org.

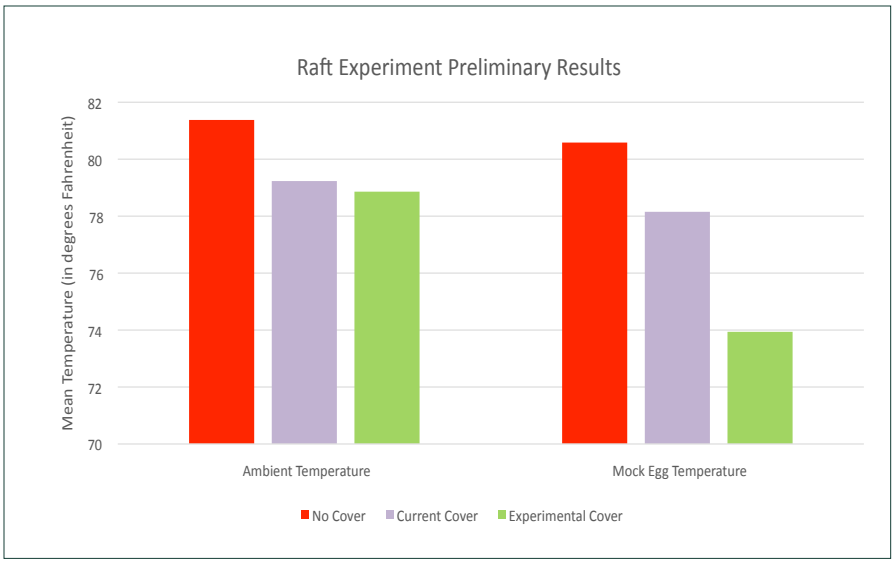

Figure 1: This graph shows the average ambient and mock egg temperature on each type of raft during the hottest time of day (12 PM-4:30 PM). Values displayed for each raft type are the average temperature for that raft type across all three study sites.

A Summer of Hope on Squam Lake

June 27, 2018: As I approached Kimball Island on Squam Lake, I did not expect to see anything out of the ordinary. The pair had spent the previous several weeks casually poking around potential nest sites, including fairly nonchalant inspection of the nesting raft LPC had floated there, but never looked very serious. Kimball Island loons had not nested on the raft since 2010, choosing natural nest sites instead without success. While many natural nesting sites are excellent locations and loons are very successful at them—and, in fact, LPC prefers loons to use natural sites as much as possible—natural nest sites have not been successful for loons at Kimball in recent years. So, as the days passed, I was watching the pair carefully as they inspected various sites, expecting that soon they would settle on yet another natural site with dubious prospects for success. You can imagine my astonishment as I looked toward the raft to find a loon resolutely sitting on it. This was not the casual pose of yet another raft inspection: this was the firm sit of a loon committed to a nest. It couldn't be…but as I revisited the area several times that day to check as I made the rounds, it was! The loons were nesting again on the Kimball raft for the first time in 8 years, and there was hope.

Fast forward 29 days: A chick had hatched at Kimball the previous day, the first chick hatched there since 2007! I was delighted, and, as I approached the island, I was filled with nervous excitement: how was the new chick doing today, and could there possibly be a second? To my happiness, I quickly saw the chick from yesterday was doing wonderfully: one adult sat on the raft with the chick and, as the second adult approached, the chick tumbled off the raft and began swimming around the raft as this adult fed it. And still the adult on the raft sat and I waited, binoculars peeled… until there it was, a second chick poking its tiny head out from under the adult! I was ecstatic, and what greater sign of hope is there for loons than two newly-hatched chicks?

October 20, 2018: It is a cool, blustery fall day as I am bringing in LPC's orange "Caution: Loon Chicks" signs for the winter. Much has happened since that beautiful day in July when the second chick appeared at Kimball. One of those two chicks was tragically killed in late summer by an intruding loon, the victim of the social chaos that has overtaken Squam in recent years. Many factors seem to have contributed to this social chaos, among them high levels of human-caused adult loon mortality including from lead tackle ingestion. For two weeks after this incident, every time I checked the territory, the adults were battling off intruding loons. There seemed to be no way that the remaining chick would survive…but it did! And on this chilly fall day, as I take down the chick signs from Kimball Island and reflect on the events there this summer, the loon family serenely glides past, the chick now a beautiful "teenaged" loon. It is the first fledged chick from this territory since 2002, and it seems like almost a miracle that this chick endured. Hope…

The Kimball chick is one of three loon chicks that fledged on Squam Lake this summer. While it is certainly an improvement over the previous two years, when only a single chick survived each year, we still have a long way to go to recover Squam's loon population. In the 10 years prior to the decline in Squam's loon population in 2005, Squam's loons hatched an average of 10 chicks each year and seven fledged. LPC has its work cut out for it to restore Squam's loon

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Seen here putting the finishing touches on their nest shortly after laying their eggs, this pair went on to successfully raise one of the three chicks that fledged on Squam in 2018.

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population to this level of health and productivity. And hope was sometimes hard to find this past summer: a nest failure resulting from human disturbance and deliberate tampering with the signs and ropelines LPC places around loon nests to protect them from human intrusions was particularly disturbing. And the death of an adult loon on Little Squam from entanglement in fishing line was also a low point in the summer. But LPC is working hard to make Squam and other lakes in New Hampshire places where loons can thrive. Coverage of the nest tampering incident in newspapers and on radio and WMUR television helped educate people about the need to respect nesting loons and LPC's protective signs and ropelines. LPC's pilot lead tackle buy-back program (see page 16) will help reduce the number of loons dying from lead tackle ingestion, and LPC continues to work to educate anglers about responsible, loon-safe fishing practices and the lead tackle law that went into effect in 2016.

And, of course, LPC is working hard to address the issue of chemical contamination that we discovered in Squam's loons and, subsequently, in sediments in the surrounding watershed. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, the Squam Lakes Association, and researchers at Plymouth State University have recognized the gravity of this situation, and LPC has been instrumental in forming a coalition of agencies and organizations to expand the investigation into contaminants and options for mitigation. Cleaning up contaminated sediments is beyond LPC's purview: but, in bringing this issue to light and leading a collaboration of state and federal agencies, a university, and nonprofit organizations, LPC is doing all it can to make sure these issues are not minimized but rather tackled head-on to ensure the health of Squam and all its inhabitants. LPC has pressed for a meeting this fall with our collaborators, and we will continue to work to recover Squam Lake's loon population through greatly increased research, monitoring, management, and outreach as part of the Squam Lake Loon Initiative. This work will inform LPC's conservation efforts for loons on Squam and throughout the state. As LPC continues its research into contaminants in Squam's loons, and works with its collaborators to press for complete and thorough testing and investigations, there is more hope for Squam's loons.

I am particularly fond of the line from Emily Dickinson, "Hope is the thing with feathers." With six chicks hatched on Squam this year and Kimball Island fledging its first chick since 2002—and against all odds at that—hope is indeed the thing with feathers. LPC is working hard to bring not just the hope, but the reality, of a healthy and restored loon population back to Squam Lake and all of New Hampshire.

~Tiffany Grade

For more information on LPC's Squam Lake Loon Initiative and our work to address contamination and other issues on Squam Lake, please download our Progress Report (updated November 2018) from our webpage at www.loon.org.

Photo Courtesy of Brian Reilly

Loon Preservation Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

APRIL 1, 2017 - MARCH 31, 2018

The Loon Preservation Committee exists to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire; to monitor the health and productivity of loon populations as sentinels of environmental quality; and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world.

I keep thinking back to the words of our founder, Rawson Wood, when he said, *"If humans have had a role in the decline of the loon population, humans can also have a role in reversing that decline."*

So here we are some 43 years later. We've learned much. We've done much. We're making progress. We also better understand the complexities of how and why loons fail or thrive. As with so much else that humans study, we're also finding that for each question answered, one or more new questions arise.

The Loon Preservation Committee prides itself on careful monitoring and peer-reviewed research. We then follow those scientific conclusions to determine what management and educational tools best assist loons in their struggles with man-made obstacles. We're able to do this because of you, our members, volunteers, supporters and donors. Our seasoned and experienced staff run a very efficient operation carefully using your donations and volunteer time to have the greatest impact within our limited budget and large geographic region.

I'm very happy to report that for our FY2018 (year ending on 3/31/18) our revenue exceeded expenses by $60,162 or 8.33%. The surplus has been applied to work undertaken in the new fiscal year. The accompanying charts and tabulations provide a five-year summary of our financial reports. The full report is available for review at The Loon Center and on the LPC website, http://www.loon.org/financial.php.

As I complete my second year as Board Chair, I have an even deeper respect for everyone whose efforts continue to keep the Loon Preservation Committee a very highly-regarded conservation organization, not just here in New Hampshire but also nationally and beyond. My thanks to all of you on behalf of the Board of Trustees for your continued support and dedication.

Thank you,

Brian J. Reilly
Board Chair

BRIAN REILLY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

It's a team effort, this work to safeguard and recover loons in New Hampshire. In the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC)'s fiscal year ended March 31st of 2018, we made full use of our nine dedicated full- and part-time staff to continue our 43rd year of comprehensive conservation work to help loons. We also hired seven seasonal field biologists to help carry out our state-wide monitoring, research, management and education programs, and a Loon Center Assistant Manager and a Loon's Feather Shop Assistant to ensure that visitors to The Loon Center learned about loons and left inspired to help these birds. We benefitted from two LPC interns and two Tufts University veterinary student interns to round out our professional staff. Even then, we were woefully understaffed to monitor 360 lakes throughout the state to assess the presence and breeding success of loons, carry out management and outreach to help those loons thrive and hatch chicks, and respond to reports of loons in trouble as a result of human activities. Enter our network of over 900 enthusiastic volunteers who contributed more than 6,000 hours of effort to ensure a good year for loons in New Hampshire!

One of those volunteers was good for a few hundred hours all by himself as he worked to bring video footage of two pairs of nesting loons, and information about LPC's work to help them, to the world. That statement may seem grand and hyperbolic, but it is the literal truth – LPC's Loon Webcams were viewed by loon watchers in all 50 states and over 200 countries. For Bill Gassman's considerable trouble, we gave him an LPC cap. But he also received the gratitude of the LPC staff and Board, in the form of our Spirit of The Loon Award, and the appreciation of people who viewed our Loon Webcams half a million times.

All of those efforts were supported by donations from over 2,200 LPC members and friends of loons to buy materials and equipment, put gas in boats and the LPC truck, and keep our staff gainfully employed (over-employed, really). That is the grassroots business model this small organization has followed for over 40 years now, with some success as evidenced by the numbers. In fact, despite an excess of water that resulted in a challenging year for breeding loons, 2017 saw an increase in the number of loon pairs on New Hampshire's lakes to just under 300 pairs. Success, but hard-won, and those numbers are barely half of New Hampshire's historical population. So our job is only half done.

Thank you for your care for these birds, and for your contributions of sweat and funds; it has made our work possible, and it will fuel our continued efforts to bring loons back to our lakes. It takes a village to recover a loon population, and we will continue to count on that village to help loons face their growing challenges.

Sincerely,

Harry Vogel
Senior Biologist/Executive Director

KITTIE WILSON

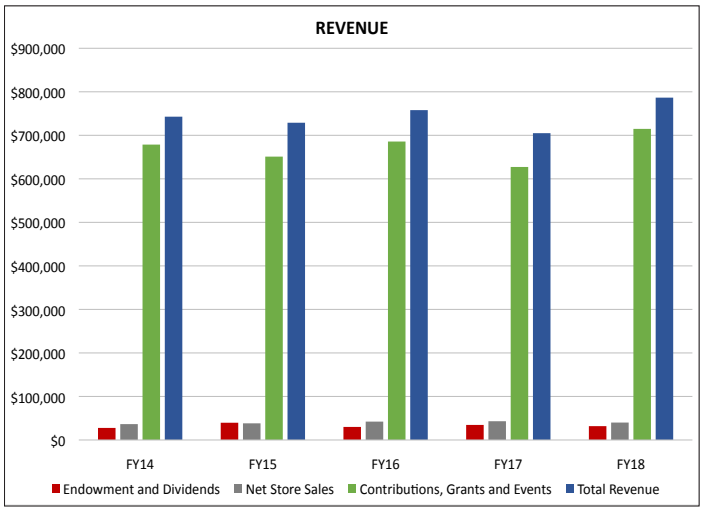
Population and Productivity:

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Territorial Loon Pairs	284	289	289	294	296
Nesting Pairs	180	208	211	207	202
Chicks Hatched	157	203	234	198	168
Chicks Surviving to mid-August	119	154	174	147	126

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Loon Preservation Committee: Summary of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
Fiscal Year Ending: March 31

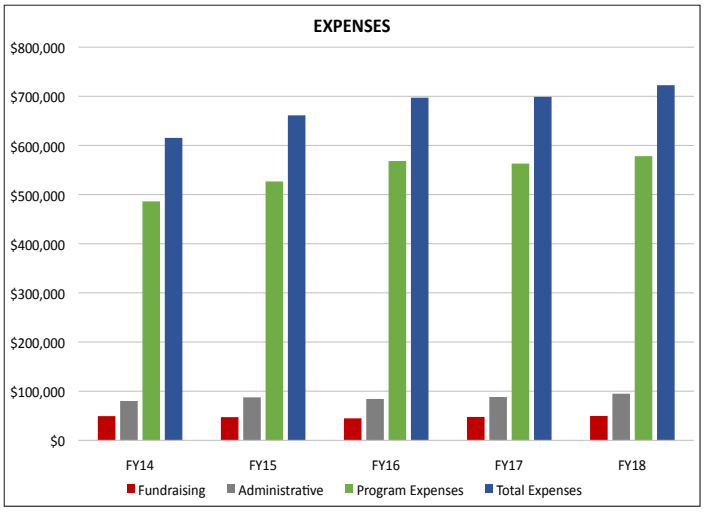
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Revenue:					
Contributions, Grants and Events	$678,699	$651,074	$685,725	$627,291	$710,453
Store Sales, Net Cost of Goods	$36,439	$38,231	$42,188	$43,070	$40,013
Endowment and Dividends	$27,701	$39,616	$29,973	$34,576	$31,770
Total Revenue	**$742,839**	**$728,921**	**$757,886**	**$704,937**	**$782,236**
Expenses:					
Program Expenses	$486,187	$526,666	$568,278	$563,088	$578,166
Administrative	$80,002	$87,403	$84,191	$88,141	$94,855
Fundraising	$49,211	$47,161	$44,697	$47,601	$49,053
Total Expenses	**$615,400**	**$661,230**	**$697,166**	**$698,830**	**$722,074**
Increase in Net Assets:	**$127,439**	**$67,691**	**$60,720**	**$6,107**	**$60,162**



LPC's financial records are audited by Rowley & Associates of Concord, NH. Copies of the audit and the IRS 990 return are available upon request at The Loon Center.

"Loons are the soul of the lake. They fill it up with light and song. Without them the lake seems empty, lacking."

~Harry Vogel



KITTIE WILSON

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

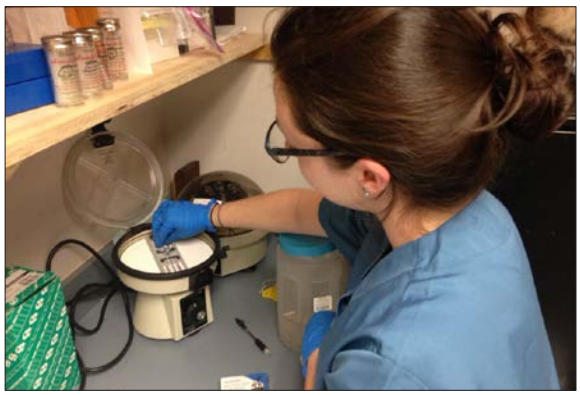
Many hands make light work as volunteers gather with their tool belts to help LPC staff at the Spring 2017 Volunteer Raft and Sign Building Day at The Loon Center.

LPC Senior Biologist John Cooley floats a raft at Lake Tarleton in spring of 2017. LPC staff and volunteers floated 95 rafts on lakes throughout New Hampshire in 2017.

Thirteen-year-old volunteer Ani Martin floats a sign on Little Island Pond as part of her Girl Scout project. Signs like these protected 95 nesting pairs of loons in 2017.

Concerned passersby reported a stranded loon on I-93 in Franconia Notch – one of 13 loons in distress rescued by LPC between April of 2017 and March of 2018.

"It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it"
~Nelson Mandela



Tufts University Veterinary Intern Nia Parro centrifuges blood samples in the LPC laboratory from loons banded the previous night to test for contaminants and indicators of health.

Why we do what we do —
the first loon chick hatched on Winona Lake in the past 11 years, followed soon after by a sibling.

LPC's Webcams Draw Viewers from 50 States and 184 Countries!

This summer, LPC shared the loon nesting process with Granite Staters and the world via two webcams live streamed on YouTube. This was our fifth consecutive year of broadcasting live loon nests, and our second year using YouTube as our video hosting platform. Two separate nest attempts were broadcast back-to-back, with incredibly successful results. Both eggs hatched from both nests, for a total of four chicks. We couldn't have asked for a better result! Viewers were able to watch every step of the nesting process, from nest site selection to mating to egg laying to the hatch. In total, LPC's webcam live streamed for 79 days.

Webcam two captured this comical moment when a great blue heron landed on top of the nest raft. The loon appeared unruffled by its visitor.

Given the length of time that the webcams were streaming, it is no wonder that we were able to capture several interesting events, such as the disappearance of the female from the first webcam just as her eggs began to hatch. Viewers clung to their seats, watching and worrying about the male loon and his two chicks as they stayed close to the nest and waited for the female's return. After 38 tense and dramatic hours, the female came back to her territory, met her two chicks, and moved her family out to the brooding area of their lake. Viewers left feeling the pangs of loss after the loons left the nest site on the first webcam did not have long to wait—the loons of webcam two were eager for their chance to shine! Just one day after webcam one ended, webcam two began streaming. Like webcam one, webcam two captured several interesting events. These included a great blue heron landing on top of the nest raft, as well as a turtle climbing onto the cover of the raft, falling off, and frightening the female loon, causing her to temporarily flush from the nest. Webcam two also gave viewers a glimpse into an often unseen aspect of loon biology—shortly after the second egg hatched, the chicks began displaying sibling rivalry. While difficult to watch, this behavior helps to ensure that at least one chick survives and fledges, particularly when resources may be limited.

After transitioning the webcam to YouTube live for streaming in 2017, LPC saw a huge increase in viewership. This summer followed a similar trend, with a collective 4.5 million minutes of live footage total. The webcam attracted viewers from all 50 states and 184 countries!

After the viewership spike during the 2017 Webcam season, LPC realized what a powerful tool the webcam could be for outreach and education. This summer, we hoped to expand our outreach efforts with those watching the webcam. LPC staff and Webcam Operator Bill Gassman logged in to the YouTube chat on a daily basis to interact with viewers and answer questions about loon biology, behavior, and the work that LPC does on behalf of loons in New Hampshire. Webcam updates were also posted on Facebook and on LPC's news blog. These actions proved to be well worth the effort! Viewers often expressed gratitude to LPC for taking the time to chat with them. Several people reached out to let us know that while they had been observing loons for years or even decades, they were learning a tremendous amount through their interactions with our biologists. The webcam chat also became an unexpected but welcome fundraising tool, with viewers self-organizing a donation drive during the hatching period of the first webcam. These donations were used by LPC to improve the viewing experience for the second webcam—they allowed us to purchase the equipment necessary to run the second webcam of the season almost entirely on solar power. The locations in which we can set up our webcams have

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continued from page 15

been limited, as we require a nearby source of electricity to power them. This was the first time that LPC has used solar power in our camera setup, and we look forward to expanding this effort in the future. We hope that our experiment with solar power will eventually allow us to broadcast loon nests from a wider variety of locations in the future. Our next steps will focus on investigating options for new batteries for next year. We hope to find a way to store enough solar energy to keep the webcam functioning entirely on solar power, even through several consecutive cloudy days.

Thanks to all who tuned in and made our looncam such a success! We would especially like to extend a huge thank you to Bill Gassman for providing the technical knowledge that enables us to share the nesting experience with so many people. Bill received LPC's Spirit of the Loon Award in 2017 for his efforts with our webcam project, and we were so fortunate to be able to continue relying on his experience and expertise to improve our webcam this year. In total, Bill volunteered over 300 hours of his time to help us provide loon watchers with the best viewing experience possible!

~Caroline Hughes

Webcam two was run almost entirely on solar power—the first time LPC has used solar power in our camera setup.

LPC's Lead Tackle Buyback Program

Lead fishing sinkers weighing one ounce or less have been illegal to sell or use in New Hampshire's lakes, ponds and rivers since 2006. As of June 1st of 2016, lead-headed fishing jigs have been subject to the same restrictions. The continued deaths of loons poisoned by ingested lead sinkers and lead-headed jigs have been a powerful reminder that it is one thing to have a law on the books and quite another to have people be aware of and follow the law. The prevalence of lead tackle in old tackle boxes throughout the state, and the continued use of that tackle by anglers, remains a serious threat to loons in New Hampshire.

This summer the Loon Preservation Committee launched a pioneering program to partner with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and two tackle shops, AJ's Bait and Tackle in Meredith and The Tackle Shack in Newbury, to provide $10 vouchers to buy new, non-toxic, loon-safe tackle to anyone turning in banned lead fishing tackle. This pilot program was successful by any measure—the tackle shops received over 20 pounds of lead tackle, taking it out of circulation and forever removing it as a threat to loons and other wildlife in New Hampshire. But even that result pales in comparison to the education benefit derived from the efforts of LPC, NH Fish & Game, and a press that was intrigued by our novel approach to tackling this issue. The tackle buyback program was covered widely in the local, state-wide and even national press with more than 30 newspaper articles and radio and television stories. We hope that this publicity reminded even those who did not trade in their old lead tackle for vouchers to turn their lead in to LPC, NH Fish & Game, or other places that accept lead.

Funders also responded to LPC's inventive approach, and

continued on next page

Fare Thee Well, Susie!

After 10 years of stellar work for loons, Susie Burbidge retired from the Loon Preservation Committee to begin a new career, much closer to home, as Water Steward and Program Coordinator for the Lake Sunapee Protective Association. Susie began her work at LPC as the Monadnock Region Field Biologist in 2009 and quickly proved her worth as a first-rate field biologist who was much loved by her volunteers. She showed a particular aptitude for educating lake users and the public about loons and their needs. When LPC realized the need for a dedicated staff member to coordinate our growing corps of volunteers and help organize our ever-expanding outreach effort, we included such a position in our then newly-created Loon Recovery Plan. Susie became that point person for our amazing network of field volunteers throughout the state, and we couldn't have asked for a better and kinder steward. And she coordinated LPC's season-end potluck dinners and other communications with our volunteers to make sure they knew how much we appreciated their work for loons.

Susie Burbidge and son Ethan enjoy a day at the seacoast.

Susie was also a key player in keeping viewers educated about the activity on our loon webcams. From the first sign of nesting until the last chick fledged, she was on call practically 24/7 reporting on significant behaviors and answering viewers' questions. But she may be best remembered for her e-newsletters. We all looked forward to hearing about the latest loon news—from interesting anecdotes from the field to dramatic loon rescues. Her e-newsletters also informed our members and volunteers of upcoming events and notable loon facts.

The good news is that Susie has passed that torch to another familiar LPC face—Caroline Hughes. Caroline has served as LPC's Field Program Coordinator for the past two summers. A graduate student at Antioch University/New England (one of Susie's alma maters) she has already seamlessly published her first e-newsletter and transitioned into her new role as LPC's Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator.

We will all miss Susie and the warmth and grace she brought to her demanding job. But we are glad that she is closer to home as she and husband Greg watch 6-year-old Ethan set off for kindergarten. And we have let her know that we fully expect that LPC has gained a new advocate for loons at the Lake Sunapee Protective Association!

~Harry Vogel

Lead Tackle Buyback continued

LPC has secured over $100,000 from a number of foundations and friends of LPC to continue and greatly expand this initiative next year. We will put this funding to good use to expand the number of participating shops to 12, reach out to towns and supply lead tackle collection bins at transfer stations, and greatly expand our advertising of this issue and our innovative solution through print, radio, and social media. If successful, and we anticipate that it will be given initial indications, the result of this growing partnership will be a lot less lead in our lakes and in our loons.

~Harry Vogel

Ryan Buchanan Honored at LPC's 2018 Annual Meeting

The Loon Preservation Committee held its Annual Meeting on August 23rd at The Loon Center in Moultonborough, New Hampshire. The event followed a hearty potluck dinner attended by many of LPC's community of volunteers, members, and friends. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a welcome from the Chair of the Loon Preservation Committee Board, Brian Reilly. Brian remarked on a good year of programs to benefit loons and presented LPC's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended March 31st of 2018 (inset of this Newsletter). LPC's treasurer, Glyn Green, reported that LPC had completed the fiscal year in the black with a clean audit (interested members of the public may contact LPC for copies of the audited FY18 Financial Statements or download them from the web at www.loon.org).

A highlight of the Annual Meeting was the presentation of the 11th annual "Spirit of the Loon" Award, created to honor LPC's founder Rawson Wood by recognizing an individual who exemplifies outstanding volunteer service to loons and the Loon Preservation Committee. LPC was thrilled to present the 2018 Award to its youngest-ever recipient, Ryan Buchanan.

Ryan became interested in loons at a young age after spending weekends and school vacations on and around Chocorua Lake. Once he learned of the many loon deaths due to ingested lead fishing tackle, he decided, at age 13, to organize a lead-free fishing derby to help educate people about this issue.

This year, at the ripe old age of 17, Ryan organized his Fifth Annual Save the Loons Lead-free Fishing Tournament on Chocorua Lake and donated the proceeds, as he does every year, to the Chocorua Lake Conservancy and the Loon Preservation Committee. Ryan has spent many hours soliciting prizes from local businesses and carrying out the event each of those years, including recruiting family members to help. LPC has partnered with Ryan to provide loon-friendly, non-lead tackle, and information on loons at these events.

Ryan Buchanan, the 2018 Spirit of the Loon recipient.

Ryan's work to help loons is just the tip of the iceberg; he has volunteered extensively with Make A Wish Foundation, the Lions Club, his local library, and has been a sighted guide for legally blind athletes, including his mother, running 5K and 10K races. Ryan represents our hope for the future: the next generation of people who will bring attention to loons and their issues. His is a fine example of leadership from a young man who cares about loons, and he has been an important partner in our efforts to protect and recover loons in New Hampshire. All of us who love loons and wildlife owe him a debt of gratitude for his work, and LPC was very pleased to name him our Spirit of the Loon Award recipient for this year.

The Spirit of The Loon ceremony was followed by an outstanding presentation of loon pictures and videos by long-time LPC member and volunteer John Rockwood. LPC Senior Biologist/Director Harry Vogel followed John's extraordinary show with preliminary results of the Loon Preservation Committee's monitoring, research, management, and educational programs in 2018, and reported on LPC's hard work in ensuring a successful year for loons in New Hampshire (please see a full report on pages 3 - 17 of this LPC Newsletter).

Thank you for all who attended LPC's Annual Meeting to help us celebrate another year of success in recovering New Hampshire's loon population!

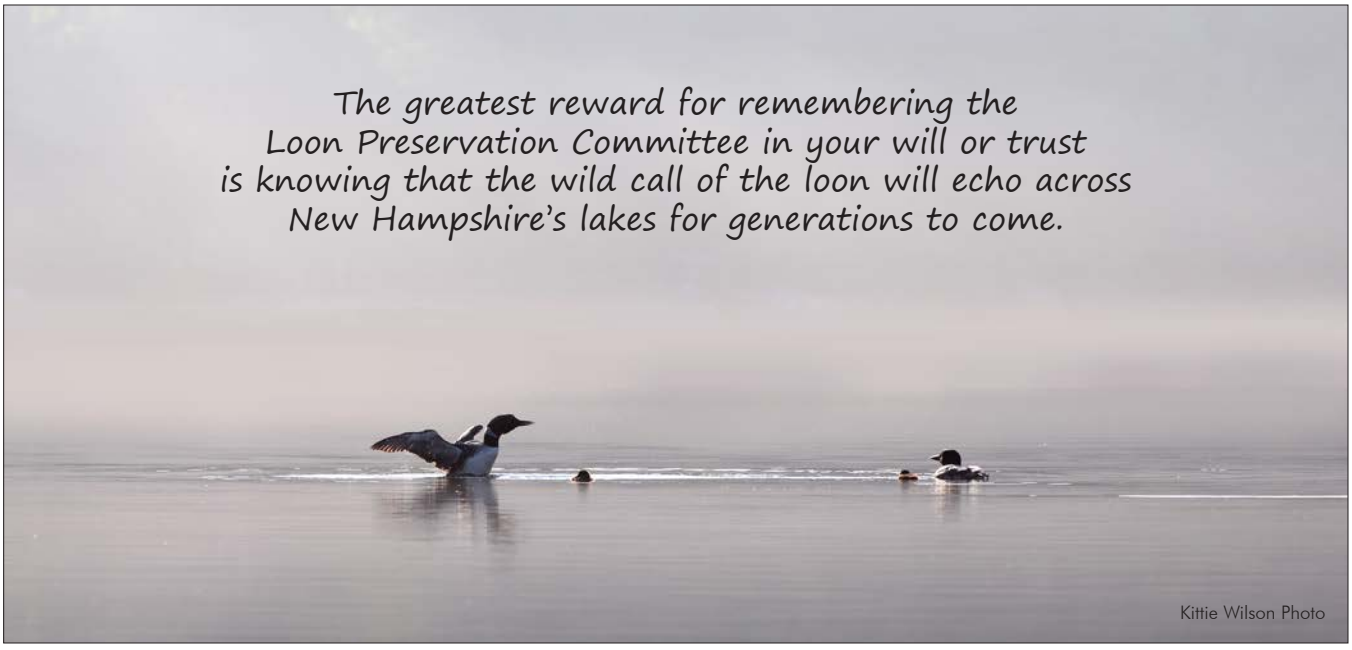
~Harry Vogel

In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous.

~Aristotle

LPC Dedicates Bench to Honor Kittie Wilson

LPC staff, trustees, and former trustees gathered on October 12th to dedicate a granite bench on the Markus Wildlife Sanctuary to honor LPC's beloved volunteer and supporter, Kittie Wilson, who passed away in May. The bench, set in a tranquil and beautiful spot at the juncture of two trails and overlooking a bend in Halfway Brook, will provide a resting spot for weary travelers or those simply wishing to take in the peace and tranquility of any season on the Markus Sanctuary. We were happy to be able to honor Kittie (LPC's 2009 Spirit of the Loon Award recipient) in this small way for all she did for loons and for the Loon Preservation Committee. (Kittie's husband, Dr. John Wilson, pictured center.)



LPC Celebrates Loons with Summer Events

The Annual Summer Luncheon & Auction kicked off the 2018 event season. The festivities were held at the picturesque Bald Peak Colony Club on June 24. Steve Curwood, Executive Producer and Host of National Public Radio's "Living on Earth," was the featured speaker. Curwood's presentation—Earth at the Edge of Runaway Climate Change—was an eye-opening account of the devastating impact of climate change on our planet.

Mike Ollen, State Director for Senator Maggie Hassan, presented Dr. John Wilson, husband of the late Kittie Wilson, with a copy of a statement entered into the Congressional Record by Hassan in memory of Kittie Wilson's extensive work on behalf of New Hampshire's loons and lakes. While Governor, Sen. Hassan signed into law the legislation banning lead jigs—a bill for which Kittie was a leading advocate. It is a significant honor to be recognized in the Congressional Record and we are grateful to Sen. Hassan for her effort and kindness in recognizing Kittie in this way.

The talented culinary team at Bald Peak prepared a delectable luncheon, sparing no details! Feuilleté of chicken was artfully presented in loon-shaped puff pastry, with a lemon tart with blueberry crumble ice cream and sauce and a loon cookie garnish as the encore! (*It was almost too pretty to eat!*)

LPC members, friends, and area merchants donated over 75 items and experiences to the silent auction and "pick-a-prize" table. The LPC field program benefited greatly from the "wishing tree" with generous monetary gifts to purchase much needed supplies, from gas cards to costly loon blood analyses. Guests also gave generously to a granite bench in memory of Kittie Wilson, which has since found a permanent home on the Markus Wildlife Sanctuary. (See page 19 for a picture from the dedication.)

LPC volunteer Peace Conant welcomes guests to the 2018 Summer Luncheon & Auction held at Bald Peak Colony Club.

The LPC staff is deeply grateful to the Luncheon & Auction Committee: Kristen Begor, Peace Conant, Jaime Laurent, and Annie Montgomery; and to their trusted assistants Bev LaFoley, Liz Gabel, and Shirley Green, who helped solicit and pick up auction items throughout the Lakes Region and beyond.

Many thanks to the following donors to the silent auction and "pick-a-prize" table: Mark and Kristen Begor, Nancy Bernard, The Bob House & Reel 'N Tavern, Boch Center for the Performing Arts, BootLegger's Footwear Centers, Boston Bruins, Boston Red Sox, Chip and Janine Broadhurst, Karen Burnett-Kurie, Butternuts, Capelli Hair & Body Salon, Clarke's Hardware, The Common Man Restaurant, Gilman and Peace Conant, Conway Scenic Railroad, Cozy Cabin Rustics, Cup and Crumb, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Deans, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Emory, Jennifer Esten, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Karel Hayes, The Homestead and Fratello's, Jeff Good Landscaping, Joel Tree Farm, Keepsake Quilting, King Arthur Flour, Lemon Grass Restaurant, Martin and Janet Levetin, Lively Design Picture Framing, Lowe's of Gilford, Francine Lozeau, Lydia's Café, MJ Harrington & Co. Jewelers, Magic Foods Restaurant Group, Kevin Martin, Elizabeth McGee, Mill Street Meat Market, Annie Montgomery, Nicholas Moore, Moulton Farm, Mount Sunapee Resort, Mount Washington Cog Railway, Mount Washington Auto Road, Mount Washington Observatory, New Hampshire Boat Museum, Andrew Opal, Our Lady of Massabesic Lake, Susan Parmenter, Patrick's Pub and Eatery, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Poitras, Cate Poole, Prospect Hill Antiques, Jordan Prouty, Joseph Reilly, Dr. & Mrs. Brian Reilly, Jane Rice, Tony Scotto and Ann

Curt and Joanne Chesley of "Curt's Caterers" have been a "Yakking for Loons" prime sponsor since the event began seven years ago. They provide a wonderful box lunch for all participants to enjoy upon returning from their paddle. Curt is also the reigning champion of fundraising for the event!

THANK YOU
Yakking Sponsors!

Curt's Caterers, LLC

IRVING

Laporte, Seven Suns Creperie, Bob and Miriam Smith, Squam Brewing, T-Bones and Cactus Jack's, The Edge, The Kalled Gallery, The Old Country Store, Village Kitchen, Waukewan Golf Club, Wholly Tara, Dr. John Wilson, and Winnipesaukee Chocolates.

Yakking for Loons

The 7th Annual Yakking for Loons was scheduled for Friday, July 6. As the date approached, weather reports were extremely discouraging and the decision was made to switch to the rain date for the first time in the history of Yakking. Meteorologists were correct in their predictions; the morning of July 6 was full of steady rain and thunder showers. Unfortunately, many of our regular "yakkers" were unable to attend on the rain date but a small and enthusiastic group paddled the course led by Harry Vogel and John Cooley. Weather conditions were near perfect and there were some great loon sightings. A wonderful lunch provided by Curt's Caterers was enjoyed by all upon their return to the Moultonborough public boat launch.

Yakking for Loons was conceived by Linda Allen and Joanne Chesley. LPC is grateful for their support and assistance with organizing and promoting the event every year. Joanne and her husband Curt of "Curt's Caterers" also generously donate lunch, and Curt is the reigning champion of fundraising for Yakking for Loons. A special thanks goes out to all the "yakkers" who graciously accepted the change in dates; both those who were able to attend and those who sent regrets, best wishes and donations.

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"Winni Swim" sponsor Bill Irwin captains the boat for swimmers Pam Halsey and Brenda Gallagher, Lakes Region Conservation Trust Executive Director Don Berry, LPC Trustee Bev LaFoley and LPC Senior Biologist/Executive Director Harry Vogel. (See page 22.)

LPC Senior Biologist John Cooley (pictured right) spends a morning on Lake Winnipesaukee with television journalist and senior correspondent Harry Smith discussing LPC's work to recover New Hampshire's loon population.

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Lastly, many thanks to the event prime sponsors—Curt's Caterers and Irving Energy—for their generous support!

Winni Swim Garners National Attention for NH Loons

LPC Trustee Beverly LaFoley learned of friends Pam Halsey and Brenda Gallagher's effort to swim around the islands on Lake Winnipesaukee and thought it was a great opportunity to call attention to LPC's work to protect loons. Bev organized a fun swim (and kayak) in support of loons with a sponsorship from Bill Irwin of Irwin Marine and the New Hampshire press picked up the story. Articles appeared in both the Concord Monitor and Laconia Daily Sun and that coverage came to the attention of NBC's Harry Smith. Expressing a love for both swimming and loons, Harry brought a film crew to New Hampshire, joined the swimmers as they navigated Ragged Island on July 19, and also spent time on the water with LPC Senior Biologist John Cooley. The resulting feature aired on Sunday TODAY with Willie Geist on August 19, and brought nation-wide attention to New Hampshire's loons and our work to protect them.

All of us here at LPC send a big thank you to Brenda, Pam, Bev, Bill and all who participated in or supported the "Winni Swim!"

Loon Festival

The Loon Center was bustling with activity at the 41st Annual Loon Festival on July 21! From educational slide shows and exhibits to arts and crafts, face painting, and balloon sculptures, the day was festive and enlightening. Setting the mood were The Sweetbloods with their delightful acoustic guitar and vocals. The Meredith Rotary Club served up a great lunch of hot dogs, chips, beverages and Ben and Jerry's ice cream. We have many people to thank for making the day possible: Tim Berquist, Betsey Donovan, Tom Fairbrother, Ted Fodero, Dick Gerken, Vern Goddard, Carl Johnson, Jim McFarlin, Ron Mahr, Jim Matthews, Mike Pelczar, Fred Strader, Donna Ulbricht, and Jim Wiedman of the Meredith Rotary Club; Ben and Jerry's and Hannaford of Meredith; CJ Roxanne; volunteers Nan and Ron Baker, Chip Broadhurst, Eunice Jackson, Denise Ferriman, Liz Gabel, Mike Ruyffelaert, John and Sue Scudder, Peter Sorlien, and Cindy Theodore; Squam Lake Natural Science Center volunteers Nance Ruhm, Chris Bird, Jan Deleault, and Audrey Eisenhauer; Krystal Costa, and Ashley Fortune of the NH Lakes Association; face painters Caitlyn Dowell and Emily Landry; Jan and Phil Sanguedolce of The Sweetbloods; and everyone's perennial favorite—Mo!

Many thanks to our faithful Loon Festival Sponsors: Tom and Suzy Beach, Vicky Brox (in memory of Chuck Brox—a stalwart Loon Festival volunteer), Clark and Gloria Chandler, Allan and Judy Fulkerson, Sally McGarry, and Phyllis Veazey.

Carl Johnson Memorial Golf

We had a great turnout for the Carl Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament! Eighty golfers participated this year under sunny skies at Ridgewood Country Club in Moultonborough. The winning foursome was Team Leighton—Brad, Nick and Brent Leighton along with Garrett Lavallee—setting a 20 under par record at Ridgewood for a scramble tournament! Many thanks to the Prime Sponsors—Mill Falls at the Lake, Overhead Door Options, and Shorline Marine Upholstery—as well as our Golf Ball Sponsor—Meredith Village Savings Bank. We are also grateful to the 28 hole sponsors for their support, and our sign sponsor—Saltmarsh Insurance Agency. Finally, a big thank you to Carl Johnson Jr. for chairing the tournament again this year!

MANY THANKS TO...

Golf Prime Sponsors:

Mill Falls
AT THE LAKE

OVERHEAD DOOR OPTIONS INC.
SALES • SERVICE
INSTALLATION
279-5700

SHORELINE MARINE

Golf Ball Sponsor:

MEREDITH
VILLAGE SAVINGS BANK

Aubuchon Fundraiser a Huge Success!

LPC Development Coordinator Lin O'Bara accepts a check from General Manager Mark Tuckerman of the Moultonborough Aubuchon Hardware store.

Thanks to the hard-working staff at the Aubuchon Hardware store in Moultonborough, and the much-appreciated generosity of the Lakes Region community, the store surpassed its fundraising goal of $5,000 in support of the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC). By reaching their goal, the Aubuchon Foundation's pledge to match up to $5,000 in donations was fulfilled. Altogether, close to $11,000 was realized from the fundraiser!

Many thanks to Mark Tuckerman, his staff, and all of our friends who donated to LPC via Aubuchon Hardware, for their efforts during this month-long fund drive. All donations will go directly to support the work of the Loon Preservation Committee.

Remember The Loon's Feather Gift Shop for a great selection of holiday gifts and cards for that loon enthusiast in your life! Or visit our on-line store at www.loon.org. Or just give us a call 603-476-LOON and we'll be glad to help you pick out that "something special!" And your purchase supports NH's LOONS!

Loon Preservation Committee
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Moultonborough, NH 03254

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Kittie Wilson Photo