



Loon Preservation Committee **NEWSLETTER**

P.O. Box 604, Lee's Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH 03254; www.loon.org

FALL 2013



Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson

The Loon Preservation Committee
183 Lee's Mill Road, P.O. Box 604
Moultonborough, NH 03254
603-476-LOON (5666); www.loon.org

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.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

New Challenges

Governor Hassan's visit to The Loon Center in August marked the end of an important chapter for loons and LPC. The Governor's signing of Senate Bill 89, to restrict the use and sale of lead sinkers and jigs weighing an ounce or less, closed a loophole in current law that allowed the continued deaths of large numbers of loons. Once implemented in June of 2016 (a necessary compromise to ensure the passage of the bill), it will address the largest source of known mortality of adult loons in New Hampshire.

Nothing about this feat was easy. It required a two-decades-long effort to finally arrive at a standard that would help protect our loon population from decline and protect individual loons from a needless and inhumane death. This law came into being because of the overwhelming care and involvement of LPC's members and volunteers, colleagues, legislators, and concerned citizens - from Dr. Mark Pokras at Tufts University to Cydonia Hubicki, a sophomore in high school. It was a diverse field of players united for a common cause, a true grass-roots effort. For loons, a species with a delayed age at first breeding and low breeding potential, ensuring that adults survive to breed is the key to maintaining a viable population - and that makes this legislation an achievement worth celebrating.

At the same time, it's a sobering thought that lead tackle was the low-hanging fruit, the most obvious and the most easily solvable of the growing challenges facing loons. Those challenges were amply demonstrated in 2013, with barely one of every two loon nests in New Hampshire producing chicks this summer. Despite LPC's new records for management and outreach, the number of loon chicks hatched throughout the state was once again below the levels needed to maintain a stable loon population.

This summer, New Hampshire's loons suffered through the 10th-wettest June and the 10th-hottest July in the past 145 years. Increasing precipitation and temperature extremes will continue to challenge our state's loons, a northern species close to the southern edge of its range. We are investigating those and many other threats to loons, including environmental contaminants; changes in water quality and food webs; increased shoreline development and human use of lakes; and new pathogens (disease-causing agents like bacteria, viruses, and fungi).

Those burdens may seem overwhelming, but loons are far from a lost cause. There are ways to help them cope with all of these stressors, and we are limited only in our collective will to help loons overcome them. The future will bring its new challenges, but we will meet them as we always have - with the steadfast support of our members and friends.



Summer 2013 Field Season Summary

LOON RECOVERY PLAN FUNDS RECORD EFFORTS

The recovery of the New Hampshire loon population inched forward in 2013, with the number of occupied territories increasing by just 1%, from 280 to 284. In spite of intensive management, we saw the fourth worst year of breeding success in 38 years of monitoring. Across the state, 63% (180) of the territorial pairs (male and female loons displaying a pair bond and defending a territory for at least four weeks) attempted nesting. Fifty-eight percent of these nesting pairs were successful, hatching a total of 157 chicks. We recorded 98 nest failures and 23 re-nests. Seventy-five percent of hatched chicks survived through mid-August, the end of routine monitoring. All of these nesting statistics were lower than average: fewer loon pairs nested, fewer nesting pairs hatched chicks, and the survival of loon chicks was reduced. These rates combined to produce an end-of-season tally of 118 chicks from the 284 territorial pairs, or 0.42 chicks surviving per pair (see Table 1, page 4).

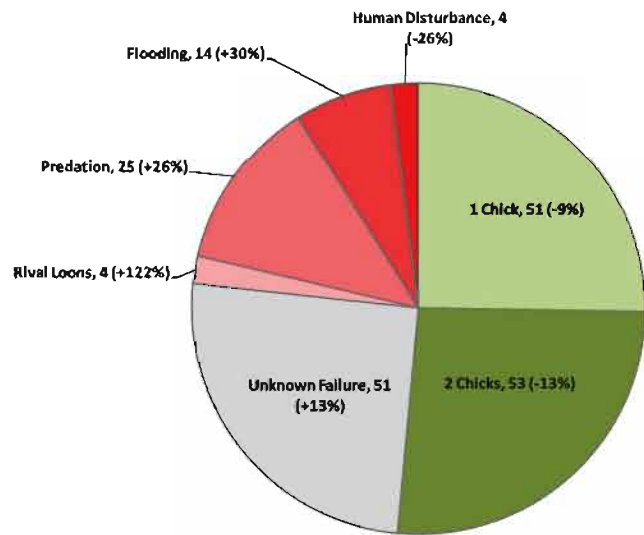
A look at the nest outcome pie chart (above) explains the troubling lack of breeding success this year. We saw a high share of flooded and predated nests, which were 30% and 26% above the long-term average, as a proportion of all nests. The summer weather continued what has become a familiar pattern in recent years: June 2013 was the tenth wettest on record, and July was the tenth warmest. Over the last decade, New Hampshire has received more rain in June than in any other decade on record, and July temperatures have been 2 - 3

°F warmer than average for the last four years. We will have to wait and see whether this summer pattern becomes the new normal as the climate changes. For now, the 2013 season showed that for the shoreline nests of loons, the current weather regime spells trouble.

MANAGEMENT

On the positive side, record levels of management played a part in mitigating the effects of a lean year. LPC volunteers, staff, and partners floated a record number of nest rafts, 92, with active nests on 35 of those rafts hatching 21% (33) of all chicks. These included two active nests on rafts floated by the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, a welcome first for that program. Around the state, signs were floated at 83 territories (including many of the raft nest sites) covering 43% (67) of the hatched chicks.

In addition to rafts and signs, we continued water level outreach to dam operators, covering 155 occupied territories. This outreach addressed territories where an additional 26 chicks hatched. Two of these chicks came from Franklin Pierce Lake in Hillsboro, where close volunteer monitoring and cooperation from Public Service of New Hampshire insured



This nest outcome pie chart shows outcomes/failure causes, with the percent change from the long-term average (1976-2013) in parentheses.

stable water levels during nesting, and we saw the first successful hatch on the lake since the beginning of formal surveys in the 1970s.

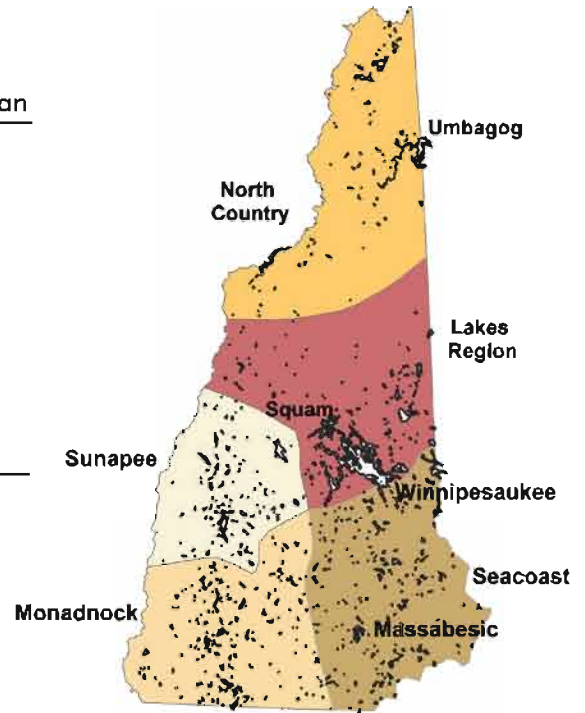
2013 marked the fifth straight season that territories with signs or rafts accounted for almost half of all chicks hatched. Overall, including water level outreach, two-thirds of all chicks hatched this year came from territories that received one or more of these three forms of management. Funding for this record level of management came from LPC's Loon Recovery Plan.

LPC staff and volunteers delivered more than 100 presentations to audiences around the state to teach people about loons and their challenges in New Hampshire. Our following on Facebook and the number of people who receive the e-newsletter continue to grow, giving us two more valuable ways to educate and encourage an appreciation for loons.

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Table 1: Results and Highlights for 2013 Common Loon Breeding Season in New Hampshire

Population and Productivity	2013	Pre-Loon Recovery Plan (2005-2009 avg.)	2013 vs. Pre-Loon Recovery Plan
Territorial Loon Pairs	284	231	+23%
Immatures	5	5	0%
Nesting Pairs	180	155	+16%
Chicks Hatched	157	138	+14%
Chicks Surviving to mid-August	118	105	+12%
Nest Failures	98	78	+26%
Chicks Surviving/Territorial Pair	0.42	0.46	-9%
Management Activity			
Rafts (including Umbagog NWR)	92	51	+63%
Signs/Ropes	83	61	+46%
Successful Rescue/Releases	3	2.4	+25%



1st Time Nesting Pairs	Ashuelot P.-Washington, Bear Brook P.-Errol, Big Island P.-Derry, Pleasant P.-Henniker, Streeter P.-Sugar Hill
1st Successful Nesting Pairs	Bear Brook P.-Errol, Big Island P.-Derry, Conner P.-Ossipee, Fish P.-Columbia, Franklin Pierce Lake-Hillsborough, Mirror Lake-Tuftonboro, Upper Moose Falls-Pittsburg, Waukegan L.-Mosquito Bridge-Meredith
1st Time Pairs	Center P.-Nelson, Pike P.-Stork, Stone P.-Marlboro, Great Hill P. - Tamworth



Photo Courtesy of Katie Wilson

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RESCUES

Since early summer, two adult loons and one chick have been rescued and released. Both adults were tangled in fishing line—one in July on Balch Pond in Wakefield and one in mid-October on Big Diamond Pond, in Stewartstown. The chick came from Ragged Island, on Lake Winnepesaukee, where it was the first successful hatch after seven years of failed nesting. It required two months of rehabilitation before it was released on the coast of Maine.

In July, Winnepesaukee field biologist Melissa Leszek witnessed a third loon rescue, but couldn't claim any of the credit. At the Weirs in Gilford to check on a loon entangled in fishing line, Melissa watched from shore with amazement as a fisherman, arriving on the scene, jumped from the deck of his boat into the water, wrapped the loon in his t-shirt, and, with the help of his boat mates, untangled and released the loon in a few short minutes. Big thanks to these anonymous heroes!

Unfortunately, seven other rescue attempts of adult loons were not successful, and the loons died or required euthanasia. These included a loon found stranded in the back woods of Pittsburg, NH, and several lead-poisoned loons. We continue to rely on and deeply appreciate the services of the veterinarians and rehabilitators who enable all rescue attempts.

MORTALITIES

To date, 18 adult loon mortalities have been collected, as well as three immature loons (1-2 year olds), and seven chicks. This makes 2013 another year when LPC volunteers and staff, and members of the public, achieved



Photo Courtesy of Brian Reilly

On census day (July 20th) at Cold Spring Pond, the banded female loon with a new chick. This loon was recovered at Long Pond in Lempster in August, after losing a battle with the resident female there.

an extremely high recovery rate for mortalities in a wildlife species. We know from studying banded loons that individual adults have an annual survival rate of 92-93% or better. Therefore, the 18 adult loons we collected represent at least 34% of the total number of mortalities we would expect to occur in the loon population throughout the year. This high rate of collected mortalities provides a robust sampling of mortality causes. While definitive necropsy findings are still pending for most cases, we have compiled preliminary information from symptoms or radiographs. Those preliminary results identified lead poisoning, conspecific trauma (other loons), monofilament entanglement, fungal infection, and trauma from a boat strike among the 2013 mortality causes. Ironically, this year we saw the same unfortunate coincidence encountered in 2011: all three immature loons were collected on Winnepesaukee.

We also witnessed the end to a productive and beautifully-chronicled nesting life for the female loon at Cold Spring Pond. Pho-

tographed each season by LPC Trustee Brian Reilly, this loon was originally banded in 1998 on Long Pond in Lempster, six miles north of her recent breeding territory. She nested successfully this year at Cold Spring Pond, but for some reason found her way back to Long Pond in August, where she wound up on the losing end of a battle with the resident female loon.

Another band recovery in August was a male loon captured and banded in July 2012 at Mink Island on Squam Lake. Blood samples taken at the time, and lethargic behavior later that season, indicated a problem. The loon was not re-sighted on the lake this year. Based on the condition of the carcass, discovered in the woods along the north shoreline of Squam, the loon may have died late last fall, without migrating.

AROUND THE STATE

Smaller Lakes and Ponds:

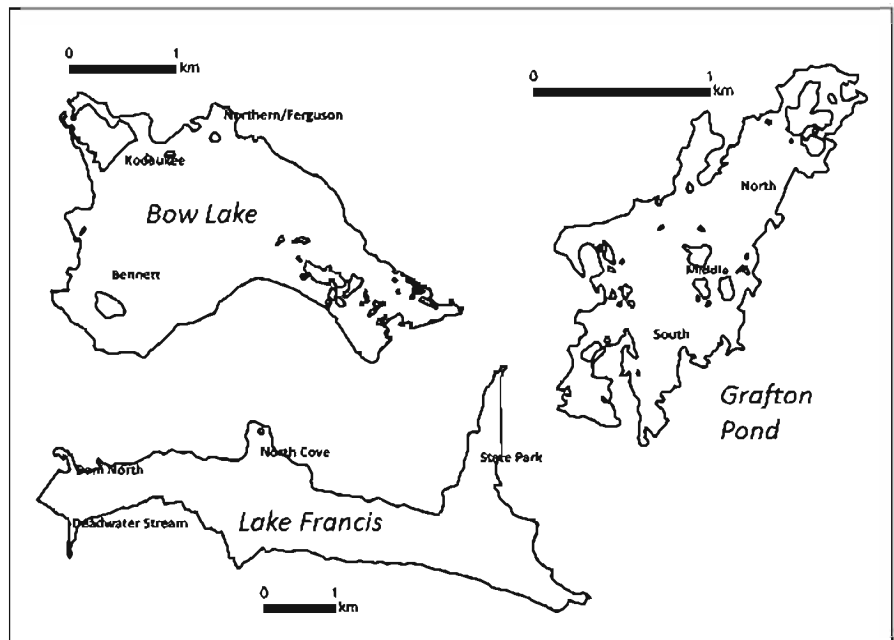
New Hampshire's loon population is sustained in large part by
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nesting success on a subset of core lakes, where established loon pairs succeed in fledging young almost every year. These smaller lakes or ponds were key once again in 2013; with chicks fledged, as usual, at places like Chocorua Lake and Cherry Pond, Long Pond in Lempster, Swains Lake in Barrington, and Sunrise Lake in Middleton. There were also first-time breeding successes at lakes from Pittsburg to Pelham, including Upper Moose Falls and Bear Brook Pond in the North Country, Conner Pond and Mirror Lake in the Lakes Region, and Little Island Pond, within a few miles of the Massachusetts border.

Mid-sized Lakes:

We also saw impressive nesting success at several of the mid-sized lakes around the state. These lakes typically support three or four pairs of loons, but are often subject to bigger water level fluctuations, more people, and more intruding loons – all threats to nesting – than smaller ponds. In spite of that, Bow Lake, Grafton Pond, and Lake Francis have all averaged five surviving chicks over the last three seasons. The loons on these lakes seem to have hit their stride – with the help of intensive management in many cases – and are producing loon chicks at a rate that ranks them with the core lakes described above. As the map shows (above), these three lakes range in size from just over 300 acres (Grafton Pond) to almost 2,000 acres (Lake Francis), but all have the varied shoreline and nesting islands preferred by loons. Bow Lake loons were successful this year in spite of the presence of nesting bald eagles on the lake. The contest between loons and eagles produced some breathtaking moments there (see picture,



Bow Lake, Grafton Pond, and Lake Francis provide the varied shoreline and nesting islands preferred by loons, and each had several successful territories in 2013 and 2012. Labeled territories hatched chicks this year. Note different scale with each waterbody.

Emails like this one, from a volunteer on Highland Lake in Stoddard, capture loon-watching at its best:

Sent June 21, 2013

Easily found nest by your excellent directions, thanks, Kathy. Adult was sitting there fine as all get out. Nest looks high above the water. We were out on the water before 6:30 a.m., watching loon, looking for other loon. In the grasslands behind the nest, a doe quietly wandered in, toward the water. Loon & doe made eye contact, and then went on looking at their own things. Doe drank water, and I assumed was eating, when this wee fawn stood up at her nose...spots and all. Doe had been in the grasslands for at least 15 minutes before fawn appeared. I simply don't know of any better way to begin a day than this. Doe, fawn and loon all in the same vicinity for the 20 minutes we stayed there. (Fergie got restless so we moved on.) Did not see other adult loon...until...I left the cove, had turned South... when appeared loon, no further than 15 feet from my boat. Preening, stretching, feet out of water, wings up and out. So close, easily saw that there were no bands. Fergus noticed loon, but he stayed still and quiet. (Good boy! This time.) Loon leisurely preened and swam into the cove. I would assume the mate. When I went into the cove I heard two different songs. I heard loon calls as I rowed away. I'll be going back in, at least on Sunday...maybe on Saturday if I get up early enough. I just may be about the most fortunate person in the entire world.

~Barb

right) but didn't prevent three separate loon territories from fledging a chick each. Breeding success was below average on some of the other lakes in this middle-size class, including Lake Wentworth, Conway Lake, and Great East Lake.

Big Lakes:

The state's three largest lakes all saw dismal loon breeding success this year. Two chicks were produced from the Squam Lakes and from Lake Umbagog and its tributaries. Both of those monitoring regions recorded a drop from 15 to 14 territorial pairs. Lake Winnepesaukee fared slightly better, but still hovered at only 60% of statewide productivity. The state's biggest lake gained a pair to support 27 occupied territories, which produced seven surviving chicks.

CENSUS

The 2013 statewide volunteer loon census on July 20th saw a better turnout and covered more lakes than in any recent year. The one-hour event involved 596 observers, up 15% from 2012, on 138 lakes, an increase of 13% from 2012. Participants counted 520 adult loons, 69 chicks hatched, and 6 immature loons. Over half of the census observations were submitted via our on-line form, an increase from last year. Volunteer census coordinators produced an organized count on 16 large lakes, insuring a more accurate count and a strong community of loon watchers on their lakes. Throughout the state, the census provides a snapshot of loon abundance and productivity that supports our broader monitoring and the season-long observations of volunteers and our field crew. The census is always held from 8-9 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday in



Photo Courtesy of Jon Winslow

A brooding adult loon fends off an eagle on Bow Lake.

July. Next year it will fall on July 19th. Please save the date!

We are pleased to recognize the work of volunteer Polly Croteau, who coordinated the Silver Lake loon census for the 33rd year in 2013! We were also saddened by the loss this year of Polly Kendall, another Silver Lake loon volunteer who was a true friend to the loons and a helpful part of the loon watching network.

FIELD VOLUNTEERS

We saw an 18% increase in the number of active field volunteers this summer, to 494. This increased involvement is exciting! Volunteers contributed thousands of hours of observation time, helped float many rafts and signs, provided boat rides to field biologists, and assisted with rescues and mortality collections. We continue to build on the strong connection between our seasonal field staff and this network. Experienced Lakes Region volunteer Dana Duxbury-Fox joined our May field staff training to orient new field biologists on how to

best take advantage of the loon watching network on their lakes.

RESEARCH

Capture Work:

LPC field biologists conducted 14 nights of capture and banding work this season to support ongoing demographic, health, and contaminant research. Fifteen adult loons were banded and five previously-banded loons were recaptured for contaminant sampling. Two adult loons were fitted with light-sensing geolocator chips, fastened to their plastic leg bands. These dime-sized devices store data on the loon's migratory route and wintering location, which can be downloaded when the chip is retrieved from the leg band in the future.

Band re-sights this year included another return and nest failure for the adult female loon banded as an adult at Sweat's Meadow on Umbagog in 1993. Loons reach adulthood at age three but usually begin breeding at six or seven years. So this Sweat's Meadow

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female, captured 20 years ago, is at least 23, and more likely at least 26 or 27 years old. This is the oldest banded loon in New England. We also re-sighted adult loons banded as juveniles (ABJs) on breeding territories far from their natal lakes. These included a female loon breeding in Massachusetts but hatched on Squam Lake, and a female loon hatched on Millen Pond in southwestern New Hampshire but breeding now some 70 miles away, on Whitton Pond in Albany (NH).

Nest Studies:

We continued to use cameras this year at failure-prone nest sites to describe incubation behaviors and identify failure causes. Two motion-sensitive cameras were rotated between three nests. Although no predation attempts occurred this year at the selected sites, our camera placements did film mammalian visitors (see image of beaver, below), pre-nesting behavior, and egg deposition that would have been overlooked in our field surveys of the territories. Thanks to the diligent efforts of our conservation intern Brandon Ross and Winnepesaukee field biologist Melissa Leszek, improved camera placements provided this higher level of detail, following

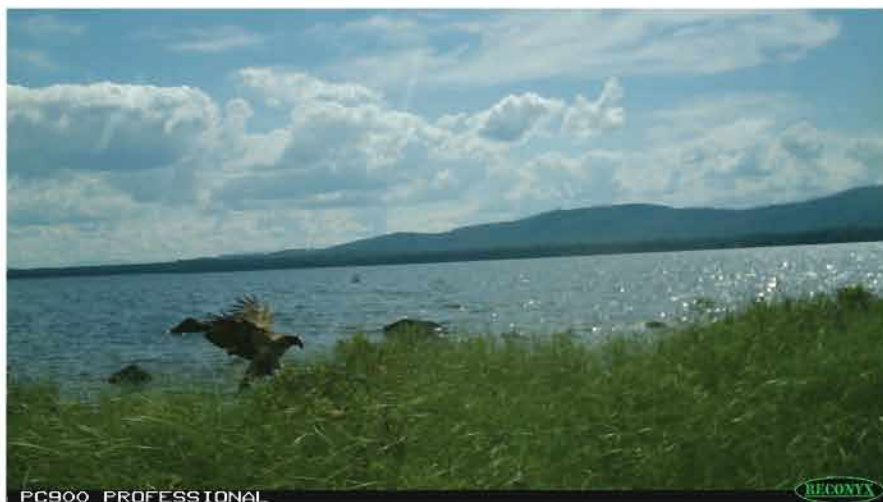


Photo Courtesy of Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge

pilot work in 2012. In a separate project, a game camera installed at Lake Umbagog by Refuge staff caught a bald eagle predating the nest at Glassby Cove (above).

Our hats are off to Mike Sharon, LPC's Umbagog field biologist in 2009-2010, who has completed a graduate project reviewing almost 600 hours of time-lapse video footage at sites on the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge. This review provided critical information on nest failure causes and disturbances, and a detailed look at nest attendance. Mike was interested in whether nest absences during incubation might explain some of the many failures seen in the last decade there. Although the data did not reveal any simple pattern, there

were some exciting finds. For example, Mike was impressed to see that most attempts, both successful and failed, included prolonged (>1 hour) absences during incubation. His project footage also included eagle predation and human encroachment behind floating signs and ropelines. Mike's study was supported by the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, and his method and findings both contribute to urgent efforts to better understand and manage for successful nesting there.

This season LPC field biologists used temperature loggers to record nest and air temperature at seven sites. The temperature data allowed us to successfully track key events, including nest initiation and hatch or failure at active nests (see graphs, right). To compare nest, air, and internal egg temperatures, we also experimented with temperature loggers in mock eggs. The mock eggs were the same size, weight, and color as real loon eggs. During the brief heat wave in mid-September, when temperatures hit the low 90s in the Lakes Region, we placed these mock eggs at uncovered and shaded nest rafts, and at a well-shaded shoreline nest site. As expected, the mock egg at the shaded shoreline site stayed cool. But the egg in the

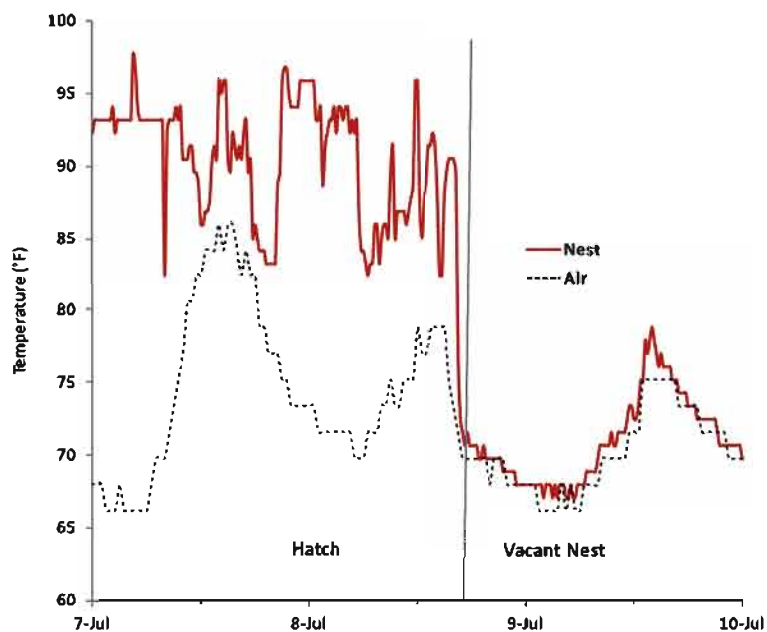


uncovered raft nest heated up to 100 °F, hitting this peak temperature over an hour sooner than the egg in the covered rafts. Heat from the sun warmed both of the raft eggs close to the upper limit of usual incubation temperatures (100-102 °F). More observation and experimenting would be needed to determine whether loon nests in New Hampshire are routinely vulnerable to overheating, and how quickly exposed loon eggs gain or lose heat. But based on this preliminary trial and the pilot data from active nests this summer, the temperature loggers are an effective way to look at these questions. And the immediate practical result of the experimenting in September? Shaded nest sites and covered rafts are probably a better place to nest. Strictly in terms of incubation temperatures, it looks like it may really help to have a loon nest “made in the shade.”

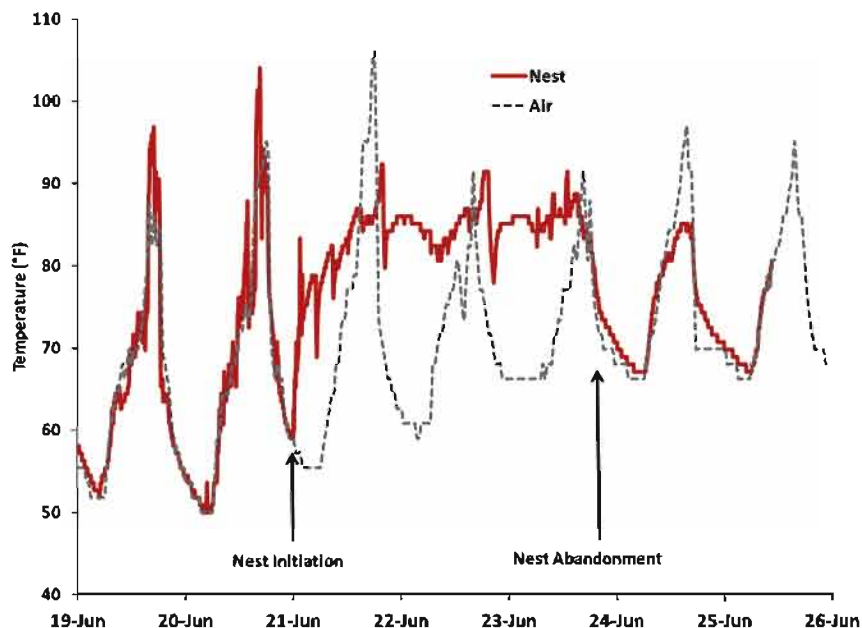
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LPC’s 2013 field season was enriched by the internships of Brandon Ross and Antioch student Nicole Cardona, who both contributed to monitoring, management, and research projects. Nicole’s field surveys extended our capacity to track active and potentially occupied territories in the Seacoast and Monadnock regions, an invaluable support. Brandon’s good-humored assistance with nest cameras made a big difference in the success of that project. His courage while piloting a square-backed canoe during a night of banding on Hatch Pond will be remembered. The canoe is undoubtedly tippy with three people aboard. But it’s safe to say that only our helmsman from Cambridgeshire could have worked the particular mira-

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Temperature loggers recorded the hatch of a Lakes Region loon nest on July 8th. Note the drop in nest temperature during the hatch day (vertical gray line), as the adult and chick left the nest.



The timing of a late-June nest attempt on Winnepesaukee is evident from the relatively steady nest temperature (solid line) after nest initiation early on June 21, compared to daily fluctuations in air temperature (dashed line). The nest failed in the late afternoon on June 23rd.

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cles that kept crew and gear afloat that night (more or less), all the while delivering such an inspiring lesson in the British vernacular. Eureka, Brandon!

This year, LPC's Loon Recovery Plan funded a full-time Sunapee field biologist for the first time. This much-needed coverage made it more feasible to accurately track the pace of loon recovery and colonization on the western side of the state, and enabled better management and outreach throughout the state. LPC's field biologists logged thousands of field surveys, covered 341 lakes and 481 active or potentially occupied loon territories on those lakes, and worked closely with hundreds of volunteers. This teamwork continued to produce great results. Thanks to the 2013 field crew for an outstanding job.

Once again, LPC's field program stayed on track this year through the many labors of Seasonal Field Program Coordinator Chris Conrod. This position is another essential component of the 2013 field program made possible by funding from the Loon Recovery Plan. Chris did double-duty at LPC this year as a loon biologist and mammal expert, giving a Thursday evening talk on river otters and a winter tracking workshop.

Collaborators and Partners:

We were able to carry out LPC's work this field season through the generous efforts of many partners and collaborators. These included: Dr. Mark Pokras and students at Tufts University Wildlife Clinic; Mike Chickering, Kate Taylor and staff at the Bio-Diversity Research Institute; Eric Hanson of Vermont Center for Ecostudies Loon Recovery Project; Phil Brown, Chris Martin, and other colleagues at NH Audubon;



Photo Courtesy of Kitle Wilson

Director James Gallagher and DES Dam Bureau staff; NH Fish and Game staff, including Kim Tuttle and Emily Preston, and conservation officers and dispatchers; Candace Morrison, Kathy Starke and Leslie Rowse at the US Forest Service/White Mountain National Forest; and NH Marine Patrol.

Veterinarians and Rehabilitators:

We benefited from the strong support of local veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators, including Drs. Jacques, Interlakes Animal Hospital; Dr. Cote, Plymouth Animal Hospital; Drs. Keenan and North, Meadow Pond Animal Hospital; Dr. Messenger, Weare Animal Hospital; and the Concord Area Veterinary Emergency Service. Wildlife rehabilitators included Kappy Sprenger; Maria Colby at Wings of Dawn; Catherine Greenleaf at St. Francis Bird

Hospital; Diane Winn and Marc Payne at Avian Haven; and Catherine Gregg and Bethani Garland at Elaine Connors Wildlife Sanctuary.

Logistical Support:

Local merchants provided major support through donations and discounts to LPC's raft and sign program, and kept our boats afloat. Special thanks to the Squam Boat Livery in Holderness and to LPC Trustee Ralph Kirshner for their maintenance work.

We received an anonymous materials donation from a Meredith resident that enabled much needed repairs at our Loon Center field housing. We appreciated the support of the Friends of Grafton Pond, Rudy's Cabins in Clarksville, and NH State Parks for hospitality.

~John H. Cooley

"The Loon Recovery Plan funded a record level of management to support loons in New Hampshire this summer. Two-thirds of loon chicks came from pairs that had benefitted in some way from LPC's management efforts. Thank you to all of those who supported the Loon Preservation Committee, and the Loon Recovery Plan, through your contributions of funds and time." ~Harry Vogel



Loon Preservation Committee ANNUAL REPORT 2013

APRIL 1, 2012 - MARCH 31, 2013

"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 want to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors, members and volunteers for your generosity over the last year. Your gifts to LPC have allowed us to continue our many projects, all of which are focused on preserving and growing the New Hampshire loon population.

Without your financial support we would not have been able to achieve the passage of this year's lead tackle legislation to protect our loons for many years to come. In addition, we worked across the state to float rafts, rescue injured and sick loons, and increase our scientific research on the many threats facing our loon population. Since 1975, when LPC was formed, we have helped the state's loon population grow by more than 200 breeding pairs.

Our work, however, is far from complete. Conservative science-based estimates show that the carrying capacity of our ponds and lakes across New Hampshire is over 600 breeding pairs of loons. This demonstrates that we have a long way to go before we reach that potential.

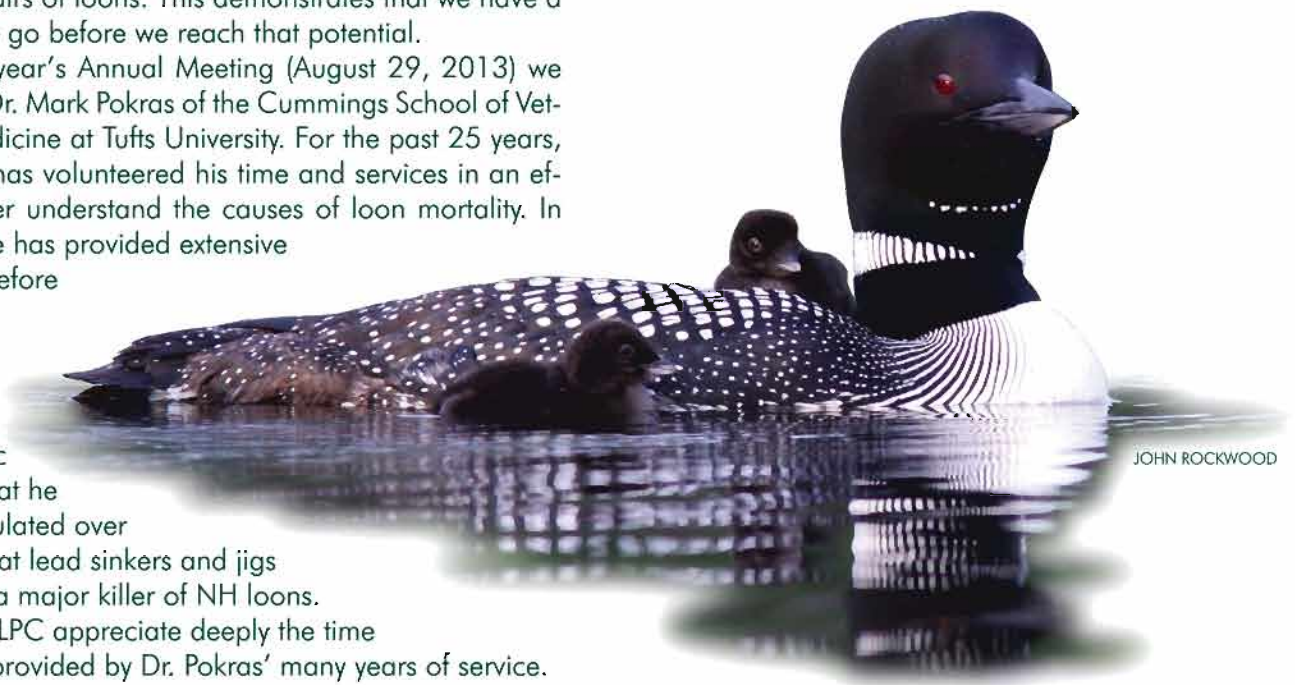
At this year's Annual Meeting (August 29, 2013) we will honor Dr. Mark Pokras of the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. For the past 25 years, Dr. Pokras has volunteered his time and services in an effort to better understand the causes of loon mortality. In addition, he has provided extensive testimony before the NH Legislature this year sharing the scientific evidence that he has accumulated over the years that lead sinkers and jigs have been a major killer of NH loons. All of us at LPC appreciate deeply the time and talent provided by Dr. Pokras' many years of service.

I would also like to thank all of you who participated in one of our many fund-raising events: Birdathon/Bloomathon, Summer Luncheon & Auction, "YAKKING for Loons" Kayak-a-thon, Loon Census, Loon Festival, The Swim (on Squam), Carl Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament, Holiday Open House and the Spring Migration Gathering.

These events, along with your generous financial support, provide the resources we need to continue our important work.

Thank you,

Bill Crangle
Board Chair



JOHN ROCKWOOD

Executive Director's Message:

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Coordinator*

John H. Cooley, Jr.,

Senior Biologist

Tiffany J. Grade

*Squam Lake Project
Biologist*

Linda Egli Johnson,

*Special Assistant/
Newsletter
Coordinator*

Nancy C. McDonald,

Center Manager

Lin L. O'Bara,

*Development
Coordinator*

Joan M. Plevich,

Database Technician

Bette Ruyffelaert

Summer Shop Assistant

The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) has monitored loon populations and productivity throughout New Hampshire since 1975 to assess threats to loons and to measure our success in recovering the state's loon population. In 2012, LPC added a 38th year of data to what was already the most comprehensive and longest-running database of loon populations and productivity anywhere in the world. Staff and volunteers floated a record 79 loon nesting rafts, and loon pairs nesting on those rafts hatched 43 chicks – one of every four chicks hatched in the state. LPC protected a record 79 nesting loon pairs with signs and ropelines, and those pairs produced close to half of the total chicks hatched in New Hampshire. LPC volunteers and staff also gave a record 138 exhibits and presentations throughout the state to teach people about loons and their needs.

The result of these intensive efforts – funded through memberships, contributions, and funds dedicated to LPC's Loon Recovery Plan – is that New Hampshire's loons met the breeding success rate required to maintain their population in 2012. However, LPC also recovered a total of 18 dead adult loons, at least 8 of which were lost as a direct result of human activities. Five of these recovered loons were lost to ingested lead fishing tackle, making lead tackle once again the largest documented cause of death of adult loons in New Hampshire.

One of the strategies defined in the Loon Recovery Plan is to increase the awareness of decision-makers of the challenges facing loons to encourage informed discussion and actions that will protect loons and other wildlife. The continuing loon deaths from lead poisoning led directly to our renewed efforts to pass legislation increasing the protection of loons from lead fishing tackle. LPC and its partners won a major victory for loons with the passage of lead tackle legislation (Senate Bill 89) in June of 2013. Continuing educational efforts will be needed both before and after this legislation takes effect in 2016 to protect loons from lead and from the other challenges they are facing.

It has taken concerted efforts on many fronts to bring New Hampshire's loons back to the levels they are at today; but the job is only half done, and the issues facing loons continue to grow in number and in scope. Our volunteers, members and other funders have been the driving force behind the resurgence of loons despite the many challenges they are facing. With your continued support, I am confident that we can continue and expand our work to assure a bright future for loons in New Hampshire.



JOHN ROCKWOOD

Sincerely,

Harry Vogel
Senior Biologist/
Executive Director

“LPC and its partners won a major victory for loons with the passage of lead tackle legislation (Senate Bill 89) in June of 2013.”

Fiscal Year 2013 Financial Summary:

Loon Preservation Committee

Summary of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
For the year ending March 31, 2013

Revenues:

Contributions, grants and events	\$496,260	85%
Store sales, net of cost of goods	\$53,134	9%
Endowment and dividends	\$24,234	4%
Other	\$8,981	2%

Total Revenues **\$582,609** **100%**

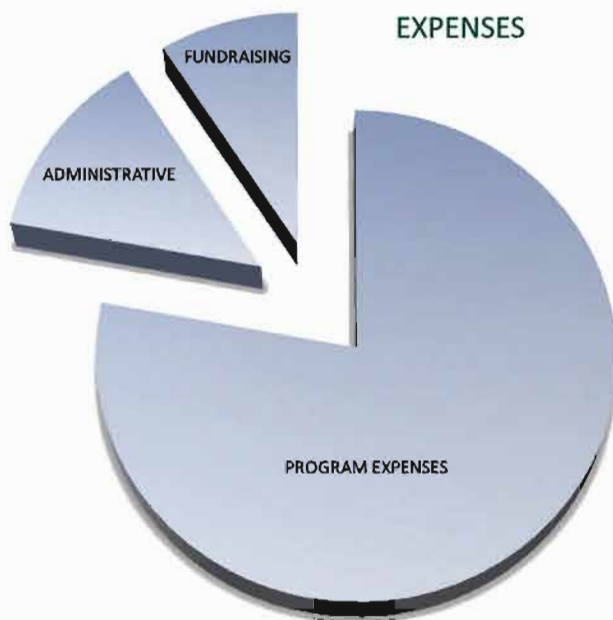
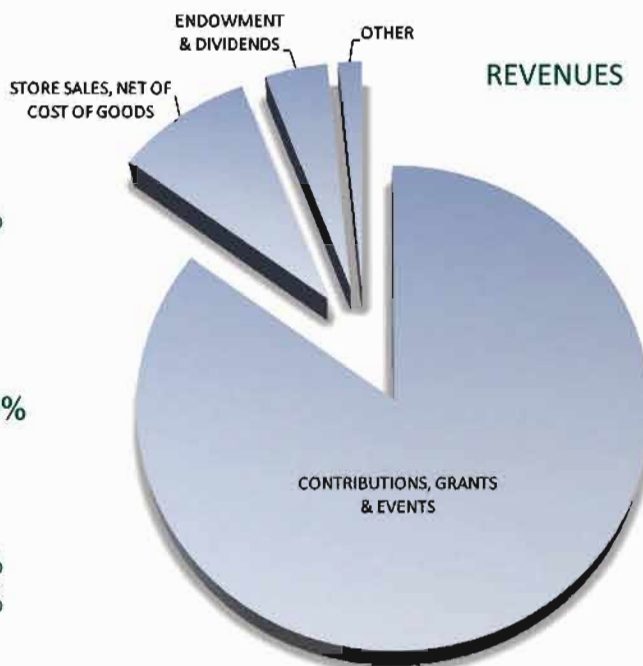
Expenses:

Program expenses	\$412,922	78%
Administrative	\$68,774	13%
Fundraising	\$48,030	9%

Total Expenses **\$529,726** **100%**

Increase in Net Assets: **\$52,883**

LPC's financial records are audited by J. Harding & Company, PLLC, Certified Public Accountants of Plymouth, NH. Copies of the IRS 990 tax return are available at The Loon Center upon request.



KITTE WILSON

"Staff and volunteers floated a record 79 loon nesting rafts, and loon pairs nesting on those rafts hatched 43 chicks - one of every four chicks hatched in the state."

Thank you to our donors: April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013 (\$250 and above)

\$10,000 and above

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The Beach Foundation
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Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Anderson
Peg Beal
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Mr. Daniel Palmier
Ms. Ann Percival
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Perkins
Pine River Pond Association
Bob and Tricia Pinkard
Pleasant Lake Protective Assoc.
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The Board of Trustees and staff of the Loon Preservation Committee thank all our supporters for their passion and commitment to our mission. Every dollar and donation of goods and/or services make a difference in our work to preserve loons and their habitats in New Hampshire. We regret that space limits this listing to monetary donations of \$250 or more.



In wilderness lies the preservation of the world.

~Henry David Thoreau

Squam Lake Loon Initiative: Reasons for Hope and Concern

The summer brought a mixture of hope and concern for Squam Lake's loons, while raising even more questions about the dynamics of the loon population on Squam and other lakes. Squam's poor reproductive success this year – only two chicks hatched and one survived – tied Squam's worst years on record for chicks hatched (1977) and chicks surviving (1978 and 2007). These dates are significant in that 1978 was the year LPC successfully petitioned the state legislature to have loons listed as a threatened species in New Hampshire, and 2007 was during the period of acute decline in the loon population on Squam Lake (2005-2007). In the decade prior to this decline, Squam's loons averaged 10.1 chicks hatched and 6.6 chicks surviving each year (Figure 1).

Although the results for this year cannot yet be fully explained, events on the lake shed light on what happened. Three of Squam's older banded females were driven out of their territories early in the summer, prior to nesting. Due to the disruption caused by these intrusions, the new pairs in these territories did not nest. Overall, frequent and intense battles occurred between loons on Squam this year. LPC is studying the hypothesis that high levels of mortality in recent years, primarily resulting from ingestion of lead fishing tackle in many Squam adults and possibly from high levels of organic contaminants in other adult loons, has removed older loons from the population that are well-established in their territories. The loss of these established loons has disrupted the social structure on the lake, leading to frequent battles among the new loons immigrating to the lake,

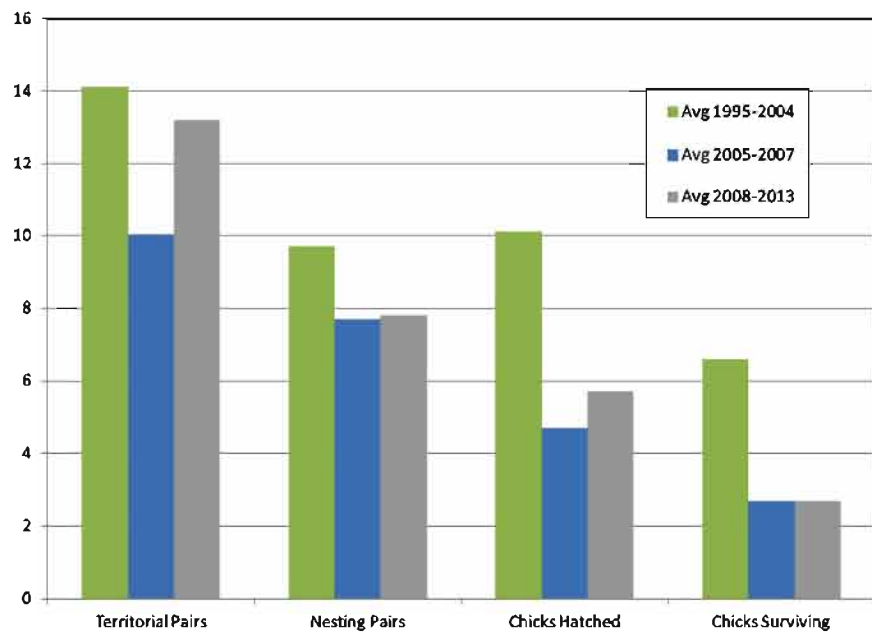


Figure 1: Loon populations and breeding success on Squam Lake before, during and after the 2005-2007 period of decline.

territorial intrusions, and disrupted productivity. Keeping the resident adults alive is critical to overcoming this social "chaos." New Hampshire's new legislation restricting the use of lead fishing tackle and the accompanying outreach to lake users about the use of non-lead tackle will be crucial to restoring adult survival and stability on Squam and other lakes throughout New Hampshire.

The presence of loons new to Squam has an impact not just on territory occupancy and nesting but on the hatchability and survivorship of chicks as well. These "new" loons may be younger birds and have had fewer years on Squam to bioaccumulate contaminants in the Squam system. Hypothetically, their eggs should contain lower levels of contaminants than older loons that have been on the lake for years, which would theoretically result in better hatchability of eggs (assuming

no predation or other disturbance of the nest) and the ability of chicks to survive. Testing of unhatched or abandoned loon eggs since 2008 has in fact shown lower levels of contaminants in Squam eggs than in the 2005-2007 period of acute decline. Since 2008, the highest contaminant levels have been in eggs laid by known older females. A critical question needing further research is whether the lower contaminant levels in Squam loon eggs is a result of lower contaminant inputs into Squam or whether it is a function of the presence of loons new to Squam. LPC will be investigating these and other questions over the winter months.

Squam Lake is demonstrating just how complex and intertwined a loon's place in a lake ecosystem is. Contaminants in the watershed, recreational and fishing activity, availability of various food resources, precipitation and

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temperature, the age structure of a local population, the social dynamics of that population...all of these things impact the productivity of each pair of loons and can have effects over many years. The Squam Lake Loon Initiative is investigating and working to unravel these complexities and the dynamics of these loon/lake systems. While this research is occurring on Squam, what we learn from this lake will be applied to LPC's efforts to preserve and protect loons throughout New Hampshire. LPC's intensive research, monitoring, management, and outreach on Squam will help us restore a healthy population of loons not just to Squam Lake but throughout the state.

~Tiffany Grade



WISH LIST

Cordless Drill
Digital Calipers
Digital Camera
Dissecting Microscope
(used good condition)
Kayak paddle
Lawn mower

Spotlight on a Lake: Diamond Pond, Stewartstown

Columbus Day weekend brought some very happy news from Diamond Pond in Stewartstown, when volunteers, led by LPC Senior Biologist John Cooley, rescued the female of the resident pair from fishing line entanglement. Fortunately, blood tests revealed that she had not ingested lead fishing tackle; but, had it not been for the care and concern of the volunteers of Diamond Pond in contacting LPC, things might have turned out very differently for this loon.

This particular female and her mate were banded on the pond in 2006. Since that time, this pair has nested five times, producing two chicks – a higher nesting rate than the long-term average for Diamond Pond, although their rate of chick survival is considerably lower than long-term averages. That fairly consistent nesting record in recent years for this pond may have been disrupted had this female not survived the entanglement. LPC's data have shown that, in the three years subsequent to the death of a known pair member, the average rate that a territory is occupied by a pair of loons declines by over 8%. The rate at which that territory produces a chick declines by 46%. Loons are slow dispersers, and it may take a couple of years before a new loon moves in and pairs up with the remaining resident loon. Once the new pair is formed, it often takes several more years for the pair to become as proficient at fledging chicks as an established pair. As a result, the death of a paired loon can have long-term effects on the productivity of a particular territory.

Fortunately, this female has the opportunity to migrate to the

ocean and, if all goes well, return to pair with her same mate and nest again. Everyone can help protect loons and ensure the call of the loon is heard across New Hampshire lakes in the future by taking a few simple steps while fishing:

- Please use non-lead fishing tackle. Non-lead alternatives made of steel, bismuth/tin, tungsten, and other materials that are safe for wildlife are effective and available. Please see LPC's website for a list of retailers of non-lead tackle (<http://www.loon.org/loon-links.php>).
- Reel in your line around loons and wait for loons to leave the area before resuming fishing. This will help protect loons from becoming tangled in fishing line.
- Please do not discard fishing line in lakes.
- Educate others about the dangers of lead fishing tackle and how they can help protect loons while fishing.

~Tiffany Grade



Photo Courtesy of John Rockwood

LPC Honors Dr. Mark Pokras at Annual Meeting

The Loon Preservation Committee held its seventh Annual Meeting at The Loon Center on Thursday, August 29th, as required by the By-laws that accompanied LPC's incorporation as an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 2006.

The meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. with an outstanding presentation of loon pictures and videos by LPC volunteer and member John Rockwood. Senior Biologist/Executive Director Harry Vogel followed John to report on LPC's monitoring, research, management and educational programs in 2013 and to highlight trends in New Hampshire's loon population (please see a full report on pages 3 to 10 of this LPC Newsletter).

The outgoing Chair of the Loon Preservation Committee Board, Bill Crangle, presented new nominees for three-year terms as LPC Trustees. LPC members voted in favor of the slate of trustees presented (please see inside cover of this newsletter for a complete list of LPC Trustees, officers, and staff). Bill also reported that LPC completed the fiscal year ended March 31st, 2013, in the black with a clean audit. Interested LPC members or the public may contact us for copies of LPC's audited FY13 Financial Statements.

Mark Pokras Honored with 2013 "Spirit of The Loon" Award

A highlight of LPC's Annual Meeting was the presentation of the fifth 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.



Photo Courtesy of Kitti Wilson

Loons and LPC benefit from the efforts of hundreds of volunteers from throughout the state and beyond every year, and choosing one to honor is always a difficult task. This year it seemed very appropriate, given our work to protect loons from lead fishing tackle, to honor Dr. Mark Pokras, a veterinary pathologist at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, whose efforts over close to 30 years made New Hampshire's new law restricting the sale and use of lead tackle possible.

LPC began sending deceased loons to Dr. Pokras in the mid-1980s, and it was his work to discover the causes of loon mortality that revealed the extent of lead poisoning in loons resulting from ingested lead sinkers and jigs. All of Dr. Pokras' work has been done at no charge to the Loon Preservation Committee – amidst his teaching and funded projects, he has donated his time and expertise to necropsy loons and test them for contaminants and patho-

gens while training veterinary students in wildlife pathology.

In addition to his research on loon health and mortality, Dr. Pokras has been strongly committed to fostering multidisciplinary collaborative efforts. He was one of the founders of the Northeast Loon Study Working Group (NELSWG), a collaboration of not-for-profit, industry and government researchers from throughout New England and eastern Canada created to assess challenges facing loons and identify research needs. LPC and all of us who love wildlife owe Dr. Pokras and his students a debt of gratitude for their tireless work on behalf of loons and other wildlife in New England.

Following the presentation of the Spirit of The Loon Award, Dr. Pokras and LPC's Legislative Coordinator, Sheridan Brown, were recognized for their respective scientific and policy efforts to protect loons from ingested lead

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 tackle. It took both Mark's long years of work gathering data, and Sheridan's intensive efforts to bring the results of that work to our legislators, to ensure the passage of Senate Bill 89 to protect loons from lead sinkers and jigs. As tokens of LPC's appreciation for their efforts, both were presented with stunning photos, taken by past "Spirit of The Loon" Award recipient Kittie Wilson, of the loons of Pleasant Lake.

~Harry Vogel



Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson



LPC recognizes Dr. Mark Pokras, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, and Sheridan Brown, LPC's Legislative Coordinator, for their tireless efforts to protect loons from ingested lead tackle. Pictured: Tiffany Grade, Dr. Mark Pokras, Sheridan Brown and Harry Vogel.

Senate Bill 89: A Triumph for New Hampshire's Loons



Photo Courtesy of Debra Brown

Governor Maggie Hassan visited The Loon Center on August 27th to celebrate the legislature's work to protect loons from lead sinkers and jigs by ceremonially signing SB89. The Rawson L. Wood meeting room was filled to capacity as supporters gathered to witness this monumental accomplishment for loon preservation in New Hampshire.

LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Greetings and Thanks!

We would like to welcome our new Center Manager, Kellee Duckworth! Kellee has a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Master's degree in Environmental Studies. She also has a background in office management and computer skills. She has hit the ground running, already taking over most of the Center Manager responsibilities. Again, welcome Kellee!

We also want to thank our many dedicated volunteers who helped keep the Center running smoothly during our search for a new Center Manager over the summer. Thank you to our students: Cydonia Hubicki, Molly

Kolb, Amanda Poniatowski and Hillary Taillefer (who also took on the Shop Assistant job for a few weeks before she had to return to school). Also thank you to our veteran volunteers: Anne McLean, Marilyn Coppo, Sheila Robusto and Winnie McCullough for their continuing help through the fall. And a final thank you to Caitlyn Dowell, who took over many of the Center Manager responsibilities before being offered a teaching job in Florida, which she couldn't refuse and is enjoying. We hope to see our faithful volunteers back next summer!



LPC welcomes Kellee Duckworth, Center Manager.

~Bette Ruuffelaert

Happy Trails, Nancy!

After three stellar years as Center Manager, Nancy McDonald has moved on to new adventures. Her eye for detail and exceptional management and buying skills transformed the Loon Center and Loon's Feather Gift Shop during her tenure. Her unwavering commitment to loon preservation was always her motivation and she worked tirelessly for the cause.

Nancy has embarked on a cross-country road trip and we are delighted to follow her progress along the way. Although we will miss her, we know that she can't stay away from New Hampshire and her beloved loons forever. In the meanwhile, we wish her good health and happiness on the "roads" ahead!

~Linda Egli Johnson



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Medium (Shoe Sizes 6 - 8 1/2)
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Summer-long Fun Supports New Hampshire's Loons!

ANNUAL SUMMER LUNCHEON & AUCTION

A quintessential summer day welcomed guests to the "Annual Summer Luncheon & Auction" on June 30 at Church Landing in Meredith, NH. Attendees enjoyed cocktails and nibbles as they surveyed the impressive collection of silent auction items before sitting down to a buffet luncheon. LPC Board Chair, Bill Crangle, welcomed guests while Executive Director, Harry Vogel, spoke about LPC's efforts in support of loons, including the legislation that had just been passed to protect New Hampshire's loons from lead sinkers and jigs. The gathering concluded with a live auction conducted by auctioneer Jaime Laurent. The event was well attended and a great financial success for New Hampshire's loons!

Many thanks to our Summer Luncheon Committee: Liz Gabel (Chair), Renee Speltz, Terry Wetzler-Finn and Lin O'Bara; to volunteer Debbie Poitras; and to Jaime Laurent for her professional auctioneer services. In addition, we are most grateful to the individuals and businesses who donated to the silent and live auctions: Mr. & Mrs. Norman Ahn, Andrew's Auto Body & Boat, Peg Beal, Bella Beads, Ms. Nancy Bernard, Mr. & Mrs. Austin Broadhurst, Butternuts, Cape Shore Down East Concepts, Corner House Inn, The Country Carriage, Barbara Delinsky, Dion's Plant Place, E.M. Heath, Inc., Fashion Forward, Fratello's, Ms. Bette Frazier, Funspot, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant, Holland Hill Studio, Inn on Main, Joal Tree Farm, Keepsake Quilting, Laconia

Country Club, Lakes Region Computer, Lavinia's Relaxed Dining, Lemon Grass Restaurant, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Levettin, Lydia's Café, Magic Foods Group, Mame's, Mr. & Mrs. David J. McCullough, Meadow Pond Animal Hospital, Mill Falls at the Lake, Mill Street Meat Market, Tom & Joan Morrissey, Nature for All To See, Karin Nelson, New Hampshire Music Festival, Mr. Fred Nold, Oglethorpe Fine Arts & Crafts, Old Manse Inn, Park Place Salon, The Restaurant, Mrs. Mary Rice, So Little Thyme, Mr. Peter Sorlien, Ms. Karen Swensrud & Ms. Marty Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Taussig, Village Kitchen, Walter's Basin, Waukegan Golf Club Inc., Dr. Steven A. Finn & Ms. Terry Wetzler-Finn, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Wilson, Dr. & Mrs. John Wilson, Winnepesaukee Playhouse, Winnepesaukee Chocolates, Wolfboro Inn, and The Woodshed Restaurant.

"YAKKERS" RAISE FUNDS FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE'S LOONS

The lake was awash with color as 50 eager paddlers turned out at Lee's Mill Landing for LPC's second annual "Yacking for Loons" kayak-a-thon. Paddlers were treated with a perfect morning to traverse the 2.5 mile "Ganzzy" course or the 4.6 mile "Green's Basin" course. LPC's Field Program Coordinator, Chris Conrod, and Winnepesaukee Biologist, Melissa Leszek, served as guides.



Photo Courtesy of Harry Vogel

Yacking Co-Chairs Linda Allen and Joanne Chesley (doing her foot waggle).

A delicious boxed lunch prepared by Curt's Caterers of Gilford was the perfect ending to a rigorous and fun paddle, with Curt Chesley and staff on hand to serve. Prizes were awarded to Megan Chesley, Joanne Chesley and Bonnie Ireland as the top three fundraisers, while Marion Smith was awarded a prize for traveling the longest distance to participate. Prizes were generously donated by LPC members John and Kittie Wilson of Pleasant Lake.

Prime Sponsors for the event were Curt's Caterers and Irving Oil. Linda Allen and Joanne Chesley spearheaded and co-chaired the event, arranging the volunteer spotters (John Allen, Ralph Rannacher, Beverly Leonard, Elaine Chesley, and Warren Reynolds) and soliciting "yackers" and contributions. Wild Meadow Canoe and Kayak of

Center Harbor helped out by providing rentals on site at a discounted rate.

LPC is most grateful to Curt's Caterers and Irving Oil, as well as the volunteers, participants and their sponsors for being part of this fundraiser to benefit New Hampshire's loons.

ANNUAL LOON FESTIVAL

This year's Loon Festival was another success story. The day dawned clear on July 20 as an estimated 300 people came out to The Loon Center to enjoy a host of summer activities designed to celebrate New Hampshire's loons.

The Loon's Feather Gift Shop was bustling with customers thanks to the wide array of loon- and nature-themed wares (and perhaps the A/C!). Kerry Yurewicz from Plymouth State University (PSU) was on hand to discuss the use of crayfish to identify contaminants in the loon's food chain. The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (SLNSC) featured pelts, turtle shells and other enticing specimens at their ever popular Discovery Table, while New Hampshire Fish & Game (NHF&G) provided informative flyers on native wildlife.

Around back the hot July day made the "Dunk the Biologist" dunk tank an especially popular attraction. A steady stream of youngsters lined up for a balloon creation by Mo or to have their face painted by Caitlyn Dowell. The craft tent was overflowing with budding artists eager to make a loon friendship bracelet, necklace, or sparkling critter. Storyteller Paul Tierney wove tales from an enchanting screened tent on the Markus Sanctuary. Music by The Odd Men Out Celtic Band added to the overall enjoyment of the day!

It wouldn't be the Loon Fest-



Photo Courtesy of Dale Lory

Carl Johnson, Jim Matthews, Richard Gerkin, Donna Ulbricht, Tom Fairbrother, Jim Wiedman, Ron Maher (kneeling). Not pictured: Mike Pelczar and Betsey Donovan. (Too busy scooping ice cream!)

tival without the stalwart Rotary Club of Meredith and their wonderful BBQ lunch! Guests were especially grateful to beat the heat with ice cream donated by Ben & Jerry's of Meredith (NH).

It takes a village to host the Festival and we have many volunteers to thank for making it possible: Marilyn Coppo, Nancy and Tom Gill, Cydonia Hubicki, Winni and Dave McCullough, Anne McLean, Sheila Robusto, Mike Ruyffelaert, Amanda Poniatowski, Sue and John Scudder, Marlene Taussig, Marian Powers, and Laurie Whitley. In addition we'd like to thank Kerry Yurewicz (PSU); Carol Foley, Diane Moulis, Pat James (SLNCS); Alison Keating (NHF&G); Mo; Caitlyn Dowell; Paul Tierney; Odd Men Out (Celtic Band); and the Meredith Rotary Club.

CARL JOHNSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2013

Sunny skies welcomed golfers to the Carl Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament on August 19 at Ridgewood Country Club in

Moultonborough. Participants enjoyed the expansive 18-hole course with mountain views. There were 42 players in all, with prizes awarded to the top three teams. First place went to the team of Bob and Ed Ambrose, and Ann and Ron Brienza. Chip Broadhurst, Tom Beach, Tom Crane and Peter Walkley took second place. Third place was awarded to Bob V. Kennelly and Bob J. Kennelly along with Bob Shirey. An exclusive raffle sent many players home with additional prizes, including a Cleveland Classic Putter and exquisite framed loon photography.

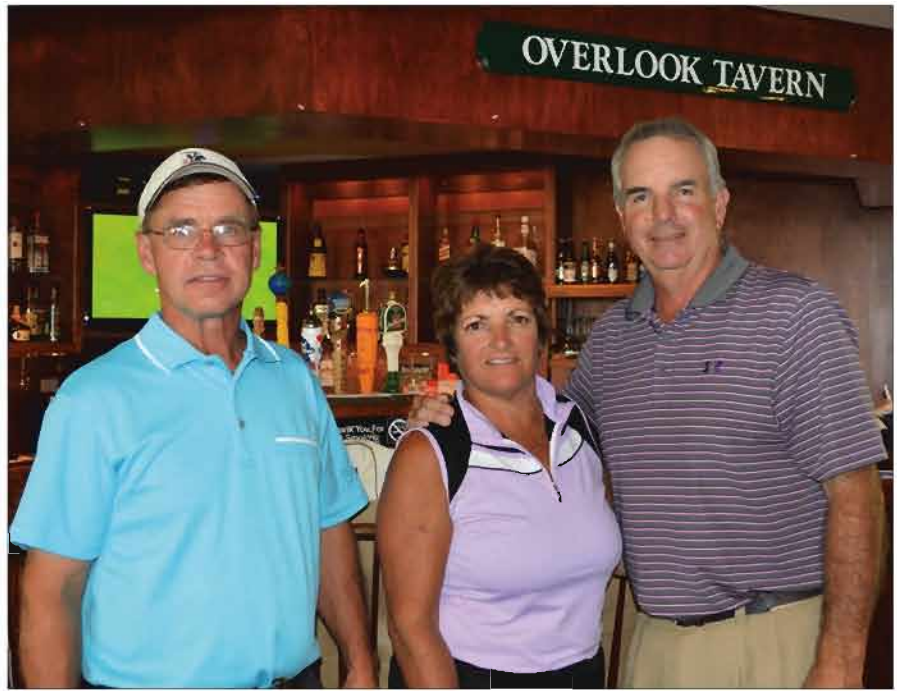
The Loon Preservation Committee extends its sincere thanks to the Tournament Prime Sponsors: **Advanced Land Surveying Consultants, Mill Falls at the Lake, and Overhead Door Options.** In addition, we'd like to thank our hole sponsors: Ambrose Bros. Inc., Belknap Landscape Company, Inc., Brian's Truck & Equipment Repair, Cross Insurance, DAK Financial Group, Greg Egli in Memory of Jeanette & Carl

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Johnson, Golden View Health Care Center, Ippolito's Furniture, Irwin Automotive Group, Lakes Region Realty Group, Sandy McGinnes, Meadow Pond Animal Hospital, Meredith Village Savings Bank, Mug by the Bay Restaurant, New Hampshire Environmental Consultants, Northeast Delta Dental, RE/MAX Bayside Realty, and Savings Bank of Walpole; and our sign sponsor, Saltmarsh Insurance Agency. Although no one succeeded in taking home the grand prize, we are grateful to Kevin Keenan of Paugus Bay Marina for the hole-in-one boat and trailer.

Lastly, we wish to thank Winnie and Dave McCullough and Kittie and John Wilson for their generous donation of raffle prizes; Moulton Farm for the lovely flowers; and Don Trudeau and Tim Johnson for their invaluable volunteer assistance.



First place golf went to the team of Ed Ambrose, Ann and Ron Brienza, and Bob Ambrose (not pictured).

If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.

~Bob Hope

**Thank You
Festival Sponsors!**

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- Jordan and Phyllis Prouty



In memory of Chuck Brox
~Vicky Brox

In memory of Barbara Ridgely
~Beverly, Robert & Peg Ridgely

In memory of Kenneth E. Sorlien
~The Sorlien Family

Carl Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament

Thank you Prime Sponsors!



*The Loon Preservation Committee extends its sincere gratitude to the
Tournament Prime Sponsors:*



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Another Banner Year for The Swim!

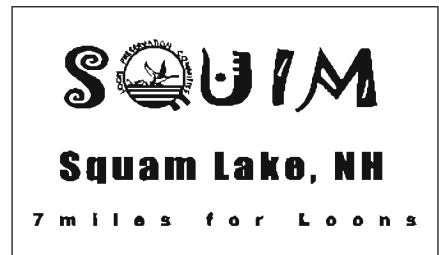
This summer was the seventh year that Wendy Van de Poll and her team swam the seven-mile length of Squam Lake to benefit Squam's loons. This year's Swim team included Wendy, Lisa Davy, Rose de Mars, John Eisner, Jen Marts, Mark Longley, Rick Van de Poll, and Carol Zink. We thank Rockywold-Deephaven Camps for donating their pontoon boat (captained by LPC Trustee Ralph Kirshner) and spotters Gloria Hoag, Elspeth Hotchkiss, Lauren Longley and Jeff Marts for helping to ensure a safe trip across the lake. We also thank local businesses for donating food for the post-Swim celebration at the Sandwich Beach, including the Corner House Inn, Golden Pond Country Store, Heath's Supermarket, Moulton Farm, and Squam Lake Inn and Marketplace.

The tremendous efforts of The Swimmers have allowed the Loon Preservation Committee to dramatically increase its monitoring, research, management, and outreach to help loons on Squam.

This year, among other efforts, LPC biologists collected and tested failed loon eggs and crayfish (loon food) to better understand the challenges facing Squam's loons; floated eight loon nesting rafts; protected ten loon nests with signs and ropelines; floated signs to slow down boat traffic in territories with young loons; and gave 44 presentations on and around Squam to teach people about loons and their needs.

Thanks to Wendy and the 2013 Swim team for their outstanding effort and stamina on behalf of the Squam Lake loons!

~Harry Vogel



CAPS FOR SALE!

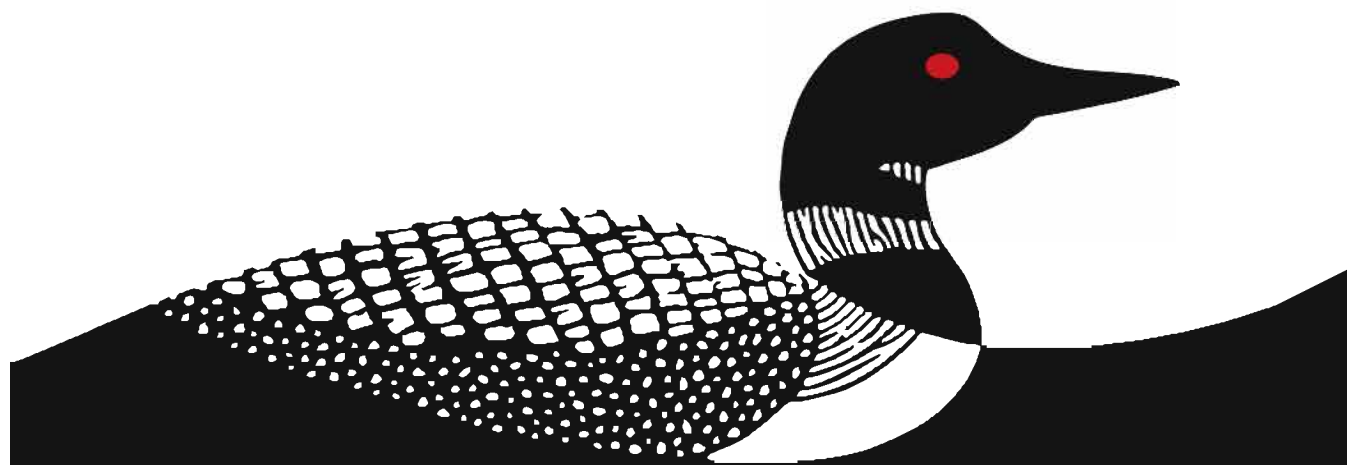
Support the Squam Lake Loon Initiative (SLLI) by purchasing an exclusive "SQUIM" swim cap! Caps are \$20 and come in neon yellow and orange. The "SQUIM" logo (above) sports one side of the cap with LPC's logo on the flip side.

Call LPC at 603-476-5666 to order your "SQUIM" cap in time for the holidays!



Back row: Wendy Van de Poll, Rose de Mars, Ralph Kirshner. Front row: Lauren Longley, Mark Longley, Tiffany Grade, Gloria Hoag, Carol Zink, Rick Van de Poll, Lisa Davy, John Eisner, and Jen and Jeff Marts.

Loon Preservation Committee
P.O. Box 604
183 Lee's Mill Road
Moultonborough, NH 03254



The Loon's Feather Gift Shop
Selling "all things loon" and more...
...for the holidays!

Winter Hours (December - April): Thursday-Saturday, 9-5; or shop online at www.loon.org