# *Loon Preservation Committee NEWSLETTER*

*P.O. Box 604, 183 Lee's Mills Road, Moultonborough, NH 03254  603-476-LOON (5666)*

SPRING 2007

LPC Executive Director Harry Vogel carries one of seventeen dead loons found stranded on Winnipesaukee (story page 3). Photo courtesy of Jane Rice.

***The Loon Preservation Committee***
183 Lee's Mills 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 constituent organization of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH). Autonomous in membership and fundraising, LPC works to preserve loons and their habitats in New Hampshire through research, management and education.*



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

# *Loons and Climate Change, Part Two?*

The weekend of February 17th – 18th was a sad and busy one for Loon Preservation Committee staff and volunteers. For those of you who have not read or heard of the loss of 17 adult loons on the ice on Winnipesaukee, LPC Biologist John Cooley has provided a thorough account of the incident on page 3 of this newsletter.

Necropsies of these loons might reveal some contaminant or pathogen that kept them on the lake well into winter instead of migrating to their ocean wintering grounds. However, I am willing to bet that the cause of this event was more behavioral than pathological. The loons that met their end on Winnipesaukee may have been fooled into staying on the lake by record warm temperatures in December and January. By the time the lake finally iced over, the loons were in the midst of their feather molt which left them unable to fly to open water.

I wrote about the possible effects of climate change on our loons in my Director's Message of just a year ago, and I didn't think I would be revisiting that topic so soon. However, the loss of these 17 loons has prompted me to re-address this most important of topics in our time.

Records of ice cover on Winnipesaukee reveal an increasing delay in ice-in dates in recent years – one of a thousand threads of independent data that together paint a disturbing picture of the changes happening to our world. In the past year, LPC worked to quantify the effects of an increased number of severe weather events – another predicted consequence of climate change – on loon nesting success. As sobering as those initial projections were, we hadn't even considered the effects of a delayed ice-in that would kill flightless molting loons. As John points out in his article, even periodic die-offs of this magnitude could have dire consequences for loons in New Hampshire.

If there is a bright point to this sad story, it's that the combined efforts of a large number of volunteers and staff succeeded in saving at least a few of these unfortunate birds. We will be on the lookout for stranded loons next winter as our increasingly unpredictable weather might once again put our loons at risk.

When natural rhythms as ancient and basic as the migration of loons begin to fail, it's time to start paying attention to the changes happening in our world. These changes will continue to tax our ability to protect loons and other wildlife. They are symptoms of a callous disregard for our mother Earth. We should understand that her fate will be our fate; we are on a common journey. I remain hopeful that those thousand threads of evidence may yet move us to action.

Harry

# *A Sad Day of Reckoning on Lake Winnipesaukee*

"LOONS FOUND STRANDED ON FROZEN LAKE WERE MOLTING, HAD LOST FLIGHT FEATHERS"

By now, many readers have heard the bad news from Lake Winnipesaukee: in mid-February, 22 loons were found stranded on the ice in the "Broads" (the widest part of the lake) with only five surviving. We quote from the article by Roger Amsden that accompanied the March 1 Weirs-Times headline above:

*Judy Ellis of Gilford and her husband were snowmobiling on the lake across the Broads last Saturday when they spotted the birds on the ice…"We met up with Fish and Game Conservation Officer Mike Eastman on the trail and he went out to investigate," said Ellis.*

*Eastman found four loons, captured them and took them to Marine Patrol headquarters at the Glendale Docks to keep them warm and contacted the Loon Preservation Committee. [LPC Director] Harry Vogel and Danielle Paquette went to Glendale and transported the four loons in the back of Paquette's minivan to Portsmouth.*

*"They appeared to be healthy and swam off as soon as we put them in the water," said Vogel.*

*But worse was yet to come. Ellis and her husband returned to the same area the following day, searching for more birds, and ended up finding 17 more birds, only one of which was alive.*

*They captured the loon and covered it with a blanket as they returned to shore, stopping at Martel's Bait Shop where a scoop of smelts was fed to the loon, who hungrily wolfed them down. The couple then took the loon to Maria Colby, a local wildlife rehabilitator, with the loon making its plaintive, unusual call as they handed it over to her.*

*"I knew it was going to be all right then. It's like the loon was thanking us," said Ellis. Colby later took the bird to the seacoast, releasing it in the same area as the other loons.*

*[Ellis] and her husband then returned to the lake with members of the Loon Preservation Committee and the Fish and Game Department to an area which Ellis described as being like a bird graveyard.*

*"It was heartbreaking to see them. They had their beaks tucked under their wings, like they were trying to stay warm," she said.*

*Above: One of 5 loons found alive was transported by snowmobile with the volunteer aid of Judy and Scott Ellis.*

*Below: Seventeen loons were confirmed dead, apparently caught flightless on the lake when the ice closed in.*

Photos courtesy of Judy and Scott Ellis

As this account makes clear, it was Judy and Scott Ellis' quick response that saved the surviving loons and called the attention of LPC and Fish and Game to the unfolding situation. LPC Board member Jane Rice put Judy in touch with LPC staff and came out on Sunday the 18th to help recover the dead loons and search for any remaining birds. Jane also made contacts and arranged interviews with the local press to spread word of the event.

Later in the same week, snowmobiler Joe Foster reported two dead loons on the ice north of Rattlesnake Island, near where the group of loons was found the previous weekend. He noticed them as he watched a bald eagle scavenging on the ice. Foster delivered the carcasses to LPC by snowmobile; this brought to 17 the number of collected mortalities from the stranding. This total represents 3% of New Hampshire's adult loon population, and more mortalities than LPC usually recovers in the course of a year.

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**Explaining the stranding**

As the recovered carcasses were examined and logged at LPC, and as we checked with local anglers, lake residents, and Fish and Game personnel about the freeze-up chronology this winter, a working theory emerged to explain the stranding. First, record warm temperatures in December and January appear to have lured the loons into staying too long on the lake. This was confirmed by ice-angler Ken Colbert, who reported that he had seen 20-30 loons in the last remaining patch of open water on the Broads around January 30th. As the weather turned sharply colder in the last week of January and the first week of February, the lake froze over quickly. In a usual year, such a freeze up might come in December or early January, with the last migrants flying south ahead of the closing ice. But this year, by late January, at least some of the loons lingering on Winnipesaukee were already in the midst of their annual wing (or remigial) molt, when old flight feathers drop out and are replaced. This molt leaves loons flightless for several weeks, and usually occurs on the ocean wintering grounds. On Winnipesaukee, the molting loons were stranded, and had no way to leave as the ice closed in. All of the dead loons examined at LPC showed flight feathers that were missing, or only partly grown in. Because loons are such heavy birds the loss of even a few flight feathers can prevent them from taking to the air.

More is needed to explain the five loons that were discovered alive and released. These loons could not have survived on the solid ice of the Broads during the time between the freeze-up and their discovery. Apparently, they were later arrivals, not yet molting, and must have been lured into landing near the original group, perhaps mistaking the clear black ice created by January's rapid freeze as open water. The big Nor'easter on Valentine's Day, and high winds in the couple of days following, may have blown this second group in from the coast, or overland from other open lakes or rivers, perhaps necessitating a forced landing on Winnipesaukee. Maine rehabilitator Kappy Sprenger (page 7) reported receiving an injured loon blown inland during the same period, and Vermont Fish and Game staff reported loons on Lake Champlain also threatened by encroaching ice during February's continued cold, suggesting some possible sources for these loons.

Unfortunately, the frozen carcasses of the original group were a convincing decoy for the later arrivals. Loons usually arrive on the lakes in the spring, immediately after ice-out, to begin defending breeding territories. It seems possible that by attempting to over-winter on the lake, or to join other loons on what appeared to be open water, the stranded loons may have been looking for an early advantage in the annual competition for available breeding territories and mates. Loons in either group may also have encountered open water on the Winnipesaukee Broads last winter, and been inclined to look there again for a landing spot. New Hampshire Fish and Game biologist John Viar provided useful information on ice-in dates, and loon expert Dave Evers formulated the logic of the decoy-phenomenon behind this chronology.

**Population impact**

Does the stranding mean that Winnipesaukee, where the breeding population numbers around

*LPC staff biologist, John Cooley, takes a series of bill, leg and wing measurements on the 17 loons found dead before transporting them to Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine for further analyses.*

40-50 loons, lost more than a third of its breeding loons in a single event? Probably not. Because loons tend to raft together on bigger lakes as they migrate in the fall, the stranded loons had probably gathered on the Broads from several lakes and perhaps more distant populations, spreading the impact of their loss. None of the loons were banded, so their origin is uncertain. However, analysis of bill, leg, and wing measurements may help trace their location by placing them on the size continuum from the bigger loons of the New Hampshire and Maine populations to the smaller birds of more inland populations.

Loons are a textbook example of adaptation to a stable environment, where the population hovers around a relatively constant carrying capacity, with long-lived adults investing their energy in rearing only one or two chicks per year. This evolutionary strategy makes the population vulnerable to even small fluctuations in adult mortality. The stranding occurred just as LPC completed work predicting the population impacts of a range of future loon mortality and breeding scenarios, including periodic adult die-offs. These projections are based on population models developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that combine LPC monitoring data with the band return studies and mortality estimates of other researchers. The projections form a population viability analysis, clarifying future risks and comparing the positive impact of mitigation and management with the negative impact of known and anticipated threats.

One way to test the impact of February's stranding is to add it into our population viability analysis. If we assume that the stranded birds came from within New Hampshire, the first result is intuitive: because New Hampshire's loon population growth rate has been near zero in recent years, the increased mortality from the stranding will result in a significant negative growth rate this year. If the same size die-off occurred every year, for example, the New Hampshire population

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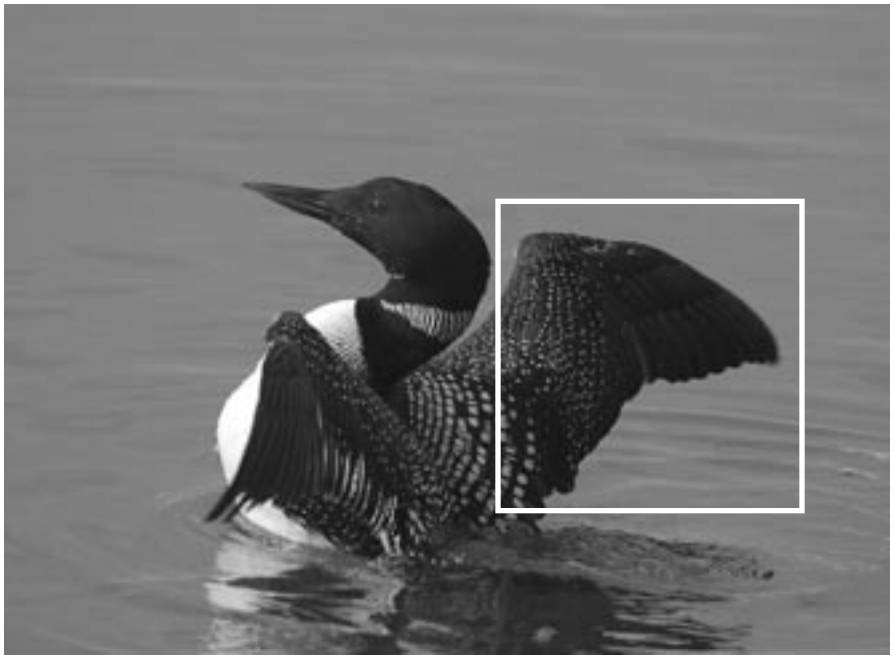
*Above: A wintering loon on the ocean reveals the absence of flight feathers while stretching. Note the short, stubby wings that render the bird flightless.*

*Below: In contrast, a loon in breeding plumage displays an impressive wingspan complete with flight feathers. Photos courtesy of Darwin Long.*



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would disappear entirely within the next 60 years. This does not consider the potential positive and negative effects of other factors affecting population growth, most of which would be likely to hasten the decline.

Fortunately, we don't expect to encounter similar stranding events every year. But February's mortality does affect our estimate of how frequently die-offs occur. In addition to February's stranding, the last 30 years of monitoring include two unexplained adult die-offs on Umbagog and Squam Lakes and additional mortality from marine oil spills on the wintering grounds. Adding the stranding mortality to the die-off frequency used in our population projections has a clear impact on likely outcomes. Figure 1 shows individual population trajectories that include random variability in each year's breeding success and adult survival. In these projections, adult survival is affected by random die-off events that occur nine times in every 100 years, equaling the observed rate of three die-offs (Squam, Umbagog, and 2007 stranding) in 30 years.

Population projections such as this one represent our best efforts to anticipate future challenges for loons, but they must be interpreted with caution. This winter's stranding on Winnipesaukee is exactly the kind of event that may become more common as loons and other species respond to a warming and more variable future climate. Anticipated climate change, along with all the more familiar threats to loons, gives us good reason to predict the future of our loon population using these models despite their shortcomings. Recent work comparing population viability analyses for many species has shown that the length of the monitoring period used to estimate viability affects the estimate. In short, the longer a species is monitored, the more likely we are to see rare catastrophes, and the more conservative our estimates become. February's stranding proves this point, and encourages our protection efforts and conservation planning to expect the unexpected.

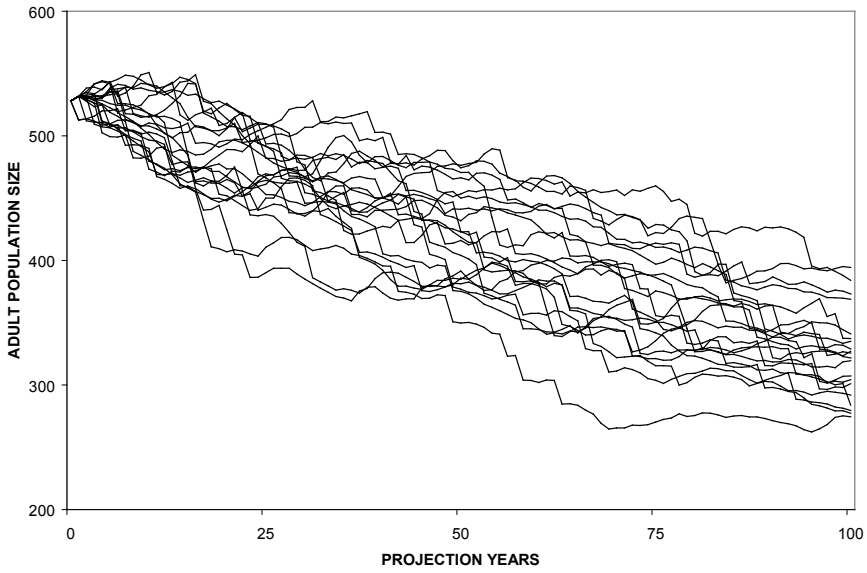


**Figure 1. Simulated New Hampshire loon population size under increased die-off scenarios**. *Each line represents one simulation. The total number of die-off events is the same for all lines, but each line shows random timing of individual die-offs during the 100 years. Simulations do not account for the effect of LPC management, which mitigates the projected decline in most scenarios.*

*~John H. Cooley, Jr.*

*"Knowing how much time, effort, love and care you folks at The Loon Center invest in "our" loons, and in loons throughout New England, I want you to know that others share your pain and confusion. My deepest sympathies to anyone who has had the chance to be closely involved in any aspect of the loon's place in our world. Moments like this give rise to feelings of helplessness beyond words."*

*Marcia S. Steckler, Summer Resident*
*Langdon Cove, Lake Winnipesaukee*

# *Kappy Sprenger Offers Unique Refuge for Injured Loons*

At Kappy Sprenger's hilltop home on the outskirts of Bridgeton, Maine, wildlife rehabilitation has become a unique blend of hope and practical science. In the driveway, the license plate on her Chevy Blazer reads "LOON RSQ", and a look into the backyard reveals its role as a rehabilitation center for injured loons from throughout northern New England.

Half a dozen wading pools and watering tanks are spread across the lawn behind the house, each one surrounded with carefully tarped shoulder-high fencing. Kappy houses as many as a dozen loons in a typical year, but when I visited last September a lone adult loon occupied one of the pools close to the house. As we toured the yard Kappy lifted a corner of the shade cover over the pool and imitated the soft "hoot" of familial loons, slipping several frozen fish into the water. I caught a quick glance of the loon as it snapped them up. Loons are a notoriously difficult species to care for in captivity, and Kappy has refined her care to a sophisticated art, designed to minimize stress to the loon and to approximate their natural environment. Keeping human contact to a minimum encourages the loon's instinctive caution in the wild, so a glimpse of the feeding adult was all I got.

Later, as we paddled out to check on a New Hampshire loon chick that had been released the day before on a nearby lake, I reluctantly followed Kappy's instruction to splash my paddle and scold the chick, discouraging it from any close approach and teaching it, hopefully, to keep a healthy distance from humans. Kappy's attention to these details of the rescued loons' physical and behavioral setting has been rewarded by her success in nurturing countless loons back to health over her years of work. She also rehabilitates other bird species, and worked with Western shorebird species before moving to New England. These days, Kappy is well-known to a network of local volunteers, wildlife agencies, non-profit organizations, and veterinarians who recognize her expertise and know that an injured loon's best chance for recovery is in one of Kappy's carefully tended backyard pools.

*~John H. Cooley, Jr.*

*"Loons are a notoriously difficult species to care for in captivity, and Kappy has refined her care to a sophisticated art, designed to minimize stress to the loon and to approximate their natural environment."*

*Kappy uses a decoy to mimic an adult loon while rehabilitating an orphaned chick. The chick rests atop the parent as it would in its natural environment.*

# *Dr. Mark Pokras of Tufts University*

One of the best ways to assess the threats facing our wildlife is to determine what is killing individuals of a species. This is especially true for loons since banding studies have shown that loons are an average of seven years old at first breeding, and pairs raise, on average, just one chick every other year. The delayed onset of breeding and limited reproductive potential of our loons mean that survival of adults is critical to the stability and continued viability of our loon population.

However, necropsies of loons (the animal version of an autopsy) and analyses of loons for contaminants, parasites and other pathogens are specialized skills that require specific expertise and resources. For the past 19 years, LPC has relied on Dr. Mark Pokras and his students at Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine to assess the causes of death of New Hampshire's loons. In that time, Mark and his coworkers and students have necropsied over 200 New Hampshire loons.

Mark is well suited to volunteer his skills for the Loon Preservation Committee in this critical work. He received his undergraduate degree in ecology at Cornell University, and was involved in research and management of colonial waterbirds while teaching ornithology at Stockton State College in New Jersey. He also became involved in wildlife rehabilitation, which led to a veterinary medicine degree and a faculty position at the Tufts Wildlife Clinic. He was appointed Director of the Clinic in 1995. In 2001 he helped found and was appointed Director of the Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine, an interdisciplinary collaborative center of veterinarians, physicians and conservation scientists working to understand the links between anthropogenic environmental change, human and animal health, and the conservation of biodiversity. The Center has a special focus on emerging diseases and the effects of pollutants on people, animals and their environment.

Mark's areas of special interest are medicine and surgery of native wildlife, primarily birds and reptiles; conservation biology; and the study of wildlife, especially aquatic birds, as indicators of environmental health. His work with the Center for Conservation Medicine includes research on the effects of lead poisoning and the bioaccumulation of mercury and synthetic chemicals in loons and other aquatic animals. Mark works closely with private, state and federal conservation organizations and is strongly committed to fostering multidisciplinary collaborative efforts. He was one of the original founders of the Northeast Loon Study Working Group, 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's collaborations with Mark have resulted in both a better understanding of the causes of loon mortality in New England, and a number of peer-reviewed technical papers. Mark's efforts have also been instrumental in LPC's work to educate the New Hampshire Legislature. These efforts have resulted in first-in-the-nation legislation to restrict the use and sale of small lead sinkers and jigs in New Hampshire, and to limit emissions of mercury, sulfates, nitrates and carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants. Mark's work continues to inform LPC's support of current legislation including boating speed limits on New Hampshire's lakes, and changing the size classes of lead-headed fishing jigs restricted for use and sale in New Hampshire to make them less lethal to loons and other wildlife. All of Mark's work has been done at no

*Dr. Mark Pokras cont...*
charge to the Loon Preservation Committee, as Mark has fit loon necropsies and contaminant and pathogen testing in between other funded projects. LPC and all of us who love wildlife owe Mark and his students a debt of gratitude for their tireless work on behalf of loons and other wildlife in New England.

*~Harry Vogel*

*Photo: (left) Dr. Mark Pokras performs a necropsy on a gannet while students look on. Photo courtesy of Tufts Wildlife Clinic.*

LPC has been extremely fortunate this winter to have on board the very capable and enthusiastic talents of volunteer research intern Melinda Scott. Her projects at LPC include a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) analysis of shoreline land use impacts on New Hampshire loon habitat, and work on a model of loon population dynamics that incorporates dispersal ranges and the spatial distribution of suitable habitat. Melinda is a graduate student in the conservation biology program at Antioch University New England, in Keene, NH. Her master's thesis investigates the impact of habitat fragmentation on large mammal movements in the rapidly urbanizing area of Burlington, Vermont.

## Spring Loon Migration Study

**A project of**
**the Loon Preservation Committee and Journey North**

Please help gather data about loon migration this spring! We are collecting reports of first loon sightings to compare the arrival of loons to the melting of ice from lakes and ponds. This is a collaborative project with Journey North, a science education project on the internet. Loons are one of a dozen wildlife migrations tracked by Journey North each spring. Your help would be greatly appreciated, as loons are not commonly seen by most U.S. students.

Instructions: Please fill out the form below and mail or FAX to: Kate Taylor, Loon Preservation Committee, P.O. Box 604, Moultonborough, NH 03254; (603) 476-5666, FAX (603) 476-5497; ktaylor@loon.org.

Name _____

Address _____

Name of local lake _____Name of city nearest this lake _____

**Field Report:**

Date_____ *Ice-Out:* Please record the date the ice melts on your lake/pond. (We define "ice-out" as the time when there is room for loons to land.)

Date_____ *First Loon Sighting:* Please record the date you see your first Common Loon.

_____ *Percentage of Ice-Out:* (A guestimate of how much the ice has *receded* from a lake/pond. For example: 25% ice-out would indicate 25% open water and 75% ice remaining.)

## *Many Exciting Events on the Horizon for LPC*

It is fairly quiet around The Loon Center right now, a good time to be looking forward to summer events. All of your favorites will be back, starting with the Birdathon/Bloomathon put on by the Lakes Region Chapter of New Hampshire Audubon. Each year the Chapter, which holds its meetings and programs at The Loon Center, carries out a count of the number of birds and wildflowers observed on a chosen day. Pledges per species are solicited in advance, and paid when the final numbers are known. Last year's count included 117 bird species and 68 wildflower species. Proceeds from the event are donated to LPC, with the exception of a small percentage used by the Chapter to help pay for programs. This year's count will take place on May 16th, with a rain date of May 23rd. Last year's participants, as well as Chapter members, will receive a letter and pledge card in the mail early in April. Please contact The Loon Center if you would like to make a pledge.

About the same time as the Birdathon/Bloomathon is underway, you will be hearing about our 2007 Benefit Raffle. This year we have a spectacular, hand appliquéd, machine pieced and quilted, jewel-tone queen-sized quilt. Each of the 30 quilt blocks shows colorful songbirds and loons adapted from designs by Mary Sorensen and Nancy Page. This is truly a remarkable piece of work. We are grateful to the quilting volunteers who donated their time and experience to help the Loon Preservation Committee: Caroline Bailey, Nancy Collins, Joan Colona, Stephanie Drake, Carol Hoagland, Marion Hull, Nancy McCoy and Ann Wallace. Tickets will be on sale soon and right up until the 2007 Holiday Open House on November 24th, when the drawing will take place.

Reserve Sunday, June 24th for the Annual Summer Gala and Auction. Bald Peak Colony Club in Melvin Village has again agreed to host our Gala. Last year the food was so good and the setting so gracious that we've decided to return. The committee is planning the same successful format starting with cocktails and Silent Auction bidding, followed by a luncheon in the spacious dining area, light dessert and coffee, and ending the Gala with the announcement of auction winners. LPC members will receive their invitations around Memorial Day weekend. This is a major summer fundraiser for LPC. The Gala Committee is rounding up interesting and unique auction items. We are counting on a good turnout and generous bidders!

July will see the annual Loon Census and Loon Festival on the 21st. These time-honored events epitomize the grassroots spirit of LPC and we welcome your participation.

August 20th is the date for the 3rd Annual LPC Benefit Golf Tournament at Ridgewood Country Club. This not-to-be missed event includes gift bags for participants, prizes, raffle items, the chance to win a car, and time for just plain fun. Rumor has it that a former Red Sox player has agreed to play in the tournament, and that perhaps there may be a second, too. LPC Trustee Carl Johnson is busy lining up sponsors and encouraging foursomes from across the state. More details will follow shortly, but if you play golf and want to help the loons, this is the place to be!

There are two other events of note on the horizon. Although plans are not formalized, LPC will be holding its first official Annual Meeting some time between June and September. All members will receive notification, in writing, at least fifteen days in advance. In addition, former LPC Director Jeff Fair is planning to give a program in May, talking about and autographing a book called Arctic Wings: Birds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to which he contributed.

The Loon Preservation Committee encourages all of you to participate in these events, get to know other LPC members, help the organization, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow loon enthusiasts.

*~Alisoun Hodges*

**Birdathon/Bloomathon: May 16th**
**Summer Gala & Auction: June 24th**
**Loon Census: July 21st, 8 am - 9 am**
**Loon Festival: July 21st, 10 am - 2 pm**
**Benefit Golf Tournament: August 20th**
**Holiday Open House: November 24th**

**Call 603-476-LOON (5666) for more details!**

## *Goodbye Cyndy, Welcome Kim*

Cyndy Davis, a long-time volunteer and LPC's part-time Loon Center/Membership Assistant for the last three years, recently accepted full-time employment at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Cyndy will be missed at LPC, and we wish her well in her new life on the seacoast.

LPC was fortunate to attract the attention of Kim Beardwood (pictured left) to take over for Cyndy. Kim brings a perfect mix of skills to her role at the Loon Preservation Committee. Her impressive and diverse background includes teaching, customer relations, sales, and advertising. When not greeting visitors or processing memberships and gifts at her computer, Kim is developing marketing and media plans from her home in Holderness. She is new to New Hampshire, having recently moved from Vermont.

Kim's bright presence and fresh ideas are already having a positive impact at The Loon Center. We look forward to working with her to engage our members, Loon Center visitors and the public in our work to safeguard loons in New Hampshire.

*~Harry Vogel*

## *Many to Thank for Holiday Open House Success*

The Holiday Open House returned to its traditional date this year, the Saturday following Thanksgiving. November 25th was a beautiful fall day and absolutely perfect for this fun-filled family event. There were droves of visitors and many volunteers to help direct guests to the myriad activities available. Mr. Phil tied balloons into the most incredible shapes and entertained everyone with his jokes and patter. Mrs. Cedar's creative face painting was amazing and always delightful. The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center Discovery Table was a big hit with many animal artifacts for visitors to examine. Hayrides were given by the Thompson family (tractor and driver) and the Keyser family (providing the hay). They took many trips up and down Lee's Mills Road, delivering rosy- cheeked riders safely back to The Loon Center's front porch. Many local area restaurants and businesses donated delicious food and drink for everyone's enjoyment. Santa arrived at noon, joined by Mrs. Claus and two elves, and children lined up to sit on his lap and share their hearts' desires. A success in every way, the Holiday Open House put everyone in the holiday mood!

We have many people to thank for making the Holiday Open House such a success. They include volunteers: Barb & Herb Lauterwasser, Phyllis & Jordan Prouty, Lydia & Nate Torr, Laurie & Doug Whitley, Jan Uehlein, Marion Powers, Bill Crangle, John Schoenbauer and Elizabeth Mahan; Jean Shlager, Ann Hinman and Jan Welch from the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center; Mr. Phil (balloons), Mrs. Cedar (face painting), Armand Maheux (Santa), Kristina Waterman and Tim Johnson (elves); the Thompson family (hay rides) and the Keyser family (hay). We also wish to thank the following establishments for their generous donation of refreshments: The Corner House, Hart's Turkey Farm, EM Heath Grocer, Jackson's Star, Love Bites, Mame's, Moulton's Farm and The Woodshed.

*~Rachel Williams*

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORDEL GAGNON

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