



LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019



Photo Courtesy of Kittie Wilson



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

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Milestones

First, the bad news: 2019 was a notable year for loons in a few unfortunate ways. We recorded a record number of failed loon nests and collected a record number of unhatched loon eggs from those nests. We collected a record number of adult loon mortalities for a loon breeding season. Those unfortunate loons included a record three birds that died of avian malaria, brought to you courtesy of a warming climate. These are not milestones to celebrate, but they are worth pointing out as they illustrate the challenges – new, old, and increasing – that loons face in New Hampshire.

I am aware that the above is not a particularly upbeat opening to my director's message, and you might be concluding that loons had a catastrophic year in New Hampshire. But I'm glad you are still reading because there is other news to share. This summer LPC floated its 2,000th loon nesting raft to help loons displaced from traditional nesting sites due to shoreline development, recreational use of lakes, or changing water levels – and a record number of loon pairs (50) nested on those rafts. We protected our 1,800th nesting pair of loons with signs and/or ropelines, and pairs protected by those measures hatched more than one of every two loon chicks on our lakes this year. We banded our 400th loon to learn about loon life history and stressors affecting loons – the better to understand, protect, and help New Hampshire's loon population thrive.

And all of that hard work in this and prior years has paid off: LPC counted 313 pairs of loons on New Hampshire's lakes this summer. A record number.

That last and most important record included many lakes that held loon pairs or loon chicks for the first time since we started our work to reverse the decline of loons in New Hampshire 44 years ago. So some of the dire numbers above simply reflect an increasing loon population. For example, a record number of failed nests does not mean that we experienced record low nesting success: the number of nests that failed as a proportion of the total number of loon nests was thankfully nowhere near a record. Others reflect a growing network of engaged and motivated volunteers that find and report loon nests, both successful and failed, and loons in distress – the very people that will assure the loon's survival in New Hampshire.

A lot of hard work happened to make our record number of loon pairs so. Thank you to all who helped float a loon nesting raft, or helped protect a nest with ropes or signs, or handed in your old lead tackle, or reported or helped rescue a loon in distress, or talked with your friends and neighbors about loons and how we can help them. You are the difference between a declining and a recovering loon population in New Hampshire. And always have been.

2019 Field Survey Summary

Monitoring

For New Hampshire's loon population, the 2019 breeding season was, indeed, the best of times and the worst of times. Some long-established loon lakes were suddenly empty or, like Winnepesaukee, almost completely unproductive, while other lakes saw newly successful loon pairs or a return to form. Overall, the breeding population inched upward by a single percent, from 309 to 313 territorial loon pairs (i.e., two loons occupying and defending a territory for at least four weeks). LPC staff and volunteers documented a total of 240 nest attempts by 221 of these pairs (70%). Nesting was successful at 129 sites (54% of all nest attempts), producing 193 chicks, with 148 of those chicks surviving to mid-August. The resulting cohort of juvenile loons represents 0.47 chicks surviving per territorial pair, our

basic measure of breeding success. In the end, the breeding population held its own, coming close to the long-term breeding success (0.51 chicks surviving per territorial pair per year) needed to continue the gradual recovery that has been underway since LPC's monitoring began in the 1970s. For more statistics and some of the trend-setting territories, see Figure 1 and Tables 1 and 2.

Eagle Update

Eagle predations of loons were

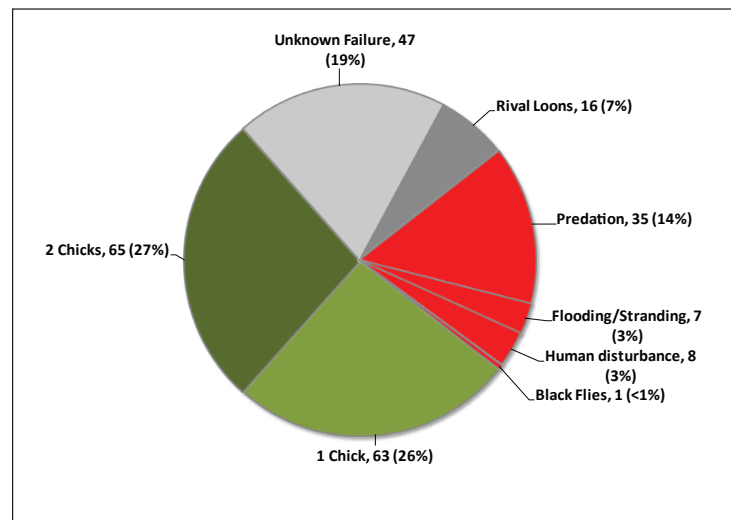


Figure 1: Loon Nest Outcomes in 2019

back in the headlines this year. In addition to the many reports of eagles harassing adult loons on the nest or with chicks and the mortality of a juvenile loon on Kanasatka after an eagle attack, LPC's loon cam captured the very moment an adult bald eagle seized an hours-old chick on the

continued on page 4

Table 1: Results of the 2019 Common Loon Breeding Season in New Hampshire

Population and Productivity	2019	Pre-Loon Recovery Plan (2005-2009 avg.)	2019 vs. Pre-Loon Recovery Plan
Territorial Loon Pairs	313	231	35%
Nesting Pairs	221	155	43%
Chicks Hatched	193	138	40%
Chicks Survived to mid-August	148	105	41%
Nest Failures	114	78	46%
Chicks Surviving/Territorial Pair	0.47	0.46	3%
Management Activity			
Rafts (including five on Lake Umbagog)	89	56	59%
Signs/Ropes	119	61	95%
Loons Rescued	18	6.4	181%
Survey Effort			
Lakes & Territories Surveyed	334 lakes, 485 occupied or potential territories		



LPC's webcam captured the moment an adult eagle swooped down and grabbed the just-hatched loon chick, despite a spirited defense by the parent.

continued from page 3

nest. This came after an initial brush with disaster a few days before hatching, when an eagle flushed the incubating loon and landed on the nest but left the egg intact. The exponential growth of the breeding Bald Eagle population in New Hampshire shows no signs of slowing down (see Figure 2). This summer saw the publication of LPC and NH Audubon's joint analysis of eagle and loon data for the initial 16 years of rapid expansion in the eagle population, which found that a relatively modest 3% of loon nest failures may have been associated with the presence of eagle nests nearby during that period (1998-2013). But, with a booming eagle population, that number is sure to rise, as the dramatic scene from

the loon cam made clear. Hard as it is to watch, this epic battle must have been common enough before the current era of DDT and lead fishing tackle. As LPC works to address human-caused threats to loons like lead fishing tackle and contaminants, this incident hopefully points to a future when those human-caused threats are usurped by more natural stressors for nesting loons to contend with.

There was also news through the grapevine this summer that the battle is not always one-sided. From over the border in western Maine, we confirmed that a game warden had collected a dead Bald Eagle and a dead loon chick near each other. What first appeared to be a gunshot wound on the eagle's breast turned out, on closer

examination, to look more like an injury from the dagger-sharp bill of a defending adult loon. Stay tuned for necropsy results from Maine Division of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to confirm this initial diagnosis.

Rafts and Signs

In 2019, a record 50 rafts were used by loons for nesting, hatching 24% of all chicks (46)! This was also the highest rate of raft use (56% of rafts floated were used by loons) since 2003, reflecting a more efficient raft fleet having removed some rafts that had been unused for years. Over 220 floating warning signs were placed at 119 territories around the state, with floating ropelines at 65 of these sites. Over half of all chicks hatched throughout the state came from a nesting or chick-rearing area protected in this way.

Banded Loons

Through patient observation and careful photography, LPC field staff and volunteers re-sighted over 150 banded loons this year. These included the oldest known loon in the Northeast—the Sweats Meadow female banded as an adult in 1993 and likely at least 30 years old. She was displaced from her usual territory this year by an unbanded loon but is still present on the lake. LPC captured 29 healthy adult loons this

Table 2: Highlights for the 2019 Common Loon Breeding Season in New Hampshire

1st Time Nesting Pairs	Arlington Mill Pond, Burns Pond, Hanover Reservoir, Hildreth Pond, Sunapee-North, Winnepesaukee-Back Bay & Smith Cove
1st Time Successful Nests	Burns Pond, Hanover Reservoir, Hildreth Pond, Sunapee-North
1st Raft Nest Use	Balch-Middle, Chalk Pond, Sunapee-North, Lake Francis-South Cove

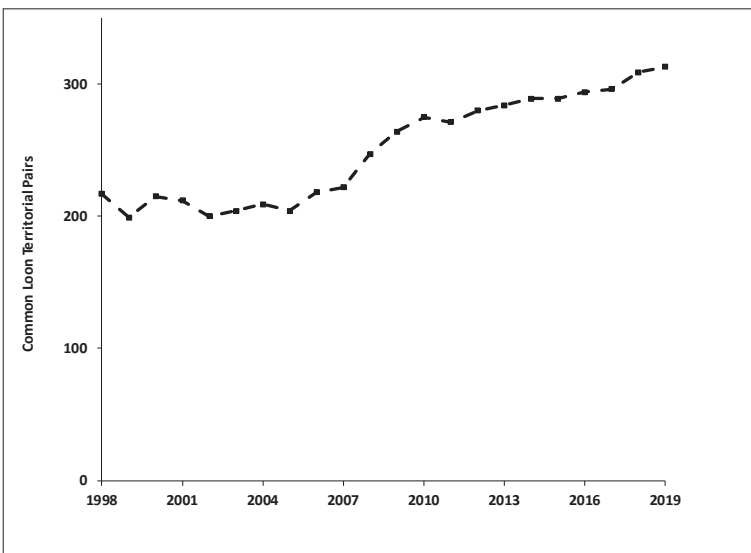
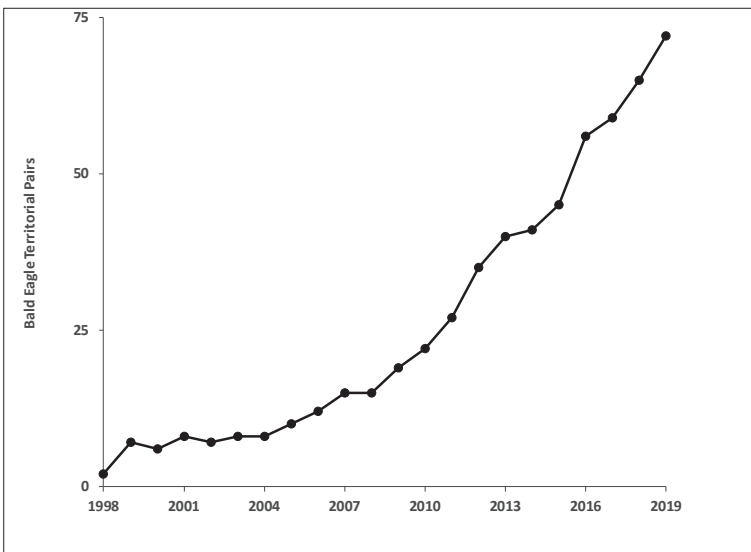


Figure 2: Rapid increase in New Hampshire's Bald Eagle breeding abundance and slower Common Loon recovery, 1998 - 2019. (Note: the two graphs have different vertical scales.)



Monadnock Field Biologist, Elaina Badders, tends to a loon chick during a banding outing in her region.

summer for banding. Six of these were previously banded, but we collected fresh samples and data to measure any changes to their health and body condition. In addition, LPC banded three adults and two juvenile loons that we rescued and were able to release.

This was a year when we lost more banded loons as mortalities than usual, including some old-timers. For example, the 1999 Purity Lake female (probably at least 25 years old) succumbed to lead poisoning on Shaw Pond in Freedom and the 2001 Squam Lake Great Island female was reported dead on the coast of Rhode Island in June. We also documented notable dispersals, including the appearance within New Hampshire of loons banded in Massachusetts and Maine.

Rescues and Mortalities

To date in 2019, working with a network of veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators, LPC staff and volunteers have rescued 19 loons, nine of which survived to be released. In addition to the 10 rescued loons that did not survive, another 28 loons were recovered as mortalities. Unfortunately, necropsies have confirmed lead poisoning as the cause of

continued on page 6



Winnepesaukee Field Biologist, Bridget Re, floats ropelines and signs in the pouring rain at the Markus Wildlife Sanctuary nest site.



Line and sinker are visible on one of the Manning Lake chicks. Fortunately, a team of volunteers and LPC staff rescued and untangled this loon in early October, and it was released on the pond after a short stay with Maria Colby at Wings of Dawn.

“Unfortunately, necropsies have confirmed lead poisoning as the cause of almost a third of these deaths (and close to half of the adult cases), further motivation to continue the essential work of encouraging anglers to make the switch to safe tackle materials. Fishing line entanglement was also a frequent problem this year, accounting for five rescues and two deaths.”

continued from page 5

almost a third of these deaths (and close to half of the adult cases), further motivation to continue the essential work of encouraging anglers to make the switch to safe tackle materials. Fishing line entanglement was also a frequent problem this year, accounting for five rescues and two deaths. We saw a late season spike in these rescues, with four occurring in the four weeks beginning in mid-September.

Alarming, the summer also brought a wave of avian malaria cases, with three confirmed deaths from around the state (Kezar Lake, Squam Lake, and South Pond in Stark) and another case confirmed in Maine. Nesting loons, swarmed by mosquitos and black flies, have evolved a healthy

immune response to some blood-borne parasites, but a changing climate or other stressors may make them newly vulnerable. LPC is working closely with partners at Tufts, University of Vermont, and the NH Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to track and understand this new threat.

Acknowledgments

LPC's field season depends each year on a generous network of volunteers, partner conservation organizations, businesses, lake associations, veterinarians, and rehabilitators. This year we are extremely grateful to LPC's Ralph Kirshner for his donation of a bigger and better Winnepesaukee work boat, complete with potato cannon. We extend special

thanks for help with injured and rescued loons to: Meadow Pond Animal Hospital; Avian Haven Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center; Maria Colby at Wings of Dawn; Dr. Mark Pokras, DVM; Kappy Sprenger in Bridgton, ME; Capital Area Veterinary Emergency Services; Elaine Conners Center for Wildlife; and Dr. Dutton at Weare Animal Hospital. We received donations and discounts for boat repair and field supplies from Squam Boat Livery, Middleton/Lavallee Lumber, EM Heath Hardware, and Sterling Rope, Inc. We relied on lake access and moral support from Robert's Cove Basin and Balch Lake Marinas. Field crew housing was provided in part by the Glover and Risley families and the Friends of Mead



Field Biologist, Lynda Moore, and Tufts veterinary student, Olivia Pea, transfer a rescued loon at Waukeena Lake. Unfortunately, this loon had lead poisoning and could not be saved.

Conservation Center. And we are grateful for extensive help with many different aspects of our field program from cooperating agencies and non-governmental organizations: BioDiversity Research Institute; Dept. of Environmental Services/Dam Bureau; Harris Center for Conservation Education; NH Audubon; NH Fish and Game; NH Lakes Association; NH Marine Patrol; NH Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory; Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests; Squam Lakes Association; Tin Mountain Conservation Center; Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine; US Fish and Wildlife Service including Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge; and many individual lake and watershed associations.

~John H. Cooley, Jr.



A concerned group of Moultonborough volunteers and bystanders teamed up for an initial rescue and release of a loon chick entangled in fishing line and tackle—one of three surviving on Lake Winnepesaukee. Unfortunately, the chick later died from a secondary but fatal infection caused by being tangled.



An initial attempt by LPC Senior Biologist, John Cooley, Sunapee Field Biologist, Brian Long, and volunteer, Dave Merker, to free a loon from fishing line and tackle on Reservoir Pond was unsuccessful, as the loon was too strong and eluded capture. The following day, Peter and Doreen Guillette encountered the loon while paddling and were able to capture the bird and untangle the line. More challenging was extracting a large hook stuck in the loon's back, but Peter prevailed. Once released, the loon immediately dove under the canoe and took off like a torpedo, popping up some 50 yards away, where it was eventually joined by two other loons.

Many thanks to Peter and Doreen for their patience and persistence in rescuing this loon from a life-threatening situation and to their daughter, Donna, who was paddling alongside and captured the rescue on her phone. And thanks to Dave Merker for his help and concern for the well-being of this loon.

LPC Expands its Lead Tackle Buyback Program in 2019

The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC), in collaboration with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and two local tackle shops, conducted a lead tackle buyback pilot program in 2018 to help remove lead fishing tackle from use and reduce loon deaths resulting from ingested lead tackle. Anglers were invited to exchange lead tackle weighing one ounce or less – the range known to be the greatest cause of loon mortality and therefore restricted for use and sale by New Hampshire state law – for a \$10 store voucher to purchase non-toxic, loon-safe fishing tackle or other fishing supplies.

The pilot program was successful by any measure, resulting in the collection of 4,786 pieces of lead tackle. Had they remained in use, any of these pieces of lead tackle had the potential to kill a loon or other wildlife. The objectives of the 2019 Lead Tackle Buyback Program (LTBB) were to increase public awareness of the dangers of lead tackle and of the tackle buyback program; to expand the number of participating locations throughout the state; and to place collection bins at transfer stations to provide other venues to dispose of lead tackle.

Nine retailers participated in the 2019 Lead Tackle Buyback Program. LTBB was a presence at the New Hampshire Outdoor Expo in Milford and at Discover Wild New Hampshire Day in Concord, with exhibits and LPC staff that collected lead tackle at both events, and at other locations that accepted lead tackle and/or helped publicize this issue (see pages 9 - 10). LPC created a new website (www.loonsafe.org) and social media accounts for the Lead Tackle Buyback Program and re-

ceived press coverage of the buyback in newspapers across the country; segments on WMUR-TV and the Wicked Yankee television program; and an interview on Here and Now, a nationally-broadcast NPR show.

These efforts resulted in the return of substantial amounts of lead fishing tackle over the summer (inventory yet to be tallied, stay tuned!). Plans are already underway for a further expansion of the Lead Tackle Buyback Program in 2020 given the continued loss of loons to lead tackle this year and the success to date of LPC's response to this continuing challenge. And LPC's proof of concept for this initiative has piqued the interest of the Adirondack Loon Center and Maine Audubon, which are consider-



ing tackle buyback initiatives of their own. We will continue to work with these and other organizations to extend the benefits of LPC's work to loons and loon conservation programs beyond New Hampshire.

~Harry Vogel



LPC Senior Biologist, John Cooley, being interviewed about the Lead Tackle Buyback Program for WMUR-TV. AJ, of AJ's Tackle Shop in Meredith, NH, provided a boat tour of Meredith Bay after we visited his shop with WMUR Reporter, Tim Callery.

Squam Community Unites to Protect Loons from Lead

I could not have been happier when I received an email from Kathy Wheeler, manager of Rockywold-Deephaven Camps (RDC) on Squam Lake, early this summer. She had seen one of LPC's announcements about the Lead Tackle Buyback Program, a partnership between LPC and New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game to encourage anglers to switch to non-lead tackle, and wanted to know how RDC could help. This was a great example of concerned people and organizations stepping up to help end the scourge of lead poisoning for New Hampshire's loon population, not to mention another example of RDC's ongoing efforts to help Squam's loon population. So RDC became a lead tackle collection point and began asking their guests to turn in their lead tackle. With Squam Boat Livery (Holderness) as the participating lead tackle buyback location on the Squam Lakes, RDC and the Squam Lakes Association serving as lead tackle collection points, and Squam Lakes Natural Science Center helping to educate their visitors about the dangers of lead tackle to loons and other wildlife, the organizations and businesses on the Squam Lakes are coming together to bring an end to lead deaths on Squam. We are very grateful for everyone's efforts!

Fast forward to the end of summer: On a beautiful Labor Day weekend, I was out making the rounds on Squam when I spotted a lethargic, sick-looking loon. It was hugging the shoreline, peering in the water but not diving, and, at one point, sheltering under some overhanging branches of a tree. This loon was clearly in trouble. Even the resident loon pair obviously judged it not to

be a threat — although they were watching it, they left it alone. However, as I approached in my boat to see if it could be captured, it dove away, staying underwater for an extended period of time and re-surfacing some distance away. Capture was not an option at this point, I would just have to keep an eye on it. But the loon soon disappeared; my increasingly worried searches along the shorelines in neighboring coves and into the backwaters turned up nothing, and I was left fretting and wondering. But a phone call in mid-October put an end to my puzzling, when residents on an island across an extent of open water from where I had last seen the loon reported a dead loon on their shoreline. I had not thought that a loon as sick as this one appeared to be would cross that much open water, but the molt pattern on the dead loon matched the loon I had seen and the mystery was at an end. The x-ray and subsequent necropsy confirmed what I had feared from the time I first saw the loon: here was another loon poisoned by lead fishing tackle.

This is the story playing out across New Hampshire: anglers turning in lead at tackle shops and businesses participating in LPC's Lead Tackle Buyback Program, individuals and organi-



An x-ray of a loon found dead on Squam Lake confirmed lead poisoning from ingesting illegal lead fishing tackle.

zations working with their local transfer station to set up lead tackle collection sites, lake associations setting up tackle exchanges at association meetings, and organizations like RDC asking their guests to turn in lead tackle. But, against this backdrop of encouraging action on behalf of loons and other wildlife, LPC continues to collect loons that have died from lead tackle poisoning and to have to ask vets to euthanize sick loons whose x-rays show tackle and whose blood tests confirm lethal levels of lead in their systems.

Sadly, Squam Lake has had more than its share of loons dying from ingested lead fishing tackle. Since 2001, the population rate of lead-poisoned loons has doubled compared with previous years (1989-2000), averaging nearly one loon dying from lead tackle on Squam every two years (0.47

continued on page 10

continued from page 9

loons annually). Unfortunately, LPC has documented a lead-poisoned Squam loon each of the last 3 years. In 2017, Squam lost the spirited and feisty ex-Yard Islands female to lead poisoning (see LPC's Fall 2017 newsletter for the story of this amazing loon). In 2018, after successfully gaining a territory and raising a chick, the Moon Island female succumbed to lead poisoning that fall in Cape May, New Jersey. Whether she acquired the tackle on Squam or on her wintering grounds, we will never know, but it was another difficult loss for Squam's loon population. And now, this summer's loon...an unbanded individual, so we do not know its story, but another loon that met an untimely end.

The loss of these lead-poisoned loons has almost certainly contributed to the poor reproductive success on Squam Lake in recent years. Evidence suggests that factors including ongoing high levels of adult mortality from lead fishing tackle and other human causes continue to undermine the recovery of Squam's loon population. The loss of so many established, experienced adult loons has led to the immigration of new loons to fill vacant territories. These loons are intruding into territories, driving established loons out of their territories, disrupting nesting, and, in some cases, killing chicks. While these behaviors are typical for loon territorial disputes, the effects on Squam are amplified due to high levels of human-caused adult mortality and the resultant large number of vacant territories. These disruptions seem to be evident in the ongoing decline in nesting propensity and chick survival in recent years.

The good news is that LPC's data suggests that the majority of loons that die from lead tackle

ingestion acquire it from current fishing activity (i.e., ingesting a fish that has broken a line and has tackle attached to it or striking at a bait or fish being retrieved by an angler). It used to be thought that loons ingest lost tackle from the lake bottom as grit, but LPC's data suggest that this seems to be only a relatively minor way that loons ingest lead tackle. This is an encouraging finding—if people stop using lead tackle, we should see fewer lead deaths and an immediate benefit to our loon population.

So LPC is extremely grateful to Squam Boat Livery for joining our Lead Tackle Buyback Initiative, to Squam Lakes Natural Science Center for educating people about the threat of lead tackle, and to RDC and SLA for serving as collection points and encouraging people to turn in their lead and make the switch to non-lead tackle. The lives of the loons of the Squam Lakes and loons throughout New Hampshire—along with so many other wildlife species—are depending on it. And the efforts are paying off: after hearing about the dangers of lead tackle to loons and about LPC's Lead Tack-



Sam Eldridge was inspired to turn in his banned lead fishing tackle at The Loon Center after attending a talk at Rockywold-Deephaven camps by LPC Squam Lakes Biologist, Tiffany Grade. In exchange for the tackle, Sam received a \$10 voucher to buy new, non-toxic, loon-safe tackle at participating retailers.

le Buyback Program at RDC this summer during one of my weekly talks there, Sam Eldridge came to The Loon Center to turn in his lead tackle. I was very excited when I heard about what he did and how he stepped up to do the right thing for loons! LPC, along with other organizations and businesses throughout New Hampshire, are working hard to encourage anglers to make the switch to non-lead alternatives and let loons live the lives they were meant to live on our New Hampshire lakes.

~Tiffany Grade

For more information about the Lead Tackle Buyback program, please see the article on page 8 and visit: www.loonsafe.org.



Loon Preservation Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

APRIL 1, 2018 - MARCH 31, 2019

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.

We're making progress. Why? Because we're keeping our "eye on the prize". The "prize"? A healthy, growing population of Common Loons throughout the state, to their benefit and for us to enjoy. They are one of the many wildlife residents we enjoy each summer here in the Granite state, but the loon holds a special and iconic place.

Although just black and white, their plumage is impressive and eye-catching. Their calls are unique, some soulful, reassuring or haunting, others piercing and alarming. We treasure our loon encounters and enjoy sharing loon stories with others. The Loon Preservation Committee continues to keep a sharp focus on the health and reproductive success of these unique birds that grace our summer world, as it has from our humble beginnings in 1975.

As I've emphasized in past reports this only happens because a core dedicated staff is supported by an impressive number of volunteers, supporters, and donors. Without the generosity of your time, expertise, and financial support we could not continue the monitoring, management, research, and outreach that defines who we are and what we do. Each and every offer of support is greatly appreciated and used wisely.

Our audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2019 (FY19) show our revenue exceeded our expenses by \$238,884 or 30.66%. The surplus has been applied to work undertaken in the new fiscal year. The accompanying charts and tabulations provide a five-year summary of our financial reports. The full report is available for review at The Loon Center and on the LPC website, <http://www.loon.org/financial/php>.

My three years as board chair have been enjoyable, challenging, educational, and satisfying. The amount of "behind the scenes" work that is necessary to support our core programs is impressive. It has been my privilege to work with a dedicated group of fellow trustees, a talented, devoted, and skilled staff as well as numerous devoted friends and supporters. Thank you all for supporting me in my role but, more so, for supporting this dedicated and meaningful organization. As we enter our 45th year I'm optimistic that together we can continue to advance our mission and further "Spread our Wings".

Thank you,

Brian J. Reilly
Board Chair



OLIVIA BOLUS

LPC staff prepare for a night of banding on First Connecticut Lake – one of 18 nights of loon banding in 2018.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

The Loon Preservation Committee rescued 16 loons in distress in the period covered by this annual report, with six of those birds treated, rehabilitated, and released back into the wild – a rate of rescues and releases that was unheard of even a few short years ago. These statistics reflect both an increasing number of threats faced by our loons and our growing knowledge and ability to help loons overcome their challenges.

Five of the loons that could not be treated and released died because of lethal levels of lead in their blood. They were joined by six other birds that were recovered dead with high levels of lead for a total of 11 lead-poisoned loons. Ten of these birds carried an ingested lead object: two were too eroded to determine their original use, but the other eight were clearly identifiable as lead fishing sinkers or lead-headed jigs.

Several lines of evidence indicate that the majority of loon deaths from lead tackle are a result of current fishing activity, rather than lead tackle lost on lake bottoms – lead is dense, after all, and will sink into the silt of lake beds, where it is unlikely to be ingested by loons. So the cause of these loon deaths is not a reservoir of tackle on lake bottoms, but the reservoirs of tackle in old tackle boxes – thousands of tackle boxes, in dusty corners of garages across the state. This is both a sobering and hopeful finding. It indicates non-compliance with New Hampshire's law restricting the sale and use of lead tackle weighing an ounce or less – but it also means that ending the use of this banned tackle will result in an immediate benefit for our loon population.

Enter the Lead Tackle Buyback Program.

LPC's partnership with New Hampshire Fish & Game and two participating tackle shops in 2018 removed over 4,700 pieces of lead tackle – any one of which would have killed a loon if ingested – as a threat to loons and other wildlife. The \$10 vouchers we supplied to these tackle shops to compensate those who returned lead tackle turned out to be a good incentive to clean out those old tackle boxes. Just as importantly, the publicity generated by the buyback kept this problem in front of the public and anglers who hadn't yet gotten around to removing loon-killing tackle from their boxes. The success of this pilot program lead to a greatly ramped up Lead Tackle Buyback Program this year.

This and the many other efforts described in this report continue to be focused on doing exactly those things that will give loons the greatest chance of persisting and thriving in New Hampshire. In so doing our work continues to investigate and illuminate threats to lake wildlife and to healthy, functioning ecosystems. That work will continue to be our focus, as it has been for the past 44 years. And given that focus, I am confident that we will continue to be up to every challenge facing loons in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Harry Vogel
Senior Biologist/Executive Director



BRIAN REILLY

Population and Productivity:

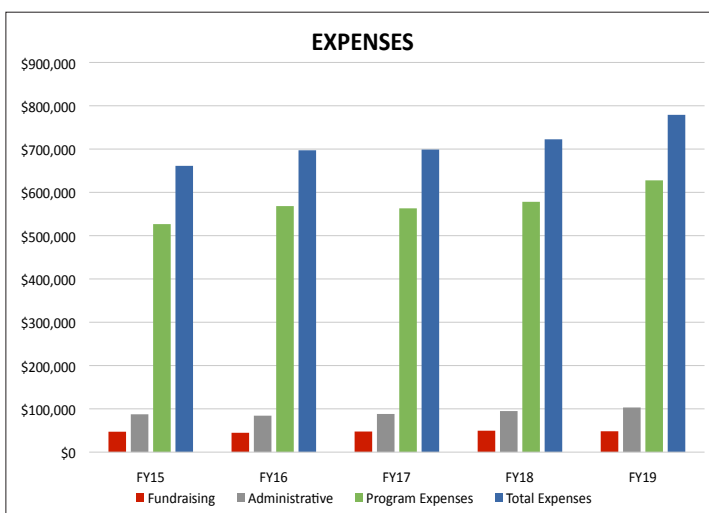
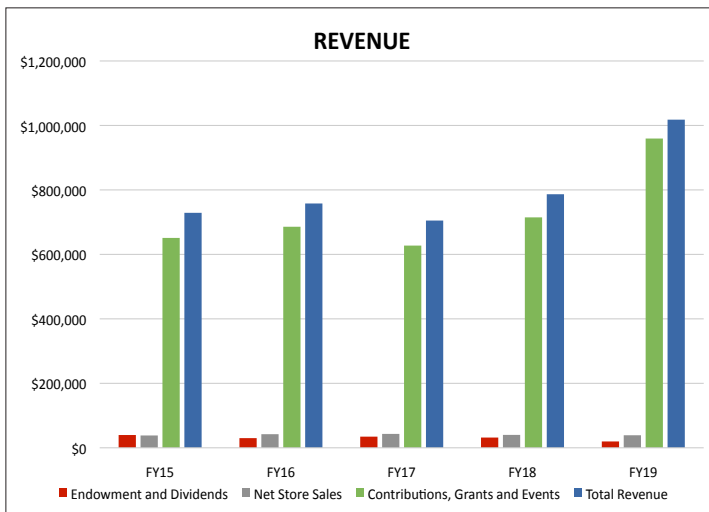
	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>
Territorial Loon Pairs	289	289	294	296	309
Nesting Pairs	208	211	207	202	226
Chicks Hatched	203	234	198	168	224
Chicks Surviving to mid-August	154	174	147	126	157

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

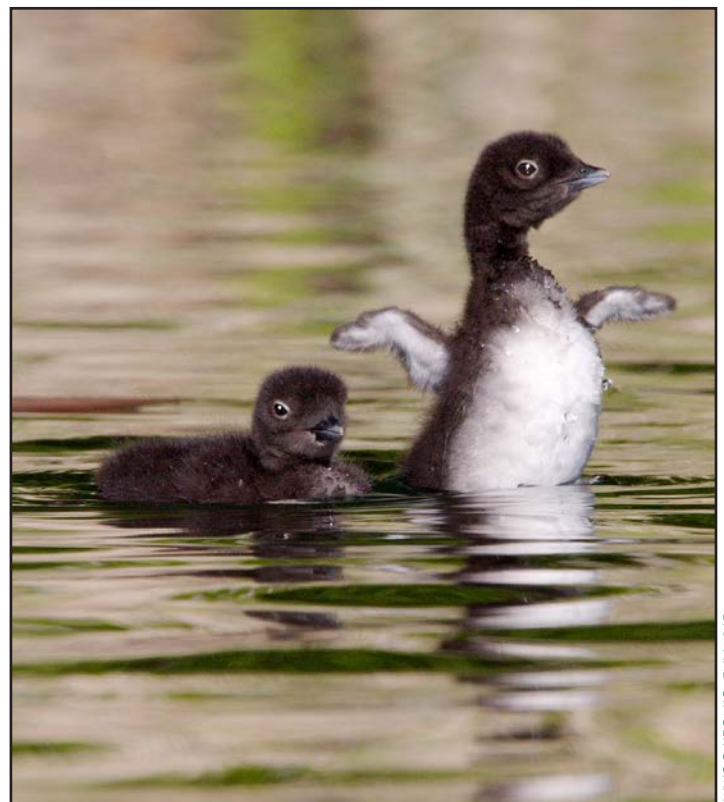
Loon Preservation Committee: Summary of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Fiscal Year Ending: March 31

	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Revenue:					
Contributions, Grants and Events	\$651,074	\$685,725	\$627,291	\$710,453	\$959,380
Store Sales, Net Cost of Goods	\$38,231	\$42,188	\$43,070	\$40,013	\$38,894
Endowment and Dividends	\$39,616	\$29,973	\$34,576	\$31,770	\$19,657
Total Revenue	\$728,921	\$757,886	\$704,937	\$782,236	\$1,017,931
Expenses:					
Program Expenses	\$526,666	\$568,278	\$563,088	\$578,166	\$627,733
Administrative	\$87,403	\$84,191	\$88,141	\$94,855	\$103,132
Fundraising	\$47,161	\$44,697	\$47,601	\$49,053	\$48,182
Total Expenses	\$661,230	\$697,166	\$698,830	\$722,074	\$779,047
Increase in Net Assets:	\$67,691	\$60,720	\$6,107	\$60,162	\$238,884



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



DAN AND GINGER GUMM

All in a day's work...



LPC Staff Biologist, Caroline Hughes, floats a raft on Squam Lake in spring of 2018. LPC staff and volunteers floated 89 rafts on lakes throughout New Hampshire.



Tufts Veterinary Intern, Kim Freid, surveys Tewksbury Lake for loons. LPC staff surveyed 357 lakes to assess presence, abundance, and breeding success of loons.



Lakes Region Biologist, Henry Stevens, floats signs on Wicwas Lake. Signs like these protected 114 nesting pairs of loons throughout the state.



Tufts Veterinary Pathologist, Dr. Mark Pokras, and LPC's Caroline Hughes remove monofilament line from a rescued loon – one of 16 rescued by LPC staff.



Why we do what we do –
the first loon chick hatched on Crescent Lake in over 40 years!



LPC's partnership with New Hampshire Fish & Game and two participating tackle shops removed over 4,700 pieces of lead tackle as a threat to loons and other wildlife.

"Arise early, be quiet and listen, for the voice speaking is not our own and goes to the ends of the earth." ~Thomas B. Kennedy

LPC's Live Loon Cams—What have we learned?

This summer, LPC's live loon cams continued to reveal new insights into the lives of nesting loons. Once again, we broadcast the nest attempts of two loon pairs from start to finish. Viewers from all over the world were able to witness firsthand the entire nesting process, from nest site selection and nest building to incubation and chick hatch. LPC biologists hosted chat sessions two to three times per week during which viewers could ask questions about loon biology and the behaviors that they were seeing. The loon cams proved to be an educational experience for both the viewers and for LPC staff. Because video technology allows for continuous monitoring of the loon nests, we continued to learn more about loon biology, nesting behavior, and the threats that nesting loons face as we tuned in. This year, we documented on film many phenomena that our staff may have heard reports of in the past but had never before witnessed firsthand. New information gleaned from the loon cams this year included the following:

1) Loon eggs have the potential to remain viable after being left unattended for 10 hours. Two weeks into the incubation period of our second loon nest, the male loon left the nest and did not return until a full 10 hours later. We're not sure how long loon eggs can go unattended while remaining viable, but this 10-hour incubation gap seems to be at the longer end of the spectrum for a nest attempt where the egg went on to hatch. However, while this one egg survived, it does not mean that all eggs left unincubated for such long stretches of time will also remain viable. Different circum-

stances could have led to vastly different results: had the day been warmer and sunnier, the egg could have "cooked" on the nest and become inviable. Likewise, if the day had been colder, the egg could have chilled to fatal temperatures and become inviable. Had a hungry predator been around while the loons were away, the egg could have become an easy snack. Because so many different factors have the potential to cause an unattended egg to fail, it is critical that loons are not flushed from their nests.

This year, we documented on film many phenomena that our staff may have heard reports of in the past but had never before witnessed firsthand.

2) Incubation schedules may differ from pair to pair. Previously published studies have suggested that female loons tend to incubate more often than males at night and towards the end of the incubation period. The loon pair on loon cam one seemed to buck this tradition—attentive viewers have noted that for the past several years, the male of this pair has done much of the nighttime incubation. Additionally, the female has tended to take extensive breaks late in the incubation period. You may remember that in 2018, she disappeared for more than an entire day as the eggs were hatching, forcing the male to incubate and care for the newly hatched chicks by himself for over 24 hours. This year, the male continued to do the bulk of the incubating close to the hatch date, often taking shifts lasting ten hours or more. While this one loon pair represents just a single data point that does not necessar-

ily mean that our current understanding of loon nesting schedules is incorrect, their behavior does seem to suggest that incubation schedules may be more variable than we previously thought.

3) When building their nests quickly, loons can accidentally bury their eggs, causing those eggs to become inviable. Early on in the nesting period of loon cam one, increasing water levels meant that the loons had to build up their nest quickly to avoid flooding. As they frantically added nest material to their nest bowl, one of the eggs disappeared. Much speculation occurred regarding what had happened to the egg—had it been kicked into the water as the loons got on and off of the nest? Was it somewhere on the outside of the nest bowl? One eagle-eyed viewer noticed that in the hours following the egg's disappearance, the loons appeared to be trying to dig something out of their nest. When our biologist visited the nest at the end of the nesting period, he found the lost egg buried deep in the muck of the nest bowl. In their haste to save their nest from flooding, the loons had accidentally pressed the egg into the soft muck and buried it beneath layers of nest material. The complete burial of an egg is unusual (though not unheard of), and had it not been for the presence of the loon cam we may have never found this egg or even been aware of its existence.

4) For the first time, we documented on film the predation of a loon chick by an eagle. While we have had credible reports from volunteers and colleagues of

continued on page 16

continued from page 15

eagles predating loon chicks in the past, prior to this year we have never before had photo or video evidence of this phenomenon. The loon cam was able to capture two separate visits from an eagle to the nest on loon cam one. Two days before the hatch, the eagle swooped down and flushed the incubating loon off of the nest. At that time, we were surprised when the eagle flew off without taking the egg; however to the shock of everyone viewing, just hours after the hatch occurred two days later the eagle returned and flew off with the chick. This was difficult and disheartening for loon-loving webcam viewers to watch, particularly those that had been avidly watching the nest and anticipating the hatch since the eggs were laid. However, we hope for the day when the only threats to nesting loons and loon chicks are natural predators such as eagles.

We are thrilled that our loon cams continue to be such valuable educational tools, both for our audience and for our staff. We look forward to continuing to learn from them in the future. Thank you to all who tuned in, and we hope you will continue to watch and learn with us next year!

~Caroline Hughes

2019 Annual Loon Census

On July 20th, 520 census participants took to 104 of New Hampshire's lakes to count loons as part of the annual volunteer Loon Census event. The lakes surveyed during the census represent just under 1/3 of the lakes that LPC biologists monitor annually, and the observations submitted by census participants are incorporated into the season-long data collected by our biologists on these lakes. In total, census participants counted 430 adult loons, 79 loon chicks, and 6 immature loons.

This year, as in the past, volunteers worked together to coordinate the census on larger lakes. Accurately surveying large lakes that have multiple pairs of resident loons is a challenge, as it can be easy to double count loons or miss loons that move around during the course of the survey. Our census coordinators worked to recruit enough participants to ensure that the large lakes had adequate coverages and reviewed the data collected prior to submitting it to LPC to ensure no loons were double counted. LPC would like to extend our sincere thanks to all census participants and coordinators for their help! We hope that everyone who participated enjoyed observing these beautiful birds, and we encourage you to save the date for next year's loon census—Saturday July 18th, 8-9 a.m.!

The 2019 field season saw the addition of seven first-time nesting pairs, of which four successfully hatched chicks. These milestones are in part the result of increased monitoring, research, management, and education funded by LPC's Loon Recovery Plan.

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



Volunteer and photographer, Brooks Campbell, captured this loon pair breeding in Wolfeboro, including a male loon originally banded in 2006 on Little Sebago Lake in Maine, over 50 miles away—a rare dispersal distance!



The greatest reward for remembering the Loon Preservation Committee in your will or trust is knowing that the wild call of the loon will echo across New Hampshire's lakes for generations to come.

“Wentworth Warriors” Organize Island Olympics

The “Arnold” family camp on Poplar Island, Lake Wentworth, was the venue for the “Island Olympics” this summer – a fundraiser organized by a handful of grandchildren to benefit loons! The event was the brainchild of McKenna and Whitt Pierce, and Brooke and Shane Arnold (aka the “Wentworth Warriors”) with some help from older brother, Ethan Arnold. Below is their narrative of the event, as written by McKenna and Brooke:

“When you see a loon up close on Lake Wentworth you get the chills. They are hauntingly beautiful, majestic creatures, and the idea that they are in danger from eagles and even us humans, is a sad and startling idea. So even though we are only kids, we decided to do something about it. On Saturday, August 3rd, our club, the Wentworth Warriors, met up at the Brockway Camp on Poplar Island. We knew we wanted to do a fundraiser for the loons – but what? After almost two hours of brainstorming we had an idea. Island Olympics. It would consist of five events – running, swimming, kayaking, the longest throw, and a long jump off a dock. We quickly pulled it together, making sign-up sheets and going around to all the houses on the island, asking if they would like to sign up, to watch, or to compete. We asked each person for a dollar admission for either watching or competing. Many people generously gave us \$20 each, and many signed up to watch and participate in the events. By the time we finished going around the island, it was almost dinner time, and all we knew was that we were going to be hosting a ton of people at the Arnold camp the next day. We were totally unprepared. When we woke up, we immediately got to work. Soon enough, it was 10:45am, and

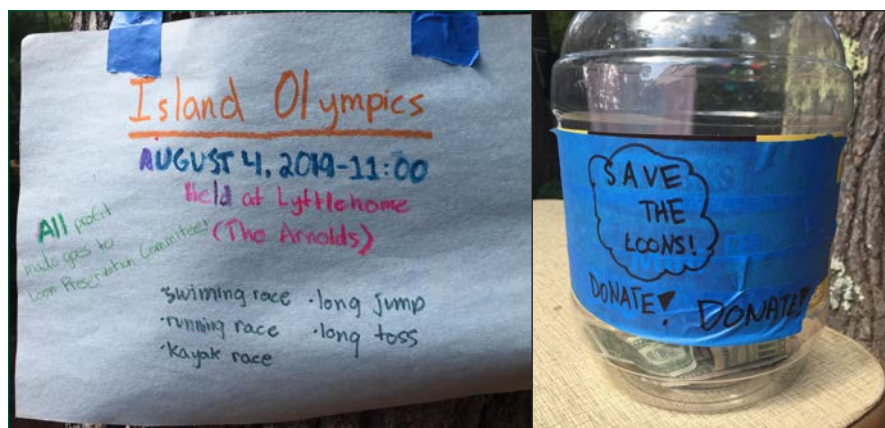


The Wentworth Warriors and friends prepare for the Island Olympics on Poplar Island, Lake Wentworth, to raise funds to help loons!

after a few hours of work, we were finally ready to host the Island Olympics. Little did we know that soon almost every single person from around the island would come to gather and participate, all because of us and all for the loons. After a spectacular two-hour event we had raised \$120 for the Loon Preservation Committee! But the most surprising part was that two anonymous people matched the \$120 we made, bringing the total up to \$360, and soon more money was donated, so in the end we made \$430 for the loons! We were so surprised

and happy how it turned out, and so grateful to be helping protect these amazing animals.”

We are deeply heartened by the efforts of these young people to recognize a problem and work toward a solution while involving their community. There is a movement afoot by youth across the globe to mobilize change. We applaud the Wentworth Warriors for setting such a positive example and for raising awareness about New Hampshire’s loons!



Drs. Keenan & North—Recipients of the 2019 Spirit of the Loon Award

The Loon Preservation Committee held its Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 22, at The Loon Center in Moultonborough, New Hampshire, following a gathering of many of LPC's community of volunteers, members, and friends to share loon stories over a potluck dinner.

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a welcome from the outgoing Chair of the Loon Preservation Committee Board, Brian Reilly. Brian remarked on another successful year of work throughout New Hampshire to support loons and presented LPC's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended March 31st of 2019 (included on pages 11-14 of this Newsletter). LPC's treasurer, Glyn Green, reported that LPC had completed the Fiscal Year ended March 31st of 2019 in the black with a clean audit (interested members of the public may contact the Loon Preservation Committee for copies of LPC's audited FY19 Financial Statements or download them from the web at www.loon.org). Brian thanked retiring Trustee, Chip Broadhurst, for his many years of service on the LPC Board, while three new Board of Trustees—Alex Moot, Brenda Stowe, and Bob Varney—were welcomed.

Alex Moot is a Co-Founder and General Partner of Blue Highway Capital. He has 18 years of experience in the private equity industry investing in small companies. Alex currently serves as Board President of the Chocorua Lake Conservancy, a small land trust located in New Hampshire. He is an active member of the Western New York Foundation, which supports sustainable nonprofit organizations that improve the quality of life in the seven



Harry Vogel proudly presents the 2019 Spirit of the Loon Award to Dr. Kelly Keenan and Dr. Lindy North of Meadow Pond Animal Hospital for their compassionate and tireless work to administer veterinary care to loons in distress.

counties of Western New York State. Alex previously served on the board of Shady Hill School and as Chair of the school's Audit Committee.

Brenda Stowe is a veterinarian with over 20 years of experience in clinical veterinary practice. She is also founder and proprietor of two small animal practices. She was Medical Director for the NH Humane Society and continues to work with Dr. Mark Pokras, Director of Tufts Wildlife Clinic and Professor Emeritus, performing necropsies on loons while helping assess the health of the local population.

Bob Varney's professional experience includes President of Normandeau Associates, Regional Administrator of EPA - Region 1, Commissioner of NH DES, Director of the NH Office of State

Planning, Executive Director of Nashua Regional Planning Commission, and Executive Director of Upper Valley - Lake Sunapee Council. He has also served on the Boards of The Nature Conservancy, NH Lakes, JPAC, NE Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, Environmental Council of the States, Federal Ozone Transport Commission, Governmental Advisory Committee and State/EPA Superfund Policy Forum. Additionally, Bob has a long history with LPC.

A highlight of the Annual Meeting was the presentation of the 12th annual "Spirit of the Loon" Award, created to honor LPC's founder, Rawson Wood, by recognizing an individual who exemplifies outstanding volunteer service to loons and the Loon Preservation Committee. LPC

Family Donates Bench in Memory of LPC Volunteer, Marilyn Coppo

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Marilyn Coppo, a long-standing volunteer at The Loon Center and a dear friend to us all. For over 15 years she was a dedicated and hard-working seasonal volunteer, lightening the load for LPC staff during our busiest season – always with her signature smile. Sadly, she lost her courageous battle with cancer in July of this year. It was Marilyn's kind ways and wonderful sense of humor that we'll miss most. She made us laugh!

The Coppo family recently donated a bench in Marilyn's memory which sits on the front porch of The Loon Center. It is a wonderful reminder of Marilyn and her love and passion for loons and life!



Husband, Bob Coppo (seated left), is surrounded by family and friends on the porch of The Loon Center during the presentation of a bench donated by the Coppo family in Marilyn's memory.

was thrilled to present the 2019 "Spirit of the Loon" Award to Veterinarians Kelly Keenan and Lindy North, owners of the Meadow Pond Animal Hospital in Moultonborough. Drs. Keenan and North have donated many hours and the resources of their veterinary clinic to help LPC give the best possible care for sick or injured loons. It has been invaluable to have Kelly and Lindy near The Loon Center to x-ray and assess these loons to help determine the best course of treatment, and also to x-ray dead loons to help determine causes of death.

They have never hesitated to help us in the middle of a busy workday, or after hours, and that has been crucial to providing immediate treatment for live birds. Their care and concern is evident in the time and effort they

devote to treating every sick or injured loon we bring to them. And, on those sad occasions when a loon needs to be euthanized, they are always treated with the utmost respect and compassion by Kelly and Lindy.

Their concern for the loons they treat extends beyond the time loons are in their clinic, as they always inquire about the fate of a treated loon or the results of a necropsy of a bird that died. And they have both been great advocates for loons and LPC and are avid and concerned watchers of their resident pair of loons on Green's Basin on Winnepesaukee.

Kelly and Lindy have been important partners in our efforts to protect and recover loons in NH, and LPC and all of us who value wildlife owe them a debt of gratitude for their work. We

were very pleased to name them our "Spirit of the Loon" Award recipients for this year!

Completing the evening was an outstanding presentation by photographer and long-time LPC member and volunteer, John Rockwood. LPC Senior Biologist/Executive Director, Harry Vogel, followed with preliminary results of the monitoring, research, management, and educational programs in 2019, and reported on LPC's work in ensuring a successful year for loons in New Hampshire. (Please see a full report of our work on pages 3-10, and 15-16 of this *LPC Newsletter*.)

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

~Harry Vogel

Summer Outreach Events Support LPC and Educate the Public

42nd Annual Loon Festival

It was a scorcher for the 42nd Annual Loon Festival, held on July 20th at The Loon Center. But that didn't keep away loon enthusiasts who came to enjoy a host of activities from slide shows and kids' crafts to live music and a cookout! (The Ben & Jerry's ice cream was particularly popular!) We have many people to thank for making the day the success that it was.

The Meredith Rotary Club provided hot dogs, chips, soft drinks, and ice cream to keep our guests nourished and hydrated. Many thanks to the following Rotarians who lent a hand cooking and serving: Ben Bare, Tim Berquist, Betsey Donovan, Tom Fairbrother, Ted Fodero, Carl Johnson, Jim McFarlin, Mike Pelczar, Fred Strader, and Donna Ulbricht. Ben & Jerry's of Meredith donated the ice cream, while the Meredith Hannaford and CG Roxane generously supplied water. The Mug restaurant also helped with food costs.

The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, represented by volunteers Margaret Gillespie, Jan Deleault, and Tina Dussault, provided a Discovery Table as well as live animals for all to enjoy. Erin Mastine and Hollyn Waters of New Hampshire Lakes were also on hand with their Watershed Warriors activity which teaches kids how to keep our lakes clean. Many thanks to both groups for providing these educational opportunities!

Volunteers Caitlyn Dowell and Emily Landry patiently painted little faces with a variety of themes including loons, superheroes, and butterflies! It was fun to admire their handiwork on so many youngsters milling about.



Illustrator, Phyllis Stibler, and author, Martha Kruse, were on hand at the Festival with their "Haley Mae" story series, the loon being the subject of a rescue in "Whispers on Winnepesaukee".

We were happy to welcome back The Sweetbloods duo — Janet and Phil Sanguedolce — with their soft acoustics and vocals, as well as Mo and his amazing balloon creations and lively banter!

Our seasonal field biologists deserve an extra nod for both entertaining our guests with educational loon slide shows and taking a turn in the dunk tank.

We wish to thank our dedicated LPC volunteers who helped with kids' crafts, selling raffle tickets and memberships, directing traffic, and greeting guests: Nan and Ron Baker, Susan and Bob Connelly, Madison Evasius, Eunice Jackson, Reinette & Brian Reilly, Jack Rich, Mike Ruyffelaert, Sue & John Scudder, and Heather Vernon.

And last but not least, many thanks to our Loon Festival Sponsors who helped to underwrite the cost of hosting the Festival: Tom and Suzy Beach, Vicky Brox (In Memory of Chuck Brox), Clark and Gloria Chandler, Allan and Judy Fulkerson, Sally McGarry and Phyllis Veazey, and Jordan

Prouty (In Memory of Phyllis Dane Prouty).

It takes a village to host a Loon Festival and we are very fortunate to have one!

The Winni Swim: Making a Splash for Loons!

For a second summer swimmers Brenda Gallagher and Pam Halsey took to the water to raise money for New Hampshire's loons! The event started last year as Pam and Brenda worked toward their goal of swimming around all the islands not connected by a bridge on Lake Winnepesaukee. LPC Board member, Bev LaFoley, thought it a great opportunity to call attention to our work and came up with the idea to make the Ragged Island swim a fundraiser for LPC.

This year the duo, along with other volunteer swimmers, repeated their swim around Ragged Island to raise awareness about loons and their challenges. Once again Bev, with the generous support of Bill Irwin, spearheaded the event and provided lunch for all



The 2019 Winni Swim participants: Lori Hyslip, Maureen Casey, Brian Casey, Pam Markley, Brenda Gallagher, Pam Halsey, David Martino, John Gallagher, Bill Irwin, Rod Burdette, and Tony Halsey.

attendees. Donations, totaling over \$3,800, will be used towards LPC's Loon Recovery Plan—to recover a viable population of loons in New Hampshire through increased monitoring and management; to broaden the scope of LPC's research; and to expand LPC's work to educate the public about loons and their needs.

Many thanks to Brenda and Pam and their entourage of swimmers, LPC Trustee Bev LaFoley, Bill Irwin of Irwin Marine, and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust AmeriCorps volunteers for their unique contributions to another successful Winni Swim. Keep an eye out for a repeat event next year as Pam and Brenda wish to continue supporting LPC's Loon Recovery efforts!

Carl Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament

Senator Carl Johnson was a champion of many worthy causes, including New Hampshire's lakes and loons. As an active member of the Loon Preservation Committee Board since 1998, he served as

Chair from 2007 until his retirement in August of 2010. He was personally responsible for organizing LPC's first golf tournament back in 2005 which has become a much anticipated annual event.

This year's tournament was held on August 19th at Ridgewood Country Club in Moultonborough, NH. Prime Tournament Sponsors were: Jamison's, Mill Falls at the Lake, and Overhead Door Options. We are most grateful for their generous support which allows us to put more resources toward saving loons!

We were delighted to welcome 71 golfers to the course this year. The winning foursome was Overhead Door Options: Brad Leighton, Nick Leighton, Garrett Lavallee, and Chris Curran. Prizes were also awarded to men's and women's closest to pin and longest drive, and there was a 50/50 putting contest run by volunteer Tony Avrutine.

Many thanks to our hole-in-one sponsor: Paugus Bay Marina; our hole sign sponsor: Saltmarsh

continued on page 22

Many thanks to our
Golf Prime Sponsors:

Jamison's

Coming to Gilford, spring 2020!



Mill Falls

AT THE LAKE



**OVERHEAD
DOOR
OPTIONS**

SALES • SERVICE
INSTALLATION

279-5700

continued from page 21

Insurance Agency; and to the 36 businesses and individuals who sponsored hole signs: Ameriprise Financial, Bartlett Contracting, DAK Financial Group, E&S Insurance, Gregory W. Egli (In Memory of Carl & Jeannette Johnson), Eldridge & Gillespie, Frog Rock Tavern, Gerald Peters & Judy Crouse, Hawkeye Appraisals, Inter-Lakes Builders, Ippolito's Furniture, Irwin Automotive Group, Carl & Linda Egli Johnson (In Memory of William "Scottie" Griffin), Robert Kennelly Sr. (In Memory of Kay Kennelly), Marinace Architects, Meadow Pond Animal Hospital, Mello Moose Coffee House, Meredith Insurance Agency, Meredith Rotary Club, Frank S. Michel, NH Environmental Consultants, Remax Bayside-Bayside Rentals, Bob Shirey, Ambassador Paul W. & Renee Speltz, Stewart's Ambulance Service, Fred & Betty Strader (In Memory of Carl Johnson, Sr.), The Bartlett Family, The Broadhurst Family, Veterans Count, and Wood & Clay.

Lastly, the tournament would not be possible without the tireless support and dedication of Carl Johnson, Jr. Thank you, Carl!

~Linda Egli Johnson

"Nature gives to every-time and season some beauties of its own."

~Charles Dickens

SAVE THE DATE...

Black & White Extravaganza *Celebrating 45 Years!*



BALD PEAK COLONY CLUB
JULY 18, 2020
6:00 PM

Invitations to be mailed June, 2020

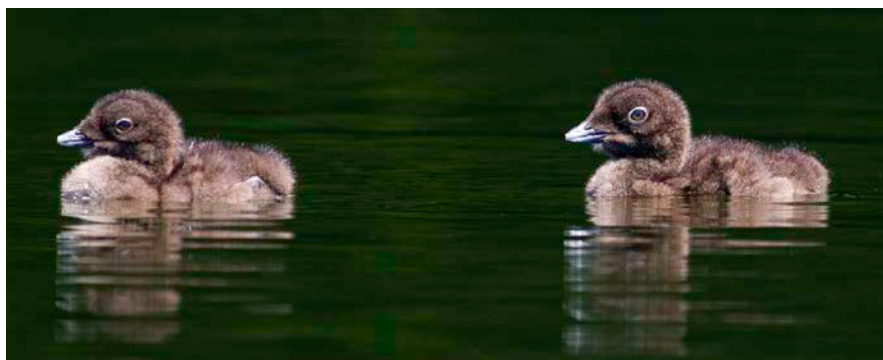


Photo Courtesy of Sam Merker



Holiday shopping on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)?
Pick the Loon Preservation Committee from Amazon's list of participating charities and they will donate a portion of the purchase price to LPC!

The Loon's Feather Gift Shop

Selling "all things loon" and more!

Double your giving by doing your holiday shopping at *The Loon's Feather Gift Shop*. Not only do we have a wonderful selection of loon and nature-themed items to choose from, but the profit from your purchase goes directly toward protecting New Hampshire's loons! You can visit the gift shop in person at The Loon Center (Thursday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm) or shop online at www.loon.org. We are also available by phone Monday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm, to help you select that perfect gift!



The Alice's Cottage "Loon" Collection

*Beautiful home goods, made in the USA.
Great for house warming or hostess gifts and stocking stuffers!*

Flour Sack Towels (set of 2) - \$15.95

Potholder - \$6.45

Gift-boxed Mug Mats (set of 4) - \$14.95

Individual Spiced Mug Mat - \$4.95

Gourmet Gift Caddy - \$6.45

Flour Sack Towel & Magnetic Note Pad Set - \$13.45

Individual Magnetic Note Pad - \$4.45

Available in *The Loon's Feather Gift Shop* or in our online store.

603-476-LOON (5666)

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gratefully acknowledges



for underwriting this publication.

