



## ~~ BRI'S ADIRONDACK CENTER FOR LOON CONSERVATION'S 2014 HIGHLIGHTS ~~

- *Assessing the impact of environmental mercury pollution to aquatic ecosystems using the Common Loon as an indicator.* With the generous support of NYSEDA and many other donors, we are continuing our long-term research to assess the impact of mercury on Adirondack loon reproductive success and immune function. We are also evaluating the health of Adirondack loons as part of BRI's North American Loon Health Assessment study. In the summer of 2014, 15 field staff, including students from the SUNY ESF's Adirondack Ecological Center and Paul Smiths Watershed Stewardship Program, monitored more than 90 lakes to determine the return rate and reproductive success of the ~270 banded loons with potential to return to the Park.
- *High Peaks Welcome Center Display:* Our loon conservation efforts in the Park were highlighted this year in a display at the northbound High Peaks Welcome Center on the Adirondack Northway (I-87; between Exits 29 and 30). We are most grateful to the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation and to Bill Schoch for their assistance with preparing the display.
- *Following Adirondack Loon Migration with Geolocator Technology.* Some of our study birds are now sporting lightweight Lotek geolocators on their leg bands, which use global positioning system (GPS) technology to document their movements for up to two years. These geolocator loons will be recaptured in future years to retrieve the data, which will provide valuable scientific information about Adirondack loon migratory pathways and wintering areas, enabling wildlife managers to better address potential threats affecting Common Loons throughout their entire range.
- *Determining factors affecting the nesting success of loons breeding in the Park:* In collaboration with the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, we expanded our nest camera study this year to over 20 Adirondack lakes. Images from these cameras will provide valuable information about the nesting behavior of Adirondack loons and potential threats affecting their nests. This study has already led to improved management of loon nest sites on some Adirondack campground lakes to minimize human disturbance of incubating loons.
- *Fishing Line Recycling Program:* We have now provided almost 100 fishing line recycling containers to interested community groups throughout the Adirondacks to increase public and angler awareness about the threat of fishing line entanglement and accidental ingestion of lead fishing tackle to loons and other wildlife. *If you would like a free container or our "Loons, Lead, and Line Don't Mix" brochures for your organization, please contact us at [adkloon@briloon.org](mailto:adkloon@briloon.org) or 888-749-5666 x 145.*
- *2014 Adirondack Loon Celebration:* On October 12<sup>th</sup>, we held our second Adirondack Loon Celebration to enhance awareness and support about our ongoing loon conservation efforts in the Park. Once again, the "loony" day was great fun for the entire family, including a field trip to watch Adirondack loons firsthand, fabulous music by Roy Hurd and Jamie Savage, hilarious entertainment by ventriloquist Sylvia Fletcher and her extraordinary puppets, face-painting and balloons by Merriloons the Clown, wonderful food by Green Goddess and the Saranac Lake Masons, our loon calling & costume contests, a silent auction and loon reception!  
*Congratulations to Louise Shepard of New Jersey, who was the grand prize winner of the beautiful 2014 Loon Quilt!*  
*We are most grateful to the many sponsors, donors and volunteers who donated their time and support to help make our 2014 Adirondack Loon Celebration a success!*
- *Adirondack Gives:* We are excited to participate in Adirondack Gives, [www.adirondackgives.org](http://www.adirondackgives.org), the Adirondack Foundation's crowd-funding site for non-profits in the Park. Your generous support has greatly contributed to our loon nest monitoring study and to digitizing the historic slides of Adirondack nature photographer, Kip Taylor.

*Like what we do? Follow our work all year long by "liking" us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/adkloon](http://www.facebook.com/adkloon).* We continue to add periodic posts to our Facebook page to keep you updated about our work and adventures throughout the year. If you enjoy learning about our activities, please help spread the word by liking our page!