



ADIRONDACK CENTER
for LOON
CONSERVATION

The Adirondack Tremolo

2021 Fall Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2021 Adirondack Loon Celebration
- Hornbeck Canoe Raffle
- About the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation
- Staff Update
- The Loon Center Moves to 75 Main!
- B-120 Oil Spill Restoration Funds
 - ◊ Loon Friendly Lake Certification
 - ◊ Lead Tackle Buy-Back
 - ◊ Loon Rescues
 - ◊ Fishing Line Recycling Programs
- 2021 Field Season & NY Loon Census
- In Memoriam & Loon Legacy Society
- With Much Gratitude!
- Loon Zooms
- Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, & Tremolo by e-mail

At long last, we are sitting down to write this long overdue newsletter to update you about all we have been doing this year. Our deep apologies for the long delay in staying in touch...

Although this past year has been highly challenging, we have been working hard to expand our programs to better protect Adirondack loons—from applying to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for oil spill restoration funds, conducting our loon research, and hiring new staff, to moving into a new space for the Loon Center. We hope you enjoy learning about them here!

Our ducks (actually loons) are finally lining up in a row, and we look forward to doing even more for Adirondack loons in the years to come. With support from the Buzzard's Bay B-120 oil spill restoration funds, and donors like you, we are now expanding our community stewardship programs and loon management efforts.

We look forward to visiting with you at our new Loon Center, as we enhance our exhibits and gift shop. We hope you enjoy visiting with our wonderful staff, including Emily, Jackie, Jen, Liz, and Cody, as well as myself, to learn about, and share your observations of, and experiences with, Adirondack loons.

Thank you, and all the best for a wonderful fall!

*~Dr. Nina Schoch, Executive Director
Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation*

JOIN US SUNDAY, OCT 10, FOR OUR 2021 ADIRONDACK LOON CELEBRATION!

We hope you can join us on Sunday, October 10th, from 1-4:30pm at the Paul Smith's College VIC for a fun-filled day of celebrating our fascinating icon of the Adirondacks—the Common Loon! The day will be filled with a variety of activities for one and all, including:

- **9am-Noon: Field trip** to visit with the loons (\$\$, *space is limited – preregistration is required—visit www.adkloon.org/events to learn more*)
- **1-4:30pm: Visit with our Adirondack Loon Center staff** and learn about our loon research and conservation programs
 - Children's crafts, games, and activities, including face painting and balloon animals by Penelope the Clown!
 - "Lila Loon" Scavenger Hunt
 - Food by Mac's Mobile Diner and beer by Hex and Hop (\$\$)
 - Decorate a Loon Gourd
 - Turn in your Lead Fishing Tackle to win a photo!
 - Last chance to get your raffle tickets for the special Hornbeck Loon Canoe! Sales end at 2pm!



- **2-3:00pm: Presentation by author Dr. Jim Paruk:** "Loon Lessons: Uncommon Encounters with the Great Northern Diver"
- **3:15 pm: Hornbeck Canoe raffle drawing**
- **3:30-4:30pm: Music by Dan Berggren and Tyler Dezago,** reception, and silent auction



Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, we are requiring all attendees to please wear a mask while inside the VIC.

Thank you for your cooperation!

ENTER TO WIN A VERY SPECIAL HORNBECK CANOE!



This unique boat was made especially for the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation by Pete Hornbeck and his friends in the League of Extraordinary Adirondack Gentlemen. It is signed by each LEAG member and Pete painted a loon on both sides of its bow.

**TICKETS = \$20 EACH OR
6 FOR \$100**

**Tickets available at the Adirondack Loon Center
or call 518-354-8636 to purchase**

**Learn more about Pete Hornbeck, this very special boat,
and download a ticket order form at www.adkloon.org**



ABOUT THE ADIRONDACK CENTER FOR LOON CONSERVATION

The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation (ACLC) is dedicated to the conservation of Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) in and beyond New York's Adirondack Park.

With the loon as our centerpiece, our work encompasses scientifically-driven research on loon health and population dynamics; educational outreach to residents and visitors in the Adirondack Park; wildlife biology and conservation training for college students and volunteers; and conservation and management activities related to maintaining robust Common Loon populations.

The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation evolved from research on the impact of mercury pollution on Common Loons and their aquatic habitats conducted in the Adirondack Park by Biodiversity Research Institute beginning in 1998.

We became an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in the spring of 2017. The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation is led by a highly dedicated Board of Directors, including Susan Semegram (Chair), Dot Beatty, Gail Doering, Eric Potter, Chandler Ralph, Kathryn Ruscitto, Ramsay Tanham, and Jim Townsend.

Through our scientific studies and engaging outreach, the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation seeks to ensure that Common Loons remain an integral and vital part of New York's wildlife heritage, and that their haunting calls continue to echo across Adirondack lakes for generations to come.

For More Information:

Adirondack Center for
Loon Conservation

P.O. Box 195

Ray Brook, NY 12977

info@adkloon.org, 518-354-8636

www.adkloon.org

www.facebook.com/adkloon

Visit our *new* Adirondack Loon Center at:

75 Main St., Saranac Lake, NY or

www.adkloon.org/adklooncenter



~ STAFF UPDATES ~

- **Liz DeFonce**, our Administrative Assistant, is now entering her third year with us. Liz is our excellent “behind-the-scenes guru” who keeps all the background processes of our work running smoothly—from our accounting and store inventory to maintaining our online store.
- **Jen Denny** became our Communications-Education Coordinator in April, and has quickly learned a LOT about loons! A graduate of Paul Smith's College, Jen brings great enthusiasm and experience to her position. Jen is now the voice behind our website and social media. Jen is also spearheading our Lead Tackle Buy-Back and Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Programs.
- **Jackie Miller** joined us in June as our Sales Associate at the Loon Center. Also a graduate of Paul Smith's College, Jackie has greatly enjoyed learning about loons and sharing her new knowledge with our visitors.
- **Emily Prosser**, our Research Biologist since last August, has been coordinating our field staff and the NY Loon Census, developing new online reporting systems, and delving into 20+ years of data on Adirondack loons. Emily has been greatly contributing to our science and looks forward to expanding it even more in the future.
- **Cody Sears** has “fledged” from one of our seasonal field staff to our B-120 Wildlife Technician. Cody will be coordinating our loon nest site protection program and helping coordinate our loon rescue teams across the Adirondacks.

~ THANK YOU 2021 INTERNS! ~

We are most grateful to our 2021 interns, who joined us from five schools. They greatly assisted us with both our research and our outreach at the Loon Center, as well as helping us move and set up the new Center. We very much enjoyed working with each of them and learning about their talents, and hope they enjoyed learning about loons both from the birds themselves and by interacting with our staff.

- **Kelly Glenn**, was our Field Fellow and a recent graduate from Colgate University. Kelly worked on our loon nest camera study, categorizing data and preparing a report summarizing the results of the project to date. Additionally, she helped monitor some of our study lakes and interacted with our Loon Center visitors.
- **Emyrn Hogue** joined us in June as SUNY ESF's Conservation intern to assist with monitoring some of our study lakes, conducting a literature search, and evaluating some of our NY Loon Census data.
- **Dan Laddison**, currently a sophomore in Fish and Wildlife at Paul Smith's College, monitored loons on several of our study lakes this summer, scanned in our historical Loon Census reports, and greatly assisted us in rearranging the reception area of our new Loon Center.
- **Sara Rose-McCandlish**, a junior at Vassar College, greatly enjoyed spending time on the water monitoring loons this summer, assisting us with moving the Loon Center, and greeting our visitors. Sara also cataloged our years of loon rescue and recovery data.
- **Jacob Nachamie**, a senior at Putnam Valley High School, has been continuing his project analyzing our loon nest camera data and presenting the results at his school's events.



WE'VE MIGRATED!

VISIT US AT OUR NEW LOON CENTER AT 75 MAIN ST. SARANAC LAKE!

We're VERY excited to announce that we've "migrated" to a wonderful new space at 75 Main St. in Saranac Lake!



This excellent new location, the former Key Bank building, accommodates our growing organization, and will enable us to pursue our mission on a grander scale. We have many great plans for our new exhibit space. We look forward to sharing our upcoming exhibits on loon ecology, conservation concerns, and our loon research and conservation efforts in the Adirondacks with you over the coming year.

We were very pleased to have Saranac Lake artist, Peter Seward, design and paint a beautiful mural as a backdrop for our current and future exhibits. Peter was assisted by artists Sandra Hildreth and Jorge Schoch, as well as Emily Prosser, using paint generously donated by Young Lyon in Lake Placid.



Then...after a little deconstruction by our intern, Dan Laddison, and his friend, and a little re-construction by Inside Out Builders, our reception area and gift shop were ready for visitors. We now have larger area to carry more merchandise from a wide variety of Adirondack artisans and other vendors.

We hope you enjoy selecting the perfect "loony" present for your friends and family!



We are very pleased to be able to increase our educational reach, install new and engaging exhibits for you to learn more about loons, to and also provide our staff with actual offices to conduct their work more effectively—a great improvement over our previous home!

**THE LOON CENTER IS OPEN
EVERY DAY FROM 10AM-5PM**

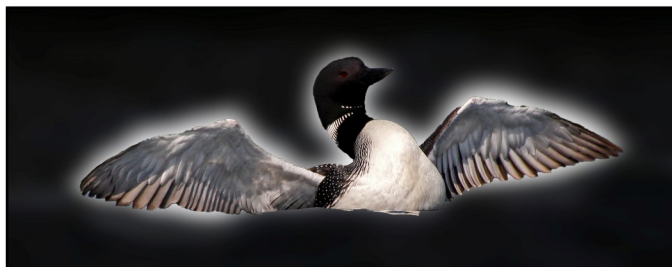
We Look Forward to Showing You Our New Nest Soon!

Not able to visit the Loon Center in person?

Please Visit our Online Store at www.adkloon.org!

We are extremely grateful to all who helped make this move possible, including our landlord, Main St. Saranac Development, LLC, as well as CJ Hagmann at Say Rentals, the numerous volunteers who helped us do the actual move, and especially all our wonderful supporters who have encouraged us and helped us grow over the years.

Your support has enabled us to make this exciting leap—*Thank You!*



BUZZARD'S BAY OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT FUNDS

NEW YORK LOON RESTORATION PROJECTS

We are very pleased to be one of six recipients in a natural resource damages settlement from the tank barge Bouchard B-120 oil spill that occurred in Buzzard's Bay, MA, in April, 2003. Sadly, more than 500 Common Loons wintering in Buzzard's Bay were killed by the spill. The B-120 natural resource damage assessment and restoration process provides funding, at no cost to taxpayers, to replace, restore, rehabilitate, or acquire the equivalent of injured natural resources and resource services lost due to the release of such hazardous substances as crude oil into the environment.

Funds from the settlement will be used over the next five years to restore Common Loon populations across New England and New York through a variety of management activities. In New York, the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation will be coordinating numerous projects to:

1. **Increase Adirondack loon reproductive success** through improved management of nest sites. We will also expand our **Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Program**, partnering with Adirondack lake associations and other groups to implement a variety of community-based environmental stewardship projects, which provide improved protection for Adirondack loons and enhance their reproductive success.
2. **Reduce the morbidity and mortality of Adirondack loons** through a combination of community outreach programs, loon rescues, and rehabilitation including:
 - a. A **Lead Tackle Buy-Back Program** in collaboration with Adirondack fishing tackle outfitters;
 - b. **Fishing line recycling containers** provided to organizations throughout the Park;
 - c. Establishment of three **loon rescue teams** at key locations in the Park, increasing the efficiency of loon rescues; and
 - d. Establishment of a **loon rehabilitation facility** in collaboration with the Adirondack Ecological Center in Newcomb, NY, to provide state-of-the-art veterinary diagnostics, treatment, and rehabilitation for distressed loons.



We are very excited about this opportunity, which will enable us to do so much for Adirondack loons for years to come. The results of these projects will greatly improve the management of Adirondack loon nesting sites, reduce the threat of lead fishing tackle, increase public awareness about conservation concerns affecting loons, expand our ability to rescue distressed loons, and develop a high quality loon rehabilitation facility in the Adirondack Park.

~LOON-FRIENDLY LAKE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM~

Our Adirondack Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Program promotes community-based environmental stewardship to better protect loons and their aquatic habitats.

Adirondack loons face numerous threats — some natural, and some due to humans, including loss of nesting habitat; nest disturbance; injuries from fishing line entanglement, boating accidents, predation, and fighting with other loons; nest flooding; lead poisoning from accidentally consuming lead fishing tackle; environmental pollutants; and avian diseases and parasites.

By working together, Adirondack residents and visitors can help address many of these challenges to better protect Adirondack loons and the lakes they share with us and other wildlife. In this program, we provide participating lake associations and other interested groups with training, guidelines, and conservation projects to ensure that their lake continues to support breeding loons for years to come.



Learn more at www.adkloon.org/adk-loon-friendly-lake-certification-program or contact Jen Denny at education@adkloon.org to participate in this exciting program!

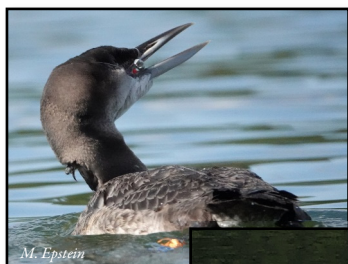
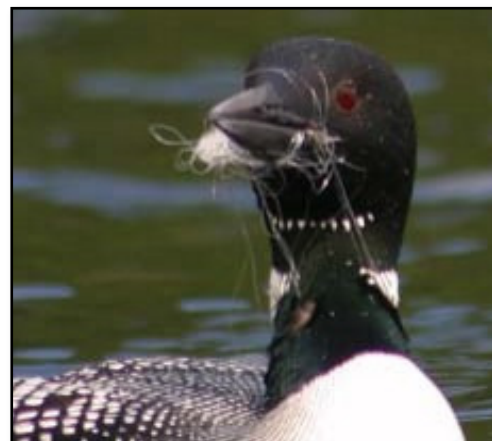
ANGLERS! TRADE IN YOUR LEAD & SAVE LOONS INSTEAD!

Have Lead Fishing Tackle Sitting Around? Join us in a regional effort to remove lead tackle from our waters and save loons and other wildlife— it's easy!

1. **Turn in one ounce or more of your lead fishing tackle** at one of our participating fishing tackle outfitters.
2. **Receive a \$10 voucher** to use towards the purchase of new non-toxic fishing tackle at the outfitter.

Bring Your Lead Tackle to One of These Outfitters:

- **Blue Line Sports:** 81 Main Street, Saranac Lake, NY 12983
- **Crossroads:** 40 Dixon Rd, Chestertown, NY 12817
- **Fish307.com:** 6 State Route 149, Lake George, NY 12845
- **Hoss's Country Corner:** 1142 Main Street, Long Lake, NY
- **Norm's Bait and Tackle:** 286 Bridge Rd, Crown Point, NY 12928
- **Old Forge Hardware:** 104 Fulton Street, Old Forge, NY 13420
- **Tupper Lake Bait & Tackle:** 1562 NY-30, Tupper Lake, NY 12986
- **Woods and Waters:** 255 Broadway, Saranac Lake, NY 12983



This year, so far, we have rescued and released eight loons—three who were iced-in on Lake George, three who were tangled in fishing line or tackle, and two who came down on a road. We have also responded to numerous reports from concerned boaters who were unfamiliar with normal loon behavior, such as bathing and preening.



Additionally, sadly, we have also rescued two loons who passed away, and submitted nine other loon carcasses (five adults and four juveniles) to DEC's Wildlife Pathology Lab for necropsy. Based on previous years, we expect that lead poisoning due to ingestion of lead fishing tackle will likely have caused the death of some of these unfortunate birds.



Read about our Loon Rescues at www.adkloon.org/rescues, and on our Blog, www.adkloon.org/adk-loon-blog

HELP LOONS—RECYCLE YOUR FISHING LINE!

Each summer, we rescue several loons from certain death due to being tangled in fishing line. If you are out on a lake, and find fishing line along the shoreline, under water (*snorkeling is a great way to find line under water*), or stuck in trees, logs, or other places, **Please Pick Up Abandoned Fishing Line and Recycle It!** Your small actions can make a big difference!

If you would like to help prevent loons and other animals from getting tangled in line, **you can maintain a free fishing line recycling container at your lake.** Our volunteers throughout the Park check and empty the containers regularly. The line is recycled to help keep Adirondack lakes safe for loons and other wildlife.

Maintain a Fishing Line Recycling Container at Your Lake! We provide them for FREE!

Email education@adkloon.org or Call 518-354-8636 to Get Yours Today!

Thank You!



~ 2021 FIELD SEASON AND 2021 NY LOON CENSUS ~



Emily Prosser and Cody Sears measure and band an adult Adirondack loon.

This summer, we have continued our fieldwork monitoring loons on over 100 Adirondack lakes to determine loon reproductive success and survival. As part of our long-term study assessing the impacts of environmental pollutants and climate change on Adirondack loons, we also sampled and banded 15 birds on 10 lakes.

Additionally, hundreds of observers joined us for the annual Loon Census on Saturday, July 17th, looking for loons on lakes across New York to provide a snapshot of the loon population. Thanks to the dedication of all our Census observers, we are able to follow trends in New York's loon population over time.

Our Biologist, Emily Prosser, created online maps to enable you to select Census lakes, enter your observations, and for you to see the results of the Census at a given lake. We hope you enjoy exploring these maps.

We are currently conducting the data entry for the 2021 NY Loon Census, so the 2021 results will be available this winter.

**View the NY Annual Loon Census results at
www.adkloon.org/ny-annual-loon-census-results**

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## ~ IN MEMORIAM ~

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of several of our long-time friends this year, including Cathy Caraco, Cindy Cox, Corliss Bryce Greene, Peter Hornbeck, Caryl Hutchens, Susan Knapp, Rod Leavell, Gay Lefebvre, Mery Seeman-Sokal, and Joseph Woody.

Each of these wonderful people shared their love of loons with us over the years, and helped support our work in so many ways, including inviting their friends and family to remember them through a memorial donation to the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.

*We are most grateful to all who helped us honor the loss of our friends with their thoughtful gifts.*

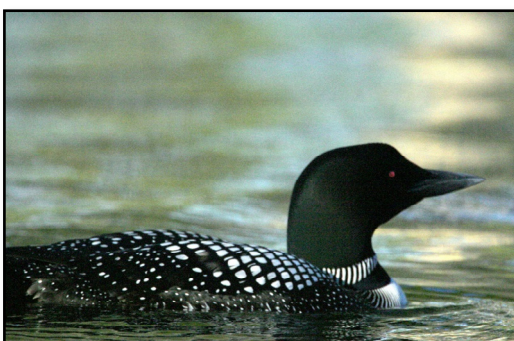


## ~ LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE LOONS ~

We invite you, along with Mery and many other of our long-time supporters, to become a member of our **Adirondack Loon Legacy Society**. Your love of loons can become a legacy gift through a bequest in your will or a donation to our Adirondack Loon Legacy Fund at the Adirondack Foundation.

With your gift, you will know you are helping to secure the future of Adirondack loons and their habitats through the dedicated work of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.

Mery decided to become a Loon Legacy Society Member loons because were a vital element of her life, and she wanted to provide long-term support for the work we are doing to better protect these magnificent birds:



*"Since I first heard the haunting loon cry from a remote campsite in the Adirondacks, I have been "smitten." Their behavior has caused me joy and concern –*

*Will our pair return to our pond this year?*

*For this reason, and because of all the unforeseen circumstances we'll all face in protecting the environment, my husband and I have chosen to support the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation beyond our lifetimes through a trust set up in our will." ~Mery S.*

**For more information about becoming an Adirondack Loon Legacy Society member, please visit [www.adkloon.org/adk-loon-legacy-society](http://www.adkloon.org/adk-loon-legacy-society) or contact Dr. Nina Schoch at [nschoch@adkloon.org](mailto:nschoch@adkloon.org) or 518-354-8636**

## WITH MUCH GRATITUDE!

Your generous support helps protect loons in the Adirondack Park from numerous threats and continue our vital research and education programs to enhance our understanding of loon ecology and conservation concerns, including informing thousands of our Loon Center visitors each year about Adirondack loons, their habitats, and conservation.

There are many ways you can contribute to our work, including an annual gift, becoming a sustaining donor with your recurring monthly donation, sponsoring an Adirondack loon, a gift from your IRA distribution or your donor-advised fund, gifts of stock, and more.

*To learn more about supporting the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, visit [www.adkloon.org/support](http://www.adkloon.org/support), or contact Dr. Schoch at [schoch@adkloon.org](mailto:schoch@adkloon.org) or 518-354-8636.*



*Thank You for Making a Difference  
for Adirondack Loons!*



### YES! I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A FRIEND OF THE ADIRONDACK CENTER FOR LOON CONSERVATION!

**I would like to support the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation at the following level:**

- ☐ Nesting Loon = \$75    ☐ Loon Chick\* = \$250    ☐ Flying Loon\*\*\* = \$1,000  
☐ Loon Egg\* = \$100    ☐ Swimming Loon\*\* = \$500    ☐ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I have enclosed a check payable to *Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation*.
- ☐ I will charge my donation to my credit card online at [www.adkloon.org/support](http://www.adkloon.org/support).
- ☐ I would also like to become a member of the Adirondack Loon Legacy Society to help support Adirondack loon conservation efforts long into the future! Enclosed is my additional gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_, payable to the "[Adirondack Loon Legacy Fund at the Adirondack Foundation](http://www.adirondackfoundation.org/funds/adirondack-loon-legacy-fund)," or I will pay online at [www.adirondackfoundation.org/funds/adirondack-loon-legacy-fund](http://www.adirondackfoundation.org/funds/adirondack-loon-legacy-fund).
- ☐ I would like my donation to remain anonymous.

\* Donors at the \$100 level (or more) will receive a 8x10" photograph of one of our Adirondack study loons.

\*\* Donors at the \$500 level (or more) will receive a Kip Taylor out-of-print "Loon" book.

\*\*\* Donors at the \$1000 level (or more) are invited to join our staff for a field trip to observe our Adirondack study loons.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation  
P.O. Box 195, Ray Brook, NY 12977**

*Your tax-deductible donation payable to the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, supports our scientific research and education programs focused on Common Loons.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!**





ADIRONDACK CENTER  
for LOON CONSERVATION  
P.O. Box 195  
Ray Brook, NY 12977

NONPROFIT ORG.  
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SARANAC LAKE, NY 12983  
PERMIT NO. 22

## JOIN US FOR A LOON ZOOM!

This fall and winter, we will offer a series of “Loon Zooms” for you to learn about loons from afar. We have invited a variety of speakers who study different aspects of loon behavior and ecology across North America to each give a presentation.

### *Mark Your Calendars!*

The Loon Zooms will be held at 7pm on the second Thursday of the month from November to April:

- November 11      ➤ February 10
- December 9      ➤ March 10
- January 13      ➤ April 14

Please visit [www.adkloon.org/events](http://www.adkloon.org/events) after October 25th to learn more, and sign up for a Loon Zoom!



## ~ TREMOLO BY E-MAIL! ~

Do you want to see the beautiful photos in *The Adirondack Tremolo* in color? If so, **please go green by emailing us at [info@adkloon.org](mailto:info@adkloon.org) to get our e-newsletter to receive:**

- A color version of *The Tremolo* that you can easily share with your friends and family; and
- Periodic updates about our research and upcoming events

*Note: Because of increasing costs and a limited budget, we have reduced the number of copies we print. We realize some people don't have access to computers, so if you want to continue to receive a printed Tremolo, please confirm this by sending us a note, or calling 518-354-8636.*

Please also **remember to let us know if you move or change your e-mail address**, so you will continue to receive *The Tremolo*.

*Thank You!*

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Like what we do? Stay up to date all year by liking us on Facebook or following us on Instagram or Twitter.

On our social media, we provide regular updates about our research, events, loon rescues, and new happenings at the Adirondack Loon Center. We look forward to sharing our work with you!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND TWITTER!

www.facebook.com/adkloon
www.instagram.com/adkloon
www.twitter.com/adkloon