



ADIRONDACK CENTER
FOR LOON
CONSERVATION

THE ADIRONDACK TREMOLO

2018 Summer Newsletter

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Greetings! It has been an exciting year, as we became an independent nonprofit organization last spring, with a fantastic Board of Directors!

*We are most grateful to all our donors who gave us the support and encouragement to continue our loon research and conservation efforts in the Adirondacks—**THANK YOU!***

I hope you enjoy these summaries of our work and can join us for our upcoming events. Please continue to follow us year-round through our website, www.adkloon.org, Facebook, and Twitter.

Please stop at the Loon Center on your next trip to Saranac Lake to visit with us, and learn more about loons and our conservation projects in the Park. We look forward to meeting you!

Have a wonderful summer of watching loons!

~Dr. Nina Schoch, Director

Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation

PS—Enjoy our new logo for our new organization!

YOU'RE INVITED!

PLEASE JOIN US IN RECOGNIZING GARY LEE ON FRIDAY, JULY 6, FROM 5-7PM AT VIEW IN OLD FORGE

We are thrilled to announce that we will present our 2018 Loon Recognition Award to naturalist extraordinaire Gary Lee at the View Arts Center in Old Forge on Friday, July 6, 2018 from 5-7 p.m.

The reception will feature a presentation to showcase Gary Lee's extensive contributions to the conservation of loons in the Adirondacks. *Tickets are \$75 per person, and are available online at www.adkloon.org/events, or at the door.* The proceeds will benefit the Center's loon research, rescues, and conservation projects throughout the Park.

For the past two decades, Gary has helped us monitor and band hundreds of loons throughout the Adirondacks, as well as rescuing many injured or iced-in loons. He has also informed thousands of people about loons and their antics through his weekly column, "*Daybreak to Twilight*," and his engaging presentations.



Gary's deep dedication to wildlife, especially loons, throughout his career as a Forest Ranger and also as a private citizen, has proven him to be one of the best friends that loons have in the Park.

Please feel free to share a short story about Gary at the event. If you would like to contribute a photo of Gary for the slide show, please email it to info@adkloon.org before July 5.

VISIT THE LOON ART SHOW AT VIEW!

A stunning art show and sale titled "*Conservation Through the Lives of Adirondack Loons*" through July 15 at the View Arts Center in Old Forge benefits the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation!

Many artists and photographers are participating in this exciting show—

Please visit View to see these truly magnificent original paintings and prints by award winning artists, including Gary Casagrain, Jeanne Dupre, Ray Easton, Milton Franson, Shawn Halperin, Ron Kleiber, Suzanne Lebeda, Denise Leavitt, Emily McCall, Lisa McLaughlin, Dean Richards, Bob Ripley, and Robert McNamara.



Additionally, the show highlights gorgeous photographs by John DiGiacomo, Susan Kiesel, Gary Lee, Larry Master, Nina Schoch, and Ed Williams; intricate woodcarvings by Allen Aardsma and Allen Doty; a unique felt sculpture by Erin Gardner; and graceful fungal carvings by Gary Chudzinski.

Bring home a fabulous piece of loon art to grace your own home or camp, and help support our loon research and outreach projects in the Adirondacks!

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 Loons 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 Chandler Ralph (Chair), Kathleen Colson, Cathy Dove, Kate Fish, Susan Semegram, Ramsay Tanham, and Connie Weatherup.

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 Adirondack Loon Center at:

**15 Broadway, Saranac Lake, NY or
www.adkloon.org/adklooncenter**

~NOTES FROM THE FIELD~ CHICKS ARE HATCHING!

On Wednesday, June 20, one of our field staff reported observing her first loon chick of the season. She watched the father loon feeding a dragonfly nymph to his chick, which appears to be only a few days old, so this pair must have started nesting about May 20 or earlier. Since then, we've had many reports of chicks popping out on lakes all over the Adirondacks!

Just minutes after hatching, loon chicks are able to enter the water and swim. For the next few weeks, they'll stay close to their parents and may be found nestled under the adult's wing or riding on the parent's back. Initially, chicks are completely dependent upon their parents for food but by 11 weeks of age, chicks will capture almost all of their food themselves. If all goes well, chicks are independent by late September, and migrate to the ocean sometime in October or November to spend the next 2-3 years along the coast.



DR. SCHOCH RECEIVES 2018 ELIZABETH THORNDIKE AWARD!

Dr. Nina Schoch, Director of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, was the 2018 recipient of the Dr. Elizabeth W. Thorndike Adirondack Achievement Award from the Adirondack Research Consortium.

The ARC Elizabeth Thorndike Adirondack Achievement Award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated significant contributions to the long-term sustainability of the Adirondack Park through scholarship, research, and policy initiatives.

Dr. Schoch has been studying loons in the Adirondacks since 1998, and, along with her collaborators, has been instrumental in developing a variety of research studies and education/outreach programs to increase scientific understanding and public awareness of conservation concerns affecting Common Loons and their aquatic habitats. She and her partners have also written many scientific and magazine articles about the results of this Adirondack loon research.

This award represents the contributions of the many collaborators and supporters of loon conservation in the Adirondacks, including the NYS DEC, the Wildlife Conservation Society, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, The Wild Center, the Freed and Cloudsplitter Foundations, and numerous other private foundations and donors.



BECOME AN EXHIBIT SPONSOR FOR THE ADIRONDACK LOON CENTER!

We're expanding the Adirondack Loon Center with the addition of museum-quality exhibits! We have received generous grants from the Cloudsplitter Foundation, NYSEDA, and Northern NY Audubon to develop some of the more than 30 exhibits we have planned, which will highlight loon ecology and behavior; threats to loon populations and their habitats; and research and conservation efforts to address those concerns.

**We invite you or your business to become an Exhibit Sponsor
and help us match our Cloudsplitter Grant!**

Learn more at www.adkloon.org/adklooncenter

*Exhibit sponsors will be recognized on our website, in our social media, on the exhibit plaques,
and in an exhibit program available to visitors at the Center.*

With the addition of these exhibits over the coming year, the Center will become a true educational resource for Adirondack residents and visitors alike to learn about loons, their habitats, and the conservation of their populations.

Not able to come to Saranac Lake to visit the Loon Center in person?

Visit us online at www.adkloon.org/adklooncenter

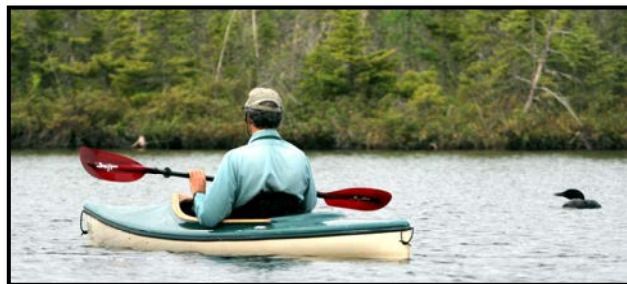
SATURDAY, JULY 21: NY ANNUAL LOON CENSUS, 8-9am OPEN HOUSE AT THE LOON CENTER, 10AM-5PM

Like to watch loons? Sign up to help with our annual citizen science NY Loon Census!

Every year, between 8-9am on the third Saturday in July, hundreds of volunteers across New York visit a favorite lake or pond to record sightings of loons and provide an annual "snapshot" of the breeding loon population. The Census is coordinated by the Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Program in collaboration with the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. Results of the Census provide valuable information regarding the status and trends in New York's summer loon population.

**Sign up for your favorite lake by contacting WCS' Adirondack
Program at wcsaccp@gmail.com or call (518) 891-8872.**

*Please provide us with the lake name, county, and township,
and your contact information.*



Come to the Adirondack Loon Center's Open House from 10am-5pm!

After the Loon Census, please stop by the Adirondack Loon Center at 15 Broadway in Saranac Lake to share your loon observations with our staff, and enjoy lemonade and loon cookies!

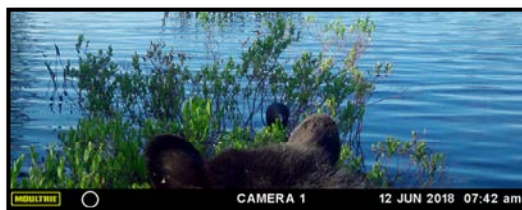
We look forward to visiting with you and hearing about your morning with the loons!



~ NOTES FROM THE FIELD ~ HUNGRY BEARS ENJOY LOON OMELETS!

For the last several years, in collaboration with NYS DEC, we've been monitoring some of our loon nests with trail cameras to learn about loon nesting behavior and factors that cause a nest to fail. We've documented chicks hatching, nests flooding, and a variety of predators eating loon eggs.

However, this is the first year we've captured bears enjoying a snack of loon eggs! Apparently, they may be a regular egg predator, as not only did we catch it once, but we caught bears on TWO occasions making quick work of a nest!





MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We are thrilled to report that one of the worst fishing line loons we rescued, back in 2016, is back and nesting once again. Last summer, she returned to the Adirondacks and successfully raised two chicks!

To learn more about her, read our article in *Adirondack Life*—*Jeopardy on Jabe Pond!*



PLEASE WELCOME

Dr. Valerie Buxton joined our team this winter as our Research Scientist. She has a deep interest in avian ecology, behavior, and conservation, which grew from her undergraduate internship at a nature center working with birds of prey. Val received her master's degree at the Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign examining the effects of urbanization on declining grassland birds. She took a brief detour into the world of herps for her Ph.D., and returned to birds for her postdoctoral work (*both at the Univ. of Illinois*). Val enjoys the full scientific process—developing questions, collecting and analyzing data, and disseminating the results. With her research she seeks to contribute to species conservation and management while advancing science.



OUR NEW STAFF!

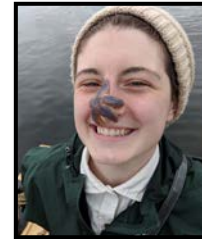
Faith Barney is our new Operations Manager. She has an AAS in Business Administration from North Country Community College, and is graduating this fall Magna Cum Laude in Business, Management, and Economics from SUNY Empire. Faith enjoys playing softball in a local women's league, boating on our many local lakes, gardening, and working on her personal farm.



AND OUR COLGATE UPSTATE FIELD SCHOOL INTERN!



Madison Perez is our Summer, 2018 intern through Colgate University's Upstate Institute Field School. She is currently a senior at Colgate, majoring in Environmental Biology and minoring in Japanese. Having grown up in northeast Pennsylvania, she is no stranger to the great outdoors. On her days off, you can find Madison hiking, kayaking, reading, and just generally enjoying the sights that the Adirondacks has to offer.

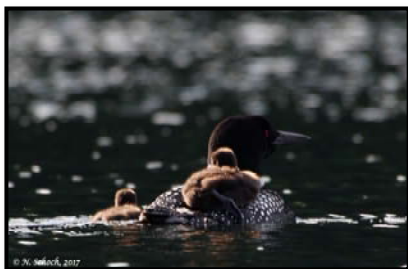


KT (Catherine) Shumway is our Sales Associate at the Loon Center this summer. KT is a senior at Paul Smith's College who will be graduating in December with a bachelors degree in Biology. She's excited to be living in Saranac Lake this summer, working at the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. When she's not at the Loon Center, KT is often hiking, drawing, or out exploring the Adirondacks.



PARTICIPATE IN OUR SURVEY AND ENTER TO WIN A BEAUTIFUL LOON PHOTOGRAPH!

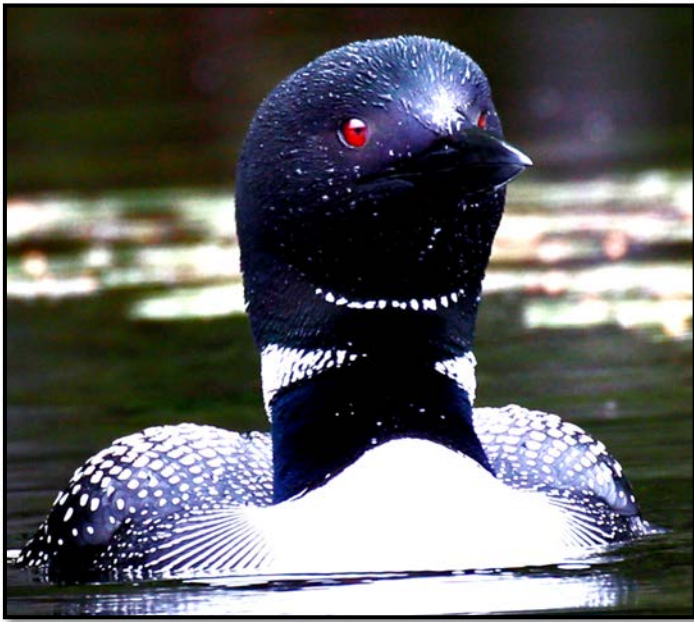
For her internship, Madison is conducting surveys to help us evaluate the effectiveness of our communications, outreach materials, and the experience of our visitors to the Adirondack Loon Center. The results of Madison's project will help guide us in refining and enhancing our educational materials, as well as designing exhibits for the Loon Center, and how to best meet your interests regarding loon conservation in the Adirondacks.



Please help us improve our educational programming!

We need a minimum of 100 people to participate in our online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/D73XTQV.

All who participate in this short survey before July 25 are invited to enter our drawing to win a beautiful loon photograph by our own Dr. Nina Schoch!



THANK YOU!

The generosity of our donors has enabled us to achieve the significant milestone of becoming an independent nonprofit organization and accomplish so much for Adirondack loons.

You have truly made a difference in loon conservation in the Adirondack Park.

We are extremely grateful for your generous support which has enabled us to accomplish so much—

MANY, MANY THANKS!

Our first annual report will be released this fall, and will highlight all that you have helped us do for Adirondack loons.

We hope you will enjoy learning about all you have contributed so much to Adirondack loon conservation.



Adirondack Center for
Loon Conservation

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

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

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nesting Loon = \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Loon Chick* = \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Flying Loon*** = \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loon Egg* = \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Loon** = \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: \$_____ |

- ☐ I have enclosed a check payable to *Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation*
- ☐ I would like to charge my donation to my credit card. I will [visit www.adkloon.org/support](http://www.adkloon.org/support) to charge my credit card online.
- ☐ I would also like to become a member of the *Adirondack Loon Legacy Society* to help support your Adirondack loon conservation efforts long into the future! Enclosed is my additional gift in the amount of \$_____, payable to the "*Adirondack Loon Legacy Fund at the Adirondack Foundation*," or I will pay online at www.adirondackfoundation.org/funds/adirondack-loon-legacy-fund.
- ☐ Please send me information on including the *Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation* in my will.
- ☐ I would like to make a gift of stock or other asset to ACLC—please send me information.
- ☐ 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 one of Kip Taylor's out-of-print "Loon" books.

*** 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!

SAVE THE DATES! ~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

We hope you can join us for some of our events this year!

- **FRIDAY, JULY 6, 5-7PM, VIEW ARTS CENTER, OLD FORGE, RECEPTION TO HONOR GARY LEE**, retired forest Ranger and long-time loon observer, rescuer, and educator. Tickets available at www.adkloon.org/events or at the door.
- **LOON ART SHOW—THROUGH JULY 15, VIEW ARTS CENTER, OLD FORGE**. Fabulous loon paintings, carvings, sculpture, and photographs! Collect a piece of beautiful artwork by an award-winning artist for your own home, and help support the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.
- **SATURDAY, JULY 21, 8-9AM, NY ANNUAL LOON CENSUS**. Sign up to observe on a lake near you by contacting WCS' Adirondack Program at 518-891-8872 or wcsaccp@gmail.com.
- **SATURDAY, JULY 21, 10AM-5PM, OPEN HOUSE AT THE ADIRONDACK LOON CENTER, SARANAC LAKE**. After watching loons for the Census in the morning, stop by the Loon Center to enjoy some loon cookies and to meet some of the ACLC staff.
- **LOON ART SHOW—SEPT. 7-OCT. 7, PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE VIC**. View and purchase a gorgeous piece of artwork by an award-winning artist, and share your love of loons with your friends and family in your own home!
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1-5PM, ADIRONDACK LOON CELEBRATION AT THE PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE VIC!** The Loon Celebration is back! Enjoy an fun-filled afternoon at the VIC with your family to learn about loons! Field trip in the morning to visit some Adirondack loons too (\$, *must pre-register before Oct 1: info@adkloon.org or 518-354-8636*).

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

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

Like what we do? Learn the latest all year long on our field research, loon rescues, and what's going on at the Adirondack Loon Center. *Stay up to date about our work by liking us on Facebook or following us on Twitter.*

Please help spread the word by liking our page, following us, and sharing our updates with your friends!

~ TREMOLO BY E-MAIL! ~

If you wish you could see the beautiful photos in *The Adirondack Tremolo* in color, you must be reading a hard copy. If so, **please go green by emailing us at info@adkloon.org to get our e-newsletter** and you'll 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 are reducing the number of printed copies we send out. We realize some people don't have access to computers, so **if you would like to continue to receive a printed Tremolo, please confirm this by sending us a note, or calling 518-354-8636.***

Please also **remember to give us your new address or email** if you move, or change your e-mail address, so you will continue to receive *The Tremolo*. **Thank you!**

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Ray Brook, NY 12977

