



ADIRONDACK CENTER
for LOON
CONSERVATION

The Adirondack Tremolo

2022 Summer Newsletter

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Happy Summer!

2022 has been a very exciting year! We have added several wonderful staff and interns to our team to help us implement many new projects, such as our Lead-Tackle Buy Back and Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Programs.

Additionally, our plans are progressing for a series of museum-quality exhibits for the Adirondack Loon Center. Based on the theme "A Year in the Life of a Loon," these exhibits will guide our visitors through learning about loon natural history and conservation concerns loons face throughout the year.

An eye-catching loon mural will soon be on the front of our building, and, on our interior upper walls, a background is being painted for a stunning photographic mural depicting a loon's life across the seasons.

Our long-time research studies have continued on threats impacting the Adirondack loon population, such as climate change, predation, environmental pollutants, and humans. We are also expanding our capacity to rescue distressed loons by training volunteer rescue teams in key areas of the Park.

We look forward to visiting and sharing our plans with you during your next trip to our Loon Center in Saranac Lake.

Have a wonderful summer with the loons!
~Dr. Nina Schoch, Executive Director
Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation

JOIN US SATURDAY, JULY 16, FOR OUR ANNUAL LOON CENSUS AND OPEN HOUSE!

➤ 8-9am: NY Annual Loon Census on a Lake Near You!

Like watching loons? Contribute to our loon population studies by joining hundreds of census observers to look for loons on lakes and rivers across New York. Please sign up in advance to census a lake or pond.

Visit www.adkloon.org/ny-loon-census to learn more!

➤ 10am -5pm: Open House at 75 Main Street, Saranac Lake

Visit us at our new Center to learn the latest about our loon research and conservation programs:

- ◆ Help launch our new mural!

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Explore Adirondack Frontier

Explore
ADIRONDACK
FRONTIER



- ◆ Turn in your Loon Census form
- ◆ Learn about our exhibit plans
- ◆ Enjoy delicious refreshments
- ◆ Visit and share your loon encounters with our staff!

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## WIN A BEAUTIFUL HORNBECK CANOE!

We're raffling off a wonderful Hornbeck 10' Classic canoe again! This ultralight boat will enable its paddler to easily reach remote Adirondack lakes and ponds to visit with the loons. We are very honored to have Hornbeck Boats as one of our sponsors and generous partners.

The drawing will be held on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at our Adirondack Loon Celebration at the Paul Smith's College VIC (need not be present to win).



**TICKETS:**  
**\$20 EACH or**  
**6 FOR \$100**

Download a ticket order form and learn more about Pete Hornbeck and his famous boats at [www.adkloon.org](http://www.adkloon.org), or... visit the Adirondack Loon Center or call 518-354-8636 to order your tickets

## ABOUT THE ADIRONDACK CENTER *for* LOON CONSERVATION

The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation (ACLC) is dedicated to inspiring passion for and promoting the conservation of Adirondack loons, a sentinel of the environment. With the loon as our centerpiece, our work is driven by our scientific research and conservation efforts, which are translated into our educational and outreach programming to help maintain robust populations of Common Loons in New York State and throughout North America.

The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation is led by a highly dedicated Board of Directors, including Susan Semegram (Chair), Dot Beatty, John DiGiacomo, Gail Doering, Harry Gordon, Linda Gorham, Benita Law-Diao, Kim Pope, Eric Potter, Richmond Rabinowitz, Chandler Ralph, Kathryn Ruscitto, and Jim Townsend.

Our Adirondack Loon Center, located in Saranac Lake, NY, is an educational, tourist, and shopping destination for loon-lovers of all ages. It fills a unique niche in the Village, and indeed, throughout the Adirondack Park, by providing an engaging experience for Adirondack residents, tourists, and students to learn about the Park's wildlife and environmental concerns through the lives of Common Loons.

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:*  
75 Main Street, Saranac Lake, NY  
www.adkloon.org/adklooncenter



## ~ STAFF UPDATES ~

- **Jay Locke** became our Finance and Operations Director in January. Jay brings a broad background in data management, grant administration, and fundraising to the Loon Center, which is integral to the behind-the-scenes work that keeps our organization running smoothly.



- **Susan Harry** joined us in January as our Philanthropy Director. Her wide experience in fundraising and grant management will greatly expand our capacity for sustaining our Adirondack loon conservation and research programs.

## ~ BOARD UPDATES ~

We are very excited to have welcomed John DiGiacomo, Harry Gordon, Benita Law-Diao, Kim Pope, and Richmond Rabinowitz to our Board of Directors in November, 2021.



Their vast experience and knowledge brings a broad range of expertise to the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation's Board, from financial oversight and fundraising, to architecture, exhibit design, and community engagement. We have greatly enjoyed working with them, and look forward to introducing them to you at our upcoming events and presentations, as well as at the Loon Center.

## ~ 2022 INTERNS ~

- **Sydney Burgy** is studying Aquatic and Fisheries Science at SUNY ESF. She is helping with our Lead Tackle Buy-Back, Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Program, and nest site protection project.
- **Tessa Mountain** is a senior at Colgate University where she is majoring in Environmental Biology. Tessa is helping us to deploy, monitor, and study loon nest rafts.
- **Hannah Pryor** is a sophomore studying Fisheries and Wildlife Science at Paul Smith's College. She is helping us at the Adirondack Loon Center, running our preschool and summer camp education programs, and also monitoring some of our study lakes. *We are most grateful to Stewart's Shops for their generous support of Hannah's internship.*



- **Nic Sparano** is a Wildlife and Fisheries Biology student at Clemson University. He's helping to expand the Lead Tackle Buy-Back, Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Program, and nest raft project this summer.
- **Hailey Stetz Schaeffer, Brian Merrigan, and Hannah Ashe** are students at SUNY ESF. They are monitoring study lakes in the central Adirondacks under the supervision of crew leader **Jess Meyer** from SUNY Cortland.

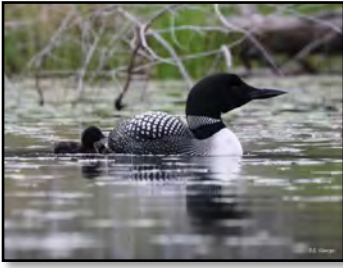


# JOIN US FOR A FIELD TRIP OR PRESENTATION!

*Have you always wanted to learn more about and spend time with loons? This is your chance!*

Sign up at [www.adkloon.org](http://www.adkloon.org), unless otherwise noted.

**Want to Schedule a Presentation for Your Group? Email [education@adkloon.org](mailto:education@adkloon.org)!**



- **Loon Photography Workshop:** July 15-17. Join John DiGiacomo and Nina Schoch for a weekend of photography & learning about loons! \$600/person. *Special rates for our donors. Email [info@adkloon.org](mailto:info@adkloon.org) for more information.*
- **Presentation:** July 16, 1-2pm, Clifton Community Library, Cranberry Lake, NY. *Free.* No registration needed.
- **Field Trip:** July 18 (rain-date July 19), 10am-2pm, South Pond. *Advance registration required. \$75 donation.*
- **Presentation:** July 21, 6-7pm, Town of Chester Auditorium, Chestertown, NY. *Free.*

- **Presentation:** July 22, 1-2pm, Long Lake Library, Long Lake, NY. *Free.*
- **Field Trip:** August 4 (rain-date August 5), 10am-2pm Little Clear and Little Green Pond. *Advance registration required. \$75 donation.*
- **Loon Photography Workshop,** August 12-14. Join John DiGiacomo and Nina Schoch for a weekend of photography & learning about loons! \$600/person. *Special rates for our donors. Email [info@adkloon.org](mailto:info@adkloon.org) for more information.*
- **Field Trip:** August 15, 9am-1pm, Lower St. Regis Lake. *Advance registration required.* Hosted by the Paul Smith's College VIC. More details coming soon. *Call 518-354-8636 or email [education@adkloon.org](mailto:education@adkloon.org) for updates.*
- **Field Trip:** September 24 (rain-date September 25), 10am-2pm, Lake Clear. *Advance registration required. \$75 donation.*
- **Field Trip:** October 9, 9am-12pm, Lake Clear. *Advance registration required. \$50 donation.*



*Want a private field trip for 4 or more people?*  
Contact [education@adkloon.org](mailto:education@adkloon.org) for more information,  
and to schedule your private trip!

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~ LOON RESCUES ~



Each year, we are contacted about numerous loons potentially in need of rescue. This year, we started early, as we rescued and released 9 loons by mid-March! Three of these birds were iced-in on Lake George, five were iced-in on Lake Champlain, and one had gone over a dam and then didn't have enough water to get airborne. We also collaborated with the Star Lake Fire Department to rescue a loon who was iced-in on Star Lake the last week of 2021. We are most grateful to the ice-fishermen and Nordic skaters who reported these unfortunate loons and assisted us with these rescues.

The loons who were iced-in experienced a climate change-induced phenomenon we call "molt-migration mismatch." Each year, loons need to migrate from their breeding lakes to open water before they molt out their flight feathers, which happens in mid-winter, and occurs all at once, making them flightless for over a month until the feathers regrow. If a lake stays open until mid-winter, then freezes suddenly after a steep drop in temperature, a loon may have missed the cue to migrate prior to molting. Thus, some loons get trapped ("iced-in") when they're unable to fly and thick ice suddenly forms on the lake.

During the summer, we respond to many reports of loons tangled in fishing line, who are sick, or land on a road. Fortunately, some of these birds are actually exhibiting normal behavior, such as taking a bath or trying to subdue a big fish. However, others are, indeed, in need of rescue, and we will send out a trained team of rescuers to try to capture and treat the loon.



If you see a loon in distress, please call us at (518) 354-8636, and email a photo of the bird to info@adkloon.org.

~ 2022 FIELD SEASON ~

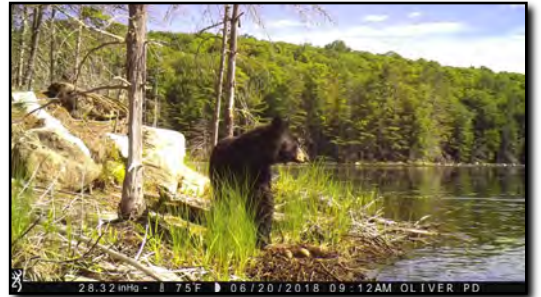
This summer, we are once again continuing our fieldwork to assess loon reproductive success and survival on more than 100 Adirondack lakes, building on our valuable multi-year dataset. Our seasonal field staff are now checking our study lakes weekly to determine if the banded loons returned from migration, established territories and paired with a mate to nest and raise their chicks. In mid-summer we will band loons and collect data for our long-term studies on the biotic impact of climate change and environmental pollutants such as mercury, as well as on loon migration, survival, and reproductive success.



Because they are long-lived, territorial, and at the top of the aquatic food web, loons are excellent sentinels of the waters where they live. The results of our research indicate that mercury levels in loons are responding to the reduced deposition of mercury in the environment that resulted after stringent regional and federal mercury-emission regulations were implemented in recent years. Mercury continues to persist in the environment, as it is slowly released from the lake sediments and soils, thus Adirondack loons still have some exposure to mercury, albeit at much reduced levels.

Additionally, we are now documenting an increasing prevalence of other threats to Adirondack loons and their habitats, including predation, human-related issues, and climate-change impacts, such as flooding of nests after torrential rain events, a higher prevalence of vector-borne diseases, and an increased incidence of iced-in loons in the winter.

We continue to utilize nest cameras each summer to learn what happens at loon nests when our field staff aren't around. These cameras provide invaluable documentation of predators raiding loon nests, human disturbance, and water-level fluctuation events. The findings from this study help direct our education, management, and stewardship efforts.



The results of our research studies are used by state and federal agencies to inform policies on environmental pollutants, climate change, and the management of loon populations in New York, the Northeast, and North America. Our studies are supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and our many donors.

[Learn More about Our Studies at www.adkloon.org/research](http://www.adkloon.org/research)

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## ~ AVIAN FLU AFFECTING BIRDS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA ~

Sadly, hundreds of wild birds across North America, including waterfowl, raptors, and scavengers, have been killed in recent months by Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu (HPAI), including several bald eagles and waterfowl in the Adirondacks.



We have had many questions about how HPAI impacts loons. At this point, loons appear to be rarely affected by HPAI, although we have detected other strains of avian flu when we've tested Adirondack loons. However, flu viruses mutate rapidly and, thus, new strains can emerge that affect different bird species.

This summer, as part of our ongoing study on the health of the NY loon population, we will collect samples from Adirondack loons to test for exposure to HPAI. Additionally, we will continue to submit any deceased loons to NY DEC's Wildlife Pathology

Laboratory for necropsy to determine the cause of their demise. This year's samples will help to establish a baseline to compare with future data to monitor trends in HPAI outbreaks.

Since some strains of avian flu can also be transmitted to people, we recommend that you don't handle sick or dead wild birds. It is best to report such cases to your local NYS DEC office, who may collect the carcasses or sick birds to test them for HPAI. Hopefully, this outbreak will soon subside, and won't greatly affect our bird populations, which also experience a multitude of other threats, some which we can prevent, thus offsetting the impacts of those we cannot, such as HPAI.





## ~ WHAT'S NEW AT THE ADIRONDACK LOON CENTER? ~

*Fly in to see all our wonderful changes!* From our welcome mural on the outside brick façade (*with much gratitude to the staff of signs.com for all their great help in designing this mural*) to designing the exhibitry and the photo mural on the inside of the Loon Center, we are excited to share our ideas with you!

Our exhibits will follow the theme of *"A Year in the Life of a Loon,"* which will be illustrated by a beautiful photographic diorama on the upper half of our 14-foot walls. This series of large spectacular photos will depict loon behaviors during the seasons of the year, from when these captivating birds arrive in the spring to establish a territory, then spend the summer nesting and raising their chicks, to when they migrate in the late fall to their wintering areas along the coast.

Engaging exhibits corresponding to the stages of a loon's life and the conservation threats they face will be created below the related photos in the diorama.

A local artist is now painting the background for the photo diorama.

*Visit us soon to see our progress!*



***You're Invited! Become an Exhibit or Diorama Photo Sponsor, and Help us Create a Wonderful Place for our Visitors to Learn about Loons!***

*Contact Susan Harry at [sharry@adkloon.org](mailto:sharry@adkloon.org) or 518-354-8636 to learn more.*



Visit the Adirondack Loon Center at 75 Main Street to learn more about loons and our work.  
*While there, browse our gift shop filled with fun loon items for your friends and family!*

**The Loon Center is Open 10am to 5pm Every Day!**

*Not able to visit the Loon Center in person?*

*Visit our Online Store at [www.adkloon.org](http://www.adkloon.org)!*

### **We Have New Merchandise!**

High-quality logo water bottles from Hydro Flask, beautiful enamel mugs from the Bird Collective, and loon pool floats by Float-Eh are sure to bring a smile to any loon enthusiast!



Alexius Jones from "I'm Melting...Glass" has been a wonderful supporter of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. We stock many of her unique handmade products, such as glass candle holders, ornaments, and night lights.

***Find them in store or online!***

## ~ 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. By working together, Adirondack residents and visitors can better protect Adirondack loons and other wildlife. In this program, we provide with training, guidelines, and conservation projects to ensure that their lake continues to support breeding loons.



There are more than 30 groups participating around the Adirondack region. Want to join them?

Learn more at [www.adkloon.org](http://www.adkloon.org) or contact Jen Denny at [education@adkloon.org](mailto:education@adkloon.org) to participate in this exciting program!

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~ 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 Today!

- **Blue Line Sports:** 81 Main Street, Saranac Lake
- **Cloud-Splitter Outfitters:** 5302 NY-28N, Newcomb
- **Crossroads:** 40 Dixon Road, Chestertown
- **Fish307.com:** 6 State Route 149, Lake George
- **Hoss's Country Corner:** 1142 Main Street, Long Lake
- **Norm's Bait and Tackle:** 286 Bridge Rd, Crown Point
- **Old Forge Hardware:** 104 Fulton Street, Old Forge
- **Pine's Country Store:** 6123 NY-28, Indian Lake
- **Raquette River Outfitters:** 1754 NY-30, Tupper Lake
- **The Red Top Inn:** 1562 NY-30, Tupper Lake
- **Woods and Waters:** 255 Broadway, Saranac Lake

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## ~ NEST SITE PROTECTION\* ~

Nesting loons face many threats, including predators, human disturbance, and flooding during torrential rain events. To reduce nest failure, we are now implementing a variety nest site protection tools at lakes, including nest rafts, signage, and buoys. We are deploying these tools on lakes where there is a history of nest failure to help improve the nesting success of Common Loons across the Adirondack Park.



Contact Cody Sears at [csears@adkloon.org](mailto:csears@adkloon.org) or 518-354-8636 to learn more.

*\*These programs are generously supported by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of the Bouchard Barge 120 Buzzards Bay Oil Spill Trustees, Merrill L. Thomas Inc., Northern New York Audubon, and our individual donors like you— Thank You!*

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WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

We welcome your help on the water, in the Adirondack Loon Center, at special events, and behind the scenes!

Our volunteers contribute greatly to our success as a nonprofit organization. With their help, we are able to expand the scope of our research and educational projects.

Interested in helping out once...or once a week?

Email education@adkloon.org for more information!



MANY THANKS!

It's now been five (!) years since we became an independent nonprofit organization. Thanks to your generous support, we have grown significantly in such a short time, and are now greatly expanding our research, conservation, and education programs to better protect loons and the waters where they live. We reach thousands of people each year at our Adirondack Loon Center and through our outreach to inspire them to become actively involved in conservation.



Want to contribute? There are many ways you can help! Your financial donation, whether from your annual gift, monthly recurring donations, your IRA distribution, stock, or donor advised fund, all provide essential support for our small organization. We also welcome your donation of your car or boat, and invite you to become an exhibit sponsor or a member of our Adirondack Loon Legacy Society to have your support continue long into the future.

Your generous support in 2022 will help us introduce new educational exhibits at the Loon Center, train loon rescue teams across the Park, expand our community stewardship programs, and so much more.

With deep gratitude!

~Dr. Nina Schoch and the Staff of the
Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation

**Thank You for All You Do to
Help Adirondack Loons!**

To learn more about supporting the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, visit www.adkloon.org/support, or contact Susan Harry at sharry@adkloon.org or 518-354-8636.



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.
☐ 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 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.
☐ 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: _____

Mailing 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

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SAVE THE DATE!

On Sunday, October 9, 2022, we will once again host the Adirondack Loon Celebration at the Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center.

An event for the whole family!

Join us for this fun-filled day, including:

- A morning field trip to visit with fall loons on Lake Clear
- A fascinating presentation on loon vocalizations by Dr. Jay Mager, who studies the call of the loon
- Great music by Adirondack musician Sara Milonovich
- Wonderful food by Mac's Mobile Diner
- Loon Calling Contest—bring your best calls to join in!
- Our silent auction filled with exciting loon items
- Children's loony crafts and activities
- The drawing for the winner of our Hornbeck canoe raffle

*Celebrate Loons with Us
on Oct 9th!*



~ 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 to receive our e-newsletter including:

- A color version of *The Tremolo* that you can easily share with your friends and family; and
- Monthly updates about our work 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.

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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## FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA!

[www.facebook.com/adkloon](https://www.facebook.com/adkloon)

[www.instagram.com/adkloon](https://www.instagram.com/adkloon)

[www.twitter.com/adkloon](https://www.twitter.com/adkloon)

*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 give you 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!*