



ADIRONDACK CENTER  
FOR LOON  
CONSERVATION

# THE ADIRONDACK TREMOLO

2018 Fall Newsletter

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*Wow—I can't believe it's been 20 years (!!) since I volunteered to help capture my first loon (who was still raising chicks this summer!). I never expected that two decades later I'd still be studying Adirondack loons, and this work has now evolved into a nonprofit organization of its own.*

*It has been a fantastic experience learning about these captivating birds, and interacting with so many interesting people—from all our donors, partners, and other scientists to wildlife rehabilitators and students. It's amazing how many thousands of people we've reached over the years, as well as how much we've contributed to loon conservation, both through our population studies and by helping individual birds in need.*

*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!*

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

## YOU'RE INVITED!

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ADIRONDACK LOON CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY, OCT 7, FROM 1-5PM AT THE PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE VIC!

The Loon Celebration is returning to the Paul Smith's VIC! Please join us on Sunday, Oct. 7 for a fun-filled day for the whole family to learn about loons!

For those of you who would like to see loons first-hand, join us for a field trip in the morning (*\$20/person, PRE-REGISTRATION BY OCT 1 REQUIRED*) — either paddling on a local lake (*must provide or rent a canoe or kayak*) or viewing the annual gathering of loons at Lake Clear from shore.

In the afternoon, come to the VIC to enjoy a delicious lunch from Green Goddess (\$), a great concert by Celia Evans, and a presentation about the secret lives of nesting Adirondack loons by our own Dr. Schoch.



There will also be activities for the kids to enjoy, a silent auction, and a raffle of a beautiful loon decoy by Kevin Colton. *If you have a loon-related item you would like to donate for the silent auction, please bring it to the Loon Center before Oct 4.*

*Pre-register for the field trip before Oct 1 by calling 518-354-8636 or emailing [info@adkloon.org](mailto:info@adkloon.org).*

*Space is limited—  
Pre-register Today!*



### VISIT THE LOON ART SHOW AT THE PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE VIC THROUGH OCT 8!

A gorgeous art show and sale titled "Conservation Through the Lives of Adirondack Loons" runs through October 8 at the Paul Smith's College VIC. Proceeds from the sale of the artwork will help benefit the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.

Many artists and photographers are participating in this exciting show—Please visit the Paul Smith's College VIC to see these beautiful original paintings and prints by award winning artists, including Kathy Bordeau, Gary Casagrain, Jeanne Dupre, Shawn Halperin, Ron Kleiber, Emily McCall, Lisa McLaughlin, Robert McNamara, and John Tate.

Additionally, the show highlights wonderful photographs by Linda Benzon, John DiGiacomo, Larry Loebell, Larry Master, Nina Schoch, and Ed Williams; intricate woodcarvings by Allen Aardsma; and a graceful fungal carving 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 a 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, Gail Doering, 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](mailto:info@adkloon.org), 518-354-8636

[www.adkloon.org](http://www.adkloon.org)

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

Visit our Adirondack Loon Center at:  
15 Broadway, Saranac Lake, NY or  
[www.adkloon.org/adklooncenter](http://www.adkloon.org/adklooncenter)

## ~ ACLC STAFF HAPPENINGS ~

**Dr. Valerie Buxton** joined our team last winter as our Research Scientist. She has a deep interest in avian ecology, behavior, and conservation. Val received her Master's and PhD at the Univ. of Illinois studying the effects of urbanization on grassland birds and the influence of social information on frog breeding habitat selection, respectively. 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.



Val is currently analyzing 20 years of our loon mercury and reproductive success data to be included in a NYSERDA-sponsored synthesis study about the impact of mercury pollution to New York's ecosystems. Additionally, she is working with Adirondack Atlas to develop an online reporting system for the NY Loon Census.



**Faith Barney** is our new Operations/HR 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.

Faith is our key "behind-the-scenes" guru who makes sure our organization runs smoothly—from keeping items available in our gift shop to updating our accounting records and answering our HR questions. Plus she tosses in a little dry humor here & there when we least expect it, to keep us on our toes!

So a group of 5 guys walk into a Loon Center.....

Throw money in the donation jar....

And two pose for a picture because they have  
loon tattoos! Happy Friday!



**KT (Catherine) Shumway** is our Sales Associate at the Loon Center.. A senior at Paul Smith's College, KT will be graduating in December with a Bachelor's in Biology. Interested in learning about loons and our work? Stop by the Loon Center and talk with KT—she enjoys sharing her knowledge and is having fun helping to design exhibits for the Center. In her off-time, KT is out hiking, drawing, or exploring the Adirondacks.

### NINA SCHOCH RECEIVES THE 2018 ELIZABETH THORNDIKE AWARD—CONGRATULATIONS!



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. This 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 programs to increase scientific and public understanding about loon conservation. This award represents the contributions of the many partners and supporters of Adirondack loon conservation, including NYS DEC, WCS, NYSERDA, The Wild Center, the Freed and Cloudsplitter Foundations, and numerous other private foundations and donors.

# ~ 20 YEARS OF STUDYING LOONS IN THE ADIRONDACKS ~

## A BRIEF SUMMARY OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This summer marked 20 years since Dr. Schoch first helped Biodiversity Research Institute, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and NYS DEC capture and band loons in the Adirondacks to assess how mercury pollution affects their populations. This study is now one of the longest biotic mercury monitoring studies in North America—In the last two decades, thanks to support from NYSERDA, and our many donors and partners, we have now banded more than 350 loons, and are monitoring more than a 100 Adirondack lakes each summer to learn more about loon ecology and behavior.



Additionally, we have conducted studies on loon migration, health, nesting success, trends in the Adirondack loon population, and more. We collaborate extensively with NYS DEC and wildlife rehabilitators to rescue injured loons, and have reached almost 50,000 people through hundreds of our educational programs. Our Adirondack Loon Center in the heart of Saranac Lake is now enabling us to connect with so many thousand more people each year who stop by to learn about loons.

And in the spring of 2017, we reached a fantastic milestone when we became an independent nonprofit organization! We are so very grateful to all who helped us reach this significant achievement—from our donors and volunteers to our scientific and educational partners. **THANK YOU ALL!**



With your help, we look forward to doing even more over the next twenty years! ***Please continue to join us in expanding the Adirondack Loon Center and developing our educational and research programs.*** Your support will help us do even more to protect Adirondack loons and the lakes and ponds we all share.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO GARY LEE — OUR 2018 ADIRONDACK LOON RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT!

On July 6th, we were honored to present our 2018 Loon Recognition Award to naturalist extraordinaire Gary Lee at the View Arts Center in Old Forge. 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.

*Gary has also received many other awards over the years for his writing, skills as a Forest Ranger, and commitment to protecting the wildlife and plants in the Adirondacks—Congratulations, Gary!*

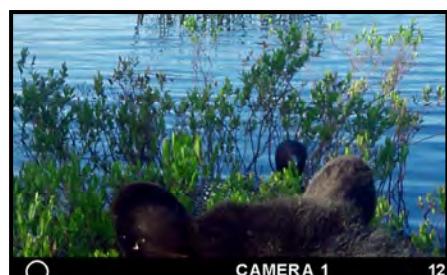


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### ~ NOTES FROM THE FIELD ~ HUNGRY BEARS ENJOY LOON OMELETS!

Since 2013, in collaboration with the NYS DEC, we've been monitoring some of our loon nests with trail cameras to learn about loon nesting behavior and factors affecting nesting success. We've documented chicks hatching, nests flooding, and boaters in very close proximity to nests.

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!



CAMERA 1

12

# 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 and Freed Foundations, NYSERDA, 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](http://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](http://www.adkloon.org/adklooncenter)**

We now have an online store so you can order a special loon-gift for your friends and family! We are continuing to add items throughout the year, from original artwork, jewelry, and crafts by local Adirondack artisans to entertaining books, posters, dvds, and toys.

**Like us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/adkloon](https://www.facebook.com/adkloon), to stay updated about the progress of our exhibits and new items in our gift-shop!**



## HELP US IMPROVE OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING! *Participate in Our Survey, and Enter to Win a Beautiful Loon Photograph!*



Our Summer, 2018, Colgate Field School Intern, Madison Perez, helped us develop surveys to 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 complete the survey in this newsletter, or visit our online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/D73XTQV](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D73XTQV)**

**All who participate in this short survey before November 30 are invited to enter our drawing to win a beautiful 8x10" loon photograph by our own Dr. Nina Schoch!**

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Each year, we receive numerous reports of loon who are tangled in fishing line, caught in the ice, or are otherwise distressed. Some are just loons behaving normally, like taking a bath and preening. However, other birds are truly in need of rescue, which often requires skilled personnel, a boat, net, and other equipment, and many times, a very late night on the water.



Thus, it is so exciting to receive follow-up on one of the worst fishing line loons we rescued back in 2016. Because we banded her, we were able to confirm that she returned to the Adirondacks and successfully raised two chicks in the summer of 2017!

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

# ~ 2018 NEW YORK ANNUAL LOON CENSUS ~

**Many thanks** to all who participated in the 2018 New York Annual Loon Census on Saturday, July 21! The data is currently being entered into the database for analysis and will be available this winter on our website. We are pleased to announce that we are also working with Adirondack Atlas to develop an online reporting system for 2019. *Stay Tuned!*

Sadly, we recently learned that the Wildlife Conservation Society is closing its Adirondack Program. We are extremely grateful to their staff, Zoe Smith, Michale Glennon, Heidi Kretser, Jerry Jenkins, and Carrianne Pershyn, for all their wonderful collaboration on the Loon Census and other projects over the years. Their work has greatly contributed to wildlife conservation efforts in the Adirondacks. We wish them all the best in the future, and hope we will once again have the privilege of working with these talented people soon.



## THANK YOU!

The generosity of our donors has helped us accomplish so much for Adirondack loons.

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

*Our first annual report will be released this fall, and will highlight all that you have helped us do over the last twenty years. We hope you enjoy learning about all you have contributed to Adirondack 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:

Nesting Loon = \$50       Loon Chick\* = \$250       Flying Loon\*\*\* = \$1000  
 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 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," or I will pay online at [www.adirondackfoundation.org/funds/adirondack-loon-legacy-fund](http://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 a Kip Taylor 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!**

## SPONSOR AN ADIRONDACK LOON!

Looking for that perfect holiday gift for your friends and family? Fill the bill (*so to speak...*) with a sponsorship of one of our own Adirondack study loons!

Every loon sponsorship comes with a personalized certificate that describes your loon's history from when we first captured and banded it, including information about the number of chicks it has raised over the years, as well as a beautiful loon photograph, the 2018 Loon Appreciation Week poster, an ACLC sticker, bookmark, and a fact sheet about loons.

Monitoring individual color-banded birds over many years provides valuable information that helps deepen our understanding of loon ecology. The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation's loon sponsorship program greatly expands our ability to conduct this important research about New York's loon population.



Visit [www.adkloon.org](http://www.adkloon.org) or  
contact us at 518-354-8636  
to sponsor your very own  
Adirondack loon!

## ~ 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](mailto: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!**

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

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

