



photo by Tom Moser

Help Protect Loons

Watch loons from at least 200 feet away. Get a powerful lens for your camera, use binoculars or a spotting scope for viewing, and never explore a loon nest site. Close encounters can be deadly for swimming and nesting loons.

Use non-lead fishing sinkers and jigs. Ingesting one lead sinker or jig will kill a loon.

Avoid exploring or camping on islands before July 15th of each year. Loons prefer islands for nesting. Disturbance can cause a loon to abandon its nest.

Protect native vegetation on all shores. Loons nest on natural shorelines and use the natural materials to build their nests. Conserve electricity. Mercury emissions contaminate lakes and loon food.

Dispose of household garbage at a collection site. Garbage draws raccoons, foxes, gulls, and eagles, which prey on loon eggs. Trash can also ensnare wildlife, including loons. Be an ethical angler. Never fish or cast near loon nests or swimming loons, properly dispose of extra bait and trash, and pick up monofilament line.

Keep dogs and cats away from loons and nests. Pets disturb nesting loons and can destroy loon eggs.

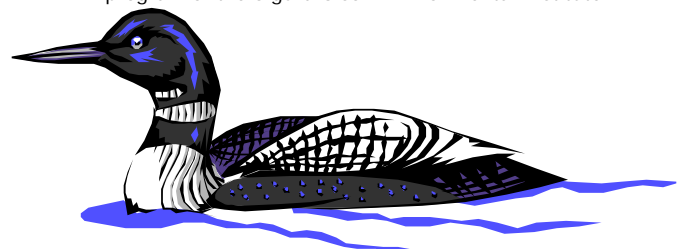
Use only phosphorus-free fertilizers on shorelands, and only if needed. Fertilizer that runs off into lakes increases aquatic plant growth, making it difficult for loons to swim and find food.

Report any unusual loon activity or harassment of loons to your lake's Loon Ranger. Find out who is the official Loon Ranger on your lake and report your observations to him or her.

Monitor water quality or invasive species. Check with your lake association for ways that you can help.

Be a responsible boater. Never chase loons or run motorboats or personal watercraft over areas where loons have been seen. Loons and loon chicks have died from being hit by boats and propellers. Practice and teach wildlife stewardship... always!

A program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute



Diamond Lake Loons finally hatched one chick on the third try....on July 20. Read on to check its timeline for a successful migration. In past years, one other chick was hatched in late July. It made its departure the last week of October.

Living with Loons

In Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, loons typically begin to arrive on their nest lakes around mid-to-late April. The first order of business is to establish a territory then attract a mate. This is done during the last weeks of April and early in May – then nesting begins. Most loons in Wisconsin are nesting by mid-May, which means eggs begin to hatch one month later in early to mid June. Some pairs that begin nesting later, or who lose their first nest and try a second time, will have eggs hatching into early July.

The first four weeks are the most critical in a young loon's life. This is the time when they are covered in downy feathers and are unable to maintain their internal body temperature. It is when the chicks are completely dependent upon their parents, so adults spend most of their time catching fish and feeding the chicks. This is also when chicks are learning to dive, so the typical way a loon avoids danger, diving, is not an option for them.

Once the young loons reach four weeks of age, they have molted into their first set of feathers and can maintain a regular body temperature, and they are able to dive and are catching some of their own food. Once the young become self-sufficient, adults begin spending less time with them, as they prepare to leave on their fall migration. The young loons stay behind until almost ice-up, feeding and gaining strength to make the southward flight themselves.

Therefore, the most important time for loons, in terms of ensuring successful reproduction, is from May through mid-to-late July. This is when adults are sensitive to intrusions at the nest site, and, later, when young are most dependent on the parents.

Any sustained disturbance during the nesting season or during the early stages of chick-rearing can be detrimental to a loon pair's nest success for that year. Because loons lay only two eggs per nest, and usually only have one or two (if the first nest is lost) opportunities to lay eggs each season, even

one year of disturbance can have negative effects on an area's loon population over the long-term.

So what can we do? All of this does NOT mean that we cannot use a lake during the summer. It simply means that we have to be mindful of the fact that we share the lake with others – people and wildlife. Here are some things we can do to help loons while enjoying the lake ourselves:

- Observe loons from a distance with binoculars or a spotting scope rather than trying to get close to them. Stay 200 feet away from loons on nest or on the water whenever possible.
- Give islands and marshy areas of a lake a wide berth to avoid disturbing loons on nests.
- Post Loon Alert signs at public boat launches to let visitors know that loons use the lake and that the people who live there care enough to protect them.
- Protect or restore important loon nesting and chick rearing areas on a lake.
- Use alternatives to lead fishing tackle made from materials such as bismuth and steel. It only takes one lead sinker or jig to poison a loon.

Loons can be tolerant of human recreation and even raise young successfully on lakes that have regular recreational use. But people using the lake need to be mindful of the loon's presence and have the courtesy to give them some space. If we do this, we will be fortunate enough to have loons return to our lakes year after year, and we can be sure that the loon's call we hear floating on the morning mists or the evening air is one of life and harmony and not a sounding of the alarms that something is wrong.

From the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute



photo by Tim Tully

Some Recollections about Nettie Fox

By Ron Parker with Terry Doonan

Several residents have asked about Nettie Fox, early resident of Diamond Lake. The Newsletter first published these recollections in 2003.

One of the local legends of Diamond Lake is in the person of Nettie Fox. Nettie was born in Detroit, Michigan on 2/28/1869. She died on 1/6/1950 in Ashland at the age of 80 years. Her body was cremated and I heard later that the ashes were spread on Diamond Lake. From my observations I think that she lived a rather hard life. There is not much that is factually known about her. The above came from a Memorial card that was supplied by the Ashland funeral home and Kate Doonan. What follows is a combination of personal observances, anecdotes, deductions and some limited hearsay.

She and her husband called the place they owned, the Diamond Lake Lodge. They catered to hunters, fishermen, boarders, and lodgers in the summer and hunting seasons. She also did a bit of farming and sold eggs and milk. The sloping land between the house on

the hill and the lakeshore had been cleared for farming. Trees have since grown back in this area, but at one time, there was a 200-300 foot wide light green patch at the north end of the lake where Nettie did her farming.

One of my more enduring recollections is that of seeing Nettie in her round-bottomed green rowboat. She would always row the boat "backwards" i.e., stern-forward, so that she could "see where she was going." She also did not row with both oars at the same time. She would alternate pushing the oars, first the right oar, then the left and then the right again, etc. She had a very distinctive rowing personality in this way. One glance and you knew who was in that boat.

She would row her boat down the lake and make the rounds by visiting people around the lake once or twice a week during the summer. She would tie up her boat at someone's dock and go visit them. The visit would often coincide with a meal time. The result was that while she picked up and distributed a lot of lake gossip, she would participate in a meal. We might smile now at such a practice, but times were different in the 1930s than they are now. All across the USA there were a large number of people out of work and too proud to apply to the county for welfare, so it was not at all uncommon to see people come to your door offering to split some stove or fireplace wood in exchange for a meal. Nettie fit right in. Her quid pro quo was Diamond Lake gossip.

I became aware of her probably in the early 1940s when I would spend the summer at our Cottage. She was a slight woman who stood about 5' 5" and who weighed maybe 120 lbs. One noticed her eyes at once. They were sunken into her eye sockets and she had some affliction which caused one of her eyelids to be half-shut. Maybe she was blind in one eye; I don't know, but it wouldn't surprise me. I never saw her with glasses.

Her dress in even the hottest summer days included many layers of clothing which to my young eyes looked well-worn. She carried a walking staff and usually wore a large straw hat adorned with some chicken feathers. Under

her hat she wore her hair bound up in a bandana. She had few teeth so her speech was somewhat slurred and indistinct. She spoke with a low, but sprightly voice and, seemingly to my young ears, almost incessantly.

She was about the age of my grandmother, Anna Collins, and would come to visit for a few hours periodically during the summer. Sometime earlier in her life she had lived in St. Paul and had become a member of the Order of the Eastern Star (a Masonic organization for women). She made a point of visiting her "sister" Anna regularly in the summer months. My grandmother was very proud of her OES membership and so accepted Nettie and her stories with mostly good grace.

My mother told a story of one time when she was preparing to wash her hair at the sink in the kitchen. The water had been heated up on the stove and she was about to begin when who should appear at the door but Nettie. My grandmother answered the door and invited Nettie in to visit. Mother dressed in only a brassiere from the waist up went ahead and began to wash her hair at the kitchen sink. Nettie took one look at my mother and promptly turned her back on her and proceeded to speak ONLY to my grandmother. Mother and grandmother had a good laugh about the visit afterward speculating that the topic of gossip at subsequent visits included that brazen Collins woman who stood "half naked calmly washing her hair while she was there".

Nettie was a year-around resident at the north end of the lake. This was at a time when this part of Wisconsin virtually shut down between the end of deer-hunting season and the fishing opener in the spring. This was a time before snowmobiles, a time before skiing, a time when Telemark was called Cable Mountain. During the winter months it was lonely and cold. Those who lived here in the winter usually were not able to afford an auto to drive into town. So, from October until May, one's social life was often confined to one's neighbors. Occasionally, they would get to town to do shopping - and some socializing - but that did

not happen very often. It was cold and lonely, and I suspect that it took its toll on the mental health of people such as Nettie.

There is a side story here that on occasions such as Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Fricks, who owned the Pioneer Store and Bar would drive over to the Zehners for Christmas dinner. The Zehners had a farm at the south end of the lake at what is now the Little Bear. In addition to the Fricks and the Zehners, the guests would include Nettie, Dr. Conklin (a retired dentist who lived where the Mellands now live), the Raws, who lived where the Wuests now live and Walter and Howard Moore (from East Lake, now called Takodah). This must have been a bright moment in what was otherwise a dreary, lonesome winter.

My associate Terry suggests that she (Nettie) may not have been poor, but rather that she chose to live a Spartan lifestyle. She had some nice furniture at the lodge which she occasionally sold to people around the lake. She also must have had some higher education which could be attested by the letters which she occasionally wrote to Vi Doonan, Terry's mother.

My guess is that Nettie was a victim of genteel poverty. She would have been 66 years of age in 1935 at the time that the Social Security Act was signed into law. Because she ran a farm, it was unlikely that she could have collected much under Social Security. At that time, if you were poor, you lived off the county welfare, however there was a prevailing ethic in which those who had jobs would frown on those receiving welfare. The result was that many did not apply for welfare choosing instead to go hungry. In retrospect, I would probably put Nettie in this latter category. It was said that sometime in the 1940s, her husband deserted her so she needed to run the lodge, and tend the farm.

Sometime in the late 1940s, she left her lodge/farm and moved into a small dwelling on a little point of land opposite of where the Sandersons now live on a little bay-let where she lived for a year or so. Apparently a family member placed her in an Ashland nursing

home where, after a short time, she died. Her body was cremated and her ashes were spread on the lake by Pinkey Hartman, the owner of the Diamond Lake Lodge at the time. As he spread them his wife tolled the bell at the lodge.

The Lodge and Nettie's last home on the lake is in a fairly large bay that constitutes the north end of the Lake. To the best of my knowledge, there is no name given to this bay. We Diamond Lakers could do worse than to name it Nettie's Bay after one of the lake's true pioneers.



photo by Tim Tully

Native Plants

Native plants are part of each Diamond Lake gardener's agenda. Before the first decade of the 21st century, it was difficult to purchase native plants; there were very few growers who glimpsed the need for such. Gradually gardeners recognized that native plants took less maintenance, reduced the need for fertilizers and herbicides, and could last through nasty winters! Many native plants used in local gardens had to be transported from Amery, WI.

At the same time, Becky Brown, an ecologist and former professor at UW-Madison, could not resist collecting seeds as they ripened. She describes her house as having every surface covered with plates of seeds she had collected.

I asked Becky questions and she replied:

Audrey: Have you created a calendar of the

"pick the seeds weeks" for each of the plants you cultivate? And a map for the best locations to find the plants? Or do you raise some of your plants to provide next year's seeds?

Becky: I have a calendar that indicates when the seeds of northern native species are typically ready to harvest. The quantities of seed produced, as well as the harvest dates, vary from year to year depending on weather. I've already started collecting seeds for next season, and seed collection continues into late fall. I do a lot of harvesting on my own property, and I also harvest (with permission) on private and public property, primarily in Bayfield County. I'm always looking for new collecting locations, in order to help maintain the genetic diversity of each species and in an attempt not to over-harvest any one area. If you are interested, I have a set of guidelines for seed collecting that I could send you.

Audrey: Are there specific planting formulations you mix that are specific to a plant?

Becky: I start all species in a commercially available germination mix. When I transplant seedlings into plug trays, I use a high quality peat moss based potting mix. Sometimes I add a small amount of slow-release organic fertilizer. For species that prefer dry, well-drained soil, I sometimes add some sand to the mix.

Audrey: I think Wildflower Woods is a local miracle....rising from a personal hobby and growing in a time when locating supplies of native plants has been "iffy". At least it was when Sarah started helping us.

Becky: Sarah Boles is the person who got me started growing native plants. We bought a home with a tiny attached greenhouse, then Sarah came over one day with some bags of seeds and asked "do you think you could germinate these for me?" That was all it took to get me started. I now have a 1500 sq ft greenhouse where I do most of my work, and a smaller 500 sq ft greenhouse. I grow mostly on contract and do not have a retail nursery. But I'm happy to talk to people about native plants, and I accept orders from individuals as well as

from agencies and landscape firms. As you know, there is a native plant sale the first Saturday of June each year, at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College. It's a farmers market type sale with four native plant vendors from our region. The Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department also sponsors a native plant sale each year on a pre-order basis, they take orders in the fall.

Audrey: How does Nancy Tully's successful germinating of specific ferns fit into your business? Can you describe what makes this process so "temperamental?" How did it happen that Nancy started her germination process?

Becky: Ferns are a natural component of northern forests and I often get requests for ferns for northern woodland gardens. I've been thinking of growing ferns for several years, but I thought the process was very difficult. Nancy's success inspired me to try it. It really isn't difficult, but it's slow and takes some care and precision. First, you must collect the spores at exactly the right time. Then, the germination containers and soil must be sterilized to prevent the growth of molds and algae. After that, it just takes patience! I'm still learning about fern propagation. Nancy seems to have mastered the techniques. You'll have to ask her how she got started.

Maidenhair Ferns(MHF) are a favorite for Nancy Tully so she has attempted to grow them. She turned to Becky Brown and an article in Horticulture Magazine; Nancy seems surprised by her own successes.

Nancy outlined her process:

Collect spores from the underside of the fern fronds when they are brown....tamp them onto white paper (paper plates work well) and set them out to dry away from wind currents.

Meanwhile, sterilize rigid plastic containers with lids (like Ziploc or Tupperware) by filling them *with boiling water*. Add potting soil mixture Pour boiling water over the soil, cool, gently decant the water. Sprinkle spores on top of the

sterilized potting soil, cover, and let sit in the basement The spores generally need to be brown to be ripe, although this isn't always true.

I use whatever potting soil I have on hand. I sprinkle the spores on top of the sterilized medium, cover and try to be patient. If the spores are ready it seems it takes a few weeks for signs of life to appear. If they are older and dried they might take longer. The first stage is the flat leaflet and the tiny hairs that appear are apparently roots. After what seems to be ages, little tiny ferns that are recognizable as such appear. That is when I have handed them off to Becky.

I am going to try to grow my own this year, just a few, anyway. I checked my ferns and the Christmas fern has ripe spores. None of the others seem ripe yet. I will be happy to give you some, and also any other spores when ready. There is no shortage! Christmas fern is very lovely. Mine have been in the ground three years and this year they are beautiful. A grow light and a loupe might be helpful, but not necessary Becky Brown gives Nancy credit for her success; MHF have been a difficult fern to propagate. . Becky has grown some of her maidenhair ferns from Nancy's baby ferns.



photo by Tim Tully

Interesting News

The most interesting part of each newsletter is the "Introduction" section where we meet new members of the Diamond Lake family. Please let us know about your family, new resident or established resident. Choose to introduce your family by name and age, careers, volunteer activities, reasons you chose Diamond Lake, activities you enjoy when at the Lake, and/or favorite spots in the area, favorite restaurants.....we'd love to know you better.

Send info to asanders@cheqnet.net.

STORY of the ROCK

Here is a picture of an oar from Grandma Goeltz's cabin. The (now) little red cabin currently belongs to Scott and Beth Johnson, and is located at the northern end of Diamond Lake, at 48075 Chapinwood Road.



Back in the early 1970's, Grandma and Grandpa Goeltz gave Tommy and Mikey their own rocks when the boys were young. The rocks were kept down near their grandparent's cabin. However, Mike's rock disappeared. Tom kept his rock after his grandparents sold their cabin to the Dutton family...and brought his rock up to his parent's cabin (current Goeltz cabin). After many years, his paint faded to the point of eventually being un-readable.

In July, 2011, Scott Johnson and his son, Ben were placing the live well next to the dock in front of Beth and Scott's little red cabin (which used to be the Goeltz grandparents' cabin). Ben needed to move a rock in order for the live well to sit level. It was like an iceberg... small surface exposed, but huge rock buried below the sand. After some digging, the rock was lifted...only to expose a beautifully preserved paint job that read "Mike'sRock".

Annual Meeting 2011



Needless to say, Mike was absolutely thrilled to have his rock recovered. The rock now sits proudly on the bank of the Goeltz cabin.



Diamond Lakers, Inc. Annual Association Meeting July 23, 2011

The Annual Meeting of the Diamond Lakers Inc. was held at the Larry and Marie Vorlicky residence, on Saturday, July 23, 2011. Tim Tully, President, called the meeting to order.

The meeting was dedicated to Ed McInerney and Seddie Cogswell, both who passed away this year.

Minutes Review

The minutes of the July 24, 2010 annual meeting were reviewed as posted on the web site and there was a motion to approve.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Larry Sanderson reported on a balance of \$2395. There was a motion to accept the treasurer's report.

Diamond Lakers Inc. Web Site

The lake association web site continues to provide a communication vehicle for the membership and Tim thanked Bob Jacobel for maintaining this site. Bob reported that there had been about 28,000 hits on this web site this year.

Waste Management

Tim reviewed the issues with waste management for residents on the lake and that there is not an option for the smaller container so the only option is to use the 96-gallon container. The other option is to take waste to the Grand View Town Dump, which is open Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday 1 to 7 p.m.

Lake Monitoring

Larry Sanderson reported that there is no change in the lake quality.

Northwest Lake Conference

Tim Tully reported on the Lake Conference and the discussion about the problem with the use of lead fishing gear. Lead fishing tackle can lead to the death of loons, other birds and water fowl related to the consumption of lead fishing tackle.

Lake Laws and Issues with Non-Compliance

The new No Wake is now implemented that establishes a statewide slow-no-wake zone for motorboats within 100 feet of a lake's shoreline. Personal Water Craft need a 200 foot no wake zone from shore, and 100 feet from docks and platforms. For water skiing, boats must be 100 feet from ashore before take off .

If there are concerns about violations of the Wisconsin state law, it is best to videotape the violators since the video can then be used as evidence and the other options is to document time, date and description of the water craft and number of people in the craft and then contact

the DNR. . The names of the DNR contacts and phone numbers are:

Jill Schartner: 715- 739-6734

Amy Egstad: 715- 779-4035

Fishing Report

Jerry Robotka reported that there are no changes and that the DNR continue to stock Walleye.

Wildlife Update

The loons have succeeded in hatching a baby loon on the third try. There is also one eaglet this year. There have been numerous other wild life observed.

Nominations Committee Report

Jerry Robotka presented the Nominating Committee.

The following officer was re-elected:

Larry Sanderson, Treasurer – Term 2011 -2013

New Officer elected:

Nancy Rabe ,Vice President – Term 2011 – 2013

Board Member re-elected:

Bob Jacobel – Term 2011 – 2013

New Board Member:

Ed Wallen – Term 2011 – 2013

Location of 2012 Annual Meeting

Tim Tully announced that the 2011 Annual Meeting will be held at the Tully residence on July 21, 2012 at 3 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Trankel, Secretary

Random Snapshots from the Social Hour after the meeting.



