

The LOON



Watch

Loon Lake Loon Association ■ PO Box 75 ■ Loon Lake, WA 99148 ■ 509-233-2222 ■ www.loons.org ■ Spring 2017

Area organizations run by volunteers working to make this area a fun, interesting and viable community.

Loon Lake Land Conservancy

Protecting the environment of Loon Lake, its shores, wetlands and watershed.

www.loonlakelandconservancy.wordpress.com

Loon Lake Property Owners' Association

Protecting the lake from environmental degradation.

www.loonlakepoa.org

Loon Lake Historical Society

Preserving photographs, local artifacts and history of the Loon Lake area in the historic Old Schoolhouse.

www.LoonLakeHistoricalSociety.com

Loon Lake Loon Association

Preserving and protecting the Common Loon and all waterfowl habitat and the lake environment.

www.loons.org

Friends of the Loon Lake Library

Through donated book sales, funds are used to buy extras for our local library that the county doesn't provide.

loonlakefriends@gmail.com

Loon Lake Food Bank

Provides food essentials to local area families and assists with resources and growth.

www.loonlakefoodbank.dreamhosters.com

All these organizations are in need of new members and volunteers—if you are new to the area, or recently retired, wanting to meet people, or fill in extra time, give them a call.

Spring Is Right Around the Corner

Joan Easley, President, Loon Lake Loon Association

Soon the haunting sound of the Common Loon will be heard again on our lakes. They stay a while and sadly they travel to other lakes less populated. Next the raspy cackle of the Red-necked Grebe will be heard. These will try to nest. Boats and fishermen alike continue to disrupt the nesting areas of these birds and the decline over the years has been enormous. Less than six pair tried to nest last year, where once there were dozens.

For years the Loon Association has provided nesting platforms for grebes, but the constant disregard for their nests has caused these birds to leave, too, for less populated areas. Nesting platforms will be provided again this year with the hopes that all water sports will provide the birds room to nest. Nesting time is short — we have the whole season to enjoy the lake. Signs will mark these areas. Please honor these nesting areas, or soon there will no longer be Red-necked Grebes to nest here either.

This has become a lake of water skiers, wave runners and wake boats, but there must be room for nature along with the personal enjoyment of the lake will ultimately be the loser not only for the waterfowl and wildlife, but for all of us.

We lost another piece of wetland this past year. There are less and less areas left to provide nests and cover for waterfowl and other water species. Help us protect the lake!

Stevens County Roadway Program

We have new partners in roadway cleanup through the Stevens County Department of Public Works' Adopt-A-Roadway Program. Volunteers have stepped forward to coordinate trash pickup in their neighborhoods. Mary Jo Lovell will take over the North Shore area, Pat Mitchell will do Meadowview

& Morgan Park and ElizaBeth Coira has taken over the area around Shore Acres Resort. We have application forms available if anyone is interested in other parts of the lake. Since this program is through the county, dump fees, sacks, equipment and signs are provided by the county. Thanks to those who are helping keep the roadways clean.

Good Friend Leaves Us Too Soon

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend and neighbor, Carla Sandell. Her volunteer work with community organizations (including treasurer for the Loon Lake Loon Association) and her loyalty to the lake and environment were unsurpassed. She will continue to be missed. We send our love and sympathy to her family. ■

OPENING APRIL 1



**Open Saturdays - 10 to 2
throughout the summer**

- Come in and visit the Loon Lake Historical Society for local history and photos
- See the old school room and historical artifacts
- Cards, calendars and miscellaneous items for sale
- Browse the Friends of the Library used book sale (lots of books at great prices)

THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE
4000 Colville Road, Loon Lake
509-233-2222

On First Day Trump Appointee Rolls Back Protections for Wildlife, Hunters From Toxic Lead

Center for Biological Diversity

On his first full day in office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued an order revoking the phaseout of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on national wildlife refuges. The order reverses the position of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under President Obama that called for a phaseout of the use of toxic lead on refuges by 2022.

Spent lead ammunition causes lead poisoning in 130 species of birds and animals. Nearly 500 scientific papers document the dangers to wildlife from this lead exposure.

“Switching to nontoxic ammunition should be a no-brainer to save the lives of thousands birds and other wildlife, prevent hunters and their families from being exposed to toxic lead, and protect our water,” said Jonathan Evans, environmental health legal director at the Center for Biological Diversity. “It’s ironic that one of the first actions by Secretary Zinke, who fancies himself a champion of hunters and anglers, leads to poisoning of game and waterfowl eaten by those same hunting families.”

Top scientists, doctors and public-health experts from around the country have long called for a ban on lead hunting ammunition, citing overwhelming scientific evidence of the toxic dangers posed to people and wildlife. A national poll found that 57 percent of Americans support requiring the use of nontoxic bullets for hunting.

The phaseout of lead ammunition is nothing new. Waterfowl hunters have successfully been using affordable nontoxic shot for more than 25 years. California will phase out lead ammunition by 2019, providing urgently needed protections for iconic and critically endangered California condor, hawks, owls and eagles.

“It’s another sad day for public health and wildlife under the Trump presidency when special interests again prevail over common-sense environmental safeguards,” said Evans.

Looking to cash in on the \$30 million it spent on ads promoting Trump’s

election, the National Rifle Association pressured Interior Secretary Zinke to quickly reverse the Obama administration’s science-based decision to get the lead out of our most pristine refuges.

As a congressman, Zinke (R-Mont.) had a 4 percent lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters; when it came to endangered species, he voted against protecting them 100 percent of the time.

Background

Lead is an extremely toxic substance that is dangerous to people and wildlife even at very low levels. Exposure to it can cause a range of health effects, from acute poisoning and painful death to long-term problems such as reduced reproduction, inhibition of growth, and damage to neurological development.

Studies using radiographs show that lead ammunition leaves fragments and numerous imperceptible, dust-sized particles of lead that contaminate game meat far from a bullet track, causing significant health risks to people eating wild game. Some state health agencies have had to recall venison donated to feed the hungry because of dangerous lead contamination from bullet fragments.

Scientific studies have debunked arguments from the gun lobby that price and availability of nonlead ammunition precludes switching to nontoxic rounds for hunting; researchers found no major difference in the retail price of equivalent lead-free and lead-core ammunition for most popular calibers. As of 2013 more than three dozen manufacturers market affordable nonlead bullets in 35 calibers and 51 rifle cartridge designations.

Read more about the Center for Biological Diversity’s Get the Lead Out campaign at www.BiologicalDiversity.org

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.2 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places. ■

Bald Eagles Poisoned by Lead

KING5.com, Alison Morrow, March 2

A bald eagle in Arlington, Washington, has died of severe lead poisoning on the same day Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reversed last-minute action by President Obama to ban lead ammunition and fishing tackle on national wildlife refuges.

Sarvey Wildlife Care Center in Arlington tried to save the eagle, but it was too sick. It died Thursday, March 2.

KEPRtv.com, Cody Proctor, March 1

Blue Mountain Wildlife in Pendleton received a new patient on Monday: an adult bald eagle with the highest amounts of lead poisoning they’ve ever seen in his system. “We’re treating him very aggressively,” says director Lynn Tompkins.

Found near Mesa in Washington, the eagle tested at 622 micrograms of lead per deciliter, more than 30 times the amount of what’s considered toxic.

She considers his chances of survival to be very slim. This isn’t the first time this has happened. This particular bird is the third bald eagle this year to be brought in with lead toxicity.

Tompkins believes the most likely source for the toxicity is gun ammunition, with the eagle ingesting the meat of an animal already poisoned.

Lead ammo is often used to shoot game animals and kill animals considered pests, such as ground squirrels and coyotes. **But lead ammunition could also be dangerous to people if they eat meat from infected animals since it raises the chance of lead exposure.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers five micrograms per deciliter the reference level for public health actions to be taken.

“The other thing to remember is that people that hunt with lead, if you eat that game meat, you’re eating the lead and you are feeding it to your family. There’s no safe level of lead.”

Tompkins says a fix to this is for hunters to switch to non-lead ammunition. ■

Growth Management Update: Storm Water and Impervious Surfaces

by Jeanie Wagenman

Case No. 07-1-0013 is now approaching 10 years since a Petition for Review was first filed with the Growth Management Hearings Board. The Growth Board issued their Fourth Order of Non-Compliance on Sept 30, 2016, determining Stevens County was still non-compliant with the Board's previous Order and the Growth Management Act in protecting critical areas.

Essentially the remaining issue is whether the county's new amended regulation Title 3 required a storm water review and a storm water management plan for new subdivisions adjacent to or in critical areas. The Growth Board ruled that the county's newly amended regulation did not apply county wide, did not protect critical areas from further degradation, failed to clearly define and provide standards by which review occurs, and the wording in the document was imprecise and misleading. The Growth Board in their decision even noted that the county chose to ignore their own expert's recommendation in providing clear language toward the revisions.

However, these conclusions by the Board are hardly new after 10 years of

procrastination by the county.

Subsequently on Nov 18, 2016, the county appealed the decision again to Superior Court. The latest appeal was filed in Thurston County, with previous appeals in (2013-2014) to Stevens County Superior Court, Washington Appeals Court and denied appearance in the Washington State Supreme Court. All the courts agreed with the Growth Board's rulings.

One could say the county "protests too much". If this case is largely about writing regulation that is consistent, clear and enforceable, is this not what is expected of all government leadership? Should not citizens be able to understand the regulation and know it would be enforced equally among all citizens?

But if this case is about resisting regulation for storm water review, this threatens the water quality and quantity that is so desperately needed for areas like Loon Lake.

Where are we now? The county filed their appeal to Thurston County on Nov 18, 2016, even though on October 25, 2016, Petitioners (Jeanie Wagenman & LBN) wrote an email to the county's

attorney, Mr. Scott, asking if mediation was possible. Mr. Scott's response (Oct 25, 2016) was: "I have forwarded your note to the county and will discuss that with them at our next meeting." Despite the county's actions in filing the appeal, (Nov 18, 2016) they maintain that they will never refuse mediation. It would just seem logical and far less expensive to pursue mediation first and if this was not successful, then file an appeal. So is the county sincere? Attempts at mediation are going forward with Petitioners providing some suggested changes. A new compliance schedule date of May 17, 2017 has been rescheduled.

No matter how one looks at the situation, all of this is very costly. A request for public information about 4 years ago revealed the county has spent at least a million dollars on legal fees to Mr. Scott. This is taxpayers' money that could be better spent elsewhere. But this is not the only cost. If our water quantity/quality is continually depleted (we have issues now) how does this effect fish life, wildlife, recreation and even our property values? This is the greatest cost and one that lasts for generations to come. ■

Membership Categories

- Single Loon (*individual*) \$15
- Territorial Pair (*couple*) \$20
- Loon Family (*family*) \$30

I would like to make a donation to the Loon Lake Loon Association in the amount of

Loon Lake Loon Association Membership Application

Name _____

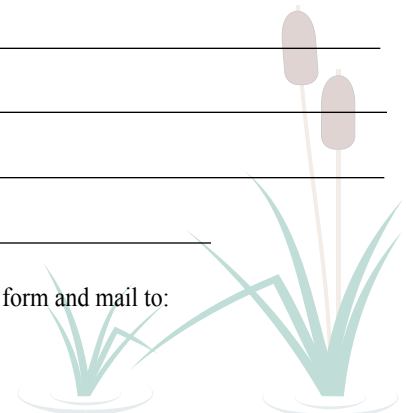
Address _____

Telephone _____

Total enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to LLLA. Clip this form and mail to:

**Loon Lake Loon Association
PO Box 75
Loon Lake, WA 99148**



Nesting Platforms

Chuck Schilling

Once again, the Loon Lake Loon Association is preparing to deploy three waterfowl nesting platforms in the shallow areas of Loon Lake with the hope of increasing the Red-necked Grebe population on our lake.

Red-necked Grebes are swimming and diving birds more at home on the water than on land. They build floating nests of reeds and water plants that are susceptible to water turbulence and predation. These birds were plentiful on our lake in the past but their numbers have dwindled in recent years due to loss of habitat.

Our goal is to provide suitable nesting opportunity and give them a fighting chance



Red-necked Grebe with chicks

to survive. Next to the platforms there will be buoys with "Nesting Waterfowl" signs to alert boaters and other watercraft to their presence. Please steer clear and go very slow if you approach these areas this summer. Thank You. ■

Adopt a Highway

Chuck Schilling

Loon Lake Loon Association picks up trash along two miles of Highway 395 that runs past our beautiful Loon Lake. Several of our octogenarians retired last year and we're looking for new or returning volunteers to help spruce up our neighborhood.

The commitment is only one to one and a half hours three Saturdays a year. This year's dates are April 22 (Earth Day), July 8 and September 9, 2017. It's a small commitment that makes a big impact on our environment and you can be part of it.

Please call Chuck Schilling at 509-998-7003 and volunteer to join us in this worthwhile activity. ■



**Over the past 33 years,
Loonsday proceeds of over
\$70,000 were used on
community projects, including:**

- supplies and equipment for fire department
- help maintain the town park
- wildlife habitat study and preservation
- community health clinic sewer hookup
- local history preservation
- Loon Lake Land Conservancy
- Loon Lake Property Owners Association water quality study
- Loon Lake Historical Society's Old Schoolhouse
- Loon Lake Elementary School supplies and improvements
- help purchase Library of the Lakes building
- Deer and Loon Lakes' fish pens

Loonsday Walk 2017 June 3

This year's 34th annual Loonsday Walk is June 3 at 7:00 am. The fun walk starts and ends at the Old Schoolhouse, 4000 Colville Road, in Loon Lake.

All participants need to register in advance: fill out the entry form on page 5; make your check out to Loonsday; and mail to Loonsday, PO Box 75, Loon Lake, WA 99148. Pets are welcome, but must be on leash. Water is available on the walk.

In order to guarantee a Loonsday shirt, participants must mail their entry form by May 24. Proceeds from the walk are donated to community projects.

Friends of the Loon Lake Library will have a book sale in the basement of the Old Schoolhouse and the Food Bank sponsors a breakfast at the Loon Lake Elementary School from 7:00-11:00 am.

Come join in the fun!

Generous Donation to Loon Lake School

Brad Van Dyne, Superintendent
Loon Lake School District

Last year Loon Lake School District received an incredible donation of \$2000 from the Loonsday program for use toward the purchase of Chromebooks.

The mission of the Loonsday program is to support community needs and projects from proceeds of the Loonsday Walk each year. When they heard we had a need for new Chromebook computers for students, they came to our door ready to help.

Our kids thrive when strong community partnerships exist, which is why our partnership with Loonsday is so important. We are truly honored and humbled by your selfless support of our students.

Thank you Loonsday! ■

LOONSDAY 2017

A fun walk in Loon Lake, Washington

When: Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 7 a.m.

Where: Starting at the Old Schoolhouse in Loon Lake, Washington.

Timing: This is a FUN walk. Don't feel you have to hurry — just take your time and enjoy!

Awards: Loonsday 2017 T-shirts are available in all sizes. Sweatshirts are available in adult sizes only. Shirts should be picked up *after the walk but before 10 a.m.* Any shirt not picked up by 10 a.m. on the day of the race should be claimed *the following Saturday* at the Old Schoolhouse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The phone number for the Old Schoolhouse is 509-233-2222.

Entry Fees: **Entry fee without a shirt is \$2.** T-shirts cost \$12. Sweatshirts are \$20. Add \$2 to these prices for extra-extra large sizes. In order to guarantee a shirt, you must mail your entry by May 24. Entries received after May 24 may not get a shirt. There will be a limited number of shirts/sweatshirts available on the day of the walk.

General Information: This walk is open to all ages. It is a five-mile course beginning and ending at the Old Schoolhouse in Loon Lake. You can walk any or all of the course. The course is well marked. *For safety reasons, no bicycles or scooters are allowed on the course.* Please keep pets on a leash. We welcome donations and sponsors for this walk. Proceeds from this year's walk will be donated to community projects. For additional information concerning Loonsday, call 509-233-2222. If no answer, please leave a message and a volunteer will get back to you.

Please detach this portion and keep for your information. Return the entry form below before May 24.



Entry Form for Loonsday 2017

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Mail Shirts (\$6 per shirt extra) Yes No

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| T-Shirt Size: | Child S (6-8) (\$12) | Child M (10-12) (\$12) | Child L (14-16) (\$12) | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Adult S (32-34) (\$12) | Adult M (38-40) (\$12) | Adult L (42-44) (\$12) | Adult XL (46-48) (\$12) | Adult XXL (50-52) (\$14) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sweatshirt Size: | Adult S (32-34) (\$20) | Adult M (38-40) (\$20) | Adult L (42-44) (\$20) | Adult XL (46-48) (\$20) | Adult XXL (50-52) (\$22) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|

Entry fee without a shirt: \$2 per person _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LOONSDAY AND MAIL TO PO BOX 75, LOON LAKE, WA 99148.

Waiver: In consideration of acceptance of this entry, I waive all claims for myself and my heirs against officials and sponsors of the Loonsday 2017 Walk, for injury and illness which may directly result from traveling to and from or participating in this event. I also state I am in proper physical condition to participate.

Signature _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian if Participant is under 18 _____

This entry form may be copied. **PLEASE ONLY ONE NAME PER FORM.** Entry deadline is May 24.