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Kittie Wilson, a volunteer for the Loon Preservation Committee, will present "Little Loon Grows Up" at Bluewater Farm on Tuesday, July 15.

Photo: John Wilson

Kittie Wilson to Speak on Loons

Tuesday, July 15,
at Bluewater Farm

Press release

New London's Kittie Wilson – wildlife photographer, longtime volunteer for the statewide Loon Preservation Committee (LPC), and active member of the Pleasant Lake Protective Association – will offer an illustrated talk on "Little Loon Grows Up?" on Tuesday, July 15, beginning at 7 PM in the main lodge at Bluewater Farm in Andover.

The talk will focus on the courting, nesting, and chick-rearing behavior of New Hampshire's iconic Common Loon, whose magical calls echo across many of the state's lakes each summer. Two Andover water bodies – Highland and Bradley Lakes – are regular summer hosts to breeding loon pairs.

Open to the public at no charge, the July 15 event is sponsored by the Andover Conservation Commission as part of its ongoing "Taking Action for Wildlife" project. Refreshments and

book sales begin at 7 PM; the presentation starts at 7:30. Donations to the Loon Preservation Committee will be welcomed.

Bluewater Farm is located on Bradley Lake, at 22 Camp Marlyn Lane, about 1.5 miles from Andover Village. Take Lawrence Street from Routes 4 and 11 to Bradley Lake Road, and look for the "Bluewater Farm" sign when you first see the lake through the trees.

Wilson's photos and Internet commentary about the loons of Pleasant Lake, her efforts to warn the public about loon deaths caused by ingesting lead fishing tackle, and her volunteer work for the LPC earned her that organization's Spirit of the Loon Award in 2009. Earlier this year she and her husband John received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the US Environmental Protection Agency for their longtime efforts to preserve New Hampshire's natural resources.

A similar talk last summer in East Andover drew an audience of more than 50.

Active Loon Nest on Highland Lake Island Confirmed

No dogs, no wake
on the island for a month

Press release

Donna Baker-Hartwell, a loon volunteer, and Matthew Bartolotti of the New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee both observed an adult loon nesting on the island in Highland Lake on June 18. Because we are not exactly sure when the eggs were laid, we expect that they might hatch around July 16. Normal gestation for loons is 27 to 30 days.

The nest is located on the south shore of the island, not on the floating nest platform, which means that fluctuations in water levels are critical. Boaters coming out of the channel and causing a wake on the south side of the island could wash the nest or eggs away.

Folks should use extra caution when water-skiing and motoring not to do so

on the south side of the island -- use a "No Wake" speed until west or north of the island. Staying west and north of the island should be fine for water-skiing or power motoring.

No dogs are allowed on the island for the next four weeks! Lake residents and users can help ensure that the loon eggs have the best chance to hatch by informing visitors about our loon family and its nest.

The weekend of July 4 is the busiest time on the lake and the most critical time for the nest. There are floating signs near the area to help in locating the nesting site. There are yellow caution ribbons on the island marking the nesting area. Please give the loons and the nest site plenty of space.

Note: The success rate of loon nest is low. Approximately 50% of all eggs laid hatch, and only 50% of chicks actually survive the first summer. Loons lay one to two eggs.