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THE SOURCE

Newsletter of the Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society

DNR Partnership for Thriving Loons

On April 20th, 2010, BP's Deepwater Horizon drilling unit exploded, resulting in a massive release of oil and causing extensive natural resource injuries from Texas to Florida. While this environmental tragedy seems far removed from Minnesota, it impacted a local favorite species; the Common Loon, which migrates to the Gulf of Mexico's waters!

As part of a 2016 settlement, BP agreed to pay over \$8.1 billion in natural resource damages. Part of those dollars fund the Restoration of Common Loons in Minnesota project, designed to reduce mortality and increase the number of young loons produced in Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources manages the program, and the Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society is partnering with our local DNR Loon Specialist, Jayden Jech, to do our part at the Neilson Spearhead Center.

We are excited to partner with the DNR to help ensure a thriving population of Common Loons in Minnesota well into the future!

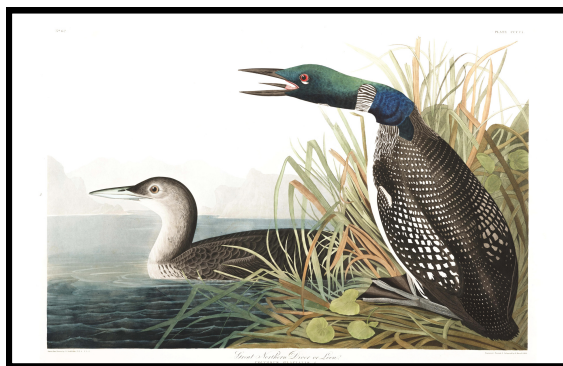


Plate 306 Great Northern Diver - J.J. Audubon, 1836

Our Part

Implement a Loon Friendly Lake Management Plan

Educational talks about loons at the Neilson Spearhead Center

Create a floating loon nesting platform

Ongoing monitoring of loons at Spearhead Lake

Your Part

Attend an educational talk and help monitor loons! Monitoring info will be posted at the Neilson Spearhead Center welcome kiosk in May.



“The intricate interconnectivity of all things in nature is among my favorite things about it.”

TAYLOR MILLER,
LEAD NATURALIST



“I am passionate about exploring nature and teaching others about our amazing local flora and fauna.”

JARED WINGE,
ASSISTANT NATURALIST



2024 Young Naturalist Program News

Registration is open!

spearheadmhas.org/young-naturalist-program

Introducing our 2024 Naturalists, Taylor Miller and Jared Winge! This team brings local ecosystem knowledge, wilderness experience, and a passion to educate the next generation of conservationists. Here’s what they are looking forward to this summer:

“I am excited to help young naturalists connect with the natural world and cultivate a sense of wonder and appreciation. Guiding kids through meaningful outdoor activities instills respect, empathy, and responsibility. As a direct descendant of the White Earth Nation, I was taught to live off the land and build a reciprocated relationship with our natural world. I am excited to guide youth in making meaningful connections with our beautiful world.” - Taylor

“As a former young naturalist myself, I’m excited to share the many wonders of Spearhead with a new generation! I’m particularly excited to see how the beavers have shaped the landscape since I was last there, and show the campers all of the ways beavers impact the local ecology.” - Jared

Community Pint Night for YNP Scholarships!

Bring a friend and enjoy a drink at Bemidji Brewing to support scholarships for the Young Naturalist Program!
One dollar per drink will go to our scholarship fund.

Have a student attending the YNP? Bring the whole family and meet our new naturalists, Taylor Miller and Jared Winge!

March 27 | 4:00 - 7:00 pm
Bemidji Brewing
211 America Ave NW





Spring is Blooming with Opportunities!

You can learn, serve, and explore with MHAS this spring:

- March 27** | Pint Night for YNP Scholarships
- March 30** | WWS: Signs of Spring (*Becky Marty*)
- April 27** | Earth Day Fair at Headwaters Science Center
- April 30** | Mindful Yoga: Stretch + Flow
- May 11** | WWS: Intl. Migratory Bird Day (*George-Ann Maxson*)
- May 4** | Spearhead Spring Work Party
- May 19** | Boreal Book Club Kickoff
- May 28** | Mindful Yoga: Stretch + Flow

WWS = Walk on the Wild Side, a walk and talk series at the Neilson Spearhead Center led by local experts.

Visit spearheadmhas.org/events
or scan the QR code to learn more!



You Can Make an Even Greater Impact

When you set up a recurring gift, you gain the benefit of not having to remember your membership renewal. You can make a greater impact for conservation and outdoors education, too!

- Annual recurring** - never forget to renew again
- Monthly recurring** - smaller donations add up to big impact

Are you a \$40 annual member? By switching to a \$5 monthly membership, you donate \$60 per year - a 50% greater impact!

Here's a sample of what your membership helps make possible:

- **\$40:** Supplies for signs and trail maintenance
- **\$60:** 2.5 staff hours to plan or lead education programs
- **\$100:** One month of utilities for the Lehmann Lab.

Set up a recurring gift today!
spearheadmhas.org/join-mhas



“As an educator, environmental enthusiast and Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society board member, I’m continually amazed at how much Spearhead has to offer. I’m a supporter because the preserve is truly an unsung hero for those who love to learn, find new adventures, and seek solitude.”

CHRIS TOWER,
BOARD MEMBER



THE SOURCE

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Audubon Society**
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The Mission of the Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society is to foster personal connections to and stewardship of our natural world.

Coming Soon - Tent Cottages at Spearhead!

We will be installing two tent cottages at the Neilson Spearhead Center this spring, made possible as part of a generous, multi-year grant from the George W. Neilson Foundation in support of expanded community engagement at Spearhead.



Tent Cottages by Rainier Outdoors

The cottages will provide the following opportunities:

- Young Naturalist Program staff housing
- A base for residencies in science and the arts
- Income through nightly rentals when not otherwise occupied

Would you like to be one of the first to take part in a residency or stay for a night?

Email outreach@spearheadmhas.org for details!

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