

Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association



Spring 2022

in our 50th year

President's Message

Kirk Meloney kirk.meloney@gmail.com

It's been a very busy winter for your LKWA Advisory Board. It appears that the simplicity of past Board activities is behind us. No longer can the Advisory Board be satisfied with completing the simple tasks that previous Board members before us focused on: a spring newsletter, July membership meeting, July 4 Boat Parade and August social picnic. The days of sitting back and enjoying the pristine waters of Lake Kanasatka have changed dramatically. The Board has embraced this new reality and has been hard at work to address the significant issues presented by the Cyanobacteria outbreaks that have occurred over the past several years.

One major change that will be presented at this year's annual meeting is a proposed change in our governing board from an Advisory Board to a Board of Directors to conform with NH Non-Profit rules and regulations. We now have a By-laws committee working hard to update the existing outdated document. And speaking of our annual meeting, last year the Board agreed to change the venue to a much larger space both to accommodate all who were interested in attending and to offer increased safety during the pandemic. While this change was received quite positively, it did come with the additional cost of liability insurance. Last year that cost was covered solely by the Board members. Since this is not sustainable, the Board is now considering a full-time year-round insurance policy, a new expense we'll need to consider for next year's budget.

The Board is a small group of committed individual volunteers, highly motivated to address the lake's water quality issues through the creation and implementation of a Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The Board now holds monthly meetings via Zoom to address the complex issues of creating, funding and implementing the plan. I commend this group as we continue to grow stronger and more organized than ever. We do it for the common love of Lake Kanasatka. No other reason.

The goal of a Lake Kanasatka WMP will become a reality this year thanks to the efforts of all who have steered this process and the members who have

contributed their time and donations. A very special thank-you goes to Forrest Bell Environmental who has provided the leadership, guidance, and technical prowess to put this important plan together. I look forward to our meeting on June 4, 2022, when the Plan will be unveiled. Property owners in the watershed will learn about the plan and can comment, question, and reflect on its impact. Once the plan is finalized it will offer LKWA the opportunity to apply for State and Federal grant funds to address/mitigate the hazards identified. This will be an ongoing process as we will continue to count on our membership to support these efforts. We all want a clean and healthy Lake Kanasatka now and for future generations to enjoy. The time is now to achieve this.

Since taking over as President I have enjoyed both highs and lows. Our increase in volunteers willing to help has pleased me; we have a great Water Quality team, we have complete lake coverage with our Weed Watcher program, we have a Rapid Response team in place for sightings of cyanobacteria which need immediate attention, and we have a Lake Host program during the summer months at our launch ramp (which could use more volunteers!) Over the past several years we have all observed significant changes in our country's political climate. Public discourse has become markedly more divisive, and opinions are often expressed without regard for the impact on individuals. We have certainly experienced this in our work as an LKWA Advisory Board.

I remain steadfast in my belief that we are all doing the best we can to meet our mission. Sometimes the Board's efforts don't please everybody. I understand this and welcome questions and feedback communicated with respect for the volunteers who are truly trying their best to address the health and well-being of our lake. Opinions will always differ, but the charge remains common. Lake Kanasatka belongs to all of us, and we must do our very best to find the balance and protect it now and for the future. That is my goal. I look forward to our work ahead.

Kirk Meloney
President LKWA and Lifetime Lake Lover

Advisory Board

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Jane Nash

Secretary

Colette Cooke

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Chris Wallace

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Tim Baker-Co-chair

Rosemarie Rung-Co-chair

Lisa Hutchinson

Jane Nash

Water Quality

Lisa Hutchinson - Chair

Carol & Rick Carlson

Anne & Jim O'Connor

Pat & Mike Devanney

Lisa & Dave Hutchinson

Rapid Response Team

Lisa Hutchinson

Carol & Rick Carlson

Anne & Jim O'Connor

Pat & Mike Devanney

Rosemarie Rung

Tim Baker

Scott Parker

Wendy & Gary Downing

Boat Parade

Rob Baker

Newsletter

Wendy Downing

Lake Host

Kirk Meloney

LPC Loon Liaison

Trish Townsend

Facebook

Scott Parker

WeedWatchers

Tim Baker

Volunteers Needed

Web Master

Committee Members

Communications

Hospitality

Lake Host

Rapid Response

Interested? Please contact:

kirk.meloney@gmail.com

Important Dates!

June 4 Watershed Management Plan Forest Bell Presenting
Moultonborough Academy 10:00 AM

July 4 Boat Parade starting
at Animal Isle 3:00 PM

July 9 Annual Meeting
Moultonborough Academy 9:00 AM

Maybe we will hold our "Annual Picnic" - to be determined.
Anyone interested in hosting?

Labor Day Lake Rendezvous

Concert in the Cove Fundraiser - Stay Tuned!!

The Lake Host Program

The Lake Host Program is a courtesy boat inspection and education program to help prevent the transport into or out of our waters of aquatic species like Variable Milfoil, Water Chestnut, and Curly-leaf Pond weed and of animal species like Asian Clams, Mystery Snails, and Zebra Mussels. Volunteer Lake Hosts staff Lee's Mills, Long Island, States Landing and Lake Kanawatka boat ramps every weekend throughout the summer. This program has seen good results and finds boaters very cooperative. Prevention is key for once invasive species take hold they are very difficult to eradicate. You can help by volunteering for as little as 1/2 a day on a Saturday or Sunday once a month during the summer. Volunteers will be trained by and work with experienced Lake Hosts.

The Moultonborough Milfoil Committee oversees the protection of all the lakes within Moultonborough boundaries. The Lake Host and Weed Watcher Programs come under its jurisdiction. The Town of Moultonborough has taken a proactive approach to protecting all its lakes. It has budgeted as much as \$200,000 to keep our lakes free of invasive species especially Milfoil by proper use of chemicals and hand pulling. Last season LKWA became part of this important program. If you are interested in volunteering to the Lake Host program, please contact Tracy Waterman at Lakehosttracy@gmail.com Tel: 603-986-3384

Submitted by Jane Nash

Well, here we are in the throes of another spring season, faced with the usual winter recovery activities. New Hampshire winters can be tough on lakeside properties! Spring routines for us and many of you include taking a close look at every square foot of the property and surveying tree damage, picking up sticks and branches, checking the health of our plantings, evaluating peeling paint (a fix for this always seems to drop to the bottom of the priority list), fixing doors that all of a sudden don't open and close right, throwing out towels and linens that the mice chewed or pooped on (or both), and buying new ketchup, mustard, and relish.

After two years of major cyano-blooms, not only have we had to add to the list, but many of the formerly mundane items on it have become far more important. We need to check for signs of washouts, plant more stuff along the shore, get a septic pump-out and even a system inspection so fears of a leaky system don't keep us up at night. These days, I routinely walk the leach field looking for spongy spots and invasive plants that might be sending roots into the underground pipes only to cause expensive problems down the line. And maybe I'll buy a car wash card this year as washing the truck in the yard is a no-no these days. Raking the leaves and fertilizing the lawn are a couple of things we've crossed off the list. Turns out leaves are good and fertilizer is really bad. Plus, who cares if we're pristine or not? It's not a competition and we live in the woods - sort of. And the hard-working folks who've received the LakeSmart awards always seem to have the most beautiful natural surroundings. Speaking of LakeSmart, a good item to add to your list is a LakeSmart survey by NH Lakes. It's free, it's extremely helpful, and they see things you might miss and could correct with minimal time and expense. All this stuff takes time and sometimes money, but we try to get it all done in the spring so we can sit around and relax all summer (yeah, that never happens).

When we've done the best we can on our own properties, we can sit back a bit and reflect on the satisfaction that comes from knowing we're not a big problem for Kanasatka. We're "doing no harm". What can be extremely frustrating is that **we** may have spent hundred\$, or thousand\$, as well as many hours of our precious "lake time" making sure we're not doing damage, while a neighbor doesn't appear to care. And, by the way, we're all neighbors when we share a water body that, geographically, sits in a big bowl in the earth. One man's runoff problem, left unattended, can easily offset the corrections that ten or twenty other owners have made. It's frustrating because it's not fair. It's inconsiderate. And it's selfish.

Soon, we'll get the readout we've all been waiting for from our expensive and exhaustive Watershed Management Plan study. For the last year, the LKWA Advisory Board and their ad hoc committees and research groups have been working hard to help put this plan together. This study will probably point out more things that we can fix on our own -- individually or in groups of volunteers donating our time. It will also, no doubt, present us with a list of pollution sources that we weren't aware of and that we might not be able to fix without more large expenses and calling in expert help or even support from the town and the state. This WMP study will give us yet another list, another "ball of wax" that we will struggle with and that will be frustrating -- guaranteed! Some solutions will be complex, hard to understand, hard to pay for and hard to find the right resources to help with. Some will take too long. But I know we will prioritize, and we will do the best we can -- because WE CARE!

The ignorant or complacent or even *defiant* neighbor may seem like a small problem in comparison, but we can't kid ourselves. Small problems should be the easiest to solve, but this isn't always the case. The initial steps in dealing with "that neighbor" are common sense and will work most of the time. Start with a friendly conversation. Explain what we're up against -- all of us as a community sharing a lake, or individually as a neighbor who may be struggling with direct impact on our own property. Follow-up conversations, if they must happen, may be less friendly and may escalate to become threatening -- threatening with the various types of recourse we have at our disposal. And there's the rub! What recourse do we have? Kicking a problem up to third-party authorities with different jurisdictions and responsibilities may be your only remaining option.

Our Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association Advisory Board can help with the tough conversations that are on the list of initial actions. The AB consists of elected volunteer leaders with more expertise than you may have in the areas of water quality, runoff, zoning issues, shoreline regulations, and knowledge of who the ultimate authorities might be to assist with your specific problem. They can support your efforts with written notices to offending neighbors and, because they represent all Kanasatka residents, they can add a level of authority to communications with local and state entities. But, because of the way the AB is currently configured, chartered, and financed (through \$25 per family annual dues), the extent of their ability to intervene is limited. The LKWA has no legal enforcement authority and no ability to defend itself in the face of legal action against it. So, simply put, to expect them to somehow *force* remedial action or even publicize negligence on the part of an offending neighbor is expecting too much and may be asking for more trouble. Enforcement of codes and regulations regarding protection of the watershed and property owner rights ultimately resides within the offices of those who enact the regulations. I.e., shoreline protection rules are written and must be enforced by the New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services, which is under the purview of the state legislature. Property line infringement and building code restrictions are written and must be enforced by the Town of Moultonborough. Enlisting the help of bureaucracies like these can be a frustrating exercise as resources always seem to be an issue, but that doesn't change the fact that they "own" the rules.

Individually, and as a community, we maintain the ability and the *right* to exert pressure on offenders and on the authorities tasked with enforcing the rules. We can join together to launch letter-writing campaigns, make phone calls, and attend local meetings. We can protest -- at Town Hall, Concord, or even from kayaks on the water. And full-time residents can vote. None of these things are convenient and can be frustratingly slow to produce results, but through reasonable and legal means, we can become the squeaky wheel that gets the grease. But expecting issues like these to be resolved by a small volunteer organization which, until two years ago, saw its biggest challenges as managing cookouts, boat parades, and newsletters like this **and** which is now consumed by the daunting strategic implications of a watershed management plan may warrant an adjustment of expectations and a redirection of our time and energy.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer with lovely weather and clear waters!

LKWA Water Quality

Lisa Hutchinson lisahutch@comcast.net

We have received the **2021 Water Quality highlight report from the University of New Hampshire**, summarizing conditions on Lake Kanasatka based on testing by our 3 monitoring teams and the UNH team during the summer months.

Year-over-year and long term, we see the same general conditions and trends:

- Total phosphorus levels are high and continue to be of greatest concern
- Dissolved oxygen remains concerning low or absent at the bottom of the lake, leading to conditions where excess nutrients may be released from the bottom sediments
- Water transparency is excellent at 5.9 meters and has improved from the past year
- Chlorophyll *a* levels remain low/excellent and have improved somewhat from the prior year

For the first time in 2021, as part of the data collection for the Watershed Management Plan (WMP), UNH performed 4 in-depth assessments from June to September, versus one visit in early August. We saw lower oxygen levels at the deepest sites, spreading higher in the water column as the summer progressed. Monthly precipitation totals for 2021 were near or below average in January through June, with atypically dry spring conditions, less snowpack runoff and less rain. July rainfall was significantly higher, with multiple events exceeding 1" of rain and one storm over 3". Drought-like conditions, combined with periods of severe storms, tell us the increased importance of assuring stormwater runoff is understood and important steps are taken to control it. Stormwater runoff is a leading source of nutrients, included phosphorus, entering the lake.

Lake Wakondah was also sampled on these 4 visits. Wakondah data suggests it may be susceptible to conditions which could lead to cyanobacteria growth.

Blue = Excellent =
Oligotrophic

Yellow = Fair =
Mesotrophic

Red = Poor = Eutrophic

Gray = No Data

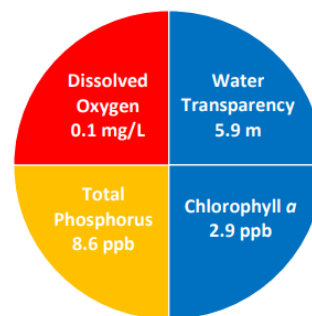


Figure 1. Lake Kanasatka Water Quality (2021)

Lake Kanasatka had **cyanobacteria blooms** in 2021 of very similar timing and duration as 2020. We were under NHDES Advisories for 22 days in August and September. With the unusually warm and extended fall, blooms persisted into early December. NHDES notes more NH lakes had blooms during these time frames. Preliminary analysis of data from new sampling we began in 2020 on phycocyanin levels shows a correlation between increases in levels and the onset of blooms. Toxin and other analysis of the blooms points to shoreline scums likely being the most toxic if people or pets come into contact with them, even if an NHDES advisory is not in place. We will continue to work with UNH and NHDES on these efforts.

For potential cyanobacteria sightings and concerns this year, our Rapid Response Team will again be in place to respond quickly. Please continue to coordinate all reports through this team, by contacting a member listed in this newsletter. This enables cooperation with our partners NHDES and UNH, and also ensures we collect the samples before they dissipate and properly get them to the lab for analysis. NHDES has asked us to stress the importance of reporting any human or pet illnesses that may have resulted from cyanobacteria exposure. The form can be found by searching online for NHDES Beach Illness Report for People and Pets or reaching out to HAB@des.nh.gov. For anyone wishing to sign up for official NHDES cyanobacteria advisory emails, join the E-mail list at the bottom of this page: https://www4.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed_BeachMaps/. We will continue to provide up-to-date information on Kanasatka conditions on our social media platforms.

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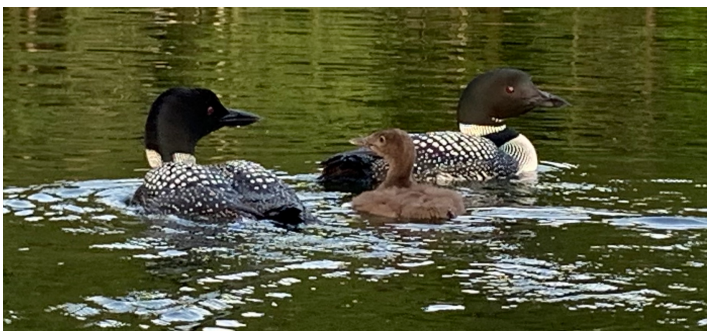
LKWA Water Quality - continued

Our **water quality monitoring** activity, both in scope and timing, has increased significantly in the past several years, with 2021 a very busy year for our teams. Kudos to Carol and Rick Carlson, Woody Cartwright, and our Rapid Response Team members for really stepping up! Thank you to all property owners who gave our teams permission for access, including on Wakondah!

We will be adding additional testing based on FB Environmental draft recommendations for our WMP. These include monthly biological surveys, as well as profiles throughout the water column at the deep spot every other week to assess dissolved oxygen, temperature, phosphorus, and other important parameters.

Please warmly welcome our newest monitoring team, Anne and Jim O'Connor and Pat and Mike Devanney!! They together will be responsible for the Animal Island site. We ask all boaters and riders to avoid creating large wakes around our teams anchored out on the lake. We all welcome anyone to come say hello and see what we are doing! Because of our work to support the development and implementation of the WMP, we and additional UNH teams may be on the lake more frequently, in smaller boats or canoes.

I am available for any questions or discussions on **how to protect our lake**. It bears repeating: It takes all of us, doing more than NHDES permitting and regulations require. It takes all of us learning how to care for the lake as landowners and lake-goers. There are many great resources, and my favorites are the LakeSmart program from NH Lakes, Landscaping at the Water's Edge from UNH Extension, and Soak Up the Rain NH under resources. Each of these is available by searching these key terms online, or contact me for assistance.



This list is a reminder of the **Key Causes of Phosphorus** and other nutrients we all can work diligently to notice and eliminate:

- Stormwater runoff, especially before vegetation emerges or during any intense storm
- Obsolete, aging, or improperly maintained septic systems
- Soil erosion from lack of stabilization and insufficient vegetative buffer
- Bank erosion from high water and especially from boat wakes
- Disturbance of the lake bottom in shallower areas and coves
- Sand added near shoreline or anywhere else on a property
- Fertilizers, including organic fertilizers and yard products, all contain N-P-K nutrients
- Yard waste, and any pet or other animal waste (yes, including those geese)
- Some soaps, detergents, cleaners, or any other products that are not phosphate-free

A spring-time tip on **Fertilizers and Organic Fertilizers**

'Tis the season to be planning for summer, which for many includes going to the local garden center or hardware store or planning services with your landscaping company. No fertilizers are lake-safe, not even organic ones. Not many people, even the landscaping pros, are aware organic fertilizers are harmful to the lake. Many of us think organic is the safe choice. The three primary ingredients in any fertilizer are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium – that's the three numbers often listed as N-P-K on the package. This is true even if the organic materials are from natural plant and animal sources such as manure, dried blood, crushed shells, fish, cottonseed meal, phosphate rock, etc. Excess nitrogen and especially phosphorus causes algae blooms and accelerates plant growth. The better choice on your waterfront, if you have any lawn or plantings, is lime. And a soil test is always a great first step.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Baker rbaker22@gmail.com

The summer of 2020 was our first major bout with Cyanobacteria. In January of 2021 I made the first payment to our engineering firm FB Engineering Associates, tasked with investigating the causes of our Cyanobacteria outbreak. In February of 2021 following the offer by Ted Hilton Jr to setup a GoFundMe account in honor of his dad we started collecting the funding necessary for this investigative effort. Soon after the GFM effort kickoff, funding was coming in directly to LKWA from many donors. In June of 2021 I deposited the first of three 20K installments from the town of Moultonborough. Getting the town to contribute 60K was a great achievement which meant we had fully funded the engineering effort. To date we have paid over 58K toward this engineering effort with 3-4 months to go before the final product is to be delivered. We will have some funds left over but will be far short of what we will need to correct the deficiencies identified in the final report. The next stage to save our lake will fall on us as individuals to correct our own waterfront issues. Individual waterfront owners have the responsibility to take on the task of improving how their frontage impacts our lake. Secondly with our Watershed Management Plan in hand we will need to apply for state and federal grants to correct our Lake Kanasatka's major issues. Some of these grants may require matching funds so we will likely be reaching out again for individual contributions for the remedial fixes. I hope to see the day when we can look back at the achievement of accomplishing something that we can leave to future generations, a clean Lake Kanasatka.



LKWA Finances

Current Finances 7/1/2021 to 3/19/2022

Balance forward as of 7/1/2021 **\$3,105.69**

Income

Dues	\$3,420.00
Interest	\$0.40
Total Income	\$6,526.09

Expenses

Loon Preservation Committee	\$250.00
Lakes Region Conservation Trust	\$250.00
NH Lakes Association	\$250.00
Web Hosting Expenses	\$661.05
Cyanobacteria Sign Expenses	\$198.00
Mailing supplies	\$218.08
PO Box & mailings	\$84.00
Total Expenses	\$1,911.13

Checking Balance 3/19/2022 **\$4,614.96**

Petty Cash **\$100.00**

KOTL Savings

Balance forward as of 7/1/2021 \$5,928.41

In Memory Contributions \$100.00

Interest \$0.39

Lagoon Legal Assistance (\$435.50)

Keepers of the Lake Fund (3/19/21) **\$5,593.30**

Watershed Management Plan Savings

Balance forward as of 7/1/2021 \$56,213.77

Donations \$3,327.15

Final (2) Town Donations \$40,000.00

Interest \$12.36

Total \$99,553.28

Total Expenditures \$46,511.07

WMP Savings Account Balance \$53,042.21

Total Assets LKWA \$63,350.47

Annual Dues \$25 - Please Pay by July 1st

Please help us keep our records up to date by filling out
and sending in the form below with your payment.



Name: _____

Winter Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

☐ Check here to save a tree, save a stamp and receive the newsletter by email.

Summer Address: _____

Phone: _____

You can mail this form with your dues payment to LKWA c/o Rob Baker PO Box 774 Center Harbor, NH 03226
Check the box on the form above or send an email to rhbaker22@gmail.com requesting that next year we send
you the digital version of the LKWA Spring newsletter.

Thank you for your Donations. With your help the LKWA can continue to protect our lake.

Donations made in memory of a loved one or in support of an organization or person are gratefully accepted
and acknowledgements are sent to the donor and recipient.

LakeSmart



Is Your Property LakeSmart?

- Are you concerned about cyanobacteria blooms on our lake?
- Do you want to know what you can do to improve our lake's water quality?
- Is protecting Lake Kanasatka for future generations to enjoy important to you?

Working towards earning "LakeSmart" certification is a good place to start. The LakeSmart program, developed and administered by the NH Lakes Association, provides information, resources and site visits to individual properties throughout NH- all at no cost to the property owner. The approach used by their team is supportive, non-binding and judgement free. During a visit to your property, the team will provide you with suggestions specific to your situation. Suggestions might include adding a few plantings to form a vegetative barrier, installing water bars to direct storm water runoff away from the lake, limiting non-porous surfaces for driveways and patios or having your septic system and leach field professionally evaluated. The Association maintains a list of recommended service providers that are available for hire, if needed, to assist you in meeting your LakeSmart goals.

Check out their website at: <https://nhlakes.org/lakesmart/> In addition to posting current news and legislative updates, their website includes a wide range of articles on topics ranging from the effects of cyanobacteria on humans and wildlife to the importance of lake friendly landscaping. NH Lakes also offers a Lake-Friendly Living Webinar Series and a video library covering topics such as "Tips for Mud Season" and "Spring and your Septic System".

Since 2019, nine properties on Lake Kanasatka have earned the LakeSmart Award, four of which were awarded in late summer 2021. Congratulations to recent award recipients Anne O'Connor, Mark Whary, Scott and Chris Wallace and Carol Carson! The momentum is building with at least 24 additional property owners in the process of making lake-friendly improvements. Why not add your name to the list!

Check out <https://nhlakes.org/> and consider taking the online self assessment and signing up for a site visit. Site visit dates are limited and fill up quickly so act fast! Your individual efforts will go a long way in helping to protect the water quality of our beloved Lake Kanasatka for future generations to enjoy.



Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association
PO Box 774
Center Harbor, NH 03226

First
Class
Stamp



Kanasatka Loons 2021

Our loons returned early April and got started earlier than usual laying their eggs. On about June 12 the 1st egg hatched. The 2nd egg did not hatch, and I believe it was picked up by the LPC for evaluation. The chick was spotted frequently over the summer, and left late in the Fall. Let's hope for a long, healthy life for this one! And hopefully a successful hatch of both eggs this year. We like boring loon summers!

Trish Townsend
tkmtownsend@gmail.com

LKWA on Instagram



We'd like to let you know about our LKWA Instagram account. Follow us at [lake.kanasatka.association](https://www.instagram.com/lake.kanasatka.association) and feel free to hashtag your own Lake Kanasatka Instagram pictures with [#lakekanasatkaassociation](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/lakekanasatkaassociation).

You can follow the hashtag as well as direct message pictures to us to post on the Instagram feed. Or send pictures through our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kanasatka.

For a complete charting of all Loon Nesting successes and failures on Lake Kanasatka and Wakondah Pond from 1975 to 2019, please visit our website at <https://kanasatka.org/loon-nesting/>