



Last Quarter in Brief

Staff & Citizen Science Training: Common Loons

Glacier National Park's first Citizen Science Loon Monitor training session was held on May 21, 2005. Therese Hartman, Biological Science Technician, conducted trainings throughout the month of June where volunteers learned about loon ecology and were given instructions for completing data forms.

The Common Loon is a Species of Special Concern in Montana and high proportions of them (~20% of the state's nesting pairs) are found in Glacier. The Citizen Science project is engaging volunteers to collect data about loons across the park in order to inform resource managers about their reproductive success.

Currently 45 volunteers have attended training and have been regularly monitoring Glacier National Park lakes. As of mid July, Loon monitor volunteers have conducted over 100 lake surveys and identified 42 individual loons, of which, there have been 16 pairs with 5 chicks (3 of which survived past 3 days). Monitoring lakes for loon activity will be ongoing until the fall when area loons will migrate to their winter ranges along the west coast.

July 16th was Loon Day. Lakes were monitored state-wide to determine their population and to estimate reproductive success. Thirty-eight of Glacier's trained volunteers participated in Loon Day by monitoring lakes in the park. Loon Day results will be presented to the Montana Common Loon Working Group on July 19th and will also be published in the next CCRLC's newsletter.



Therese Hartman, Loon Project Coordinator, working with Glacier National Park Citizen Scientists for loon monitoring training

To participate in the loon monitoring program contact Therese Hartman at 406-888-7986. Project funded by Rocky Mountain Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU).



GeoCorps America Internship

ReBecca Hunt, a paleontology intern and "Geoscientist-in-the-Park", is conducting a survey of paleontological resources for Glacier NP. ReBecca, a recent graduate of Texas Tech University, where she received her master's degree in Geosciences with a paleontology emphasis, is compiling literature from past research and locating sites of paleontological significance in the park.

ReBecca will write a report to serve as an information source for resources management staff, park interpreters, and outside researchers. The report will provide an overview of the paleontological history of Glacier in a non-technical language, thus making it accessible to a general audience. The report will be published on Glacier's public website.

This project is jointly funded through the Geological Society of America's GeoCorps America program and the NPS Geoscientists-in-the-Parks program.

www.geosociety.org/geocorps/
www2.nature.nps.gov/geology/gip/



ReBecca Hunt at Grinnell Lake

International VIP

Guy Trudeau, Master of Science student at Universite Paul Cezanne in Marseille, France, has been volunteering in Glacier since March. Guy is assisting wildlife biologists Steve Gniadek and Dawn LaFluer, monitoring birds and invasive plants in the park. Bald Eagle nests are being monitored in the West Glacier area of the park, Golden Eagle nests in the Going-to-the-Sun Road corridor, and Harlequin Ducks on upper McDonald Creek. Currently, he is also studying whether noxious weeds are present in Glacier's backcountry.

Guy's weed survey includes 28 trails located throughout the park. He has observed species of noxious weeds along 2 km of trails. He is also collecting other ecological information, which will be entered into a GIS database along with the plant observations. Guy is working with Drs. Bruce Maxwell and Lisa Rew at Montana State University to use the GIS information to model the probability of weed occurrence across the landscape.



Guy Trudeau, observing eagles nest from Waterton Lake



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Birds & Fire Ecology

Susan Sindt continues developing educational materials for fire ecology and birds. A seasonal park ranger, Susan is working with CCRLC Education Specialist Sallie Hejl to provide research information to the park's interpretive staff and the public. The first product, a "Fire Information" notebook is being developed for park interpreters and will be distributed this summer in its first edition form. The second stage of the project will be to redesign an existing, short hiking trail that will demonstrate the effects of fire in a natural ecosystem. This is a two-year project funded through the Joint Fire Science Program.



Susan Sindt prepares a 'Fire Information' notebook for park interpreters.

Tehabi Internship

Garrett Boarts, a Tehabi Intern from Utah State University, is working this summer with CCRLC staff, and with the Divisions of Interpretation & Education and Science & Resource Management to communicate cultural and natural resource information to the public. The Tehabi program (www.cnr.usu.edu/tehabi) places resources management students in a practical environment where they learn skills for bringing together science, policy, and diverse values. Garrett has attended interpretive training, learning a great deal about the complexity of Glacier's resources. Four weeks remain in Garrett's stay and he is forging ahead on developing educational content for interpretive websites to be hosted by Glacier National Park. Garrett's internship was awarded through the Rocky Mountain CESU.



Garrett Boarts investigates the natural resources of Glacier National Park

Upcoming Projects & Events

Waterton-Glacier Science & History Conference

Location: Lake McDonald Lodge Auditorium
Date: Aug 18, 2005, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Speakers: Kate Kendall, Blase Reardon, Mark Lorang, Bonnie Ellis, Greg Pederson, Chris Guy, Margaret Colenutt, Eric Higgs, Richard Hutto, Francis Auld, David Schwab, Carmen Wong, Gordan Stenhouse, Michael Yochim, William Farr
www.nps.gov/glac/pdf/05scienceconf.pdf

Teacher Workshop at Grant Kohrs Ranch

Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site is hosting a workshop July 20-22 for Middle School teachers in Deer Lodge, MT. CCRLC Resource Education Specialist Sallie Hejl will lead the Wildlife section of the workshop, presenting talks on avian ecology, management, and conservation in grassland & riparian habitats. Goals are to explore natural processes in the area and to help teachers relate the natural features of the region to the Ranch's historic and cultural landscape. Funding for the workshop is provided by the RM-CESU.