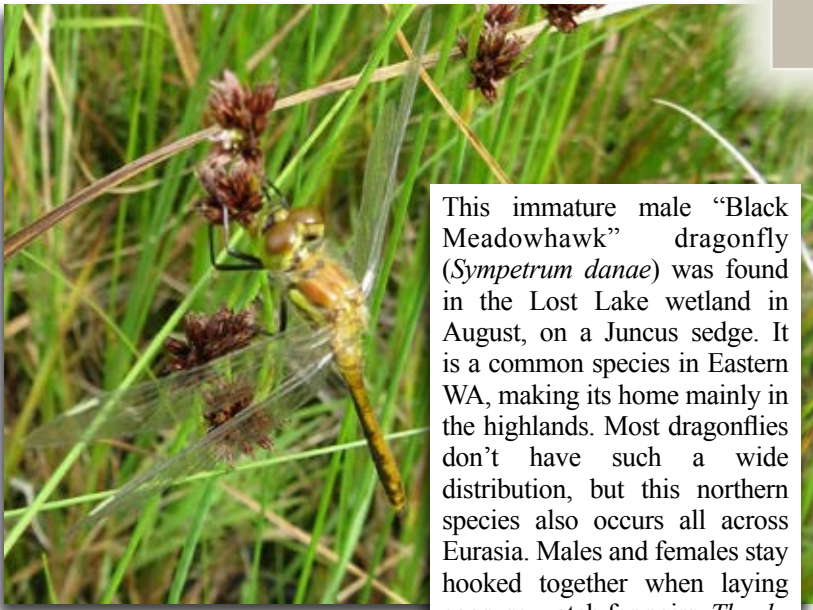
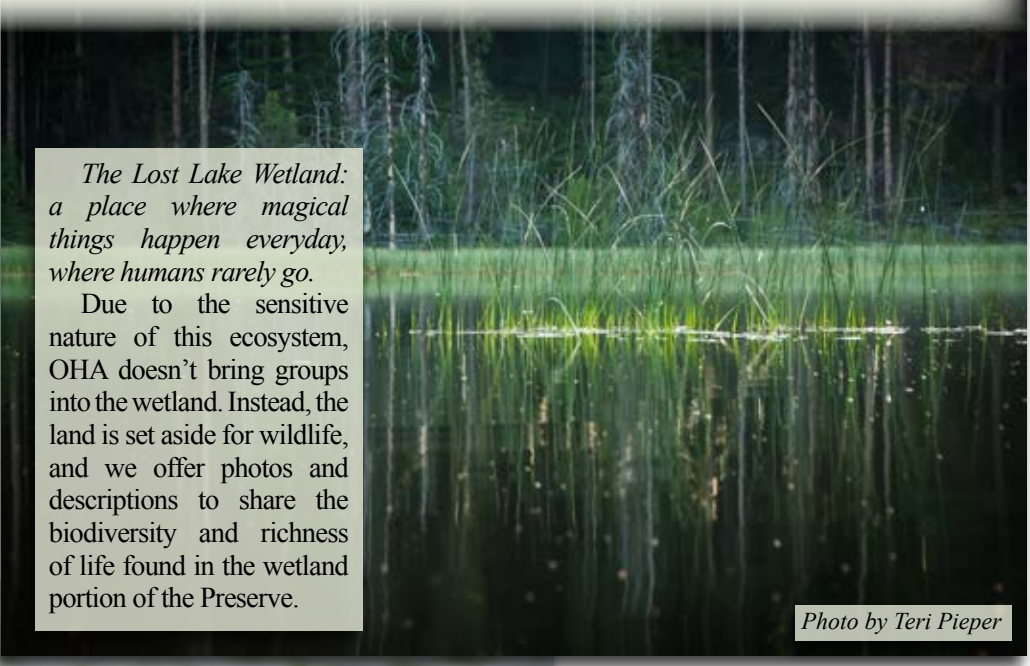


Backyard

Highland Highlights: The Lost Lake Wetland

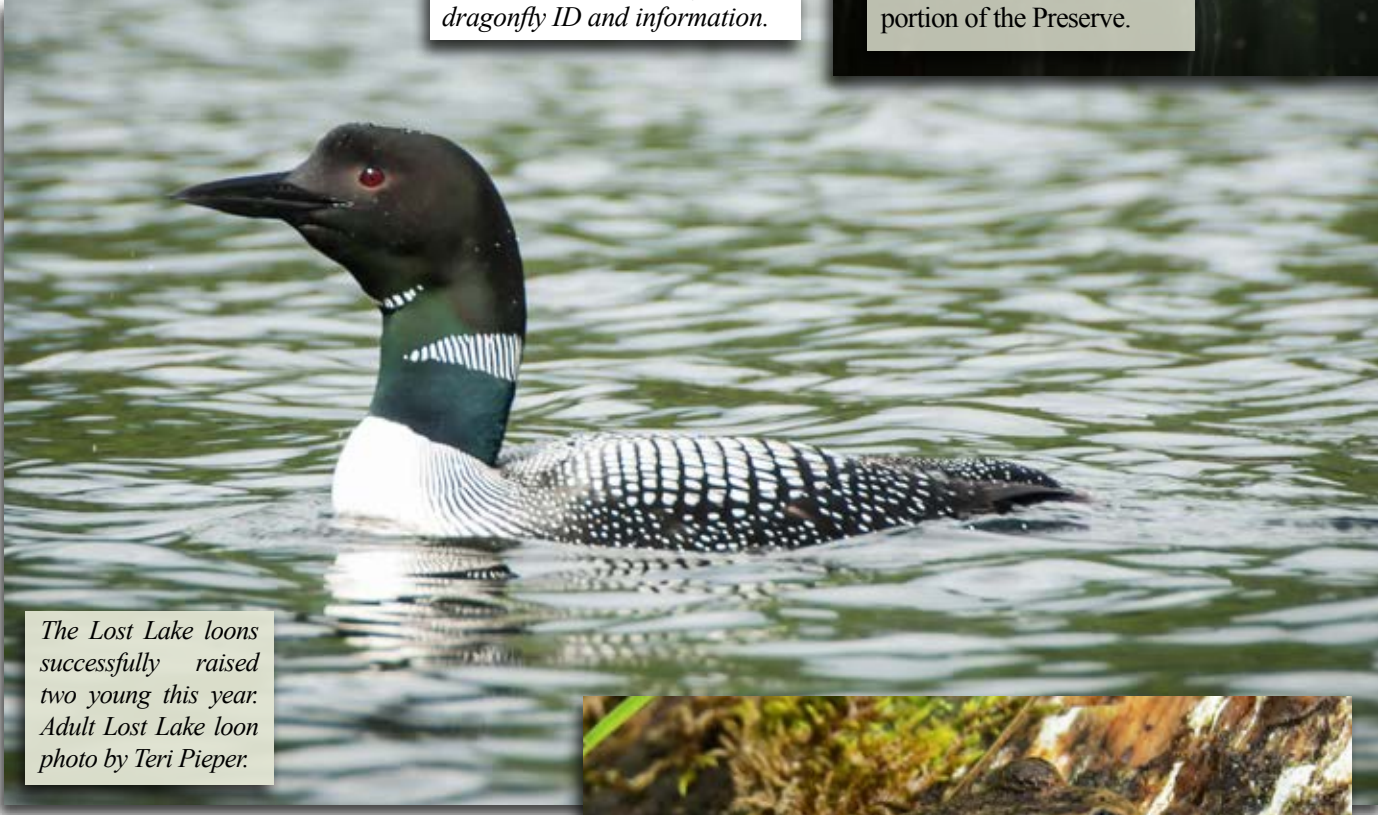


This immature male “Black Meadowhawk” dragonfly (*Sympetrum danae*) was found in the Lost Lake wetland in August, on a *Juncus* sedge. It is a common species in Eastern WA, making its home mainly in the highlands. Most dragonflies don’t have such a wide distribution, but this northern species also occurs all across Eurasia. Males and females stay hooked together when laying eggs, so watch for pairs. *Thanks to Dennis Paulson for this dragonfly ID and information.*



The Lost Lake Wetland: a place where magical things happen everyday, where humans rarely go.
Due to the sensitive nature of this ecosystem, OHA doesn’t bring groups into the wetland. Instead, the land is set aside for wildlife, and we offer photos and descriptions to share the biodiversity and richness of life found in the wetland portion of the Preserve.

Photo by Teri Pieper



The Lost Lake loons successfully raised two young this year. Adult Lost Lake loon photo by Teri Pieper.



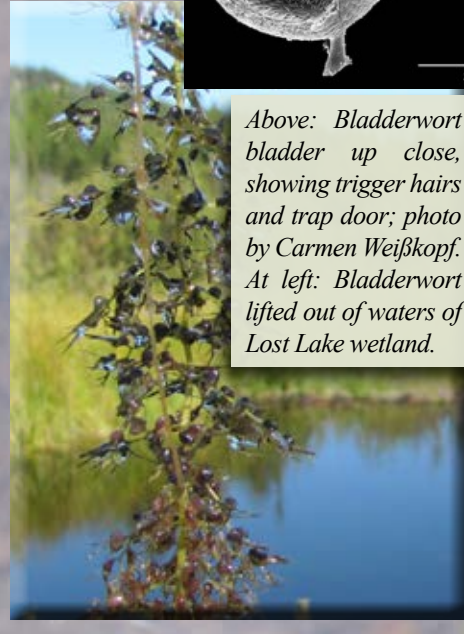
The Pine White (*Neophasia menapia*, above) is one of our state’s latest emerging butterfly species, not appearing until late June or early July. Being dimorphic, the male is quite different in appearance from the female. The male, pictured here, is bright white with clean black markings, while the female has the same faded black lines but smudged reddish orange over the white ventral. I used to think of it as, “she tried to put on her lipstick...and missed!!” The flight of this species is also unique as they appear to float like feathers rather than having a strong direct flight. The host is native conifer trees. *Written by Idie Ulsh. This Pine White was photographed at Lost Lake by OHA staff in August.*



State Candidate Species, *Rana luteiventris*, the Columbia Spotted Frog, photographed in the Lost Lake wetland in August 2013 (above). This species is abundant in the Lost Lake wetland, though statewide it is ranked by the Natural Heritage Program as “Apparently Secure,” meaning that while they are at fairly low risk of extinction or elimination, there is “possible cause for some concern as a result of local recent declines, threats, or other factors.”



Above: Bladderwort bladder up close, showing trigger hairs and trap door; photo by Carmen Weißkopf. At left: Bladderwort lifted out of waters of Lost Lake wetland.



Common Bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*, at left and above left), an aquatic perennial, is well-adapted to live in the beaver ponds of the Lost Lake wetland. This plant is a food source for muskrats and a variety of water birds, and provides cover for many aquatic animals. Its ability to bend with water currents keeps it from breaking, while emergent flowers produce nectar, providing access to pollinators above the water surface. The only parts of the plant that are above water are the stem and the yellow flower.

Bladderwort is carnivorous, with trigger hairs that open trap doors when touched by animals such as small crustaceans and aquatic insects. When the valve bursts open, it creates a vacuum and water rushes in, pulling tiny animals into the bladder, providing nitrogen and other nutrients to the plant. The process takes less than one millisecond, making bladderwort among the fastest insect-eating plants on Earth. Bladderworts produce a scent that attracts aquatic animals; they have been known to digest mosquito larvae, amoeba, paramecium, aquatic worms, and may even digest part of a newborn tadpole or small fish. This scent/trap door/enzyme combination is just one of the amazing adaptation arrays demonstrated by plants in the Lost Lake wetland.