

Winter Lakes Alliance
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2024

Hi all, enclosed are the meeting minutes and updates from August 10th, 2024.

1. Our main speaker for the day was Dr. Julie Ray from "project Northwoods" in the town of Winter. Her presentation was focused on "Snakes" and the information gained about their populations across the country. Most of the information she gains regarding snakes comes from their excrement and stomach contents, what they eat and DNA analysis Can show populations, density, state of the environment, and what foods are plentiful and What types of food are eaten by different varieties of snakes. She also examines road kills And gains much information and has even found a dead snake that was thought to be extinct. Her enthusiasm and love for nature and all its creatures is very apparent and her energy is transferred to the audience. Her main message (DON'T KILL SNAKES) They are an important part of the eco-system and a part that is many times misunderstood. Invasives in all areas are a problem and what we are seeing in Florida and the south with the pythons is having a major impact on the local snakes and animals. We are fortunate to have her as a teacher at the school in Winter where she can model her expertise and pass on her knowledge to her students and community. She ended her sessions with "Ruby" an 8-pound snake slithering around her neck and torso as she explained how it would smell through its tongue and the girth of its body and the ability to eat a whole rat which she feeds it 3 times a week. Questions and answers followed with a lot of hands in the air and an opportunity to share some local sightings of different kinds of snakes.

The meeting began following the presentation with introductions of old and new members (26 present)

2. 1. Deb has good news as our fish are coming! We will have 2500 extended growth walleyes to stock in our lakes. (extended growth means 7-9 inches) I will get a schedule out to everyone when the fish will be available and times and dates if you would like to come and watch or help the fish find their way into our lakes.
2. Wood duck houses are cut out and ready to be assembled. We will have them available at the picnic (Sept 14th) and you can take home and assemble the houses or WE will help you assemble them after we eat on picnic day.

3. Been seeing loons on the lakes but FEW chicks. Only know of 1 chick on our lakes that has survived so far. If you see or have seen any chicks let me know and I'll get the word out to members.

4. Next meeting will be September 14th, 2024 at the town hall at 10:00. We will have our annual picnic at Doc Smith Park starting at noon. Meats, beverages, and plates (silverware) will be provided. It is free to all members... Please bring a dish to pass, or a dessert. There will be food, fun, and prizes for everyone. I want to get back on winning track in our cribbage tournament so expect some fierce competition. Also, our raffle prize winners will be drawn. Hope you can attend! See you there, Rick

Questions or comments??? let me know there are still a few raffle tickets left

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Hasselquist, Secretary