



# Watchic Lake Association Newsletter – June, 2011

## **SAVE THE DATE(S):**

JUNE 4<sup>th</sup> AT  
9:00am @  
Kiwanis  
Clubhouse –  
Paine/113  
Remediation  
Meeting

JUNE 4-5  
Maine Free  
Fishing Days

JUNE 12  
Old Port  
Festival in  
Portland

JUNE 23-25  
Standish  
Summer  
Festival.

JULY 2<sup>nd</sup>  
“Decorate  
Your Dock”  
Watchic Lake  
Contest.

JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>  
Watchic Lake  
Association  
Annual  
Meeting &  
Social.

## **REMINDER:**

Please power wash boats if in other marinas or bodies of water to avoid the spread of milfoil and other invasive species.

## **Finishing Strong...**

Dear Neighbors,

As my Presidency winds down, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have served on my Board of Directors—David Bradbury, Steve Bradbury, Julie Butler, Matt Campbell, Steve Center, Claire Drew, Don Drew, Howard Harris, Maryanne Leonard, John Pace, Steve Rines, Regina Rutter and Charlie Tarbell.

This Board has accomplished so much to be proud of:

1. Obtaining a 501(c)(3) status helps with raising funds to better position ourselves as a proactive association—by that I mean a quick response in the event that invasive species are detected. If we had to wait for State or Federal help to act it could make a big difference in getting the problem under control. Steve Center, David Bradbury and Bob Joslyn were instrumental in accomplishing this.
2. Capital Fund Drive—Steve Center has been the driving force to get this off and running. He kept all of our feet to the fire and the first phase went well. The second phase will begin shortly. Steve, we couldn't have done it without you. Also, I am so grateful to Patty Center who coordinates all of Steve's efforts and gives us hours of her time.
3. Dam Repair—David Bradbury did a magnificent job working with the engineering firm and overseeing all of the construction. He and Don Drew were down at the site on a daily basis. Thank you David for rebuilding our dam structure.
4. Website/Education—The newly designed website is now up and running ([www.watchiclake.org](http://www.watchiclake.org)). Regina Rutter and Matt Campbell will continue to update the website. Thank you Regina and Matt.
5. The Membership Committee with Julie Butler as chair has reached out to all property owners in a new effort to bring this community together. She has paid personal visits to everyone as she continues with her goal of increasing membership. Thank you Julie.
6. Paine Neighborhood/Route 113 Remediation Effort—Since 2009 the WLA has been working with Rt. 113 property owners to address the volume of water and nutrients washing

## Finishing Strong – Continued....



*Maine’s Largest Lake  
Is Moosehead.*

*What is Maine’s  
Deepest Lake  
at 316 feet?*

*[Answer- last page]*



into the lake. This problem affects all of Watchic Lake. This effort began with Charlie Tarbell. Through Charlie’s efforts, we realized what a big issue this was so I appointed a committee with Steve Center as chair to pull this huge effort together. I am amazed at how far we have come and proud of the way this committee has pulled the Town, CCSW, DEP and the State together to solve this problem. I would like to give a very special thanks to John Blake, Steve

Center, Don Drew, Steve Bradbury, Charlie and, most importantly, all the property owners. We could not have done this without you. I thank you all for your continued support.

7. Water quality is monitored twice a year by Bob and Eben Joslyn. Eben is always available to answer questions, and his written reports will be on the website and available at the annual meeting.

*I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30 to 5:00 at Kiwanis Beach.*

In closing I would like to give a very special thanks to Claire Drew who was our Secretary for many years. Her friendship and support have meant so much to me. As I turn the gavel over to Don Drew I hope that he has the great ride that I have had. It was a privilege and a pleasure.

Sincerely,  
Patty Guenther

## The Dam Gets A Facelift...by David Bradbury

The dam life extension project is complete except for a few small items. All of the concrete and structural work is done. Next year, we plan to build a new wood gate to replace the existing one. The new dam configuration will **provide three times the water flow** over the spillway. This will provide lake level control during a normal summer without opening and closing the gate. This spring

we have not had to open the gate to control the lake level.

The Lake level today is about two inches above the projected summer level. In a normal season the lake level should stay within plus or minus two inches of the summer level. When you put your dock in this season you should set the level accordingly.

Regulating the lake water

level without opening the gate eliminates erratic level changes. This provides a more natural water flow downstream. During the loon nesting season a stable water level improves chick survival.

The dam repairs can be seen from the water. Do not go near the spillway. **DO NOT** swim near the dam or wade as you could be caught in the current.

## Dam Reconstruction – Continued...

The construction was completed on schedule and under budget. The dam committee would like to thank all involved, the engineer, Tec Associates, the contractor, LaBrecque Construction, Watchic Lake Association, and all of you that supported the project through your contributions.

## Capital Fund Drive – Needs You!...by Steve Center

**We need Volunteers – See Contact Information below.**

**Expect additional funding from the 2011 drive to be at least \$40,000**

At our annual meeting in July of 2010 we approved moving forward with a significant capital fund effort. Frankly, it was not an option if we were going to rebuild our dam. During 2010 we had a self-imposed mandate to move rapidly as the dam repair and payment was to be completed in the fall of 2010. For that reason, our board members each elected to seek out six to ten property owner contacts, primarily on the basis of neighborhood or personal knowledge. The total amount of those contacted represented less than 50% of property owners with lakefront access.

Our fund drive schedule runs from July, 2010, through October, 2011. We decided in the fall to put it on hold and restart in June, 2011. We have been very successful to date with the average contribution over \$1,000 per property owner with a typical payment schedule of \$100 or \$200 per owner for ten years.

Our board of directors believes every property owner with access should

have both the opportunity and the responsibility to contribute to the vitality of our lake and watershed.

We have established a line of credit with a local bank. We are working on another major project and because of the timing of payments it will take a decade for us to receive all of the money which has been pledged.

These are trying times and any "crisis funding" from governments, grants, etc. will be more and more difficult if some catastrophic event were to strike. Preliminary research would suggest that a lake the size of ours should work toward establishing a reserve of at least \$75,000 to have available immediately should something serious occur. Fear of invasive species such as milfoil is paramount in the minds of all of us currently, and I'm sure many of you have read about the seriousness of problems with some lake not too far from us and the fact that they do not have the necessary financial resources. We have the momentum and we urge everyone to participate in the capital fund drive.



The second phase of this drive will take place over the spring and summer, and we very much need six to eight individuals who are willing to work on this program. We have excellent materials and will provide instruction and leadership. Please call Steve Center at 730-2261 to volunteer.

## Paine Neighborhood/Watchic Lake Watershed Remediation Effort by Steve Center

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**ATTENTION**  
**All Property Owners**  
**June 4<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00AM at**  
**the Kiwanis**  
**Clubhouse**  
**Remediation Meeting**

In our last newsletter, we published an article which described a major project of the Association in conjunction with Town leadership, most impacted property owners and several environmental entities. We discussed the fact that we viewed this as both complex and serious with potential negative impact on the entire Watchic watershed if not corrected.

Since mid-December we have identified an area of approximately 500 acres on the Route 113 side of the lake, have hired an engineering firm and conducted an aerial survey which allows us through computer simulation to determine what is causing the issue and, therefore, give us information as to how to

remedy it. We have had exceptional support from the most impacted landowners which is very wide ranging including active participation and financing. We have also received excellent support from the Town and we made a decision to move forward. On June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Kiwanis Clubhouse we will be holding an important meeting where our engineering firm will lay out a remedial plan. **All property owners are invited.** We would expect to go out for various bids on the work to be done at that time. Our goal is to have it completed by fall.

From a realistic perspective, when we undertook this project we did so because we viewed it to be of critical importance to the long term health of our lake. We realized that activities on this project had suffered several stops and starts over an eight to ten year period, and we proceeded with no greater than a 40% to 50% belief that we could accomplish what we were seeking to do. We can say today that we are well beyond the point where anybody expected us to be.

## WLA's Website Goes Live...by Regina Rutter



Over the winter, the Education Committee worked with web developer, Tebo Studios in Standish, to help restructure the website on a new software platform, add new features, and to provide increased flexibility to allow board members to easily add updates, lake news, and. Please check out [www.watchiclake.org](http://www.watchiclake.org).

In addition, some of the new features are;

- a 'Facebook' link 
- A 'Calendar' that will keep you posted to fun and educational events around the lake and Standish.
- 'Watershed' and 'Lake Quality' updates to keep you apprised of situations that may threaten our enjoyment of Watchic lake.
- 'Loon' news
- 'Membership' information.

This summer, the Education Committee will work to increase awareness of the website, membership in the association, issues affecting the lake, and social activities planned. Please send us your ideas, announcements, and suggestions to Regina Rutter at [rmsr163@msn.com](mailto:rmsr163@msn.com).

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## Watchic Lake Water Quality Committee

By Bob Joslyn @ rcj\_audit@hotmail.com

**Mission:** To protect and preserve the water quality of Watchic Lake and the Watchic Lake watershed area

### **Prior Year**

**Accomplishments:** Samples were collected in the Fall of 2009 and Spring of 2010 and submitted to Katahdin Labs for independent analysis. Overall test results showed that the water was in very good condition at the time the tests were performed.

Detailed test results were compiled and presented at the annual meeting on July 10, 2010 by Eben Joslyn.

Secchi disk readings were

taken numerous times throughout the year and indicated that water clarity continued to be well above average.

Test results were uploaded to the VLMP website and we are presently waiting for the VLMP to post them to their website. Once this is completed, we will have a link added to the WLA website so that results may be reviewed online.

### **Current Year**

**Accomplishments:** Additional samples were taken on **Saturday, May 14, 2011**. Consistent with the last two years, these samples will be taken to Katahdin Associates for

independent analysis. Results will be reported at the annual meeting and will also be made available on the Website.

### **Objectives for 2011-2012**

To continue testing on a regular basis to ensure that the quality of the water is not being compromised.

To identify additional individuals willing to participate in sample collection, testing, and the ongoing education of all property owners to help us in our efforts to preserve the water quality of Watchic Lake.

Have a great summer!



*We are fortunate to have clean water to swim in – Enjoy!*

## Membership Committee by Julie Butler

I recently became a big fan of the NPR (National Public Radio) shows, "Wait Wait Don't Tell Me" and "Car Talk". This spring, I started to think about how my choice to listen to these shows for two hours during the week and my choice to become a lakefront owner on Watchic Lake has some similarities and some differences.

Unlike the Watchic Lake Association, NPR receives some funding through corporations, local and state government and foundations. Similar, to some extent to the Watchic Lake Association,

NPR's contributions from listeners have been their largest source of revenue for many years.

Not for two hours per week, but for 24 hours a day and 365 days a year, Watchic Lake property owners reap the benefits from dedicated group of volunteer board members who meet several times a year to fulfill the Mission of the Watchic Lake Association: To protect and improve the ecosystem of the Watchic Lake watershed. Our vision is to be recognized as a leader in proactive Lake Association oversight and execution.

Whether it is from the work of the Dam committee, Education committee, Water Quality committee or board members handling emergencies, we have benefitted from the work of these volunteers. We all made a decision to live on Watchic Lake. I have been a lakefront owner and WLA member since only 2002, but I believe that paying the \$25 annual membership dues is the right thing to do and is my responsibility as a property owner. I hope that you will carefully consider joining the Watchic Lake Association in 2011.

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***"JOIN NOW – USE THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE. THANK YOU!"***

# Watchic Lake Association - Summer Events

## FUN EVENTS TO DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Answer to question of  
Deepest lake is :

**SEBAGO**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.watchiclake.org](http://www.watchiclake.org)

### JULY 2ND- Saturday

#### 'Deck Your Dock'

**Contest.** This event is open to all residents. Decorate your dock in a spirited way no later than noon of July 3rd. Then, between 1-3pm, judges will boat around the lake and vote on which docks were the "Most Creative".

The 2011 Platinum, Gold & Silver award winners will be announced at the WLA Annual Meeting on July 9th and pictures of their dock will be posted on the website.

In order to register your dock, email Regina Rutter at [rmsr163@msn.com](mailto:rmsr163@msn.com) to receive your registration number to be posted on your dock. Please provide your name, email address & road #. (Event Raindate: July 3rd, Sunday).

### JULY 9TH- Saturday

**WLA Annual Meeting & Social at Kiwanis Beach 3:30-5PM.** Join in the fun at the Annual Meeting – BBQ, 50/50 raffle & games. Winners of 'Deck Your Dock' will be announced.

**WATCHIC LAKE ASSOC.  
P.O. BOX 319  
STANDISH, ME 04084**

