

To Our Friends, Members, Sponsors, and Supporters On and Around the Lake,

THANK YOU! Your support helps us help you in maintaining and improving water quality and life on the lake in general. As of November 2015, membership is 44% above last year and 50% of lakefront properties are members of the WLA.

Ice Out was Saturday, March 12 2016

The dam gate was closed shortly thereafter. Following the closing, the lake level will be monitored as it gradually rises.

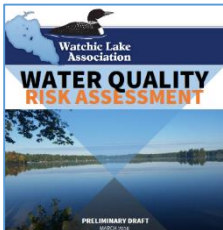
Spring is on the way!

Watchic Lake Association Annual Membership

We encourage all existing members to renew, and new property owners and others to become members and support our efforts to protect the lake. You will find the 2016/2017 membership form and return envelope attached.

[Join Now](#)

Watchic Lake Long Range Planning Project



Based on our 2015 Member Survey results, we have a better understanding of your key issues and concerns. We also know that land use patterns within the watershed (e.g. new development, gravel pits, horse/livestock areas, beaches with eroding sand, logging, two state highways, and private roads) may be impacting water quality. Our challenge, similar to many other Maine towns and lake associations, is to understand the risk and then engage citizens to protect water quality.

We know the limits of our own knowledge and therefore commissioned a third party expert to work with us to evaluate the lake and the watershed. This project includes the following tasks and will be reviewed with WLA members during the spring (tentatively mid to late May) and at the WLA Annual meeting:

- Identify key risk areas and suggest remediation efforts for 2016, 2017, and beyond.
- Recommend best practices for water quality monitoring and management.
- Work with the Town of Standish for advice and financial support.

Note that to support this effort **we will install a set of loggers off a small buoy** at the deepest part of the lake (roughly between Wathic Road 5 and East Eleanor Ave). This will provide us regular readings of dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles. We intend to deploy the buoy in May to capture readings throughout the year.

Lower Water Quality Leads to Lower Property Values

Recent articles and research provide great insight into how poor water quality, specifically due to algae blooms, reduces property values and the general quality of life on the lake. Phosphorus is the leading cause of excessive algae in most Maine lakes. A bloom can degrade water clarity to about two meters.



- **Lake Champlain Georgia, VT:** Georgia's assessor Bill Hinman decreased 34 lakefront property values along Georgia Shore's Ferrand Road in early July 2015 due to water quality issues, namely the nefarious presence of blue-green algae. The average property reduction was \$50,000.
- **Research referenced by the Maine DEP** notes that a 1-meter decline in water clarity equates with an approximate 9% decline in lake front property values.

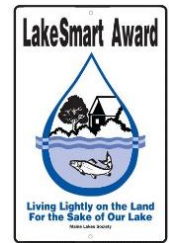


For the average Watchic lake property owner, significant water quality decline could lead to **a \$15,000 to \$50,000 reduction in your property's value!**

The short message – focus on water quality to maintain your property value and quality of life.

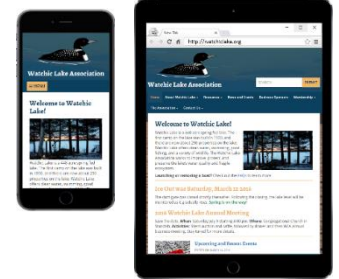
LakeSmart

Thank you to the 12 additional properties evaluated in the fall of 2015! We are awaiting final confirmation from the LakeSmart program, but understand that eight will be receiving a LakeSmart award this year, meaning Watchic Lake will qualify as a “LakeSmart Gold” lake, one of only a few in southern Maine. Again thank you to all LakeSmart participants – your efforts help improve the quality of our lake!”



Check Out Our Updated Website

Over 60% of web browsing is done from a smartphone or a tablet (e.g. iPad). To provide users of WatchicLake.org a positive experience on a mobile device, we now provide a “responsive design” to automatically change the screen and menu display to match the device. In addition, we have added more info on invasive species and reporting suspicious plants. We hope you like it!



WLA Annual Meeting – Saturday July 9, 2016 4:00 pm, Congregational Church in Standish

Its back to the future with our WLA annual meeting this year. We are planning a late afternoon social event as part of our 2016 annual meeting. We will hold a silent auction/raffle followed by dinner. After dinner, we will hold the business meeting covering a review of longer term risks to the lake and plans to address them, provide updates on invasives and water quality, gather member input, and hold any required member voting.

Victoria Brega has very kindly donated two gorgeous paintings of the lake that we will raffle off at the meeting.



Please try to join us to learn more about the status of the lake, ask questions, share your ideas, and meet your neighbors. More details will be posted www.watchiclake.org and mailed out later in the spring.

Stay warm this spring, think summer and of pleasant times on the lake. Check out www.watchiclake.org for the latest news on Watchic Lake. See you at our next Annual Meeting on Saturday July 9th 2016.

Again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

Paul

Paul McNulty, President Watchic Lake Association