

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. Ice out was April 16, and the dam gate was closed shortly thereafter. Following the closing, the lake level will be monitored as it gradually rises.



Membership

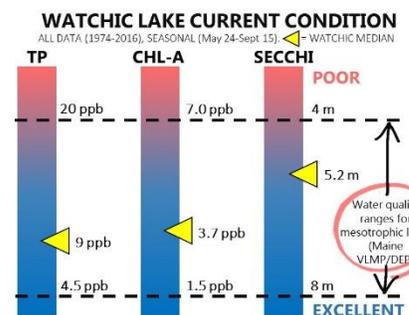
While up from earlier years, 2016 membership ended flat with 2015 (161 members and 138 member properties). This means that 55% of properties did not contribute to efforts to keep the lake and loons healthy, nor did they contribute to the repair of the dam and other remediation projects. Fortunately, donations by the Town of Standish, DEP, and other contributors helped support this year's activities.

We encourage all property owners to be members and support our efforts to protect the lake, and help you maximize the value of your property and enjoyment of the lake.

Join or donation online at [Watchic Lake Join or Donate](#). Or you can download and print our [paper membership form](#).

Watchic Lake Water Quality Report

In summary, our 2016 report states that the water quality for the main body of Watchic Lake is overall very good. Water quality is fair at the streams entering the lake at Paine and Page brooks (with elevated nutrients the main concern). While water quality is good today, **Watchic Lake remains at risk**. Ever increasing **human activities** within the watershed can increase the amount and transport of harmful pollutants and dangerous foreign materials into the lake and its streams. **Catastrophic events** such as mega-storms put roads, drainage systems, and septic systems at risk of introducing toxic runoff. Property owners and interested stakeholders must continue to work to address these risks, to avoid algal blooms, excessive plant growth, and shoreline erosion.



The data used in this report comes from readings done by [FB Environmental](#) and WLA volunteers. [Full report here](#).

We will continue using FB Environmental in 2017, including the use of the buoy system with digital loggers. We will also continue to monitor the two streams coming into the lake. This will be augmented by work done by WLA board members and volunteers.



LakeSmart – Lets Keep Expanding in 2017!

In 2016, with eight new LakeSmart properties on our lake, we met Maine Lakes Society targets for their prestigious Gold Award. With over 15% of properties with LakeSmart awards, Watchic Lake is the first lake in Southern Maine to have achieved this award.

Please consider a LakeSmart evaluation to help create a property that reduces runoff and otherwise protects the lake. We'd love to secure five more LakeSmart awards in 2017. [More here on LakeSmart](#).

Annual Meeting – Save the Date - July 15

The Watchic Lake Association annual meeting will be held on Saturday July 15. The location and time is still to be set, but do note the day in your calendar.

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.

Our Website and Email - Your Watchic Lake Information Source

We will increase the use of our website and email to communicate with our members, and begin to limit paper communications later in 2017. This allows more timely and less costly communications. **We strongly encourage you to provide us with your email** – via our paper membership form (attached) or our [Contact Us form](#).



Springtime Landscaping Tip – “Super Humus”



No its not fantastically tasty chickpea dip, but a way to protect the lake from run off. Did you know that the tires on our vehicles wear down on the roads, leaving tiny bits on the roads, which then washes across the roads down onto our lakefront properties? With Watchic Lake being bordered by two main roads and dozens of smaller camp roads, runoff is a real problem. To prevent the tiny bits of tires (along with other stuff) from polluting our lake we need to zip up the shoreline.

Plants and trees are the natural barrier. But if you have paths to your docks or beaches, super humus (aka “erosion control mix”) can be used instead of regular mulch. Super humus is different because it locks tightly together and holds water better. Sadly this is a specialized product that is not yet found in most garden centers. You can find it however, at Gorham Sand & Gravel in Buxton and O’Donal’s Nursery in Gorham.

The Loons

Our loons are already back on the lake (the same day as ice-out). If you recall there were three pairs of loons on the lake last summer, with one nesting pair settling in on Middle Island and another pair on Big Island. More information on the conditions of the loons and their chicks will be provided on our website and at the annual meeting.

Loons are one of the things that make Watchic Lake so enjoyable. If loons do not find a lake habitable, they will not return. Help keep the loons coming back:

- Loons dive deep and for minutes at time in search for food. They can pop up anywhere at any time. PLEASE keep an eye out for them and respect their space when boating.
- Use lead-free tackle and dispose of fishing line so it does not get tangled up in a loon’s feet or bill.
- Help maintain water quality to keep fish in the lake – use only phosphorus-free fertilizer and maintain your shoreline buffer-zone to reduce run-off.

Plant Identification Workshops

Working with the Maine VLMP, the Watchic Lake Association is planning a few educational events during the summer. Try to attend one of these events to help us keep Watchic Lake invasive free. Updates will be provided via our website and email.

- **7/11/2017. Maine VLMP Invasive Plant Patrol and Certification** to be held at Standish Town Hall. A six-hour classroom experience on leading invasive aquatic plant screening surveys. Satisfies the requirement for IPP certification. Open to all lakes. More at [Maine VLMP Workshops](#).
- **8/1/2017. Maine VLMP Plant Paddle** to be held on Watchic Lake. This is a three-hour exploration on invasive aquatic plants that takes place on shore and on the water. Open to all lakes. More at [Maine VLMP Workshops](#).

Stay warm this spring, think summer and of pleasant times on the lake. Again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

Paul

Paul McNulty, President Watchic Lake Association