



20 Gilsland Farm Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105
207-781-2330
maineaudubon.org

July 20, 2017

Paul McNulty, President
Watchic Lake Association
PO Box 319
Standish, ME

Dear Paul,

Thank you for giving me, as a representative of Maine Audubon, the opportunity to speak to the Watchic Lake Association at your annual meeting last week. You have a great group of folks, and I really enjoyed meeting you all! I hope the information I presented on lake and stream wildlife and habitat connectivity was useful to your organization and interesting to your members.

I also wanted to say again how impressed I am with the great work the Watchic Lake Association board and members are doing to maintain clean, clear, healthy lake habitats for local wildlife species and the environment in general. You have maintained good habitat for loons as exemplified by the seven adults and two chicks observed at the annual loon count, and you have thus far maintained the lake free of invasive species. No small feat these days!

Your hard work has been noticed with the LakeSmart Gold Award last year, which is presented to lake associations with at least 15% of lakeshore properties being LakeSmart certified. It is my understanding from partnering with the Maine Lakes Society (MLS), that only 8 of the 150 or so lake associations that are members of MLS have ever received this award. Kudos!

I am also happy to hear there is interest in working with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MIFW) to help them better understand the local population of endangered species in the area. I encourage you to connect with them and to support MaineDOT as they work to improve wildlife passage at road/stream crossings along Route 113 and elsewhere.

In closing, I wanted to thank you again for the invitation to speak. It's encouraging to see such enthusiasm, and your diligence in water quality testing, invasive species avoidance, and quickly addressing runoff issues will serve you well, as they are critical for protecting the long term health of Watchic Lake. I look forward to working with your organization in the future, and I will contact you next year for volunteers when Maine Audubon and MIFW initiate Wildlife Road Watch surveys for imperiled species along roadways across the state.

Feel free to contact me if you have additional questions or need further information from the Maine Audubon Society. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Haggerty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "H".

Sarah Haggerty,
Conservation Biologist/GIS Manager