

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.

Membership 2018 – How You Benefit When You Renew or Join

We encourage all property owners to be members and support efforts to protect the lake. WLA volunteers help you maximize the value of your property and enjoyment of the lake. Your membership and donations help you by:

- Protecting your shoreland by managing the dam and water level
- Monitoring water quality and addressing issues quickly
- Improving water quality with runoff remediation projects
- Checking for invasive species on the lake (none as of last year)
- Reporting on and protecting the loons

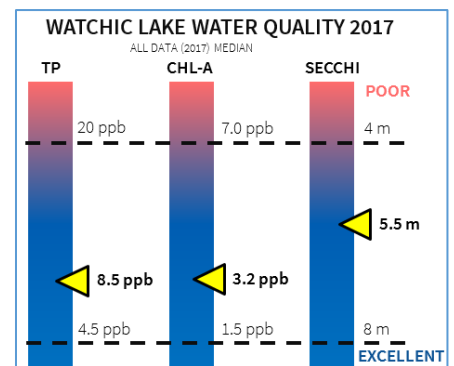


While up from earlier years, 2017 memberships and revenue were down slightly from 2016. Members went from 162 in 2016 to at 154 in 2017 (-5%) and member properties went from 145 in 2016 to 133 in 2017 (-8%). We ended 2017 with only about 52% of Watchic Lake properties supporting WLA volunteers in maintaining the lake.

Join or donate use the enclosed return envelope with membership form. Or online at [Watchic Lake Join or Donate](#).

Water Quality 2017 – Generally Good, But at Risk

We have completed our 2017 water quality report for Watchic Lake and its tributaries. In summary, the report states that while water quality is good today, nutrients entering the lake continue to pose long term risks to water quality, and thus quality of life. The message in the report is clear – as property owners and interested stakeholders, we must work to address increasing runoff into the lake to improve oxygen levels, avoid algal blooms and excessive plant growth, and retain a healthy habitat for fish, loons, and other wildlife. **Click here for the full 2017 Water Quality Report on website.**



Algal Blooms – Risks are Real for Watchic Lake



This recent satellite of North and East Ponds in central Maine shows how algal blooms impact water quality. The two lakes are similar in most respects but East Pond (right side) blooms yearly, threatening recreation and property values. This problem is believed to be due to increased phosphorus from storm water runoff into East Pond. Years of work by the lake association to stop storm water pollution have failed to correct the problem. Now, local conservation efforts have raised the **\$1,000,000 needed to treat the lake** with aluminum phosphate in order to clear the water.

Watchic Lake is like East Pond; its spring fed, shallow, and without significant flow to wash phosphorus out. Algal blooms are a real risk to Watchic Lake and are a situation none of us want to face. Stopping storm water pollution before it gets into the lake is the best way to preserve water quality, avoid algal blooms, and protect the way of life we all enjoy on Watchic Lake.

Need Advice on Making Your Property More Lake Friendly? Check out LakeSmart

The LakeSmart program is a great way for property owners to learn how best to manage their properties to avoid storm water runoff. The program offers free opportunities for homeowners to learn how to manage their home and yard to protect the water quality of their lake. The primary focus of LakeSmart is to keep our lake water clean by stabilizing eroding areas, reducing the use of chemicals, diverting rainwater into vegetated areas, and maintaining or planting trees, shrubs, and ground cover along the shoreline.

Visit our website, click here for more information on [LakeSmart](#), or [Contact Us](#) directly to learn more.

Use Amazon? Use Amazon Smile and Help Watchic Lake.



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice – Watchic Lake Association!

To use Amazon Smile and help the lake go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-1333099> to register.

Do You Recycle? If so Use Clynk and Help Watchic Lake

With Clynk, people can return their bottles and automatically donate the proceeds to an organization of their choice. A WLA sticker is attached to the Clynk bag that is used for returning the bottles to Hannaford; the sticker is read, and dollars are deposited to the WLA account. If you are interested in Clynk, contact Martha Drew at 207-642-3358 and she will get you started.



Volunteers Needed – for the WLA Board and Various Committees

The WLA is an all-volunteer organization. During 2018 three Board member positions will be open. Board members help guide association activities **and** roll up their sleeves for activity on the lake, such as operating the dam or evaluating LakeSmart properties. All it takes is a few hours a month.

Not ready yet to become a board member, but looking for a way to contribute to the lake? Why not join one of our active committees? Volunteers do water quality testing, operate/maintain the dam, track loon behavior, evaluate the lake for invasive plants, and more.

Contact Paul McNulty at p3mcnulty@gmail.com if you want to learn more.

WLA Annual Meeting – Save the Date Saturday July 7, 2018

The Watchic Lake Association annual meeting will be held on Saturday July 7 at Standish Town Hall. Check-in (with drinks and pastries) will run from 8:30 to 9:30 am, followed by the business meeting from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please join us to learn more about the lake, ask questions, share your ideas, and meet your neighbors. More at www.watchiclake.org.

Thank you for your support!

Paul

Paul McNulty, President Watchic Lake Association.
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