

The **Watchic Lake Association** was founded in 1956 when it took over the management of the dam at the north end of the lake. We are an all-volunteer organization, with the overall mission “protecting and improving the ecosystem of Watchic Lake and the watershed.” We have approximately 150 individuals and 50% of properties as members. We are a LakeSmart Gold Lake for our work with property owners stopping runoff.

THE WLA HELPS PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY AND QUALITY OF LIFE BY ENSURING A HEALTHY LAKE

- Protecting your shoreland by managing the dam and water level.
- Monitoring water quality (clarity, oxygen, temperature, phosphorus, etc.) and addressing issues quickly.
- Improving water quality with runoff remediation projects. Coordinate Maine’s LakeSmart program for Watchic Lake.
- Regularly monitor for invasive plants. Run annual plant inventory day. Educate lake users on how to keep the lake invasive-free.
- Protecting the loons. Member of the BRI Loon Count project.
- Educate lake users through annual meetings, our website, newsletters, signs, and more.
- Advocate with the town and other state entities for funding and support.



WLA EXAMPLES - GETTING AHEAD OF CRITICAL ISSUES

- The dam was deteriorating to the point where it posed a hazard to lake users and the environment. Through funds raised by the WLA, the dam and the dam gate have been rebuilt to last until 2030.
- A long standing flooding problem along Rt. 113 became a threat to water quality when metapython, caused by nutrients washing into the lake, became evident. Coordinated by the WLA; the Town of Standish, Cumberland County Soils & Water, the DEP, the Davis Foundation, and impacted residents came together to solve the problem. As of the fall of 2013 this remediation effort has significantly addressed the runoff issues.
- Turned to experts for guidance on water quality best practices. In 2016 this resulted in the deployment buoy and data logger system to gather more data on water quality including water temperature and dissolved oxygen.
- Collaborated and co-funded efforts to address key runoff problems on Hi-Vu Road and Dorothy Drive



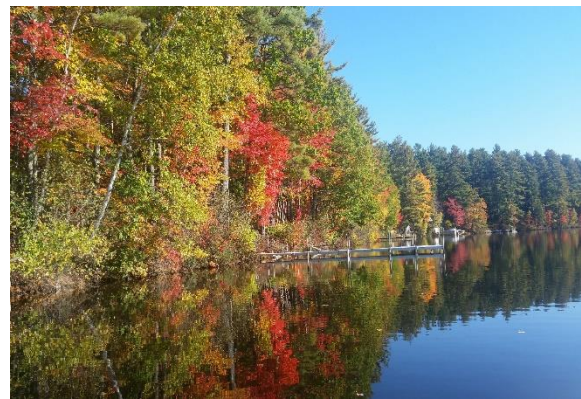
More info at www.watchiclake.org

LOVELY WATCHIC LAKE - OVERVIEW

Watchic Lake is located in the town of Standish, Maine and is part of the Watchic Lake Watershed. The surface area of the lake is 448 acres, and at its deepest point is 41 feet deep (and thus considered a shallow lake). The lake is spring fed and has two inlets, Page Brook and Paine Brook. The outlet is Watchic Brook and it empties into the Saco River at the dam end of the lake. From the early 20th century, properties of the lake have grown from about 25 camps to 252 seasonal and year-round properties today (50% seasonal).

While at risk from development, the lake currently has an assortment of wildlife including two loon families, birdlife (eagles, osprey, orioles, kingfishers, cormorants, woodpeckers, etc.). There are a myriad of warm-water fish species in the lake, including small and largemouth bass, trout (rare), pickerel, perch, and sunfish. And of course, a collection of painted and snapping turtles, crayfish, and the occasional snake.

The lake is invasive plant free.



A LOVELY WATCHIC LAKE – ITS NOT GUARANTEED

Invasive plants and pollution drive down values (\$12k/property) and up costs (\$100k/year)



East Pond, ME algal blooms due to increased phosphorus from storm water runoff, make the lake unusable. Property owners and the town have donated **\$1,000,000 needed to treat the lake** with aluminum phosphate in order to clear the water.



Thompson Lake, ME. Variable Leaf Milfoil infestation (photo above). Typical costs of control are \$200-\$2000/lake-acre each year – for **Watchic Lake this would be \$100,000/year**. New research shows that an invested lake can cost shoreline owners over \$12,000 in lost property values.

More info at www.watchiclake.org