



To: Members of the Watchic Lake Association
From: Eben Joslyn, Volunteer Lake Monitor/Water Quality Committee
Subject: Current Lake Water Quality Status (Fall – Winter 2015)
Date: March 29, 2015

The purpose of this letter is to discuss with you the current state of the lake, compare this with previous years, and provide some insight into how we can all continue to ensure that water quality will remain in a positive state.

Based on observations made throughout the summer season and into the fall, overall lake water quality remained consistent. The lake continued to support a diverse and apparently healthy ecosystem that included a variety of birds, fish and other wildlife. The summer weather was relatively dry and kept lake water levels consistent, which minimized shoreline erosion and the potential for impacts from run-off. The summer weather created conditions within the lake that led to an increase in observed algae in the lake. Though unsightly, the types of algae observed were non-invasive, native species. Algae provided food and natural cover for various species of aquatic wildlife. The type and volume of algae within the lake will continue to be monitored.

The past winter brought record snowfall totals to much of southern New England; however, snowfall amounts in the Watchic Lake watershed were consistent with what may be considered a “normal” winter. As winter has begun to slowly give way to spring, attention will be turned to snowmelt and potential for flooding. A rapid snowmelt presents a concern as it could lead to erosion within the watershed, as well as carry sediment and pollutants to the lake. It is important for land owners with significant slopes that lead into the lake to monitor the condition of their property and attempt to identify areas where improvements can be made to reduce run-off as well as protect their property. So far, snow pack in the watershed has been melting at a good rate, that if sustained, no impact to lake water quality would be anticipated.



Water quality sampling is anticipated to be performed in June 2015. As with prior sampling events, lake water samples collected from various locations within the lake will be laboratory analyzed for the presence of coliform bacteria, as well as nitrogen and phosphorus, which are common constituents of run-off into the lake. Secchi disk readings will continue to be collected to assess the clarity of lake water.

As has been noted in prior reports, the lake's water quality is in a favorable condition and is supporting a diverse eco-system. The quality of the lake's water has been evident by the variety and number of aquatic, amphibian, and avian species that call Watchic Lake home. As always, I appreciate any help that others wish to give in ensuring the preservation of Watchic Lake and I am more than happy to help others find ways to do their part in this as well. Please feel free to contact me by phone at (207) 838-5557 or by e-mail at: ejoslyn@gmail.com. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you all on the lake.