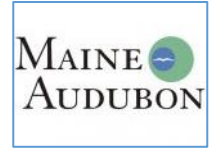


To Our Friends, Members, Sponsors, and Supporters On and Around the Lake,

THANK YOU! Your support helps us help you in maintaining and improving water quality and life on the lake in general.

Audubon Presentation and Letter of Appreciation

Sarah Haggerty, Conservation Biologist at Maine Audubon Society gave a great presentation (which you can find [here](#) on our website) on wildlife in and around the lake. She and others at the Audubon Society are very impressed with the work we all do on the lake. See a nice letter of appreciation from Sarah on the reverse side of this newsletter.



WLA 2017 Annual Meeting Recap

About 40 members attended our meeting in mid-July. We reviewed the status of the dam (good), water quality (good but at some risk), the loons (three families/two chicks), invasive species (none) and finances (challenging). We also approved three new board members. Details can be found on our website under "[The Association/Annual Meeting](#)".

Blanding's Turtle – Maine Endangered Species Possibly Around the Lake



The domed shell and yellow chin are distinct for this species of turtle.

The endangered Blanding's turtle has been spotted near Watchic Lake, most recently in 2013, when one was captured and tagged near the Inlet Restaurant (Rte. 113 near Watchic Road 19). [Blanding's turtles](#) are most frequently found in small acidic wetlands, vernal pools located in forested habitats, in marshes, forest and shrub swamps, and slow-moving streams... many of the habitats are found around Watchic Lake.

With a better understanding of the endangered species around our lake, we can do a better job of protecting the lake and watershed. If you think you have spotted a Blanding's turtle please contact Derek Yorks, IFW Wildlife Biologist at derek.yorks@maine.gov or at (207) 941-4475. A photo, location, and time/date of the observation would be greatly appreciated.

Seaplanes on the Lake – Can Introduce Invasive Species

Watchic Lake is in fact an official airport - the Douglas Seaplane Base. Be aware that seaplanes can carry invasive plants from one lake to another. Maine law requires that seaplanes display a valid "Lake and River Protection Sticker" on their aircraft. Proceeds from this program are used exclusively for invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species prevention, eradication, management, and enforcement. **Encourage seaplane users to clean their pontoons!**



Membership Challenge – 60% of Properties in 2017!

As of the annual meeting only 48% of properties around the lake were members. **With about 30 more members this year**, 60% of lake properties would be contributing to water quality testing, maintaining the dam, remediation projects, and education. At \$35/year it's a great investment in the lake and your quality of life!

For those still needing to renew, join or donate, you can use new integrated form/reply envelope enclosed. Or if you prefer, use our new online tool at our website watchiclake.org under [Watchic Lake Join or Donate](#).

Learn more about our activities and how you can help at watchiclake.org. AND thank you for your continued support!

Paul

Paul McNulty, President Watchic Lake Association. Email me at: p3mcnulty@gmail.com

MAINE 
AUDUBON

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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,



Sarah Haggerty,
Conservation Biologist/GIS Manager