

Reminder - WLA Annual Meeting Saturday July 6, 2019

The Watchic Lake Association annual meeting will be held on Saturday July 6 at Standish Town Hall. Check-in (with beverages and pastries) will run from 9:00 to 9:30 am, followed by the business meeting from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please join us to learn more about recent water quality reports, and the loons, LakeSmart and to ask questions, share your ideas, and meet your neighbors. More at www.watchiclake.org.

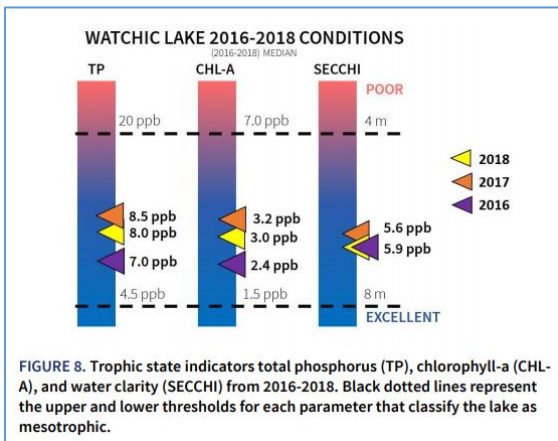
Membership 2019 – Your Support is Needed!

Your support of WLA volunteers help 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
- Checking for invasive species on the lake (none as of last year) and rapidly responding to infestations
- Reporting on and protecting the loons

Did you know that only about 50% of property owners donate to support the lake? Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join or donate! It's easy - just use the enclosed return envelope with membership form. Or sign up online at [Watchic Lake Join or Donate](#).

2018 Water Quality Update



We have completed our 2018 water quality report for Watchic Lake and its tributaries. This report also includes a review of water quality over the past three years. **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.

Please see the [Water Quality section](#) of our website for a summary or to [read the full report](#).

WLA volunteers, as part of our water quality monitoring program, have reinstalled our buoy system on the south end of the lake, about mid-way between Watchic Road 5 and East Eleanor Ave (the deepest part of the lake at ~40 feet or 12.5 m). **Please use caution when boating near the buoy.** In addition to gathering the buoy data, David and Eileen Burnell (certified by the Lake Stewards of Maine) began monitoring Watchic Lake's transparency and Dissolved Oxygen.



New ME Law Requires Septic System Inspection for Lakefront Properties

Beginning on January 1, 2020, home buyers in Maine will be required to complete septic system inspections before the purchase of lakefront and riverfront homes and camps. The new law, [LD 216](#) was signed on April 22, 2019 and extends existing laws that require home buyers of coastal shoreland properties to complete septic system inspections prior completing the purchase.

Supporters, including the WLA, believe the law will help in detecting and repairing faulty septic systems that leak pollutants into adjacent lakes and streams. The law should also help ensure home buyers are aware of potentially costly repairs before a sale is completed. Always check with your real estate agent and/or lawyer for how this and other laws

impact your specific home buying/selling situation. Even if not selling your property, it makes sense to have your system cleaned about every three to five years.

The law is summarized by the State of Maine as *“This bill extends to inland shoreland areas the requirement that subsurface wastewater disposal systems on property located within a shoreland area be inspected prior to a sale of the property. Currently, that inspection requirement applies only to the sale of property located within a coastal shoreland area.”*

2019 Watchic Lake Watershed Protection Plan



The WLA is updating our [1999 watershed protection plan](#) for Watchic Lake and the Watchic Lake watershed. The Association has contracted with FB Environmental to conduct field surveys of Watchic Lake and the surrounding areas beginning in April 2019. Field scientists will be looking at the lake itself, two tributaries (Page Brook and Paine Brook), as well as developed areas within the watershed that were identified as high priority in the 1999 watershed plan. More on FBE at www.fbenvironmental.com

Once the field information is collected and compiled, watershed residents and town officials will be invited to attend a watershed planning meeting during the summer. We will present an update on the plan at the WLA annual meeting in July.

This will be an EPA Section 319-compliant watershed protection plan. It will explain water quality conditions, set water quality goals, document shoreline conditions, note current and potential runoff risk areas, and detail suggested next steps for improvements around the lake. This plan is a pre-requisite for federal 319 funds we might apply for and will strengthen our applications for private grants we might need to address risks to the lake.

“Lakes Alive” Floating Classroom July 20

The WLA has worked with the Maine Lakes Society to bring their floating classroom, [“The Melinda Ann Pontoon Boat”](#) to Watchic Lake on Saturday July 20. As the Melinda Ann cruises, children and adults alike, will investigate Watchic Lake and participate in activities that raise their awareness, increase their appreciation and deepen their knowledge of how lakes work.



WLA Board Members and Volunteers Needed

The WLA is an all-volunteer organization. During 2019 two 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? You can still volunteer. 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.

Thank you for your support!

Paul

Paul McNulty, President Watchic Lake Association.

Email me at: p3mcnulty@gmail.com