

## Paul McNulty

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**From:** Watchic Lake Association <p3mcnulty@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2022 6:03 PM  
**To:** Paul McNulty  
**Subject:** WLA Annual Meeting, Water Quality, June 22 Social Event

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Volunteers protecting and  
improving Watchic Lake

### Watchic Lake Association

Hi Paul, we hope this spring greeting finds you, and your family and friends well. After a long cold winter we are looking forward to hosting family and friends here on the lake. Over the past year WLA volunteers have continued to manage and maintain the dam, monitor water quality and invasives, and address other issues as they come up.



Join us **Wednesday June 22 at 5:00 pm** for an informal gathering with Watchic Lake friends and neighbors at the **newly reopened Outpost Bar and Grill** (380 Pequawket Trail). Catch up on what's new on the lake. No RSVP required, just drop by if you can. Details posted here: [June 22 Social Event](#). Other social events are planned this year, including the Ice Cream Boat. Check out the [Events section](#) on our website for the latest.

If you rent your Watchic Lake home, or have many visitors, be sure to check out some information that might be helpful to you and your renters in our new "[Renters and Visitors Guide](#)".

Please feel free to forward this email to others you know on the lake, and encourage them to [sign up for our emails](#). Emails and our website are the best way to keep informed of activities on the lake! Email addresses are not shared and will only be used for WLA business.

Paul McNulty

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### 2022 Annual Meeting – July 9 at Standish Town Hall

With the COVID-19 situation improving in the state of Maine, we will hold our first in person annual meeting in two years. The meeting will be held on Saturday July 9, 2022 at 9:00 am. Similar to previous meetings, we will provide an update on water quality, the [2020 Watershed Protection Plan and DEP Matching Grant](#), offer tips on lake friendly shoreline vegetation, and give members an opportunity to comment and vote on board positions.

You can also check our website for more details at [Annual Meeting Section](#), including [Draft Minutes from the 2021 Meeting](#) which will be approved at our 2021 meeting

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## 2022 WLA Membership

Thank you to the many members that have recently joined or renewed. If you have not already, we encourage you to join the association. Your support helps fund water quality testing, dam maintenance, invasive plant mitigation, and securing grants for lake property owners and road associations. [See our membership page](#) for more details. Membership is \$40 per year for an individual and \$75 per year for two family members.

Every little bit helps, do not forget to use [Hannaford Clynk](#) or [Amazon Smile](#) to make donations to the WLA with every transaction.

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## Become a Watchic Lake Hero

In addition to member dues, larger donations help ensure we can protect Watchic Lake now and into the future, allowing us to continue and improve such large and important projects as invasive species mitigation, preservation of wildlife such as loons and fish, major dam repairs, investing in water quality monitoring tools, runoff remediation, securing grants and more. We encourage you to check out how you can become a "[Watchic Lake Hero](#)."

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## Important - New Maine Environmental Regulations

### Boating Safety and Wildlife

New regulations to reduce conflict between boats and wildlife, and improve boating safety. Maine will begin to phase in a mandatory boating safety and education course for inland water users. The course will include education on no wake zones to wildlife and water quality, how to avoid harassing or harming wildlife and the imperative that boats be cleaned of invasive plants before entering Maine waters. See [Maine LD1663 Act to Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters](#).

From the Piscataquis Observer: *"This bill creates a mandatory boating safety course requirement for individuals born after January 1, 2002 for the operation of motorboats propelled by machinery over 10 horsepower on Maine waters beginning January 1, 2023. The bill establishes a minimum age of 16 for operation of a motorboat propelled by machinery over 10 horsepower and requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a program for boating safety education certification. This bill also requires a mandatory boating safety course for an individual born after January 1, 2002 who operates a personal watercraft."*

### Reclassified Waterways

The state of Maine has reclassified more than 800 miles of rivers and streams across Maine to help maintain water quality. This includes several areas with important trout and salmon habitat. See [Maine LD 1964 Protecting Water Quality](#) for more information.

### Increased Focus on Reducing Invasive Species

Maine has expanded the membership and purpose of the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants including the identification of possible legislation to address threats to ME lakes. This is a big step toward limiting the spread of invasive plant species. See [Maine LD 1826 Interagency Task Force to Recommend Ways to Reduce the Threat of Invasive Infestation](#).

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## Section 319 Grant Work Underway

In October of 2020, the Maine DEP and the US EPA approved our application for funds to improve Watchic Lake water quality by reducing polluted runoff into the lake. This matching grant is valued at \$124,434 (with about 60% coming from DEP and 40% from cash and volunteer match). Agreements have been signed with Watchic Road 3, Watchic Road 15, Hi-Vu Road, Kiwanis Beach, four residential properties, and the Town of Standish. DEP permits have been secured for all projects, and in some cases, approval from the Army Core of Engineers has been received. Agreements with contractors are in place for the road work. Work began last year at Kiwanis Beach and Hi-Vu Road. Our goal is to complete work by the end of 2022.

We want to thank Maine DEP and the EPA and note that funding for the projects, in part, will be provided by the U.S. EPA under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine DEP in partnership with EPA. The EPA does not endorse any commercial products or services mentioned in the work plan.

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## The Loons

The loons returned to the lake very shortly after ice-out. Some updates:

**Floating Loon Nest at Paine Brook:** WLA volunteers have installed a floating loon nest to encourage loons to nest and bring up loon chicks. There is now grass growing in it and a little pine tree growing on top of lots of moss, perfect for nesting. No sign yet of use, but two loons do appear to be in the area. Please keep your distance and use caution when boating in that area.



**Loon Count:** The Annual Audubon Loon count is scheduled for July 16. Volunteers gather at 6:45 to 7:30 to count the loons on the lake. If you have an hour to spare and would like help with the count and meet your neighbors, please contact Kim Lajoie at [kimj03229@aol.com](mailto:kimj03229@aol.com).

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Contact Paul McNulty at [p3mcnulty@gmail.com](mailto:p3mcnulty@gmail.com) if you want to learn more about any these or other lake related topics.

Thank you!  
Paul McNulty

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Watchic Lake Association  
PO Box 319  
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