

From: Watchic Lake Association <p3mcnulty@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 13, 2023 3:23 PM
To: Paul McNulty
Subject: Risk of Invasive Plants. Upcoming Events. The Loons. Dam Operations

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Volunteers protecting and
improving Watchic Lake

Watchic Lake Association

Hi Paul, a recent report from the Maine DEP highlights how important it is for all on Watchic Lake to clean their boats and gear of all plant life before entering the lake. Read on for more details...

- Invasive infestation risk
- Dam operations tour
- Loon news
- Social events August 20 and 30.
- [Membership reminder](#)

Thank you to all for your ongoing support of the lake with your membership and donations.

Paul

Watchic Lake Invasive Infestation Risk

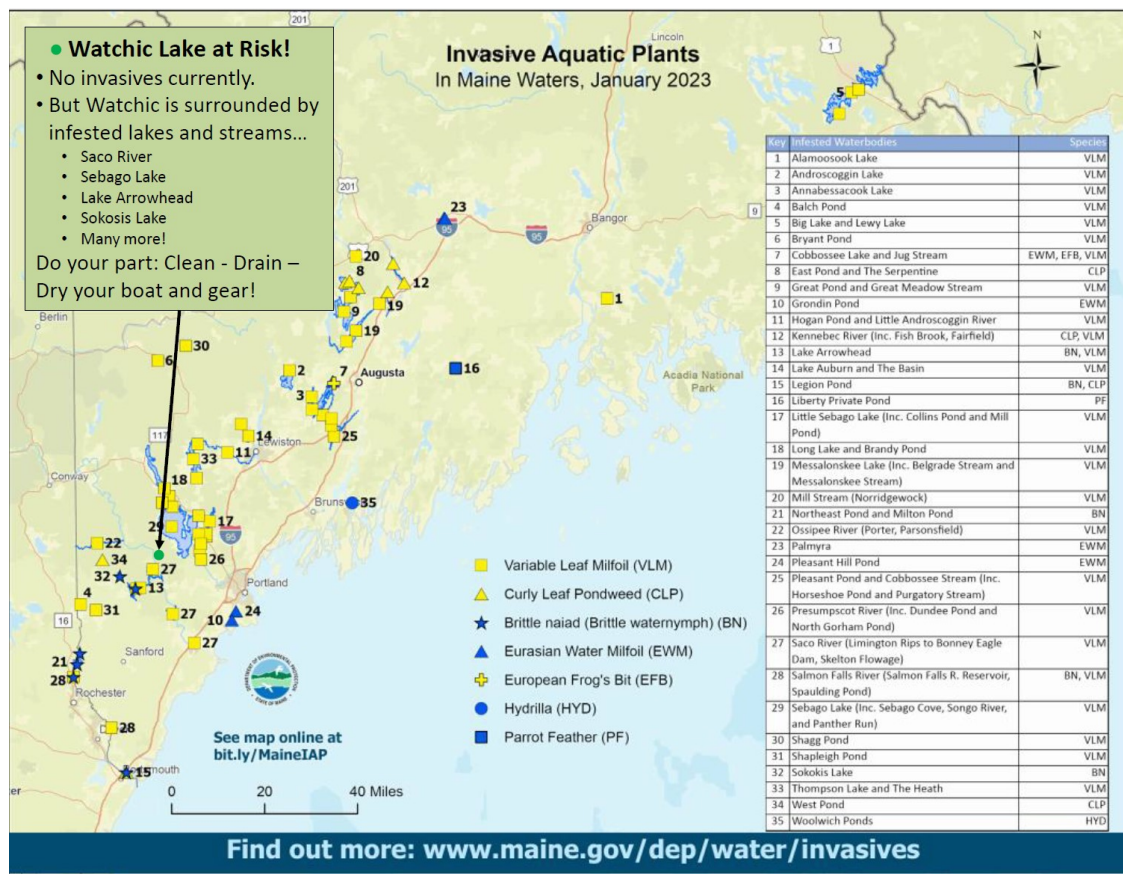
Recently Maine DEP analyzed most lakes in Maine for current invasive infestations and the risk of infestation. While Watchic Lake is currently invasive-free, we are considered by Maine DEP to be high risk. This is due mostly to our proximity to other infested lakes and the large surrounding population.

To learn more about invasive risk analysis at Watchic Lake and other Maine lakes see [Understanding the Vulnerability of Maine Lakes to Invasive Aquatic Plants](#). To see this information in mapping form, see [this ArcGIS page](#).

In an effort to reduce the risk of invasives, on August 5th a group of WLA volunteers completed the annual Invasive Plant Paddle, and did not find any invasive plants. Should you see a suspicious plant, let us know at [Reporting Suspicious Plants](#).

PLEASE ensure all boats, kayaks/canoes, tubes/boards, fishing gear, life jackets, etc. entering the lake from your property are free of all plant life!

Draining hulls, bailers, live wells, etc is now the law in Maine! [Public Law 203 Chapter 190](#) is effective June 16, 2023.



For more information on cleaning you boat, kayak, fishing, gear etc, check out this [Maine DEP brochure](#). Please contact board member Dave Burnell at (603) 630-4297 for a courtesy boat inspection and to learn more.

Loon Update From Kim and Steve Lajoie

The last weekend in July was a rough one for the loons on Watchic Lake. First, on Saturday, July 29 we were notified that one of the Blueberry Island chicks had beached itself (which is never a good sign). We collected the chick and brought him to a certified wildlife rehabilitator in Bridgeton. Unfortunately the chick died the next day. Given its condition, it likely died of a boat strike.

Then, an adult loon (not of the parenting pairs) began acting strangely and beaching itself twice. The body of this loon was found near the Paine Brook inlet, and taken to the Biodiversity Research Institute, who believe it likely died of lead poisoning. Folks had seen an eagle pecking at the dead loon earlier in the day and speculated that it had killed the loon but this is almost certainly not the case and that the eagle was scavenging the already dead bird.

To sum up, for the first time in many years, we currently have three loon pairs with one chick each on the lake. The chicks are getting bigger quickly but still have limited ability to dive. **It is critically important that all boaters keep a sharp lookout for loons and avoid them and that we all stop using lead fishing gear.**

You can read Steve and Kim's full report here: [Loon Update from Kim and Steve - August 2023](#). Please use our [Loon Contact Form](#) for questions and information.

Annual Loon Count

The **annual Audubon Loon count** was also held Saturday, July 15. We had a successful loon count early in the morning. Three new volunteers joined alongside eight seasoned counters. There were quite a few loon sightings. We recorded three loon pairs, four babies and one lone adult loon.

Shortly after the loon count, Elaine Bradbury spotted a parent loon with two chicks near Watchic Rd 19 (off Route 113). Parents and chicks all seemed well.



Thank you to Wendi Rodriguez, John Burke, Steve Lajoie, Kim Lajoie, Rob Brisk, Monica Mahoney, Cathy Watson, Erica Lebrun, Mandy Lebrun, Jim Simpson, and Paul Baptiste for the loon count. And Elaine for the photos.

Learning How the Dam Operations

Sixteen people showed up for a tour of the Watchic Lake dam. They were given a history of the dam (it dates back to the late 1800s) and the more recent renovations. Folks were shown how the dam operates, much like it did two centuries ago using very large and very heavy wrenches. Thanks to Owen Smith for organizing the day and to David Bradbury and Donald Drew for the history and operations lessons!

Feel free to contact Owen at omacsmith58@gmail.com if you'd like more info on the dam or are interested in volunteering to help manage the dam.



Meet and Mingle with Your Lake Neighbors - August 30

Please join us at the Outpost Bar and Grill for a chance to get to know your Watchic Lake neighbors **Wednesday August 30 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**. This is a great opportunity to socialize with others on the lake, share experiences, and share a drink.



- Cash bar for full range of drinks. Pizza'a will be provided. Non-alcoholic drinks available.
- WLA volunteers will answer your questions about the dam, water quality, the loons, invasive monitoring, lake history, and more.
- WLA membership is not required, but we hope you'll join or donate.
- Good chance to support a local business.

Location: Outpost Bar and Grill, 380 Pequawket Trail (RT 113) Standish, ME 04084.

Ice Cream Boat Returns August 20



The **Ice Cream Boat** returns the afternoon of Sunday August 20. Listen for that lovely jingle and come out to get your free ice cream and learn about the lake.

2023 Membership and Support

Thank you to the many that have joined or renewed for 2023. If you have not already, we encourage you to join the association or renew your membership. See our [membership page](#) for more details.

Membership is \$40 per year for an individual and \$75 per year for two family members.

We have recently updated our online payment system making it far easier to use your credit cards. Payment is secure, and processed using Stripe, a well respected online payments processing company.

Every little bit helps, do not forget to use [Hannaford Clynk](#) to make donations to the WLA with every transaction. Clynk WLA bag tags now available at Standish Town Hall. Also, for every bouquet purchased during the month September, Hannaford will make a \$1 donation to the WLA.

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.

Contact Paul McNulty at 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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