

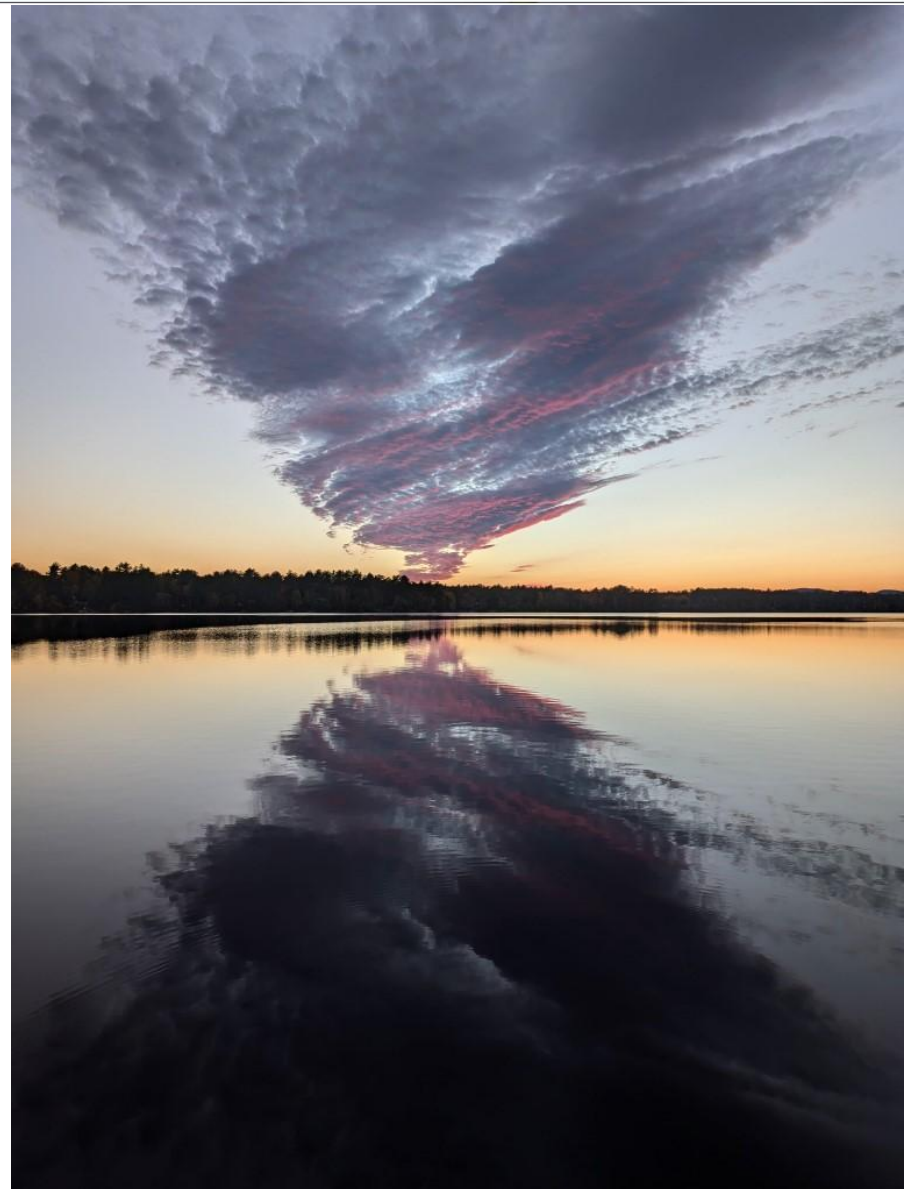


# Watchic Lake Association Annual Meeting

Standish Town Hall  
July 12, 2025

# Today's Topics

- Water Quality Update
- Algae blooms
- Wild Seed Project
- LakeSmart
- Invasive plant monitoring
- Loons
- Dam Update
- 2025 Projects
- Membership and Events
- Finance
- Voting
- Closing Remarks



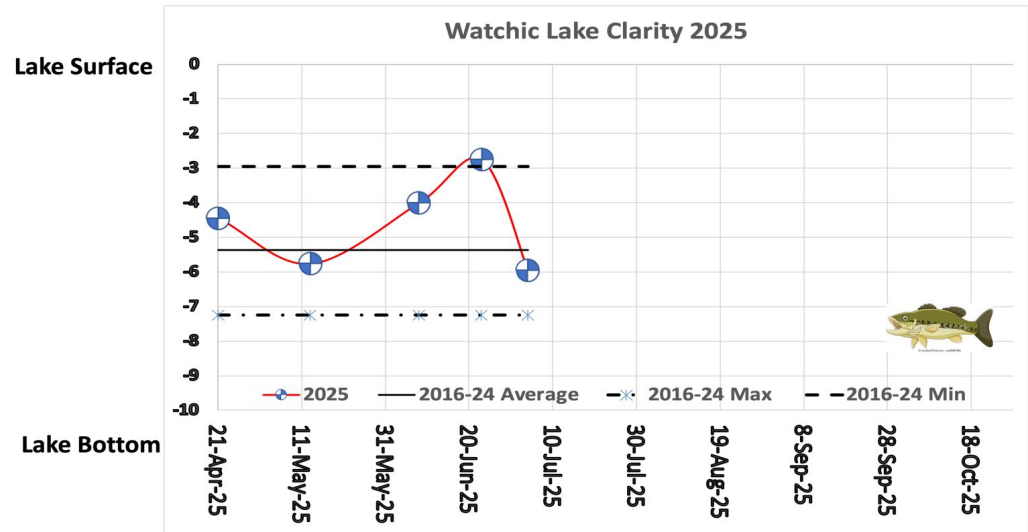
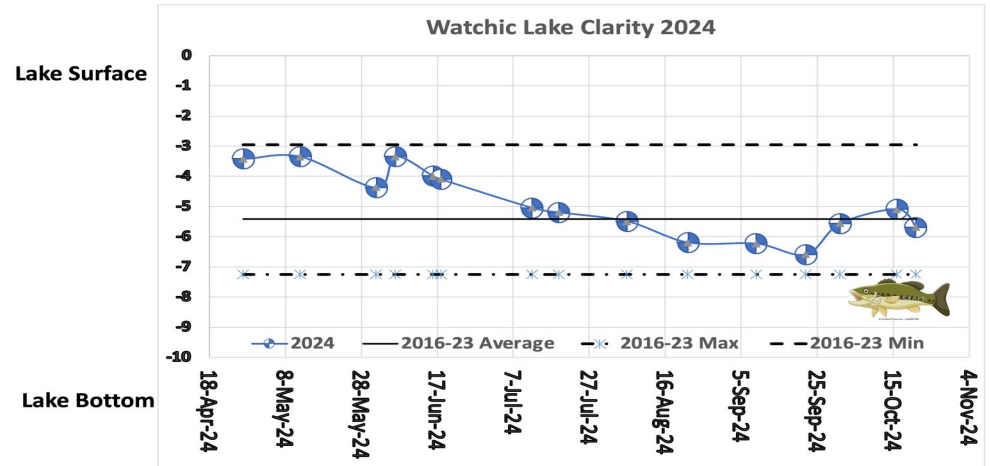
# Water Quality - Cathy

2024 was a fairly typical year.

The spring was relatively dry so water quality tended to improve throughout the summer.

So far, 2025 has been another wet spring with several heavy rain events causing a deterioration of water clarity that peaked at the end of June causing a short-lived algae bloom in parts of the lake.

Water Quality Committee



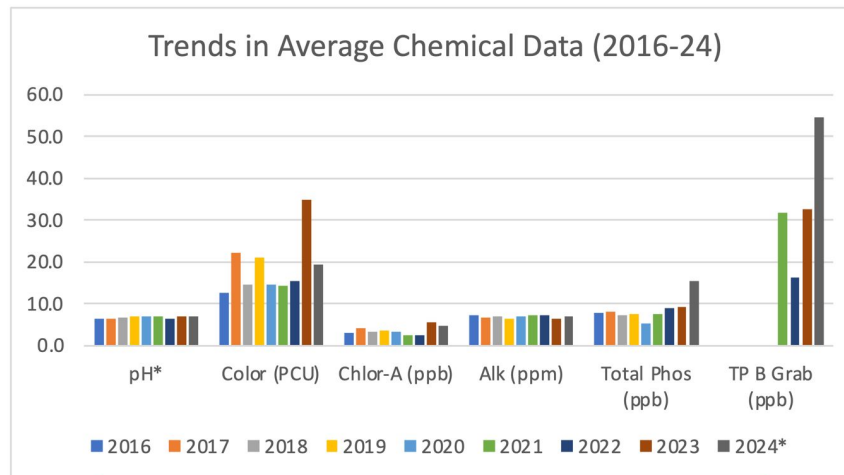
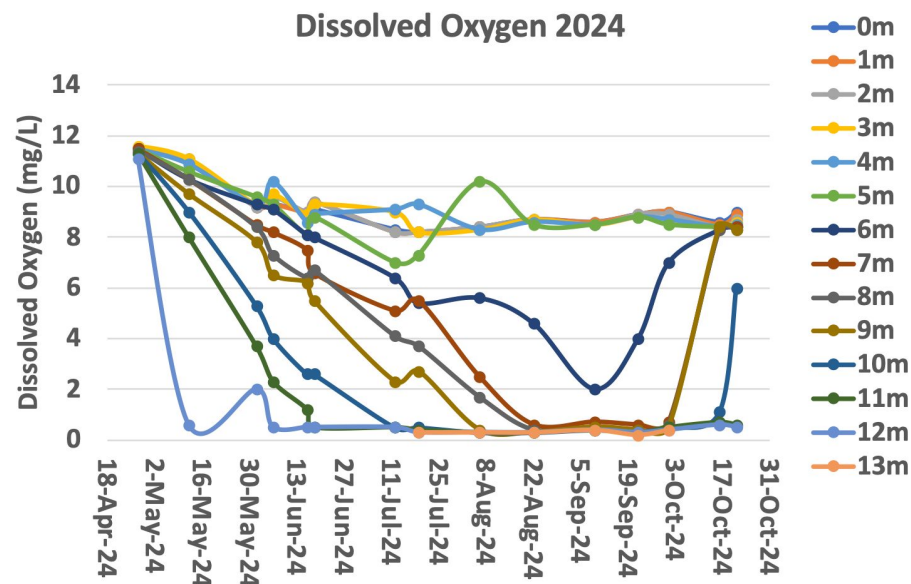


# Water Quality - Cathy

In 2024, we continued to see a significant loss of dissolved oxygen at the bottom of the lake. As the summer progressed, this lack of oxygen spread nearly halfway through the water column.

This trend can lead to release of trapped Phosphorus from the sludge at the bottom of the lake. We recently started to monitor this and or data seems to confirm this phenomenon.

Water Quality Committee



\* For 2024 average is only June, July and Sept ( Aug still pending)

# Algae Blooms - Steph

## What are algae blooms?

- Excessive growth of native algae
- Symptom of high nutrients from stormwater runoff
- Fueled by sunshine and warm temperature - need just the right combo of conditions
- Frequent blooms can affect oxygen levels, cause fish kills

## Cyanobacteria



D. Oddy

“Blue-green algae”

Seems to happen in the fall in Watchic

Can be toxic

Collects on surface

Dusty/pollen appearance

## Metaphyton

Usually  
mid-summer

Green algae,  
filamentous

Blobs of green  
cotton candy

Typical in the  
inlets



07.15.2020  
Ross Swain, LSM

## Golden algae

NEW BLOOM THIS YEAR  
IN WATCHIC

Spring/early summer?

Subsurface blooms

Golden color, fishy odor

*Uroglena* have flagella,  
can move



D. Burnell





WLA volunteers participate in the **Maine Cyanobacteria Group**

Bigelow Labs, DEP, LSM, LEA, 7 Lakes Alliance, Midcoast Conservancy, and others

Watchic samples are particularly interesting

- September and October 2023-2024
  - Shoreline blooms around the lake
  - October blooms produced toxin Microcystin
- Result of lake turnover, mixing phosphorus higher in water column
- Can produce toxins, but don't always
- Usually appear bright green, but not always
- What should you do?
  - Report sightings to WLA
  - Do not drink green water
  - Do not allow dogs or children to play in cyanobacteria scums
- How do we fix this?
  - **Control runoff - LakeSmart!**

Contact  
[watchiclakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:watchiclakeassociation@gmail.com)

# Golden algae bloom - Steph

- June 23-July 2
  - 1-2 feet below surface
  - Moved around lakeshore
  - Also in the middle and around the islands
- Appears golden-brown
- Smells fishy
- What should you do?
  - Report to WLA
  - Don't drink it, but it can't produce toxins
- As with any algae bloom, keep an eye out for fish kills and report to WLA
- How do we fix this?
  - **Control runoff - LakeSmart!**



- **Why?**
  - Definitely: high phosphorus in the water
  - Possibly: weather conditions just right, cool rainy spring, temperature gradient in the water column, sudden sunny warm weather
  - Tend to have higher silica in spring

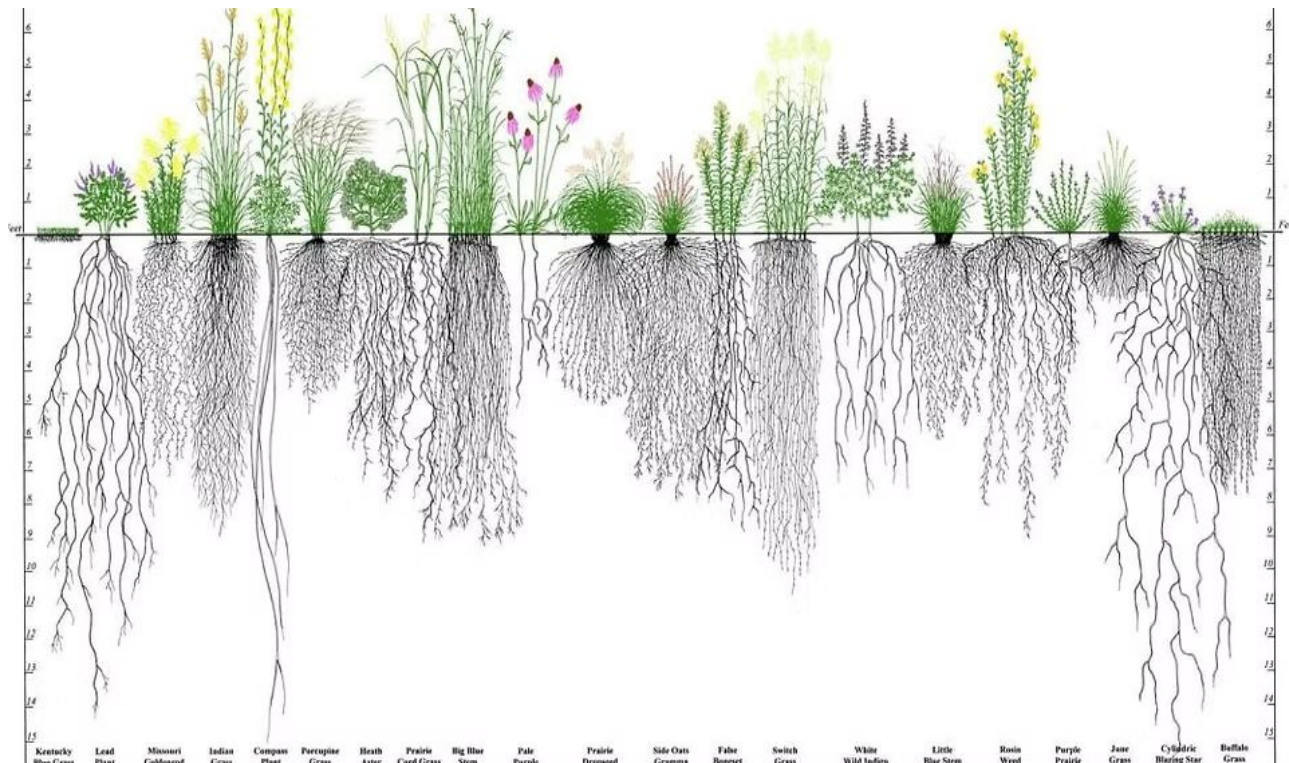
Contact

[watchiclakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:watchiclakeassociation@gmail.com)



# Wild Seed Project - Eileen

- Wild Seed Project: Help people create and repopulate landscapes with native plants
- Restore native plants that expand wildlife habitat, support biodiversity, and build climate resilience.
- Native plants have deeper roots
- Deeper roots hold soil in place and take up more nutrients from runoff
- Native plants on shore promote native plants in the water!



Native plants:  
Approximately 50:50  
root to shoot ratio!



# Wild Seed Project - Eileen



Blue lobelia - adaptable in the garden and self-sows readily, attracts pollinators later in the season.



Butterfly milkweed - Mid-summer blooming, attracts butterflies and pollinating insects. Excellent dry garden plant or naturalized in a dry meadow.



Swamp milkweed - Summer-blooming meadow and wetland wildflower, important to the monarch butterfly's larval stage. Excellent in gardens, attracts many insect and butterfly pollinators.



Coastal Joe-Pye weed - Summer-blooming, relished by butterflies and bees. An excellent garden plant as well as for naturalizing in wet areas and rain gardens.



Cardinal flower - A short-lived perennial that will reseed readily if happy. Like moist gardens and wet areas in sun or shade, attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

## ***WHAT IS LAKESMART?***

- LakeSmart is an education and outreach program that recognizes lakefront homeowners who manage their land to protect water quality
- The program is free, voluntary and nonregulatory
- Participating homeowners receive individualized suggestions for keeping pollutants from stormwater out of the lake
- Administered by Maine Lakes ([lakes.me/lakesmart](https://lakes.me/lakesmart))
- Maine Lakes decides whether or not a property merits an award



## ***LakeSmart Overview***

<https://vimeo.com/1052305986?p=0s>



## *What does LakeSmart Look like?*





## **Five Layers of Vegetation**



## ***LAKESMART EVALUATION PROCESS***

1. Homeowner questionnaire
2. Property walk through
3. Submit online evaluation
4. Maine Lakes reviews and decides
5. Commendations and recommendations



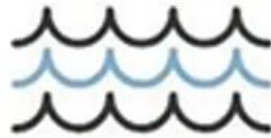
## ***FIVE AREAS EVALUATED BY LAKESMART***

1. Driveway, Parking Areas and Septic
2. Outdoor Structures
3. Outdoor Living Areas
4. Shoreline
5. Shoreline Buffer





## LAKESMART



## START

PREPARE NOW FOR  
AN AWARD LATER!

Maine Lakes Society

## WHO HAS PARTICIPATED?

- Since 2005, 70 Watchic Lake properties have been evaluated
- All current WLA Board members have either had an evaluation or committed to have their property evaluated
- [In 2024](#), Five properties evaluated and three received awards
  - Paul and Nancy McNulty** - Lake Smart and LoonSmart
  - John Blake** - Lake Smart and Loon Smart
  - Andy Hill** - Lake Smart
- Three property owners have requested evaluations so far this year





## ***QUESTIONS?***

For more information or to schedule an LakeSmart evaluation, contact Monica Mahoney at [shrutehunter@gmail.com](mailto:shrutehunter@gmail.com)

or speak with any member of the LakeSmart team

- Stephanie Parker
- Nancy McNulty
- Elaine Bradbury
- Martha Drew
- Rob Brisk

# 2025 Projects - Steph

- Successful Phase I DEP Section 319 grant, 2020-2023
  - Prevented ~2.33 tons of sediment and ~1.99 lbs of phosphorus from washing into the lake
- Working with CCSW on Phase II grant
  - Proposed: Support 4 road and 8 residential projects
- What else do we do?
  - Annual Inspections
  - Maintenance on previous projects

- Rt 113 project - Managing runoff in the watershed, draining Oak Hill

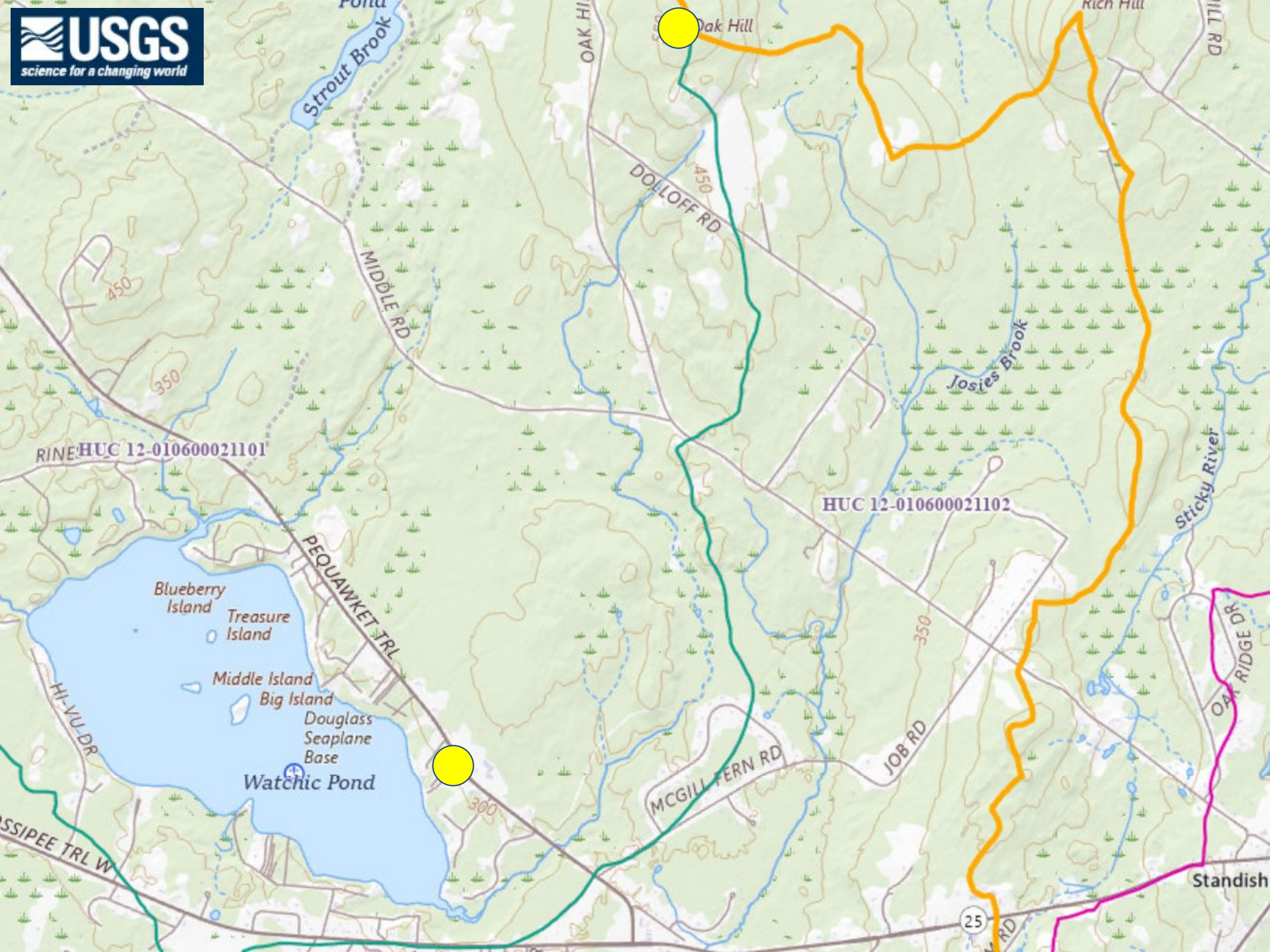


before



after





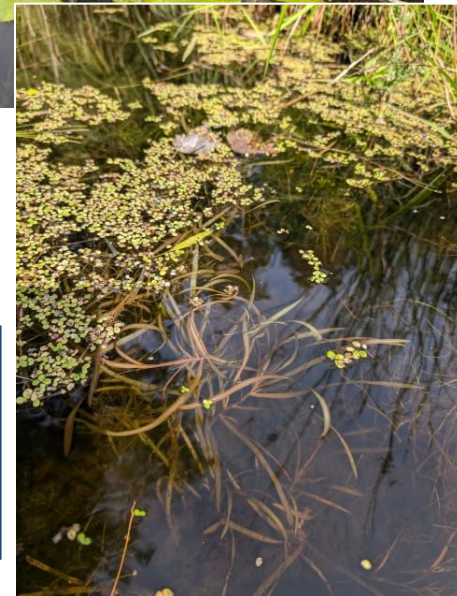


# Invasive Plant Monitoring - Steph

- 8 aquatic invasive plant species in Maine
- August 2024 - Certified plant inventory at Watchic
  - No invasive species found
  - 23 native plant species identified
- Reminder to all residents and guests - clean ALL watercraft, PFDs, floaties, and fishing gear before when moving between water bodies!
- Courtesy Boat Inspections by Certified Volunteers
  - HiVu boat ramp volunteers, Dave Burnell
- Want to become a certified plant paddler with Lake Stewards of Maine? Contact WLA

Contact Dave Burnell at (603) 630-4297 to schedule a courtesy boat inspection

*Thank you 2024 patrollers!*  
Steve and Kim Lajoie  
Don and Martha Drew  
Paul and Nancy McNulty  
Rick Wiggin and grandson  
Stephanie Parker





Hydrilla

# Swollen bladderwort

**Details** | **Basemap**

**About** | **Content** | **Legend**

**Legend**

**Current Infestations**

- Curly-leaf pondweed
- Eurasian water milfoil
- Eurasian water milfoil (eradicated)
- European frog-bit
- European naiad
- Hydrilla
- Hydrilla (eradicated)
- Parrot Feather
- Swollen bladderwort
- Variable-leaf milfoil
- Variable-leaf milfoil (eradicated)

**Infested Waterbodies**

Map showing Lake Umbagog and surrounding areas. Key locations include:

- Long Lake
- Brandy Lake
- Sebago Cove
- Song Lake
- Sebago Lake
- West Pond
- Ossipee River
- Limington
- WATCHING Station
- Limington River
- Burton
- Hollis
- Little Ossipee Lake
- Skelton Lake
- Waterboro
- Mousam Lake
- Goose Ponds South
- Great East Lake
- Shapleigh Pond
- Balch Pond
- Northeast Pond
- Milton Pond
- Sanford
- Lebanon St
- Little Rd
- 902 ft
- 1625 ft
- 302
- 111
- 95

**Map Controls:** +, Home, -, Rotate

**Scale:** 0 to 6 miles

**Footer:** Help | Trust Center | Legal | Contact Us | Report Abuse | Contact Us

# Everyone is an observer!



- 2024: 3 pairs, 4 chicks
  - 2 of 4 chicks survived the summer
  - Deceased chicks delivered to Biodiversity Research Institute for necropsy
- 2025: Wet Spring/High Water
  - Late nesting due to high water and flooding of nests. Chicks should be hatching late July. They need constant care until they are fledged which should be early September this year.
  - Currently two confirmed nesting loon pairs on the lake and hoping for a third. Loons nest close to shore and are vulnerable to waves and high water.
  - **Watch for new chicks in the water in the next couple of weeks.**
- **State law requires 150 feet from loons and loon chicks!!**
- Boat strikes are now the leading causes of loon deaths in Maine (following lead poisoning) – please be vigilant when boating, watch out for diving loons and encourage your neighbors to do the same! Call IF&W to report boaters harassing loons.
- No loons yet on the WLA floating nest in Paine Brook. We are planning some “renovations” to make it more attractive!



## Annual Loon Count

**July 19 , 2025**

7:00 to 7:30 AM

For more on the  
loons contact Kim  
Lajoie at

[kimj03229@aol.com](mailto:kimj03229@aol.com)



## Dam Update - Dave

- Volunteers endeavor to keep water level at within a few inches of full pond.
  - Managing the water level of a 450 acre lake via a 3 foot-wide dam gate is an inexact science – your understanding is appreciated.
- Staining the dam building was completed in September 2023
- **Fall:** Dam was opened for the winter on 11/2/2024
- **Spring:** Dam was closed 3/30/2025 – Two days after ice-out.
- We Have opened the gates to maintain the water level at least 12 times this year.
- Anyone interested in have a closer look at the dam contact me at [DTBurnell@gmail.com](mailto:DTBurnell@gmail.com)

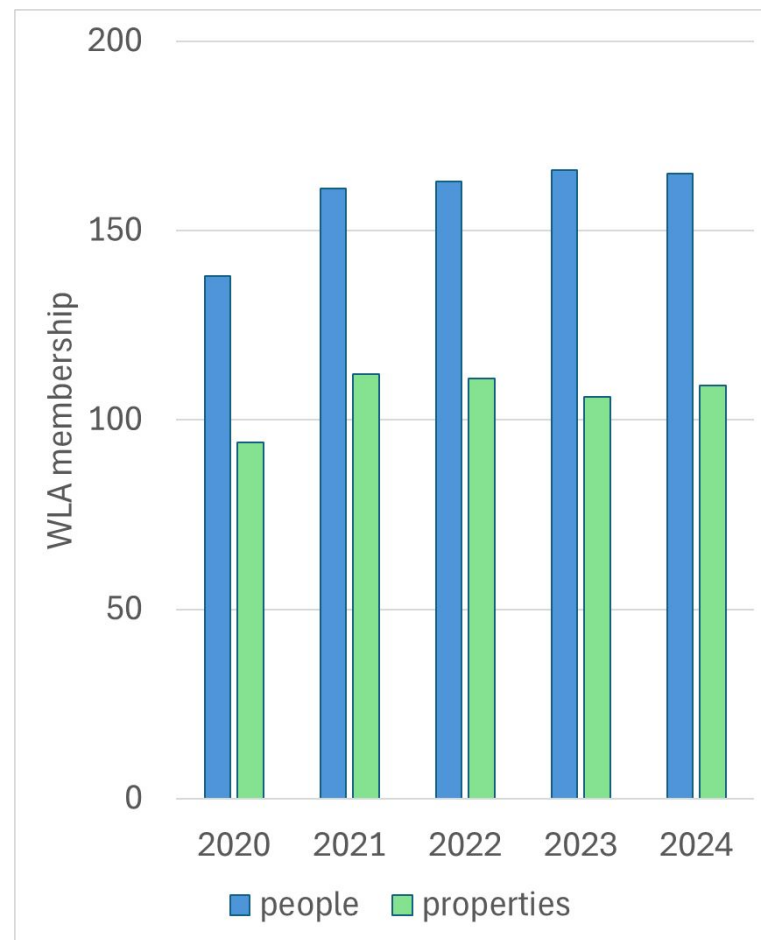


Dam Maintenance

# Membership/Donations – Debbie

- Solid membership again in 2024
  - People: 165 (was 166 in 2023)
  - Properties: 109 – 3% increase
  - 45% of properties are members, with higher percentage from lakefront owners
- 2025 Members as of 7/9/25: 122 members and 83 properties
- Thank you for donations totaling \$3000!
  - Shaw Earthworks
  - Woods Excavation
  - High Pine Apparel
  - RJ Grondin & Sons
  - BirdMaster
- Don't forget Clynk! WLA Clynk tags available at Town Hall or can donate in the Clynk app

As of December 31, 2024



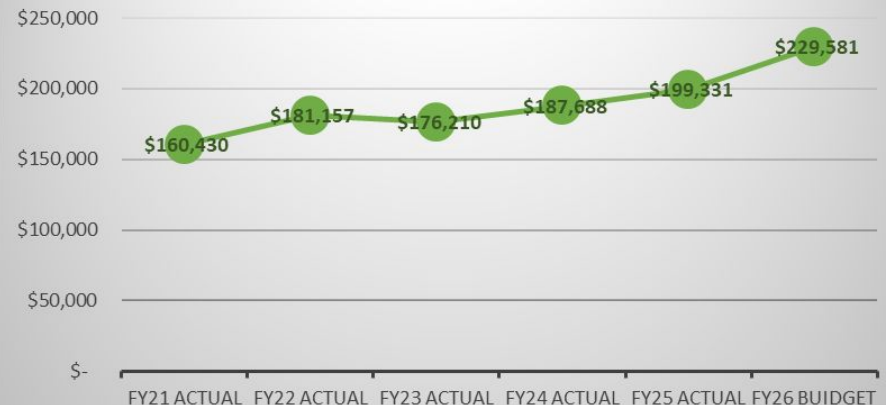
# Financial Update – Agnes

- FY25 (year end 6/30/25) Operating net income \$2,183 due to fewer expenses than budgeted. Strategic Fund balance increased \$11,643 due to donations and higher interest accounts.
- FY26 estimate breakeven Operating net income, assuming no major unfunded projects. Volunteers continue water quality testing. Need is to raise significant new Strategic funds to rapidly address invasive and water quality issues. Per DEP, an invasive plant infestation could cost to treat a Watchic sized lake between \$90,000 and \$900,000 per year.

**Operating Income & Expense**



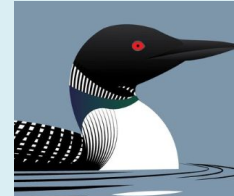
**Strategic Fund Balance**





## Loon Count

- Saturday July 19, 7:00 to 7:30 am
- Contact Kim Lajoie (kimj03229@aol.com)



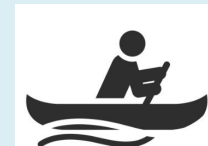
## Boater Safety Course

- August 2, Kiwanis Clubhouse
- 9 am to 3:30 pm



## Watchic Family Fun Day

- August 10, Kiwanis Beach
- Festivities start at 11 am



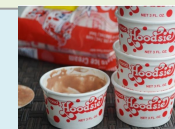
## Invasive Plant Paddle

- Saturday August 16, morning
- Contact Steve Lajoie (steve03229@aol.com)



## Ice Cream Boat Returns!

- Sunday August 16, afternoon



## WLA Socials?

- What do you want to see?



- **Nominations for the Board:**
  - Ashley Baker
  - Rob Saklatvala
- **Nominations for Officers:**
  - Treasurer: Cathy Austin, 2 years
  - Secretary: Chris Martino 2 years
  - Historian: Shared Rob Brisk and Rick Wiggin, 1 year
- **Approval of July 6, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**
  - Minutes published on website July 2024.
- **Volunteer sign up sheet**

## Closing Remarks - Steph



Scan for Boater  
Safety course

- WLA goals in 2025
  - Continue core work
    - Water quality, dam, invasive plants surveys and education, LakeSmart evaluations, loon surveys
    - Project maintenance, runoff
  - Engage membership - Family Fun Day at Kiwanis, Boater Safety
- Longer Term
  - Fingers crossed for DEP grant
  - Increase membership
  - More plant paddlers and LakeSmart evaluators
- We're all in this together! Thank you for reporting observations and participating in the association.

Everyone is an observer!  
If something looks weird,  
let us know.





Follow the WLA on  
Facebook and Instagram



Contact us via [watchiclake.org](http://watchiclake.org)  
or  
[watchiclakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:watchiclakeassociation@gmail.com)



# What's on your mind?