

# The Waterline

Jan 20th, 2024

The Official Woodbeck Chain of Lakes Association  
Newsletter

Volume 46, Issue 1



January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

**Happy New Year!** I hope you are all off to a great start in 2024! It's a new year, a new chapter in your life, a fresh start to look forward to. There is no such thing as a perfect life but the goal is to make it as perfect as you can for YOU! We all do it in different ways...some work, work, work to save, save, save. Some play, play, play because "you can't take it with you"! Some simply dedicate their time to helping others because giving lifts the spirit. Others strive for that now popular phrase: Work-Life Balance (does that really exist???). It's all good as long as you're doing it your way and you're nice along the way.



Since I'm married to a Golf Pro, my perspective is that every year is like a round of golf now. I might get off the tee box with a great drive but from there, things are pretty unpredictable. I set myself up for success in golf by practicing, having good clubs, playing with people I enjoy, drinking a cold beverage along the way and hoping it doesn't rain in the middle of my round. Sometimes my game is awesome...I make some pars, maybe a birdie...the sun shines, no balls are lost and I laugh until I think I'm going to pee my pants over goofy memories with my friends. Other times, I duff my tee shot, three putt on every hole, lose my favorite ball in the tall grass, and ultimately, I'm too embarrassed to share my score even with my best friends. And... that's in spite of having done all the right things to prepare for the game! Life is no different. I set myself up for success by working hard and saving wisely. Sharing those things that make me happy with people I like and drinking a cold beverage on a hot afternoon hoping it doesn't rain and force me to go inside. Like my game of golf, it doesn't always go as planned, BUT...the key is to embrace the challenges, keep looking for that ball in tall grass but accept that it's gone if you can't find it and move on, be happy that you got to play regardless of how bad the game was, and remember that when it rains...Mother Nature did it for a reason.

Cheers to all of you on finding your game in this new year! May your year be filled with more birdies than three putts!!

**That's all for now!**

Kindly,

Wendi Davidson

WCLA President

## **Past Events, Upcoming Events, Updates, Other Stuff!!!**

### **Past Events:**

See December President's Corner for all the fun details on the WCLA Mingle and Jingle Christmas Party and Holiday Cookie Exchange Social Get Together.

### **Upcoming Events:**

January Social Dinner: Tuesday, January 23th, 6pm at Hop Hog. Time once again to get your hog on and join us for a fun evening of good food and laughter. It's gloomy outside but it's nothing but fun at the Social Dinner! Please RSVP Nan Holmes at [holmes.nanette@gmail.com](mailto:holmes.nanette@gmail.com) or text her at (616)213-8247.

### **Other Stuff:**

**A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors who paid to advertise in the Waterline.** Please check them out!! They can help you with many of your needs!

If you have ideas for articles you would like to see in the Waterline, please let Wendi know at [davidsonwendi@gmail.com](mailto:davidsonwendi@gmail.com). Even better...if you would like to write an article for the Waterline, that would be greatly appreciated!!! **WE LOVE YOUR IDEAS and WE LOVE YOUR HELP!!**

**Welcome New Families!** If you know of new families on our lakes, please let our Welcome Team, Phil and Denise Sliva know so they can welcome them properly! Contact Phil Sliva at [philsliva@chartermi.net](mailto:philsliva@chartermi.net) or (616) 970-2273.

**2024 Membership Dues: It's only \$40.00!!!** A small price to pay to keep our lakes safe, our fish plentiful and support the fun events we want everyone to enjoy! You may pay online at <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com/pay-dues> or pay by mail. **Make checks payable to WCLA.**

The Kindy boat launch and Camp Concordia boat launch are only available if you have paid your membership dues. Paying now means you don't have to worry later!!

**The Meal Train** is always available to help you in the event of illness, injury or death of a loved one that lives with you. Your friends and neighbors are here to help! **Please contact Mara Iteen at [iteenmm@yahoo.com](mailto:iteenmm@yahoo.com) or text 616 255-6081.** Even if you only need a few days of meals, the Meal Train is here for you!

**Also.... if you want to be a part of the Meal Train to provide meals, please let Mara know.** This is how you get on the list to help when families are in need. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**DID YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE????** If it did, please let Kris Ferguson know at [scrambledeggs85@gmail.com](mailto:scrambledeggs85@gmail.com) so you don't miss out on important information and notifications. Also, if you are not receiving our email communications, please check your spam folder and accept emails from our new Gmail account [WCLAcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:WCLAcommunications@gmail.com). Questions can be sent to this new email account or text Angie at 616 213-9252.

**Calendar of Events for 2024 will be coming soon!** Remember, some of these events are tentative and we need **volunteers** to make them happen. With your help, we can offer fun events that will run smoothly and successfully. Without volunteers these events are not possible. Please contact Wendi Davidson at [davidsonwendi@gmail.com](mailto:davidsonwendi@gmail.com) or (616) 799-0412 or Nan Holmes at [holmes.nanette@gmail.com](mailto:holmes.nanette@gmail.com) or (616)213-8247. **If you are interested in helping with the social calendar for 2024, please contact Wendi or Nan.**

## Boater's Safety Class:

Anytime is a great time for kids and young adults to take this class! This is an ongoing opportunity to **receive an Amazon gift card for \$15.00 to anyone age 12-20 who completes the Boater's Safety Course anytime, all year long!!!** You can be a kid or young adult that lives on the lakes, or grandkid to someone who is a paid member of the lake association and take this course online at your convenience anytime throughout the year!! Just email a copy of your completion card to [davidsonwendi@gmail.com](mailto:davidsonwendi@gmail.com) and you will receive your gift card. It's so easy and important so take advantage of it and help keep our lakes safe! **Click on this link to begin your Boater's Safety Course online:** <https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/>

**SHARING IS CARING!** If you have anything you would like to share such as ideas for social events, healthy recipes, lake concerns, or you simply want to listen to what the board is up to in person; you are encouraged and more than welcome to contact me, your Lake Representatives, or come to the Board meetings. We are always happy to see some new (and old) faces at the Board meetings!

**Officers, Lake Reps and Administrators for the 2024 year will be available on the WCLA Website:** <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com>.

## DID YOU KNOW.....??

There is a site where you can learn about:

**Erosion and maintaining healthy shorelines**

**Get the basics about shoreline erosion control options instead of a seawall**

**Review lists of recommended native options for your lakeshore.**

<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/>

We want to keep our lakes as beautiful as possible while maintaining areas for wildlife to live and prevent erosion from becoming a major problem. If you are interested in learning about ways to do this, please visit <https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/>

## REMEMBER OUR MISSION:

The Woodbeck Chain of Lakes Association will promote the preservation of lake/water quality, provide education about boat safety & etiquette and initiate social activities to promote community friendships and interaction. It will encourage membership and participation in the Association and will facilitate a sense of community amongst riparian property owners.



Owner: Marilyn Klemm  
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# 2023 Christmas Party







**Phil and Mary Ellen Bloem**

Phil grew up in Cutlerville Michigan , attended Calvin University and was interested in Forestry or Engineering as they were the only 2 majors without a language requirement. While doing the coursework he had to take a computing class which ended up being his career choice. He went on to UoM to complete his bachelor’s degree in Engineering and then for a Masters in Computer Engineering. This led to a lifelong career at Steelcase of 41 years. He retired April of 2022 with the goal of being able to volunteer where needed and get off the computer.

MaryEllen, meanwhile, grew up in Grand Rapids and pursued music (viola) as a serious hobby and nursing as a paying career. At the time Calvin did not have a Nursing program of their own so she completed the last 2 years of her Bachelors in Nursing at GVSU. Her career varied from Med/Surg to OB to podiatry, briefly teaching and then found her forever job with Faith Hospice where she works full time in the area hospitals- including United Memorial on rare occasions. She hopes to work 2 more years full time then drop to per diem but nothing is written in stone.

Phil and MaryEllen were introduced on the sly by MaryEllen’s cousin which prompted Phil to post a letter asking her for a date. The rest is history. They married in October of 1981 and have 4 children: Timm, Paul and wife Katie , Trudy and Marie. All but Marie live in the area and are often seen on the weekends enjoying beautiful Thomas Lake. Marie lives in Denver and comes when she can.

After 5 years of owning a trailer at Sandy Pines and seeing how much the family loved to gather around the water, we decided to look for a cottage that could accommodate overnight guests and not be too far from home. The search took over a year but when 13226 Hilltop showed up on Zillow it was definitely something to check out. The walkthrough was done with a builder and inspector with the assurance that the place could be remodeled into what they wanted. As we started to tear down the inside of the house ( Dutch people reuse and restore whenever able) it became very clear that 2/3 of the home was really not safe to live in. This led to a major demolition and then a rebuild to marry the leftover chalet to the new build. It’s been a long but fun process to put all our heads together for the redesign and we are now finally getting into some of the finishing work. We are glad to have heat and windows and looking forward to the plumbing being hooked up soon. Hopefully things will be fully ready for the upcoming summer!

The Bloems love nature, flower gardening ( we are, after all, the BLOEMS haha) hiking and gathering with family and friends. They have been so warmly welcomed by their neighbors on Hilltop Dr as well as others in the Woodbeck Chain of Lakes association. They are hoping to be able to spend even more time out there this summer and exploring the area and meeting more neighbors.





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## Spring Fishing Competition

Hosted by Camp Greenwood, get out there and fish! Prizes awarded for kids and adults. Snacks and social time for all!

All Lake neighbors are welcome.  
 \$7 entry fee per fisherman

Check-In/ Fishing Time:  
 Saturday, May 4  
 9am - 3 pm

Measurements:  
 All Day Until 3:30

Where:  
 Camp Greenwood  
 Dining Hall



OFFICE@CAMPGREENWOOD.ORG | 616.754.7258



# WCLA Photo Directory

Are you good at remembering names and faces? My wife, Denise, has an incredible knack for it. Me? I am horrible. Meeting our lake neighbors reminds me of this all the time. My solution? A photo directory so I can refresh my lousy memory once in a while.

How about a photo directory for the WCLA that includes the members and a view of their house from the lake? I usually ask someone which house is theirs. Since I normally only see them from the water it made more sense to me to post that view too.

Each member family will be listed with their photos alphabetically by lake. The WCLA Board has reviewed a prototype and formally approved it for voluntary member participation. A few of our Horseshoe neighbors agreed to let me set up a prototype to show how it looks.


This directory will be on-line only accessible through our WCLA web page.

If you would like to participate, please email me photos you want us to use. Questions? Email me at the same address.

Phil Sliva  
philsliva@chartermi.net

The next two pages are the Prototype of the WCLA Photo Directory.

- House Washing (Softwash)
- Building Washing (Softwash)
- Roof Cleaning - All Types (Softwash)
- Gutter Cleaning
- Concrete/Hardscape Cleaning
- Deck Cleaning & Staining
- Window Cleaning



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## Horseshoe Lake

Sue and Bob Post



Denise and Phil Sliva







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## Creating a Winter Wonderland with Native Plants

As winter blankets us in a serene covering of snow (most of the time), many perceive the season as a time of dormancy for nature. However, beneath the surface lies a hidden treasure trove of winter native plants that not only withstand the chilly temperatures but also add an enjoyable touch to our landscape. These hardy plants, adapted to the cold, bring forth a unique beauty that transforms winter into a wonderland of colors, textures, and resilience.

Most notably are evergreen trees and shrubs being the devotees of winter landscapes, maintaining their green foliage throughout the cold months. Iconic species such as the Canadian Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) provide a year-round backdrop of lush greenery against the winter white. With their gracefully drooping branches and soft needles create a [calming](#) effect, offering a stark contrast to the barrenness of deciduous trees.

While winter landscapes can seem desolate, native plants with berries bring life and color to the scene. The Michigan Holly (*Ilex verticillata*), is a deciduous holly species that loses its leaves in winter, leaving behind branches adorned with clusters of bright red berries. This stunning display not only attracts birds seeking sustenance but also serves as a vibrant focal point in gardens and natural settings.

On a smaller scale one of my favorites is the American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) adds a festive touch with its glossy, spiky leaves and vibrant red berries, providing a feast for winter birds such as cardinals, blue jays, and mourning doves, and provide a visual feast for human eyes. These evergreen champions not only serve as living sculptures but also act as natural windbreaks, shielding landscapes from the harsh winter winds and snow.

Additionally, the beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) showcases clusters of violet-purple berries that persist into winter. These berries, not only provide a visual interest, but also provide a vital food source for wildlife during the colder months. Incorporating these berry-laden natives into winter landscapes adds a touch of color and supports local ecosystems.

Native grasses are often overlooked during the growing season but take note of their amazing beauty in your winter landscape, they showcase their unique textures and forms for instance: Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) stands tall with its feathery seed heads, that dances gracefully in the winter breeze. Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) adds warm hues with its rusty tones which creates a stunning contrast against the snow.

While we cannot wait for spring flowers to emerge there is a few native plants that bloom in the winter! While we think everything is dormant for the season Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) graces our winter landscape with its fragrant, spidery blooms that appear on bare branches. This deciduous shrub adds a touch of warmth to the cold season, enticing pollinators and brightening our spirits with its unexpected burst of color

Another favorite is the Christmas Rose (*Helleborus niger*) a winter-blooming marvel, featuring delicate white flowers that emerge amid the snowy landscape. These resilient plants not only endure the cold but also provide a beacon of hope and beauty during winter's grasp.

Winter, often perceived as a season of dormancy, is, in fact, an unexpected time for native plants to provide a touch of color and that brightens our landscape, and providing food and shelter for birds and wildlife at the same time. So, step into the winter wonderland that nature offers, and let the beauty of native plants transform your outdoor space into a captivating and vibrant haven year-round.

Plants will be available for special order from Lakeside Perennial this spring.

Marilyn Klemm

Half Mile Lake -Lakeside Perennial and Native Plant Nursery



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Picture Top Row: Beautyberry, American Holly, Christmas Rose, Eastern Hemlock, Witch Hazel  
 Second Row: Eastern White Pine, Eastern Hemlock  
 Third Row: Little Bluestem, Switch Grass, Michigan Holly



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