

WCLA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

August 11, 2026

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Doing things we love is of utmost importance in maintaining balance, happiness and peace within ourselves. Those things have a tendency to change over time based on where we are in this journey called life. Like all of you, I have switched gears, changed paths, or taken sudden (or not so sudden) detours all to get to where I think I need to be, see what I think I need to see, or feel what I think I need to feel. Some were the right decisions...some... let's just say...not so smart. Regardless of how or why I made the decision, I always forged ahead with good intentions and expectations. I am a glass half full kind of girl!



Five years ago I ventured down the path of Lake Association President. I wanted to do it because I felt I had something to offer our community. I was met head on with great support and a few challenges, which I expected. I learned a lot about myself along the way. I developed strength and resilience I didn't know I had. I made many amazing friendships (along with a couple enemies). I felt proud of the accomplishments I shared working along side an incredible Board. **I loved being President**, sharing my ideas and supporting others. Together, we made our lakes better in so many ways! So, suffice it to say: Mission Accomplished! Now, five years later, it is time for my final curtain call. This is the last President's Corner I will be writing for all of you. My journey is different now and I need to exit this path and move on to a new one. I hope more than anything else, you appreciated my dedication to this community and perhaps enjoyed my sense of humor in my monthly writings. There is, however, just one other thing I need to say to those of you who chose not to pay dues simply because you didn't like me, shame on you. News Flash...You didn't hurt me, you only hurt your community...enough said. But more importantly, to the rest of you, thank you for supporting me and allowing me to be such a big part of everything around us. This is still and forever, the best place to live in West Michigan. I am humbled and honored to step down knowing in my heart, I did my best for all of you.

Goodbye for now!

Kindly,

Wendi Davidson
WCLA President

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PAST EVENTS

The WCLA Poker Kayaking event with the band Flashback on Banks Lake was a great new twist on an already great event! **Thank you Ed and Bobby Armbruster and Kevin and Carol Bird for all your work planning this event. GREAT JOB!** Also, big thanks and shout out to all the volunteers on the docks and pontoon boats for keeping us all in line and headed in the right direction, as well as the little “gift” we got from several of you! Absolutely a fantastic day!!!

Katherine Wolthuis, how many times can we say thank you to YOU!! The Ladies Wine and Charcuterie Night was perfect! Relaxing and fun all wrapped into one beautiful evening. Your generosity does not go unnoticed!

NEW EVENTS

SUPER IMPORTANT!!!!

THE LAKE ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!!!!

Thursday, August 20th: WCLA Annual Dinner at the beautiful Camp Concordia. A recap of our wonderful year, voting in new Lake Representatives and a fabulous dinner just for YOU! The fun starts at 5: 30 pm. Please plan to attend! **This meeting is extremely important this year as we will be looking for Lake Reps and two who would like to be President or VP for the next fiscal year. YOU MUST BE A LAKE REPRESENTATIVE TO BE VOTED IN AS AN OFFICER. Officers will be voted in at the September Board meeting.**

SAFETY UPDATES

The **2026 PLM Weed Treatment Schedule** has been posted on the WCLA website for your convenience.

Don't forget to use your navigation lights after dark...we can't see you!! Beep, Beep 🗨️

NO JET SKI's ON THE LAKES AFTER DARK!!

NO WAKE MEANS NO WAKE!

Michigan boating laws states: a slow-no wake speed is legally required within 100 feet of any marked swimming area, anchored raft, pier, person in the water or shoreline.

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This means boats (and jet skis) must operate at an idle speed that creates minimal wake to protect swimmers.

Please remind your guests, kids and anyone else to follow these rules for everyone's safety.

We want all body parts intact when everyone goes home at night 😊

NEW SIGNS: There are two new NO WAKE signs posted around the island on Horseshoe Lake.

YOU MUST BE A PAID MEMBER TO USE THE BOAT LAUNCH AT CAMP CONCORDIA

OTHER STUFF

Don't Forget to Pay Your 2026 Dues!! You want fish, fish and more fish? You want to have fun? You want your lakes, boat launches, dams and common areas kept safe and clean? You want to live on the best lakes in West Michigan!?!? **This all costs \$\$\$\$\$!** Please do your part and pay your membership dues of **ONLY \$50 dollars a year!!**

NOT SURE IF YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2026?????

***** The 2026 Paid membership list is attached to every President's Corner and the Waterline editions as a helpful reminder. 😊** Please feel free to contact Jamie Skinner at woodbeckcla@gmail.com if you have questions about your dues.

Fish Plant Donations: Fish plant donations can be made when members renew their Association dues or separately on the WCLA website <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com> under the Pay/Donate tab on the top right. The total donation amount for this year was: **\$3730.50 Thank you to everyone who donated!!**

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 lteenmm@yahoo.com or text 616 255-6081.** Even if you only need a few days of meals, the Meal Train is here for you! **If you want to be a member 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!

Boater's Safety Class: Now 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 for 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

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year!! Just email a copy of your completion card to 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/>. **Keeping our lakes safe one boater at a time!**

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

The Waterline: Our WCLA Newsletter is published three times a year and filled with valuable information. If you have ideas for articles you would like to see in the Waterline, please let Wendi know at davidsonwendi@gmail.com. Even better...if you would like to author an article for the Waterline, that would be greatly appreciated!!! **Next Waterline will be September 2026. Articles need to be sent to Jamie Skinner by August 31st at woodbeckcla@gmail.com**

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 or (616) 970-2273.

Email platform with text messaging: If you have concerns about email communication or you are not receiving them, please contact Faith Peterson at: wclacommunications@gmail.com and she will get any issues resolved for you!

DID YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE???? If it did, please let Jamie Skinner know at: woodbeckcla@gmail.com so you do not miss valuable information and notifications.

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.

We want to keep our lakes as beautiful as possible while maintaining areas for wildlife to live in 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/>

Officers, Lake Reps and Administrators are available on the WCLA Website: <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com>

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Useful Resources:

WCLA Website: <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com>

WCLA email: woodbeckcla@gmail.com

Aarron Antcliff-Social Media: **Facebook: Woodbeck Chain of Lakes**

Jamie Skinner-Treasurer, Membership Dues, Waterline Publisher, Advertisements:
woodbeckcla@gmail.com

Kris Ferguson-Secretary: scrambledeggs85@gmail.com

Faith Peterson-Communications Administrator: wclacommunications@gmail.com

Candie Ritsema-Social Director: candieritsema@yahoo.com or 616 835-2488

Chris Decker-VP, Water Sustainability: c_dec@hotmail.com

Mara Iteen-Meal Train Coordinator: iteenmm@yahoo.com or 616 255-6081

Phil and Denise Sliva-Welcome Team, Photo Directory: philsliva@chartermi.net

Wendi Davidson-President: davidsonwendi@gmail.com or 616 799-0412

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.

Quote for the Month

The setting of the sun is not the death of daylight,
but the triumphant completion of its purpose,
making way for a completely different kind of brilliance.

Author-Wendi Davidson