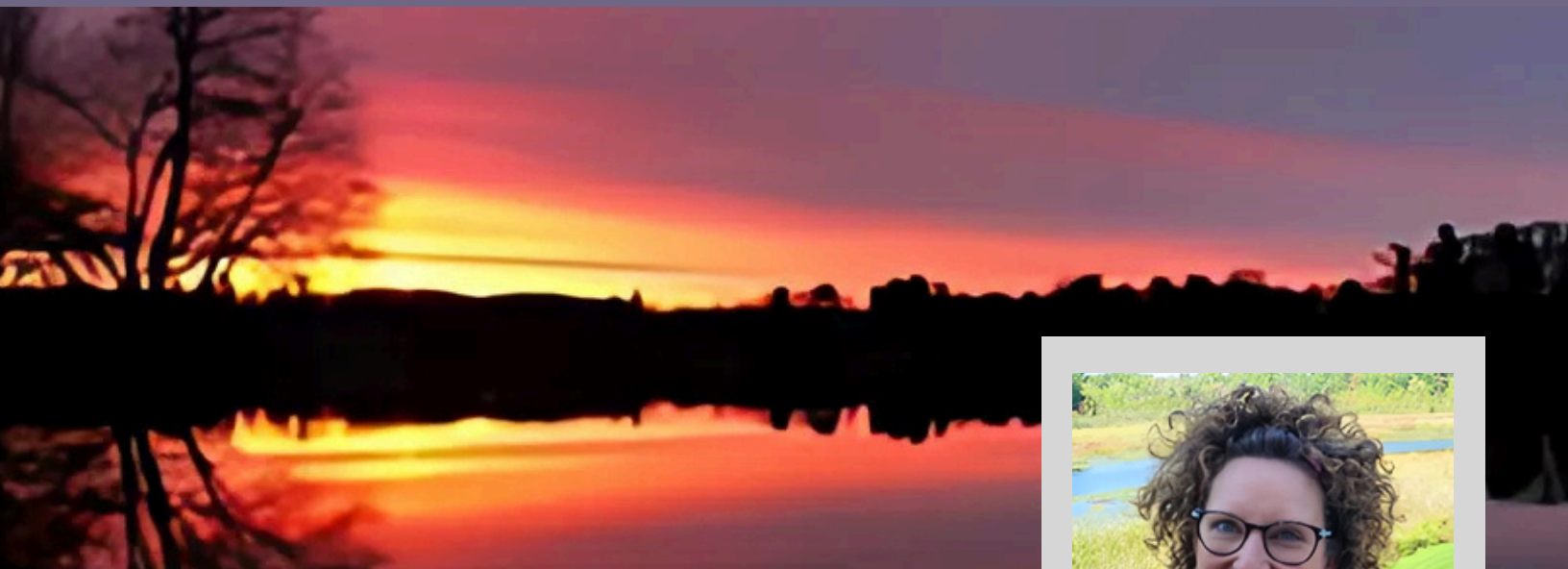


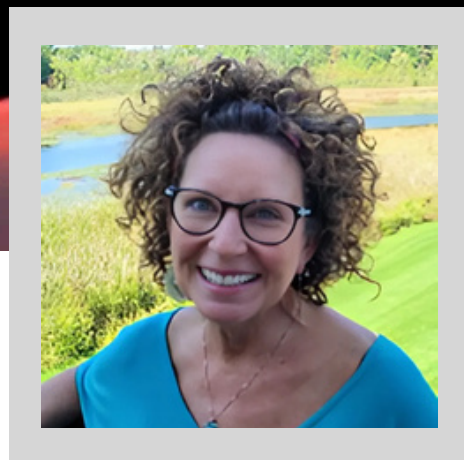
THE WATERLINE

THE OFFICIAL WOODBECK CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



A Word From Wendi

September 15, 2025



Hello Friends and Neighbors,

BEAUTIFUL CHANGES ARE UPON US! It is that time of the year again when Mother Nature changes her looks, changes her mood, runs hot and cold on any given day, is as unpredictable as the Stock Market and makes us appreciate every day that she heats up and makes us smile! I know what you're thinking fellas, but don't go there!! Fall is as lovely as a child's imagination. Colorful and exciting but fleeting. Nothing is prettier than fall on the water. So, fill your lungs with her fresh aroma and enjoy the next month or so of this seasonal gift from Mother Nature. Remember...she does it just for us.

Something that isn't changing is our WCLA Officers! We will all be at the helm for another fantastic year! Along with our new as well as continuing Lake Representatives, this team is eager to work together. I am fired up!! We are strong, energized, and full of great ideas! I hope you appreciate this team as much as I do and I hope you enjoy this edition of the Waterline.

That's all for now!

Kindly,

Wendi Davidson

WCLA President

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Annual Dinner - August 28th, 2025

This was a wonderful evening with updates over the last year from all Committee Chairs and Officers. New Representatives were voted in for each lake (see website for the list). Big thanks to those that stepped up to be Lake Reps!! Thank you to all 50+ of you that attended as well as Pastor BJ for allowing us to use Camp Concordia for the night. Also, to all the volunteers and those who brought dessert. The meal was delicious, and the company was fantastic!!



Board Meeting - September 8th, 2025

Officers were voted in as follows:

President: Wendi Davidson

Vice President: Chris Decker

Treasurer: Jamie Skinner

Secretary: Kris Ferguson

It's going to be another great year!! You can always find the Board Meeting minutes on the WCLA website after they are approved at the following meeting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WCLA Social Dinners

September's Social Dinner was enjoyed by 50 WCLA members!! What a great turnout and a beautiful evening at Kicks. Who doesn't love great food and friends??!!

September - Kick's at Bowen Lake



Owner: Marilyn Klemm
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 Instagram: lakesideperennialnursery
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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Ladies Wine & Charcuterie Night

We hope to see you TONIGHT for Ladies Wine & Charcuterie Night. The cost is \$20 which includes LOTS of wine and delicious charcuterie eats! You can also order your Ladies of the Lakes personalized wine glass for \$15. Such a wonderful way to get to know the Ladies of the Lakes.



Monday September 19th @ 6:00 p.m.

Cathy Deane
12445 Stacey Ct.
Greenville, MI 48838
(616) 894-0612

If you are interested in hosting please
contact Candie!
(616) 835-2488
candieritsema@yahoo.com

Thank you Katherine Wolthuis for hosting our August Ladies Wines & Charcuterie Night, always a great time with these ladies!



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Upcoming Events

Chili Cookoff/Olympics

Formerly Cornhole/Chili Cookoff

This very popular and super fun event will be Saturday, November 1st starting at 1pm. There will be trophies for the best chili, and medals for the Olympic events champions! These events are easy and fun for all adults to participate in. NO gymnastics, NO races, NO shot put!! Just fun competition with fun games!!

**KEEP
CALM
AND
LET THE GAMES
BEGIN**

ALSO... since it's Halloween weekend, it would not be right to not include a theme costume contest on this crazy fun day!!! Think SPORTS ATTIRE for the men and SPARKLY BLING for the women!! Mark your calendar and get ready for a great fall party! All football games will be on ALL TV's during this event!!

Stay tuned for all the exciting details and mark your calendars!! RSVP Wendi Davidson at davidsonwendi@gmail.com or text 616 799-0412

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Upcoming Events



Friday December 5th, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Hosted by: Mike & Katherine

Wolthuis

13425 Lynn Dr NE



Christmas Party



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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE POST FAMILY,

ON JULY 28TH, 2025 OUR LIVES CHANGED FOREVER. IT STARTED OUT AS A FAIRLY TYPICAL DAY. MY WIFE SUE HAD NOT BEEN FEELING NORMAL, THINKING THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING MINOR GOING ON WITH HER HEART, SHE DECIDED TO GET IT CHECKED OUT WITH A ROUTINE CARDIAC PROCEDURE. BY THE END OF THAT DAY SHE HAD BEEN RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL VIA AMBULANCE FOR EMERGENCY OPEN HEART SURGERY. HER CONDITION WAS CRITICAL, NEEDING 3 BYPASSES AND A REPAIR TO HER AORTA. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE WERE BOTH SHOCKED BY TERRIFIED BY HER CONDITION. BY THE GRACE OF GOD, AND THE SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FROM THE COMMUNITY, THE SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS AND SHE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A FULL RECOVERY.



THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTE IS TO THANK EVERYONE AND LET YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THE INCREDIBLE RESPONSE TO WHAT HAPPENED. I WANT TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO MARA ITEEN FOR COORDINATING THE MEAL-TRAIN, AND PHIL AND DENISE SLIVA FOR ENCOURAGING ME TO USE IT. I AM THE TYPE PERSON THAT LIKES TO DO THINGS MYSELF, NOT WANTING TO BOTHER ANYONE, BUT MEAL-TRAIN UNDOUBTEDLY HELPED BY REMOVING THE STRESS OF PREPARING MEALS WHILE SUE WAS RECOVERING. I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT FOR THOSE TWO WEEKS, IT MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD. ADDITIONALLY, EVEN THOUGH WE HAD NEVER MET SOME OF THE FOLKS THAT PROVIDED MEALS, BUT WITHOUT HESITATION, THEY STEPPED UP HELP A FELLOW LAKE RESIDENT. WE WERE SIMPLY BLOWN AWAY BY THESE ACTS OF KINDNESS.

WENDI REMINDS US ALL THE TIME IN THE WATERLINE HOW SPECIAL OUR COMMUNITY IS AND HOW LUCKY WE ARE TO HAVE SUCH CARING AND SUPPORTIVE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. WELL, I'M HERE TO SAY FROM FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE, SHE IS 100% CORRECT, WE ARE ALL TRULY BLESSED! THANKS AGAIN EVERYONE, WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AROUND THE LAKES SOON.

WITH TREMENDOUS GRATITUDE, BOB AND SUE POST.

UPDATES & MORE

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations **Nate Bruik** from Horseshoe Lake for completing your boater's safety class! WAY TO GO NATE!



[CLICK HERE](#) for the latest copy of The Michigan Riparian Magazine supplied by Michigan Lakes and Streams Association



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UPDATE – LAKE LEVELS

Like all of you, we are aware of the lower lake levels over the last few years. We have investigated this extensively to determine if there are areas we can address. At this time, there does not seem to be anything we can do except continue to monitor our lakes, Stacey Street bridge project and dams/weirs.

This issue is not isolated to our lakes, it is widespread. In fact, many lakes in our region are down more than our lakes are. This is the feedback we received regarding lake levels from the Kent County Drain Commission:

Lake levels are really just a simple mass balance – water in minus water out equals the lake level. This year's levels are the result of long-term drought, below average rainfall in 2025, and above average evaporation. Kent County has been in a low to moderate drought for two years or so. You can view a statewide drought map here: [Michigan U.S. Drought Monitor](#). This year's lake levels are often a reflection of last year's rainfall condition and since we had below average rainfall in 2024, the groundwater levels are down throughout West Michigan.

In June and July, we also had above average amounts of evaporation as well. Based on MSU's weather stations, we had 10 days in June and 11 days in July that exceeded 0.2 inches of evaporation. That means every 4-5 days the lake goes down an inch, just by evaporation alone (not accounting for exfiltrating groundwater). In June and July, we've had 10.5 inches of evaporation but only 4.8 inches of rain.

Those three natural factors (long term drought, below average rainfall, and above average evaporation) explain why so many lakes and ponds in the area are quite low. As much as we'd like, we can't control these natural fluctuations. If water in the lake is less than water going out, then the level will drop.

Annual Rainfall Deficits for G.R per Bill Steffen Report September 6th, 2025

--7.39" – 2025
 --2.50" – 2024
 --2.66" – 2023
 --1.67' – 2022
 --1.36" – 2021
 --0.83" – 2020

·Lake Michigan 8" below average September Water level

That is a summary of the information we have received. As mentioned previously, we will continue to monitor the status of our lake levels and hopefully we get some good rainfall during our fall months.

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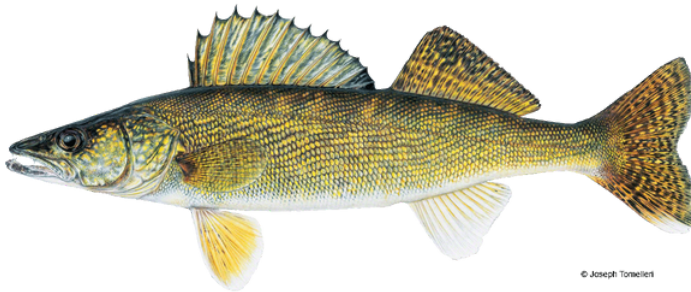
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2025 FISH PLANT UPDATE

Our thanks to everyone who donated to the fish plant fund this year. We came close to our goal of \$6,000 and your increased donations will allow us to plant more fish. Our 2025 plans are to plant 2,000 Walleye and 200 Yellow Perch. If you want to see the fish being planted, watch for notifications a few days in advance of the actual the fish plant date. (usually late October or early November)

WCLA Fish Plant Committee: Don Hoogerhyde, Ed Armbruster, Bruce Veldman, Tom Meyer



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REMINDERS



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 (even if it's only for a short period of time). Your friends and neighbors are here to help! Please contact Mara Iteen who will make all of the arrangements necessary to meet your needs.

If you want to be a part of the Meal Train to provide meals when needed, please contact Mara Iteen and let her know that you would like to be on the list. When someone is in need Mara will contact those on the list and you can sign up as needed.

BOATERS SAFETY

Spring is here making it the perfect time for kids and young adults to complete the Boater's Safety Course! This is an ongoing opportunity for anyone aged 12-20 to earn a \$15 Amazon gift card upon completing the course—available year-round! Whether you're a young resident living on the lakes or a grandchild of a paid Lake Association member, you can take the course online at your convenience.

Here's how it works:

1. Complete the Boater's Safety Course anytime during the year.
2. Email a copy of your completion card to davidsonwendi@gmail.com.
3. Receive your \$15 gift card—it's that easy!

Not only is this a simple way to earn a reward, but it's also an important step in helping to keep our lakes safe.

Ready to get started? Click here to begin your online course: [Boater's Safety Course](#).



LAKE MAPPING

In 2024, WCLA invested in lake mapping put together by PLM showing depths and hardness levels of all the lakes. These maps are available to members once they have paid their 2025 dues by reaching out to Chris Decker.

WCLA Photo Directory: Connecting Our Lake Community!

Discover the joy of putting faces to names and learning more about our wonderful lakeside community! The WCLA Photo Directory, thoughtfully created by Phil Sliva, is now available on the WCLA website: [CLICK HERE to view the latest version](#).

Participation is optional, but we'd love to see everyone represented! To join in, simply email Phil at philsliva@chartermi.net with:

A photo of you and your family

A picture of your home as seen from the lakeside

Let's make our directory a vibrant showcase of the Woodbeck Chain of Lakes community!

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.



The WCLA Waterline is published three times a year, brimming with valuable updates and engaging content. Have an idea for an article? We'd love to hear it! Better yet, if you'd like to contribute by writing an article, we'd greatly appreciate your input.

The next issue is set to be released in September 2025, and the deadline for article submissions and advertisements is September 5th. Submit articles and ideas to Jamie Skinner

It's Time to Pay Your 2026 WCLA Dues!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supports our lakes by paying their dues. Your contributions make a big difference in keeping our lake community thriving!

Dues are just \$50.00 for the year—that's only \$4.17 per month, less than the cost of a Starbucks coffee!

Your dues go a long way toward:

- Keeping our lakes clean and safe
- Funding canal signage and other communications
- Covering maintenance, repairs, and unexpected issues
- Supporting fish stocking and ensuring plentiful fishing
- Sponsoring fun community events we all enjoy

How to Pay:

- Online: Visit woodbeckchainoflakes.com/pay-dues
- By Mail:

Make checks payable to WCLA and mail to:

PO Box 482, Greenville, MI 48838

If your name isn't on the paid membership list (below), we haven't received your payment. Remember, dues must be paid to use the boat launches.

The 2025/2026 paid membership list will be included in every issue of the President's Corner and Waterline as a handy reminder. 😊

Thank you for your continued dedication to our lakes!





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Affordable Advertising Opportunity!

Thank you to all local businesses for choosing to advertise with us. Advertise in all three issues (January, May, and September) is just \$35—that's less than \$12 per issue! Contact Jamie Skinner for additional information.



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Alternate	Pat Jackson		
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	*Kevin Martin	(616) 893-9508	homey@chartermi.net
	**Craig Wassenaar	(616) 780-2000	craig_wassenaar@yahoo.com
Alternate	Candie Ritsema		
Alternate	Maureen Lovewell		

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	Tom Meyer	(616) 862-1171	tjm8600@gmail.com
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