

THE WATERLINE

THE OFFICIAL WOODBECK CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



A Message from the President



Dear Neighbors,

September 15th, 2026

I am incredibly honored to step into the role of President for the Woodbeck Chain of Lakes Association. Our “Five Lakes, One Community” motto is something my family lives by. This chain of lakes holds a massive piece of my heart—it is where Kate and I have spent the last 25 years, where her family has made memories for generations, and where our 9 children and 20 grandchildren come every summer to swim, fish, and connect.

Because these waters mean so much to my family, I am deeply committed to preserving them for yours. Having recently retired from a career in finance and corporate leadership, my goal is to apply those practical business skills directly to our association. I view our board’s role as stewards: protecting your property investments, maintaining our unique private access, and ensuring every single dollar of our budget is managed with absolute transparency and fiscal responsibility.

Moving forward, the board will continue prioritizing core initiatives that have always been essential to us, including rigorous lake water quality and weed treatment, proactive boater safety education, and our annual fish plant.

Beyond maintaining our waters, I am highly focused on enhancing our “One Community” feel. We want to expand our focus on social connections so neighbors can get to know one another across all five lakes—Halfmile, Thomas, Banks, Woodbeck, and Horseshoe. Additionally, we will be looking into practical, strategic ways to increase accessibility across the channels so all residents can fully navigate and enjoy our entire beautiful ecosystem.

A community of 280 homes thrives when we operate with open communication and a shared pride of place. I look forward to connecting with you at upcoming WCLA social events, out on the water, or at our next board meeting. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at craig_wassenaar@yahoo.com or 616-780-2000 with any ideas, concerns, or questions. Thank you for your trust, and I look forward to a fantastic season ahead on the chain!

Warmly,

Craig Wassenaar ~ Board President ~ Woodbeck Chain of Lakes Association

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT

The Woodbeck Chain of Lakes Association is pleased to introduce our newly elected Board President, Craig Wassenaar. While Craig recently retired at the end of 2025 as the President of a market-leading U.S. medical device company, his history on our waters runs decades deep.

Craig and his wife, Kate Houseman, have owned on Woodbeck Lake for over 25 years—and Kate's family has enjoyed lake life here for decades longer. The couple recently celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary. Together, they share a vibrant family of nine children and 20 grandchildren, most of whom spend their summers right here, calling our chain of lakes their ultimate "happy place."

Professionally, Craig brings an exceptional level of business acumen and leadership to the WCLA. He spent 15 years as a CPA with Ernst & Young serving large corporate clients before moving into executive corporate finance and business leadership positions across Western Michigan. His extensive background in budget oversight, strategic planning, and team building will be incredibly valuable as he steps in to lead our community of 280 homes.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Past Events

A special thank you to Camp Concordia for hosting our Annual Dinner! More than 70 lake residents joined us for a wonderful evening of great food, conversation, and community. It was a great opportunity to welcome new residents, connect with neighbors and friends, and discuss important lake updates and needs.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening such a great success. We're grateful for the strong sense of community that makes the Woodbeck Chain of Lakes such a special place to call home!



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?


 MENU

Plan Ahead



THURSDAY OCTOBER 15TH @ 6:00 P.M.

Join us for a great meal and an even better time with friends and neighbors before everyone flies south for the winter! ☀️🌴 And don't head home too early—stick around until 8:30 PM for DJ Bingo!

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH @ 6:00 P.M.

WCLA Christmas Party hosted by Mike & Katherine Wolhuis - Stay Tuned, more info to come!



FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17TH 6:00pm - 8:00pm

13564 MACCLAIN ST. GOWEN, MI 49326

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Mortgage Loan Originator

NMLS #1059016

amber@elevationmortgages.com

C: 616.747.8245

UPDATES & MORE

HMMMM...WHAT IS GOING ON?

Whether you have a concern about the lakes, an idea you'd like to share, or are simply interested in hearing what the Board is discussing, we'd love to hear from you! Please feel free to reach out to any of our Lake Representatives or join us at an upcoming Board meeting. Everyone is welcome, and we're always happy to see both new and familiar faces getting involved in our lake community!

SAVE THE DATE

WCLA BOARD MEETING
MONDAY NOVEMBER 9TH @ 6:30 P.M.
LOCATION: CRAIG'S HOUSE
12590 POINT DR
WOODBEEK LAKE



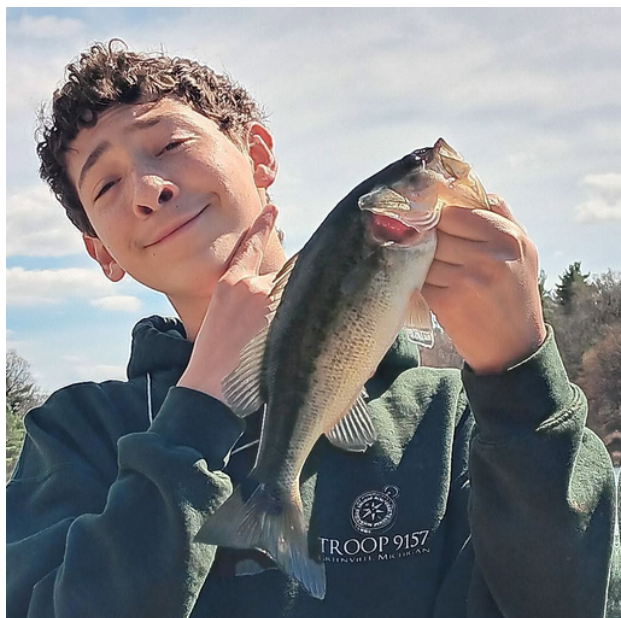
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EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT TO BENEFIT THE WOODBECK CHAIN OF LAKES



The Woodbeck Chain of Lakes Association is proud to be the beneficiary of an Eagle Scout Service Project led by Mason Allen (troop 9157), grandson of Ed and Arlene Finkhouse on horseshoe lake!

For his Eagle Scout project, Mason will build two fish cribs that will be placed in Horseshoe Lake. Fish cribs provide valuable underwater habitat where natural structure may be limited. They offer smaller fish places to find shelter and feed while also supporting larger predator fish—helping strengthen the lake's food chain and overall fish habitat. As fish gather around these structures, they can also create reliable fishing spots for anglers.

MASON NEEDS OUR HELP!

Mason is asking lake residents to help fund his project by donating returnable pop cans. His goal is to raise approximately \$150–\$200 to purchase the materials needed to construct the two fish cribs. Any funds raised beyond the cost of the project will be donated to the WCLA Fish Fund to support future fish and habitat projects throughout our lakes.

Mason will collect cans on **Sunday, October 4** & **Sunday, November 8** from the end of the camp greenwood driveway ON MACCLAIN ST. you can leave them by the fencepost anytime that day and mason will collect in the evening.

Reminders will be sent out the day of each collection day.

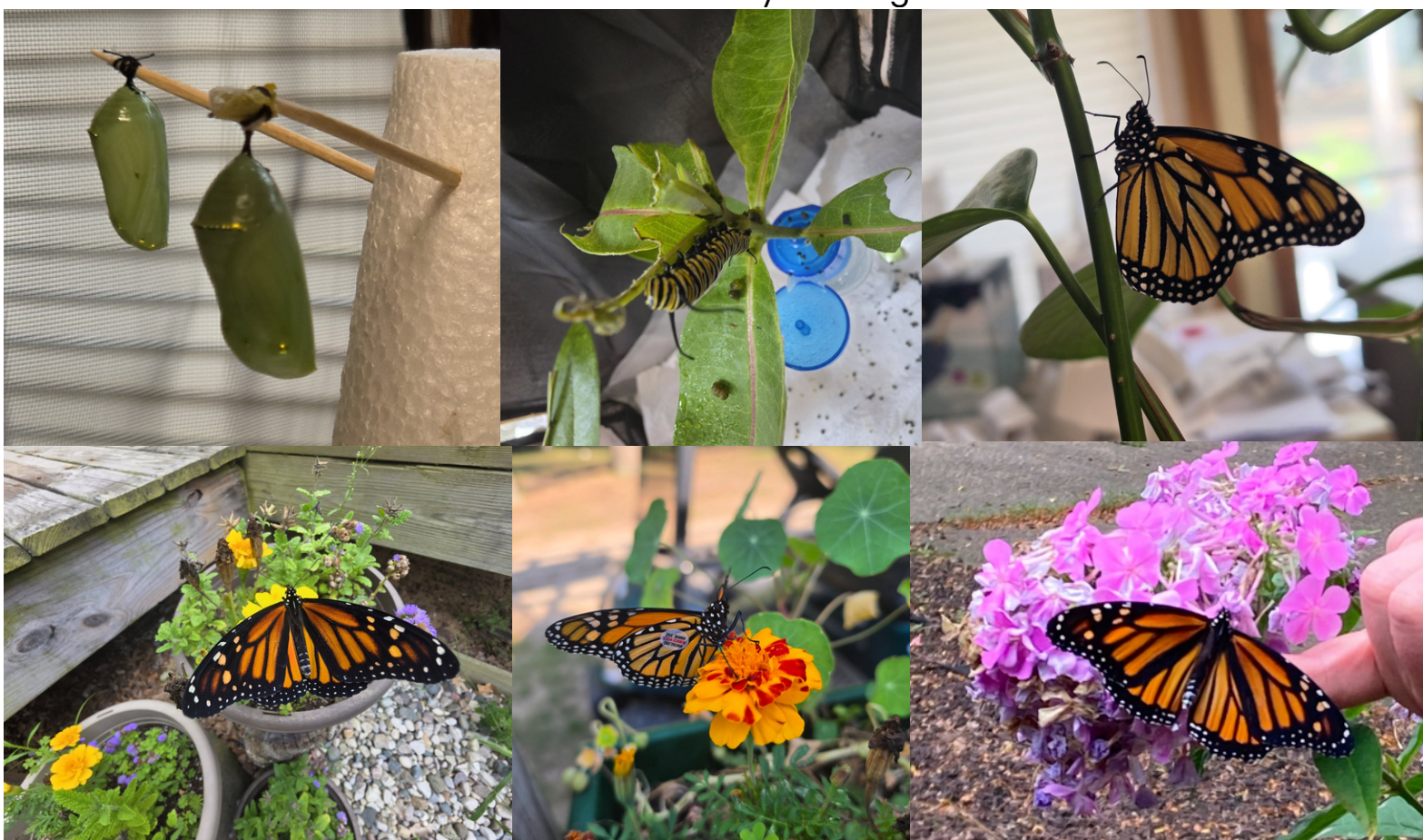
Have cans before then? No problem! Email woodbeckcla@gmail.com anytime between now and November 8, and Jamie will coordinate a pickup.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support Mason as he works toward earning his Eagle Scout rank while completing a project that will have a lasting impact on Horseshoe Lake. Save those cans and help Mason build some new homes for our fish! 🐟

#MONARCHWATCH

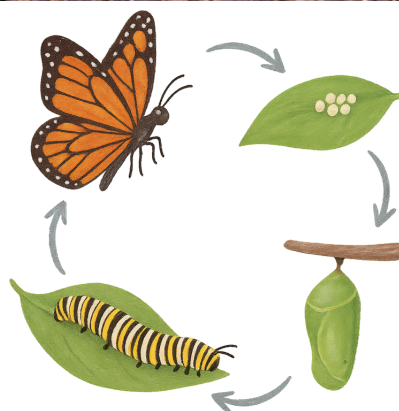
Click [HERE](#) to follow Camp Greenwood on Facebook to learn more about the monarch butterflies being raised and released right here in our community. Each monarch is given a name and tagged before beginning its incredible journey and tracked with the help of University of Kansas. You might even spot one that shares your name!

Max, Tony Squat, and Sam Evans have already spread their wings and headed out on their journey. Who will be next? Follow along with Camp Greenwood to meet the newest monarchs as they take flight!



Owner: Marilyn Klemm
 Website: lakesidenatives.com
 Email: lakesideperennial@gmail.com
 Instagram: lakesideperennialnursery
 Facebook: Lakeside Perennial & Native Plant Nursery

Half Mile Lake
 13800 Pinewood St.
 Gowen, MI 49326
 Cell: (616) 835-5638
 Nursery License: #203298



REMINDERS

BOATERS SAFETY

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 woodbeckcla@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](#).

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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.

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 dues. Reach out woodbeckcla@gmail.com for more info!



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!

Upstream Landscape
Maintenance and Design

Beejay Kitchen
Owner

616-308-4224
UpstreamLandscape@yahoo.com

- *Hardscapes and Softscape Design
- *Spring and Fall Cleanup
- *Landscape Maintenance
- *Complete revamps and enhancements

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 January 2027, and the deadline for article submissions and advertisements is January 5th. Submit articles and ideas to woodbeckcla@gmail.com

It's Time to Pay Your 2026/2027 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 2026/2027 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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2026/2027 WCLA OFFICERS AND LAKE REPRESENTATIVES

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	**Mike Mills	(616) 293-3805	michaeljmills6885@outlook.com
	**Jamie Skinner	(616) 813-9841	woodbeckcla@gmail.com
Alternate	Pam Swigart	(616) 894-0536	pamelaswigart7@gmail.com
Alternate	Tom Waterloo	(616) 914-9702	waterloo58@gmail.com
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	**Rob Riegler	(616) 836-1966	robr@lakesideinc.com
	**Thomas Reynhout	(616) 291-8189	twreynhout@gmail.com
Alternate	Ann Decker	(616) 302-0824	deckersport2004@gmail.com
Alternate	Lisa Riegler	(231) 670-2060	lisab828@gmail.com
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	**Rick Bruick	(469) 632-4901	rickbruick@yahoo.com
	*Tom Meyer	(616) 862-1171	tjm8600@gmail.com
Alternate	Don Hoogerhyde	(616) 990-8687	d_hoog@hotmail.com
Alternate	Lou Fierens	(248) 420-1290	ljfierens@comcast.net
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	*Wendi Davidson	(616) 799-0412	davidsonwendi@gmail.com
Alternate	Norm Davidson	(616) 799-2425	norm@thegolfemporium.com
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	*Craig Wassenaar	(616) 780-2000	craig_wassenaar@yahoo.com
Alternate	Candie Ritsema	(616) 835-2488	candieritsema@yahoo.com
Alternate	Maureen Lovewell	(616) 292-3674	lovewellmaur@hotmail.com

* Term Ends 8/31/27

** Term Ends 8/31/28

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Directory & Welcome Team	Phil & Denise Sliva	(616) 970-2273	philsliva@chartermi.net
Fish Plant/Signs/Boat Launch	Ed Armbruster	(616) 947-4487	luger@prodigy.net
	Tom Meyer	(616) 862-1171	tjm8600@gmail.com
	Rick Bruick	(469) 632-4901	rickbruick@yahoo.com
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Membership Payments	Jamie Skinner	(616) 813-9841	woodbeckcla@gmail.com
Social Director	Candie Ritsema	(616) 835-2488	candieritsema@yahoo.com
Social Media	Aaron Antcliff	(616) 329-8305	aaron.antcliff@gmail.com
Water Sustainability	Rob Riegler	(616) 836-1966	robr@lakesideinc.com
Waterline & Advertising	Jamie Skinner	(616) 813-9841	woodbeckcla@gmail.com

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