

WCLA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

December 12, 2024

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

It's that time of the year! You know...Christmas movie binge watching, shopping endlessly for just the right gift, Elf on the Shelf, mall Santa visits, buying matching Christmas PJ's, baking Christmas cookies, tree decorating, ugly sweater parties, Christmas caroling (no one does that anymore do they??), counting down the days until Christmas on the advent calendar, and the sometimes dreaded traveling to visit family! It's BUSY, it's STRESSFUL, it's FUN and EXCITING, and...it's CHRISTMAS! No matter if you were naughty (a little bit) or nice (a little bit more), no matter how you celebrate or don't celebrate Christmas, you already received the best gift of all. I'm not talking about the Santa Fireman calendar ladies (but thank you 😊)! I'm talking about the gifts of **Love, Hope and Joy**. That's the true meaning of Christmas and reason for celebration. Some believe those gifts came from the baby in the manger, some don't, yet we all received them: **Love, Hope and Joy**. How easy it is to take that for granted. How easy it is to get caught up in the superficial "shiny toy" if you will, and forget the greatest gifts of all: **Love, Hope and Joy**. Take some time this Christmas to really unwrap **those** gifts, feel them, study them, embrace them, celebrate them and most importantly, share them with your friends and family. Share them with your enemies. Share them with the world! Open your arms and open your heart. **Love, Hope and Joy** truly are the gifts that keeps on giving...if you share them. Be good to yourselves, be merry and be bright!! And remember...you don't have to share your Santa Fireman calendar! That's all yours ladies!! 😊



I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and an Exciting New Year!!

That's all for now!

Kindly,
Wendi Davidson
WCLA President

Past Events, Upcoming Events, Updates and Other Stuff!!!

Past Events:

The Mingle and Jingle WCLA Christmas Party was attended by almost 90 people!! Mike and Katherine did an amazing job hosting this festive event. Great food, lots of mingling and jingling and Terri Veldman was the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle taking home \$400!!! (I see new running shoes in your future!) Thank you to everyone for your generosity and giving spirit. A big thank you to Barry Thornton for the Winter Inn gift cards, Candie Ritsema and Jamie Skinner for all their work making sure this event was organized and successful, Wayne and Cathy King for allowing us to park at their property, Kerri Geiger for shuttling us back and forth to the party, Tim Hunter for being an awesome Santa Claus, and of course Mike and Katherine Wolthuis for opening their doors to let all of us enjoy a very special Christmas party! **You are all what makes our lakes the GREATEST PLACE TO LIVE!!!**

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Upcoming Events:

WCLA Board Meeting: Monday, January 13th at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at Wendi Davidson's house: 13337 Oakcrest Ave, Gowen. You can find minutes from all Board meetings at the website: WCLA Website: <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com>

January WCLA Social Dinner: Watch for information on date and location!

Updates and Other Stuff:

Welcome Faith Peterson!! Faith will be taking over the role of **WCLA Administrator**, and we are super excited to have her start! She has recently retired from Michigan State University and has lived with her husband Kim on Horseshoe Lake for the last seven years. Faith enjoys spending time with her five grandchildren; three are in Texas. She loves to cross country ski, so needless to say...she wants more snow, snow, snow! Faith is going to be a fantastic addition to our already great team! To contact Faith, please email her at wclacommunications@gmail.com. This means sadly, we are saying goodbye to Angie Peterman who has been instrumental in keeping the channels of communication flowing like water! Angie took this roll and ran with it! She was my right-hand man, my proofer, and my cheerleader. No one will miss her talent more than me. Thank you Angie for all you did for our lake community and for supporting Faith through the transition to your role. I hope we will continue to see your smiling face on the lake!

Kindy Drive Winter Fence: The plastic snow fence and Private Property signs were put up recently. This is not a physical barrier blocking any emergency access, just a deterrent to let unauthorized people know they are trespassing if they go on the lakes. The goal is to prevent as much unauthorized lake access as we can since we are a chain of private lakes.

HELP!!! We are in need of someone to organize the WCLA Golf Outing for this summer. If you are looking for a way to help our social community, contact Candie: candieritsema@yahoo.com or 616 835-2488. If we don't get anyone to organize it.... well....let's just say: RIP Golf Outing 😞

2025 Dues can be paid anytime now! It's only \$40.00!!! Dues are necessary to keep our lakes clean and 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.** If your name is not on the paid list, we did not receive your payment. You must pay your dues to use the boat launches.

***** 2025 Paid membership list will be attached to every President's Corner starting in January. 😊**

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Lake Mapping: When you pay your 2025 dues, you can receive a PDF of the lake mappings put together by PLM showing depths and hardness levels of all the lakes. If you would like to receive this PDF, contact Chris Decker at c_dec@hotmail.com **AFTER** you pay your dues.

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! **Advertisements need to be sent to Jamie Skinner at jamielynnskinner@gmail.com by January 5th.** The cost of advertising is \$35. Please direct your advertising questions to Jamie.

The Waterline: Our WCLA newsletter is put out 3x a year and filled with valuable information. A big thank you to Jake Dayringer for organizing and publishing it for the last 2 years. You did an AWESOME job Jake and now the baton is being passed to Jamie Skinner! Jamie has a great interest in making the Waterline even better so watch for it in January! If you have ideas for articles you would like to see in the Waterline, please let Jamie know at jamielynnskinner@gmail.com. Even better...if you would like to write an article for the Waterline, that would be greatly appreciated!!! **The next Waterline will come out January 2025. Advertisements and articles need to be sent to Jamie Skinner at jamielynnskinner@gmail.com by January 5th.**

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 her at 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 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!

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

DID YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE???? If it did, please let Kris Ferguson know at: scrambledeggs85@gmail.com so you don't miss out on important information and notifications.

WCLA Photo Directory: How fun it is to know who lives where on the lakes! Don't forget to send Phil a picture of yourselves and a picture of your house from the lakeside view. Phil Sliva is developing a photo directory that is now on the WCLA Website: <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com> for your convenience. Participation is optional, but we hope to see all of you in the directory! If you would like to participate, please email Phil the photos you want him to use at: philsliva@chartermi.net

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.

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Boater's Safety Class: Christmas break 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 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!**

HMMMM...what's going on? Perhaps you have lake concerns, or you simply want to listen to what the Board is discussing. 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!

DID YOUR LIGHTBULB GO ON?? Do you have some **BRIGHT IDEAS** for social events or anything else that would benefit our lake community? Share, share, share with us!! New ideas are always welcome.

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 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/>

Calendar of Events for 2024-25: Remember, some of these events are tentative and we need volunteers to make them happen. If you would like to help, please contact Wendi Davidson at davidsonwendi@gmail.com or (616) 799-0412 or Candie Ritsema at candieritsema@yahoo.com or text her at 616 835-2488.

Tentative Calendar thru March 2025:

January 13th: Board Meeting 6:30pm Wendi Davidson's house

January 23rd: Tentative Social Dinner-Location TBD 6:00pm

February 27th: Tentative Social Dinner-Location TBD 6:00pm

March 10th: Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Wendi's house

March 18th: Tentative Social Dinner-Location TBD 6:00pm

Thoughtful Quote of the Month:

We Don't Have To Agree On Anything To Be Kind To One Another Author Unknown

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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.

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: jamielynnskinner@gmail.com

Kris Ferguson-Secretary, Membership Database: 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

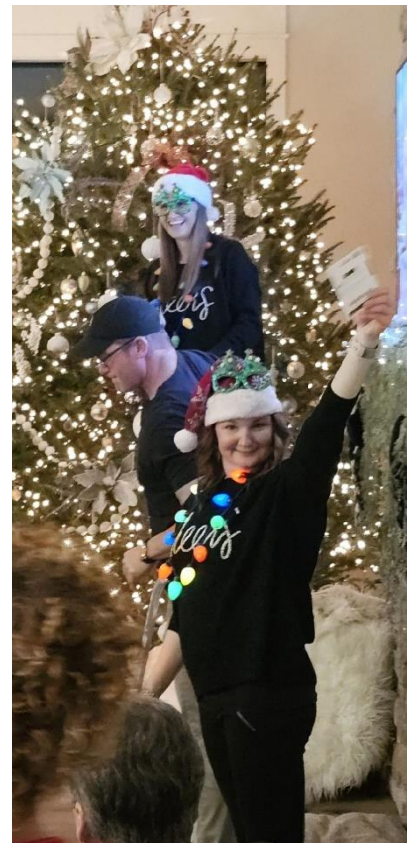
Mara Iteen-Meal Train Coordinator: lteenmm@yahoo.com or 616 255-6081

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

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

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

Fun pictures to make you smile!!



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