

## WCLA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

March 15, 2025

We are halfway through the month of March! Unbelievable! I used to think of March as the Ugly Duckling Month. It used to be my least favorite month. I didn't find it very pretty most days. I found very little reason to engage in much outside because what I was really waiting for was sunshine and warm weather. I travelled to warmer locations to get away from the Michigan Ugly Duckling month of March! I had no appreciation or respect for this useless month. I just wanted it to go away so we could get to April, which I believed was much more beautiful and exciting. Not so unsimilar to the story of the Ugly Duckling...nobody liked him, nobody wanted to be with him because they only saw something ugly and worthless. They were wrong...and so was I. Mother Nature gave us a gift by giving us March! Like the Ugly Duckling, like the seven-year-old with no front teeth, like the teenager with acne...they are all beautiful!!! Sometimes we are just too shallow and superficial to see the beauty that lies just below the surface. March is the month of growing pains, but she is a necessary step to prepare for what is next. March prepares the earth for spring. This is her amazing transformation. The Ugly Duckling turned into a beautiful swan, the seven-year-old soon turned eight and proudly showed off a beautiful set of teeth, and the teenager with acne grew into a wonderful young adult. Don't discount those things you think are worthless, you think have no purpose and seem to not fit your ideals. I learned to respect and appreciate March. I no longer view her as the Ugly Duckling Month. I embrace her energy, her tenacity, and her willingness to suffer the image of the ugly stepsister to all the other months. Look beyond what you see. The beauty is there in everything and everyone. Mother Nature doesn't create ugly and neither should we. Close your eyes and open them again with a new lens on the world. I promise when you do, you will never see Ugly again. Thank you, Mother Nature.



That's all for now!

Kindly,  
Wendi Davidson  
WCLA President

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

#### **Past Events:**

**February WCLA Social Dinner** was enjoyed at Winter Inn. It was a fun filled night with around 20 of our lake friends! Bingo winners and crazy dancers...you had to be there to understand!

**WCLA Board Meeting** was held Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. You can find minutes from all Board meetings at the website: WCLA Website: <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com>

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## Upcoming Events and Future Events!

**March WCLA Social Dinner:** Tuesday, **March 18<sup>th</sup>** at 6pm at Flo's in Greenville. Mamma mia it's going to be fun! Lasagna and limoncello anyone?? RSVP Candie Ritsema at 616.835.2488 or [candieritsema@yahoo.com](mailto:candieritsema@yahoo.com). CIAO!!

**The WCLA BIG "A" Garage Sale!** We are planning a "garage" sale on June 21<sup>st</sup> at Camp Greenwood from 9-4pm. **You can "buy" a table/space to sell your things on for only \$10!!** You must man your own table. You keep the proceeds from your table. Also, we will have a WCLA table that you can donate items to. The proceeds from the WCLA table will support our wonderful WCLA social events. **BUT...**we must have at least 15 tables to make it worth our volunteer's time. **Please RSVP Kim Covell at [covellscove5@gmail.com](mailto:covellscove5@gmail.com) if you would like to have a table or plan to donate items to the WCLA table. The deadline to reserve a table is May 21<sup>st</sup>.** Note: acceptance of items for the WCLA table is at the discretion of the volunteers. All items left over will be donated or disposed of as we see fit. **It's a BIG "A" One Day Only Sale so let's make it great!**

**Ladies...do you want to host a Ladies Wine and Charcuterie Night at your house? It's time ladies...**Contact Candie at 616.835.2488 or [candieritsema@yahoo.com](mailto:candieritsema@yahoo.com). Cheers!

## **Tentative Schedule of Events Coming This Summer:**

**Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>:** Music on the Beach by the amazing Michael Hulett at Mike and Katherine Wolthuis's. Come by boat and enjoy the music. Details to follow.

**Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>:** Keep watch for something special on the south shore of Woodbeck!!

**Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>:** WCLA Progressive Kayaking Event is BACK. Watch for details.

**Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>:** A Woodstock kind of music day at Bev Jone's beachfront (where Elvis used to be). Come by boat and float while listening to great oldies from a great performer: Noah Back

**Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>:** WCLA Annual Dinner. Details to follow.

**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](mailto:davidsonwendi@gmail.com) or 616.799.0412 or Candie Ritsema at [candieritsema@yahoo.com](mailto:candieritsema@yahoo.com) or text her at 616.835.2488.

## Updates and Other Stuff:

### **2025 WCLA DUES: Only \$40.00**

You may pay online at <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com/pay-dues> or pay by mail. **Make checks payable to WCLA. PO Box 482 Greenville, MI 48838.**

**\*\*\* The 2025 Paid membership and unpaid lists are attached to every President's Corner and the Waterline editions as a helpful reminder. 😊**

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Dues are necessary to keep our lakes clean and safe, our fish plentiful and support the fun events we want everyone to enjoy! 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.

**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](mailto:c_dec@hotmail.com) **AFTER** you pay your dues.

**Camp Concordia Boat Launch:** Pastor B.J. is planning to add the April boat launch schedule for paid members only to the website soon. Please check their website for dates and the process to follow if you want to use their boat launch. You must be a paid member to use the launch and dock. Please do not share the code if you are a paid member. This is a privilege for paid members only.

**Fish Plant Committee Progress Toward \$6,000 Donation Goal:** This year the Fish Plant Committee has set a donation goal of \$6000.00. We believe this amount, in addition to the amount from the general fund, will keep our fish plant numbers consistent with previous years. 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. Donations for the 2025 fiscal year must be received by July 30<sup>th</sup>. You may donate as often as you would like. We are tracking our progress monthly. Here is the current run down:

February total: \$1995.00

March total: \$2610.00

Only \$3390 to go!

Great Job!! More donations=More fish!

**The Waterline:** Our WCLA newsletter is put out 3x a year and filled with valuable information. **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! If you have ideas for articles you would like to see in the Waterline, please let Jamie Skinner know at [jamielynnskinner@gmail.com](mailto:jamielynnskinner@gmail.com). Even better . . . if you would like to write an article for the Waterline, that would be greatly appreciated!!! **Next Waterline will come out May 2025. Advertisements and articles need to be sent to Jamie Skinner at [jamielynnskinner@gmail.com](mailto:jamielynnskinner@gmail.com) by April 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 [iteenmm@yahoo.com](mailto:iteenmm@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](mailto: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!

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**DID YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE????** If it did, please let Jamie Skinner know at: [woodbeckcla@gmail.com](mailto:woodbeckcla@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/wcla-directory> 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](mailto: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](mailto:philsliva@chartermi.net) or 616.970.2273.

**Boater's Safety 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](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/>. **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 with us!! New ideas are always welcome.

### **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.

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### **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/>

### **Useful Resources:**

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

WCLA email: [woodbeckcla@gmail.com](mailto:woodbeckcla@gmail.com)

Aarron Antcliff-Social Media: [Facebook: Woodbeck Chain of Lakes](#)

Jamie Skinner-Treasurer, Membership Dues, Membership Database, Waterline Publisher, Advertisements:  
[woodbeckcla@gmail.com](mailto:woodbeckcla@gmail.com)

Kris Ferguson-Secretary: [scrambledeggs85@gmail.com](mailto:scrambledeggs85@gmail.com)

Faith Peterson-Communications Administrator: [wclacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:wclacommunications@gmail.com)

Candie Ritsema-Social Director: [candieritsema@yahoo.com](mailto:candieritsema@yahoo.com) or 616.835.2488

Chris Decker-VP, Water Sustainability: [c\\_dec@hotmail.com](mailto:c_dec@hotmail.com)

Mara Iteen-Meal Train Coordinator: [lteenmm@yahoo.com](mailto:lteenmm@yahoo.com) or 616.255.6081

Phil and Denise Sliva-Welcome Team, Photo Directory: [philsliva@chartermi.net](mailto:philsliva@chartermi.net)

Wendi Davidson-President: [davidsonwendi@gmail.com](mailto:davidsonwendi@gmail.com) or 616.799.0412

**Officers, Lake Reps and Administrators are available on the WCLA Website:**

<https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com>

### ***Quote of the Month:***

I will love the light for it shows me the way,  
yet I will endure the darkness because it shows me the stars.

Og Mandino