

WCLA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

November 11, 2025

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Orange is the new **Green**!! Soon, very soon, White will be the new Green as Mother Nature spins around with paint brush in hand and takes us from vivid reds, oranges and yellows to crisp shiny whites adorned with glistening ice diamonds dangling from the trees. But not yet!! Think again. Think monochromatic. Think **Brown** days. It's as if she is fingerpainting in the mud. The landscape is quietly turned to various shades of brown, her tears of rain often adding to the gloomy moodiness of November. Who doesn't love muddy shoes all over your clean floors!!! It's all about perspective. But we need the mundaneness of Brown days to build our strength for next summer! We need the gloomy Brown days so we can catch up on binge watching our favorite Netflix series! There is no boating on Brown days, and we need to let our boats rest for a bit (don't we??). We need Brown day pot roast and hot cider instead of steaks and margaritas! Brown days give us cozy oversized blankets instead of bathing suits and beach towels! Brown days give us a chance to see into our neighbors' windows that are usually covered by the trees (yikes!). Brown days have a purpose! WAIT... who am I kidding!!?!? I am **anything** but a Brown day Girl!! I cannot wait for the Green days of summer to come back! I love summer!!!!!!!!!!!!!! But Mother Nature knows best so in the meantime . . . embrace the Brown days and remember, even on a Brown day, the sun is still shining behind the clouds! So be thankful for all the **colors** in your world!



That's all for now! **Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy your Brown days!**

Kindly,
Wendi Davidson
WCLA President

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

Past Events:

October happened!!! I took the month off to climb **Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa**! It was amazing, beautiful, emotional, difficult, spiritual, COLD as hell yet so close to Heaven, and . . . one of the most exciting things I have ever done! Best of all, I got to share the experience with my husband Norm and our wonderful friends Ed and Bobby Armbruster! If you are looking for some deep soul searching, I suggest you head to the top of the world (almost 20,000 feet) and climb a mountain! You will definitely discover who you really are! I cannot wait for our next adventure!

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Chili Cookoff/Olympics!!! (Formerly Cornhole/Chili Cookoff): What a successful Chili Cookoff/Olympics Day! We had about 60 lake friends enjoying 25 pots of chili and some interesting and fun Olympic games on a beautiful November day! **Everyone came with love in their hearts, empty stomachs begging for a chili fix, Olympic level dexterity for the African Bucket walk, Shuffleboard Shenanigans and Pool Shark Sharp Shooters competition! Not to be outdone by the Sports and Bling Attire Competition where team support and inner divas were proudly displayed! The 50/50 Raffle brought in \$395.00!! Winner Kate Houseman donated her half back to the social fund! Thank you, Kate!**

WHO HAS MORE FUN THAN WE DO???? NOBODY!!!! AND . . . BOY THAT CHILI WAS GOOOOD!!!!
WHO TOOK HOME THE PRIZES AND MEDALS???...

The **Chili Cookoff winners** were: First Place: Mike and Debbie Wolford (Horseshoe Lake). Runners Up: Noralie and Pat Jachim (Thomas Lake) and Jeff and Kris Ferguson (Woodbeck Lake).

Olympics Winners: First Place: Steve and Joyce Spaulding (Banks Lake). Second Place: Kim and Jim Covell (Thomas Lake)

Best Sports Attire: Mike O'Herron (Thomas Lake)

Best Bling: Jennifer Bruinsma (Half Mile Lake)

My biggest thanks to all the friends that volunteered to help us! You are all the BEST!!

Board Meeting: November Board Meeting canceled due to illness. The next meeting will be Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm, Wendi's house.

WCLA Ladies of The Lakes Wine and Charcuterie Night: You can never go wrong with Wine Nite (hmmm)!! Thank you, **Deb Eaton**, for being a fabulous host! The Halloween theme was perfect for a pre-holiday party! The wine and charcuterie were absolutely delicious! The 16+ ladies shared lots of laughter, love, and Cheers!! Our designated drivers (the men!) had a wonderful time too! **Thank you, DEB! CHEERS LADIES!**
If you would like to host a Wine Nite, please let Candie or Wendi know!

Upcoming Events:

WCLA CHRISTMAS PARTY: HO, HO, HO!! LET THE HOLIDAY FUN BEGIN! It's time to MINGLE AND JINGLE at Mike and Katherine Wolthuis's beautiful house on Woodbeck Lake. They are graciously opening their doors again to host this enjoyable Holiday Party! **Don't be a Grinch, join the festivities! Impressive raffle prizes and . . . 50/50 Raffle!!! Tickets are only \$5.00! \$\$\$LOT'S OF CASH TO WIN\$\$\$**

Friday, December 5th at 6:30pm

13425 Lynn Drive NE, Greenville

Parking will be in the King's field off Stacy Rd. Signs will guide you!

Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage.

RSVP to Candie at candieritsema@yahoo.com or text her at 616.835.2488

*****YOU MUST RSVP BY November 21ST*** ***YOU MUST RSVP BY November 21ST*****

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Updates and Other Stuff:

DUES ARE DUE: Don't forget to pay your 2026 dues! Dues are necessary to keep our WCLA community events, insurance, fish plant etc. operating smoothly. \$50.00 is small price to pay 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. PO Box 482 Greenville, MI 48838**

*** The **2026** Paid membership list is attached to every President's Corner and the Waterline editions as a helpful reminder. 😊

YOU MAY ALSO PAY AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY! HO, HO, HO! LET'S GET 'ER DONE!!

Lake Mapping: When you pay your 2026 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.

WCLA Photo Directory: How fun it is to know who lives 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 has developed 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

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.

Boater's Safety Class: Winter 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 davidsonwend@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!**

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 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!

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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 January 2026. Articles need to be sent to Jamie Skinner by January 1st at woodbeckcla@gmail.com**

What is that WEED??? See something unusual or new in the water? Take a picture and send it to Chris Decker at 616 302-0819. **It could be a weed that we don't need!!!**

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 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 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/>

HMMMM . . . what is 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!

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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, Membership Database, 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: 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>

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 of the Month:

"Climb the mountain so you can see the world,
Not so the world can see you."

-David McCullough Jr.