

WCLA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

July 13, 2024

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Last Saturday, I hung out with some great people. Monday, I spend an amazing evening with some great people. Thursday, I had an exciting phone conversation with some great people. Friday, I drank wine and laughed... with some great people. And today, I sat and listened to the opinions of, yes, some great people. What, you should ask, do all these great people have in common??? **They all live on our beautiful chain of lakes.** From the Elvis party, to the Board meeting, to Ladies of The Lakes Wine Night, to phone calls with the wonderful new people at Camp Concordia and with some of our newest awesome homeowners, to the incredibly informative Bridge Raising Townhall meeting, I have found myself surrounded by some of the greatest people I know. They are kindhearted, soulful, funny, talented and intelligent human beings. How lucky am I to get to indulge in their company in so many different ways. Do we all share the same views on everything? Of course not! How stifled and boring would that be if we couldn't listen to them and also share our thoughts and feelings without fear of oppression, anger or humiliation. That might be how our government works; or doesn't work, but it's not how we roll. Relationships and friendships are built on trust, humor (lots of humor) and understanding. I choose to hang with you, all of you, even if you don't know it. The common ground we all share are these lakes. Our reasons for being here and the way we get enjoyment on the lakes may differ somewhat, but at the end of the day, we are still One Community. So, as the saying goes: You are what you hang around with. I want to be great, so I'm going to continue to hang around all of you, hopefully as your President for another year...! Now let's move on to all the great stuff happening on the lakes! READ ON FRIENDS, THE GREATNESS AWAITS YOU!!! 😊



That's all for now!

Kindly,
Wendi Davidson
WCLA President

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

Past Events:

WCLA GOLF OUTING: They came out swingin' and singin' and drinkin' and sinkin' (putts)!! What a great event this was! Thank you, Kevin Bird and the Golf Committee members, for organizing this event! Candlestone was beautiful and the food was fantastic! Congratulations to the 1st place winning teams: Ron and Deb Eaton and Ken and Carrie Newell and Ryan Bird, Andy Greenberg, Jake Bird and KJ Scheppman.

Also, congratulations to my team: Wendi Davidson, Darrin Brown, Dave Reames and Steve Grupa. We won the team name poem contest with our Dirty Flirty Birdie poem (never to be repeated again)!!!

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Ladies of The Lakes Wine and Charcuterie Night. Two more in the books ladies!! Laurie Acker graciously hosted in June on Horseshoe Lake and Kate Houseman hosted at her beautiful home on Woodbeck Lake in July. We had fabulous turnouts, sampled many great wines and ate like we were royalty! Best of all, we met many new Ladies of The Lakes!! **CHEERS LADIES and Thank You!**

June Social Dinner at the beautiful Links of Bowen. We had about 30 people attend this wonderful social dinner. Big thank you to Candie Ritsema (our new Social Director) for schmoozing the Links into giving us two \$25 gift cards! The lucky winners were: Robin and Marty Scheel and Ken and Mary Rydzeski.

Elvis was rocking the house on Woodbeck Lake! Mother Nature cooperated and we all floated and enjoyed the show. This is not a WCLA sponsored event, but we sure appreciate being able to partake in the action!!

Boat Parade: It was a beautiful site on Saturday morning to see all the decorated boats and kids from all the lakes in the parade! We had a total of 12 boats enter the competition. Two \$50 Amazon gift cards were given out to the lucky winners; one for each side of the bridge. Scott and Kim Dickinson and Family were the winners from Horseshoe Lake with boat 2H. Lisa Mills and her team were the winners from Banks Lake with boat 4T. Every boat was a winner in my opinion! Thank you to everyone who cheered them on and took pictures.

Amazing firework displays on the Lakes! Thank you to the generous individuals who lit them off and to all who donated.

July Board Meeting: As always, minutes will be posted on the WCLA website after approval at <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com>

Upcoming Events:

HOW MUCH FUN CAN ONE LAKE ASSOCIATION HAVE??? A LOT!!! 😊

WCLA Ladies of The Lakes Wine and Charcuterie Night: Thursday, August 15th at 6pm it's happening **AGAIN!!** This time, the beautiful Ann Decker will host at her house: 13351 Oakcrest Ave, Gowen 49326. She will supply the wine and charcuterie boards full of fabulous food. Your cost is only \$20.00. . **Please RSVP Ann** at anndecker@hotmail.com or text her at (616) 302-0824. **CHEERS LADIES!**

Gentlemen.... while the women are tasting wine, you are welcome to hang out in Chris Decker's mancave on the lake! Let's just call it a "twofer"!!!

BEST OF ALL!! We will also have a sample of the personalized wine glass you can pre-order!! Cost for the wine glass will be \$15.00 which must be paid prior to ordering. **Please RSVP Ann** at anndecker@hotmail.com or text her at (616) 302-0824.

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WCLA Kayak Poker Paddle Event. Saturday, August 3rd from 1-3 pm. This is not your average kayaking day! Can you say: **SHOW ME THE MONEY!!!** This is your chance to have fun and play poker!! **I smell \$\$\$\$\$** Following the Poker Paddle event, the band **Flashback** will be playing on the Armbruster's party deck on Banks Lake from 3-6pm. Bring your boats, kayaks, floaties, etc. and enjoy the music. Cost for the Poker Paddle event is \$10.00 and must be paid by July 20th. Tips and requests for the band are always welcomed. Don't miss out!!! Full details were sent in a previous email. You can contact Kevin Bird at 616 218-5323 (12930 Sandyside) Dr or Ed Armbruster at 616 947-4487 (12954 Sandyside Dr) for more information or to pay.

WCLA Annual Dinner Meeting will be held Thursday, August 29th at Camp Concordia. Socializing will be from 5:30 to 6pm followed by committee reports and a review of events and over the last year. This will be followed by dinner and voting in new Lake Representatives. **If you would like to be a lake representative or you just want to eat great food, mingle and hear about your lakes, you need to come!! Officers will be elected at the September Board meeting.** If you would like to volunteer to help set up or clean up after the meeting, please contact Candie at candieritsema@yahoo.com or text her at 616 835-2488.

Board Meeting September 9th at 6:30 pm. At the Davidson's house 13337 Oakcrest. We will be voting in Officers at this meeting.

Share Your Plants Plant Sale: All plants will be ONLY \$2.00!!! Drop off plants and/or cool pots (not the store pots they come in) on Friday, September 20st at Wendi Davidson's house: 13337 Oakcrest Ave, Gowen. Sale starts at 0800 on Saturday, 21nd and runs until 5pm or when the plants and pots are gone!! More details to follow.

See the Calendar of Events below for events through September.

Updates and Other Stuff:

DUES ARE DUE!!! It's only \$40.00!!! A 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. If your name is not on the paid list, we did not receive your payment.**

*****ATTACHED is the PAID MEMBERSHIP LIST*** 😊**

REMEMBER TO VOTE: August 6th in the Oakfield Primary Election for the **Oakfield Township Supervisor. Two candidates will be running this year; Greg Dean and Dar Kelly. Even though it's a primary election, whoever wins this election will be the new Township Supervisor. They are both republicans and no democrats are running against them.** Our Lake Association and Board work closely with both Oakfield and Spencer Township. Your vote is very important so get out there and vote, vote, vote! I'm told you need to vote straight

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ticket if you're voting absentee or it will be thrown out. Please check out the voting rules so your vote is counted.

Bridge Townhall Meeting: A Woodbeck Chain of Lakes Community-wide informational meeting was held at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 13 in the Oakfield Township Hall. The meeting included a brief presentation by an informal group of community members regarding the MacClain Street Bridge and how we can improve passage under the Bridge to better connect our community. The goal was to have a completely transparent process and gather input from the Community. Thank you to the committee and to those who attended. There were many excellent questions asked and all views were respected. **You should see a survey questionnaire within the next two weeks either via email or mailed to your house. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY AND RETURN IT. An email blast will be sent out when the survey goes out as a reminder to watch for it and who to contact if you didn't receive one.**

IF IT's A CHANNEL, GO SLOW, NO WAKE ZONE!!! Please remember to go slowly as you approach, as you go through and as you are leaving a channel. Think of it as nap time, no need to "wake up" when you're in the channel. 😊

Water Sustainability Committee: The committee is working closely with PLM and the township to be sure our lakes are getting all needs addressed properly including treatments for weed and algae management. The lakes are in good condition but we do have some invasive weeds which are being treated appropriately by PLM to prevent them from becoming a problem. The native plants are only "knocked down" not treated systemically so their root systems remain intact. Surface weeds cannot be treated until after the 1st of July. We believe PLM is on top of the treatment our lakes need at this time.

Email platform with text messaging: This new platform is working well and allows us to include text messages to those who also prefer that mode of communication for reminders. Please text Angie Peterman at 616-213-9252 if you have concerns about email communication and she will make sure to 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.

Boater's Safety Class: **NOW, NOW, NOW** 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!**

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CONGRATULATION to Brody Jousma for completing the Boater's Safety Course! One more awesome, responsible young boater on our lakes! **Way to go Brody!!**

WCLA Photo Directory: WHO IS THAT PERSON?? WHICH HOUSE IS THEIRS??? 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.

A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors who paid to advertise in the Waterline. Please check them out!! They can help you with many of your needs!

The Waterline: Our WCLA newsletter is put out 3x 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 write an article for the Waterline, that would be greatly appreciated!!! **Next Waterline will be in September. Articles need to be to Jake Dayringer by September 1st. Send to jake@campgreenwood.com**

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 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!

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.

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!

What's that WEED??? See something unusual or new in the water? Take a picture and send it to Bob Darvill at 269 267-7692 or Chris Decker at 616 302-0819. **It could be a weed that we don't need!!!**

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

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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/>

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.

Calendar of Events for 2024: Remember, some of these events are tentative and we need volunteers to make them happen. With your help, we can offer fun events that will run smoothly and successfully. Without volunteers these events are not possible. 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 September:

July 15th: Social Dinner at Kicks

August 3rd: Poker Kayak Run and Band to follow

August 15th: Ladies Wine and Charcuterie Nite

August 29th: Annual Meeting

September 9th: Board Meeting

September 20-21st: Share Your Plants Plant Sale

Are there other things you would like to see me include, or not include in the monthly President's Corner. I am always up for ways to improve this monthly mode of communication. Your feedback is welcomed! Text or email: 616 799-0412 or davidsonwendi@gmail.com.

In place of the healthy recipe, it's the healthy quote of the month:

Never waste your energy to fear. Use your energy to believe, learn, create and grow.

Author Unknown

See attached Nature Pictures for the month!

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