

WCLA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

November 9th, 2024

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

I'M BACK!!! DID YOU MISS ME??? It feels like I was gone for four years!!! Oh...That was someone else, not me. 😊 I think we're all glad the election is over! Happy November friends!!

I was re-energizing for much of October hiking in Zion and Bryce National Parks which is why there was no October President's Corner. What a great feeling to just get away, enjoy some introspection and connect with nature. I did just that and now I'm re-centered and re-energized. I'm like a Detroit Lion! I'm embracing November and what it brings. The bare trees, leaf covered yard, cold lake water, windy knock out the power days and patio furniture that has to be put away before the snow falls. But...I am grateful for all of it. Grateful because I live where I have trees, fresh water, clean air and a patio with furniture (that Norm will put away so I don't have to)!

This is the month we give thanks for what we have. Look out your window. Are you grateful? Now pinch yourself! Look around, take it in...really take it in... and pinch yourself again! There is nothing more to say, it's all there just for you. Thank you, Mother Nature.

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!!

That's all for now!

Kindly,
Wendi Davidson
WCLA President

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

Going to play some catch up for playing hooky in October so here you GO!!

Past Events:

WCLA Share Your Plants Plant Sale: Sales and donations from the sale brought in \$142!! Thank you to all who donated plants, and all who purchased them. A huge thank you to the volunteers who took time out of their busy weekend to support the plant sale: **Pam Swigart, Bonnie Liden, Kim Covell and Cathy Dean. You ladies are the BEST!!** We will be taking a year off from this event, but we hope to put it out there again spring of 2026.



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WCLA Ladies of The Lakes Wine and Charcuterie Night: Hosted by yours truly...ME! A great turnout and a fun evening ending around the firepit. Thank you to all the ladies who attended, and the men who joined them later in the evening. **Cheers to all of YOU!!** (Read on for details on the next one)!

Social Dinners: Clifford Lake and Hop Hog: The sun was shining for a fabulous dinner at Clifford Lake in September. Then we all "pigged out" at the Hop Hog in October with friends and neighbors!! Social dinners are a great way to meet new friends, catch up with ones you haven't seen in a while and enjoy an evening of fun, food, laughter and a drink or two!! **Don't be shy, give it a try!** Join us for the next one!

Board Meeting: We have officially started our 2025 Board meetings with some new Officers and Representatives. We are off to an exciting new start! You can find minutes from all Board meetings at the website: WCLA Website: <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com>

Cornhole Chili Cookoff: What a DAY!!! The sun was shining, the weather was warm and it was full of crazy fun, spicy chili, hot cider (with optional happiness added 😊), cornhole competition, razzle dazzle raffle \$\$\$, firepit relaxation, pool table sharks (NOT!) and shuffleboard showoffs (Art and John)!! **SOooo MUCH FUN!!!** Definitely one for the books! Almost 50 people attended, 20 pots of chili were enjoyed and trophies and medals were won by the best! **Winners of the Cornhole competition were: Kris and Jeff Ferguson** (Woodbeck Lake) in Flight One and **Jim Swigart** (Banks Lake) partnered with **Jim Jessup** (Woodbeck Lake) for Flight Two. They kicked some cornhole ass!!! **The Chili Cookoff 1st Place Champions were Noralie and Pat Jachim** (Thomas Lake). Runners up were **Amber Covell and Tom U** (Thomas Lake) and **Steve and Lynn Monroe** (Banks Lake). All the chilies were delicious and hard to pick a winner but we did!! **Congratulations to all of you!!! The 50/50 Raffle was finally won by Bruce Veldman!!!** We collected a WHOPPING \$456 from this incredibly generous crowd!! Bruce kindly gave his share back to the WCLA (even though we told him to keep it)! Big thanks to everyone for making this a very successful event. **Hats off to the volunteers: Pam and Jim Swigart, Gerri and Jim Jessup, Bruce Veldman, Chris Decker, and Ed and Bobby Armbruster!**

Upcoming Events:

HO, HO, HO!!! It's time to Mingle and Jingle at the WCLA Christmas Party on Friday, December 6th at 6:30pm, supported by the dues from WCLA memberships. Hosted this year by the awesome Mike and Katherine Wolthuis at their beautiful home on Woodbeck Lake: 13425 Lynn Dr, Greenville, 48838. Don't be a grinch! Come with the spirit of Christmas in your heart and a smile on your face and I guarantee Santa will be good to you this year!!! Awesome raffle prizes will be given out, and as always... **\$5 will get you in the 50/50 raffle to win BIG \$\$\$! OR...five for \$20...OR 12 for \$40!!! The more you put in, the more you win!!** If you plan to attend or would like to donate raffle prizes, please RSVP Candie at candieritsema@yahoo.com or text her at 616 835-2488. Please bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage and let the holiday fun begin!!

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WCLA Ladies of The Lakes Wine and Charcuterie Night: A special Holiday Wine Nite ladies on Sunday, December 15th at 2pm!! Hosted by Deb Eaton in her festive Christmas home on Thomas Lake: 13192 Marsh Rd, Gowen 49326. You have to see it to believe it!! Your cost is only \$20.00. **HERE'S THE BEST PART: A special twist just for the holidays!! Even if you don't drink wine ladies, you are welcome to come and enjoy great company in the spirit of Christmas. We ask that you bring cookies to share in lieu of paying IF you are NOT drinking wine.** Please RSVP Deb at Reaton9@comcast.net or text her at 616 295-4792. **CHEERS LADIES!** You will also have an opportunity to purchase your personalized Ladies of The Lakes wine glass!! Cost for the wine glass will be \$15.00 which must be paid prior to ordering. Those who already ordered one can pick it up that night.

Updates and Other Stuff:

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. **You may also pay at the Christmas Party this year!! 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 December. 😊**

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.

Update from the Independent Bridge Committee: Although the survey indicated a strong interest in raising the bridge, the committee has halted plans to move forward. Kent County Road Commission officials have indicated they don't want to deal with the backlash of calls from those who were not in favor of raising it. There are no plans to pursue this at this 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 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!

What's 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!!!**

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Email platform with text messaging: Please text Angie Peterman at 616-213-9252 if you have concerns about email communication or you are not receiving them 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.

WCLA Photo Directory: How fun 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

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!**

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 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 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 January 2025. Advertisements and articles need to be sent to Jamie Skinner at jamielynnskinner@gmail.com.**

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!

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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/>

Officers, Lake Reps and Administrators will be 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.

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:

December 6th: Mingle and Jingle Christmas Party 6:30pm

December 15th: Ladies Wine and Charcuterie Nite with cookie exchange 2pm

January 13th: Board Meeting 6:30pm Location TBD

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:

"It doesn't have to be perfect for it to be wonderful"

Author Unknown