

WCLA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

July 15, 2025

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

It's JULY! It's BEAUTIFUL! It's SUMMER in MICHIGAN!

I'm sitting outside as I write this and I keep looking at my patio umbrellas. I'm so happy I have them! One thought keeps going through my head...we are a lot like patio umbrellas. Strange? Maybe. But think about it for a moment. Just like us, they come in all sizes and colors. Sometimes the umbrella is open. When it's open we are so appreciative! An open umbrella can be the best thing ever! People sit under it, they look at it, they watch it as it blows and are awed at how strong it is, even when the weather is nasty. They often feel protected by it, like when it rains or the sun is just too bright and too hot. That umbrella feels like a live saver at times!! Sometimes they think, hmmm...maybe I should help that umbrella, it looks a little wobbly. If they really like that umbrella they do help it. They find a way to stabilize it, maybe put it somewhere safe for a bit. Or even just grab it as it's about to fall over. But sometimes they just watch as it struggles. They quietly think, I don't really want that old umbrella anymore, it just doesn't work like it used to. It serves no purpose, has no value... anymore. It's more trouble than it's worth. So they just watch as it begins to fall apart not understanding that if they supported it, it would last much longer. Sometimes that umbrella is closed up, you hardly notice it's there. In fact, it really offers nothing, or so it would seem. But actually, it's just waiting for you to decide you want or need it. It's always there, but demands nothing of you. Aren't you grateful you have that umbrella? Sounds remarkably similar to a friendship in my eyes. If your friends have been good umbrellas, keep them because, a good umbrella is hard to find! A great umbrella will last a lifetime.

If you're sitting under (or with) your favorite umbrella right now, you know we have had a packed summer so far with events sponsored by the WCLA and some not sponsored but graciously offered by our lake friends. BUT WAIT... IT'S NOT OVER YET!! THERE'S MORE!!! Keep reading so you don't miss out on the fun! And bring your umbrellas!!

That's all for now!

Kindly,
Wendi Davidson
WCLA President



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

Past Events:

June WCLA Social Breakfast at Turk Lake restaurant was a wonderful morning get together! This event is a great way to welcome in summer with friends and neighbors and 35 of you did just that! We will also be looking at options for bringing back the Pancake Breakfast somehow, somewhere on the lakes for next year!!

Ladies Wine and Charcuterie Night: A big thank you to **Carol Guffin** for hosting this very popular event! Twenty beautiful ladies enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship. Great wine, great weather, great ladies and mostly, great host! Cheers to the next one (see below)!

Music on the Beach by the amazing Michael Hulett: Another big thanks to **Mike and Katherine Wolthuis** for personally hosting this fabulous event on their beachfront. Great relaxing day on the water which is what summer is all about. He was AMAZING!

Copper Moon: WoW, WoW and more **WoW!** If you were there (which I think everyone was there!) then you know that there was no better way to get mooned!! This band ROCKED IT! Thank you, **Jeff and Kris Ferguson**, for allowing us to use your beachfront for this incredible event on the holiday weekend. I hope we get mooned again next year!

Fireworks: Thank you to everyone who provided fireworks over the holiday weekend! They were SPECTACTULAR!

Boat Parade: We had 11 boats participating in this year's boat parade. Great job to all the individuals who took the time to decorate, sing and dance on their boats for this fun event. The winners were: **3H-Doug and Ellen Herring from Woodbeck Lake and T1-Lisa Mills and her gang from Banks**. Great job!!! Enjoy your \$50 Amazon Gift cards! Also, thank you to everyone who cheered them on from shore and cast a vote for your favorite boat!

Upcoming Events:

WCLA Progressive Kayaking Event: Saturday, July 19th the fun starts at noon as we make our way from Horseshoe to Thomas Lake with four stops, beverages, appetizers and ending with dinner and a pool party. The fun isn't over until it's over!! If you purchased your tickets and received a wrist band...**CONGRATULATIONS! You will be one of the 120 people attending the event this year!! This event is now CLOSED.**

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******IMPORTANT: Please be vigilant of the kayakers if you are out on your boat during this timeframe. Refrain from pulling tubers, driving fast or jet skiing while you are near the kayaks. We want this to remain a safe and fun event for everyone! *****

A Woodstock kind of music day with singer Noah Back: Saturday, July 26th starting at 2pm. Enjoy the music at Bev Jones's beachfront (where Elvis used to be on the south side of Woodbeck lake). Come by boat and float while listening to great oldies from a great performer! This is not a WCLA-sponsored event but graciously offered by Bev Jones.

Ladies Wine and Charcuterie Night: Fantastic the first time she hosted, even better the second time! **Katherine Wolthuis** is graciously hosting this event again! Join us on **Monday, August 4th** starting at 6pm. Location: 13425 Lynn Dr, Greenville. The cost is \$20, which includes LOTS of wine and delicious charcuterie eats! You can also order your Ladies of The Lakes personalized wine glass for \$15. Such a wonderful way to get to know the Ladies of Lakes. **Please RSVP Katherine** by July 30th at Katherine.wolthuis@gmail.com or text her at 616 706-6153 if you would like to attend. **CHEERS Ladies!!**

WCLA Annual Dinner: Thursday, August 21st at Camp Concordia. Join us as we celebrate our paid members, recap the past years events and committee reports, and choose Representatives for the 2026 fiscal year. A delicious meal of pulled pork, mac/cheese and coleslaw will be provided along with desserts provided by Board members. **RSVP to Candie** at candieritsema@yahoo.com or 616 835-2488 **PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS VERY IMPORTANT EVENT!!!**

Updates and Other Stuff:

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 30th. You may donate as often as you would like. Here is the current donation total: **JULY total: \$2980.**

More donations=More fish!

Boater's Safety Class: Summer 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 takes 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!

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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!

REMEMBER: Please be sure to go counterclockwise on the water while on boats and jet skis. This is a law that needs to be followed!

Congratulations to Presley, Brock and Jaeger Tidey and Max Shaw on completing the Boater's Safety course! These four kids now join the elite group of smart, responsible young people willing to understand what it means to be safe and keep others safe on our lakes. **GREAT JOB to all of you!!**

Camp Concordia Boat Launch Schedule and Forms: Available at campconcordia.org/wcla. If you would like to use this boat launch and dock, you must be a paid WCLA member. **Please do not share the code. This is a privilege for paid members only.** Be sure you have paid your dues several days before you complete the paperwork. DO NOT do it on the day you want to launch your boat!

HMMMM...what is going on? We are aware of your concerns regarding the invasive weeds and algae, especially on Thomas Lake. PLM continues to treat according to the schedule. We are also aware of the lower water levels and continue to investigate if there is anything we need to be aware of that might be happening to cause this. We will also be looking at what we may need to do as a community to address these concerns for the future. We will keep you informed as we have more information.

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

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. ****The 2026 dues will increase to \$50.00 to help offset the increasing costs of expenses we incur throughout the year.**

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.

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 her at 616 255-6081.** Even if you only need a few days of meals, the Meal Train is here for you!

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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: 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 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

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.

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 woodbeckcla@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 September 2025.** Advertisements and articles need to be sent to Jamie Skinner at woodbeckcla@gmail.com by August 29th.

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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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>

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/>

Quote of the Month:

Friendship isn't one big thing,

It's a million little things.

Author Unknown