



Morse Waterways Association Newsletter 5/1/2020

Welcome to Another Boating Season

It is hard to believe that this is our organization's 15th year. We have a dedicated board, some who have been on the board since year one.

This has certainly been an unusual start to 2020 boating season. It looks like many of you have launched boats early, trying to find ways to entertain family while maintaining social distancing. Remember to have your 2020 registration and make sure you have enough life jackets (properly sized) for each person on the boat.

This year marks the 15th year that the MWA has been in operation. Our mission is to protect the reservoir, promote safety and provide support and information to all who live on and enjoy the benefits that it offers.

After the January meeting, it became necessary for the board to cancel the March meeting, due to the COVID-19 virus, but we are hopeful that we will be able to resume activity in the Month of May. We have, also, decided to cancel our annual spring general meeting which was scheduled for May 21 and our Safety Awareness Days weekend normally held in June. Please take note of these cancellations.

Spring Public Meeting (May 21) - cancelled
Safety Days Awareness (June) - cancelled

Annual Lake Cleanup

The 15th *Annual Lake Cleanup is still scheduled for Saturday July 18th*. Volunteers will meet at Red Bridge Park at 8:00AM. We want to get more volunteers involved this year, so please consider giving up this one Saturday morning to help make the lake a safer place for you and your family. It is amazing that, after 15 years, there is still so much to remove every year.

The 2019 cleanup was very rewarding and productive thanks to the many volunteers, both with and without boats, who came to help take care of our lake. Some were MWA members, some were residents of the lake, others were those who don't live on the lake but enjoy boating and some were neighbors who just wanted to help improve our community. A special note of gratitude is also extended to the Town of Cicero Parks and Street Depts. for their assistance and the donation of manpower and equipment.

As a result of this event, we collected 12 dump trucks of logs that were delivered to Greencycle for recycling and 1.5 truckloads of old docks etc. to the Town burn site. The residual metal will be taken to a scrapper for recycling. In addition, there were trailer loads of trash that were hauled to the Cicero Town burn site and a large quantity of plastic floats and other debris which were simply hauled in for trash.

Visit our web site morseh2o.org to view the pictures taken by Mike Berry with his drone. The pictures show the scope of the event and the magnitude of the material that was removed from the water.

MWA Update on Dredging

After years of discussions and inquiries by the MWA with multiple agencies, Citizens Energy Group finally started dredging on Morse at Hinkle Creek. This was the first major dredging since the reservoir was created in 1956. That 2-year dredging project was completed in 2018. Since then, Citizen's has been attempting to start dredging on Big Cicero Creek near the Rt. 19 bridge. However, the permitting process, with Indiana Dept of Environmental Management and the Corps of Engineers, has been very difficult. The obstacles included issues with access to reservoir, restrictions due to wetlands and site disposal for the sediment. We have been informed that no dredging will be taking place in the 2020 fiscal year. The current plan is to start dredging in spring/summer of 2021. The contractor is expected to remove about 15,000 to 20,000 cubic yards per year. A disposal site has been acquired and the haul route has been designed/engineered and is waiting for approval. The review of that proposal is expected to begin in the fall.

Carrigan Bridge Update

Thanks to information from Jim Neal, Hamilton County Highway Engineer, we have the latest on the progress on the improvements to the Carrigan Bridge. According to Jim, "We will be opening bids this fall for construction in spring – early summer of 2021. From the way things looked earlier this year, we weren't going to get good prices as most contractors already had their work for 2020."

Dock Numbers

It is not only important but it is beneficial to have a dock number. The numbers not only provide easy identification for your location in the event of an emergency but the number is, also, linked to your home address for emergency police, fire or ambulance services. (Be sure to write your dock number on all your water toys (kayaks, canoes, paddle boards rafts), in case they escape from your dock.)

For new or replacement dock numbers:

Contact: Dean Denhart

pdenhart@comcast.net

If you would like to make a **tax deductible contribution** to our association, please use the PayPal feature on our web site www.morseh2o.org or make a check payable to Morse Waterways Association and mail it to: Morse Waterways Association PO Box 422 Cicero, IN 46034

Information Regarding Buoys

The MWA continues to work with the DNR to help educate homeowners regarding buoys. It is not mandatory, but our organization would like to see consistency in buoys around the reservoir.

We would like to have everyone use the "can" style buoys instead of homemade, orange balls or other types. These buoys should either say "200 Feet" (preferred by DNR) or "Slow No Wake". Placement of these buoys should be no more than 185 feet from the shoreline. Indiana law states that boaters should not operate a boat with a wake within 200 ft. of the shore line. This helps to prevent erosion and protect our docks. In addition, the reservoir will "look" nicer if we all use the same kind of buoys. With orange balls and other buoys, many weekend boaters think these are ski courses and use them for that purpose.

Permits are no longer required by the DNR for buoys.

Here are a few places where you can purchase buoys:

Lakeview Marina

20901 Hague Rd, Noblesville, IN 46062

Phone:(317) 773-6885 Contact Amy

Lakeview will supply complete package including Buoy with lettering, cable, and anchor. They will also do installation if requested.

Buy on Line for the DIYers.

Order a buoy from a supplier and provide your own chain/cable and anchor. This is not difficult and could save some money.

Rolyan Racine, Wisconsin <http://www.rolyanbuoys.com/BuoyCatalog.pdf> Model B961R

Overton's <http://www.overtons.com>

West Marine <http://www.westmarine.com> (They also have a store in Castleton)

Important Information for Improving Water Quality

Remember to keep grass clippings and fertilizer off your driveway and out of the street. When it rains, these grass clippings will go down the sewer and end up in the reservoir. The grass clippings naturally contain phosphorous which will damage the reservoir by removing oxygen which impacts aquatic life and supports organisms that promote the growth of the “bad” blue-green algae. For more information on this condition, please reference the White River Alliance Clear Choice web site link. <http://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org>

Top Ten Watershed Tips.....Protect our Reservoir

1. Fertilizers, soaps and chemicals that enter the street's storm sewer go directly into the reservoir. Avoid using these products.
2. If you fertilize your lawn, use no-phosphorus fertilizers. The middle number on the bag should be “0”. Sweep excess fertilizers off pavement and onto the grass.
3. Wash your car using phosphorus free soap and wash the car on the lawn instead of the driveway.
4. Compost leaves and other yard waste. Proper disposal or reuse of yard waste prevents excess nutrients from entering the reservoir. **Do not blow grass clippings into the street.**
5. Use native vegetation and reduce turf grass by increasing native wildflowers and grasses.
6. Capture and reuse rainwater to control storm water runoff. Rain gardens and barrels are great tools for capturing rainwater.
7. Dispose of pet waste properly as dog waste is a major source of pathogens in urban watersheds.
8. Maintain all vehicles, eliminating oil and gas leaks and spills.
9. Recycle and dispose of household chemicals properly (paint, oil, household cleaners). Take these items to the Hamilton County Hazardous Waste Center in Noblesville on Pleasant Ave.
10. Inspect and maintain onsite septic systems and sewers.

Current MWA Board Members:

Mat Clarke	Martyn Furnish	Roger Goings
Andy Sheets	Dean Denhart	Art Hall
John Weis	Eric Harley	John Myer
Jim Schneider	Jeff Derda – President	Dave Vanette – Vice President
Chuck Watkins – Secretary	Jerry Schwier - Treasurer	

A special thank you to Dave Vanette for serving as the president of the MWA board for the past three years.

Thank you for your volunteer time and contributions. Happy and Safe Boating.

Jeff Derda, President – Morse Waterways Association