



## Morse Waterways Association Newsletter September, 2020

### **Fall is Here!**

Summer has gone and the leaves are changing color. With the arrival of Fall, the MWA has some additional information for all our neighbors who live on the reservoir.

### **Important Information for Improving Water Quality**

Everyone has heard this plea many times but we want to reinforce it one more time now that the time has arrive to remove leaves from our yards.

**Please do not blow your leaves in the lake.** The leaves contain phosphorous and nitrogen which adds to the growth of blue-green algae and contributes to reduction of oxygen in the water which impacts the fish. The leaves will settle to the bottom of the lake and increase the amount of silt, thus reducing the lake level. Remind your neighbors of these issues. An alternative is to mulch your leaves. The nutrients in the leaves are good for the grass, flower beds and vegetable gardens.

### **MWA Update on Cover Crops**

MWA has been working with several agencies in an effort to reduce the amount of sediment and agricultural Phosphorous and Nitrogen that enters the Reservoir. We stated in the September newsletter that we would provide additional information relative to this project. The article below is from the Fall 2020 edition of the Indiana Corn & Soybean Post magazine:

## **Upper White Cover Crop Program earns watershed protection award**

By DAVE BLOWER JR.

On July 17, the Upper White Cover Crop Program was recognized by the White River Alliance as recipient of the 2020 Exceptional Commitment to Watershed Protection Award. The program, offered by the Indiana Soybean Alliance (ISA), the Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC), Beck's Hybrids and Cargill, gives Indiana corn and soybean farmers in the Upper White River Watershed an opportunity to participate in a fully-funded, cover crop trial program this fall. ICMC, ISA and its partners are investing to help farmers in the Upper White River Watershed to learn how to reap the benefits of cover crops while improving soil health and water quality.

“What many people don't understand about farming is that it always changes,” said Hancock County, Ind. farmer Ronnie Mohr. “I've been doing this for a long time, and we are always looking for better ways to grow my crops. Sometimes those answers don't provide an immediate return. Sometimes those answers are to make sure we have healthy farmland and top soil for years to come. In a way, that's what the Upper White Cover Crop Program provides.”

The White River Alliance is comprised of local governments, industry, utilities, universities, agriculture and citizens of a 16-county region of central Indiana, and it exists to improve and protect water quality in the watershed. The Exceptional Commitment to Watershed Protection Award honors an individual or organization that has demonstrated a strong commitment to water resources and watershed protection.

ISA and ICMC are honored to work with strong partners such as Beck's Hybrids and Cargill to encourage Hoosier farmers to protect their farmland for future generations.

"The Upper White Cover Crop Program offers farmers a long-term way to evaluate cover crops and soil health on their farm," said Ryan Moore, Beck's Small Seeds Product Manager. "Beck's is proud to be part of a program that focuses on nutrient reduction strategies while helping farmers understand the benefits cover crops offer. We look forward to continuing this type of program in the years to come."

The program helps offset the cost of planting cover crops and possible yield loss, but it also helps growers to see the future benefits.

"Cargill's participation in the Upper White Cover Crop Program is driven by our strategy of connecting farmers to the resources they need to keep improving their operations," said Sharon Spies, Director of Sustainability with the Cargill Agricultural Supply Chain (CASCNA). "We know that adopting new practices such as cover crops is a major investment and creates yield risk. That is why we are excited to be part of a program where cover crop seeds and application are free to the farmer and access to agronomic advice is easy."

Cargill's origination team in Tipton, Ind., which consists Kelly Pall, Bailee Cook and Dana Hubbell, concurred. "Farmers in our area were happy to learn about this program, and they responded with great enthusiasm to our call for applications," Pall explained. "We hope that this is just the first of many years of partnership with them on their journey to reduce nutrient runoff and optimize their use of nitrogen."

The deadline to enroll in the program is July 31. Those with questions about this opportunity should contact ISA/ICMC Program Manager Ariel Kittle by email at [akittle@indianasoybean.com](mailto:akittle@indianasoybean.com) or call 317-220-4115. For additional details, visit [www.keepitmidwest.com](http://www.keepitmidwest.com)

### **Summer 2020 Review from the DNR**

The information below was provided by Billy Doss from the DNR. As we all know, he and the other officers patrol the reservoir for our safety. We appreciate the work that they do as well as the information that Billy provides to the MWA every year.

Here is a breakdown of the violations and arrests Conservation Officers made this boating season at Morse Reservoir. In addition, we had a large increase in new boat owner's this year due to Covid19, this contributed to a large amount of complaints called in by homeowners and higher numbers of arrests and officer involvement. Also, if anyone has information regarding those individuals who are damaging and sinking the DNR state regulated buoys, we would like to talk with them.

A reminder to those who find a buoy floating loose or has a buoy float up on their shorelines, these do not belong to you. We (DNR) have started to place identifying marks on our state regulated buoys and will be filing charges for those caught tampering with them or taking them and remarking them for personal use.

The fines for littering from a watercraft are minimum \$1000.00 and we have begun writing this statute. It is not the responsibility of the DNR to clean it up, but I have worked with a few organizations this year who are graciously cleaning up the bottles and cans under the bridges on a regular basis.

A reminder that the 200' shoreline buoys do not require a permit, but they are your responsibility and cannot be enforced if they are beyond 200' from the shoreline. Please do your part and measure and maintain your personal property if you want your shoreline protected. More than one buoy per 250' of shoreline is not needed, and will continue to make the reservoir less aesthetic.

One last thing, when making a complaint about a specific violation or individual, it makes things a lot easier for us to identify and issue tickets or fines if we have proof of the violation. Therefore, try to get a picture or video of the violation along with the registration numbers on the bow of the vessel.

We had 1 drowning this year and no boat accidents with serious bodily injury or fatality.

- 37 Fishing Violations
  - Hunting
- 3 Violations
- 3 Drug Violations
- 7 reckless operation
  - Idle zone
- 27 violations
- 42 Life jacket violations
- 35 Drunk drivers
  - Minor consumption of
  - 4 alcohol
- 11 Littering
- 15 Navigation lights violations
- 10 Nighttime speed >10 mph
  - 7 Permitting illegal operation by minor
- 4 Gunwale riders
- 11 PWC Violations
- 16 Registration violations

### **Donate to the Morse Waterways Association**

The MWA is dedicated to protecting and preserving the Morse Reservoir so that it can be a source of enjoyment for many years to come. Please consider supporting this mission.

Donations can be made to Morse Waterways Assoc., P.O Box 422, Cicero, IN 46034 or by using PayPal as found on the website ([morseh2o.org](http://morseh2o.org)).

### **Current MWA Board Members:**

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

Jeff Derda, President – Morse Waterways Association