



Morse Waterways Association Newsletter November 2021

BREAKING NEWS ON CHANGING WATER LEVEL

Citizens Water has notified the MWA Board that the valve in the Morse dam was opened the morning of Monday, November 8th and will remain open until Monday, November 15th. By Monday the 15th, the Morse water level will be three to six inches below the top of the dam. This is required so that a scheduled inspection of the dam can be conducted Monday. Based on the current water flow from our three main inlets, recovery to normal pool levels should occur quickly.'

Important Notice Regarding Dock Numbers

A project to provide dock signs for all the docks on the Morse Reservoir was initiated in 2008. The objective was to provide an additional level of safety and convenience for everyone living on the lake. It was made possible through the fundraising efforts of the MWA and the support of local municipalities and the Sheriff's Department. The result of this cooperative effort was that each dock was provided with a unique dock number.

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.

In July, several of the MWA board members completed the second half of a tour of the reservoir that was started in 2020. The result of that survey was that **282 docks did not have dock numbers**. Ordering a dock number is very simple and, although it may seem insignificant, there could be a time when it could reduce precious minutes for an emergency response.

Please help to provide a full compliment of dock signs. The MWA is working to keep this project functioning but it cannot be done without your support. If you need a new sign, please see the following information.

For new or replacement dock numbers:

Contact: Dean Denhart

pdenhart@comcast.net

Although the MWA provides the dock signs, we would appreciate any donation to support the work that we do to keep the reservoir safe and clean. 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.

Helpful Hint: *Be sure to write your dock number on all your water toys (kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, rafts), in case they escape from your dock.*

Reminder on Maintaining Water Quality

Yes, it is Fall again. Yes, this note is about leaves. Yes, this is a very important note because the quality and life of the reservoir is something that we all want to preserve. When removing leaves from your property, please do not blow your leaves into 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, also. An alternative is to mulch your leaves. The nutrients in the leaves are good for the grass, flower beds and vegetable gardens.

Please help us preserve the reservoir.

Below are some additional things to consider.

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 when rain is expected.
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 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, and 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.

Dredging

There is not much to report but the dredging at Big Cicero is scheduled to begin again in June of 2022. The MWA board is also working on another L.A.R.E (Lake and River Enhancement) Grant through the DNR to provide funding for additional dredging. The grant should be ready for submission early in 2022.

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).

Current MWA Board Members:

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