

WEST LAKES NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024 – Vol 4



YES...Winter has arrived!!!! When in doubt, don't go out!

Beware of thin ice and WARN KIDS ABOUT PLAYING ON FROZEN LAKES AND STREAMS WITHOUT SUPERVISION.

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers enjoy fishing, skating, hiking or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice. Like driving on snow, Hoosiers need to re-learn how to have safe fun on ice.

If you are fishing:

- * Drill your own test hole near shore. Your test hole should show at least a four-inch thickness of clear ice like you get from your freezer.
- * Wear a life jacket for extra warmth and safety.
- * Be aware of various ice strengths and qualities. One area of a pond may be a foot thick while another spot of ice may only be an inch thick. Ice strength can also change. Thick ice is rotten after rain. Old honey-combed ice, slush ice or ice with current under it is also dangerous.
- * New ice is almost always stronger than old ice. Wind, waterfowl and beavers can also keep areas of ice thin.
- * Indiana law limits ice fishing holes to a diameter of twelve inches.
- * Fishing shanties must have reflectors on each side so snowmobiles won't crash into them at dusk or during snowstorms.

Ice depth guidelines

- 4 in.** - Needed for safe ice fishing.
- 5 in.** - Needed for snowmobiling.
- 8 in.** - Needed to support the weight of a car or light truck.
- 10 in.** - Needed to support a medium weight truck.

News from your West Lakes Association:

- **WELCOME** to Jason Skidmore! He is the new Honorary Lake Director for Tamarack Lake; he will need to be voted in at the Fall General Meeting.
- **KUDOS** to the Jones Lake Road Shore Restoration Group. With the LARE grant they were awarded last year, they dredged about 900' of shoreline with a mechanical dredger. It appears that the dredging went out from about 20' to 40' in some areas and included dredging out the man-made channel. There is still much that needs to be done to restore and protect this area beginning under the 1050 Bridge and leading into Jones Lake. WLA is fully committed to doing all we can to help with this project, although it needs to be

remembered that WLA does not dredge man-made channels and WLA cannot afford to dredge out everything. Please check the website and facebook for important meetings to be scheduled in the next few months giving more information on this project and possible solutions.

- **THANK YOU** to Janis and Ron Sproat, their “Peanut Brittle Apprentices”, to all the volunteers who helped at the sale, and to everyone who purchased and/or contributed to the success of the West Lakes Association Fundraiser at Vineyard Christian Fellowship on November 18. Because of your efforts, the following amounts were donated and will be used for river clean-up and weed spraying: Peanut Brittle Net Income - \$1,010.00; Craft Fair Net Income - \$584.65.



On the afternoon of April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse – the first since the Great American Eclipse in 2017 and the last until August 2044 – will arc across the southern half of Indiana from southwest to northeast.

The zone of totality, in which it will become almost completely dark, runs through Indiana.

Please be sure to check Facebook for announcements of any “Solar Watch Parties” that may be scheduled to view this event. For more about the science of the eclipse, visit the [American Astronomical Society's 2024 Eclipse website](#).



Dates to Remember:

Groundhog Day – Friday, Feb. 2
Chinese New Year – Saturday, Feb. 10
Super Bowl Sunday – Sunday, Feb. 11
Mardi Gras – Tuesday, Feb. 13
Valentine’s Day – Wednesday, Feb. 14
Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, Feb. 14
Daylight Savings Time Begins -
Sunday, March 10
St. Patrick's Day - Sunday, March 17
Spring Equinox - Start of Spring -
Wednesday, March 20
Easter Sunday - Sunday, March 31