

WEST LAKES NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024 - Vol 5



Spring

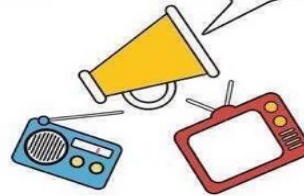
Spring is here and along with the warmer weather, flowers blooming, garden preparations, and opening up our lake houses for a new season, we can also expect a few thunderstorms, possible tornados and severe weather.

Staying safe during any storm is important, as well as staying safe after a storm.

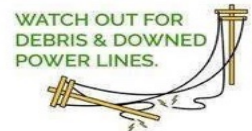
Did you know that every Saturday at 12:00 noon the tornado siren is tested?

[What to do AFTER A STORM]

LISTEN TO LOCAL OFFICIALS for updates & instructions.



USE TEXTS OR SOCIAL MEDIA to check in with friends & family.



STAY OUT OF DAMAGED BUILDINGS & HOMES until local authorities say its safe.



PHOTOGRAPH THE DAMAGE TO YOUR PROPERTY to assist in filing an insurance claim.

Ready. FEMA

Green Grass and Aquatic Weeds

This is the time of year we want our lawns to be green and our shorelines to be weedless. Living on a lake, we must consider the products we purchase for these applications. The term "[hypoxia](#)" refers to low or depleted oxygen in a body of water. Hypoxia is often associated with the overgrowth of certain species of algae. Nutrient pollution in the form of excess phosphorous and nitrogen from agricultural runoff, fertilizers and/or untreated wastewater causes the uncontrolled growth of this algae. So, the problem is US!!

When considering fertilizers:

1. Start with a soil sample and only use what you need. The extra fertilizer that the plants don't need will runoff into the water. Instructions for taking a soil sample can be found here https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?Item_Number=HO-71-W and where to send your sample with additional information about collecting a sample can be found here <https://algreatlakes.com/pages/soil-analysis>.
2. Use No/Low phosphorous products (the numbers are on the fertilizer package #1-Nitrogen, #2-Phosphorous and #3-Potassium),
3. Stay 10-15 feet back from shore,

4. Apply properly, and
5. Do not use from Nov. 1–March 1 as plants are dormant during this time.

As far as aquatic plants on your shoreline, what you use is contingent on the plant species. As a rule, the DNR allows landowners to spray a 25'x25' area without requiring a permit, however, the product must be registered for aquatic use, which will be noted on the label. A good broadleaf product is one with the active ingredient Diquat. As with fertilizer, follow the product guidelines on the label and apply in compliance with them.

Dr. Jerry Sweeten, a Senior Ecologist, Emeritus Professor of Biology and Director of Environmental Studies at Manchester College will be speaking at our Spring Meeting on June 8. He is very knowledgeable regarding environmental and lake/water issues - plan to be there to hear him.

BUOYS and Traffic Control

Buoys can be placed in all lakes to indicate a distance of 150 feet from shoreline. Buoys beyond 150 feet require a permit from the Indiana DNR. Indiana Law prohibits the operation of **any motorboat** (yes that includes pontoon boats) within 200 feet of any shoreline “except for the purpose of trolling or approaching or leaving a dock...” Sec. 17 of the Indiana Code dictates idle speed in this area and all connecting channels. The following codes are from the DNR:

Sec. 17. (a) a person may not operate a motorboat within two hundred (200) feet of the shoreline of a lake or channel of the lake at a speed greater than idle speed.

DNR - IC 14-15-3-17

Lake and channel restrictions vary depending on the size of the body of water or the waterway. You may be restricted to “idle speed” anywhere from 50 to 200 feet from the shoreline, depending on the size of the lake or the width of the channel.

“Idle Speed” or “Slow, No Wake Speed” IC 14-8-2-129

These buoys or signs indicate a boating restricted area established to protect the safety of the public, ecological resources, and property. “Idle speed” means the slowest possible speed, not to exceed five miles per hour so as to maintain steerage and produce minimal wake.

If you have any buoys from the Association (not personal) please contact Stan Silver, Steinbarger Lake Director, stansilver52@outlook.com, who is coordinating the buoys and lake signs.

Reminder - the speed on all our lakes is 10 mph, except the main basin of Waldron Lake which is unlimited speed daily from 10:00am – 5:00pm. Also, boat traffic should move counterclockwise on all lakes.

News from your West Lakes Association Board of Directors:

- ❖ Lake Directors are here to help. Please contact them if you have questions or concerns. You can find who your Lake Director is on the West Lakes Association website – www.westlakesassociation.com – Officers & Board/Connect.