

## FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



### FISHING DERBY POSTPONED

Due to unsafe ice conditions, the Sportsman Club has postponed the Ice Fishing Derby to the 19<sup>th</sup> of February. If the weather does not cooperate in thickening the ice, then the plan is to have the raffle at Alibi's. Doors open at noon and the drawing will be at 3 pm. This leads us to...

### THE WORD OF THE MONTH

**Congelation:** to change from a fluid to a solid state by or as if by cold

Let's hope the weather stays below freezing leading to more congelation on the lake.

### NIPPERSINK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

In 1994, the US Department of Agriculture established the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Recognizing the need to address water quality, soil erosion, and natural

resource conservation issues, a group of Nippersink watershed residents formed the Nippersink Watershed Association (NWA), a 501c3 not for profit corporation. The mission of the NWA is to protect and enhance the natural resources found within the Nippersink watershed. Utilizing NRCS staff expertise, this group worked with local, state and federal agencies to establish the first watershed plan in McHenry County. The plan was later revised to meet Illinois Environmental Protection Agency watershed planning parameters. These efforts have resulted in approximately \$3 million in grants and donations obtained to address water quality and natural resource issues throughout the watershed.

Current efforts of this group include restoration of the Merchant Creek wetlands and stream that separates the Shore Hills and Wooded Shores subdivisions here in Wonder Lake. The NWA is currently working to establish a pedestrian bridge over Merchant Creek at E. Lake Shore Drive. The bridge will

link foot paths that have been established within the NWA-owned stream corridor located between E. Wonder Lake Road and our Lake. Financial donations are tax deductible and there is usually a volunteer workday on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

The NWA has also accepted a donation of a Nippersink Creek parcel on the west side of Thompson Road, across from the old Village of Wonder Lake Village Hall. This property included an abandoned house. The NWA worked with the McHenry County Planning and Development Department to have the house demolished and the resulting debris removed from the site. The NWA also removed several truckloads of rubbish that was scattered throughout the site. The southeast corner of the property is the site of the old Adams Dam. This dam was blown out in the 1930's with the resulting rush of water threatening the integrity of the Wonder Lake Dam. The NWA is exploring the possibility of creating a historical district for the dam portion of the property. They are also seeking grants for streambank stabilization on the property that, if approved, would significantly improve the water quality of the Nippersink Creek as it enters Wonder Lake. The existing bare streambanks contribute significant sediment to our Lake during high-water events.

The NWA is also working on the restoration of the islands in the lake. The work includes removing invasive brush and trees and installing native plants.

Visit: <https://nippersinkwatershed.org>

## **HOT TOPIC: WINTER DECALS**

Don't forget your winter decals! Snowmobiles and ATVs operating on the lake need to have winter stickers on their vehicles. The MPOA has eased the procedure this year. All you need to do is present the vehicle registration showing you are a Wonder Lake Resident or provide the VIN #.

Expect the WLPD to be out checking for stickers several times this winter!

The \$5.00 sticker could save you a \$50.00 fine!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Independence Day:  
Events, parade, ski show and fireworks will be held Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> this year.

## **FOOD PANTRY CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Wonder Lake Community Club is having a fundraiser during the month of February, "**Pennies for the Pantry**". Donations can be made to the Wonder Lake State Bank on both the East and West side. All proceeds go to Wonder Lake residents in need.