

## THE FOX RIVER BUOYS

On the Fox River and Chain O'Lakes waterways of northern Illinois, officials annually face an expensive problem. Of the roughly 600 buoys on these waterways, not one is expected to last the entire season. Each year, the attrition rate for the lighted plastic buoys has been 125 percent.

What happens to them? Officials say the buoys are willfully smashed to pieces by vandals.

In so doing, boaters are hurting themselves and others, of course. The buoys are there "to provide safety and direction for boaters," said writer Stephen Lee in the *Chicago Tribune*. "Some mark no-wake zones where power boaters must go at slower speeds. They delineate shallow areas where boating could be dangerous, and show the way to mouths of channels."



Smashing buoys may bring laughs, but it can be an expensive hobby. An agency ordinance levies a \$1,000 fine on boaters convicted of maliciously vandalizing buoys.

Like vandals smashing buoys, many people take great delight in running over the commands of God. The Bible calls this the spirit of lawlessness.

God's commandments are given for our safekeeping because He loves us and wants the best for us., yet the sinful nature within us despises them nonetheless, and chooses to do things our own way.

*Keeping the commandments of God is what matters (1 Corinthians 7:19).*

– Beecher Hunter