

the Watershed

A Look Back And A Look Ahead

by Marty Portner, President

With all of the activity surrounding the RCD's effort to bring Lost Lake into the new millennium as a professionally managed, world-class man-made lake, it is easy to forget that only 14 months ago, the RCD made this commitment to the constituents of the District.

Since then, truly a lot has happened. We have had a slow, but steady progression into the new frontier of Professional Lake Management. LMC personnel have played a tremendous role in moving us forward. Sometimes we proceeded into deep darkness; sometimes the path is fairly well lit. We have stumbled, gone through periods of false starts and even have gotten our hopes raised over possible help from government entities, only to have those hopes dashed due to internal staffing and budgetary problems. We have also had tremendous success as chronicled here in *the Watershed*. What we have learned overall is to control and activate those things that lie within our circle of influence and to treat outside help, should it arrive, as a bonus.

We keep moving forward with resolve. Forward progress is the key to our eventual total success. To stop now, after so much of a good foundation has been laid, would be unacceptable to us and to our constituents.

In the future, the RCD will be moving into such projects as installing lighting and parking lot surfaces at the Lake Court Center. We also are moving forward with our watershed committee project, a project designed to involve and educate key players in our watershed in order to understand and improve the quality of the lake ecosystem. Shoreline improvement is a key to our future as well. We will be conducting more outreach to the lakeshore lot owners. Look for a series of floating islands to be installed on the Lake with the help of the **Lost Lake Fishing Club**.

I urge you to attend our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in order to fully understand the depth and breadth of the RCD's efforts to make our lake the best it can be.

Lost Lake Shoreline Review

by Dan Dummet, Vice President

On July 21st the RCD performed a shoreline inspection to determine any problem areas that may be related to erosion. During the inspection there were some areas that need to be addressed by the property owners. The RCD is in the process of developing standards for maintaining the lake shoreline to both prevent the developing erosion issues and to better prevent the goose population from gain-

ing access to the shoreline property. When finalized, these new standards will create a guideline for property owners with respect to the do's and don'ts of proper shoreline management. In the meantime, any shoreline property owner that has questions as to how to best configure their shoreline is invited to contact the RCD for guidance.

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the Watershed is a periodic publication that contains information relevant to our District's constituents.

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Did You Know...

- The RCD burn pile is governed by strict rules and regulations ?
- You can report suspicious activity on RCD property by calling 815.285.8030 ?
- The RCD is a member of the Illinois Association of Lake Communities ?
- Copies of the RCD budget and levy are available for inspection at the RCD office? Call 815.652.2006 for an appointment.

RCD Board

Marty Portner, Pres.
Dan Dummett, V.P.
Tina Trevino, Treasurer
Herb Hill, Secretary
Betty Lou Finn, POA Liaison

Becky Breckenfelder
Administrative Manager & Webmaster

www.rcdinfo.com

Bits and Pieces

RCD CHANGES DAY OF REGULAR MEETINGS | By unanimous vote at the August regular meeting, the RCD Board has changed the day of its regular monthly meetings. The new day is the second Tuesday of the month. The location of the meetings and the time remains the same.

WORK COMPLETED; LEVY PASSED | The RCD is ahead of schedule in filing its paperwork for the next fiscal year's tax levy request. This is a difficult subject for the Board, since we are frequently asked why the RCD must levy so much in taxes.

It should be noted that the RCD operates and manages the lake. There is much work to be done before Lost Lake can attain the status that the RCD members envision. Professional management, engineering and construction costs money. Simply maintaining the "status quo" out on the lake is not

good enough if we are to point to Lost Lake as a landmark consistent with the future of a unified surrounding community. It is through your tax dollars that the RCD does this. In these mildly inflationary times, the RCD is proud to say that we are doing more with less. Since the levy increases barely keep pace with inflation, this forces us to work with less valuable dollars. Expenses are climbing, but we are able to hold the line on costs through volunteerism.

GET YOUR VOLUNTEER HAT | Show your pride by sporting one of the RCD's colorful 'volunteer' baseball hats. These hats are being given, free of charge, to volunteers who have proven their commitment to the RCD. To qualify, you must have completed at least six months of continuous volunteer activity and **currently have active volunteer status**. Additional qualifications apply.

Safety Is For Everyone

The RCD is always concerned about the safety of individuals who use our facilities. We employ safety officers whose job it is to make your use of the facilities as pleasant and worry-free as possible. Here are time tips for using the RCD facilities to their fullest:

Always carry proper identification with you. If you are a resident of the surrounding private residential community, make sure that your vehicle sticker is displayed and up-to-date. If you are a District resident, but not a member of the surrounding private community, remember that access to the lake and the facilities is provided by the use of private roads. Our safety personnel are instructed to ask to

see proof that you have been given permission to use the roads. To obtain a pass to use the roads, call **815.652.4491** or **815.652.3491** and ask for your temporary or permanent season pass. Fee may apply.

Our safety personnel are instructed to ask for voluntary compliance with our ordinances. Should compliance not be forthcoming, they will engage the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and charges will be filed where prudent and appropriate. If you wish to report any suspicious activity anywhere on RCD or Lost Lake property, call **815.285.8030**. Alternately, you may call the RCD office at **815.652.2006** during regular business hours.

Shoreline Review

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In addition to inspecting for erosion concerns, the RCD reviewed the condition of the docks that have been permitted to be erected on the Lake Shore. There were approximately 12 docks that were in need of repair and at least one that appears abandoned and should be removed. These deteriorating docks not only present a hazard to anyone using them they also distract from the beauty of the Lake shoreline. The RCD will be notifying the appropriate property owners of our findings and require the cited docks to be repaired or removed. Another

concern that must be noted is that some property owners who do not have an approved dock, or no dock at all, **should not attempt to moor their boats**. We have seen all kinds of makeshift moorings, but the most popular is to tie the boat to a shoreline tree. This is unacceptable practice and the RCD security will cite you. Please use our convenient boat racks for storing your boat or place them on shore between outings.

The shoreline inspection was performed in the official RCD boat that is powered with a gasoline outboard motor. As a reminder, this is the only boat allowed on the lake with an outboard motor that is not electric powered.