

the Watershed

Stabilization: It's A Shore Thing

by Marty Portner, President

By the time that you read this, the RCD will be engaged in one its most ambitious projects to date: Lost Lake Shoreline Stabilization.

This project has been in the works for almost one year and is part of our overall Lake Management Program, facilitated by **Joe Rush of JadEco** and under the watchful eye of Lake Management Program Coordinator, **Jerry Sellers**. At a recent Special Meeting of the RCD, Joe gave us an overview of the elements of a stabilization program which will culminate in a mandate to each and every property owner along Lost Lake's shore. That is, the mandate to provide structure, form and aesthetics to his/her portion of the shoreline. The goal is to bring the shoreline into compliance with accepted practices that have been shown to prevent the natural erosion of the shoreline and to prevent nutrients from entering the lake from landscape activity and other shore bank activity. Some of the techniques involve placement, native vegetation, and indigenous rocks.

In order to provide the owners with some

direction, the RCD has commissioned that an inventory of Lost Lake's shoreline be done. Once completed, **Joe Rush** will recommend specific types of stabilization for each segment of the Lake. Owners will then be contacted and informed of the RCD's recommendation for their portion of the shoreline stabilization effort based on the slope of their property and its proximity to the Lake's sources, among other things.

Of course, the RCD will not ask any property owner to do anything the RCD would not do itself. Therefore, the RCD, will also participate in the program by stabilizing it own shoreline segments.

The RCD will approve the final plan, along with the ordained mandate and the list of compliance rules in the early Summer of 2008. We may impose an approximate 18-month period for each owner to come into compliance. During this period, the RCD will work with each property owner to see that the work is completed on time. Limited grandfathering of existing shoreline improvements will be approved or disapproved on a case-by-case basis.

RCD Pursues Grant Procurement Expertise

by Marty Portner, President

The RCD decided at its March meeting to seriously consider the idea of finding money through public and private grant programs. We acted on a recommendation from our chief Lake Manager and scientist, **Joe Rush** of **JadEco** and commissioned a proposal from **Rebecca Olson**, Principal with **Olson Ecological Solutions** of Rockford, Illinois. In late March, **Ms. Olson** partnered with **Joe Rush** and toured

Lost Lake and the surrounding watershed. She also worked with Joe to come up to speed on our situation with respect to the overall Lake Management Program and to find opportunities to exploit the grant programs to our advantage.

At our April 8th meeting, **Ms. Olson** conducted an hour-long presentation com-

(Continued on page 2)

Volume 3, Issue 3

Copyright MMVIII, LN/L RCD

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

thewatershed@rcdinfo.com

Inside this issue:

Stabilization	1
Grants	1
Auction & Bits	2

Did You Know...

- You can report suspicious activity on RCD property by calling 284.8030 ?
- The RCD is accepting applications for a fifth board member? Call 652.2006
- Floating islands should emerge on the Lake this Spring?
- The Lake Court Center is available for rental on a half- or full-day basis?

RCD Board

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

Becky Breckenfelder
Administrative Manager & Webmaster

www.rcdinfo.com

June Boat Auction

by Becky Breckenfelder

In June, the Lost Nation-New Landing River Conservancy District of Illinois will be auctioning the following boats that have been abandoned:

11' Green Jon Boat, IDNR #5523HA and hull #HA4266128629, last known owner Scott Baker of Chicago, IL;

12' White 1965 V-hull, IDNR #IL7854N and hull #VF2629986 last known owner Karin Faber of Dixon, IL

16' Green V-hull Boat, IDNR # unknown and hull # unknown, last owner unknown.

17' Grumman Canoe, IDNR # unknown and hull # GBM90342M80J7A, last owner unknown.

The above stated boats were removed in April 2008 due to lack of current registration and/or boat rack sticker. Written notification has been sent to the owners. Contact the **RCD** at **(815) 652-2006** if your boat is listed above – proof of ownership and round-up/storage fees will be required to claim your boat. The boats will be auctioned on a Saturday in June. We are waiting for information from the IDNR before we have a firm date. We will post the date and place of auction at both gates and the Lake Court Center. You can also call the **RCD** office to request notification of when the auction will be held. **(815) 652-2006**.

Grant Procurement

(Continued from page 1)

plete with a question and answer session, during which she revealed her strategy for using both private and public money to accomplish our primary goals of watershed stream bank stabilization along the tributaries in the **Clear Creek Watershed** that empty into Lost Lake. She also considered our wishes to proliferate rain gardens in the private community and our desire to partner with local entities like the **Nachusa Grasslands** on land use projects.

The **RCD** learned that the process for obtaining grants is complex. The final wordsmithing of the grant is only one part of this process. Long before pen is put to paper, a detailed strategy must be assembled that considers the grant cycles and interrelationships between grants that can be used to leverage our money. This will allow us to obtain more than if the grants were pursued individually. In addition, careful thought must be given in order to match our needs with the goals of the grant's primary mission statement. All of this will enhance and improve our chances of obtaining the money to complete the ensuing projects.

Bits and Pieces

* **A tentative Budget** for 2008-2009 was approved at the April meeting. This budget will be posted at the Lake Court Center and on our web site www.rcdinfo.com. You are invited to a hearing regarding this budget during the May 13th meeting of the **RCD**. Plenty of time will be allowed for those who wish to express their opinions. This will be your best chance to influence the **RCD** spending limits on a line-item basis.

* **Creel limits on Lost Lake** will remain the same as last year's limits based on recommendation from the DNR. Please refer to our web site www.rcdinfo.com or the **Lost Lake Fishing Club** web site at www.lostlakefishingclub.org.

* **A Volunteer Hall Of Fame** has been installed in the Lake Court Center by super volunteer **Frank Durkin**. Certificates were presented to the volunteers at the **Lost Lake Fishing Club** meeting on Saturday April 5th. Duplicates of the certificates, along with a colorful map of the Lake are hung outside the hallway that leads into the center. Stop by and see who is responsible for saving you money by working for free and when the District needs them.

The **RCD** is in the process of performing the due diligence that is necessary in order to come to the decision to commit to a proposal like Ms. Olson's. The price tag is serious, but not prohibitive. The venture contains risk, since there is no guarantee that we will receive any money for our efforts. However, the rewards are in the projects that the grants fund. They will have the long-term benefit of reducing the silt and nutrient contributions from the watershed. This means less costly dredging and a healthier, cleaner lake for us and future generations.

One must understand that grants are not the silver bullet that will permanently or temporarily solve our budget issues. No money is available for things like operating costs, salaries, building maintenance, dredging, or property improvement. There will always be a need to provide revenue through your tax bill for these purposes. However, investment in professional grant acquisition is an idea whose time has finally come. The **RCD** will do everything in its power to seize the opportunity for its constituents.