

## *the Watershed*

Volume 3 Issue5  
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### *Don't You Love Summer?*

*By Marty Portner, LN/NL RCD President*

"Shh! Do I hear a staccato guitar "A" chord and a singer out in the watershed somewhere? Listen. Sounds like a man's voice!"

"I have to take three weeks, I've got to have a fun vacation ..."

"I've got to take my boat Out to the lake at Lost Nation..."

That's not exactly how the lyrics to the rock classic "Summertime Blues" go, but they do apply to our Lake and the great season of fishing, boating, camping, swimming and general recreation that we are experiencing in this tremendous Summer of '08.

So far this summer, we have had ample reports of fun at the beaches, successful gatherings at the Lake Court Center, camping adventures, and of course, the most peaceful and finest fishing environment on any Lake in Western Illinois. Don't you love summer?

However, we would not have had any success this year had it not been for the diligent efforts of the District staff and its volunteer force. It takes manpower and planning along with timely and accurate execution in order to render the facilities for use by our members and their guests. That hard work

pays off the most during the summer when it seems like everyone converges on the RCD facilities.

Our goal is to make your Lake and all of the facilities clean and in good repair for your use. You pay taxes to keep this District in business. We hope that you are satisfied with our efforts.

However, if you wish to file a complaint, please do not hesitate to email me ([marty@rcdinfo.com](mailto:marty@rcdinfo.com)) or call the office at 815.652.2006.

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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...

- You can access our website [www.rcdinfo.com](http://www.rcdinfo.com) to download Lake Court Center and Campground Rental Forms?
- The beaches are closed after **Labor Day** and the campground is open until **October 31**—so enjoy them while you can!
- We have a new board member—Welcome Glenn Baldwin!

### RCD Board



**Marty Portner**  
President



**Steven Larry V.**  
President



**Herb Hill**  
Secretary



**Betty Lou Finn**  
Member at Large



**Glenn Baldwin**  
Member at Large



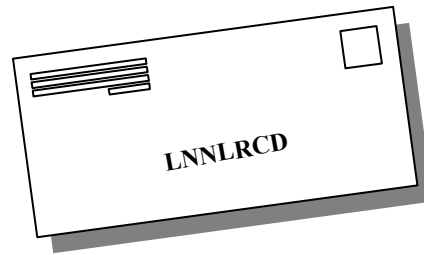
**Becky Breckenfelder**  
Administrative Manager  
Treasurer

## *Don't You Love Summer (continued from Page 1)*

By now, you all should have filled out and sent back the RCD survey that was mailed to all District households. If you haven't, please do so— it only takes 10 minutes and we have provided a return envelope with postage.

Your responses are important to

us, because we will be using them to answer a number of questions regarding the future course of the District.



Once the responses are assimilated, we will look for trends and patterns that will give us a clue as to where we should (or shouldn't) be focusing our time, energy and most importantly, your money.

## *Saving Our Streams, Lakes, and Rivers*

*By Steve Larry, LN/NLRCD Vice President*

Recently, the **RCD** began what will prove to be its most aggressive and exhaustive project since its inception that hopefully will result in a wide-ranging positive impact, not only on Lost Lake, but also the watershed that feeds the lake and the streams that feed the Rock River and surrounding areas.

Our objective is to lessen the impact of unproductive nutrients entering and leaving the lake to the point that we see a marked improvement in water quality and clarity in area streams and the lake itself. As you may be reading into this, this is not just evolving as a **United Lost Lake** endeavor, but a **total** community program requiring the cooperation and efforts of those living in and around **Lost Lake**.

A project of this size and scope takes major funding behind it to support land use projects, stream rehabilitation, silt pond development and management, ecological studies, soil conservation programs and farm ani-

mal management to name a few. Our tax dollars will not cover the greater share of these costs and as a result, your **RCD** has engaged the help of Rebecca Olson (Olson Ecological Solutions, LLC; [www.olsonecosolutions.com](http://www.olsonecosolutions.com)) who will seek out, write and obtain grant funding for these specific projects.

Rebecca, who has an MS degree, comes well qualified for this task as the result of over 8 years of successful experience in writing and obtaining grants to support similar projects in Ogle and surrounding counties. As a board member of the Natural Land Institute she brings not only her experience, but her knowledge of the area, challenges and conservatory contacts necessary to insure our success and funding support.

To date, the grant process is on track, targeting nine-plus grant opportunities. Timelines have been agreed to, watershed studies are being conducted, and potential land owners are being surveyed for their

support and partnership. Also, we have spoken with the following environmental organizations:

**“To date, the grant process is on track, targeting nine-plus grant opportunities.”**

The Nature Conservancy, Natural Land Institute, Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County, and the Rock River Resource Rich Area Ecosystem Partnership. A joint meeting with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation District was scheduled for August 11th.

If you are interested in finding out more about this project or volunteering your services in support of these efforts, you may contact me, Steve Larry [steve@rcdinfo.com](mailto:steve@rcdinfo.com) the **RCD** office at 815.652.2006 and/or attend our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00p.m. at the Lake Court Center.