

# Spring 2009

LN/NL River Conservancy District  
of IL

## *the Watershed*

### *Lake Shoreline Stabilization* by Marty Portner, President

In my last article, I asked our lakeshore property owners to do the right thing and step up to the plate by working with us to stabilize their individual shorelines. I must admit that I got more response from that article that I expected. Of all the comments that I received, by far the two most prominent were ones that expressed concerns over whether the **RCD** was mandating, and in the words of one caller, “forcing this program on us”, and the other was the concern that the property

owners would not get “their day in court” at a community a forum where they can be heard prior to the **RCD** invoking the program. I appreciate all of the comments that I received and they will all be addressed in future board deliberations. Let me address in this article the two major concerns I mentioned above.

First, the **RCD** will not and cannot mandate or force you to do anything with the part of the shoreline that you own. By law,

the **RCD** cannot make any property owner do anything with their private property, except under the power of Eminent Domain. Furthermore, the **RCD** is loath to do this, as it most certainly would result in low compliance by the property owners. No one wants to be told that they must do anything, especially if it will cost them money. The **RCD** recognizes this and has decided to make the program voluntary. It is also highly likely that there will

*(Continued on page 2)*

### *UNITED LOST LAKE TO BECOME A “PHOSPHOROUS FREE ZONE”* by Steven Larry, Vice President

In recent “Watershed” articles, we have written about what your **RCD** is doing to preserve this wonderful lake we all enjoy. We have addressed our goals that include shoreline stabilization, the limitation and removal of the silt that is choking our lake and killing fish and plant life and the work being done to manage the ecosystem both within the **RCD** district and the watershed outside

the community. Major strides are being made to address these key initiatives that will save our lake for this and future generations, but they cannot be done by just a handful of volunteers or your **RCD** Board alone. All citizens of this community need to take responsibility to help in achieving our goals. You all will be learning more about how the **RCD** plans to institute a shoreline sta-

bilization program to be completed by the end of 2010 and build a silt basin for Babbling Brook.

One program that requires your immediate attention is to help limit harmful chemicals entering our lake, specifically phosphorous. Phosphorous is found in lawn fertilizers, car washing liquid, some detergents and household

*(Continued on Page 2)*

Volume 4 Issue 2  
Copyright MMIX, LNNLRCD

#### *the Watershed*

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

#### Inside this issue:

Lake Shoreline Stabilization 1

Lost Lake—  
Phosphorous Free Zone 1

Dock ID Program 2

#### Did You Know...

- **You can access our website [www.rcdinfo.com](http://www.rcdinfo.com) for items like rental forms and meeting minutes**
- **2009 Boat Applications will be mailed out soon**

#### RCD Board

**Marty Portner**  
President

**Steven Larry**  
Vice President

**Herb Hill**  
Secretary

**Betty Lou Finn**  
Member at Large

**Glenn Baldwin**  
Member at Large

**Becky Breckenfelder**  
Administrative Manager  
Treasurer

## **Lake Shoreline Stabilization** (continued from page 1)

be financial and professional assistance in our proposal. However, let me emphasize that although the **RCD** is not mandating this, it is the right thing to do. We are relying on your sense of responsibility to your property, your neighbors and the environment. We hope that you agree that not stabilizing your shoreline continues to do damage to the lake and that it is your direct responsibility.

Second, the **RCD** will indeed have a community meeting to hear and discuss our plan for the shoreline. At that meeting, we will present our ideas, answer questions and provide a forum for your views regarding shoreline stabilization. Understand, though, that Shoreline Stabilization will be the only topic open for discussion. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

We have no control over whether this article will be in your hands before the meeting. To cover the most ground in that contingency, we will be distributing flyers in the local community. We will also send letters of invitation to shoreline property owners. The meeting is open to all **RCD** members. We welcome your input.

## **UNITED LOST LAKE TO BECOME A "PHOSPHOROUS FREE ZONE"** (continued from page 1)

products. To this end, the **RCD** is sponsoring a promotional program we have dubbed "Lost Lake...A PHOSPHOROUS FREE COMMUNITY". How you support this program is fairly easy and costs you nothing. First, check all those household products, including fertilizers you have stored, and discard any that contain phosphorous. Second, when you purchase cleaning products and fertilizers in the future, buy only those that are phosphorous free. And third, if you use a lawn service, insist that they use phosphorous free fertilizers.

If you are concerned about whether or not your lawn needs phosphorous bearing fertilizers, have your soil tested. If you are starting a new lawn, check first to see if phosphorous is necessary in your starter fertil-

izers before just going ahead and applying them.

If you need help in researching products, contact the **RCD** office or go to the internet. Also, your lawn service should be able to provide you with the guidance you need.

The **RCD** will be posting signs at the entrances in the near future identifying Lost Lake as a "No Phosphorous Community". With the entire community's cooperation, we will go a long way to cleaning up and protecting our lake.



### **Lost Lake A Phosphorous Free Community**

## **DOCK IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM IN EFFECT FOR 2009**

*By Steven Larry*

One of the many responsibilities of your **RCD** is to insure that we preserve the beauty of this lake that we all enjoy. Docks, whether they are owned by the **RCD**, POA or owners of lake shore property, fall under the regulatory responsibility of the **RCD**. These include both the construction and maintenance of these structures.

Your Lake Management Committee, headed up by Jerry Sellers, has the responsibility to ensure that the docks are in good repair and he and his team do regular inventories of the lake shore properties and all the docks around the lake. In order to make the job of this volunteer team easier, the **RCD** Board of Directors

enacted a new regulation on Nov. 11, 2008 to become effective January 1, 2009. That regulation requires all dock owners to both register their dock with the **RCD** at no cost and to affix a registration number to their dock. The **RCD** will supply the dock owners with numbers free of charge

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ***Dock Identification Program (continued from page 2)***

and the dock owners may pick them up at the **RCD** office during normal business hours. Although the regulations (see printed copy as part of this article) call for a time limit of 10 days in which to register your dock, due to the weather at this time of year, **you will have until April 15th, 2009 to meet the requirements of this regulation.** In addition, before measures are taken to enforce the regulation as written, and as a convenience to those who are unable to do it themselves, you may call the **RCD** office at 815-652-2006 and arrange for registration over the phone, and, for a fee of \$20, we will attach your number on your dock for you. The fee must be paid in advance of the work.

Before we close on this article, as you know, we have experienced an extremely harsh winter that has included a December thaw that made our incoming streams look like the rapids on the Colorado River. This has resulted in ice heaving that has caused damage to many of the docks around the lake. As a result, the **RCD** will not be inspecting docks until after May 25th this year and all dock owners should make arrangements to bring their docks into compliance within **RCD** standards by Memorial Day.

If you have any questions concerning this new regulation or dock compliance regulations please contact your **RCD** office.

### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOST NATION/NEW LANDING RIVER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS NO. 01-2008**

Whereas the **Lost Nation/New Landing River Conservancy District Of Illinois (RCD)** requires that all docks constructed on Lost Lake meet minimum standards for construction, safety, and aesthetics, and

Whereas the **RCD** is charged with the duty of ensuring compliance with said standards, and

Whereas the **RCD** has the regulatory power to enforce such standards,

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED** that all docks constructed on Lost Lake be required to display unique numbers for the purpose of identifying the owner of the dock within the following guidelines:

The numbers will be provided by the **RCD** free of charge,

The dock owner will be required to register with the **RCD** and obtain the unique numbers from the **RCD**,

The numbers must be affixed

**Effective January 1, 2009, an RCD regulation requires all dock owners to both register their dock with the RCD at no cost and to affix RCD supplied number to their dock.**

to the left side, on the lake side of the dock so that they can be clearly seen from a watercraft on the Lake,

The numbers must be displayed within 5 days of new dock construction completion,

Existing dock owners must display the numbers within 10 days of notification of the passage of this resolution,

Any dock owner that does not comply with the resolution will be required to remove the dock within ten (10) days of receiving a letter of non-compliance from the **RCD**.

The **RCD** reserves the right to remove any dock, at the owner's expense and after the notification period has lapsed.

**Dated on this 11th day of November, 2008**