

# *the Watershed*

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## *Letter from the President by Steve Larry, RCD President*

First, I want to extend a public apology from the RCD Board to those who may have been offended that a picture of their dock was in the last news letter. It was not our purpose to offend anyone, thus our decision not to identify the docks' owners. The purpose was to just get the needed repairs/and or numbers behind everyone without sending a letter out to each person that could be misinterpreted. We began this "reminder program" in various Watershed articles dating back to January with additional reminders in April, along with posted notices at each entrance for over a month. We even extended the deadlines on two occasions. Hopefully by the time everyone reads this all have complied and we have not had to levy fines and/or fees (as we have stated before, something we do not like to

do).

As for our grant update, we have submitted an official 319 grant request to support the Schings Park Silt Containment Project. This would call for a dredging of that area, the construction of several wing dams to slow the water down, the construction of an underwater "dam" at the narrows at the far end of the tributary near the main body of the lake and finally, rip-rapping the Schings Park shoreline. If approved, planning work would begin late 2011 and actual construction in the 2012-2013 time-frame.

By the time this article is read, we will have completed rip-rapping the shorelines of the LCC and dam fishing/boat storage areas. This will conclude the rip-rapping of all RCD properties except for

Schings Park and the old earthen dam (which may not be possible due to accessibility).

Finally, we want to welcome our newest board member, John Harris. John and his family have owned a house here for about two years and have moved in permanently this past year. He will be assuming Secretary responsibilities that were under the watchful eye of retired board member, Betty Lou Finn.

Speaking of Betty Lou, the RCD Board is greatly appreciative of her follow through on purchasing new, easy to handle chairs that match the look and quality of the tables she purchased while still on the board. Don also played a big part since he did all the hauling for us. So if you see this gracious couple out and about, just say thanks for their work and for volunteering their time.

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**Welcome, John Harris, the RCD's newest board member!**

### Did You Know?...

- The RCD board approved an amendment to their ordinance to allow beer and wine for LCC rentals. Renters must submit a signed, notarized hold harmless agreement plus a certificate of insurance of at least \$500,000 naming the RCD as a holder. (This can be obtained through your home-owner's insur-

## *Beach Closings and Water Testing* by Glenn Baldwin, RCD Vice-President

The RCD has received a number of inquiries about the frequent beach closings this summer. By way of response, the board thought we would publish our policies and practices for monitoring the water conditions in Lost Lake.

The most common and largest component of contamination in any lake is e-coli bacteria. "Safe" levels of e-coli bacteria in any swimming area are established by the

EPA. The RCD has selected a lab in Chicago to do our testing. Other labs were available and investigated, but we found none that could improve on the time it took to get results (24 to 48 hours) and/or the convenience in the process. These samples are routinely done every two weeks. However, because Lost Lake is formed by two streams which flow through pasture land, heavy rains often cause a spike in e-coli. Time and water flow

are the treatment for e-coli contamination in the lake; therefore, we have decided to close the beaches immediately after a heavy rain, to best protect the swimmers of our community. We will then proceed with immediate water samplings, regardless of the timing of any other samples. The beaches will be reopened as soon as the lab gives us results within the EPA guidelines. We have purchased white signs

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## ***Beach Closings and Water Testing*** (continued from page 1)

with red lettering to inform you of beach closures. These signs will be displayed at the entries of both beaches.

Additionally, notices of beach closures will be posted at both entries to the development, and also on the **RCD** website: [www.rcdinfo.com](http://www.rcdinfo.com). The utility department has also given the **RCD** permission to use

their message system to aid us in keeping the community informed of beach closures and openings.

Our goal is safe swimming, not beach closures. Rest assured, we will be doing everything we can to swiftly attain confirmation of clean water, and get all our swimmers back in the lake.

***You can do your part to make  
Lost Lake***



**A Phosphorous –Free Community...  
If you are fertilizing your lawn for the fall,  
please use a phosphorus-free fertilizer  
(middle # should be zero).**

### ***Rip-rap stabilization of the area NE of the Dam***



### ***Rip-rap Stabilization at the LCC***



## ***Rip-Rap: Proper Maintenance Helps Prevent Problems, by Joe Rush, RCD Aquatic Manager***

If you spend any time on the lake, you will notice that the **RCD** and shoreline land owners have taken a role in helping to protect this beautiful resource we have... the Lake.

By starting a shoreline stabilization program, the **RCD** has taken a lead role in helping reduce the sedimentation of the lake as well as preserve the shoreline properties. Of the two methods established, rip-rapping (or installing rock) along the lake front has been the most commonly used. Although rip-rap armoring of a shoreline is a great way to have long term returns on your investment, it is not maintenance free. Some basic, periodic inspections can help insure a good return.

The **RCD** is doing annual inspections of the entire lake shoreline, but you, as a landowner, should also be periodically checking your structures as well. These inspections, during which you should look for areas of wash out, shifted rock, or exposed fabric, should take place after rain events, at least twice per month during dry periods, and

after the winter ice has melted.

If concerns arise, immediate repairs to address minor concerns can lead to prevention of future problems. If you notice areas of wash out or exposed fabric, replacing with new stone can be done, but hand placing the rock that has shifted can easily be done as well. After the ice melts in the spring, you may observe areas where the ice has moved some of the stone. If you observe some rock shifting, you can hand place the rock back in the areas where the rock has shifted.

Another concern some landowners may have is the growth of vegetation within the spaces of the rip-rap. Consider planting within the rip-rap to add color, interest and diversity. Live cuttings and plant plugs can be planted within riprap to provide additional slope stability and give your shoreline a more natural appearance. Always insure the plants you are using are native to the area and are non-invasive. For those of you that do not like seeing the plants growing in the rock, there are several methods you can

use to reduce or eliminate plant growth. Hand pulling, like weeding a garden, can be done during inspection time as the landowner observes plants establishing in the rock. This is most effective when the observations are made early and action is taken before it becomes over-grown. Chemical treatments can be done to kill vegetation on the rock as well, but it is important that these treatments are done by someone with an understanding of the effects of the chemicals to not only terrestrial plants but also the lake since the treatment will be done on the lakefront.

Rip-rap is a great way to protect your property from being lost to the lake due to erosion as well as to improve lake water quality for years to come, and just like your home, you can lengthen its life expectancy with proper maintenance.

The **RCD** uses a product to control weed growth on their rip-rap that can be used around waterways. You may call the office at 815 652-2006 for more information.