

the Watershed

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the Watershed

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

Presidential News By Steve Larry, RCD President

"P r e s i d e n t i a l News"! Sounds pretty official doesn't it? Not really, I just have a hard time creating subject titles that catch everyone's eye and encourages them to read the rest of an article. Well, let me try to sum up what your **RCD** Board has been doing since our last Watershed.

As for the Watershed Planning/Technical Advisory Committee Grant, these groups remain very active and are considering an "upstream" project for Babbling Brook. As a reminder, "upstream" means on property not part of the Lost Lake

community. A few years ago, no one would have thought that anyone cared about the watershed outside of our community. We have found just the opposite. There are very good folks who **DO** care about conservation and ecological issues and want to do their part in preserving what we have all been blessed with. It just takes getting to know these fine people and having the right approach to common issues.

The Babbling Brook Project is really moving to the "get it done" stage fairly soon. Our development team has met to review engineer-

ing design, budgets and processes; property owners along the brook have participated in meetings and "walks" and completed EPA required agreements; the final plan will be completed and submitted to the EPA by June; permitting has begun and bidding will be min-summer with work to follow.

The board has decided to rid itself of hiring a person to mow, so we are selling the equipment and hiring a contractor. We will be trying an ecologically friendly mowing program, a fancy term for higher than

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Children at Play, Natural Landscaping, By Dennis Cantrell

As the warm weather approaches the **RCD** would like to ask that parents please instruct and supervise all children on their behavior around the community center.

On several occasions in the past few years and several times already this season, the children playing at the center have been asked to stop throwing the stabilization rocks into the lake. They have also used the LCC hose for water fights and have sprayed it into the entrance of the building. Discarded pop

cans are another issue; they have used them for spraying each other and the side of the building then thrown the cans to the ground.

We ask that bikes remain on the roads and not ridden through the landscaped areas. The **RCD** is a proponent of children playing at the park and one of the many ways you can volunteer for your community is to make sure your children don't create more work for others.

The **RCD** would like to encourage you to "go native" this summer. For the health of our lake, let your grass and ditches grow longer.

If you live on the lake, let your shoreline go as natural as you can tolerate. Remember everything that hits the ground on your property ends up in the lake. Spilled gas and oil, washed out paint and lawn chemicals, to name a few. Let's all take the time to dispose of things properly.

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Did You Know...

- Lost Lake is a phosphorus free community. Use ONLY phosphorus-free fertilizers and require your lawn service to do the same!!!
- The Campground opens May 1 and the beaches open Memorial weekend!
- The refuse cans on RCD properties are ONLY for trash generated while using those facilities. Please do not throw your personal household garbage in those cans. Appropriate fines will be issued to those who do so.

You can do your part to make Lost Lake



**A Phosphorous-Free
Community...**
Composting and chipping is a
better alternative to burning
leaves and brush.

Presidential News (continued from page 1)

groomed look on all our properties. Those who may have questions about this are welcome to attend our meetings (which by the way, return to a schedule of the second Tuesday of each month beginning with our May meeting) and/or contact Dennis Cantrell.

Our budgeting process is pretty much complete and we are in very good shape going into our fiscal year.

Finally, there will be new officers elected to board positions come

May. I will be stepping back as President to pursue an opportunity to help my church, Heartland Community Church in Rockford, using my gifts to create a ministry for those who find themselves without a job. I will continue as a Board member at large, leading the grant program and implementation and working with our Wild Life Manager, Frank Durkin. All other duties assigned to the President will be transferred to your new president, including calls for assistance, board

questions outside of the grant programs, etc. I certainly feel very confident in the board we have, as you should. As a result of several years of organizing accountabilities and responsibilities, we will not skip a beat with this “reorganization”.

So this is my last “Watershed” article as President, but not in reporting on our extensive grant programs. My thanks to all who continue to support the **RCD**, our volunteers and to my great board members.