

# Carlyle Lake Watershed - At a Glance

**Carlyle Lake  
Watershed  
Ecosystem  
Partnership**

- Gale Meseke, Chairman
- Karen Sanders, Secretary
- Carlyle Lake Assoc.
- Bond County SWCD
- Clinton County SWCD
- Effingham County SWCD
- Fayette County SWCD
- Marion County SWCD
- Shelby County SWCD

**ONE LAST THING TO DO BEFORE HARVEST**

*By Mary Ann Hoeffliger*

Are you thinking about signing up for EQIP? Do it now.

Planning ahead matters more than ever for those who want to participate in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP.) Increased demand for available funds means that the person who is prepared may have a better chance to receive some of those funds. Discuss your ideas with your local NRCS office in the

early stages, and develop a conservation plan. Illinois NRCS makes EQIP funds available in three areas:

- (1) confined livestock operations, focusing on animal waste management and related items.
- (2) grazing land operations, focusing on prescribed grazing, with opportunities for fencing, improved water supply, pipeline, and pasture seeding.
- (3) non-livestock resources, emphasizing soil erosion,

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**Carlyle Lake Association News**

*By Ted Beier*

The Carlyle Lake Association (CLA) is an organization which represents all of the interests involved with the lake. The main issues we are involved in this year are as follows.

1. The Army Corps of Engineers opened the Carlyle Lake Water Control Plan to proposed changes early this year. CLA was integral in representing a compromise position among the wishes of boaters, anglers, and water fowlers to try and get the lake levels that each desired for the betterment of their sport without causing problems for the others. At the same time, consideration of the needs of agricultural interests downstream of Carlyle was kept in mind. The resulting changes indicate a successful effort.

2. CLA is in the process of a study of the changing nature of the lake north of the railroad trestle. The goal is to determine the trends in the changing topography, considering improvements that are economically feasible, and investigating

sources of financial support for them.

3. CLA is supporting the conservation efforts in the Carlyle Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area (SFWA) at the north end of the lake. The organization has donated some funds for the "in kind" purchase of seed for desired wetland vegetation to promote waterfowl habitat. Also, CLA is developing a proposal to seek funding for a cooperative activity to rehabilitate the levees on Sub-impoundments 3 and 4 in the area. The SFWA, CLA, and the Carlyle Water fowlers are members of this cooperative group.

4. CLA has been promoting the demolition and replacement of the Cox Bridge across the Kaskaskia River at the urging of various waterfowl, fishing, and conservation interests. The Illinois IDNR has put this project on their project list for 2007, but has not designated funding for it as yet. CLA continues to push for the required funding.

Studies have shown that two of the biggest problems on the lake are siltation and bank erosion.

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### News from the Army Corps of Engineers

By Norma Hall, ACOE

\*\*National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands American's enjoy. Join Carlyle Lake staff on Saturday, September 23, for our National Public Lands Day celebration. This event will provide opportunities for volunteers to pitch in and help improve their public Lands. The Carlyle Lake event will consist of a shoreline cleanup from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Groups will be assigned to different locations around the lake to remove litter and other debris. This is an excellent opportunity for boy scout groups and individuals to help keep Carlyle Lake area beautiful. There will be an aluminum can roundup in conjunction with the event. Cans will be taken to a recycling center, all proceeds go to help provide environmental education programs at the lake.

\*\*In an effort to increase water safety awareness, the US Army Corps of Engi-

neers at Carlyle has purchased a blimp display with the message: **"Life Jackets Save Lives"** Take that advice and wear your life jacket and have a safe day on Carlyle Lake.

\*\*Come out to the Carlyle Lake Visitors Center for the Third Annual Carlyle Lake Fall Blood Drive presented by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the American Red Cross on Thursday, September 28 from 3 pm to 7 pm. Those donating blood will receive two free days of camping at a Corps of Engineers Campground during the summer of 2007, a \$24.00 value, but the true value will be knowing you are helping to save lives by donating blood. For nearly 5 million people who receive blood transfusions every year, your donation can make a difference between life and death.

\*\*The Carlyle Chamber of Commerce is seeking groups for participation in the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Haunted Trail at Car-

lyle Lake. Groups who volunteer their time and staff and are the most creative and frightening in creating "scary spots" compete for prizes. The Haunted Trail will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. A hayride will take trail-goers from Mariner's Village Resort to the Little Prairie Nature Trail, Cost of admission is \$4.00 with all proceeds going to the Carlyle Lake Fireworks Committee for 2007 fireworks. Contact Chamber member Peggy Hilmes at 618-533-3657 for more information.

\*\*On Saturday, November 4, Community Link of Breese will host the Second Annual Buddy Walk at Carlyle Lake. The Buddy Walk was established in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month and to promote acceptance and inclusion of

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### Soil Quality

Reprint from the Carlyle Lake Watershed Plan

Soil quality can be defined as the capacity of a specific kind of soil to function within its environment. Assessing soil quality involves a process through which soil resources are evaluated on the basis of soil function (what the soil does) and the changes in this function as a response to a natural or introduced stress or management practice. Four vital soil functions include: 1) sustaining biological activity, diversity and productivity, 2) regulating and partitioning of water and solute flow, 3) filtering, buffering, degrading, immobilizing and detoxifying organic and inorganic materials, 4) storing and cycling of nutrients.

Assessment of soil quality within the Lake Carlyle watershed can provide additional information regarding decisions made about farm management practices. Management practices such as crop management systems, tillage operations, nutrient management and pest management, and other soil conservation practices all affect soil quality. Monitoring the soil quality will provide guidance in making agricultural management decisions or modifying those decisions al-

ready made.

Current status of soil quality for cropland areas within the watershed can be generalized from interpreting the soil profiles of typical soil series that occur in the area. The relatively old, broad, Illinoian till plain gives rise to highly developed soil profiles. Typical soils have surface layers that are low in organic matter (approximately 1.5 – 2.0%). Because of the low organic matter levels, the surface layer tends to crust over or puddle after hard rains, subsequently sealing the surface layer. The result is decreased water infiltration through the soil and increased overland flow. Factors used for calculating the erodibility index (K factor) of the surface layers tend to give rise to higher values of erodibility. Subsurface layers (layers below the surface layer, but excluding the subsoil layer) tend to become impene-



trable to crop roots when dry, thus causing the roots to develop laterally along the top of this layer until vertical cracks or worm holes are found. There are other restrictive layers in the profile in addition to the subsurface layer. The soils in this area are known as the "claypan" soils because

they have a high percentage of clay in the subsoil, which causes slow permeability of water through these layers. They tend to dry out slowly in the spring. Soil pH tends to be highly acidic in the subsurface and subsoil layers. Maintaining the appropriate pH in the surface layer for agricultural crops is critical. All these properties tend to give rise to a soil quality status within the watershed that can afford to be much improved through careful management practices and the application of conservation practices that provide positive benefits to the soil resource.

**7th Annual summit**

*By Norma Hall, ACOE*

**Please “Save the Date” Kaskaskia Watershed Association, Inc. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit will be held on February 26, 2007.** The Kaskaskia Watershed Association, Inc. (KWA) was created to represent the entire watershed from the headwaters of the Kaskaskia River at Champaign to the confluence of the Mississippi River. The stakeholders realize the watershed is very diverse but their issues are the same: communication, erosion, siltation, recreation, fish and wildlife, flood damage reduction, water supply, industrial, navigation, economic development and eco-systems. By holding a Summit each year they bring together elected officials, federal, state, and local agencies and stakeholder’s throughout the watershed to show their accomplishments but to combine resources to reach their goals. Their goal is to develop,



enhance and protect the ecological and socio ecological values of the natural resources within the Kaskaskia River Watershed.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Showcasing will be hosted by OKAW River Basin Coalition and the Original Kaskaskia Area Wilderness, Inc. (OKAW) from Carlyle Lake Dam to Fayetteville in Summer 2007. Watch for the date!**



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*By Mary Ann Hoeffliger*

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water quality, and habitat issues on cropland. Cost-share ranges from 50% to 60% for most practices. Limited resource producers (determined by income level) may qualify for 75% cost-share. EQIP is a competitive program. Applicants who gain the most points in the ranking process are those who have agreed to make the greatest number of environmental improvements. Examples of improvements in a confined livestock system are increasing the months of waste storage and excluding clean water from lots. An applicant for grazing funds can make improvements such as rotational grazing and limiting livestock access to open water. Cropland improvements include following a nutrient management plan, no-till or strip-till, and controlling gullies. For more information, contact your local NRCS office, or go to [www.il.nrcs.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.gov), and follow the “programs” link.

**Watersheds**

*By Tony Pals*

In are recent article Della Moen wrote:”Wherever you live or work or play, you are somebody who can do something. You live in a watershed. The water that falls around you or on your roof and does not evaporate runs off to a water body somewhere by flowing over the ground or under the ground. Runoff carries with it much of what it finds on the surface of the land, dissolved or not dissolved - soil particles, grease oil, chemicals, plant materials and their nutrients, fertilizers, pesticides, and trash. Water flows faster from roofs and streets and has more power to carry pollutants with it.” Our watershed is Carlyle Lake. Since we all live in that watershed, we all have a responsible to protect the water quality of the lake.



**Overwhelmed with Acronyms? Here’s some help...**

**SWCD** – Soil and Water Conservation District

**CLA** – Carlyle Lake Association

**CRP** – Conservation Reserve Program

**NRCS** – Natural Resources Conservation Service

**ACOE** – Army Corps of Engineers



**IDNR** – Illinois Department of Natural Resources

**C-2000** – Conservation 2000 Grant Program

**KWA** - Kaskaskia Watershed Association

**CLEP** - Carlyle Lake Ecosystem Partnership

The stated mission of the Carlyle Lake Watershed Ecosystem Partnership is: **“To protect, enhance and restore the natural resources and habitat of the Carlyle Lake Watershed”**

Carlyle Lake  
Watershed - At a Glance  
C/o FAYETTE COUNTY SWCD  
301 South Third Street  
Vandalia, IL 62471  
618-283-1095, Ext. 3  
Fax: 618-283-4962

Non Profit Organization  
Permit #53  
Vandalia, IL



To contact one of  
the Soil and Water  
Conservation

Districts, please call:  
Bond County SWCD  
618-664-0555, ext. 3  
Clinton County  
SWCD  
618-526-7919, ext. 3  
Effingham County  
SWCD  
217-342-6855, ext. 3  
Fayette County  
SWCD  
618-283-1095, ext. 3  
Marion County  
SWCD  
618-548-1337, ext. 3  
Shelby County  
SWCD  
217-774-5564, ext. 3

#### Carlyle Lake Association News

By Ted Beier

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CLA is working with Army Corps of Engineers to explore the development of an economical dredging capability that would always be available on the lake. More information will be available as the project develops.

In order to be successful CLA needs as many members as possible of people who are interested in the development of Carlyle Lake. If you are interested in supporting initiatives such as these, please join us for the \$10.00 yearly membership. Please mail your check along with your mailing address to the CLA treasurer, Don Bordeaux, Carlyle Lake Marine Center, 2550 Franklin Street, Carlyle, Illinois, 62231. If you have issues that CLA can consider, send your comments to me, the CLA president, at 5614 Rosa Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, 63109-3254. Working together, we can accomplish much for the betterment of Carlyle Lake.



#### News from the Army Corps of Engineers

By Norma Hall, ACOE

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people with Down Syndrome. The walk is a one-mile walk on the Carlyle Dam and spillway area and anyone can participate. It benefits national education, research and advocacy initiatives, as well as local programs. For more information contact NDSS website at [www.buddywalk.org](http://www.buddywalk.org) or Community Link at 618-526-8800.

\*\*Young hunters (accompanied by an adult) get their first chance at hunting pheasants at a designated area in Eldon Hazlet State Park at Carlyle Lake on November 12th. For more information contact Il. Dept. of Natural Resources at 618-594-3015.

\*\*On December 1 the US Army Corps of Engineers staff and the community of Carlyle will kick off the holiday Season with their 15th Annual Christmastown USA weekend. On Friday night join the fun at the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center with refreshments, ornament making, music, a silent auction for the arts and a visit from Santa Claus. The Carlyle Lake Chamber of Commerce celebrates this weekend with festivities all over town.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts do not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability. This policy covers all programs, services, and procedures of the district, including employment.