

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

Tillage Seminars Planned

By Tony Pals

“Tillage Management: Economics & Environmental Stewardship” will be the theme of the 2007 Illinois Regional Tillage Seminars scheduled for five locations throughout the state in February. Two of the sites are close to us: February 8th at Lincolnland Community College in Litchfield, and February 9th at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Teutopolis.

This year’s Tillage Seminars features an outstanding line-up of state and nationally recognized speakers.



- 8:00-8:50 **Registration, View Exhibits, Coffee & Rolls**
- 8:50-9:00 **Opening Remarks and Welcome**
- 9:00-9:10 **Tillage Trends**, U of I
Natural Resources Educator
- 9:10-9:25 **State Cost -Share & Technical Conservation Assistance**, Illinois Dept. of Agriculture Regional Representative
- 9:25-9:45 **Federal Cost-Share & Technical Assistance**, NRCS Regional Agronomist
- 9:45-10:25 **Moving into Guidance Systems: GPS, RTK, Auto-Steer, Light Bars**, Jay Solomon, U of I Engineering Technology Educator
- 10:25-10:40 **Break, View Exhibits**
- 10:40-11:00 **Impact of Climate on Crops**, Jim Angel, Illinois State Water Survey
- 11:00-11:30 **Global Warming & Carbon Sequestration**, Carl Bernacchi, Illinois State Water Survey
- 11:30-12:00 **Carbon Trading for Illinois Farmers**, Abby Corso, Delta Institute & Nathan Clark, Chicago
- 12:00-1:00 **Lunch and Visit with Exhibitors**
- 1:00-1:40 **Reducing Tillage, Energy & Costs**, Dale Laatz & Gary Schmitkey, U of I Agricultural Economists
- 1:40-2:20 **No-till and Strip-till: Equipment and Management Recommendations**, Gary Sizelove, Case-IH Crop Production Specialist
- 2:20-3:00 **Farmer/Agribusiness Panel to Address Regional Tillage Issues**
- 3:00 **Adjourn, Meet with Exhibitors & Speakers**

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Tillage Seminars Planned	1
News from Carlyle Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area	2
Fisheries Overview	2
NTWF Operation	3
Kaskaskia River Tour	3
Acronyms	3
Contacts	4

Drill For Sale

Are you in the market for a drill? The Fayette County Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District has a 1999 John Deere 15 ft. 1560 no-till drill for sale. It’s been used on about 3000 acres and has just gotten new dolly wheel tires put on. The drill will be at the office at 301 S. Third St. in Vandalia if you would like to look at it. We bought it for \$19,000 – make us an offer.

These seminars are co-sponsored by the Illinois Dept. of Ag, U of I Extension, Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, and the SWCD’s. Pre-registration is necessary and the deadline is one week prior to each scheduled meeting. Seating is limited so registration will be on a first-come basis. A \$13 per person fee will be charged to cover the cost of the meeting room and meal. To register, include the following information with your check:



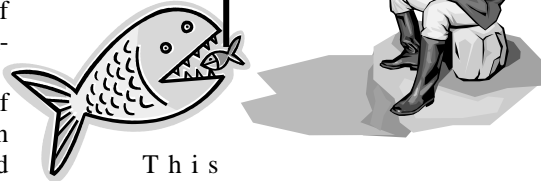
Name of meeting – Tillage Seminar, your name, address, and county of residence. Make the check out to University of Illinois Extension. If attending the meeting at Litchfield, send your registration to: Montgomery County Extension, #1 Industrial Park Dr., Hillsboro, IL 62049. For the meeting at Teutopolis, send check and information to: Effingham Extension, 1209 Wenthe Dr., Effingham, IL 62401.

News from Carlyle Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area

by Bob Hammel, Site Supt.

With the cooler temperatures that we have been experiencing the last few days the thought of waterfowl hunting seems to be on a lot of people's minds. Duck season opens here on Thanksgiving Day and if it's like last year's opener, when 2200 ducks were harvested, it should be a good one. The site staff did a great job in getting the sub-impoundments planted this year with a total of 718 acres in crops. This includes 275 acres of corn, 170 acres of Japanese millet, 86 acres of milo, 145 acres of millet, milo, buckwheat mix, 10 acres of buckwheat, 22 acres of sunflowers and 10 acres of wheat. In addition moist soil production has been good with water hemp and barnyard grass being the predominate species this year. Water levels in Carlyle Lake stayed high through the early part of the summer and the result was that Speaker Lake (Sub #4) didn't de-water as I would have liked and we don't have the moist soil plant production there, like we had last year. Another problem that has cropped up this year is cattails. They are everywhere on the upper end of the lake and unlike last year, have taken over areas that had good smartweed. Hopefully, this was

caused by the higher lake levels this summer and won't be a continuing problem, but we will have to wait and see. Some better news is the fact that the Cox's Bridge demolition and replacement has been put into this year's budget and hopefully construction will begin in the spring of 2007.



This will be a big plus for those hunters wanting to access the south ends of Subs 1 and 2. I want to say thanks to everyone that pushed for this by writing letters and making phone calls. The site has also recently been awarded part of the \$60,000 that was received by the Kaskaskia Watershed Assoc. as a result of a lawsuit. This money (which should amount to almost \$20,000) will be used to rehab the levees at Subs 3 and 4. This project will be completed with help from

the Carlyle Lake Waterfowlers and with a lot of support from the Carlyle Lake Assoc. The site staff has finished mowing the hunter paths and decoy holes in the subs, and we started flooding the sub-impoundments on Oct. 23. We have also had a private contractor on site recently clearing black willow and opening up some new hunting areas. This is something we began last year and would like to continue to do annually. The site has also had some rare avian visitors lately. A pair of white-faced ibis have been seen at Parking Lot #3 along with an Eurasian wigeon. Several other rare birds for this area, including several "western species", have been sighted recently at Carlyle Lake. These include Oregon pink-sided junco, western tanager, western meadowlark, prairie merlin, rough-legged hawk, western red-tail hawk, western grebe, red-necked grebe, Swainson's hawk and Sabine gull. Carlyle Lake is a true bird watchers paradise and everyone is welcome. If anyone has questions or would like more information, they can contact me at 618-425-3533.

KASKASKIA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.

By Norma Hall, ACOE

The 7th Annual Summit will be held Monday, February 26, 2007 at the Knights of Columbus, 1471 Fairfax in Carlyle. The agenda will include: speakers from Federal, State and Local agencies, an update on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Other ideas include Construction Sites, and "Water Quality and You." The presentation on construction sites points out that those sites are the third largest contributor of nonpoint source pollution in Illinois. This presentation will teach individuals how to identify poorly managed construction



sites, providing examples of "best management practices" for developers, and suggestions for how citizens can resolve specific site management issues. Still another presentation will be titled "Illinois Agricultural Drainage Practices." This program will provide a short history of how Illinois' agricultural economy has changed its original landscape. It also discusses current methods of drainage channel maintenance, and describes recent innovations in maintenance practices that achieve both the goals of necessary drainage and protection of water quality.

DAM WEST BIKE TRAIL

By Norma Hall, ACOE

A bike trail from the Dam West Campground through the Dam West Day Use area has been completed. This connects hikers and bikers to the Carlyle Dam or to the sidewalk leading into Carlyle. You can also cross the Carlyle Dam and continue through the McNair area across the Saddle Dam to the South Shore Area, or continue on Saddle Dams to Boulder Road.



NWTF Operation Oak Private Landowner Program

By Tony Pals

The National Wild Turkey Federation has announced the continued expansion of its Operation Oak Program. A partnership between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the NWTF has made 10,000 select oak seedlings available **FREE** to private landowners in Illinois. These native seedlings are grown under a specialized nursery protocol at the Flint River Nursery in Georgia. The result of this nursery protocol is a large, vigorous seedling with high survivability, high growth potential, and the potential to produce mast in approximately 10 years.

Private landowners interested in participating in the **FREE** program can contact their local NRCS office to obtain the application form. NWTF staff will re-



view all applications in November and provide seedlings to as many interested landowners as possible. You must be a member of the NWTF in order to participate in this program. NWTF membership is \$30.00, which includes a subscription to the *Turkey Call Magazine*. The roots on these seedlings are very large and will require a hand-held or tractor mounted auger for planting.

PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO PICK-UP THEIR SEEDLINGS FROM A CENTRALIZED LOCATION IN THE STATE. Pick-up locations and dates will be finalized in November and trees will be available in April.



CONGRESSMEN and House Water Resource Staff TOUR KASKASKIA RIVER

By Norma Hall

Congressman Jerry Costello (D-IL) invited Congressman John T. Duncan (R-TN) and House Water Resource Committee Staff Jimmie Miller to tour Water Resource projects in Southern Illinois. Accompanied by St. Louis District Engineer Colonel Setliff and Joe Kellet, Chief of Project Management, the group toured by helicopter the Kaskaskia River Watershed and the Mississippi River area in Congressman Costello's District. Congressman Duncan is the Chairman of the House Water Resource Committee, and Congressman Costello is the ranking Democrat on the Committee. Jimmie Miller is the Chief of Staff for the House Committee. The party boarded a towboat at Evansville, IL on the Kaskaskia River, doing dock switching at the Gateway FS grain elevator. Congressmen Duncan and Costello got first hand opportunity to steer the vessel. At a reception and dinner in Evansville a presentation was made to the group on the importance of the Kaskaskia and how the stakeholders work together for the common good of the river.

Congressman Costello, in his remarks, commented on how he and Congressman Duncan have been able to work together in a bipartisan manner to solve difficult legislative water resource issues in Congress. Congressman Duncan and Congressman Costello are credited with hammering out language

leading to the passage of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) in the House. Both now serve on the House/Senate Conference Committee for WRDA. Congressman Costello said that he invited Congressman Duncan to his home District so he could see first hand the projects that were important to him. Costello praised the efforts of the Kaskaskia Watershed group and in particular the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholder's, Inc. in bringing different groups together.

Congressman Duncan gave special praise to Congressman Jerry Costello, saying "He's my best friend in Congress. I admire and respect him." George Andres, General Manager of the Kaskaskia Regional Port District presented proposed Performance Measures for tributary rivers such as the Kaskaskia. Andres presented information showing that the Kaskaskia River has a cost/benefit ratio of 8.5:1. He also showed that key performance measures for the Kaskaskia (tons, ton-miles, cost/ ton-mile, cargo value, and averted transportation costs) reflected annual increases of 18 to 20% over the last three years. Andres also highlighted the more than \$2.5 billion of new river dependent projects under development in the Lower

(Continued on page 4)

Overwhelmed with Acronyms? Here's some help...

<i>SWCD</i> – Soil and Water Conservation District	<i>KWA</i> - Kaskaskia Watershed Association
<i>CLA</i> – Carlyle Lake Association	<i>CLEP</i> - Carlyle Lake Ecosystem Partnership
<i>NRCS</i> – Natural Resources Conservation Service	<i>QU</i> - Quail Unlimited
<i>ACOE</i> – Army Corps of Engineers	<i>NWTF</i> - National Wild Turkey Federation
<i>IDNR</i> – Illinois Department of Natural Resources	<i>WRDA</i> - Water Resource Development Act
<i>C-2000</i> – Conservation 2000 Grant Program	<i>LKSI</i> - Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc.

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



CONGRESSMEN and House Water Resource Staff TOUR KASKASKIA RIVER

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

(Continued from page 3)

Kaskaskia River. These including the Prairie State Energy Complex, Peabody Energy coal mine development, Knight Hawk Coal Co. mine development, Dynegy-Baldwin Complex expansion, Gateway FS fertilizer terminal expansion, Gateway FS grain elevator expansion, The Material Works SCS patented steel cleaning process, and the Evansville Waterfront Development project. Andres gave special recognition to the St. Louis District of the Corps of Engineers for being true partners with the Kaskaskia stakeholders, working together to bring "value to the nation". Mike Kuhn, President of the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholder's, Inc. (LKSI) gave the background as to why and how the group was formed and what the results have been. The LKSI is responsible for bringing a very diverse group of entities together to develop consensus decisions regarding issues affecting the river. Groups including navigation, industry, environmental, conservation, agriculture, elected officials, local, state, and federal agencies all



participate in LKSI. Kuhn highlighted the activities of the group including the annual barge trip, showcasing events, river clean up efforts, monthly meetings, etc. Ed Weilbacher of the Southern Illinois Resource and Conservation District presented information on the

Kaskaskia Watershed Association, Inc., of which LKSI is also a part. The KWA is the umbrella watershed organization representing 5,746 sq. miles of area in 22 counties in Illinois. The KWA is recognized in the Corps Strategic Plan as the example of how to organize and manage projects on a watershed basis. The KWA was also recognized this past year by the White House Conference on the Environment. Also discussed was the Kaskaskia River language in the Water Resource Development Act pending in Congress. The Kaskaskia language, developed by the State of Illinois in cooperation with KWA, would provide unique opportunities to develop projects using the "Watershed Management Approach". Congressman Costello was presented the "Friend of Agriculture" award from the Randolph County Farm Bureau.

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.