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The publication of this document has been funded in part by the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, and by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319).

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Helping Lake Macbride: One yard at a time…

By completing three suggested lawn care practices, landowners in the Lake Macbride Watershed can receive a *Lake Friendly* yard sign.

If you are interested in having a *Lake Friendly* yard sign for your yard, complete three of the suggested lawn care practices and contact the Johnson County SWCD or go to the Solon City Hall and pick up your yard sign.

Students at Solon High School helped to design the Lake Friendly Lawn Sign. **Ashley Koehnke's** design was selected by the 15 member Lake Macbride Watershed Advisory Committee. Other student finalists included Dan Ogden, Kyle Rohlwing and Reed Agne, and Tanner Goosby and Geneva Harriman.

LAKE MACBRIDE WATERSHED

Volume 2 **Fall 2006**

JOHNSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Wrapping up Conservation: Final Year for 75% Cost-Share

Over the last four years, local farmers, homeowners, the Solon School District, and Lake Macbride State Park have been working to improve the quality of water that flows into Lake Macbride.

If you live in the watershed and haven't had a chance to get involved, contact our office at 337-2322 ext. 3 or e-mail at jcswcd@yahoo.com. This is the last year for 75% cost-share.

Thanks to the following people who have participated:

- Doris and Milt Anderson
- Richard Barta
- Tom Brown
- Eleanor Brumwell
- Chain Ridge Subdivision
- Cottage Reserve Subdivision
- Rose Ann Deitch
- Malinda Dittberner and John Reilly
- Mike and Jean Divoky
- Terry Edmonds
- Chuck Gleason
- Gene Greazel
- Tom Greazel
- John Henik
- Roland Henik
- Mike and Lucy Hershberger
- Tom and Lorna Jerred
- Anne Kent
- Glee Kessler
- Don and DeWayne Klouda
- Louis and Evelyn Kral
- Lake Macbride State Park
- Terry and Shirley Lamb
- Larry Leonard and family
- Bill Leefers
- Tim Linder
- Robert Mickelson
- Dean and Don Miller
- Delores Miller
- Paul and Janet Moore
- Larry Olson
- Dorothy Poduska
- Joe Rasmussen
- Dean Rebal
- John Schmidt
- Shagbark Neighborhood Association
- Sam Stahle
- Daryl and Matt Steinbrech
- Jim Steinbrech
- Kevin Steinbrech
- Solon Community School District
- City of Solon
- Tony Ulch

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Mission Statement

To improve the Lake Macbride Watershed by stimulating community interest in order to enhance our unique natural resources for future generations through sustainable practices.

Plant a Rain Garden in Your Yard

What are rain gardens?

Rain gardens are depressional areas landscaped with perennial flowers and native vegetation that soak up rainwater. They are strategically located to capture runoff from impervious surfaces, such as roofs and streets. Rain gardens fill with a few inches of water after a storm and then water filters into the ground, rather than running off to a storm drain.

Why are rain gardens important?

As cities and suburbs grow, increased storm water runoff from impervious surfaces becomes a problem. As more impervious surfaces are added to our communities, it is more important than ever to help rainwater infiltrate. This protects water quality and reduces storm water runoff.

Storm water runoff from developed areas increases flooding potential and carries pollutants from streets, parking lots, and lawns into local streams and lakes. Rain gardens are designed to handle the first flush of pollutants that are carried in 1 inch rains.

90% of Iowa's rains are 1" or less. Our goal is to construct rain gardens, so they filter 1" rainfall events.

How do I build a rain garden?

1. Flag the shape of your rain garden.
2. Call IOWA ONE-CALL 2 days prior to excavation at 1-800-292-8989 to locate utilities.
3. Dig the rain garden. No heavy equipment should be in the actual rain garden area. Excavate from the sides.
4. Backfill with new soil mixture that is premixed: 60% sand, 25% compost, and 15% topsoil.)
5. Add shredded mulch layer (not chips) or weed barrier to reduce weeding.
6. Plant native vegetation and water the plants.
7. Commit to water and weed for at least first year following installation.
8. Direct your roof downspouts into the rain garden.

Golden Alexander	1'	May-June
Prairie Phlox	3'	May-June
Spiderwort	2'	May-June
Butterfly milkweed	1-2'	June
Swamp milkweed	3'	July-Aug
Blazing Star	5'	July-Sept
Cardinal Flower	2'	July-Sept
Bergamot	4'	July-Aug
Gray-Headed Coneflower	4'	July-Aug

Iron Weed	5'	July-Aug
Mountain Mint	3'	July-Sept
Black Eyed Susan	3'	July-Oct
New England Aster	5'	Aug-Oct
Sky Blue Aster	3-5'	Aug-Oct
Great Blue Lobelia	2-4'	Aug-Sept
Fox Sedge	1'	grass like
Little Blue Stem	3'	grass
Switch grass	4'	grass
Side Oats Grama	3'	grass
Sweet Flag	2'	May-June (wet sites)

Gearing up for the Conservation Security Program (CSP).....

What is CSP?

CSP is a voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing stewardship of private agricultural lands. It provides payments for maintenance and enhancement of natural resources. CSP identifies and rewards those farmers and ranchers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations. CSP provides powerful incentives for other producers to meet these same standards.

How does CSP work?

1. USDA selects priority watersheds in Iowa for CSP.
2. Producers will complete a self-assessment workbook to determine eligibility.
3. Eligible producers will submit an application.
4. Based on the application, description of conservation activities, and a follow-up interview the Natural Resource Conservation Service will determine which program tier and enrollment category are available for the applicant.

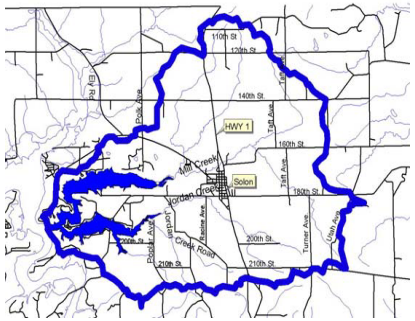
What are the contract payments?

CSP contract payments include one or more of the following:

- An annual stewardship component for the existing base level conservation treatment.
- An annual existing practice component for maintaining existing conservation practices.
- A one-time new practice component for additional needed practices.
- An enhancement component for exceptional conservation effort and additional conservation practices or activities that provide increased resource benefits beyond the prescribed level.

How to improve your chances?

- Keep good records of conservation efforts
- Maintain and improve soil quality with conservation or no tillage



This is a map of the Lake Macbride Watershed. Lake Macbride drains into the Middle Iowa River Watershed. Last year the Middle Iowa was on the list to be selected for CSP. It was later withdrawn due to budgetary reasons.

Local Task Force Guiding Efforts in Lake Macbride

The Lake Macbride Watershed Advisory Committee was established in February 2002. Members help to promote watershed efforts. Meetings are generally at the Solon Library.

Watershed Members

Rose Ann Deitch
Charles Gleason
Ken Hook
Tracey Hufford
Anne Kent
Mike Krall
Bill Leefers
Paul Moore
Jack Neuzil
Gwen Prentice
Sam Stahle
Kevin Tompkins
Tony Ulch