Can a family tree become a forest? Three generations of Maginel volunteers help the Cache River Joint Venture Partnership take root.

Cal and Cathie Maginel

Story and Photos By Tracy Evans

For Cache River area volunteers Cal and Cathie Maginel, retirement is a continuation of a lifetime of volunteer service.

The early part of their lives included volunteer work focused on healthcare (a two-week medical mission to Lago de Izabal, Guatemala in 1975 became an annual vacation until 1987) and education (scouting and 4-H). Later they turned their efforts to their love of nature and conservation activities in the Cache River Basin.

From medical mission work to educating youth and adults about the Cache River, Cal and Cathie Maginel have dedicated their lives to volunteer service.

All of the Maginel children and grandchildren are active in conservation work. Son David was a land steward in the Cache River Basin for The Nature Conservancy and helped organize an "acorn round-up" to collect acorns for direct seeding reforestation of the Cache. Eighteen years later the "round-ups" continue with support by the Boy Scouts, Audubon Society, Illinois Native Plant Society and The Nature Conservancy.

The couple attends Ecosystem Partnership meetings and Cache River Joint Venture Partnership events, providing important stakeholder input to restoration professionals. Today, they help educate area youth on the joys of the outdoors, while canoeing on the Cache River.