

Papakeechee Wetland BOD Report, in

Full Color, July 2020

Joyce Arleen Corson

As the next season approaches we will see the new purples and yellows. Remaining, yellow will become golden-rod! Look forward to the purple families of New England asters, iron weed, Joe Pie weed, and vervain. The scent of aster and golden rod, somewhat different from the rose of June, will signal the sign for migration of birds, insects to warmer climates as winter approaches. Fall scents will trigger the honey hive to save these flavors for their winter food.

The wetland is more beautiful than I ever imagined it could be. The volunteers have certainly given lots of hours to keep it clean.

Linda has cleaned the overflow drain in the channel, Patty has come up with a sure cure for cattail roots.

Katherine has an artistic and permanent way to identify plants.

I think I may have been in the wetland nearly every day of June. I did finally find one monarch egg. It hatched and I'm happy! See page 11.



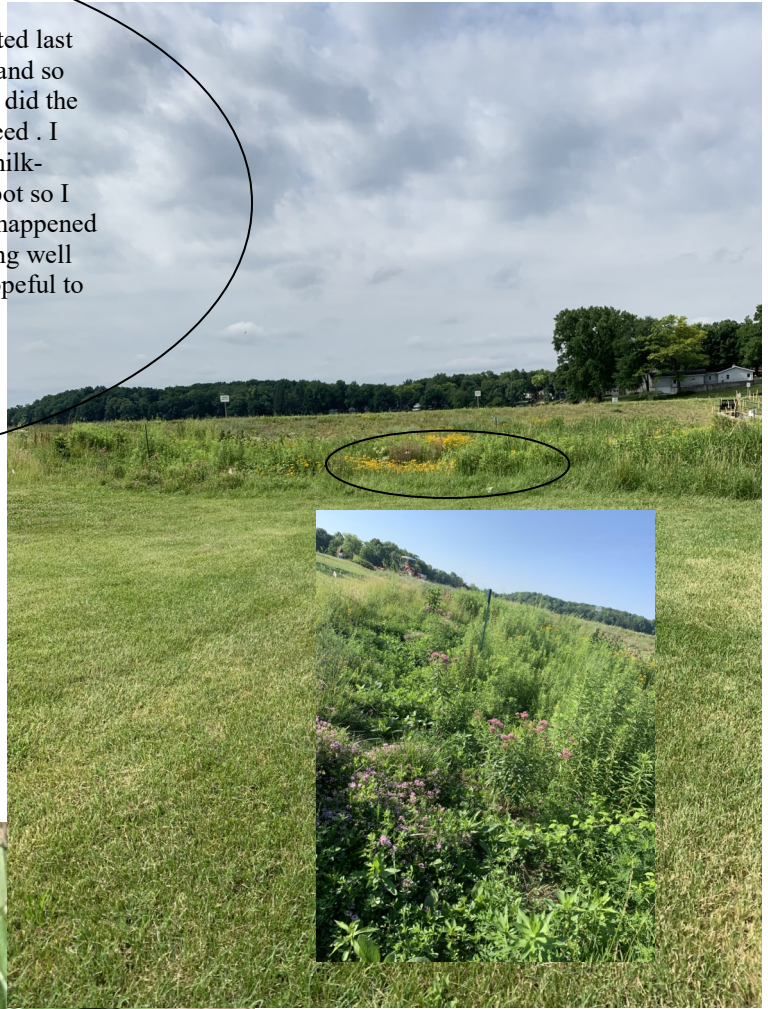
On the way to the Wetland, Hatchery Road, Garden between the lakes. May night salvia, hybrid Echinacea, gold plate yarrow, Purple wave petunias white sunpatiens. This is the color scheme for suffrage celebration. This the 100 yr of women's right to vote.

Tri 2, the south berm has a good stand of common milkweed with big blue stem, (Andropogon geradi) native to the great plains and moved in from Tri County with permission, and red twig dogwood recognizing a drastic change in garden design. The thistle is gone, replaced with marsh milkweed and seeded with obedience plant, black-eyed Susan from the rudbeckia family are colonizing nicely over the whole wetland area. There is a strong stand of sedge, tall green reed switch grass in between on NE banks, Tri 2 is also filled with sedges, reeds and blue blue lobelia in due time.

In September 2018 a design for a tour of the wetland was created. The emphasis of the wetland was on the use of vegetation for flood plain emergencies. The whole basin divided by the channel, is large enough to contain a dam spill until other emergency measures are met. The flowers are growing more beautiful because of their good health. All precautions for safety must be met with emphasis from local and state agencies. The mechanics for the tour is to share our plan with educational groups seeking knowledge of safety.



The circled area is the colony of marsh milkweed planted last year. I checked early on and found they had survived and so did the crownfetch which had infested that slope. So I did the treatment with Kilz. All which is safe around water weed. I got a thorough kill to the point of panic. I missed the milkweeds for only a few stalks. I had this massive bare spot so I bought out all Clayton had in wildflower seeds which happened to be gaillardia (daisy) combination. They were growing well on the 1st, and so is the crownvetch I missed. I am hopeful to get a new garden design at the east end of Tri 2.

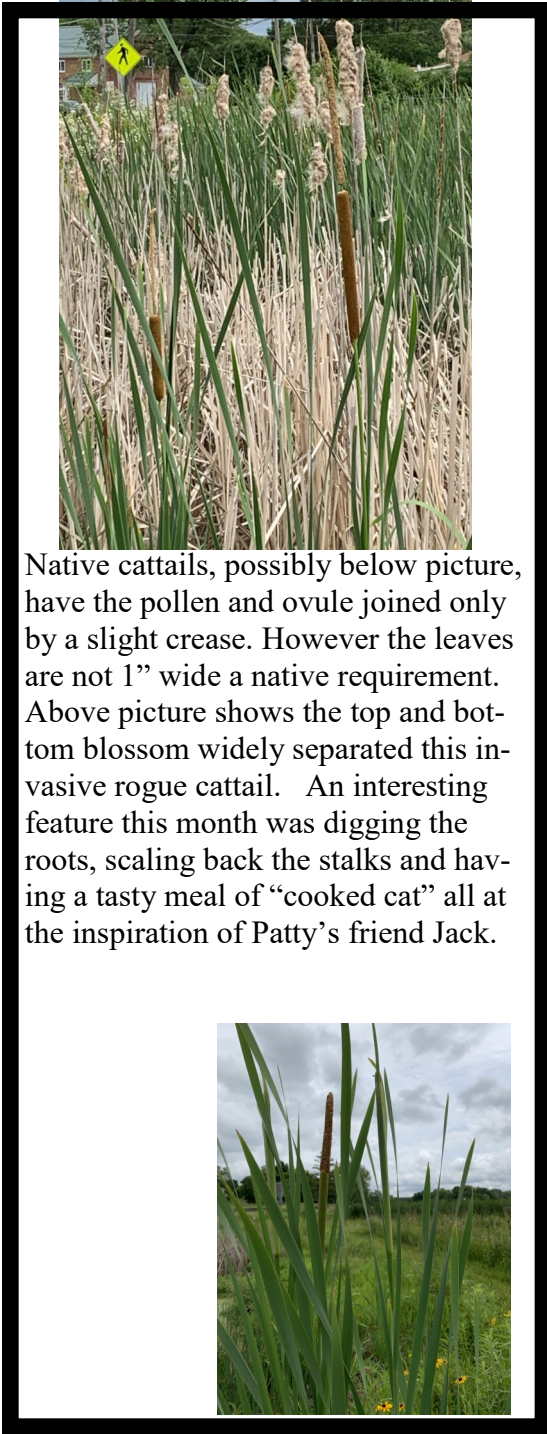


Katherine's copper markers will be placed by each specie. She is a copper crafter and each name will be embossed onto the copper.



The mowing is better and better. The flag markers have been a good deterrent and keeps all our designated plants visible. The new stands of marsh milkweed incarnata, obedience plant Physostegia Virginia, and asclepias tuberosa milkweed are doing very well.

Old pond by Hatchery road is filling in nicely with many of the plants from the designated mitigation area. The cattails are kept down by burning and chemical treatment along with the native plants growing strong. American pondweed, tall green reed and carex water sedge are a few. This year the red wing black birds have dominated the area with many nests in the sedge.



Native cattails, possibly below picture, have the pollen and ovule joined only by a slight crease. However the leaves are not 1" wide a native requirement. Above picture shows the top and bottom blossom widely separated this invasive rogue cattail. An interesting feature this month was digging the roots, scaling back the stalks and having a tasty meal of "cooked cat" all at the inspiration of Patty's friend Jack.



Tri 1 is filling in very well. The circle draws attention to the prairie cord grass one of the tallest of all grasses is showing here. Just a reminder to check it out when you visit the wetland.

Native herbs and more.

Old pond by Hatchery Road is filling in with more natives such as arrow root, plantain, American pondweed and water iris (found in tri 1)



Cup plant tall center.



Nice flowing artesian well surrounded with Fleabane, native. When leaves are dried believed to repel fleas.



White phlox.

Large stand of Motherwort by the burn pile. It looks like stinging nettles but they are farther down the slope. Motherwort has a rich history as a stimulating herb which can reach up to 5' and has rose to pale purple clusters of flowers along the tall stems.



Yes the specks in the air are red wing black birds! So many nests they are guarding.



White flowers such as hibiscus, bone set and daises remain steady throughout all seasons.



Cattails encroaching into tri 2. Next point of emphasis.
The pink flowers are 5 marsh milk weed planted summer 2019, growing nicely.



Tri 3, water cress, with it's love for cold water grows well where the artesian well flows into the mitigation area. In the foreground is red twig dogwood well prepared with fruit for the wildlife. No growing evidence of wild rice seeds we planted.



6 Loosestrife beetle is alive and well everywhere.



Spikes of reed canary grass (*phalaris arundinacea*) are not welcome neither are the roots.



Nice stand of Indian head.



A garden design worthy of a leading magazine article. All flowering in June. Fleabane, St. John's-wort and mullein.



White tall phlox.



Saint John's wort claims by some to alleviate depression.



Beetle alive and well chewing away at loosestrife leaves with smooth edge and compound structure. The blossom is nearly gone. If you have loosestrife on your beach take some of the critters fresh meat!



Loosestrief beetle is alive and well everywhere



Found new species, just new to the wetland, sorghum, a class of switch grass. It is widely cultivated cereal native to warm regions of the world. It is a major source of grain for livestock and wildlife. Sweet sorghum syrup may be colloquially called “sorghum molasses “in the southern united states.

Its fate will remain with the power of invasion.



The loosestrife beetle, *Galerucella calmariensis* remains a predatory with significant success. There are a few pink spikes and I hope it stays at that way or less!

Beetle alive and well chewing away at loosestrife leaves with smooth edge and compound structure. The blossom is nearly gone. If you have loosestrife on your beach take some of the critters fresh meat!

Tri 3 is free of cattails. The cress has gone dormant for the season. We cut out the few cattails that were there with my Hinkle's knives and ate the roots. Patty's friend is a cattail Connoisseur.



Fleabane growing in colonies all around the wetland. From the aster family it is believed the leaves dried and crushed repel fleas. I remember sachets made and placed in dresser drawers to control the fleas!



Beautiful fruit from the red twig dogwood. A wonderful native shrub growing on most of the berms in the wetland.



Big blue stem, of turkey foot.



Katherine's next painting. She likes the distinct row of cattail.



Old pond filling in.



July 11, 2020





Dead stalks of evening primrose with black eye Susan and nettles.



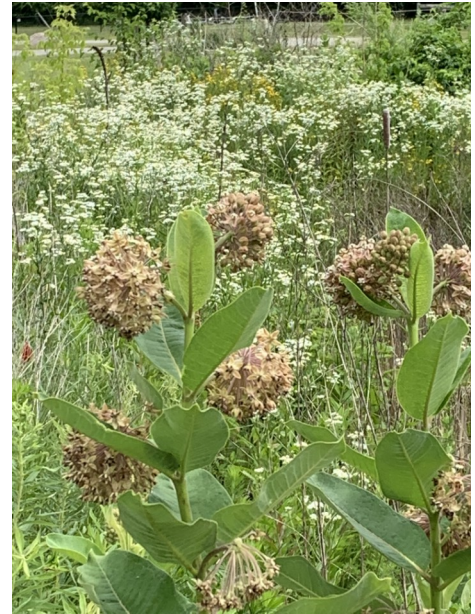
Layers of colonization looks good to me.



Tall phlox blooming in this area.



Cup plant, silphium perfoliatum, a source of water held in the junction of the compound leaves on the stalk for birds and insects, and black eye susan. A mullein creeping in beside taller plant giving a challenge to the reed Canary blossom!



Common milkweed syriaca and flea bane. All the colors for a Degas painting.



Landin Vine, scientist with WCC suggested we plant obedience plant as a replacement for loosestrife. We have 5 colonies now growing. Last year it was started, this summer Linda added 5 more to strengthen those who survived. The area is in front of the iron clad erosion control mat. It is the edge of the old pond by dam. It is still full of cats of which we did cut seed pods.



Nice stand of prairie cord grass.

