

BOD Wetland Report

October November 2020

by Joyce Arleen Corson
part one

This has been one of the greatest highlights of my life, here at Papakeechee, to have students visit our wetland. I've done a lot of consulting with Williams Creek. The many books I've shown groups are not copyrighted. We own them! Because they are published by USACE they are open to the public, letters and documents as well!



Photo by Linda Minnick



Original letter from Diane .

Diane – hi, Steve Coyle from the Ecology Committee. I don't know if you were on line (Zoom) to hear about my efforts to monitor wetlands as part of Snapshot Event water monitoring. I'm testing my protocol this year with hopes to use in next year's first WACF Snapshot Event. Eventually similar protocol would be used to inventory most of our wetlands.

So looking for a good place to prototype and your constructed wetland seemed perfect. Easy access and next to your outfall. Would I need any permission to go on the site? I can notify you of the day I plan to go out in case you need to notify anyone. It will take about an hour and not be intrusive – I will take 2 soil samples but not remove any. I might take a few flora samples but can just take pictures if prefer.

By the way, your website has several items on wetlands so that will be future reading for me. Please let me know if you have any thoughts. Thanks much, Steve Coyle 636 221-5351

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Hi folks. I want to thank you for allowing us to visit your wetlands and get a tour. In particular, appreciate Arlene's time to teach the Grace students a lot about your particular site...very interesting. It was a good kick off to their college project.

I apologize if there was misunderstanding of the purpose of our visits...should have made it more clear at the start. From that we've learned to make sure that any private land owners get a good introduction. So let me rehash what I've told Arlene in more detail. I got Arlene's name by running this by Diane Tulloh who joins our Ecology Committee meetings.

Dr Nate Bosch, Prof of Env Sciences, and I have a good relationship so I suggested to him that we collaborate on wetlands studies. It is a phased approach starting with students doing basic assessments and eventually doing detailed studies on specific sites. I actually took his



Ecology class for a day (painful) on how they assess wetlands. My method is slightly different so we are comparing ideas. Over 7 weeks these students are developing a database and testing the methodology at several wetlands locations.

Here are the reasons I asked permission to use your wetlands as our first site:

1. It is conveniently located off a major road with good parking
2. It is a well known feature and close to my house!
3. It is a constructed wetland which I wanted to show the students
4. It is privately owned so less chance of running into someone with shotgun
5. It is relatively small but packed with neat plants so easier to study

Please realize this is a "student project" as part of Grace College coursework. WACF is supporting it but really only in my personal time. There is no financial deal here, the students are donating their time to get class credit. At the end of their term they will submit a summary so they can get credit. As far as I know the results will not be published since it is not a graduate level effort. Nate and I will

use the report to have a database for future classes to use and ideas on how to change the methodology.

Two things to consider: 1) We will send you their assessment done yesterday, your feedback is welcome. If you do not want the report included in the student summary please let me know. 2) Nate and I would like to publicize the student's efforts and your participation. If you do not want to be part of the publicity please let me know.

Sorry for the long explanation but felt it important. Let me end by assuring you that WACF has no intention of monitoring your wetlands...you've had enough of that! This was only a test case to see how assessments work. If you would like me to help with any future assessments you want to do (a great idea) please let me know.

sta wam next eek! Steve Coyle