



Newsletter of the White Oak Bayou Wetland Management Plan

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Important Dates:

- November 5th—Arbor Day Celebration, Maumelle Community Center, 9:30-11:30am.
- December 5th—Steering Committee Meeting, Maumelle Water Management Training Facility, 3:00-4:30pm.

Survey Link:

<http://honors.uca.edu/hcol/HCSurvey.php?ID=44>

Story Ideas? Want to be put on the mailing list? Contact us at

thecypressknee@swbell.net

Wetland Management Plan Update

Current developments, meeting updates, and future plans

Several activities on the White Oak Bayou Wetland Management Plan (WOBWMP) have occurred within the month of October. The Steering Committee met on October 12th where the group discussed upcoming outreach opportunities, HGM status, and wetland category classifications for the project.

Public outreach activities included holding a WOBWMP booth at the Maumelle Chamber of Commerce Expo on Oct. 13th and a Wetland Walk on Oct. 15th. See articles on both topics for more detailed information. Plans have been made to hold a booth at the Arbor Day Celebration on November 5th at the Community Center. The purpose of the outreach activities is to inform others about the WOBWMP and to



Steering Committee held at Park on the River.

gather input on community values of the wetlands.

The HGM data analysis is still underway. Sara and Scott Owen have completed the soil data collection. Kevin Mullinax is preparing a draft for the Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee.

The Steering Committee discussed the wetland category classification process. This will be an involved process requiring input from the Steering Committee, Technical Advisory

Committee, and the public. It will include values and functions of social, economic, and natural resources factors. The community values are of paramount importance for the categorization process. The values will ultimately be ranked for use in the management plan. The objective is to assist the public in providing them with a wetland management tool for the White Oak Bayou watershed.



Farewell reception for Sara and Scott Owen before and after the Steering Committee mtg.

Wetland Ecology: White Oak Bayou Wetland Walk

Exploring the functions and values of wetlands in the ecosystem

A wetland walk of about 23 adventurers was led by Kevin Mullinax, PWS, on the morning of October 15th through a privately owned area of the bayou that is absolutely gorgeous! Groups represented include the Central Arkansas Master Naturalists, ArkansasNative Plant



The group gathered near the bayou channel.

Society, and Maumelle Citizens' Association. Trees were just

starting to show signs of fall as the hickories (*Carya* spp.), tupelo gum (*Nyssa aquatica*), and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) were turning shades of yellows and browns. Kevin discussed species of the uplands that transition to floodplain areas (ie. shagbark hickory);

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Wetland Ecology, continued

natural beaver activities including construction of dams and changes in water levels; and the function of wetlands (how they detain runoff and precipitation, detain floodwaters, cycle nutrients, export organic carbon, provide wildlife habitat, absorb



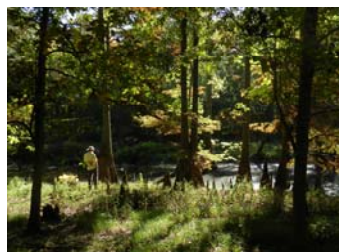
Remnants of beaver activity were seen here where an old dam had impeded water flow and bark of live trees had been removed.

tree species of the flats included many willow oak, locust and hickory trees. Once closer to the channel of the bayou, the species change to more cypress and tupelo where the soil is saturated most of the year.



Vera Bowie examines an empty cocoon on a cedar tree.

natural pollution, and maintain plant communities, all the HGM functions). Much of the wetland walk occurred within the flats of the White Oak Bayou. This was visibly distinct in many areas as the



Frank Otto views the bayou in an area surrounded by bald cypress knees and trees.

Plant of the Month: Trifoliate Orange

Featuring plants, animals and other critters in your area.

Scientific Name:

Poncirus trifoliata

The trifoliate orange is a small tree or shrub that grows from 8-15' in height with a tangled web of thorny-branches. It is an invasive species that has colonized in floodplains and is commonly seen in various areas of the White Oak Bayou. We viewed many of these during the wet-

land walk in October and it was one of the first plants Kevin Mullinax stopped to



Note the leaves of three, small orange, and sharp thorns. Photo by Sally Horsey.



Treasures of a young hiker found along the wetland walk include two trifoliate oranges, dead thorns and a large oak acorn cap.

It can be painful if you get too close. The plant is covered in 2" long thorns that are very

Wetland Trivia

What does Gothic architecture and tupelo / cypress trees have in common?



Sint-Petrus-en-Pauluskerk; Ostend Belgium
Photo by Georges Jansoone



Photo by Kevin Mullinax.

Answer: Buttresses

tough and can penetrate a soft shoe sole, not to mention what it could do if you brushed up against it! The plant has white flowers in the spring and fruits that mature by fall that are about 1 1/2" in diameter and look like small oranges. The sour fruit has a citrus fragrance, but is full of seeds and contains little pulp.

Community Forum

Showcasing the community's photos, stories, and more



Sara Owen discusses the WOBWMP with a citizen during the Expo.

The Maumelle Chamber of Commerce held its annual Expo on October 13, 2011 at the Jess Owens Community Center. This was another opportunity to showcase the WOBWMP and spread information about the plan. Thanks to all of the Steering Committee members who volunteered to staff the booth. This booth was held as part of the public outreach goals of the project. We collected many surveys from Maumelle citizens and have expanded our newsletter distribution list. If you would like to have the WOBWMP tri-fold and brochures displayed at a particular location within Pulaski County, please let us know.



Marion Scott runs the WOBWMP booth while citizens fill out surveys.