August 2020
Volume 13 Issue 1

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The Cypress Knee

NEWSLETTER OF THE WHITE OAK BAYOU WETLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Inside this issue:

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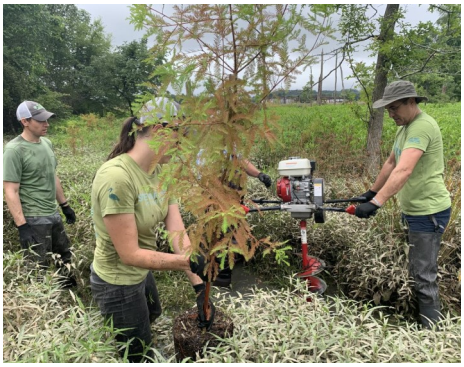
What's New on the Bayou

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS, MEETING UPDATES, AND FUTURE PLANS

The past twelve months have been busy in White Oak Bayou (WOB). We hosted a public float trip on the bayou, networked at the Maumelle Expo, met with wetland landowners, and held an educational wetland restoration demonstration and volunteer event.

As part of the 2020 WOB Wetland Restoration Demonstration volunteers planted 50 potted cypress trees and over 250 other wetland tree and shrub seedling in smartweed dominated wetlands near the Wetland Trail at the Maumelle Diamond Center Softball Complex.

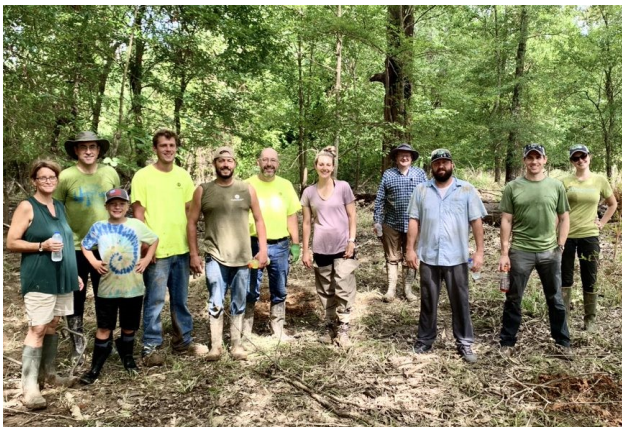
All wetlands have 3 common characteristics: wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and wetland vegetation. Wetland restoration involves restoring or enhancing one or more of these physical characteristics. The WOB Wetland Demonstration was aimed at re-establishing wetland forest vegetation in an area overtaken by smartweed (a locally invasive species. The bald cypress trees were selected because of their ability to withstand annual sustained flooding, that the previous forested area could not survive.



Wetland restoration and protection in WOB plays an important role in maintaining wildlife habitat, controlling erosion, limiting flooding, improving water quality, and reducing pollutant and nutrients in the watershed.

The purpose of this restoration demonstration was to further educate wetland landowners and other stakeholders in the watershed about the potentials of restoration and the Mitigation Program.

Learn more about wetlands management and the Mitigation Program by visiting http://www.whiteoakbayou.com/resources/guidancedocs/



Volunteers at the wetland restoration in June 2020

Thank you to the City of Maumelle, White Oak Bayou Wetland Conservancy, Holloway Engineering, GBMc and Associates, and all the volunteers who made this event possible

Wetland Restoration Trees and shrubs

Volunteers at the WOB Restoration Demonstration planted four different native plant species including bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), and rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*).

Bald cypress trees can tolerate long periods of flooding and inundation. They provide excellent cover and nesting sites for birds. Bald cypress tree seeds also provide food for birds and small mammals.

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=TADI2

Persimmon trees produce sweet edible fruits which is an attraction to wildlife. Persimmon trees are also beneficial in controlling erosion.

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=divi5

Willow Oaks produce acorns which are a valuable food source for waterfowl, wild turkey, deer, fox, squirrels, and many other birds and small mammals.

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=QUPH

Rose mallow is a 3-8 foot tall shrub which grows large showy flowers. Rose mallow flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators. Several species of moths and butterflies use rose mallow as a caterpillar host plant.

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=HIMO

Wetland Trivia

A wetland can typically store about three-acre feet (three acres covered in water one foot deep) or about one million gallons of water. (https://www.epa.gov)

Stream Restoration:

Stream protection, management and restoration is another important component of the overall wetland management plan. In urbanizing areas there is commonly an increased occurrence of impervious surfaces (roof tops, parking lots, roads, etc) that do not absorb water like a grassy field or forest, and this results in an increase in the amount of run-off entering streams during storm events. This increased run-off is not natural to local streams and the channel frequently becomes unstable causing streambank and channel erosion, as the channel widens and deepens to accommodate the higher flows. This erosion sends hundreds of tons of sediment and other soil-based pollutants (nitrogen, phosphorus) into the wetland complex. To correct this issue carefully planned restoration is often times required.