

**COLUMBIA COUNTY  
ADOPT-A-STREAM  
NEWSLETTER No. 56  
May 6, 2008**

**Drainage Basin Advisory Council  
Studies Wynngate Tributary, Public  
Education**

County staff described for Council members a \$1 million capital improvements project for remediation of problems on the **Wynngate Tributary**, a significant **Reed Creek** feeder. It has been submitted to Procurement for rfps (requests for proposals). The project was initiated as a result of frequent expressions of citizen concern.

Delays in getting started on at least portions of the project are likely because the State has taken control of improvements at **Old Petersburg Road** (*photos below, left*). County tasks planned there were replaced with others.

The downstream improvements by the County cannot be started until the State has finished its work. We may note the improvement delays (three years) we faced on **Fury's Ferry Road** because of State-controlled schedules.



Wynngate at Old Pete, Upstream  
Stream flows to right.



Wynngate at Old Pete, Downstream  
Children's school is at upper right.  
Stream flows to left.



Some of Columbia County Drainage Advisory Council Members at April 17 Meeting  
Bo Slaughter, Chairman, at Left  
(Margaret Doss, Jac Palmer at Head of Table)

Concerns about drainage and odor occasionally come to us. For example, a resident of another important Reed Creek feeder—what we shall call the **Watervale Tributary**—complained about odors. Our visit revealed a private pond that is at least 95% filled with sediment so that water runs constantly over the top of the dam. Some of the uneven bottom is actually exposed (*photo, right*). We suspect that bottom



Privately-Owned Watervale Pond

sediments stirred up by rains and low water levels may have released trapped hydrocarbons, but no odor was detected at the time of visit. We understand that both Richmond and Columbia Counties are cooperating in studying their drainage systems. This cooperation is suitable in the case of the Watervale Tributary but of Reed Creek in general, as it flows from Columbia County into Richmond County.

**Cleanup Underway at Washington Commons  
Jim Wiseman**

County workers ( I assume) were busy yesterday clearing the wetlands area next to our access road of beavers with the intention of clearing drainage obstacles and making that area a flowing creek. My observation today is that I see no appreciable increase in drainage from the wetlands.

## State Takes Action on Jones Creek



Erosion site, 26 April 2008  
Some additional amounts of erosion noted.

At last month's Advisory Council Meeting, the severe erosion at Jones Creek, adjacent to State-owned Fury's Ferry Road was noted. County officials notified our County commissioners but also the State. Between April 26 and April 30 (photos), action was taken. Your editor was assuming that the existing retaining wall, followed by dirt fill, would be undertaken. Instead the cavity was filled with rip-rap and some soil. We could have hoped for a more finished effort, such as buffer plants or silt screens and extension of the existing retention wall. Note (*photo, previous page*) that rip-rap was also used by County officials on the downstream side of [Wynngate Tributary at Old Petersburg Road](#).

We are still concerned about high flows from the dam immediately upstream, as contributing to considerable erosion at not just this immediate site, but at other points along this stream.



Erosion site, 30 April 2008  
Area mowed further; rip-rap added.

## Challenges for May

This month we will need to review resources for meeting our macroinvertebrate assessment needs. Please let your coordinator know of any staffing shortfalls due to folks taking vacations, etc. Visits should be early in the morning to avoid high temperatures. If staffing proves critical, feel free to do biological and chemical assessments on different days or at different times in the day. Assisting volunteers: please confirm with your team leader your availability!

Leaders, please check your equipment. Sometimes conductivity units, thermometers, other items may be misplaced, need replacement.

## Bacterial Samplings

Protocol samplings, involving 4 sets at each site over the month of May, will be undertaken each Wednesday, one in the Betty's Branch watershed, one in the Reed Creek watershed. This will complete the use of the "free" samplings offered to AAS by the County for this fiscal year. Results will be reported next month.



Other Evidence of Significant Erosion on Jones Creek Denuded Tree Roots

### GETTING STARTED WORKSHOP

June 7, 2008

Reed Creek Park, Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM  
A Yearly Review

**Includes site-location analysis, visual surveys, watershed analyses, new ideas.**

**THANKS, volunteers!**

**A volunteer well-oriented makes all tasks simpler, quicker, and more accurate.**

**Register via [jopagr@comcast.net](mailto:jopagr@comcast.net).**



Large Mystery Track on April 26 at Jones Creek

## ASSIGNMENTS

Letters following names indicate certifications of participants, as presently known. Some were certified in December/January/ February, and some in June/July/August of 2007: g or v=Getting Started (Update/Orientation, with introduction to visual surveys and watershed studies); c=chemical/physical; b=biological (macros); t=trainer. Each number following the letter is the month of certification in that skill. In some cases persons who didn't take the Getting Started workshop may have gotten some of the visual survey training elsewhere (as at the Educational Forest in Richmond County with **Frank Carl**) or at Phinizy Swamp Nature Center.

Column B identifies the type of stream bottom – and hence the type of collection nets used for macros: “R” for rocky bottoms; “S” for sandy or silty bottoms. Some bottoms are a mix (“RS”). With low levels in our streams, seines may be introduced more often, at emerging riffle points Letters in the K column identify by letter the particular shallow-water chemical kits used and retained. Nitrate and phosphate kits are identified by letter in the T column. Letters in the C column identify conductivity units. Known/suspected visit dates are given in monthly columns. Gloves should be used for all operations, but especially nitrate & DO.

Request and record averaged rainfall data 0-24 hrs, 24-48 hrs, 48-72 hrs, prior from John Graham before completing reports. New forms for such data (visual, chemical, biological) will be provided as needed, but the data can be noted on the older forms anyway.

Use the “buddy” system when getting DO, pH, temperatures. One buddy should be certified. Especially verify titration readings.

Stream	Team Leaders and Assisters	B	K	T	C	Leader Phone	Usual Day/Time	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	<b>GETTING STARTED WORKSHOP</b> Reed Creek Park (See Box, Page 2)										7
Betty's Branch Site 3	Judy Gordon (vc1b8b2) Dennis McClendon (c1b3) Occ: Terry Shipe, C. Niemeyer, D. Lewis	R	E	B	F	650-8314	Last week weekday	C 26	CV 22-24	CB 27-29	C 24-26
Euchee Ck 4	Michael (cb1) and Robin (c1) Reardon Jim (c) and Anna (c) Mayfield Cody Coulson (and father, brother?)	S	M	B	F	627-5226	Usually 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	C 29	CV 19	CB 17	C 21
Mill Branch 1*	Zuliana Salerno (c4b3), Maria Mike Piper?, Hooman Haghbin? John Graham (t)	S R	C	C	B	650-72	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	C 8	CV 12	CB 17	C 14
Jones Creek Site 2B*****	Rebekah Ivey (c1b2, beginning April) John Graham (t), Loren Waldo (cb) Dwight/Dillon/ Garrett Jones (May)	S R	C	C	B	650-7634	4 <sup>th</sup> Sat	C 22	C26	V9 CB 24	C 28
Reed Creek Site 1A**	John Graham (April, May); Michelle Zupan (c1b2), leader beginning June; Ayman Fadel assisting Macros (May)1: Glenn/Evan Krenz?	R S	G	A	E	829-3093 cell	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	C 15	CV 16	C17am B17pm	C 21
Reed Creek Site	John Graham (t), temporary leader Macros: Sam Booher (vbc)?	R S	G	A	E	868-0296	4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays	-	-	CB 19	C 16
Reed Creek Site 4	Ray Sprankle (c1b2) Andrew Sprankle (c1b2) Michelle Zupan (c1b2) to May	R S	A	A	C	855-6248	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	C 15	CV 19	CB 17	C 21
Marshall Ck Site 1	Sam Booher (vbc) or John Graham (t)	S R	B	A	E	854-9195	4 <sup>th</sup> Tue-Thu	C 26?	CV 22-24	CB 28	C 25

\* Zuliana requested that her Mill Branch visit be changed from May 10 to May 17.

\*\* To accommodate Zuliana, the visit to Reed Creek Site 1A for macros may be shifted to the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\* A new site near Washington Commons is still being considered.

\*\*\*\*\* The visual survey for Jones Creek Site 2B was moved from April 26 to May 8 because of time limitations and the need to repair the profile line after the 6-foot stream surge in March.

# APRIL Rainfall

Note: Use Columbia County average below!

2007 monthly rainfalls. May is the driest of the first 8 months. Normally November is the year's driest. This April's average is given below.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Rain Total	4.215	3.178	5.082	1.978	0.651	5.375	4.401	2.377

April is the driest month since November—and about 1 1/3 inches less than March. As can be seen by examining the data above, it is following the pattern of an earlier year. May could be drier yet. Days in blue are suitable as “wet” bacterial sample collection days. Days in red are suitable as “dry” bacterial sample collection days—provided samples are collected prior to any rain reported on such days showing rain over 0.10”; these latter are marked in green. A “dry” collection day has been preceded by at least 72 hours of no rain, followed up by at least 0.1” of rain. Note that these limits are applied particularly for stream walks locally—not 0.2” for bacterial samples under EPA rules. An “e”, “a”, or hat “^” before a reading indicates an apportioned estimate of an accurately-totaled sample. A number in parentheses is doubtful and therefore not included in sums.

NOTE: Air pressures at 10 AM for Saturdays, the usual sampling days, are given. They are now averages of the Petersburg and Junction 232/383 sites. Station hours are 00-24 or 07-07 (to prior day).

Day (2006)	Air Pressure 10 AM	J. Graham wood S/D BW	Bob/Sally Fisher Westlake RF	Crs. Capps Woodstock WS	Jim Mayfield The Pass TP	J. Gordon Clanton Woods CW	Jim Wiseman Commons WC	Richard Mann Tyler Dr. TD	Zuliana Salerno ZS	Wellington S/D Evans WT	Junction Routes 232/383 J N	West Lyme WL	Old Petersburg OP	Reed Creek R Cl	Little River L R	Crawford Creek Tr. Plant C C	Point Comfort Tr. Plant P C	Columbia County (Average 13-14)	Hadem Pumpkin Center HM	Clark's Hill Tr. Plant C H	Daniel Field	Bush Field
NOV		0.16	0.25	0.16	0.30	0.30	0.36	0.17		0.26	0.34	0.32	0.30	0.24	6.75	0.20	0.32	0.256	0.35	0.98	0.41	0.41
DEC		5.16	6.00	5.47	6.30	6.30	6.06	4.57	7.20	N/A	6.25	7.38	5.60	6.14	6.75	5.59		6.504	6.02	5.67	7.09	7.51
JAN		2.85	3.32	"	3.55	4.14	4.07	3.09	2.95	3.22	2.84	2.93	3.02	3.33	5.1	3.17	3.40	3.263	3.61	3.68	3.29	3.19
FEB		4.09	4.32	4.12	5.05	4.07	4.07	3.94	4.48	3.63	4.93	4.29	4.34	4.48	N/A	4.89	N/A	4.369	4.79	4.83	4.50	3.84
MAR		4.63	3.67	4.42	4.95	4.30	4.30	4.13	4.68	4.67	3.86	N/A	3.83	N/A	5.8	N/A	3.76	4.391				
Hours->		00-24	**	00-24	22-22	00-24	00-24	00-24	00-24	00-24	00-24	00-24	00-24	00-24	07-07	00-24	07-07		00-24	00-24	00-24	00-24
OVERALL												N/A				N/A						
April 1																						
April 2																					Trace	0.37
April 3		0.20	0.12		0.10	0.20	0.20	0.14	0.12		0.22		0.19	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.161	0.17	0.12	0.11	0.12
April 4		0.31	0.24		0.39	0.30	0.04	Trace	0.28	0.06	0.11		0.11	0.75	0.60	0.37	0.37	0.326	0.28	0.12	0.47	0.30
April 5		1.26	1.02	(1.22)	0.87	0.10	1.60	1.16	0.98	1.02	1.16		1.16	1.00	0.80	1.00	1.00	1.010	1.01	0.75	1.16	0.63
April 6	29.99		0.04	0.04				Trace		0.02	0.01		0.02			0.02	0.02	0.011	0.03		0.05	Trace
April 7																						
April 8-10																						
April 11	29.80	0.12	0.16	0.08	0.24	0.05	0.20	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.20		0.06		0.50		0.15	0.011	0.05		0.25	0.19
April 12																						
April 13																						
April 14																						
April 15																					Trace	Trace
April 16																					Trace	Trace
April 17																						
April 18																						
April 19	30.01	Trace	Trace	Trace	Trace	Trace	0.04	Trace		0.02	0.01		0.02					0.006			Trace	Trace
April 20-22																						
April 23																						
April 24																						
April 25																						
April 26	30.12	0.08	0.04	0.12	0.25	0.08	0.08	0.06			0.04		0.04	0.08	0.20			0.830	0.40	1.06	0.26	0.31
April 27	30.09	0.12	0.08	0.12	Trace	0.04	0.04	0.08		0.04	0.06		0.04	0.04	0.70		0.14	0.112	0.07		0.15	0.08
April 28	29.89	0.47	0.24	0.51	0.80	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.12	0.55	0.25		0.55	0.16			0.35	0.343	0.39	0.51	0.13	0.14
April 29	30.08								0.39									0.028				
April 30	30.18																					
April 31																						
APRIL		2.56	1.94	(1.97)	1.90	2.55	2.80	1.76	1.93	1.77	(2.06)	N/A	1.77	2.28	3.10	N/A	2.33	2.963	2.40	2.56	2.58	2.19