

Duke Officials Seek Wetland Funding

Officials at Duke University say restoring Duke Forest's wetlands would help filter pollution from city streets.

Associated Press

DURHAM - Duke University is asking for nearly \$600,000 in state funding to turn part of Duke Forest into the wetland it was a century ago and create an open-air water filter.

The wetland would filter grease, oil, metals and other pollutants washed from Durham streets by storm water runoff, as well as sediment and nutrients. It would help keep those pollutants out of an underground stream 20 feet

beneath Duke University.

The stream, Sandy Creek, now pours those pollutants unchecked into New Hope Creek, sullyng the Jordan Lake tributary with sediment and toxic substances.

The project's water-quality improvement and environmental benefits could persuade the state-funded Clean Water Management Trust Fund to support restoring an eight-acre section of the forest near the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, said Curt Richardson, a wetlands ecologist and director of the Duke University Wetland Center.

"That stream's not functioning anymore the way it should be," said Richardson, who would oversee the wetland's creation. "When New Hope Creek comes into Durham it supports all

of its functions and it's considered a highly desirable stream. And then after Sandy Creek gets through feeding all of its sediment and nutrients and materials from all these parts of Durham and (New Hope Creek) leaves (Durham), it's degraded. I think that's just sad."

Duke's interests in creating the wetland extend beyond its potential environmental benefits. The site would also be a unique research resource for the university.

Students at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment could study the wetland's creation from start to finish, Richardson said. They then could conduct a host of studies on plant life, water-fowl and other topics.

The university's grant proposal says the wetland center would provide

money for two graduate students to conduct research on sediment retention and water quality. That would enable Duke to verify in detail whether the wetland was performing its filtering function at the expected rate.

"It would be sort of a model laboratory on wetlands, which really doesn't exist anywhere in North Carolina," Richardson said.

Duke officials hope to hear by August whether the project will receive funding.

David McNaught, the executive director of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, said the organization has received 52 applications seeking a total of about \$60 million. That's about three times the maximum amount the trust is likely to award, McNaught said.



BY VERNA KALE
Arts & Features Editor

"Waking Ned Devine"
If the banality of summer movies has already got you down, you might be able to find some respite with your VCR.

"Waking Ned Devine" is out this month and offers refreshment for those thirsting for a comedy with more to offer than bodily humor.

VIDEO BRIEFS

"Waking Ned Devine"



"The Miracle"



"Taking place in a small village in Ireland, the story revolves around best friends Jackie (Ian Bannon) and Michael (David Kelly). When Ned Devine wins 6,894,620 pounds in the lottery, he dies from the shock of it. Jackie and Michael decide to claim the money by pretending Michael is Ned.

Such a ruse cannot remain a secret for long, and soon the whole town gets caught up in the madness.

This film has humor with intelligence and heart, but do not fear, this movie is

not yet another high-brow British tea party. Naked old guys and a Tarantino-esque accidental homicide remedy that.

What you do have is a film with some interesting questions about morality, like the age-old question of whether one can justify doing the wrong thing for the right reason.

In the end a simple morality about friends remains, leaving the viewer with the feeling that maybe all is right in the world after all.

"The Miracle"
You will not find "The Miracle" at your local video store. The Neil Jordan film ("The Crying Game"), released in 1990 by Miramax, did not enjoy wide distribution. In fact, the only place you can find it around Chapel Hill is the Undergraduate Library.

But its elusiveness only adds to the film's appeal.

In a small coastal town in Ireland, best friends Jimmy (Niall Byrne) and Rose (Lorraine Pilkington) pass the time making up stories about people they observe.

While discussing the imagined life of a beautiful American (Beverly D'Angelo), Jimmy develops a mysterious attraction to the sultry stranger.

A different kind of love story ensues, one with a dark side rarely seen even in today's most daring films.

Jimmy's obsessive love leads to questions which has answers that strike at the some of the most ancient of human experiences.

This well-acted film about relationships between family, friends, and lovers provides no easy solutions, but it does manage to portray the bittersweet in life in all its glory.

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Oldest Known Shipwrecks Found by Explorer

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel - Using the same techniques he used to locate the Titanic, explorer Bob Ballard said Wednesday that he has found the oldest known deepwater shipwrecks: a pair of wine-laden ships dragged to the depths of the Mediterranean during a fierce storm more than 2,500 years ago.

The pair of Phoenician cargo ships were found using an underwater robot and deep-water tracking equipment, Ballard told reporters at a Tel Aviv hotel

overlooking the Mediterranean.

"A lot of history books will be rewritten from what we are finding in the deep seas," Ballard said.

The contents of the ships indicate that they set sail from the Phoenician port of Tyre - now a city in Lebanon - about 750 B.C. Both vessels were transporting hundreds of amphorae, large ceramic containers filled with wine. Although the amphorae were found intact, the wine had seeped out and sand had filled them.

The ships were headed either for

Carthage - in modern-day Tunisia - or Egypt. The vessels are positioned upright about 1,500 feet deep on the ocean floor, about 30 miles off the shores of Israel. The route was not previously known as one used by Phoenician sailors.

One ship is approximately 60 feet long, the largest pre-classical ship ever discovered, Ballard said. The smaller ship is located about two miles away and is 45 feet long.

The ships are almost perfectly preserved - a result of the cold deep-sea

waters and the relative absence of sediment at such depths.

Stone anchors were found, as well as crockery, a wine decanter, and incense stands for offering prayers to weather gods.

The ships probably went down in a violent storm and each likely carried a crew of six, said Lawrence Stager, an archeologist from Harvard University.

The search was sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the United States Office of Naval Research and an Israeli archaeological institute.

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