

# Red Root Creek Wetlands and Habitat Restoration Studio

970:511:06 – Spring 2014

Room 474, Civic Square

Wednesdays, 6:10 – 8:50 PM

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(Office hours: by appointment)

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## Studio Description

The project site is located within Raritan Center, along the Raritan River straddling Edison and Woodbridge townships. The site is owned by Federal Business Centers (FBC - studio client) and will remain in private ownership. Students will produce a conceptual site plan for restoration of degraded wetlands, focusing on two different areas within the larger study site. One upland area borders and extends an existing restored wetland, and another area is along the Riverfront with connectivity to the neighboring El Paso restoration site. Both areas have potential for limited recreation, within constraints of security and consideration of risks.

Students will learn from experts about topics of ecological and habitat restoration, remediation, recreation planning, and the role of government and non-profit and private partnerships. The studio should appeal to students interested in environmental planning, public/private partnership, and site design. Students will work in teams to produce a conceptual site design for restoration of the two areas. It is likely that one team will focus on planning considerations (regulations, economics, tie-ins with local and regional plans, etc.) and another team will focus on technical site design issues (habitat, plants, ecological functions), but the two teams will have significant interaction and cross-fertilization of work. **The final plan will include maps, detailed site characterization, restoration goals, implementation phases, and recommendations for potential funding.**

## Duke Farms Partnership

This studio will feature lectures and project assistance from expert research staff from Duke Farms in Hillsborough (dukefarms.org), including Executive Director Michael Catania, a former Deputy Commissioner of NJDEP. Bloustein and Duke Farms are beginning a collaboration that will promote connections that support Bloustein classes and research in the areas of environmental planning, habitat preservation, green design and stewardship. This studio will serve as one of the first endeavors of this new partnership.

All members of our community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain advantage not given to all students is dishonest, whether or not the effort is successful. A violation of academic honesty is a breach of trust, and will result in penalties, including possible suspension or expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, consult the course instructors.

**ALL SOURCES OF PHOTOS, WEBSITES, and OTHER REFERENCES must be cited in all work.**

## Detailed Weekly Syllabus

| DATE   | CLASS SCHEDULE  | SPEAKERS  |
|--------|---|---|
| Jan 22 | Introduction and Site History<br>CLIENT MEETING   | Client (Peter Visceglia, FBC and Tom Zutkulick, PS&S)   |
| Jan 25 | Field Trip to Raritan Center  | SATURDAY AFTERNOON  |
| Jan 29 | Regulatory and Site Context<br>Applicable Federal and State laws and regulations<br>Health, Safety and Risk Conflicts | Michael Catania<br><br>Sara Malone  |
| Feb 1  | Field Trip to Raritan Center  | SNOW DATE FOR JANUARY 25th  |
| Feb 5  | Habitat Restoration   | Michael Catania and Thom Almendinger, Duke Farms  |
| Feb 12 | Wetlands Restoration and Design   | Michael Catania and Tim Dunne, NRCS retired   |
| Feb 19 | Recreation and Economic Value, Ecological Services  | Joseph Seneca, & Jeanne Herb, Bloustein School/Rutgers  |
| Feb 22 | Field Trip to Duke Farms  | SATURDAY AFTERNOON  |
| Feb 26 | Local and Regional Planning Context<br>Public Access  | Judy Shaw, Sustainable Raritan River Initiative; Carolyn Ehrlich & Marta Lefsky, Woodbridge Township; and Deb Mans, NY/NJ Baykeeper |
| Mar 5  | Class Directed Lecture and Work Session   | Mapping and Design  |
| Mar 12 | Class Directed Lecture and Work Session   | Mapping and Design  |
| Mar 19 | Spring Break  | No Class  |
| Mar 26 | Initial Site Conceptual Design and Work Session   | Class Presentation  |
| Apr 2  | Revisit Key Topics<br>Funding Options/Partnerships  | Michael Catania and Sara Malone   |
| Apr 9  | Class Directed Lecture and Work Session   | Final Mapping and Design  |
| Apr 16 | Dress Rehearsal and Work Session  | Class Presentation  |
| Apr 23 | Client Meeting – Raritan Center   | Formal Presentation to Client   |
| Apr 30 | Final Site Conceptual Design Due  | Evaluations and Celebration   |

### Required Readings

- Site Reports and Plans
- Class handouts, and other readings or reports as assigned and posted on Sakai site

### Grades

**50% of your grade is based on your overall attendance, participation, and assignments**

**50% of your grade is based on the final presentation and plan (combined instructor and peer grade)**