

#4

HORT 308

October 7, 2013

CT2 Visual Essay

I can personally connect with the idea from “The Shared Landscape: What Does Aesthetics Have To Do With Ecology?” that landscapes that are viewed as aesthetically pleasing are more likely to be protected and appreciated than landscapes that aren’t as visually appealing. In order to investigate the author’s claims, it would be beneficial to reference “Aesthetics in Practice” (<http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/homes/rgroves/bradypub1.pdf>) where a University of Edinburgh (UK) student argues that the importance of aesthetic beauty cannot be denied. In addition, one could read “Protecting the Landscape” (https://www.artsjournal.com/aestheticgrounds/protecting_the_landscape/) where Glenn Weiss references situations where lawsuits were formed over grass not being properly maintained in an aesthetically pleasing fashion. I can connect with this excerpt because I spent the previous summer walking on a golf course with multiple “natural areas.” These wetlands and border areas were allowed to grow without fear of ever seeing a weedeater or a set of loppers. While beneficial to many species of animals, we received complaints about the natural areas on a regular basis. The members wanted to cut down and fill in the wetland marshes in order to add an extension of manicured grass to the fairway. In order to obtain additional perspectives on this subject, it would be beneficial to reference any of multiple studies performed by Ducks Unlimited in which the organization stresses the importance of leaving dead trees standing and encouraging thick, swamp plant growth (practices that are far from aesthetically pleasing to most) in order to provide nesting, brood-rearing, and feeding habitat for multiple species of ducks (<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/habitat/>). From this point forward, I will make it a point to stress the importance of “unsightly” landscapes to people, on the golf course and elsewhere. Whether it is explaining the importance of natural wetland areas on my local country club to golfers or stressing the natural value of the swamp a few miles from Clemson’s campus to developers, landscapes that are not as aesthetically pleasing still have a significant ecological importance and should not be destroyed and modified far from their natural state.



http://dpotpourri.blogspot.com/2010_05_01_archive.html