

U L A O

WHISTLER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ULAO CREEK PARTNERSHIP, INC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

By Mike Grisar

Partners and Friends,

There are so many commitments pulling us all in so many directions. We all have opportunities that come along when we say to ourselves, "it would be nice to participate," but we conclude that perhaps "we'll go next time." However, that 'next time' never comes. Make that next time, this time. Come out and join us for one of these opportunities. You won't regret it!!!

We have another exciting schedule of activities lined up for 2008. We invite you, your family, and friends to join us this year in these opportunities. The more that join us, the more we will continue to make a difference in our community. We are planning for invasive species control days, clean ups and fish impediment removals in Ulao Creek, a fish survey, and the ever popular annual Barn Dance. More information will be coming regarding fish impediment removals, fish survey, and the barn dance. The creek cleanups are targeted at removing debris and dead vegetation from the stream. These cleanups will be held over the next 4-6 weeks. A few hands are still needed!!! Please let me know if you have any questions or interest in attending or helping to plan any of these.

One of our first activities just took place last week. We pulled garlic mustard for a few hours on May 3 at the site of last year's extremely successful mustard pull. Numerous volunteers from We Energies Environmental Department and the Ulao Creek Partnership joined forces to pull over a dozen 40-gallon bags filled with garlic mustard at STH 32 land-fill property and Latzl property. See (<http://www.ulaocreek.org/>) for pictures from last



May 3 garlic pull volunteers

year's pull.

This site was selected as it is the northern most and most upstream population of garlic mustard we know about in the watershed. We have now sent this invader on the run. This year we want to try to put it down for good. If this particular stand is not controlled, the rich maple-beech forest floor will be overcome by this invader and every connected habitat downstream will be at further risk of a garlic mustard invasion.

We are asking you to spare even an hour or two on May 17. We are offering this second pulling date this year for those who were not able to make it on the 3rd, but can make it the 17th. We'll be starting by 9:00 and meeting at the Tom Latzel's house. Tom's house is located at 1987 Ulao Parkway in Grafton. Please RSVP by May 15 or send questions to augusthoppe@wi.rr.com or call at 414-640-8714

Thanks in advance for your interest and participation and I look forward to you all making this mustard pull the 'next time.'

Mike Grisar

CREEK PARTNERSHIP



Stream Fragmentation: Putting The Pieces Back Together In Ozaukee County

By Andy Holschbach

Fish and other aquatic organisms require different habitats to complete their life cycle. In streams, fish and other species must often travel great distances to find suitable habitat for spawning, rearing young, or surviving the winter.

Unfortunately, dams, culverts, and other artificial structures create barriers that fragment and isolate parts of many rivers and streams. As a result, a wide range of aquatic species lose access to critical habitat. This loss ultimately diminishes the recreational opportunities available to fishermen, river enthusiasts, and outdoor patrons in many watersheds.



Sediment Deposited Below a Railroad Bridge

Fortunately, many adverse stream barrier affects can be reversed by removing artificial barriers. Recent trends in natural resources management increasingly support barrier removal as a means of reclaiming stream habitat, rejuvenating fisheries, and improving public recreational opportunities. Identifying and evaluating barriers is the first step in this process.

The Ozaukee County Planning, Resources, and Land Management Department and Northern Environmental Technologies, Incorporated along with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are currently working together to restore habitat access routes for northern pike (*Esox lucius*), an important game fish species, in Ozaukee County. As the first step of this project, Northern Environmental's staff located and evaluated barriers on 11 warm water streams in Ozaukee County, including Ulao Creek. The 11 project streams were selected based on their historic use by northern pike and linkage to existing habitats. Using remote sensing and field inspections, Northern Environmental investi-

gated and evaluated 32 reaches of Ulao Creek and identified 10 suspected barriers to aquatic life passage along its course. With help from the Ulao Creek Partnership, watershed landowners, concerned citizens, and local municipality representatives, the inventory of suspected barriers in Ulao Creek and the other project streams will lay a foundation for improving the aquatic resources in our county.

Ozaukee County's *Stream Passage Impediments and Aquatic Habitat Fragmentation Inventory* project is partly funded by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant program and will lay the groundwork for reconnecting many miles of stream and aquatic habitat by removing existing artificial barriers and preventing new ones.

If you would like to learn more about the habitat implications of stream barriers or discuss restoration opportunities on a waterway near you, please contact the Ozaukee County Planning, Resources, and Land Management Department's Andy Holschbach at (262) 284-8270



Example of an Impassable Perched Culvert in Ozaukee County

Land Conservation Partnership of Ozaukee County

By Marjie Tomter

Ulao Creek Partnership has a new partner in the county. with a mission to preserve and protect the rural character of Ozaukee county, including farmland, natural areas, open spaces, and agriculture. The Land Conservation Partnership of Ozaukee County (LCPOZ) began in January of 2006 as a group of local county residents under the mentorship of the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust. What this diverse group had in common was a deep appreciation for the quality of life in Ozaukee County and a steadfast determination to avoid finding themselves singing the lyrics from Joni Mitchell's Big Yellow Taxi ("Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'till it's gone.")

There's lots worth protecting in this county: Lake Michigan, the Ulao Swamp and Ulao Creek, the Cedarburg Bog, our family farms, our cool water streams, pristine woodlands and very valuable wetlands. We are talking about water quality, floodwater control and recharging our underground water supply. We are looking at wildlife habitat, scenic beauty and outdoor recreation. We need to protect and preserve our local food sources. We are talking economics with Ozaukee County agriculture generating close to three hundred million dollars in economic activity a year and providing over one hundred million dollars in local income and paying over ten million in local taxes, not including property taxes.

LCPOZ knows that wishing will not keep these treasures safe, but action, education and wise investment can make all the difference. Ozaukee County is growing by leaps and bounds and LCPOZ knows that we need to make a strong and clear case to balance smart growth with conserving our farmland and natural areas. If this doesn't happen, we will lose these things and have to sing the part about "They've paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

The Land Conservation Partnership meets monthly and often more than that. They are divided into three groups: Land Protection, Education and Advocacy, and Partnerships, Fundraising and Membership.

In late July of 2007, the education group hosted an Ag Producers Focus Group, bringing together some of the large farm owners in the county to talk about farming issues in the county and ideas about preserving farms and farming for future generations. The forum was well attended and well received and serves as a springboard for more educational activities. All of these are open to the public and anyone with an interest in preserving our landscape and farms is encouraged to attend.

The LCPOZ is in motion to bring the county together so we know what we have got before its gone and to take the right measures to protect the places and resources we hold near and dear. All this takes funding, and Ulao Creek has stepped in along with quite a few private donors and some towns and villages to help support this work.

Tim Kaul, a founding member of Ulao Creek Partnership and current chairman of LCPOZ believes that the Ulao Creek Swamp and watershed could benefit from any land preservation efforts that could come from the work of the Land Conservation Partnership of Ozaukee County. The Milwaukee River North Branch Project is a small scale farmland preservation effort near here that LCPOZ often refers to and would like to see expanded. Something on that order could be of great benefit to the Ulao Creek watershed. Tim is joined by several other UCP members on LCPOZ's board (Lesley Brotkowski and Marjie Tomter.)

Both organizations partner with the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust (Shawn Graff) and the Ozaukee County Office of Land Planning and Regional Management (Andy Holschbach and Andrew Struck.)

If any Ulao Creek Partnership members are interested in learning more about LCPOZ or joining LCPOZ on a volunteer basis or perhaps supporting LCPOZ in some way, they should contact Tim, Lesley or Marjie.



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Please send your comments to:

August Hoppe

augusthoppe@wi.rr.com

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970 ULAO ROAD

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THANK YOU!!!

ULAO CREEK PARTNERSHIP, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 994
PORT WASHINGTON, WI 53074-0994
Phone: 262-238-8271
Fax: 262-238-8278
Email: UCP@co.ozaukee.wi.us
Website: <http://www.ulaocreek.org>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Ulaoc Creek Partnership, Inc. (UCP) is a grassroots, community-based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization comprised of concerned citizens, landowners, and public and private organizations aligned to protect and improve the water quality and natural habitats in the Ulaoc Creek Watershed.

