

U L A O

WHISTLER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ULAO CREEK PARTNERSHIP, INC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

It is a pleasure to look back at what the UlaO Creek Partnership was able to accomplish in 2012. Our organization was able to strengthen some of our core activities along with branching out into some new exciting ventures. Traditional projects such as tree planting and buckthorn removal, went hand in hand with new efforts such as our free member tree give away, and our campaign to make businesses aware of the effects of deicing salt. These diverse projects are a testament to the energy and talents of our group. Our membership numbers grew by double digits in 2012 and three lucky members were awarded free trees that were provided and planted by our friend's at Johnson's Nursery. This was such a success that we look forward to 3 new winners this year!

We started last spring out with a tree planting initiative along the banks of the UlaO Creek. We had a good day with many great volunteers and the weather was perfect. We planted approximately 30 fairly large native trees. Our goal is to establish these trees to cast shade down upon the creek and to out-compete the invasive grasses. We are pleased to note that our trees got thru the summer drought of 2012 and look like they will do well in 2013. We will continue to monitor the success of this planting to see if we continue to have more survival with larger plantings vs. smaller seedling planting projects.

On a nice crisp early winter day a dedicated group of volunteers removed buckthorns large and small from Karin Manley's property. The area was along a nice meandering stretch of the UlaO Creek with deep banks and beautifully wooded with native hardwoods. This ecologically special area had a buckthorn problem, but was not a lost cause yet. We were able to really make a difference.

High salt content has been becoming a problem in the UlaO Creek. Salts can be damaging to animal and plant life alike. The UCP has begun a campaign to educate the local businesses within the watershed about how they can help reduce this problem. We look forward to continuing this community building program, so we can start making a difference.

It had been a busy year, and we plan on continuing to push ahead in 2013. Please help us continue to keep our organization strong. Please become a new member or renew again for 2013. Feel free to come to one of meetings this year, and/or participate in some of our activities in 2013. If you have any questions or would like to get on our email list please let me know.

Thanks,
August Hoppe
President
UlaO Creek Partnership.
augusthoppe@wi.rr.com

CREEK PARTNERSHIP



Ulao Creek Partnership and Scout Service Projects

By Glenn Miller



Scout Troop 0797 and Cub Pack 3797 from Port Washington had their first service project on May 19, 2012. This was an excellent community service project for the scouts to learn and work together. The tree planting went well, and it was a perfect morning to plant some 40 trees, including hack berry, tamarack, quaking aspen, speckled alder and yellow birch trees along the Ulao Creek. The trees averaged 1" in diameter and are native plantings adapted to the moist conditions. As the trees grow, they will start to shade out the reed canary grass that has taken over the area. The Hoppe land stretch of the Ulao Creek is

lacking in tree cover, and these trees will help fill the void.

One scout found the Ulao Creek by accident, as his boots filled with water and got a bit wet. The scouts enjoyed digging holes, planting trees, and learning about the history attached to the Hoppe property. August was very informative, and his instruction on what to do, how to dig holes, plant trees, and eat donuts (including the holes) was very encouraging. There's nothing better than digging holes and licking your lips!



Service projects and Scouts go hand in hand, and the Port Washington Troop 0797 and Cub Pack 3739 enjoyed the fresh air and exercise cutting buckthorn along the Ulao Creek properties. Karin Manley's property was an excellent place to learn about buckthorn as part of the invasive species study along the creek. The project involved cutting, pulling, looping and dragging invasive buckthorn from Karin's property in Grafton. Saturday, December 8, 2012 provided temperatures in the low 40's and a perfect morning for cutting buckthorn and enjoying an informative service project for the scouts. The scouts learned how to identify buckthorn by its circular ring pattern and tiny thorned tips. The Scouts enjoyed the cutting with their special saws and lots of enthusiastic energy, including Scout Leader G. Miller who managed to cross the Ulao Creek -- almost. He did stumble and fell into the creek to the surprise of the scouts. No broken bones or injuries to report - - just embarrassed and stiff the next day.

Treasures of Oz Shines with UC Partners

By Marjie Tomter

Ula Creek Partnership members are gearing up for the 2013 Treasures of Oz celebration, June 15th. August Hoppe is updating our display, which will be at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve. Members, Andrew Struck, Andy Holschbach, Shawn Graff, Steve Wilkinson, Paul Helms, Dave Schwengel and Marjie Tomter will be on board at various sites that day.

Armin Schwengel, the man who was responsible for so many of the wetland restorations in Ozaukee, was a student of Aldo Leopold. The Waterfowl Production Area named in his honor is one of the featured sites this year. Many partners remember Armin. From today's perspective, his legacy grows in importance.

Here is the event information:

Treasures of Oz invites you to fall in love with Ozaukee County as you visit up to 8 natural treasure sites on June 15th. Download an event passport and start exploring. Docents and guides will greet you at each site and share their expertise to make your visit unforgettable. This year's event focuses on places totally surprising, newly unveiled, or rarely available to the public.

End your day of adventuring at Celebration Headquarters at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve, just a few minutes north of Port Washington, where good food, down-home music, interesting exhibits, and an exciting silent auction that includes fine arts and crafts from county artists await you. Turn in your passport for free raffle tickets to win further

adventures in local dining, entertainment, or other surprises.

Visit our website anytime for the latest and most complete information on Ozaukee's preserves, parks, and trails. Passports and event information will be available after May 1st at www.treasuresofoz.org

Times: Sites open 9 to 3, Celebration at Forest Beach noon to 6

Location: Forest Beach Migratory Preserve plus 7 other sites in Ozaukee

Contact: Marjie Tomter
coordinator@treasuresofoz.org

Date: June 15, 2013

Address for Forest Beach: 4970 Country Club Road, Belgium, WI 53004

Treasures of Oz 2013 Sites

- Coal Dock/ Bird Sanctuary with City of Port Washington
- Shady Lane/Hawthorne Hills County Park with Andrew Struck, Paul Helms,
- Blue Heron Wildlife Preserve with Blue Heron Board of Directors
- Kurtz Woods Natural Area with OWLT's Mike Hoffer and Steve Wilkinson
- UWM-Field Station Boardwalk with Friends of Cedarburg Bog - Carl Schwartz, Dr. Jim Reinartz
- Armin Schwengel Waterfowl Production Area with Andy Holschbach, Dave Schwengel and US Fish & Wildlife (focus on Aldo Leopold's land ethic)
- Quarry Lake with Friends of Harrington Beach State Park

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The scout troop consisted of leaders Sam Lockhart, Glenn Miller, Susie Taylor and scout members Zac Taylor, Jacob and Zack Lockhart.

Scout Troop 0797 and Cub Pack 3797 would like to say "Thanks for the good times," and the opportunity to be involved in this community service project. We look forward to other projects as they become available.



Zeroing In On Phosphorus in the Ulaio Creek Watershed

Typically, about 80% of the phosphorus load is from approximately 15-20% of the farm fields

By Andy Holschbach – Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department

The Ulaio Creek watershed is being evaluated to determine the amount of phosphorus being delivered to the creek from agricultural land and to identify the fields that are the largest contributors of phosphorus.

The Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department and the River Alliance of Wisconsin received a grant from Milwaukee Foundation's Fund for Lake Michigan to zero in on phosphorus in the Ulaio Creek watershed.

The grant provided funds to hire Rock River Laboratories to collect and analyze soil samples from all farm fields within the watershed. The soil analysis, farming practice, and topographic information will be entered in SNAP-Plus, a nutrient management planning software program, to calculate the Phosphorus

Index (PI). The Phosphorus Index quantifies the phosphorus runoff loss potential for each farm field.

It is likely 80 percent of the agricultural phosphorus load will be found to be coming from 15-20% of the farm fields.

This information will be utilized by the Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department to target best management practices to those fields with high phosphorus delivery to reduce phosphorus and improve the water quality of Ulaio Creek.

The Ulaio Creek Partnership would like to thank all of the farmers for participating in this project and the Fund for Lake Michigan for providing funds to implement it.

Good Partners and Friends of the Ulaio Creek,

February 2nd we held our Creek / swamp walk. A few brave souls made the 2-1/2 mile hike in the middle, Northern part of the head waters of the creek. It was a cool day at 7 degrees, but down in the swamp it was sunny and calm.

After the arid fall, that part of the swamp had dried up considerably. The aquifer in that area seems to work very slowly. Most of the water during dry spells is used by the diverse new growth, and evaporation. The old growth canopy is faltering quickly now.

Due to the January thaw, rains, and then snow. We were able to identify small rivulets, and several different qualities of vernal ponds. All without getting soaking wet. YAY!

We observed the trisecting markers that were done by Jill Hewett, and other help, about six years ago. That study of the "Ulaio Creek Storm Water Management Plan" is a fine piece of work. Talk about get down and get dirty.

Towards the end of our walk, we took another look at the part of the creek where the sheet flows meet. In that area is where we have found Northern Pike spawning grounds in the spring. The micro invertebrate seem to gather there, feed the small fry and many others.

We sure had some good ideas put forth, and a nice walk with the dogs and good people. Maybe you all can join us next year, God willing.

I'd like to give Sue Kaul a special thanks for the wonderful chili lunch and hospitality. TK was with us all the way.



Ozaukee County and Riparian Landowners Partner on a Large-Scale Habitat Improvement and Restoration Project on Ulao Creek

By Andrew Struck

The Ozaukee County (County) Planning and Parks Department (Department) Ecological Division's Fish Passage Program will complete a large-scale habitat improvement and restoration project on Ulao Creek within the Milwaukee River Watershed in the Village and Town of Grafton.

Land-use changes and invasive species have greatly diminished biological productivity in the Milwaukee River Watershed. Only a fraction of the potential stream and riparian habitat reaches its full ecological potential. Improving aquatic and terrestrial habitat in the Milwaukee River Watershed directly supports sustainability and/or population recovery for remnant desirable, native, and/or threatened or endangered species. Specifically, restoring high quality, in-stream, wetland and floodplain habitat improves the biological and genetic diversity of aquatic communities. Improved fish, bird and wildlife habitat promotes the long-term restoration of naturally-reproducing, native wildlife and migratory bird and fish species to the lower Milwaukee River, the AOC, and nearshore waters of Lake Michigan. This project will further the Department's mission to protect and restore critical habitat throughout the watershed and is complimentary to ongoing and planned aquatic connectivity work throughout the watershed by the County and other partners. To date, the Department has removed over 179 impediments to aquatic organism passage, opening over 100 miles of biologically productive streams. This includes 10 fish passage impediment removal or restoration projects in Ulao Creek, opening a large majority of the Ulao Creek watershed to longitudinal connectivity

and the free passage of aquatic life. However, approximately 7,500 linear feet of mainstem and tributary channel between just south of State Highway 60 and the downstream portion of Ulao Swamp has been significantly altered through dredging and artificial straightening, resulting in an incised channel hydrologically disconnected (lateral disconnection) from adjacent riparian floodplain areas which provide high quality habitat for spawning northern pike and other aquatic and terrestrial species.

The Department has secured a USEPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant entitled "Enhancing Ecologic Productivity of Milwaukee AOC Watersheds." A portion of this grant is allocated to improving aquatic and terrestrial habitat. The County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and other partners are refining a GIS-based Fish and Wildlife Habitat Tool (Tool), which prioritizes restoration projects based on species requirements and the greatest benefit to the resource. Preliminary Tool results and consultation with local fish, avian and wildlife experts indicate high priority project sites along Ulao Creek. USEPA funding will provide for professional services for surveying, engineering, design, bid support, and construction activities. The following project goals were developed after consultation with species experts, Inter-Fluve (Project Engineer) and affected landowners: (1) stream reach restoration by channel re-meandering, improvement of lateral connectivity by connecting aquatic habitat to floodplain wetland with suitable hydroperiod (whenever possible), wetland

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The Ulaocreek 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 Ulaocreek Watershed.

Ulaocreek Partnership is now on Facebook!
Check us out and become a fan.

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creation and/or enhancement, invasive plant removal, native plant restoration, and installation of fish, avian and wildlife habitat structures; (2) to the extent practical given project timelines, monitoring of fish, avian and wildlife communities at project sites prior to and following construction. Specific outputs include up to 7,500 feet of Ulaocreek remeandered, the reconnection of up to 118 acres of wetlands, 68 acres of 2-year floodplain, 97 acres of 5-year floodplain, 131 acres of 100-year floodplain, and 23 acres of potentially restorable wetlands. Fish, avian and wildlife habitat structures will also be constructed in tandem with the stream restoration project to enhance available cover, nesting habitat, overwintering

habitat, and stream heterogeneity. The project will also include the reestablishment of native vegetation to help control invasive species.

Surveying, engineering, design, permitting and ongoing landowner coordination are expected to continue through May 2013, with construction and restoration activities planned for summer and fall of 2013. For additional project information, contact Andrew Struck, Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department Director at 262-238-8275 or astruck@co.ozaukee.wi.us.

