

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

Ulaio 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

(continued from page 2)

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 remeandering, improvement of lateral connectivity by connecting aquatic habitat to floodplain wetland with suitable hydroperiod (whenever possible), wetland

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The Ulao 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 Ulao Creek Watershed.

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

(Continued from page 5.)

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 Ulao Creek 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.

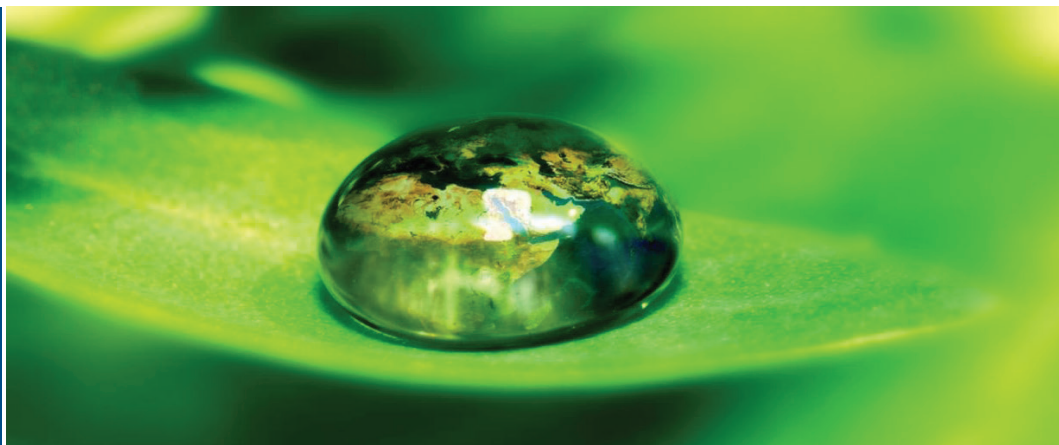
Surveying, engineering, design, permitting and ongoing landowner coordination are expected to continue through May 2013, with construction and restoration activities planned for summer and fall of 2013. For additional project information, contact Andrew Struck, Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department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





Ulao Whistler

The Official Newsletter of the
Ulao Creek Partnership, Inc.



Spring 2014



Hello Ulao Creek Partners and Friends,

2014 will be a signature year for the Ulao Creek Watershed and the Ulao Creek Partnership. Between invasive species removal, a major tree planting initiative and the large scale Ozaukee County sponsored creek restoration project, it will be a year to remember!

We will be kicking off our year with a garlic mustard pull-athon in the month of May. We are teaming up with the SE WI Invasive Species Consortium to help rid our area of the invasive garlic mustard. This event raises money for our organization and clears out garlic mustard at the same time. Each team member gathers community pledges based upon how much garlic mustard they gather and bag up. Pledges are paid out based upon the weight of your collection. (one 33 gallon garbage bag of garlic mustard equals 30 lbs.) Sign up to join the UCP team. Information and pledge forms can be found at the Ulao Creek Partnership website.

www.ulaoecreek.org Best picking results depend upon timing this spring, so we will pick our date sometime in April and let everybody know by sending out an email and by posting on our website and Facebook.

We are also tremendously excited about the Ozaukee County's major Ulao Creek Restoration project. Currently many parts of the creek channel have been artificially straightened and other parts have degraded over the years. This restoration project will re-create the natural meandering of the creek, which will improve fish and wildlife habitat. Once the re-channeling is completed, the Ulao Creek Partnership will work with other groups to lead a major fall planting effort on the site. You won't want to miss this large scale community planting event. The date is not set yet, but will likely take place this October. So stay tuned...

UCP memberships are critical to our success as an organization. Please take the time to fill out the annual appeal envelop located within this mailing. Once again, by becoming a member for 2014, you become eligible to win a free tree. Delivered and installed by the Ulao Creek Partnership! We are now in our 19th year as an organization and I want to thank everyone for their support over the years. Both financial gifts and volunteer action have been critical to the success of the Ulao Creek Partnership.

Thanks,

August Hoppe
President
Ulao Creek Partnership

Events

Garlic Mustard Pulling

Paul Helm's Property
May 31, 2014 9am-noon

Habitat Improvement & Restoration Project

Spring/Summer 2014

A Day of Exploration - Treasures of Oz

June 14, 2014

A Day of Exploration Treasures of Oz



Treasures of Oz invites you to join with Ulaio Creek Partnership and other Ozaukee environmental organizations to discover hidden natural treasures in Ozaukee County on June 14th.

This is a really interesting, family-friendly event that happens each year, the Saturday before Father's Day. If you have not done this before, you will want to plan to do so this year. It is a great way to discover little day-trip vacation spots that you perhaps never even heard about, all within the county borders. Many visitors come year after year, often with children and grandchildren in tow. Last year, one little visitor, forced away from his video games by his mom, proclaimed it his "best day ever" when all was said and done.

Treasures of Oz has a great website, treasuresofoz.org, that will get you started. In June, there will be a passport you can download, a treasure map and good information on the 7 sites for 2014. Passports get stamped at each site and can be turned in for free raffle tickets for area gift certificates from many supporting local merchants and service providers.

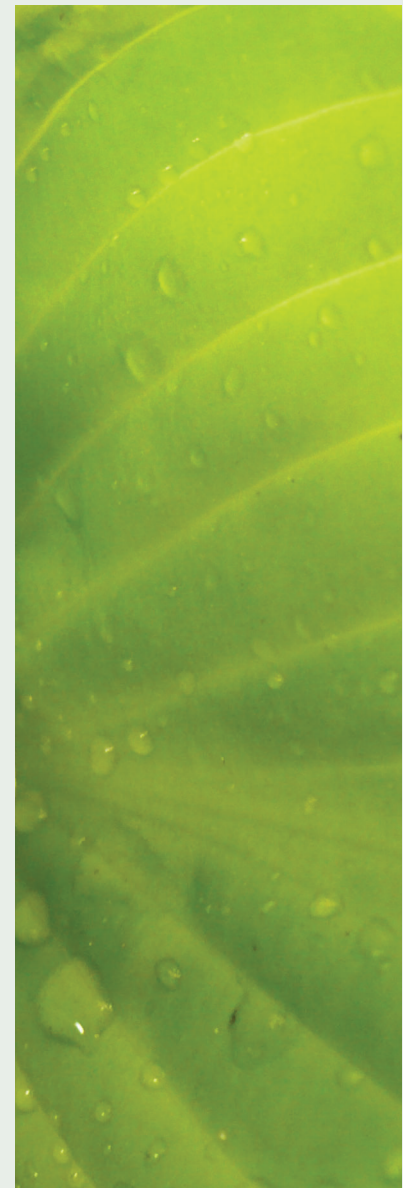
There will also be plenty of information on the celebration that goes with this event. Celebration headquarters is at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve (the former Squires Golf Course) in Belgium. There is a fun-to-shop silent auction, good food for purchase and lots of music, as well as exhibits. Randyman Hetzel brings his array of critters and Jean Lord of Pineview Wildlife Rehabilitation usually stops in with her wonderful raptors.

Docents, guides and welcome teams will be on hand at seven sites to get you started discovering and exploring Ozaukee's natural treasures. You can explore and linger at each site as long as you like.

One of the places Treasures will be exploring this summer will be the Cedarburg Environmental Study Area. This is an Ozaukee Washington Land Trust property in the Town of Cedarburg. OWLT staff will be on hand to show visitors around. Featured speakers at this site will be two well-known and outstanding scientists and teachers, Kate Redmond and Tom Kroeger. Kate writes the weekly "The Bug Lady" column and has won numerous awards for her writing and efforts in environmental education. Tom is a top-notch scientist and parks manager for Lakeshore State Park and is well-known for his educational programs that cover pre-school to university. They will be focusing on the amazing ant hills of CESA.

Besides CESA, visitors will be able to explore the new mountain bike park at Pleasant Valley Nature Park, check out the trails at Mee-Kwon, visit the natural area and beach at Lion's Den, wander through the USFWS Belgium Waterfowl Production Area, spend time with birding and water experts at Trinity Creek Wetland Habitat in Mequon and walk the trails through the 5-Star Bird Hotel at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve - ten unique habitats to providing safe stopovers for the annual migrations along the Lake Michigan coast.

Mark your calendars now for June 14th!



ULAO - THE LITTLE CREEK THAT COULD



By: Paul Helms

This small creek called Ulaio, has been an important, but abused, used, and neglected water way for many years.

Back in the day, late 1800's, when the little settlement of Ulaio / Ghost Town was a shipping port, and railroad station. This small creek was named after that settlement. It was a spring fed, free flowing, thriving stream. Over time it was ditched, pastured along, redirected with culverts, and paved over (i.e. ... I-43, in 1967). The springs were capped per a fly ash dump back in the mid 70's.

Gone were the small swimming and fishing holes. The water crest died out. Cattails, reed canary grass, and willows took over. This caused slow flow, and intermittent dry spells in it's bed. Thus trapping fish that were still trying to come back to age-old spawning grounds.

During the wet spells and spring run off, the change of it's natural flow began causing agriculture and new residential flooding. Ulaio Creek, as it once had been, was dying a slow death. Due to the necessity of new development and growth within the watershed, it would never be the same.



Ulaio Creek has its headwaters just north of Ulaio Pwy. Rd. in Grafton. The attempt to cap the springs on the fly ash dump has diverted that water to the west, along the I-43 corridor. The creek still finds it's way, through a diverse water shed, five miles south to the Milwaukee River in Mequon. Then it's waters' enter Lake Michigan.

Back in the mid 90's, a couple of neighbors and concerned citizens gathered to see what could be done with this small dying creek. Thus started the journey of the Ulaio Creek Partnership. With the dedication of landowners, professional advisers, Boy Scouts, 4-H groups, students, friends, families and other countless volunteers, all sacrificing their personal time, talents, and finances toward this seemingly undaunting task we have made huge strides to preserve this little creek.

Over the last 20 years the partnership has made a huge difference in the four or five-mile journey of this forgotten, but important aquifer of a "Little Creek That Could", become a treasure once again.

As some of us remember, and may have fond memories of the past about this small waterway. Others drive and live along it everyday, and don't have time to notice, or understand what it once was, did, and can do again. The Ulaio Creek just needs a little help from its friends.

Consider "friending" the Ulaio Creek Partnership on Facebook, or visit the website. We sure could use your help!

We're all 20 years older from when we started this. We don't skip through the swamp, jump across, fall in, and float down the creek like we use to! Join us in the adventure of restoring this lost treasure for future generations.

Ulao Creek Water Quality Improvement Effort



By Andy Holschbach – Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department

An experiment is taking place in the Ulao Creek watershed that could improve water quality more efficiently and effectively.

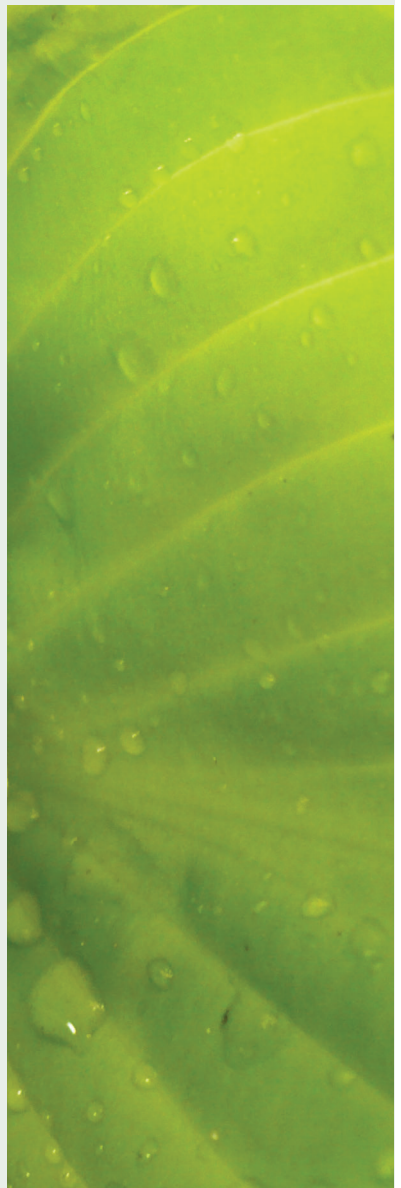
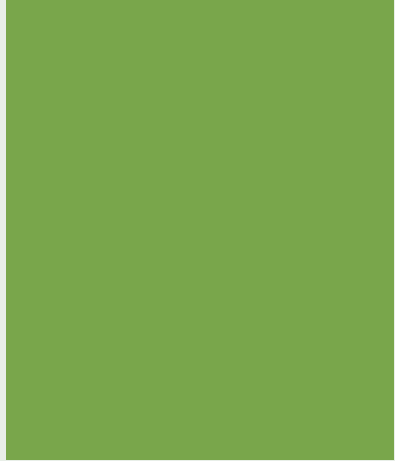
One of the many challenges facing landowners and managers in Wisconsin and nationwide is keeping sediment and nutrients on the land and out of streams. Is there a way to target efforts to improve water quality so they have the greatest impact at the lowest possible cost?

Farmers and landowners in partnership with the Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department, the River Alliance of Wisconsin, and the Fund For Lake Michigan are working together to answer this question.

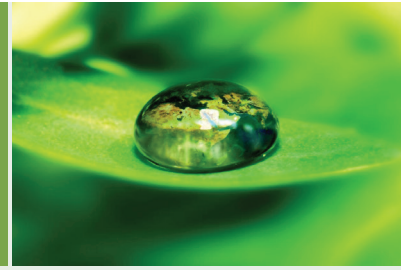
The Fund for Lake Michigan provided a grant to the Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department to collect and analyze soil samples from all of the agricultural fields within the Ulao Creek watershed and to collect field and cropping information from the farmers to determine the Phosphorus Index.

The Phosphorus Index is a planning and assessment tool for managing runoff phosphorus losses from cropland. It uses information that is readily available to evaluate the potential for phosphorus in runoff from a specific field entering a nearby stream or lake. The higher the Phosphorus Index number, the greater the likelihood that that field is contributing phosphorus to local water bodies.

The analysis portion of the project is nearing completion in the Ulao Creek watershed. Based on the Phosphorus Index, it appears that about 80% of the phosphorus load is likely from a very small number of fields. These specific fields will then be targeted for practices to reduce the amount of phosphorus runoff.



Large Scale Habitat Improvement and Restoration Project



By: Andrew Struck, Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department Director

The Ozaukee County (County) Planning and Parks Department (Department) Ecological Division's Fish Passage Program will complete a large-scale habitat restoration project on Ulao Creek within the Milwaukee River Watershed in the Village and Town of Grafton. Project elements include restoring multiple stream reaches through channel remeandering, floodplain reconnection, wetland creation and enhancement, invasive plant control, native plant restoration, and installation of bird, fish and wildlife habitat structures. The project will provide direct, tangible improvements to fish and wildlife habitat, specifically aquatic habitat available to resident and migratory native and desirable introduced fish species in the Milwaukee River Watershed and Lake Michigan Basin.

Land-use changes (e.g., impervious area) 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 Milwaukee River Estuary Area of Concern (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 233 impediments to aquatic organism passage, opening over 129 miles of biologically productive streams. This includes 10 fish passage impediment removal or remediation projects in Ulao Creek, opening a large majority of the Ulao Creek watershed to longitudinal (e.g., up and downstream) 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 project will incorporate salvaged large woody debris for bank stabilization and habitat structure

The County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), and other partners are refining a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based Fish and Wildlife Habitat Tool (Tool), which prioritizes restoration projects based on species requirements and the greatest benefit to the resource. GIS Tool results and consultation with local fish, avian and wildlife experts indicate a high priority project site along Ulao Creek. The Department

Large Scale Habitat Improvement and Restoration Project



has secured a 2010 USEPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant entitled “Enhancing Ecologic Productivity of Milwaukee AOC Watersheds” and a 2013 Fund For Lake Michigan grant entitled “Fish and Habitat Restoration – Milwaukee River Watershed”. Portions of each grant are allocated to the design, engineering, and construction of a project to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat in Ulao Creek. The following project goals were developed after consultation with species experts, Inter-Fluve (Project Engineer) and affected landowners: (1) stream reach restoration by channel remeandering, improvement of lateral connectivity by connecting aquatic habitat to existing floodplain and wetland with suitable hydroperiod (whenever possible), wetland creation and/or enhancement, invasive plant



“The project will remeander a significant portion of the existing straight, entrenched channel to provide for improved in-stream habitat and diversity as well as reconnection to adjacent floodplain and wetlands”

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 Ulao Creek 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, overwintering habitat, and stream heterogeneity.

The project will include the reestablishment of native vegetation as recommended by Hewitt’s 2002 vegetative study of the Ulao Swamp, while also controlling invasive species through constructed topographic features (e.g., nature-like hummocks) and targeted native plantings. Anticipated project outputs include planting up to 62 full-size trees, 58 live tree or shrub stakes, 60 potted shrubs, and up to 35 pounds of cover crop and native seeding. The Department is working with the UCP on coordinating a community-based native vegetation planting day(s) in fall 2014 to help reach these goals. Several partner organizations, including the Milwaukee Audubon Society, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, and the Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps have provided letters of support and commitment to assist with these efforts, including cash donations, technical assistance, volunteer recruitment, and planting assistance at the event(s).

Surveying, engineering, design, permitting, public bidding, and contractor selection and award have been completed. Construction and restoration activities are planned for spring and summer of 2014. For additional project information, contact Andrew Struck, Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department Director at 262-238-8275 or astruck@co.ozaukee.wi.us.

Trees. What's not to love?



By: Dean A. Koch, Chief River Nursery

Trees. What's not to love? They give us fruit, fresh air and of course shade on a hot sunny day. My wife Sheila and I purchased Chief River Nursery in 2011 and moved the office and shipping operation from Hayward, WI to 976 Ulao Road in the town of Grafton. Our nursery sells bare root tree and shrub seedlings including evergreen, hardwood and fruit bearing seedlings. Our customers range from a homeowner who wants to plant a fruit tree or two in their yard to large Christmas tree growers and government agencies who order tens of thousands of seedlings for resale or reforestation.

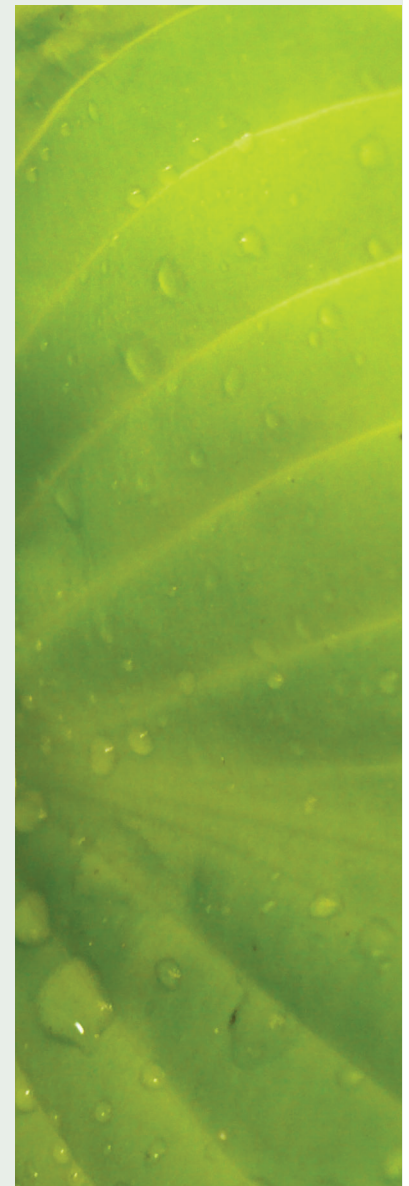
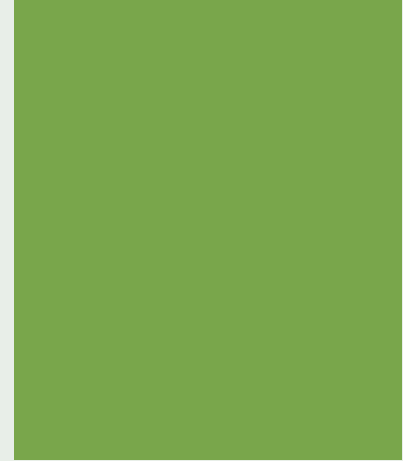
Our company utilizes several growers in the Midwest who custom grow our nursery stock just for us. Each April, refrigerated trucks pick up the harvested seedlings and bring them to our property on Ulao Road where they are organized into our cold storage warehouse. Over a 6 to 8 week period in April and May, the seedling orders are picked, packaged and shipped to those who have placed orders with us.

I am lucky enough to have the Ulao Creek run through both my business property and my property at home. There is something special about Ulao Creek and the wildlife that depends on it. It is refreshing to see people in a community band together to protect and enhance such a valuable resource.

As most of you know, the Emerald Ash Borer has been confirmed locally and will certainly diminish the forest canopy along the Ulao Creek watershed. The watershed is heavily treed with Ash which are certain to be affected and perish in great numbers in the coming years. I believe it is critical for each of us to look ahead and imagine the watershed without the Ash trees that grace its banks. Trees are critical to the overall watershed quality by slowing erosion along the banks, shading out invasive species and moderating water temperature. Simply stated, a watershed without trees is not a healthy one.

Planting small trees is both easy, cost effective and should be considered prior to the large scale loss of local Ash. American Tamarack, Paper Birch, White Cedar, Red Maple as well as Bur, Red and Swamp White Oak all make good choices for planting in the watershed. We carry all of the above species as well as additional species which would be suitable for planting. I am committed to helping the UCP achieve its long term planting goals by offering very low cost and even free trees to be planted along the watershed. In addition, if large scale UCP planting projects come to light, I will attempt to direct a financial sponsor to the project so the trees can be provided at no charge to the partnership.

Thanks again for all that the UCP does. Being good stewards of the watershed is a noble and enjoyable cause no doubt!



Become a UCP member and become eligible Win a free tree!!!



Sign up to be a 2014 Ulao Creek Partnership member and you become eligible to win a free 2" trunk diameter trees, to be delivered and installed at no cost to you! The free tree is approximately 10-12ft tall!

There will be two lucky winners drawn.

Fill out the form at the bottom of this flyer and return within the membership envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

The lucky winners can choose from a river birch tree, oak tree, or sugar maple. A director from the UCP will contact the winner to pick the species and schedule a planting date this year.



Here are the details:

Cut out the form below and put it in your membership envelope. The sooner you return this form with your membership renewal, the better your chance of winning a free tree this spring.

These are large trees and will be planted professionals that are experienced in tree planting.

Sign me up for a chance to win a free tree planted by the UCP this spring!!!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



Ulao Whistler

The Official Newsletter of the
Ulao Creek Partnership, Inc.



Spring 2015



Hello Ulao Creek Partners and Friends,

It may be hard to imagine, but 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Ulao Creek Partnership! Over the years our organization has accomplished a lot, while continuing to full fill our mission of protecting and improving the quality of natural habitats in the Ulao Creek Watershed. Our accomplishments include, thousands of trees planted within the watershed, countless hours of invasive species removal, water quality monitoring, and lots of education to land owners and the general public on the importance of our waterways and the Ulao Creek in particular.

2014 was a banner year for the Ulao Creek. We started with a garlic mustard pull in Grafton at the Colder's furniture property. Our group was diverse, including volunteers young and old, some experiencing the pleasures of the Ulao Creek for their very first time. We pulled hundreds of pounds of garlic mustard, but our battle against garlic mustard and other invasive species creeping into our watershed continues. Stay tuned for our next invasive species removal day upcoming this spring!



Events

Invasive Species Removal at the Gateway Property

May 9th, 2015

9:00am - 12:00pm

(SE corner of the I-43 and HWY 60 exit in Grafton)

Treasures of Oz

June 20th, 2015

9:00am - 3:00pm

Summer - Planting Maintenance

TBD

Fall Tree Planting

TBD

2014 ended with a big bang. The Ozaukee County Fish Passage program was responsible for a wonderful project of restoring the creek to a more natural meandering path. This project lasted all summer and culminated in a major tree and shrub planting in October. This tree planting event was one of our most successful events to date. Over 60 volunteers from 5 different organizations spent a day planting trees and shrubs along the freshly dug banks of the new creek. Our great group of volunteers and a little bit of donated equipment made this event truly special.

We look forward to 2015. Our organization is committed to strengthening our community and our creek. Please take time to fill out our annual appeal envelop located within this newsletter. If you are reading this newsletter for the first time, please consider becoming active in our organization. It is a great way to get real hands on experience with the wonderful little creek that flows through our neck of the woods.

Thanks,

August Hoppe
President
Ulao Creek Partnership

Land Trust Launches Land Protection Initiative

The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust is gearing up for an ambitious land protection effort to protect critical natural areas and productive working lands in the region. “Great Rivers, Great Lakes” is a four-year strategic effort to protect 2,000 acres of sensitive lands in the Milwaukee River Watershed and along the shore of Lake Michigan. OWLT will partner with local organizations, municipalities and government agencies to identify focus areas and work with willing landowners to protect wetlands, shoreline, farmland and natural areas within the project area.

This effort includes protecting land within the Ulao Creek Watershed, which is a sub-watershed of the Milwaukee River. Ulao Creek is a local ecologically significant resource that provides habitat for numerous rare wildlife and plant species. The wetlands associated with the creek store and filter storm water and allow for ground water recharge. The natural qualities, along with the support and interest of the local community, make the Ulao Creek watershed a priority conservation area for OWLT.



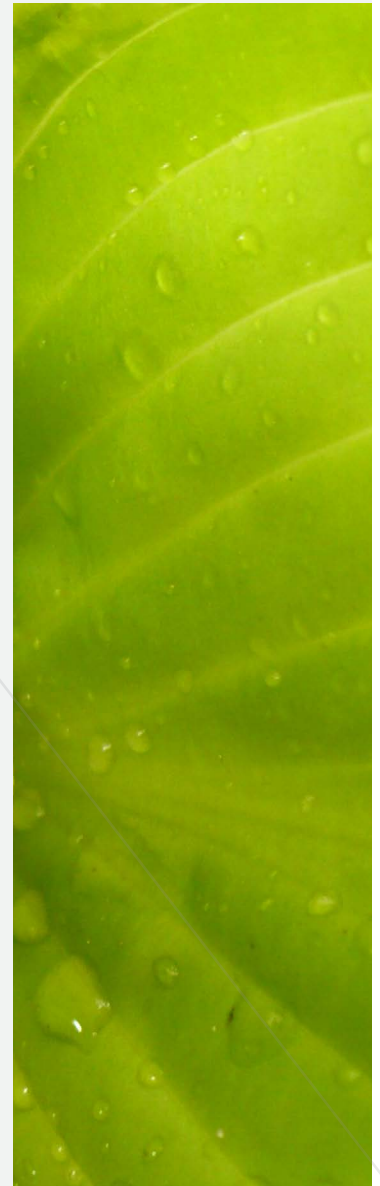
OWLT has been working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and other regional and local partners to identify and protect critical parcels within the watersheds. Total investment for the initiative will be roughly \$12 million.

OWLT has identified roughly \$10 million that will come from various government agencies and

partners toward the four year goal. The Land Trust Board of Directors has committed the organization to raising \$2 million in matching and acquisition related funds.

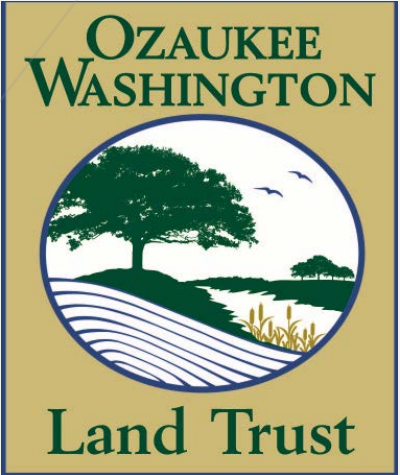
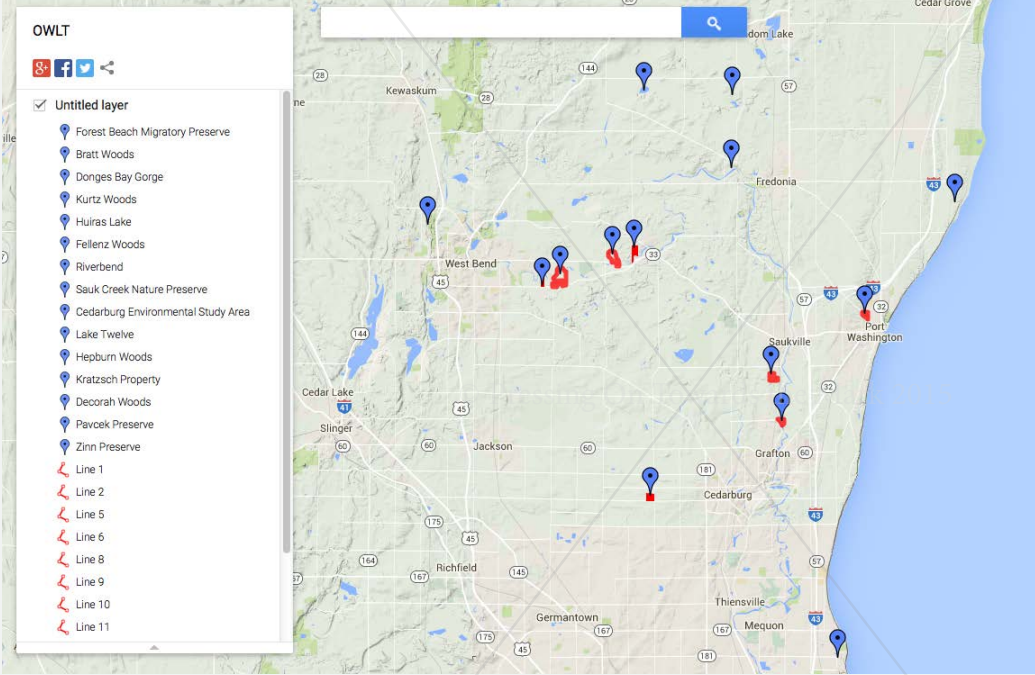
The impacts will be far reaching. The project outcomes will improve the quality of water flowing into the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan through implementing land management practices in the basin that, for example, expand wetland buffers, restore wildlife habitat, increase surface water infiltration, and preserve productive farmland. This project will also provide area residents with additional opportunities to enjoy nature-based recreational activities such as hiking, bird watching, hunting, and fishing, and increased access to our regional freshwater resources.

Thanks to the overwhelming support of our local community, this effort is off to a strong start. OWLT acquired five properties in the last five months, totalling over 200 acres, in Ozaukee and Washington counties. The properties are within OWLT’s Milwaukee River Watershed project area and contribute to the protection of our areas freshwater resources and wildlife habitat. The success of every one of these projects required the support of our “conservation partners”: individuals, corporations, or public entities with the foresight and desire to preserve a piece of our natural heritage to share with future generations.





The “Great Rivers, Great Lakes” initiative will provide additional opportunities for our communities to enjoy our region’s rich natural resources. Since 1998, OWLT has protected over 5,800 acres across the two counties through conservation easements, fee land acquisitions and partnerships. For more information on OWLT’s land protection efforts or for a map of our preserves, please visit our website www.OWLT.org or call us at (262)338-1794.



Big Changes for a Little Creek



Big changes are happening to a little creek that runs through the heart of the Town of Grafton and what was once the Ulao Settlement.

Once upon a time Ulao Creek's headwaters bubbled up in the Ulao Swamp beginning in an area that is now covered by the WeEnergies fly ash dump. Watercress grew in abundance along the banks. Children swam and people fished in this clear and meandering stream. Wildlife was diverse and abundant.

Then, in the early 1900's, things began to change. Much of this lovely creek was channeled for progress - mostly for the railroad. Later, in the 1950's, Dutch Elm Disease spread through the swamp and many stately trees along the bank fell into and over the creek, bringing tons of debris down with them. In the years following, flooding increased and the need to protect farm fields brought local residents together. The Kaul, Hoppe and Helms families and other creek-side landowners joined forces to create The Ulao Creek Partnership with a mission to improve the creek and adjacent impacted land.

Over the years, The Ulao Creek Partnership, with much support from Ozaukee County, has made vast improvements to the creek, clearing the channel, planting trees for flood control and removing invasive vegetation. The creek, however, has remained confined in its dug channel along the side of the railroad tracks, and that is how most everyone thought it would always be.

But then something very surprising happened!

Ozaukee County Planning & Parks Department, through its Milwaukee River Watershed Fish Passage Program added Ulao Creek to its rivers restoration plan for Ozaukee. They obtained grant funding and hired Solutions 101 LLC, a project management company that goes to great lengths in limiting its footprint on a site, disturbing only areas necessary for the completion of a project. Solutions 101 owner, Jim Sykes, says "We work closely with our clients to create a plan that best fits the owner's vision for the property and to provide a legacy for future generations of land stewards."

Inspired by the conservation focus of the project, Wacker Neuson, a multi-national German based manufacturer of compact construction equipment, selected this project to field-test its newest equipment. Solutions 101 and the Wacker Neuson development team chose the equipment being used for its compact size, versatility, agility, and efficiency. Working with equipment that offers a smaller turning radius and the option to add attachments means less impact is made to the surrounding landscape.

There are 2 areas of reconstruction underway on Ulao Creek, one east of Arrowhead Road and the Gateway site, south of Hwy 60 behind the BP station. This project will work to revitalize the watershed by re-creating conditions similar to pre-settlement times in the project-area parts of Ulao Creek.



The new stream channel, designed to be similar to the original, is being cleared of all brush, small trees, tall grasses and debris using hand tools and mowing equipment. Any man-made garbage that is encountered is properly disposed of and removed from the site. Great care is taken with erosion control during the project to prevent sediment from the area of restoration to move into an unapproved area.



Wetland scrapes are being added to improve spawning and breeding habitat in the Arrowhead Road project area. Ponds will go in where appropriate. Fish, waterfowl, herptiles and other wildlife have been considered in the planning. The entire project is being done with the existing soils – no new soil is being brought in and no existing soil is being taken out. Things are just moved around. Once the new waterway has been constructed and water diverted into the new stream, the existing ditch will be

filled and covered with vegetation as a form of natural long-term erosion control. Native trees and understory vegetation will be planted once the groundwork is complete. Ulao Creek Partnership will work with Ozaukee County and many local volunteers in this effort.

Sometimes things happen that no one expects and outcomes exceed hopes. This is one of those stories. Ulao Creek will have a new and improved stream bed in two places, much like it had many years ago. Watershed vegetation will be greatly improved with the planting of native species. Fish and wildlife will have richer and more diverse habitat. The Ulao Creek Partnership and many Town of Grafton residents are already celebrating a restoration of great importance, and one they never expected.

Note:
 Ulao Creek runs south of the Ulao Swamp through private lands east of I-43. It flows through the Colder's property, under Hwy. 60 and behind the BP station, the Waterstreet Brewery and the Hampton Inn & Suites. From there it flows south, east of I-43 and the railroad. Near Lakefield Road it vanishes, buried underground so I-43 could come through. It re-emerges alongside of the Family Farm on the west border of I-43 and from there meanders south until it joins the Milwaukee River near Highland Road.

*Treasures of Oz in collaboration with Samantha Gehl of Solutions 101 LLC
 Photos courtesy of Solutions 101 LLC*



The Fish Passage Program It All Started With UCP Members



The Ulao Creek restoration is happening because of the Milwaukee River Watershed Fish Passage Program. The MRWFFP is not something the “government,” or the ever-referred to “they” made happen. It started with two of our UCP members, Dale Buser and Andrew Struck - and not because they were hired to do it. It happened because they really love and understand the watershed in Ozaukee County.

Dale Buser is a hydrogeologist and was the founder and Principal Hydrogeologist for Northern Environmental Technologies.

He loves fish and he loves Ozaukee County. He spent much of his childhood outdoors, always observing the natural things that made up his playground. Over time, he became disturbed that the waterways were damaged, the fish were unable to get upstream to spawn in many areas. Dams, poorly designed culverts, and stream obstructions were fragmenting the natural flow and cutting off spawning areas and habitat. He began to envision reconnecting the streams and rivers all the way from Lake Michigan to the wetlands of upper Ozaukee County, all within the Milwaukee River Watershed.

Andrew Struck, Ozaukee County Director of Planning and Parks, makes things happen for the environment in Ozaukee. He is the force behind the expanding park system, the force behind the Interurban Trail, the force behind Farmland Preservation in Ozaukee. As stated in Treasures of Oz’s tribute to Andrew, “he is everywhere that is connected to environment in Ozaukee.” (February 2012 – Wizard of Oz – Andrew Struck)

Dale shared his vision with Andrew, and with Andy Holschbach, Ozaukee County Director of Land and Water Management, over and over and over again, until everyone was seeing not only the same thing, but feeling the passion to make things right and get the waters reconnected. Thus, in fish terms, the Milwaukee River Watershed Fish Passage Program was hatched.

The program in brief: This project enhances watershed habitat along the Milwaukee River and throughout the watershed by removing dams, installing nature-like fishways, culvert replacements and by removing logjams and debris obstructions. It seeks to reestablish migratory fish passage between 11,149 wetland acres and 215 stream miles. Data is collected 24/7 in many ways, including an underwater fish camera at the fishway at Village Park in Thiensville. You can watch the fish (once the ice is gone), see photos and videos of fish that have passed through and even help with counting and identification of fish from your computer. (Great way to “fish” from the comfort of your home.)

The link is: <http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/1248/Fishway-Camera>

The process – a mini-version: The fish passage program began with inventories in 2006 through a Wisconsin Coastal Management grant. This was followed by intensive work with all the Ozaukee communities connected to the project. (Because of the shape of the county, that meant every single community was involved.)

The county received a NOAA grant in 2009 for the program. For the first six months, Dale and Andrew were the entire program. By 2010, they had hired a director, Matt Aho, and two interns. More and more grants followed, leveraging well over eight and a half million dollars in federal,



state, local and private funding programs to develop, refine and implement of the Milwaukee River Watershed Fish Passage Program. The program restores natural stream functions to reconnect and enhance high quality habitat for native fish, birds and wildlife. To date, 224 impediments have been removed, restoring access to over 129 miles of in-stream habitat and thousands of acres of wetland habitat.

What simply cannot be described in dollars, miles and acres is the passion, energy, time and dedication that Dale, Andrew and Matt have put into this program. It is priceless. Today Ozaukee County has a world recognized fish passage system that is still in the making, and already the fish are coming home.

For their efforts and this program, Dale and Andrew were honored as Conservationists of the Year in 2013 by Gathering Waters in Madison. Dale and Andrew were invited to the World Rivers Conference on Vienna to talk about this program. Dale did the presentation.



Ulao Creek Stars in Treasures of Oz June 20th



Every year on the Saturday before father's Day, Treasures of Oz presents their popular free Eco-Tour of exceptional natural sites in Ozaukee County. Each site is staffed with a team that includes science and environmental professionals who are knowledgeable about that treasure site.

Treasure sites are places that are open to the public and the hope is that visitors will return to the site again and again. There is an exception this year.

The restoration of our loved Ulao Creek is truly something that is very unique and seeing it is a great opportunity for people to learn about waterway restoration and to get excited about what is happening in Ozaukee. Ulao Creek Partnership members, several of whom are also on the Treasures of Oz Steering Team decided to make an exception and showcase a part of Ulao Creek for this event. West Bend Mayor Kraig Sadownikow, owner of the Gateway property, graciously agreed to provide access on the day of the event. The manager of the Waterstreet Brewery, has offered visitor parking in the restaurant's lot.

In case you don't know, the Gateway property is at the northbound I-43 exit in Grafton. It contains a BP gas station, the Waterstreet Brewery and the Hampton Inn & Suites. Ulao Creek runs through the east side of that property and then turns east and enters Karin's Manley's farm.

© Pressing On Towards the Mark 2015



Ulao Creek had been trenched in that area and ran along the side of the railroad tracks. If you have been part of the Ulao Creek Partnership garlic mustard pulls at the Gateway, you will remember that the land up to the creek was a bit of an environmental mess. There was plenty of record-sized garlic mustard for awhile (UCP did a pretty decent job with that!) along with lots of reed canary grass and random trees and shrubs.

That area today is nothing short of beautiful. Ulao Creek meanders through diverse native trees, and there are well-placed upturned tree roots here and there as if nature has been at work creating the ideal environment for fish and wildlife. Because the restoration is brand new, it is easy to stroll along the banks and experience the beauty of this very special Treasures Site.

The restoration project is yet another part of the extensive Milwaukee River Watershed Fish Passage Program. The program has been recognized internationally at the World Rivers Conference in Vienna and at several conferences here in the USA.

Be sure to mark your calendars for June 20th for Treasures of Oz.



Plan to see what magic has happened to Ulao Creek. That site will be open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Along with fish passage program experts and Ulao Creek Partnership members, Solutions 101, the engineering firm that carried out the plans so well, will be on hand. If you might like to volunteer at the site that day, you can sign up right from the Treasures of Oz website under “volunteer.” It will be fun to share Ulao Creek with visitors and tell them a bit about the Partnership at the same time..

You may well want to do the entire Treasures Eco-Tour event - 6 other treasures sites plus the exhibits, food, music and silent auction that go with it. You can download a passport, get stamps the sites and trade your passport stamps for free raffle tickets. It is a wonderful, free event for the entire family. Go to treasuresofoz.org for details, passports and maps - all available there after May 1st.



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2015 Sponsors

**Junior Woman’s Club of Mequon-Thiensville
WUWM
and a Besadney Conservation Foundation Grant through
the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin**



2015 Treasure Sites

Mequon Nature Preserve

Blue Wing WPA

Cedarburg Bog

Ulao Creek Restoration

Waubedonia Park

Covered Bridge Park

Forest Beach Migratory Preserve

The Ulao Creek Watershed

We are very fortunate to have a precious resource like the Ulao Creek watershed in our area. As a group, we would like nothing more than to pass this resource on to future generations in better condition than we originally found it. Great strides are being made through the work of the UCP and its affiliates in restoring the health of the creek and surrounding wetlands and watershed areas.

One way you can help is by planting trees and shrubs that were once more prevalent in the area. By doing so, we encourage the local ecosystem to work the way it had prior to the time it was disturbed through several decades of development. Planting additional species than what is currently standing protects the landscape through diversification. We realize the importance of diversification now more than ever as we see highway crews start to remove trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer. The majority of trees in the watershed are ash and unfortunately it's a matter of time before these trees are no longer standing.

Planting a more diverse landscape comes with the added benefit of improving habitat for a host of birds, mammals and reptiles that call the watershed home. Forested areas slow the flow of storm water runoff to the creek and shade out invasive species such as the reed canary grass that has become somewhat invasive. Proper vegetation planted along the bank of the creek acts as natural erosion control and moderates the temperature of the water in the creek. It is hard to stress the importance of doing more planting to support, expand and diversify the makeup of area trees and shrubs.

The Ulao Creek watershed formerly supported a number of trees that are now more rare to find. Tamarack and White Cedar were once a dominant conifer species in the area. Red Maple, Silver Maple, Paper Birch, Yellow Birch, Swamp White Oak and Bur Oak were once dominant among the hardwoods. Dogwoods, Elderberry and Serviceberry are still around but in more limited numbers.

At Chief River Nursery, we sell a very large volume of tree and shrub seedlings to customers across the country each year. As a result, I am able to provide area residents with low cost, bare root tree and shrub seedlings for the purpose of reforestation. These seedlings are inexpensive, easy to plant and will grow into something large and beautiful over time. Many species grow faster than you would think, and it is extremely fun to watch the progress year to year. Helping the area ecosystem and knowing you are planting something that will remain for future generations should give you a source of pride. Take an afternoon and spend it with your spouse, kids or grandkids and pass on the great tradition of planting. I can't imagine a scenario where you would regret it.

I have put together 3 recommended packages of trees and shrubs that were once commonly found in the watershed.





UCP Pack 1 - Contains (10) each of the following: 10-20" American Tamarack and 12-18" Northern White Cedar

UCP Pack 2 - Contains (5) each of the following: 12-18" Red Maple, 12-24" Paper Birch, 6-12+" Silver Maple, 6-12" Swamp White Oak and 6-12" Bur Oak

UCP Pack 3 – Contains (5) of each of the following: 12-24" Red Osier Dogwood, 12-24" Silky Dogwood, 12-18" Juneberry Serviceberry, 6-12" American Elderberry and 12-18" Red Elderberry

The cost for these packs are all the same at \$15.00 each. If you purchase trees or shrubs, we also have planting bars that can be checked out for the day at no extra charge. I encourage you to visit the UCP page on our website at www.chiefrivernursery.com/UCP for more information. We are always happy to give deep discounts on our stock to area residents who plan to plant them in the watershed. If you want something else than is being offered, please contact us. We can be reached at info@chiefrivernursery.com or 262.377.5330 with questions or to place an order.

Dean A. Koch
Owner, Chief River Nursery
UCP Technical Advisor

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Spring 2015

Chief River Since 1973
NURSERY COMPANY

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Ulao 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 Ulao Creek Watershed.

*Ulao Creek Partnership is now on Facebook!
Check us out and become a fan.*

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A partnership that has paid off

■ *Two decades after Ulao Creek group was formed, volunteers and agencies have a remarkable restoration project to show for their ongoing work*

By KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM

Ozaukee Press staff

In the shadow of one of the largest commercial developments in northern Ozaukee County is an equally striking example of natural habitat restoration.

Shielded from Grafton's east side development by stands of cattails, Ulao Creek and the 16-mile-long environmentally important watershed that supports it is being restored through a grassroots effort that started 20 years ago and is still going strong.

On Saturday, about 30 volunteers from the Ulao Creek Partnership gathered in the Town of Grafton to plant trees and bushes along the creek, which once again meanders through the area.

It's a result that few could have imagined when Paul Helms and the late Tim Kaul sat around a kitchen table two decades ago talking about the Town of Grafton land they farmed.

They were looking for a solution to the flooding that forced them to plant their fields multiple times, Helms said, and a way to recreate the landscape that drew their families to the land generations earlier.

The two men talked to their neighbors and started small, doing projects on their own, Helms said.

"We were a couple of hay-balers not knowing where we were going with this," Helms said. "We used to hunt down there and knew where the creek bed used to be."

They cleared the channel, removing logjams that blocked the water's path, planted trees for flood control and removed invasive plant species.

Now, they are working on their most ambitious project, turning the relatively straight waterway back into the meandering creek it once was. Doing this not only creates more habitat for wildlife, it allows pollutants to settle, improving the water quality.

Two segments of the project have already been completed in Grafton — one stretching a quarter-mile on either side of Arrowhead Road and the other just south of the Highway 60 and I-43 interchange — and a third area that will link the two is slated for next year, Helms said.

See **Partnership** on page 2B



THREE-YEAR-OLD Evan Hoppe held saplings for his grandfather Dean Hoppe, who planted them in the Ulao Creek watershed last Saturday. Evan's father August is president of the Ulao Creek Partnership, which has been working for two decades to restore and revitalize the waterway. *Photo by Bill Schanen IV*

Partnership: Ulaio Creek group marks 20th year

FROM PAGE 1B

Ulaio Creek begins at Ulaio Swamp just south of Port Washington, and flows through Grafton, Cedarburg and Mequon, where it joins the Milwaukee River.

When the area was settled, farmers ditched the swamp area to create fields, Helms said, and when I-43 was built in 1968, more ditching was done, further diminishing the creek.

"It was all done with good intent, but it had not such good results," he said.

The Ulaio Creek Partnership formally organized in 1995, and a year later the DNR did an assessment of the creek.

An ambitious plan to revitalize the watershed was created and implemented, thanks in large part to Ozaukee County and other partners, including the Department of Natural Resources, Helms said.

"Andy Holschbach (of the county's land and water management department) was a key to this organization. He got us directed and focused," Helms said. "Andrew Struck (head of the county's planning and parks department) helped us greatly, too."

Through their collaborative efforts, the Ulaio Creek Partnership has been able to obtain funding and manpower to aid projects — one of the keys to its success.

"A bake sale and a barn dance doesn't get you far," Helms joked. "We were running out of funds and young muscle."

When the Ulaio Creek work was added to the county's Milwaukee River Fish Passage program, it hired Solutions 101, an Appleton-based firm, to help make improvements and return the creek to its meandering path.

"When we first talked about this five or six years ago, it was a pipe dream," Helms said.

While the work so far has been limited to the Grafton area, ultimately the partnership would like to see it expanded through the remainder of the watershed, until it joins the Milwaukee River in Mequon, Helms said.

The impact is apparent today, even



OZAUKEE COUNTY Planning and Parks Director Andrew Struck planted a bur oak sapling along Ulaio Creek in the Town of Grafton Saturday while members of the Ulaio Creek Partnership watched. The group is working to restore the watershed, improving the environment and wildlife habitat in the process.

Photo by Bill Schanen IV

though the project has years to go before it's completed.

"It's great duck habitat. The deer and turkeys love it," Helms said. Northern pike are returning to the creek in numbers that haven't been seen in the recent past, and flooding is much less frequent.

"Our most important fields, we only have to plant them once now," he said. In the past they would replant two or three times because the ditches couldn't hold the spring floodwaters, which would run through the fields and take out the newly planted seeds.

Holschbach said the partnership has been an unqualified success, both in bringing together a variety of resources to work toward a common goal — improving the environment and habitat — and in its impact.

"It's all these little things that add up to make a big difference," he said. "There's been a lot of volunteer work and manpower that's gone into this. The group keeps hold-

ing together, and we're not done yet.

"It's been a really unique opportunity with a long, long-term effect."

Much of the watershed that's been restored is on private property, but is under contract so it will be retained for years to come, Helms said. Strict regulations by the DNR and other agencies will ensure the area remains natural.

While some people may wonder why so much time, effort and financing has been devoted to a project like this, to Helms the answer is simple. It improves the land and water we all enjoy.

"We're trying to be stewards of the land rather than just using the land," Helms said. "What we're doing is making a difference."

"This is a project that's going to take generations, but it's already 100 times better than it was. We've still got a lot to do."

"We never thought anything like this would happen when we sat around the kitchen asking, 'What are we going to do?'"



Jim EdThuber

CELEBRATION HEADQUARTERS

Forest Beach Migratory Preserve As always, all trails lead to the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve, a “Five Star Bird Hotel” and Celebration Headquarters. Today, this former golf course includes ten habitat areas designed as a long term stopover for the many species of migrating birds that follow the Lake Michigan coastline. Follow the network of trails and climb the observation decks to see this preserve-in-process. Do some birding with our sharp-eyed docents.

Take time to visit the many exhibits, shop the silent auction, talk with science and outdoor expert, Tom Krueger, DNR, meet Ozaukee’s game warden, Tony Young, the Raptors of Pineview with Jeanne Lord, see artist Ellen Anderson’s Ozaukee County-themed paintings, listen to some down-home music with Steve & Friends and enjoy the food from Smokin’ Joe’s BBQ/ Chuck’s of Thiensville.



ONE MAGICAL DAY A YEAR

On **Saturday, June 20th**, Treasures of Oz invites visitors to explore 7 natural areas and hidden environmental treasures. Each site is hosted by top scientists, environmental stewards and experts in natural fields. Visitors can explore the site, learn about the it’s significance, and converse with the docent and site team.

Download a passport (after May 1 on the website), collect stamps at each site and trade those for raffle tickets at event headquarters.

Visitors who bicycle to this event can obtain a bike stamp, which doubles stamps earned for raffle tickets.



TREASURES OF OZ

2015 ECO-TOUR



TREASURESOFUZ.ORG

June 20, 2015

All sites open 9 to 3

Celebration at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve
noon to 6

treasuresofoz.org

2015 TREASURE SITES



Ulao Creek Restoration The restoration of Ulao Creek is happening in Grafton and visiting this site is a great opportunity to learn about waterway restoration and to get excited about what is happening in Ozaukee County.

In the past, Ulao Creek at this site had been trenched and ran along the side of the railroad tracks through brush and invasive grasses.

Today, Ulao Creek meanders through diverse native trees and looks as if nature has been at work creating the ideal environment for fish and wildlife. Because it is a new restoration, it is easy to stroll along the bank and experience the beauty of this very special site. The project is part of the Milwaukee River Watershed Fish Passage Program.

This site is only open to the public on June 20th as part of Treasures of Oz.

Come see what magic has happened to Ulao Creek. Along with fish passage program experts and Ulao Creek Partnership members, Solutions 101, the engineering firm that carried out the plans so well, will be on hand.



Mequon Nature Preserve Come and see the largest land restoration project in southeast Wisconsin! MNP's 150-year "farmland to forest" plan is an incredibly unique endeavor. After starting work in 2004, around 200 acres of the total 438 acre property is being actively managed to become the deciduous hardwood forest of pre-settlement times.

MNP staff will be on hand to show you the pristine Harvey's Woods, an example of what the whole property will eventually become. Be sure to climb the 40 foot observation tower and witness the transformation of agricultural land into wetlands, tall grass prairie, and early successional woodlands.

USF&WS Blue-wing Waterfowl Production Area This Town of Grafton site is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and one of several US Fish & Wildlife Service-owned sites in Ozaukee. This managed habitat is home to area wildlife and is a very active breeding habitat for many species of waterfowl. You will be able to see the Fish Passage work under construction on this site.

Staff from USF&WS and Ozaukee County will be on hand to talk about WPAs and the Fish Passage Program. Dan Vogel will introduce you to the birds of Blue-wing.



Kate Redmond



Kate Redmond

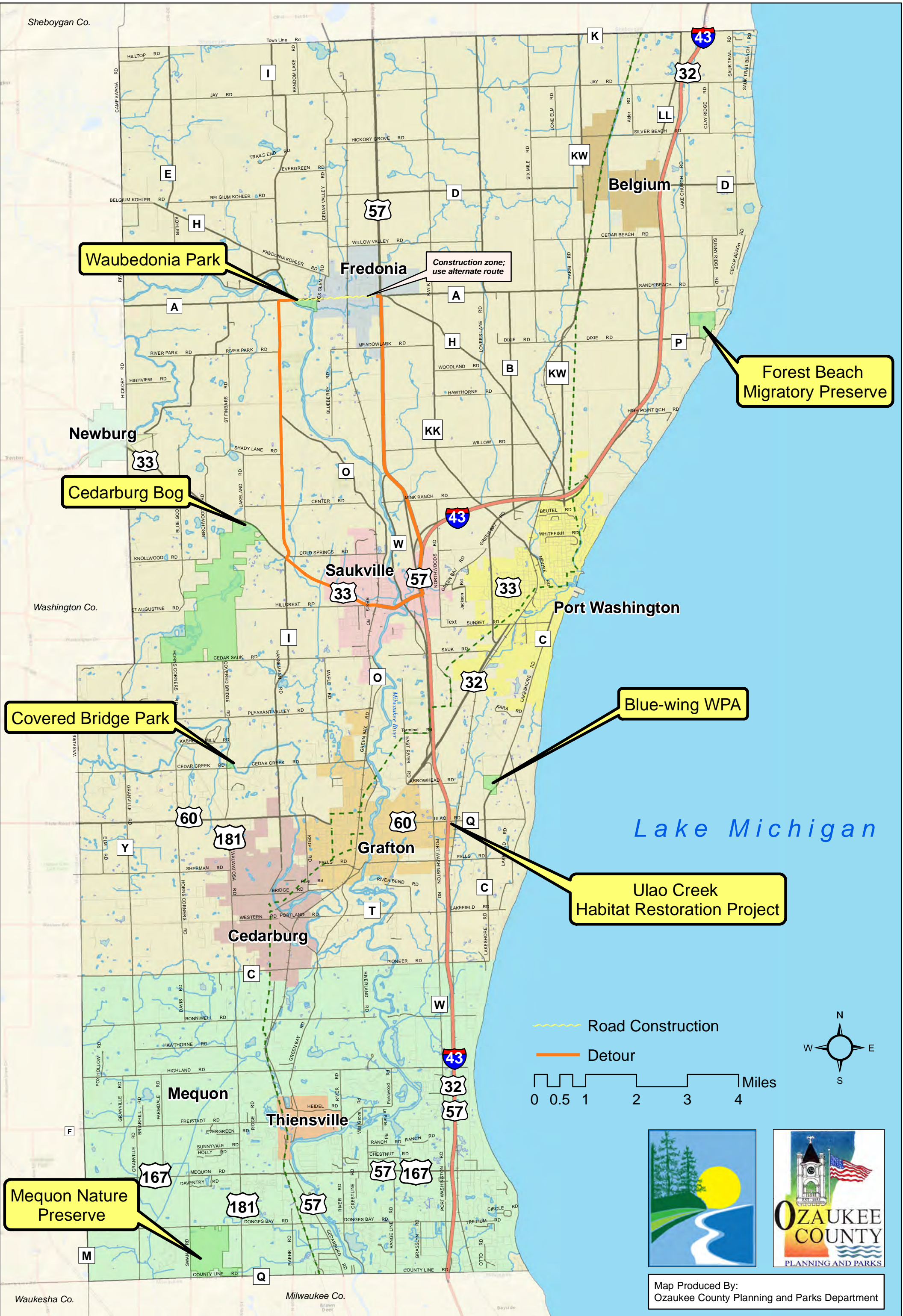
Cedarburg Bog The 1,656-acre Cedarburg Bog was designated a State Natural Area in 1952, thanks to Aldo Leopold's efforts to preserve the best remaining examples of pre-settlement Wisconsin. Hike the half mile ADA compliant trail to beautiful Watts Lake, complete with interpretive signs. This surprising site is open from 9 to 3. A Bird Walk is offered at 9 a.m. with Tim Vargo (Urban Ecology Center bird expert,) and guided Nature Walks at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Covered Bridge County Park Imagine the "Bridges of Ozaukee County." Visit the last remaining covered bridge in Wisconsin, built in 1876. Learn about ongoing water quality monitoring as you discover this romantic park, picnic area and canoe launch on Cedar Creek.



Waubedonia County Park Explore Ozaukee's oldest county park, established in 1934. With 2 major creeks and the Milwaukee River, this quiet, peaceful setting makes a perfect spot for overnight camping. It has a great kayak/canoe launch for starting trips down the river. Staff from Ozaukee's Ecological and Parks Divisions will introduce you to the river's fish, recent Fish Passage projects and all the park's recreational amenities.

Treasures of Oz 2015 Eco-Tour



Waubedonia Park

Construction zone; use alternate route

Forest Beach Migratory Preserve

Cedarburg Bog

Blue-wing WPA

Ulao Creek Habitat Restoration Project

Covered Bridge Park

Mequon Nature Preserve



Map Produced By:
Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department



TREASURES OF OZ

Celebrating the natural gems of Ozaukee County

Report on the 2015 Treasures of Oz Eco-Tour

Sites

Mequon Nature Preserve - largest land restoration project in SE Wisconsin

Uiao Creek Restoration - creek reconstruction & habitat creation and restoration

Blue-wing WPA - USF&W work & birding & fish passage construction

Covered Bridge County Park - water monitoring program & last covered bridge

Cedarburg Bog - the trail to Watts Lake

Waubedonia County Park - oldest county park & fish passage construction

Forest Beach Migratory Preserve - birding and bird habitat

Site Visits:

1336 site visits

Our heaviest traffic was the USF&W WPA, Blue-wing, followed closely by the Cedarburg Bog.

Based on our survey, 40% of the visitors went to all 7 sites.

Visitors

Most of the attendees were adults (86%) in the survey, but it may be that families with children were not well represented in the survey, which was taken at the end of the event. There seemed to be a greater percentage of families with children at the various sites than this number shows.

Of the 36 surveys that were done, 20 zip codes were represented.

56% of the visitors were from Ozaukee County

31% were from Wisconsin including 11% from Milwaukee County

11% were from out-of-state, from as far away as Alabama and Tennessee

5 visitors biked their chosen part of the tour. Average distance was 48 miles.

Complete list of visitor comments on the survey cards

Enjoyed the experience. hope to have more here next year.

Wonderful areas. guide, Kate, at the Bog informative.

Wonderful event. Cedarburg Bog is a gem!

Loved Cedarburg Bog. Good, knowledgeable site volunteers. Thank you.

Great places - all new ones!

Interesting. learned a lot.

Very interesting sites. very well organized.

Best ever!

Very nice.

2nd. year attending. Great family activity!!

Trinity Park, Mequon next year :) Very well organized. Lots of parks I didn't know about. Stacey, Brown Deer.

Enjoyed the whole tour.

Great day

Liked the directions this year and the selection of sites - easier to get to.

Did this before. Fantastic but wanted geocaches.

Third year.

We do this every year.

Good signs. less hiking so made it through all (but like hiking) liked how the sites were situated near each other.

Note on community building: I think it speaks well of the importance of this event that I have received notes from people who usually come to Treasures of Oz, but were unable to this year, explaining why they did not attend and how sorry they were to miss it.

Volunteers

73 people volunteered in various capacities to create this event.

71 were actively participating at the event.

The majority of volunteers logged 4 to 7 hours at the event. For some it was weeks and months.

Organizations participating in Treasures of Oz 2015

Bird City Wisconsin
Ellen Anderson Arts
Friends of Harrington Beach State Park
Interfaith Earth Network
Lakeshore State Park
Mequon Nature Center
Milwaukee Audubon
Milwaukee River Watershed Fish Passage Project
Ozaukee Land & Water Management
Ozaukee Planning and Parks
Ozaukee Treasures Network
Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
Pine View Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Port Exploreum/ Historical Society
Purple Martin Association
Riveredge nature Center
Sierra Club - Great Waters Group
Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium
Sweet Water - Respect Our Waters
Treasures of Oz
US Fish & Wildlife
Wellspring
Western Great lakes Bird & Bat Observatory
Wisconsin DNR Game Warden

Community Support

Sponsorships

Mequon-Thiensville Junior Woman's Club
Besadney Conservation Grant from the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation
WE-Energies/ WEC Foundation
Matching underwriting - WUWM

Community Donors

Tomter, Marjie
Pedderson, Karen
Bate, Rick and Carol
Colectivo
Wisconsin Maritime Museum
NOAA
Washington House Inn
Riveredge Nature Center
Hoppe Tree Service
Karin Manley
Deb Mortl
Johnson's Nursery
Port Washington Historical Society
Friend of Treasures
Friend of Treasures
Beanies Mexican Restaurant
Messina Italian Restaurant
Boehlke Hardware
Extreme Ski & Bike
Newport Shores
Anchor Menswear
Godin's Piggly Wiggly
Greg Mueller Upholstery
Glaze Pottery Studio
Yoga Fitness
Ozaukee County Planning and Parks
Kandy Gibson/Garden View Pottery
Ker Mor Pet Grooming
Ferrantes
Chancery Pub & Restaurant
FirstWatchCafe

Wooden Goose Cafe
Highland House
Papa Murphy's Mequon
Cafe 1505
Landmark Luggage
Tres Jolie Solace
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club
Bodymindspiritworks
Joyce Huff
Pat & Ivan Bonneau-White
Vines to Cellar Winery
Outpost Natural Foods
The Pink Llama Gallery
The Feed Bag Pet Supply
The Rivoli
Missing Links
Cabela's
Leafland Landscape & Design
Lighthouse Florist & Wine Gallery
Robert Balmer
Mequon Pizza Company
Laura's Donges Bay Club House
River Club of Mequon
Wild Birds Unlimited
Green Bay Packers
Paul Gutelius
Cream & Crepe Cafe
Cedar Creek Winery
Out & Out Custard
Milwaukee Ale House
The Farmstead Bar & Grill
Flipside Cafe & Grill
Dominoes Pizza
Erin Ortiz
BMO Harris
Organic Valley
Fleming, Bill
Redmond, Kate
Leonardo's Pizza
Frenz Garden Center
Theinsville Hardware
Trader Joe's
Seth Cutright
Friends of the Cedarburg Bog
Port Washington Garden Club
Schlitz Audubon Nature Center
Sue Holcomb

**Land & Water Management
Department**

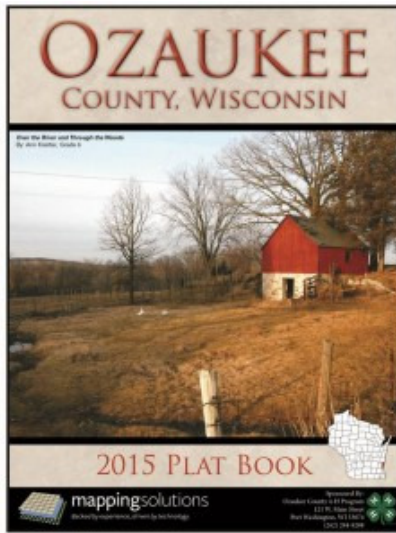
"It is our mission to work with our community to improve land and water management practices to improve and preserve Ozaukee County's natural resources for generations to come."

P.O. Box 994
121 W Main St
Port Washington, WI 53074

Phone: 262-284-8313
Fax: 262-284-8367
<http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/295/Land-Water-Management>



2015 Ozaukee County Plat Books



It's been 8 years since a new plat book was produced. The new plat book is sponsored by the Ozaukee County 4-H Program.

The plat books cost \$35.00 each and they are available at the University of Wisconsin – Extension Office, 121 W. Main Street, Room 33, Port Washington Wisconsin 53074; Phone – (262) 284-8288; and at Ozaukee County Land and Information Office, 121 W. Main Street, Room 120, 121 W. Main Street, Port Washington, WI 53074; Phone – (262) 284-8262.



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Fall 2015

Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department



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*B. Bruce Krier Conservancy Wetland Restoration:
A Dream Becoming Reality*

Fourteen volunteers (including representatives from Ozaukee County Land and Water Management, Ozaukee Treasures Network, Pheasants Forever, Clay Ridge Hunt Club, and Eco-Resource Consulting) planted over 1700 native wetland and aquatic plants on the B. Bruce Krier Conservancy on Saturday, August 15th. This was the third annual volunteer work day, bringing the total native wetland plants installed to nearly 6000 since the first event in 2013. Native aquatic species such as arrowhead, bulrush, pickerelweed, and bur-reed were planted

in the water along with several native sedges and wetland grasses which were planted on the shorelines. This 28-acre floodplain restoration in Belgium Township along both sides of Sucker Brook commenced in 2011 with survey work, planning, and permitting. Over 300,000 cubic yards of colluvium (mineral soil transported from farmland into wetlands during decades of heavy rain events) was excavated from the wetland and land-spread onto adjacent upland cropland. These associated uplands were removed from agricultural use and restored into prairie

along with extensive native re-seeding, plant installation, and invasive species management in the wetland. The wetland also hosts three scrapes which are heavily utilized by numerous species of wildlife. The wetland restoration was the dream of Bruce Krier, who lost his battle with cancer late in 2013. Krier's family owned this land and utilized it over two generations for vegetable production. Cropping took a heavy toll on the soils and in the early 1990's Krier began to retire lands from intensive cropping practices and con-

2015-16 Tree Order Forms

The 2015-2016 tree order forms will be made available mid-October! If you would be interested in getting a form, contact the Land & Water office at 262-284-8313 or visit our website at www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/295/Land-Water-Management

Order trees and shrubs in multiples of 25. Supply is limited so order early! Delivery date is approximately mid-April. You will be notified by postcard.

Prairie Seed, Bluebird houses and rain barrels will also be available for purchase!



Tom Ellis, President and Jeff Stolen, Past President of Ozaukee-Washington Chapter of Pheasants Forever planting Arrowhead by a restored wetland.

Tim Weyker with Clay Ridge Hunt Club planting native sedges

Krier Conservancy (Continued)

verting them to grasslands. Today, nearly 300 acres of native prairie grasslands have been restored and are managed primarily with the use of prescribed fire.

Since Bruce's passing, Bruce's nephew John Rassel is in the process of forming a non-profit organization that will preserve the land, continue with management and restoration efforts, and avail the land

for botanical and wildlife research and youth conservation education.

Eco-Resource Consulting, an ecological restoration and consulting firm in Stoughton, Wisconsin oversees restoration and ecological monitoring activities. Future plans include a trail network with interpretive signage, bridges over Sucker-Brook, nature center and pavilion.



Volunteers pleased with the accomplishment of planting 1700 native wetland and aquatic plants at the B. Bruce Krier Conservancy in the Town of Belgium.

Funding Available for Rain Gardens

Find out how you can get **\$750 towards your new rain garden!!**

The Ozaukee County Land and Water Management Department received a grant from the Fund for Lake Michigan. This opportunity allows homeowners the chance to install a rain garden(s) on their property. Rain gardens are de-

signed to catch storm water directly from roofs, driveways and sidewalks. The water is held for a short period of time and infiltrates into the ground due to the plants expansive root system. Storm water has the potential of sending pollutants, such as excess lawn fertilizer directly to local streams and rivers through storm drains. The water that enters the storm drains is not treated at a wastewater treatment plant and is a direct conduit to someone's favorite fishing hole. A rain garden is a shallow excavated basin typically 6 inches or less and planted with native vegetation. The colorful flowers are a benefit but the roots do all the work by opening up the ground to allow more infiltration than ordinary grass sod in an urban setting.

low excavated basin typically 6 inches or less and planted with native vegetation. The colorful flowers are a benefit but the roots do all the work by opening up the ground to allow more infiltration than ordinary grass sod in an urban setting.

Another benefit of the garden is the beauty that it can bring to your property. The grasses and forbs can offer an abundance of color which can attract hummingbirds, butterflies and dragonflies. The added benefit of the dragonfly can result in a natural way to control the mosquito population. Robert and Vicki Szklarz of Mequon installed two rain gar-

dens and were overly impressed with the Monarch butterflies that took to the gardens immediately.

This is a voluntary program which reimburses property owners up to **\$750 per rain garden installed!** The property must fall into the Milwaukee River Watershed. All cities, towns and villages in Ozaukee county are eligible except Belgium and Port Washington.

The grant monies are available on a first come basis. If you have any questions please call the Land and Water Mgt. Dept. at 262 284 8270.



Robert and Vicki Szklarz next to their new rain garden in Mequon



Improve Your Soils by Planting Cover Crops

There are more soil microorganisms in 1 teaspoon of healthy soil than there are people on Earth!

A cover crop is grasses, legumes, forbs or other herbaceous plants that are established for seasonal cover, conservation purposes, and improved soil health.

Cover crops are planted in the late summer or fall around harvest and before spring planting of the following year's

crops. Common cover crops used in Wisconsin include winter hardy plants such as barley, rye and wheat. Other less common, but also effective cover crops include oats, spring wheat, hairy vetch, red clover, turnips, canola, radishes, and triticale.

This practice may be used to reduce soil erosion by establishing cover after a minimal residue crop, to use up excess nutrients in the soil profile, for weed suppression, to provide nutrient for the next crop, in-

crease organic matter and improve soil structure. They are an excellent tool for helping to improve soil health.

Cover crops can be seeded with drills, broadcast equipment, or aerially applied to get the cover crop started early enough to achieve the desired results. Cover crops are ideal for planting after early harvested crops such as wheat, silage corn, sweet corn, corn grain, peas or other vegetables.

To get the maximum benefit from cover crops, they need to become

an integral part of your cropping system. Whether you grow just corn and soybeans or you have a more diverse rotation that includes wheat or vegetable crops, livestock and manure, there are opportunities to include cover crops in your production system. When you select a cover crop, make sure it provides benefits that meet your farming objectives.

An excellent source of information is the Midwest Cover Crop Council, www.mccc.msu.edu/ and USDA NRCS www.nrcs.usda.gov



Rick Roden, dairy farmer and Karl Harpstead, Kettle Lakes Co-Op Agronomist calibrate seeder for 2014 demonstration on Roden Farm (Rob-n-Cin Farms)

Airflow seeder spreading cover crop seed on Roden 2014 demo site

Example of the benefits of planting cover crops

Cover Crop Demonstration Planned On Field Cropped by Melichar Broad Acres Farm

Aerial seed application, no-till and air flow seeding are among the different seeding methods that will be utilized in the establishment of a cover crop demo on a corn silage field managed by Jim Melichar, of Melichar Broad Acres. Jim is interested in establishing a cover crop to protect the field from erosion and increase crop productivity.

The demonstration will be located in the Town of Port Washington on the south side of Hillcrest Road immediately west of Green Bay Rd.

The cover crop demo is part of a cooperative effort with Melichar Broad Acres, Kettle Lakes Cooperative, UWEX and Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department.

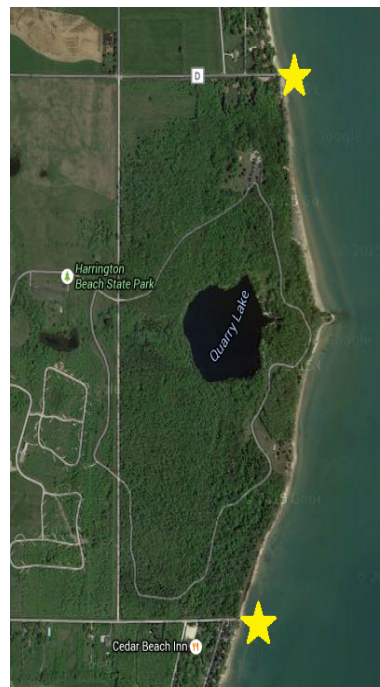
Information on the planned

Field Day will be posted on the Land & Water Management Department website <http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/295/Land-Water-Management> nearer to the date of the event. Please contact Andy Holschbach, Land & Water Management at 262-284-8271 if you would like more information.



Jim and Sherri Melichar with one of this year's calves

Harrington Beach Survey Indicates High Levels of Bacteria at Hwy D and Cedar Beach Road



In 2013 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requested the Ozaukee County Public Health Department pilot a comprehensive survey of sanitary and stormwater impacts at Harrington Beach State Park. Harrington Beach is a high priority beach which has an estimated 175,000 people using the beach annually.

Field activities for the sanitary survey involved the collection of beach and stormwater samples, environmental and weather data. Water samples were evaluated for E. coli.

Of all the outfalls within the park area, pollutant levels from the storm water conveyances along Cedar Beach Road and County Highway D located at the edges of the park had the highest E. coli levels. In addition

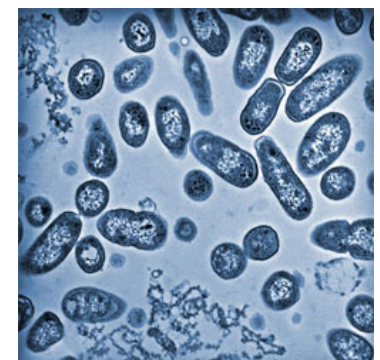
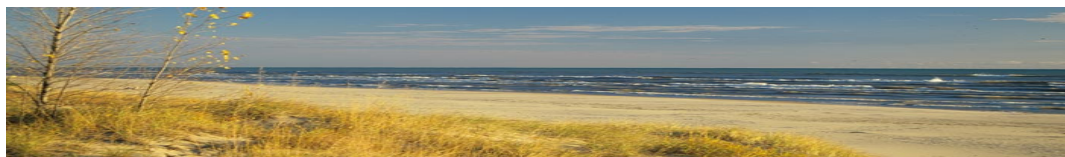
storm water samples were analyzed for DNA markers by the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene and the UW Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences. Predominantly bovine (cattle) and human markers were identified in the surface run-off along County Highway D and Cedar Beach Road, both which directly impact Lake Michigan. Gull markers were present with less frequency.

Taken together, the results of the lab analysis and the broader data analyses suggest the most effective way to reduce near-shore fecal contamination and E. coli swim advisories, is to reduce the amount of fecal pollution discharging from Highway D and Cedar Beach Road, through some combination of source reduction and

stormwater management.

Miller Engineers and Scientists hired by the county with funding from the Fund for Lake Michigan designed stormwater treatments systems to lessen the stormwater impact and improve beach health. Infiltration basins are recommended at Hwy D and Cedar Beach Road on State Park land to collect and treat the stormwater. The designs are under consideration by State Park officials.

Land and Water Management Department staff will be contacting landowners with older septic systems in an effort to correct systems found to be failing and work with farmers to further reduce agricultural runoff. Further water testing will continue.



A Word from Our Friends at



My name is Kathy Eggers and I am happy to introduce myself as the new NRCS District Conservationist for Washington and Ozaukee Counties. I have had the chance to meet some of you since I started my position in early December 2014 and look forward to meeting and working with the landowners and producers in the area. I am a WI native with

a farming background in egg production. Most recently I was the Soil Conservationist in Dodge County and am familiar with the agricultural practices of the area.

For those unfamiliar with the NRCS, we are a division of the USDA and serve the agricultural community by providing federal funding to address resource concerns and imple-

ment conservation practices on agricultural land. One of the ways we do this is through Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding. The other program we administer is the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). More information on NRCS programs <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wi/home/>



Kathy Eggers, Washington/Ozaukee County Conservationist

Arsenic in Ozaukee County

When people are healthy, they say they feel well. But there's another type of 'healthy' private water well owners need to be concerned with—the health of their well water. Recent well test monitoring in Ozaukee County has highlighted that arsenic is present in well water in ALL areas of the county.

Safe, contaminant free water is one of the most vital resources Wisconsin citizens have for drinking and cooking. Municipalities regularly test the drinking water supplies to ensure they are safe. But with private wells, it's the owner's responsibility. Wisconsin has approxi-

mately one million private wells, most of which are not tested for arsenic on a periodic basis.

Arsenic consumption at levels above the federal standard can cause cancers, hair loss, tremors, numbness, and skin abnormalities. The risk factors for cancers of the gastro-intestinal tract, kidney and bladder increase as the parts per billion of arsenic in well water increase. The good news is that once arsenic is identified, the water can be treated to be safe for consumption.

Arsenic is an element that is found in soil and rock that

usually has a fair amount of iron. Under certain conditions arsenic can be released into groundwater. Arsenic levels in your well water may increase overtime.

Currently the US Environmental Protection Agency health standard for arsenic in well water is 10 parts per billion. With the cooperation of well owners, in 2008 a well test project was completed by the health department. Seven percent of the wells tested had arsenic in well water above the federal standard, and another 14 % of the wells tested had detectable levels of arsenic less

than the standard. Since then local labs have provided statistics that arsenic is present in Ozaukee County groundwater.

The first step is to test your water. Bottles are available at the Health Department and the analysis generally costs around \$25. The water must be run 5-7 minutes before taking the samples and must be cold and hard only. Local labs are used for the analysis.

For more information on this health department project, an arsenic health fact sheet and information on where to have your private well water tested for arsenic, please contact Dan Ziegler at 262-284-8170, or click on our website at: www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/480/Private-Well-Water-Testing

Farms Making History in Ozaukee County

Ozaukee county was very fortunate to have three local farms honored at the 2015 Wisconsin State Fair. The Century Farm honorees this year were the Elvira and Paul H. Brunnquell Farm of Port Washington and Lindenwood Farms, Inc. of Mequon. The Sesquicentennial Farm honorees was Franelen, Roger and Graham Bentz of Cedarburg.

This year 119 properties joined the already 8978 Century Farms already honored since the program began in 1948. There were 42 farms honored this year as a Sesquicentennial Farm. To date 701 farms have received this award since it began in 1998.

Congratulations to the 2015 Honorees.



Paul and Elvira Brunnquell of Port Washington. Also pictured are their sons David and Mark.



Roger and Fran Bentz of Cedarburg. Also pictured is their son Graham Bentz, his wife Tracy and two children, Rachell and Charlotte.

Also honored this year was Lindenwood Farms, Inc. of Mequon, operated by Randy, his wife Ellie, son Drew and his wife Anne.

Conservation Funding Available Through State Grant

Ozaukee County receives a State Soil & Water Resource Management Grant which funds "soft" conservation practices such as Nutrient Management Planning and "hard" conservation practices such as manure storage and grassed waterways. These conservation practices are aimed to manage ma-

nure, reduce sediment and phosphorous in Ozaukee County. These same funds are awarded to every county in the state. Not only does the cost share dollars help manage runoff pollution, but the dollars spent create other benefits. These include but are not limited to: better lake and stream health, better fish populations, increased human

uses of these resources. Sometimes more grass areas create more wildlife habitat for birds, small mammals, and deer.

If you as a landowner or farmer are interested in applying for cost share dollars contact Jeff Bell at the Land & Water Management Department (262) 285-8274. Everybody should realize that healthy soil is a must

Tax Rule Change Reduces Barriers to Restoring Wetlands on Working Farms

A small change to WI's property tax assessment law (Tax 18) has created a big opportunity for wetland restoration and other agricultural conservation practices.

For many years, all lands restored to wetlands in agricultural landscapes were reclassified from agricultural land to undeveloped land for property tax assessment purposes—even lands restored through state and federal soil and water conservation programs. Lands restored to non-wetland practices through these programs

retained agricultural tax treatment. Because agricultural land is taxed at a reduced rate, new wetland landowners often saw large increase in their property tax bills.

An update to Tax 18 took effect on July 1st and addresses this inconsistency. The new rule establishes clear and fair criteria for when conservation practices installed in agricultural landscapes retain eligibility for the reduced agricultural tax treatment. To be eligible, lands must be enrolled in federal or state easement programs, and

be restored in compliance with soil and water management standards established for farm conservation practices (ATCP 50).

Lands restored under temporary easements are eligible provided that the easement does not restrict the land from returning to agricultural use when the easement expires. Lands restored under permanent easements will retain agricultural tax treatment or management plan authorizes a compatible agricultural use such as haying or grazing.



Ozaukee County Fish Passage

Between 2009 -2015, the Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department was awarded over \$10 million in federal, state, local and private funding to develop, refine, and implement a comprehensive "Ozaukee Fish Passage Program." The Program restores natural stream functions to reconnect and enhance high quality habitat for native fish, birds and wildlife in the Lake Michigan Basin and Milwaukee River Watershed through a combination of fish passage impediment removals (e.g., dam removals, fishway construction, culvert replacements, logjam and debris removals) and stream and habitat restoration activities. To date, the Program and its partners have removed or remediated 270 impediments to fish and aquatic life passage, restoring access to over 132 miles of in-stream habitat and thousands of acres of wetland habitat.

2015 impediment removal or remediation activities include multiple road and stream crossing projects completed by the Ozaukee County Highway Department and completion of numerous small scale projects with the assistance of the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps and the AmeriCorps NCCC. A notable project planned for fall 2015 is the removal of a large, failing dam on Mineral Springs Creek in Port Washington. Also, Department staff is actively inventorying additional fish passage impediments and completing comprehensive habitat assessments on 11 direct tributary streams to Lake Michigan.

Large-scale habitat improvement and restoration project activities on Ulao Creek and Mole Creek are ongoing. Project elements include restoring multiple stream reaches through channel re-meandering, floodplain reconnection, wetland creation and en-

hancement, invasive plant control, native plant restoration, and installation of bird, fish and wildlife habitat structures. The project is providing direct, tangible improvements to fish and wildlife habitat, specifically aquatic habitat available to resident and migratory native and desirable introduced fish species in the Milwaukee River Watershed and Lake Michigan Basin as documented through monitoring activities. Project activities are being implemented by Department staff, private contractors (Ulao Creek), and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Mole Creek). Volunteer tree planting events are scheduled for October 3, 2015 (Mole Creek) and October 10, 2015 (Ulao Creek).

Department staff, with the assistance of multiple volunteers, have completed numerous fisheries, wildlife, and avian monitoring events in 2015 at the habitat restoration project areas and in several Milwaukee River tributaries throughout Ozaukee County. No-

table findings have included the detection of naturally reproducing salmonid species in two Milwaukee River tributary streams, Mee-Kwon and Mineral Springs Creeks. Natural reproduction of salmonids in Ozaukee County is fairly uncommon and ongoing fish passage improvement work on these streams will increase access to high quality salmonid spawning habitat, hopefully resulting in increased natural salmonid reproduction in the future. Extensive monitoring within the Ulao Creek watershed has provided occurrence and distribution data on dozens of animal species such as the blue-spotted salamander, wood frog, black-billed cuckoo, willow flycatcher and a rare crayfish species, the digger crayfish, which is only the second confirmed record of this species for the County.

For additional project information, contact Andrew Struck, Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department Director at 262-238-8275 or astruck@co.ozaukee.wi.us.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP)

Ozaukee County is in its 26th year of administering the WDA CP. Farmers who are interested in participating in this program need the following to participate:

- Have damage to an agricultural crop by Whitetail Deer, Canada Goose, Wild Turkey, or a Black Bear,
- Own the crop that is being damaged
- Control Hunting Access: Because allowing hunting for the species causing the damage is a requirement. A minimum of two people per 40 acres of huntable land is required.
- Follow normal agricultural practices, which include having the crop harvested in a timely fashion. After 90% of the crop is harvested, in your region of the state, no more damage will be compensated.

- Crop field has to have been in cultivation for at least 5 years or more.
- Report crop damage within 14 days of first occurrence.
- Follow recommended abatement practice or practices.
- Call county to measure damage 10 days before harvest.
- Crop planted is for crop production and not attended as food plot.
- Keep a log book of hunters who hunted your land. You will be provided with a log book for the hunter to fill out.



If all of the preceding requirements are followed, you are eligible to receive up to 100% of the cost for materials to implement any abatement practice prescribed. Note: labor is not included in the cost share.

Claims for crop loss can be paid out if all the above were followed. This also includes if abatement was deemed not cost affective. The program states any crop owner must absorb the first \$500.00 of any claim. The program also states no payout can be larger than \$10,000.00.

The money for this program comes 100% from Hunting License revenue and if the program does not have enough money it prorates any claim. Call 262-284-8274 if you are interested.



Deer frequently prefer agricultural crops to other wild foods in their range.

Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

In the Town Of Belgium only, residences that are zoned exclusively as agriculture can apply for a \$7.50/acre tax credit . In order for you to apply you will need the following from the Land & Water Management Department:

Certificate of Compliance

- 1.a. Your cropland and pasture land must be at or below (I) tolerable soil loss
- 2.a. You will need to present a copy of a 590 Nutrient Management Plan
- 3.a. If you have cattle on your farm, we need to attempt to prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure to waters of the state.

- 4.a. Maintain manure storage structures to prevent leaking and overflow
- 5.a. Follow NRCS manure storage technical standards for construction and abandonment
- 6.a. Maintain a 5 foot tillage setback from surface water bodies
- 7.a. No significant discharge of process wastewater (e.g. feed leachate or milkhouse waste) to waters of the state
- 8.a. Need to meet a phosphorous index where it applies. Also known as PI.
- 9.a. Near surface water or areas susceptible to groundwater contamination:

- 9.a.1. Do not stack manure in an unconfined pile
- 9.a.2. Divert clean water away from feedlots, manure storage, and barnyards

If you are considering applying this year for FPP Tax credit, contact Jeff Bell or Geoff Schramm to make sure you are eligible. You need a Certificate of Compliance from the Land & Water management Department to apply for the credit. (262) 285-8313

