

# U L A O W H I S T L E R

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ULAO CREEK PARTNERSHIP, INC.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Partners and Friends,

Over the past 6 years as President of the Ulao Creek Partnership, I have had the distinct pleasure to work with you, the board and partners of this outstanding organization. The UCP is a collection of individuals rich with camaraderie, sincerity, dedication, commitment, and certainly ideas. Your initiative and creativity have carried us through many productive projects; projects that have made a very real impact on improving and preserving the natural resources in the Ulao Creek watershed.

Each time we get together for meetings, work days, or kicking up our boots, it is always time well spent. Not once have I left a UCP event or activity wondering whether our time could have been better spent. Rather, I typically drive away feeling rewarded and thinking how much more could be done with the harnessed energy and passion you all have for the watershed.

I am sincerely thankful for you, the dedicated partners of the UCP, and all that you have done. It is with sadness that I have decided to step down as the President of the UCP. While my time has come to an end, I am quite hopeful that new leadership will bring forth new energy, revived commitment, and new opportunities.

I will remain an active member of the UCP and look forward to directing my efforts toward on the ground projects. One of the first efforts I am soliciting your support is for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual invasive species control day. To date, we have pulled over 1,000 gallons of garlic mustard and dame's rocket. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, we will gather at 7:30 and work on pulling



*The Ulao Creek is wonderful resource right in our very own backyard.*

mustard into the early afternoon. Please watch our website and your email for the specific location of where we will begin. You can also call me at 262-707-2561 or email me at [mgrisar@scglobal.net](mailto:mgrisar@scglobal.net) for questions.

Since joining the UCP over 12 years ago, I have always been impressed by the individuals and their dedication. In my final Whistler article, I challenge you all to step forward and renew your commitment to the UCP, and to the watershed. Thank you for your confidence in me over the past six years, and I look forward to our continued friendships in the years to come!!!

Sincerely,  
Mike Grisar

CREEK PARTNERSHIP



# Water Quality Monitoring on the Ulao Creek

By August Hoppe

The Ulao Creek waterway looks a lot different these days than it did in the past. The creek has been influenced by many different human interventions. These include the construction of the railroad, interstate 43, straightening of the river bed, bridges, culverts, farming, and introduction of invasive plants such as reed canary grass. These changes have affected the Ulao Creek in many different ways. The stream flow and the water quality has certainly been negatively altered. In the past, northern pike had been able to travel up the creek from the Milwaukee River and spawn. The UCP is determined to improve the water quality of the Ulao Creek, allowing the northern pike back up the creek again.

Now a days, many good things are happening to the creek. Ecological understanding and awareness of the value of the creek has increased, building practices have become much more sensitive to control erosion and pollution into the creek. Exciting new projects are also underway at the county level to improve fish passage in the creek.

With all of these positive steps underway, The Ulao Creek Partnership is pleased to announce that we have started a water quality monitoring initiative. Water quality is affected by watershed practices and land uses. Stream monitoring offers an opportunity for us to learn about the water quality of the Ulao Creek and how our actions can affect the creek.

Our goal is to document the current characteristics of the water so that we can recognize changes in the future and see if the water quality is improving. The UCP has partnered with the Milwaukee Riverkeeper organization for this monitoring program. Milwaukee Riverkeeper has setup a watershed-wide network of trained citizen volunteers who monitor streams and rivers, collecting information in a consistent and useable format. Water quality data is collected by Water Action Volunteers, and are then entered to a web-based database. Anyone with access to the web can view data or compare results between sites or over time at a single site using the graphing functions of the database.

In May of 2009 August Hoppe participated in a day long training session sponsored by Milwaukee Riverkeeper at the Riveredge Nature Center to become a level 1 Water Action Volunteer. Once his training was completed, August Hoppe



then went out and started monitoring the Ulao Creek on his family's property in the Town of Grafton. Six parameters are included as part of the monitoring program. Between April and October, temperature, dissolved oxygen, stream flow, and transparency are monitored monthly. The aquatic and streamside habitat as well as the stream's macroinvertebrate community, are also monitored using a biotic index.

*Dissolved oxygen*—Measuring of the level of oxygen dissolved in the water is important since aquatic life depends on it.

*Temperature*—Water temperature changes can affect aquatic life, causing greater demand for oxygen or limiting survival of organisms.

- *Turbidity*—A measure of water clarity, including effects of both particles in the water and its color.
- *Stream flow*—The amount of water flowing past a point over a set period of time.
- *Habitat*—Assessing streambank, bed, and riparian vegetation can tell us if habitat is suitable for aquatic organisms.
- *Stream macroinvertebrate life*—Insects, worms, crustaceans, clams, etc. that are visible without the aid of a microscope are used to assess water quality based on their tolerance to various levels of dissolved oxygen.

We are excited about the upcoming water quality monitoring season. Starting this April the Ulao Creek Partnership will be at it again. Results from 2009 monitoring and our future monitoring this year can be found at the Water Action Volunteer's online database located at

<http://www.uwex.edu/erc/wavdb/>. Or on the UCP website at [www.ulaocreek.org](http://www.ulaocreek.org)

# Treasures of Oz

By Marjie Tomter

Treasure in our watershed? Treasure, treasure everywhere! Discover and explore Ozaukee County's natural treasures on July 24th ending at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve for a free, family-friendly celebration. Everyone knows Ozaukee County is rich in natural sites and resources, but most people have seen only a few of these up close. This day will change that with a wonderful celebration that invites everyone to come and discover what lies beyond.

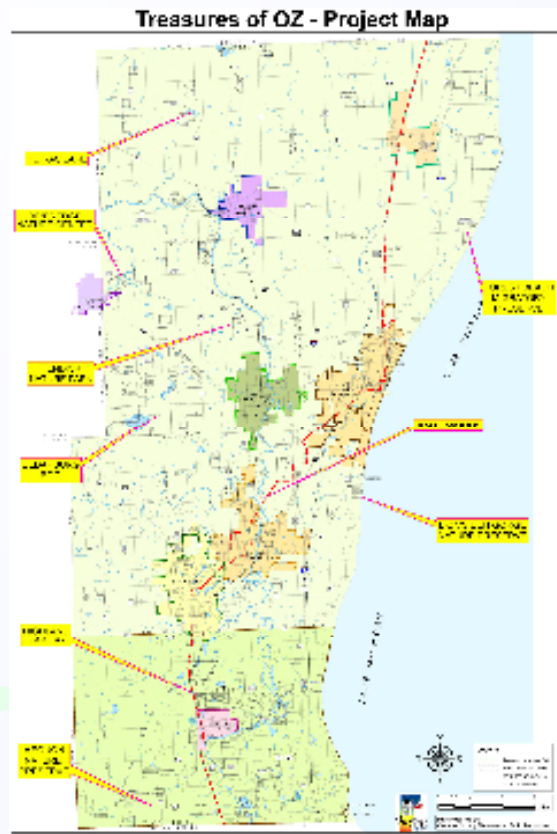
Treasures of Oz will provide great opportunities for photos, birding, biking and geocaching as well as hiking, taking in the fresh air and getting a little smarter. The adventure ends for the day with food, music, a silent auction and a chance to win prizes. Ulao Creek Partnership is hooking up with a team of environmentally focused local organizations to create this day of celebration and education. This is the plan for the day:

1. Participants will visit selected treasure sites around the county from 9:00 a.m. until 3 p.m. using a map and a passport they can download at [www.treasuresofoz.org](http://www.treasuresofoz.org). The Interurban Trail is a great resource for biking to the various sites and the trail map and suggested site routes will be available on the website.
2. Each site will have docents and volunteers to offer information about the site and its theme. Passports will be stamped at each site and the passports can be exchanged for raffle tickets. Bicycle riders can get an additional stamp near the new trail bridge over I-43, or at Mequon Nature Preserve or at Forest Beach. This stamp is worth additional raffle tickets.
3. The Treasures celebration will take place at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. There will be informational tables from partner organizations, sponsors and more. There will be a silent auction (1:00 - 4:00) to benefit OWLT and the Interurban Bridge and/ or to provide start up funds for Treasures for next year. There will be bluegrass and rock 'n roll music by String-a-Long and local vendors will have food available.

Treasure sites include the Mequon Nature Preserve, Highland Woods, BrattWoods, Lion's Den Gorge, the Cedarburg Bog, Riveredge Nature Center, Huiras Lake, Forest Beach Migratory Preserve, Harrington Beach State Park and the Interurban Trail.

Partners in this event are Ozaukee - Washington Land Trust, Ozaukee County Parks and Planning, City of Mequon Parks, Riveredge Nature Center, Cedarburg Bog, UWM Field Station, Friends of the Bog, WDNR, Harrington Beach State Park, Friends of Harrington Beach, North Branch Heritage Project, Ozaukee County Interurban Trail, Ulao Creek Partnership, The Land Conservation Partnership of Ozaukee County, MATC Environmental Health, Great Lakes Earth Institute, Ozaukee Community Awareness Forum (OCAF), and the Ozaukee Humane Society

Mark July 24th on your calendars, Visit the website at [www.treasuresofoz.org](http://www.treasuresofoz.org) to learn more and to download your map and passport for this adventure. The project would love some volunteers to help out at the various sites. You can volunteer through the website as well.



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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

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

## **Membership Information**

### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- \$25 - Individual Member
- \$50 - Contributing Member
- \$250 - Guardian Member

### **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP**

- \$250     \$500     \$1000     Other

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Please Contact Me       Please Send Info

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND SEND TO:**

ULAO CREEK PARTNERSHIP, INC.  
C/O KARIN MANLEY, TREASURER  
970 ULAO ROAD  
GRAFTON, WI 53024

**THANK YOU!!!**

Membership in the Ulaocreek Partnership is a rewarding experience that brings together like minded individuals for a truly noble pursuit.– Preserving and improving the Ulaocreek Watershed.

We plan numerous activities such as invasive plant removals, tree planting, and debris clean up of the Ulaocreek. We need our member support to make these events happen.

Our corporate sponsorships are a great way for a business to show its support for our local waterway. Please contact August Hoppe [augusthoppe@wi.rr.com](mailto:augusthoppe@wi.rr.com) for more details on how a corporate sponsorship can work for your business.

We meet quarterly in Port Washington at the County Administration Building.

More information can be found at our website [www.ulaoecreek.org](http://www.ulaoecreek.org) or on facebook.