

ALDER FORK JOURNAL



Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Serving Columbia, Dodge and Sauk Counties since 1982

WINTER 2016

IN THE LOOP

By Scott Allen

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter



It's that time of year when two things in life are certain:

taxes and fishing. Let's set aside the more commonly accepted axiom, something to do with mortality, and have a closer look at this relation between taxes and fishing. Now, after receiving my financial christening in Bear Creek, I have an appreciation for the role in trout stream improvements of our tax-funded partners at the state and federal level. As I doggedly, certainly begrudgingly, peck away at preparing my federal income tax return I now have a new

found sense of obligation to return something to our federal government for the deferred gratification of continued trout habitat improvement and water resource protection in Wisconsin.

Early this year I had a wonderful mid-winter day of fishing Camp Creek in Richland County, now beaver-dam free due to the efforts of USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Services beaver removal crew, my federal tax dollars at work. On the first day of February I fished Bear Creek and Willow Creek, both with habitat largely funded by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Again, thank you Uncle Sam for the great day of fishing. At this writing USDA-NRCS is working with property owners on Bear Creek, upstream of the recent habitat improvement to begin erosion control and habitat improvements, bringing the restored stream length close to six miles length when completed. Good news for Bear Creek and clean, cold water, thanks to your tax dollars.

I can keep going with examples of your tax dollars supporting clean water, sport fishing, rural construction jobs, and best of all something nice to leave for the next generation, but there wouldn't be enough pages in this newsletter. Instead let's turn to another "tax" of sorts that will provide our sport and resource big returns at a later date: that would be the effort we are putting forth in introducing the next generation to clean water resources and the connection to sport fishing.

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Here's the current list from our efforts:

- In January the Aldo Leopold Chapter introduced 50 school children to trout and water resources through our Trout In The Classroom program.
- About twenty teenage and adult students will have learned to tie flies through our free five-week beginners' fly tying class in Baraboo.
- Fifteen beginners, young and old, will have learned the basics of fly casting at Flyfishing 101, a free clinic in Baraboo this March.
- Two teenage boys, young men really, will be able to attend Trout Unlimited Fishing Camp in July, through the sponsorship provided by the chapter.

At the risk of ignoring our dues-paying members I am proud of the opportunities these youth- and beginner-focused programs are providing — for them and for our future. I haven't forgotten the "old timers" of the chapter, don't worry, programs are in the works, but for now I have to get my taxes done. Tight lines!



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM LAUNCHES IN REEDSBURG

Many months of planning and effort have Trout In The Classroom up and running with 50 enthusiastic 5th grade students in Reedsburg. After setting up the cold-water aquarium, the students had a chance to visit the Nevin Fish Hatchery along with ALCTU President Scott Allen. The kids learned about the species of trout in Wisconsin, how they are propagated in captivity and released in our state waters. From there they returned with rainbow trout

fry for the classroom aquarium. They are now learning about water chemistry, life cycle and habitat of trout. After two weeks in the aquarium the school reports ZERO mortality for the trout.



2016 CHAPTER WORK DAY DATES HAVE BEEN REVISED

Due to a scheduling conflict with Southeastern Wisconsin TU the June work day will be on Saturday, June 11th at Little Willow Creek in eastern Richland County. This will again double as a fishing and camping outing after the work is done. We will be building small LUNKER structures for a half-mile restoration of Little Willow Creek. Details will follow in the Spring newsletter.

April 16th, Rowan Creek Fishery Area – Tree planting with WI DNR. We will be planting white pine seedlings at Rowan Creek Fishery Area in Columbia County. This area received some recent logging and DNR needs help replanting. 9:00 a.m., look for signs on County Highway CS.

May 21st, Manley Creek — Brush clipping and herbicide application. We will follow up last year's brush removal by clipping emergent woody vegetation and applying herbicide. This will not be nearly as strenuous as big brush removal jobs. 9:00 a.m. at the Riverland Conservancy parking lot on Highway 113.





IMPORTANT CHAPTER DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, March 9, 2016, Orvis Fly Fishing 101,
5:30 p.m. Baraboo Civic Center gym.

**Saturday, March 12, 2016, ALCTU & BFF “All Things
Fly Fishing,”** 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Reedsburg Library,
Reedsburg, WI.

**Wednesday, April 13, 2016, ALCTU Chapter
Meeting,** 5:30 p.m. Suzy’s Steak House, Portage, WI.

**Saturdays, April 16, May 21, June 11, 2016, ALCTU
Work Day Events,** 9:00 a.m.-Noon. Details to come.

**Tuesday, June 14, 2016, ALCTU Annual Fund-raising
Picnic,** 5:00 p.m. Habermann Park, Lodi,

OFFICERS AND BOARD DIRECTORY

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The ALCTU board members would like to thank Budget Print of Watertown for all of the assistance they provide with printing and mailing of our newsletters. Please consider them for your printing needs.

ARE YOU ON OUR LIST?

To ALCTU members, email is an important means of communication with our membership, without your email address we cannot notify you of some upcoming events and changes in chapter activities, especially on short notice. We never share e-mail addresses with any person or organization, nor does TU National. Below is a list of member last names for whom we do not have an e-mail address.

Please contact Bob Moss, Membership Chair, at **robertmoss123@gmail.com** with your current/valid e-mail address.

Alexander	Eslyn	Lutes	Sukowatey
Belter	Frey	Maguire	Tebeest
Benisch	Gehrke	Marshall	Teske
Bennett	Glanzer	Morrison	Thomas
Blakeslee	Grady	Mullen	Thompson
Byrnes	Guse	Munkwitz	Tjader
Cibulka	Hooker	Rendfleisch	Voltz
Cooper	Jackson	Ruedisili	Ziebell
Cordrey	Johnson	Schlender	Zwiebel
Curran	Jonas	Shultz	
Endres	Larsen	Stoll	

ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

The Aldo Leopold Chapter’s mission is to conserve, protect, restore and enhance trout and salmonid fisheries, watersheds, the groundwater that sustains them, and the doctrine of public trust that defends them, in Columbia, Dodge and Sauk Counties. We do this through education, cooperation, rehabilitation and advocacy using an extensive and dedicated volunteer network.

— IMPORTANT NOTICE —

At the July 2015 board of directors meeting held in Portage, a vote passed unanimously to have regular chapter meetings, to be held quarterly on the second Wednesday of January, April, July, and October of each year. The chapter newsletter will follow each meeting a few weeks later. All chapter members are invited to attend these meetings. Details will appear in the “Important Dates” section. The April 13th meeting will include the Election of Officers and Board Members, please consider joining the chapter as an officer or board member.

60 YEARS OF FISHING

By Sally Gawle, ALCTU board member

The Aldo Leopold Chapter, like all Trout Unlimited chapters, wants to know, “How do we get more people interested in trout and trout fishing?” Well, for Tom Gawle, ALCTU’s Secretary, it was a Zebco 33 Spincasting fishing reel.

The first waters Tom fished were Lakes Mary and Elizabeth, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin. In the 1950s, his baby-boomer family made annual trips from Cicero, Illinois, to a by-the-week cottage, complete with wooden boat. Dad brought the 2.5 hp outboard. Under Dad’s guidance and with his trusty Zebco 33 reel, Tom caught blue gills, perch, crappies, bullheads, the family spaniel and an occasional bass. It’s an old adage, Tom, too, at an early age, was “hooked” into a lifetime of fishing.

A few years after they were married, Tom and his wife Sally bought their first home in Racine, Wisconsin, just two blocks from Lake Michigan. Many mornings, 45 minutes before going to work as a graphic designer, Tom would cast spoons and soak spawn sacks from breakwalls for coho salmon, rainbow and brown trout. His luck was often good, and co-workers sometimes noticed he had fish scales on his shoes.

Friends Tom made in Racine brought many more opportunities to fish. Bass in Mexico, tarpon in Costa Rica, pike and walleye in Canada, but all sans fly rod. Then, came along a new technique interest, fly fishing.

Tom wanted to learn fly fishing techniques and hooked up with guides Bob Blumreich of Silver Doctor Fly Fishing and Brad Petzke of Rivers North Guide Service. Bob introduced Tom to the Kickapoo River and surrounding streams of the Driftless area and Brad guided him on the Escanaba River and Cooks Run of the Upper Peninsula. Parallel to these outdoor experiences, Tom joined National TU.

In 2007, Tom, now living in Beaver Dam, got a newsletter from the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited announcing a board meeting at the local Ponderosa Steak House and decided to attend. The Chapter President, Mike Barniskis, was looking for a volunteer to handle the newsletter and Tom said he would take it on. He was also asked to sit on the Board, but declined, saying, “No, you guys might not like me. Let’s give it some time.” It apparently has

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worked out, and since 2009 Tom has been an ALCTU Board Member and serves as Secretary.




Tom’s 8 wt and a Prince Nymph were all that was needed to pull this male Atlantic Salmon from Saint Mary’s River, Sault Ste. Marie.

As a core member of ALCTU, Tom serves on the picnic committee, teaches at the fly tying classes and participates in work days, but his proudest achievement is the ALCTU habitat improvement project on Bear Creek in Sauk County. From 2009 to 2015 Tom has written grant requests for ALCTU to numerous private and business organizations and Federal, State and local government agencies, ultimately securing capital ALCTU provided for the 4.25 miles of improvement. In recognition of this multi-year effort, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited presented the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited with the Silver Trout award for Chapter Merit in 2012 and recognized Tom’s accomplishment by presenting him with the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Certificate of Appreciation in 2013.

Stream biology is of high interest to Tom. As a Water Action Volunteer (WAV) he has monitored Ryan’s Meadow on Lodi Spring Creek and the improved section of Bear Creek, and in 2015 logged water temperatures on Manley Creek.

Tom’s most recent fish interest is using streamers and wading for Copper Harbor, MI splake.


Tom is still seeking a home water. A place close enough to fish regularly, so that he can get to know the water’s personality, changes and seasons.

He’s left the Zebco behind. It has served its purpose. His advice for getting more people interested in trout? “Focus on preserving and improving cold-water resources. Everything else will fall into place.” 

WISCONSIN COUNCIL AWARDS BANQUET AND FUND RAISER A SUCCESS

Aldo Leopold Chapter again maintained a high profile at the annual fund raising and awards banquet held in Oshkosh, February 6th. ALCTU Vice President Mike Stapleton was honored with the award "Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award." This is a state-wide award honoring a dedicated TU volunteer who devotes his or her time to basically any task that needs to get done. Mike certainly was deserving after all of the time he has put into monitoring legislative activity at the Capital, organizing the fly box donation to the silent auction, time spent at fly tying classes, habitat work days ... the list goes on. Thank you Mike!

The chapter donated Wisconsin-artisan brandies and a new portable inflatable pontoon boat to the raffle and silent auction.

ALCTU fly tiers assembled a collection of their finest work for an auctioned fly box. We have been fortunate to draw the top bid among all the chapter fly boxes for the last few years, a popular silent auction event that annually generates upwards of \$2,000 for WITU operations. Many thanks to Dan Braun, Tom Gawle, Scott Allen, Dave Murphy, Jared Sagal, Jim Peters and Mike Stapleton who contributed their time and talents in the assembly of this must-have prize. 

BRAUN AND MOSS, INTERNET AND MEMBERSHIP COORDINATORS

Dan Braun of Baraboo has accepted the responsibilities of Internet Coordinator for the chapter. He will press into service his talents as a web-marketing professional to maintain and improve our web site and Facebook page. Don't be bashful, send Dan your best fishing pictures and/or stories for Facebook, that's what it's there for. Dan's email is danpixelpusher@gmail.com.


Bob Moss of Pardeeville is our new Membership Coordinator, his role will be to maintain our mailing list and chapter roster information. Trust me, this is a bigger job than it sounds. The future of communication is the internet, we can't reach you if we don't have your email. Please send any email address changes to robertmoss123@gmail.com.

Thank you and welcome to you both. 


2016 PICNIC FUND RAISER AND GRAND OPENING OF "ALDO'S TACKLE SHOP"

Tuesday, June 14th, the annual picnic fund-raiser will be held in Lodi at Habermann Park. In addition to great raffle and silent auction items, we will have a swap meet for "gently used" tackle and fishing-related items. Bring your "goods for sale," and mark them with a price. We will have a table set up to display the merchandise. Of course a percentage of your sale will go to the chapter, the rest to you. We already have some very nice tackle and clothing ready for sale, and be prepared to take home with you as much as you brought, hence the name, "swap meet!"

During the picnic, we will also have a guest presenter. Details have yet to be finalized, but more information will follow in the Spring newsletter.

Please consider donating a picnic raffle or silent auction prize. Those of you who have attended the picnic annually have told us that the quality, value and quantity of prizes and auction items have definitely improved. Thank you all for donating great items. We have set the bar high, this keeps our chapter running and solvent. Let any one of the board members know you would like to donate an item. 

CONSIDER ALDER FORK JOURNAL FOR YOUR ADVERTISING

As *The Alder Fork Journal* continues to grow, so grows the printing and mailing expense. In the past, printing has been generously donated by the Steven Hill family, owners of Budget Print of Watertown. The board of directors are in agreement the time has arrived for the Journal to be partially self funded through the sale of advertising space. So please consider advertising your business or service in *The Alder Fork Journal*, rates are \$100 per year, four issues in the year, for a business card sized ad space. Larger space is available by request. 

TREASURER'S REPORT


Balance as of February 15, 2015

Checking	\$3,924.31
Savings	\$4,185.31
Total	\$8,109.62

Michael C. Stupich, Treasurer



ALL THINGS FLY FISHING

Saturday March 12th, 1:00 to 3:00, at the Reedsburg Library. A short program by Badger Fly Fishers and Aldo Leopold Chapter TU. This program will introduce the audience to the sport through explanations of tackle, places to fish, the role of TU and BFF in conservation, etc. with a heavy emphasis on the history of fly tackle and tying. Bob Harrison and John Beth of BFF will be presenting along with Scott Allen of ALCTU. This is geared to those unfamiliar with the sport but you tackle addicts will certainly want to see a fraction of John Beth's historic fly rod and reel collection — from 1880's Hardy greenheart rods to 2000's Hardy Sintrix — with lots of bamboo in between. 

<http://aldoleopold.tu.org/>

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