

# ALDER FORK JOURNAL



**Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

Serving Columbia, Dodge and Sauk Counties since 1982

Spring 2016

## Join the FUNdraiser in LODI, JUNE 14

By Scott Allen

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter

The **ALCTU Picnic Fund Raiser** will again be held at Habermann Park in Lodi, WI on Tuesday evening, June 14th. A \$5 entrance fee will be taken at the door. We are excited to have fishing guide and fly casting instructor, Dave Barron of Jacquish Hollow Anglers to give a demonstration on common casting mistakes to avoid to improve your cast. Based in Richland County, Dave is a Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructor and Orvis-endorsed fishing guide.

The list of raffle and silent-auction items is impressive and growing. This year we will offer a new approach to a silent auction item: An Orvis RECON fly rod, retail value \$475.00, will be auctioned with the winner then selecting the exact



*Be a part of this **FUN** annual event and join us on June 14th at Habermann Park in Lodi, WI.*



*continued on page 2*

rod she/he wants. The rod will be ordered from Orvis and delivered to the winner in about two weeks. Here are just some of the great prizes we'll have as auction or raffle:

- A guided float trip for two from Hayward Fly Fishing Company, \$375 value
- Orvis Superfine Carbon 4 weight rod & Teton 3-4 weight fly reel, \$600 value
- Arrow one-person inflatable float boat, \$350 value
- Badger Tenkara "Bad Axe" adjustable Tenkara rod \$100 value
- Two-day Women's Fly Fishing Clinic in Vernon County, WI June 16-18, 2017, \$200
- Orvis sling pack \$129 value
- Browning 12-position rod rack and cabinet
- Custom letter opener with "Leopold-wood" handle made by John Beth
- Redington chest waders
- 8 weight rod with LL Bean reel donated by Ron Fargen

Something else new for 2016: Make a little money for you and the chapter, bring your lightly-used fishing gear to sell at our new swap table. The chapter retains 10%, or more if you choose. And of course grab some great deals for yourself.

Food will be ready by 5:00 p.m., and raffles will not begin before 6:30 p.m.

## **2017 WOMEN'S FLY FISHING CLINIC OFFERED AS AUCTION ITEM AT ALCTU 2016 CHAPTER PICNIC, JUNE 14!**



*By Sally Gawle*

A two-day women's fly fishing clinic in Vernon County, WI to be held June 16-18, **2017**, is being offered as a silent-auction item at this year's picnic. This is a very popular women's-only weekend held in the heart of the Driftless Region, valued at \$200. You will meet women instructors and attendees from around the country who have traveled to attend, teach and learn "fly fishing from a women's perspective".

Because this is a new-kind-of-picnic-prize that required one-year advance scheduling (the clinics fill up fast) and if you are not sure you will attend the picnic, you may make a silent-auction bid in advance of the picnic by contacting board member Sally Gawle at 920-204-4515 or [sallyg@fastmail.com](mailto:sallyg@fastmail.com).



## IN THE LOOP

By Scott Allen

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter



**It's my job to distract you.** You love to fish so ... I must find the means to get you to attend meetings, ruin your back at work days, write press releases, meet with property owners, smile to school children, read and write TU newsletters and maybe even relax that grip on your wallet. And on the eve of the regular season opener here I sit, writing, embracing a distraction worth subverting a bucolic opening day.

Did you also notice that this opening letter to the chapter members has been transported to page 3, and not to be found on the all-important cover page? Why? Because I am trying to get your attention using the newsletter's cover to tell you about our special date, June 14th. I am trying everything I can to get you to attend our picnic.

Here is another carrot, if you need one. The chapter picnic and fund raiser approaches and brings with it that distraction few of us will turn our back to: Tackle! Admit it, you're an addict. WE. ALL. LOVE. GEAR. It is called, GAS. There are two types of fishers: those who love tackle and those who lie about it. You all recognize the futility of stepping through the door, radiant and with a spring in your step on a perfectly-miserable winter day, only to have your cover blown with that one line, "What'd you buy?"

"Whad'ya mean?"

"I mean you have that new-tackle-glow," as your significant other suppresses a grin, "that's what I mean. What'd you buy?"

"It's not tackle, really it isn't, just a little cooler thing named Yeti ..." Fade to black.

You've come of age as a fisher when you admit it, that the new tackle glow, that feeling, approaches the enduring exaltation of netting a 20 incher. New tackle glow and buyer's remorse are no sooner bed fellows than Clint Byrnes is to releasing a big fish. And everything that ignites that glow qualifies as "tackle" ... those breathable waders, gore-tex jackets, super coolers, nano-tech graphite, jewelry-quality reels. A grizzled veteran fisherman of the Driftless once said "all you need for a reel is a beer can to wind your line on." Possibly, but after spending mojo dolla for that sweet sound of clickety-click, I'm using the reel, and savoring every click.

So I must distract you from your fishing hole, lawn mower, TV and electronic machinations for just one evening to attend the annual chapter picnic and fund raiser. Picnics of past have offered a variety of prizes but this year will be one of our best for tackle. Coupled with a brat barbecue you will have plenty to crow about and possibly something to carry home ... to glow about. See you there.





## IMPORTANT CHAPTER DATES TO REMEMBER

**Saturday, June 11, 2016, ALCTU Work Day Event,**  
9:00 a.m.-Noon. Details on last page of this newsletter.

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

**Wednesday, July 13, 2016, ALCTU Chapter meeting,**  
5:30 p.m. Suzy's Steakhouse, Portage. *New Zealand  
Fly Fishing and Touring* will start at 7:00 p.m.

## OFFICERS AND BOARD DIRECTORY

### Chapter Mailing Address:

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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.

## 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 May 15, 2016

Checking	\$3,363.46
Savings	\$4,200.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,563.80</b>

Michael C. Stupich, Treasurer

## 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. Please consider attending these meetings.

## MIKE STUPICH, THE MAN HOLDING THE PURSE STRINGS

By Scott Allen

Chapter Treasurer and Milwaukee-native Mike Stupich, at age six wet his first fishing line, fittingly, at Pine Lake in Waupaca County, current site of the TU Youth Fishing Camp. Since that memorable “first cast” Mike’s fishing was limited to lakes and ponds until his mid-forties when he discovered the fishing opportunities “hidden” in the many streams and rivers of Wisconsin, and beyond. He’s waded upstream ever since, “and really only started to learn anything, thanks to this chapter.” After graduating (a couple times) from UW-Stevens Point, Mike works as an audiologist in Watertown where he lives with his wife, Kathy.



Mike continues to enjoy his free time in and out of the water in Central Wisconsin in the Iola area. However his angling travels are hardly limited to Wisconsin, he regularly travels to many of the western states including Wyoming, where he earned the “Cutthroat Slam Certificate” from Wyoming Game and Fish Department for landing the four native cutthroat trout sub-species: Yellowstone, Snake River, Bonneville and Colorado.

You’ll also find him in Canada tossing big streamers for pike as pictured on Lac Seul, Ontario.

“I was at the very first ‘kick-off’ meeting of this chapter and wound up on the board after running an aggressive campaign which consisted of half-raising my hand. I took the treasurer’s position after Steve Hill passed”.

“We are a small chapter. I feel we need to spread the work around a bit, and am glad to pitch in. I have found it great that a diverse group can get together on common issues and get some stuff done. I appreciate being a member of this chapter and TU.”



## INTRODUCTION TO FLY TYING AND ORVIS FLY FISHING 101 – SUCCESS IN BARABOO

Our 5-week fly tying course was once again well attended in Baraboo this last winter. We had returning students as well as some new tiers, both young and old.

Following the 5-week fly tying course, an introductory fly casting class was offered in early March at the Baraboo Civic Center led by Tristan Kloss of Orvis, Middleton (Tristan moonlights as President of Southern Wisconsin TU). Eighteen casting students filled the gymnasium as Tristan stepped them through the basics of fly casting.

“Thank you,” to all of our chapter fly tying instructors, Orvis and Tristan!



*Sometimes you just have to look at things from a different angle.*





## CHAPTER MEETING JULY 13 TAKE A TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND

*By Dave Murphy*

The next chapter board meeting is Wednesday, July 13 at Suzy's Steakhouse in Portage. After the chapter meeting agenda is wrapped up, ALCTU Board Member Dave Murphy will be presenting a slide show of his recent 30-day fishing trip to New Zealand, where fish are measured in pounds. The event will feature his best fishing and scenery images along with truthful story telling. After the show, a hat will be passed to raise funds for the purchase of measuring tapes to be sent to New Zealand.

Whether a trip like this is on your bucket list or not, mark your calendar and we will see you there. Dinner at 5:30, meeting till 7:00, presentation at 7:00.



### — IMPORTANT NOTICE —

In the recent fund-raising letter the chapter mailed out, we listed the three grand-prize raffle items for the picnic as an Orvis RECON rod, a fly rod and reel combo, and a Hayward float trip for two. Due to the dynamic nature of gathering prizes, we have substituted the RECON rod with an ARROW one-person float boat. If you have already sent in your raffle selection from the letter, and would like to change it, please contact board member Mike Stupich, otherwise all RECON-selection tickets will be added to the described rod and reel combo.

## FLY TIERS — THE NEXT GENERATION

*By Mike Stapleton*

On May 17 & 18, Wisconsin TU provided the opportunity for hundreds of grade schoolers to tie their first fly at the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo held at the Mackenzie Center in Poynette. ALCTU'ers Jared Sagal, Renee Sagal and Mike Stapleton joined tiers from several other chapters to introduce the students to the wonderful world of fly tying, and each student created a terrific bluegill fly to take with them on their next fishing outing.



2,300 students from schools across central and southern Wisconsin attended the event, at which the fly tying tent was only one of about 40 different outdoor-topic teaching and activity stations. All the students who tied a fly were really excited about getting out and experiencing Wisconsin's outdoors.

Four years ago, when the Expo was held in Beaver Dam, fly casting was also offered. Now at the Poynette location, the number of volunteers has dropped, and only fly tying has been available to the kids the last few years. All available instructor tiers stayed busy throughout the day, and it appeared that more youngsters would have had the opportunity to tie a fly if more tying instructors were present.

Since this event is on our own turf, consider this a call to ALCTU members to consider volunteering for one or both days at next year's event, which will be on May 17-18 at the MacKenzie Center. More tiers are needed, and it would be great if fly rod casting could be offered again, as well. The volunteers would assure you that this is really a great time and well worth participating in, and don't forget, some of these youngsters will be future TU members. A call for volunteers will probably go out in both this newsletter and Wisconsin Trout in early 2017, but please consider adding this to your calendar now.



# TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED IN REEDSBURG



*By Scott Allen*

The Trout In The Classroom program, with two participating fifth-grade classrooms from Pineview School in Reedsburg, came to a happy ending with the release of 20 rainbow trout into Dell Creek in Sauk County on May 11th.

The trout were raised from small fry that were acquired from Nevin Fish Hatchery on a sub-zero day in January. Now five months later, all but three of the trout had grown to healthy fingerlings ready for release to a trout stream. DNR biologist Nate Nye assisted with necessary permits for the release as well as giving a very informative electroshocking demonstration before releasing the trout.

The kids got to see some large and colorful brook and brown trout as well as non-game species. The fifth graders left with dozens of questions answered and were excited to see their trout released to the wild. Visit the chapter web site for more pictures (psst, there's a picture of something that measures 21")



## POYNETTE SCHOOLS CONSERVATION CLUB ON ROWAN

*By Jim Peters*

Led by Ed Sommers, the student members of the club braved a cold morning, May 14th, at their Rowan Creek Clean-up Day. With determination, they eradicated some garlic mustard plants and began the process of opening up a log jam on the creek.

ALCTU board member Jim Peters joined the group for the morning and had a great time attending the event. Club membership is at about 20 children. Jim introduced attendees to fly rods, flies and nymphing techniques at stream side. Each of the students had an opportunity to try some casting during the event, despite the snow flurries, wind, mittens and gloves.



# BADGER TENKARA

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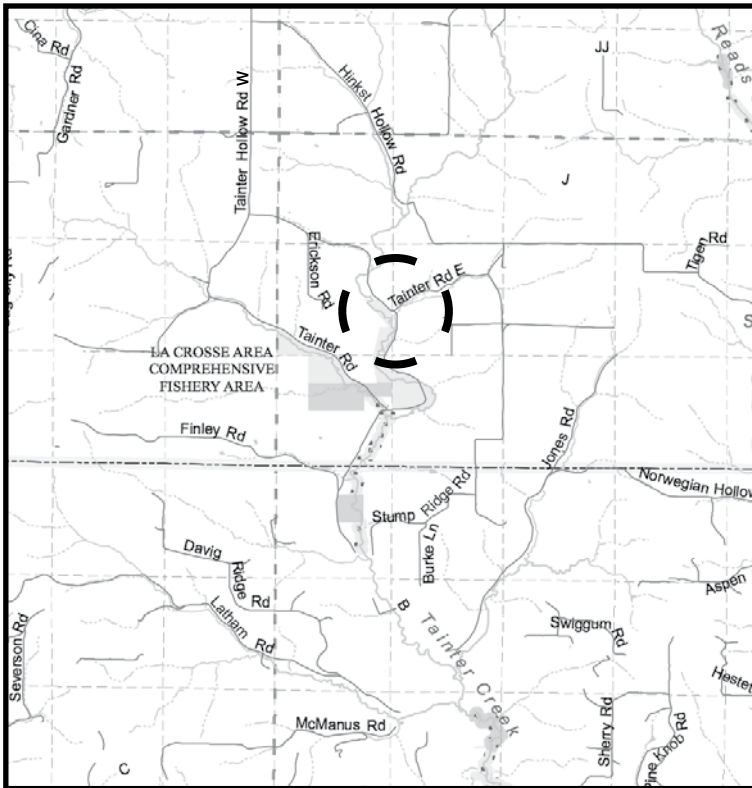
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## **WORK DAY, JUNE 11, TAITER CREEK, VERNON COUNTY**

We will return to Tainter to continue with brush removal in a section of brook trout water on DNR property. We will be collaborating with Coulee Region Chapter and South East Wisconsin Chapter. Bring loppers and gloves. After the work we will enjoy a brat barbecue followed with an afternoon of fishing. Many attendees will camp at West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche for camaraderie and more good food, please join us for the fun.

Meet at 9:00. It is recommended you first locate the work site on a map. Roads in the area are not well posted and can be a little confusing.

Location: Intersection of Tainter Road East and Tainter Hollow Road West.

GPS 43.443137, -90.886713



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

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