

HELP A YOUNG FISHER THRU YOUR TACKLE DONATION TO WISCONSIN YOUTH FISHING CAMP

Consider donating your good, used waders or tackle to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited for the summer youth fishing camp. Good waders that do not leak are especially needed, those in larger shoe sizes are in short supply and desperately needed. Please contact Linn Beck at chlbeck@att.net

CONSIDER ALDER FORK JOURNAL FOR YOUR ADVERTISING

As the *Alder Fork Journal* continues to grow, so grows the printing and mailing expense. The time has arrived for the Journal to be partially self funded through the sale of ad space. Please consider advertising your business or service in our newsletter. Rates are \$100/year, four issues in the year, for a business card sized ad. Larger space is available by request.

LONG-TIME TU MEMBER FINDS A HOME WITH ALCTU

By Mike Stapleton

ALCTU Board Member and Membership Chairman, Bob Moss is no newcomer to trout fishing or to TU. From chasing brookies in the tiny headwater creeks of New York's Adirondack Mountains as a teenager to occasional trips to New Mexico's San Juan River in recent years (pursuing somewhat larger quarry, as shown in the accompanying photo), Bob has lived and pursued trout in many locations throughout the country, finally retiring to Wisconsin which has long been one of his favorite places to live and fish.

His TU journey began about 35 years ago, here in Wisconsin, while attending college, where he became well acquainted with the Southern Wisconsin Chapter as well as the trout of Black Earth Creek. He immediately recognized the value and importance of the work TU was doing and immersed himself in the work projects and other activities of SWTU, serving as treasurer as well as an instructor for rod building and fly tying classes.

His profession required numerous relocations throughout the country, and he was fortunate enough to find a home stream near most of them. Wisconsin,

4

however, remained at the top of his list, and upon relocating this last time, he was ready

to resume an active role in TU, with ALCTU being the lucky beneficiary. Bob attended our fly tying class a few years ago to work some of the rust out of his tying skills, and has assisted with the classes ever since. He answered the call for a newly created position of Membership Chairman, and last year, when we found ourselves with a vacancy on the board of directors, he put his hand up once again.

Bob has been enjoying the benefits of retirement in his angling life, and in return for all he has learned over the years from TU'ers and other anglers he has made a commitment to give back to his chosen sport. He recognizes that TU members are a special group of people sharing their time, expertise and resources to protect and improve the future of trout fishing for everyone. He is proud to be one of us, and we are pleased to have him on our team.



The smile on his face, plus the rainbow in his hands, makes it pretty obvious why the San Juan River is one of Bob's favorite road trips."

Ha! You might be a trout bum if ...

**your cat is named "Winston" and
your dog is named "Lefty."**

IMPROVED HWY 130 ACCESS TO BEAR CREEK

ALCTU along with contributing partners' dollars, funded a pull-over/parking area on Hwy 130 for access to Bear Creek. Wisconsin DOT approved the request, Sauk County was hired to do the work. This was a "safety" nice-to-have that the chapter board felt was important to obtain. "Thank you," to all of you who made this happen.



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

ALDER FORK JOURNAL



Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Serving Columbia, Dodge and Sauk Counties since 1982

AUTUMN 2016

IN THE LOOP

By Scott Allen

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter



Fall, it's that time of year to put the fishing rods away and to "put firewood up." While loading firewood into my truck recently a Sheriff's Deputy stopped to chat, "Getting ready for winter," she asked. "Actually, I'm getting ready for next winter," I responded half truthfully. After a pleasant exchange she continued on her way and I was left thinking about "the future of things" — trout streams, community projects, youth education — remembering that they all will need to be revisited, not this winter but during other seasons for years ahead.

A sizeable addition to North Branch of Honey Creek in Sauk County has been purchased by Wisconsin Society of Ornithology (WSO) and has been added to the Honey Creek Preserve, near Leland. At the invitation of WSO President, Michael John Jaeger I joined him recently for a hike of the acquired stream length through a bucolic valley framed in sandstone bluffs and fringed with relic hemlock forest. Trout and beaver served as docents for the day and John and I left knowing they will care for the valley until the day arrives for TU and WSO to revisit with habitat projects in mind.

We are very fortunate to have Riverland Conservancy, owner of Merrimac Preserve through which brook trout stream Manley Creek meanders, as an informal partner in the continued habitat and recreational improvements planned for years to come. Executive Director Linda Lynch recently announced Manley Creek the recipient of upwards of \$50,000 in grants to be applied to stream habitat improvements, repairs and restoration. Discussions are occurring for a board walk along the stream bank which will double as angler access and a "trout walk" with educational signage for youth and the public. Funding sources are being pursued for developing techniques for the control of canary grass along the stream bank, a pestilent grass which too often brings fishing season to a close months too early.

continued on page 3



IMPORTANT CHAPTER DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, January 11, ALCTU Chapter Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Suzy's Steak House, Portage, WI.

Wednesdays, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, ALCTU Fly Tying classes, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Portage Public Library, Portage, WI.

Saturday, February 4, State Council Banquet and Fund raiser, Contact Scott Allen to purchase tickets, Oshkosh, WI.

OFFICERS AND BOARD DIRECTORY

Chapter Mailing Address:

Aldo Leopold Chapter TU c/o Scott Allen
E4835 N Stoney Ridge Road, Reedsburg,
WI 53959

Officers:

Scott Allen, President
jscottallen12@gmail.com 608-524-1753
Mike Stapleton, Vice President
mikestapleton22@gmail.com 608-742-3665
Mike Stupich, Treasurer
mstupich@execpc.com 920-206-8433
Tom Gawle, Secretary
tomg@redtopstudio.com 920-887-2142

Board of Directors:

Michael A. Barniskis
barniskis@yahoo.com 920-356-0081
Sally Gawle
sallyg@fastmail.com 920-204-4515
Tim Hood
jthood@charter.net 608-592-5405
Bob Moss
robertmoss123@gmail.com 804-894-0074
Dave Murphy
davem17@gmail.com 608-963-2640
Jim Peters
sorneytrouter@outlook.com 608-212-9959

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of December 10, 2016

Funds for stream projects	\$3,142
Funds for chapter operations	\$4,405
Total	\$7,547

Michael C. Stupich, Treasurer

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.

THANK YOU!

TO ALL OF THE CHAPTER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR FUND-RAISING DRIVE OR PICNIC EVENT:

Scott Allen, Badger Tenkara,
Dave Barron of Jaquish Hollow Angler,
John Beth Esq., Edward Brockner,
Cabelas of Sun Prairie, Daniel Endres,
Ron Fargen, Robert Feldman, Fontana of Madison,
Tom Gawle, Sally Gawle, Donald Glanzer,
John Grady, Peter Grimm, Tim Hood,
Elizabeth Jacobs, Eric Lorenzen, Paul Maguire,
Robert Moss, Orvis of Middleton, James Peters,
James Schommer, Michael Staggs,
Michael Stapleton, Michael Stupich,
Randall Thomas, Brenda Van Ness, Bucky Voltz,
Mark Winscher, Robert Wyman

A special "thank you" to all the auction bidders, raffle purchasers, workers, demonstrators, chefs and clean-up crew who made our annual picnic one of the best in our chapter's history!

Please support our business-based contributors.

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.



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2017 ALCTU FLY TYING CLASS

Autumn was wonderful this year, but now that winter has slammed the door on us, you might switch over to a football & basketball mode, or — it might occur to you that it's time to refill the fly boxes and gear up for 2017. Experienced tiers may already be hard at it, but inexperienced tiers or non-tiers who would like to learn may be wondering how to take advantage of the “off” season. Never fear, the free ALCTU 2017 Fly-Tying Course is (almost) here.

The 2017 classes will be held in Portage, where we had great participation in 2014 and 2015, and they will again take place at the Portage Public Library. ALCTU will supply all materials for the class and will also have a limited number of fly tying kits available for those who do not yet have their own equipment. The course will consist of five two-hour sessions, beginning on Wednesday, January 25, 6:00-8:00 PM, with subsequent classes on February 1, 8, 15, and 22 (all Wednesdays).

The class will be limited to 15 students, so those who are interested should reserve a spot right away. Students under 17 years old must be accompanied by an adult. To register, e-mail Mike Stapleton at mikestapleton22@gmail.com (preferred), or call Mike evenings at 608-742-3665. This is not limited to TU members, so if you know of someone who might be interested, let them know, too.



continued from page 1

TU's popular Trout In The Classroom youth education program may have funding for additional classrooms in 2017-2018. As the teachers become comfortable with the curriculum, mechanics and habitat of the installed aquarium, we will be less active with that classroom, but ALCTU is planning to work with other schools in the years ahead. Currently there are three schools in Sauk County with Trout In The Classroom curricula that ALCTU has participated wholly or in part, I hope to expand to Columbia and Dodge Counties in successive years.

Tight lines!



ALCTU RECEIVES FRIENDS OF TU GRANT FOR LITTLE WILLOW CREEK



Aldo Leopold Chapter received a Friends of TU grant for \$2,000.00 to be used for habitat improvement on Little Willow Creek in Richland County. Little Willow is a small tributary of the well-known fishing destination, Willow Creek in eastern Richland County. The project area has a permanent public access easement, is north and south of Anderson Road near Highway NN and encompasses about one half mile of stream. The improvements include bank stabilization with rock and creation of plunge pools for brook trout habitat. Partners in the project are Richland County, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Southeastern Wisconsin TU.



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ANNUAL AWARDS AND FUND-RAISING BANQUET, FEBRUARY 4TH



Don't miss the annual Wisconsin Council Banquet this February 4th in Oshkosh. Tickets are \$35.00 and if purchased before December 31st you will receive ten free bucket raffle tickets! There is far more excellent merchandise than can be listed here so make the trip to Oshkosh to browse, bid and socialize.

To purchase a ticket, contact Scott Allen at jscottallen12@gmail.com or 608-495-1482. After December 31st tickets will only be available at the door on February 4th.



FLY TYING CLASSES IN PORTAGE FOR 2017, EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Fly tying classes will return to Portage at the Public Library, 253 Edgewater Street, beginning Wednesday evening January 25th and continuing for the following four Wednesdays. Although the various fly patterns taught are presented at the beginner level all skill levels are encouraged to attend to either tie or lend a hand. We will also be tying flies to be added to a fly box for the picnic silent auction fund raiser in June, please join us and add a few flies to help your chapter. Dates are Wednesdays: January 25th, February 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. A make-up date is scheduled for March 1st. To reserve a place in the class, please contact Mike Stapleton at mikestapleton22@gmail.com or 608-742-3665.