

ALDER FORK JOURNAL



Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Serving Columbia, Dodge and Sauk Counties since 1982

WINTER 2017

IN THE LOOP

By Scott Allen

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter

***Ephemeroptera*, not typically a word found in the lexicon of your average household.** But for those of us close to trout and clean water, we understand the root of this aquatic insect order, the “ephemeral” life of the mayfly, dragon and damselflies. Not too unlike our coveted mayflies, Trout Unlimited chapters have life cycles of their own with sage, often weathered, leaders spinning down to be replaced by emerging members filling leadership rolls. Fall is typically election season throughout the land but for the Aldo Leopold Chapter, April will be election time to fill a couple of important vacancies. Like a falling mayfly spinner I will be stepping down as President and like a hatching emerger, Mike Stapleton will be assuming the President’s role. But there the metaphor ends. Mike is hardly a neophyte to the position as he has in the past served as president for Central Wisconsin Chapter and brings with him a mountain of experience with his many active years with Trout Unlimited, as a fisherman and conservationist throughout the state. Mike is especially respected for his efforts with legislative issues related to groundwater, land use and fishing regulations.



The chapter will have an opening – I thank Tim Hood for the several years of excellent guidance as a director – on the board of directors for a member at large. Please consider giving a little extra to clean water conservation by participating on the chapter board. What will this require you ask? It will require that you meet new friends with a common interest in conservation. It will require that you meet four times a year for a little bit of business discussion and a lot of laughter and storytelling (fishers, storytelling? Really now). It will require contributing your ideas and experiences in conservation to assist in guiding policy decision that will impact fishing and conservation for the next generation. I often tell fellow conservationists that progress occurs at a glacial speed but it is moving in a forward direction, albeit with fits and starts, and we as a chapter can point to clean water and brook trout

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IMPORTANT CHAPTER DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, April 12, ALCTU Chapter Meeting and Board Elections, 5:30 p.m. Suzy's Steak House, Portage, WI.

Saturday, May 13, TU State Council Meeting,

Saturday, June 10, Chapter Workday 9:00 a.m. Tainter Creek, Vernon County, WI

Tuesday, June 13, Chapter Picnic/Fund raiser, 5:00 p.m. Habermann Park, Lodi, WI.

Wednesday, July 12, ALCTU Chapter Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Suzy's Steak House, Portage, WI.

July 20-23, TU Youth Fishing Camp, Pine Lake Bible Camp, Waupaca, WI.

OFFICERS AND BOARD DIRECTORY

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of March 15, 2017

Funds for stream projects	\$3,042.73
Funds for chapter operations	\$3,697.73
Total	\$6,740.46

Michael C. Stupich, Treasurer

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in our three county region as evidence of this progress. As great fishing memories are often founded in clouds of emergers, so to is the life of Trout Unlimited, consider being an emerger.

MANLEY CREEK HABITAT WORK

Riverland Conservancy, the property owner through which a significant length of Manley Creek (a brook trout stream in Eastern Sauk County, north of Merrimac) flows, has received in excess of \$100,000 in habitat improvement grants from Sauk County Conservation, Zoning and Planning for the creek. The origin of the funds are from a mitigation grant to the county from American Transmission Company for lands lost to the locating of the high powered transmission line routed along the I-94 corridor. Work has been completed on repairing log structures like weirs and revetments that had come loose during their twenty-year life, additional rock has been placed along stream banks and stream-bank tapering is to be completed within the 2017 calendar year. A viewing and fishing deck will be placed at a stream bank location that will included educational signage regarding brook trout stream ecology.

ALCTU WORK DAYS

June 10th, Tainter Creek, Vernon County

9:00 am. We will return to Tainter Creek joining Southeastern and Coule Region chapters for continued brush removal, BBQ brat wurst followed by plenty of fishing and camaraderie. We have a group camp reserved at West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche for camping Friday and Saturday, please join us for a weekend of work, fishing, camp fires and story telling. Please contact Scott Allen at jscottallen12@gmail.com for location information.

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.

Date TBD, Manley Creek, Merrimac-Sauk County. We will be building a fishing platform and educational kiosk on the banks of Manley Creek. Funding and permits are secured, we need to complete the project in 2017 when the ground is dry therefore late summer or September is projected. We will have a design completed and materials list shortly, we will then establish the project date. ALCTU will also be building a ladder stile to cross a barbed wire fence at the north Fargen property access easement at Bear Creek.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM RETURNS TO REEDSBURG, SLATED FOR AREA SCHOOLS

Two fifth-grade classrooms from Pineview School in Reedsburg visited Nevin Fish Hatchery in Fitchburg on a cold January day for a tour and to pick up rainbow trout fingerlings for their classroom aquarium. The students will learn about the life cycle and habitat needs of trout before their next outing to Dell Creek in May to release the fish and view an electroshocking survey by Nate Nye, DNR fisheries Biologist.

Funding has been granted to the chapter by Riverland Conservancy for another Trout In The Classroom project in the Baraboo or Sauk Prairie Schools. Riverland Executive Director Linda Lynch has committed \$2000.00 for TIC in 2017.



ALCTU ANNUAL FUND-RAISING PICNIC, JUNE 13, LODI, WI

June 13th, 5:00 p.m., Lodi WI. Once again we shall return to Lodi's Habermann Park on the banks of Spring Creek for the brat barbeque, raffle and silent auction. Our special guest this year will be author, *Wisconsin State Journal* and *Chicago Tribune* columnist Bill Stokes who will give a reading followed by a book signing of his newly released anthology *Trout Friends and Other Riff-Raff*. There will be copies for purchase and Bill will personalize yours with his signature. At the picnic last year, you helped us set a record for brats consumed and money raised for clean water conservation, please join us to set new records again this year.

2017 FLY TYING CLASS

As another Fly Tying Class disappears in the rear view mirror, another crop of eager new fly tiers is quickly moving forward in their quest to become more skilled as both fly tiers and fishers. The 2017 class, held at the Portage Public Library, was down a bit this year with respect to attendance, though the group we had made the most of the one-on-one instruction available to them. Many tying skills were learned or sharpened, some great flies were tied by all, and the class was thoroughly enjoyable for both students and instructors alike. Next step for our graduates — well, fishing, of course! A “thank you” goes out to all that volunteered as instructors.

TU YOUTH FISHING CAMP JULY 20th TO 23rd

Aldo Leopold Chapter will again sponsor a young aspiring fisher to attend fishing camp this July. The camp is held at Pine Lake Bible Camp in Waupaca, any girl or boy ages 12 to 16 is encouraged to attend and learn about spin-, bait- and fly-fishing techniques. If you know of an interested young fisher please contact Mike Stapleton at mikestapleton22@gmail.com or 608-742-3665.

WHIPPING UP A BOXFUL FOR ALCTU



Okay, so you've been passing the winter in a productive fashion, checking & patching the wading gear, cleaning reels and lines and replacing the flies that you left adorning a multitude of trees last year. Now that the gear is ready for another season and the fly boxes are all restocked (dream on), what's left to do on the inevitable stormy days when no one but a fool (which may include many trout chasers) would dare to venture out?

May we suggest — that you crank out a few more of your favorite flies? It probably didn't escape your notice that there was no call this year to fill a box for the 2017 WITU Banquet. The State Council chose to cut down the number of chapter fly boxes offered for raffle, and ALCTU was not among the first round of chapters drafted for duty this year. Since we all know that fly tiers can get rusty if they don't continually practice their craft, the Board decided that we should assist all of our tiers by offering a chapter fly box at our annual June picnic. Your donation of some of your best-tied flies (trout, bass, pike, gills are all welcome) would be most appreciated. Contact Mike Stapleton, before June 1st, at mikestapleton22@gmail.com or 608-742-3665 to arrange for your donation.

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

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