

ALDER FORK JOURNAL



Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Serving Columbia, Dodge and Sauk Counties since 1982

SPRING 2017

CURRENT THREADS

By Mike Stapleton

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter



Your new, not-quite-ready-for-prime-time ALCTU President (me) suspected ulterior motives earlier this year when now Past President, Scott Allen indicated that he was stepping down, and asked me, as the Vice President, to take the reins of ALCTU. “Obviously not fishing enough,” was my immediate thought, “and more than willing to jeopardize my stream time in order to advance his.”

You will recall that one chapter newsletter ago, an unsolicited and unauthorized endorsement touted my previous experience as president of another Wisconsin TU Chapter as evidence of my qualification for election as the next leader of ALCTU. This should immediately have been recognized as fake news. I served as President of the Central Wisconsin Chapter back in a time of no internet, no e-mail and no cell phones, with the membership scattered over five counties. I learned to avoid phone calls — for me, they were all long distance — lest I find myself unable to afford the gas to get to chapter meetings and workdays. I also cranked out (literally) a newsletter on a mimeograph machine. I wrote an occasional letter, completed a few forms and licked a few stamps.

Now fast forward to today, and although communication is both easier and faster, sometimes it comes at me so fast I can struggle to keep up. But keep up I will, and fortunately for me I have a deeply committed, experienced and talented Board of Directors available to watch my back, get me up to speed and keep me there. Past Prez Scott is lending a hand every day and showing no inclination to fade away into the shadows, though I hope he is fishing more.

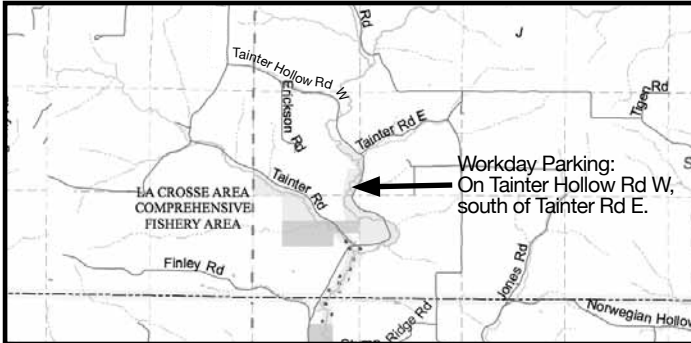
Make no mistake about this, I am happy and proud to serve as ALCTU President. I plan to give it my best, and with all the challenges cold-water habitats face I will likely ask for yours as well. The trout we hold in high esteem, and the precious waters they require for their survival, deserve no less.

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IMPORTANT CHAPTER DATES TO REMEMBER

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, WITU Youth Fishing Camp, Pine Lake Bible Camp, Waupaca, WI.

September TBD, Special Chapter Event, Bill Engber will present "Fishing in Iceland," Suzy's Steak House, Portage, WI.

OFFICERS AND BOARD DIRECTORY

Chapter Mailing Address:

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My first request of you as Chapter President is to please join us at the chapter picnic in Lodi on June 13th to take part in a fun evening, take a chance at winning some great fishing gear, and help us to continue our engagement in a wide variety of educational, restoration, protection and advocacy activities on behalf of cold water resources in our chapter territory and beyond.



ALCTU APPROVES FUNDING FOR LITTLE WILLOW CREEK

At the Board meeting on April 12, the Board approved a \$500 contribution toward a new habitat restoration project on Little Willow Creek in Richland County. A new parcel, located upstream from but not directly connected to the parcel where improvements were just completed last year, will be the focus of a new habitat project this year. An easement is also being obtained.

This new stream segment supports spawning activity by the wild brookies of the Little Willow, and is an outstanding opportunity for us to lend our support to the strengthening of native trout populations in the Driftless Area. Partnering with us on this project will be the Blackhawk, Coulee and SE Wisconsin Chapters.

ORVIS CONSERVATION GRANT AWARDED TO ALCTU

An Orvis Conservation Grant of \$2000.00 has been awarded to the Aldo Leopold Chapter to be applied to construction of a board walk and educational viewing platform on the banks of Manley Creek in the Riverland Conservancy in Sauk County. Construction will be completed in late Fall 2017.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of May 31, 2017

Funds for stream projects	\$3,042.98
Funds for chapter operations	\$3,292.09
Total	\$6,335.07
Michael C. Stupich, Treasurer	

NEW ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEY RELEASED FOR DRIFTLESS AREA

Trout Unlimited has recently released the results of an updated Economic Impact Survey for the Driftless Area, showing a total economic impact of \$1.6 billion from trout angling and significant additional impacts from stream restoration activity. An 8-page brochure containing the highlights of the study, and the complete 34 page Economic Impact Report can be downloaded at www.dareresoration.com.

Please note the updated Officers and Board Directory on the opposite page. We extend a hearty welcome to Dan Endres as our new board member.

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.



Trout In The classroom concluded May 19th at Dell Creek. DNR Biologist Nate Nye provided the students with an excellent learning experience about stream ecology.

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

Don't miss the annual chapter picnic on Tuesday, June 13th in Lodi at Habermann Park. We will again feature barbecued brats, a bucket raffle with excellent prizes, and special guest and author, Bill Stokes presenting his recently released book *Trout Friends and Other Riff-Raff*. There will be book copies for sale and of course Bill will be available to sign and personalize yours.

Arrive between 5:00 and 5:30 to socialize and catch up, dinner served at 6:00, followed by Bill Stokes and then the raffle. Then hang around and share your fish stories!

The prize list includes:

- SAGE ONE 4-weight fly rod with a Vosseler reel, \$1100 value
- Original trout painting by award-winning artist Virgil Beck, \$1500 value
- Arrow portable inflatable float boat
- Orvis 4 weight rod with Cabella's fly reel
- Simms wading boots and other assorted fishing related items, the list is growing!

ALCTU PARTNERING WITH BOY SCOUTS ON BEAR CREEK

Carl Wagner, a Boy Scout from Portage working towards Eagle Scout, is planning a work day at Bear Creek to take place in September. Carl will design, procure materials and oversee construction of a new signage kiosk to be located at the parking pull-off on Highway 130. He will do the same for an access stile at the legal easement just north of the parking area and also organize brush removal along a short stretch of Bear Creek in the same vicinity. Most of the labor will be provided by the Boy Scouts with assistance from Aldo Leopold Chapter.



The date is yet to be determined. You can follow Portage Pack 70 on Facebook at <https://m.facebook.com/portagepack70/> and watch our “Dates to Remember” section in the newsletters to learn more about this work day event for Bear Creek.

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