

ALDER FORK JOURNAL



Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Serving Columbia, Dodge and Sauk Counties since 1982

SUMMER 2015

IN THE LOOP

By Scott Allen

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter



Thirty-Five Bucks – what am I getting for my \$35.00? A question I had once asked when renewing my TU membership. I have been provided with more of an answer to that question than I originally expected. That is, my \$35.00 is providing me with the opportunity to volunteer my time, sweat, and money to leave my corner of the world in a little better condition than when I arrived. And that's it. Trout Unlimited is a volunteer-driven organization from the State Chair down to the casual member. Without volunteers there would be no trout and wildlife habitat improvements, no Trout In The Classroom, no summer fishing camp for kids, no fly tying classes, no newsletters, well you get it.

In my introductory column last Spring, I cited my role as president as that of an advocate bringing diverse groups together to work toward the common cause of conserving clean cold water, and that will continue, for certain. An additional responsibility in my new role is to develop and administer opportunities for our members to volunteer their time. Historically our chapter-volunteer events have been limited to brute-force work days and tackle-oriented programs, which will continue, but these aren't necessarily venues amenable to all of the membership. There will be opportunities to volunteer in an educational capacity, working in schools and at summer-fishing camp events with the next generation of land and water stewards. I would like to see a late-winter fishing-conservation event with programs and displays, boy could we use the help there.

My own list of potential events, programs and community outreach is a long one but what I really want to see is your list, seriously. Please send me your ideas for anything chapter related ... programs, guest speakers, demonstrators, retailers, field trips, etc ... And don't be bashful, hatching up a new idea doesn't mean you'll be stuck with it. It's in the military where the saying "never volunteer" is applicable, but in TU "volunteer and have some fun" is the order of the day.

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After attending his first work day here's what Dan Braun, a Sauk County trout enthusiast, had to say: *"Getting out onto a stream to do this type of work was a lot more fun than I could have imagined. Driving to the site in the storm, I kept checking my e-mail to see if the work day would be called off. In reality, when I arrived, the parking lot was full and several of us had to park out on the road! Despite the rain, I heard laughter from the work site as I scrambled to get my waders on. The atmosphere was extremely friendly and energetic. And let me tell you, it is a great pleasure to destroy plants that take flies and lures!"*

Trout In The Classroom in Reedsburg – Trout In The Classroom, an educational outreach program of Trout Unlimited, will be starting in Reedsburg at Pineview Elementary School in Fall of 2015. Two fifth-grade classrooms, funded by grants from Alliant Energy and the School District of Reedsburg, will receive cold-water, 55-gallon aquariums specifically designed to rear trout from eggs to fingerlings.

This program will be integrated into the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum in these two classrooms. The students will learn about the life cycle and ecology of trout and the importance of cold water and habitat. To control the spread of disease and invasives, no wildlife of any species can be released from captivity into the wild, therefore the fingerlings will be released into an approved pond in the Spring.

Fly Fishing 101 – In collaboration with Orvis of Middleton, ALCTU will be hosting Fly Fishing 101, an introductory class, in early Spring 2016. There is no fee and attendees will be given a free one year TU membership. We would like to time this offering with our fly tying classes so that someone new to the sport will know the ins and outs of the "knots and hackle" before fishing season opens. We will have dates and locations established for the Fall newsletter.

Summer Fishing Camp – Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will host a summer fishing camp for kids aged 12 to 16 at Pine Lake Bible Camp near Waupaca. Each chapter can sponsor one kid to attend the camp with a maximum of 15 campers. This year's camp is being held from July 16th to 19th. This is the second year for the camp therefore we want to give anyone interested plenty of time to plan in advance for the 2016 camp. We will provide updated information later in the year for the 2016 camp. Please contact Mike Stapleton at mikestapelton22@gmail.com, 608-742-3665 for additional 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.



IMPORTANT CHAPTER DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, July 15, 2015, Barbecue Dinner (BYOB) and ALCTU Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Pauquette Park Shelter in Portage, WI. West Conant Street, one block north of Highway 33. Any member of the chapter is welcome to attend a board meeting. Bring your ideas or concerns. Voting is limited to board members. Prior to the meeting, any member is welcome to submit an item to be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Wednesday, August 19, 2015, ALCTU and Rutabaga Paddlesports of Madison host a fishing kayak demonstration, 5:00 p.m. kayak demonstration, 6:30 barbecue dinner and social. Devils Lake State Park, White Oak Shelter at South Shore Beach (southern-most shelter at the beach). Join us to see demonstrations of the latest fishing kayaks, test-paddle them.



OFFICERS AND BOARD DIRECTORY

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WHO'S YOUR NEIGHBOR?

ALCTU is compiling a membership directory as a resource for its members. It will be available in digital PDF format or on paper at your request. It will have the members' name, city, e-mail and telephone number. No addresses or other information will be included and it will not be available to the public. The directory will be available after August 1, 2015. To request the directory, or if you do not want to be included in the directory, please contact Scott Allen at jscottallen12@gmail.com or 608-495-1482.



THANK YOU!

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

Scott Allen, Badger Tenkara, Julian Beld, John Beth, Brandon Meats, Clint Byrnes, Daniel Endres, Fontana Sports, Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley, Gertrude Gawle, Sally Gawle, Tom Gawle, Peter Grimm, Hayward Fly Fishing Co., Tom Hoffman, Tim Hood, Elizabeth Jacobs, Tristan Kloss, Mike Lutes, Paul Maquire, Bruce Marker, Robert Moss, David Murphy, Orvis, James Peters, Steve Roach, Jim and Shirley Schommer, Matt Sment, Mike Stapleton, Mike Stupich, Brenda VanNess, Kevin Winkers, Mark Winscher, Bob 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!

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT TC

Balance as of April 15, 2015

Checking	\$3,003.00
Savings	\$1,185.00
Total	\$4,188.00

Michael C. Stupich, Treasurer

SUCCESSFUL WORKDAY AT TAINTER CREEK, JUNE 20TH



Opening up a beaver dam on Tainter Creek revealed a corkscrew-shaped branch.

ALCTU again joined forces with Southeast Wisconsin Chapter for brush and beaver dam removal at Tainter Creek in Vernon County. The creek on this DNR property located on West Tainter Road had become flooded from beaver dams and overgrown with willow along the stream bank.

Tainter is a well known trout stream but this location in particular deserved our attention due to its excellent accessibility, a spacious parking area, and rock and LUNKER habitat improvements. It's now free flowing, fishable and providing convenient access.



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