

ALDER FORK JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Serving Columbia, Dodge and Sauk Counties since 1982



SUMMER 2016

IN THE LOOP

By Scott Allen

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter



“You know the worth of water when the well runs dry,”

borrowing a quote from Benjamin Franklin, as caretakers and champions of aquatic habitat and resources we know the value of cold water, but this is the time of year when we pay close attention to the “financial” wellspring that keeps our chapter afloat. The headwaters of our financial flow are our annual donation letter and picnic raffle/silent auction. I’m happy to report the flow from the spring this year is a little stronger than previous years – thanks

to your generous response to the donation letter and attendance at the picnic. This year our members gave \$2,875 to be used for chapter expenses, cold water conservation and outdoor education.

Your contributions like these at the chapter level have provided us the opportunity to fund the TU Youth Fishing Camp, community education programs, chapter operating expenses (you’re holding one of those expenses) and to support allied conservation organizations. Within the last year, ALCTU has made donations to

- Aldo Leopold Foundation
- TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort
- River Alliance of Wisconsin
- Friends of Wisconsin TU

In addition, your annual membership dues help drive the national operations of Trout Unlimited from which the chapter benefits immensely.

ALCTU has in whole or in part funded Trout in the Classroom, beginners fly tying, youth fishing camp and the supplies for habitat work days. It’s this multi-faceted effort the chapter continually puts forth that earned us the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, *External Partner Award*, an achievement award recognizing one non-governmental organization out of a pool of over 50 candidates for exemplary contributions to fisheries conservation. When the time arrives to renew your TU membership consider renewing and also setting a little extra aside for your chapter. It is your donation that keeps the wellspring flowing. Tight lines!





IMPORTANT CHAPTER DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, September 10, Dan Fuller's Retirement Party, 1:00-7:00 p.m. Leland Town Park, Leland WI. \$7/guest. For more information and RSVP by Sept. 2: kurtontheriver@gmail.com.

Saturday, September 17, State Council Fall Meeting, 9:00 a.m. T-Dubs Public House, Waupaca, WI.

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

OFFICERS AND BOARD DIRECTORY

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of August 23, 2016

Funds for stream projects	\$4,201
Funds for chapter operations	\$4,987
Total	\$9,188

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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FIN, FEATHER, FERN AND FUR

By Tom Gawle

ALCTU board member Sally Gawle is a consistent volunteer and valued advisor within our chapter. Many of you will know her as a fly-tying class instructor, a workday attendee, a summer picnic and other events supporter, a brat griller, a WAV volunteer for our chapter or copy editor for the chapter newsletter. She has been “lending a hand” at chapter doings for almost a decade.

Now retired, Sally enjoyed a long career as a Systems Administrator for AT&T. Currently, she is serving her second term as Municipal Clerk for the Town of Chester in Dodge County.

Sally is an accomplished outdoor woman—demonstrated by a long list of interests and activities. In addition to being a fisher and fly fisher, she has trained and handled her English Springer Spaniel, Dyna to the title of Master Hunter. They enjoy chasing pheasants together on state land. Sally, being a bow hunter, consistently brings home the venison and helps in the butchering. She is also a master gardener, has a guarded interest in harvesting wild mushrooms and has participated in many BOW (Becoming an Outdoor Women) events, even sleeping, mid-winter, in an igloo she helped construct earlier in the day, which makes her claustrophobic husband, Tom shutter at the thought.

On the land they own, Sally and Tom annually maintain several acres of prairie plantings, a small flock of lambs, a good-sized vegetable garden and a sizable firewood stack. On snow, in the dead of winter, Sally snowshoes, with Dyna out ahead, through the marsh, really the only time of year where going through a marsh is relatively easy.

I asked Sally to share her thoughts on the ever-present TU question of, how can TU increase female participation? Here is her response:

“First, in general, the outdoor industry should stop making stuff for us in pink. That is just pandering and most people view it that way even if it is tolerated or just shrugged off as being humorous ... I do like gold, though. When I bought my archery bow, I wanted a well-fitted, tuned-to-me hunting tool. Without looking, I couldn't tell you what color it is, my guess it's some camo pattern, like all of the rest. On the other hand, for me, building a network of experienced and



A guided trip on a sunny afternoon on the upper Escanaba River yielded this brown trout. A large, dry mayfly pattern and a wee bit of luck did the trick.

knowledgeable outdoor women gives me confidence that I can solve my own problems.

For instance, I hated my pair of off-the-shelf women's waders because they were so ill fitting. At one of the TU events, I had a chance to briefly talk to a female SIMMS representative and soon after, I spoke with Geri at the Driftless Angler. Fast forward ... after I supplied a few key measurements, SIMMS built me a custom-fit pair of waders. I had to literally wear them for a week during a fly fishing trip to Alaska. I couldn't have been happier getting in and out of boats, climbing up and down river banks, bending to release a fish, even the foot socks fit into my wading boots.

TU leaders need to realize and accept that not all women, for that matter people and youth, are drawn to outdoor activities, let alone the fly-fisher image. I think being an outdoor sports person is a baked-in personality trait that if nurtured over time, becomes part of one's way of life. Groups like TU that offer a respectful and pertinent mission and purpose will attract like-minded individuals. You can't just chase after gender-specific quotas, that won't do it. It is all about the individual.”

Sally also told me she is proud of our chapter, the TU-related activities that we get involved with, the recent successes we've had. She enjoys the personality of the current board and the diversity of the individuals that form it, but she points out that we view each other as peers. She hopes this insight to our board will encourage others to join us and to make their own individual contributions.



COMMUNIQUES FROM FISHING CAMP

Two teenage members of ALCTU, Jake Huffaker and Michael Endres, attended the TU Youth Fishing Camp, this July. Jake was sponsored by ALCTU and Michael was sponsored by the Riverland Conservancy in Sauk County. Here, the boys share their experiences.

The Biggest Fish I Never Caught

By Jake Huffaker

Most people in Trout Unlimited have two things in common, a love for fishing and a love for the lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds where you can find fish. After growing up only fishing for pan fish every once in a while; I only really loved the latter. This all changed after attending TU's youth fishing camp last week.

On the last full day of the camp I went trout fishing. Going from throwing wax worms into lakes full of bluegills, to full-on fly fishing trout streams is a huge leap; no wonder the only thing I caught was reed canary grass. There was one thing I took back from the stream, besides half a wader full of water, and that was the love of fishing.

Now this love was not something I acquired immediately when I stepped in the trout stream. It started as a trickle with my first fly rod, and a pond filled with bluegills too small to bite the flies. It then grew to a small creek when I learned how to cast more than ten feet. And it formed a stream when I took a fly-tying class. This stream dried out when I went to Arizona for a month, but flooded back to its original glory during the fishing camp. The trout fishing was the rain that broke all of the dams, and walking back to the car with the sunset behind me may have been one of the most beautiful times of my life.

While the biggest fish I caught at camp was an eight-inch bluegill ... before stories. I collected more than just memories. I also obtained a rather expensive, relaxing, therapeutic addiction called fishing.

From Michael Endres

I would like to thank all of the Aldo Leopold Chapter for sponsoring me to go to the WITU Youth Camp this year. I had a great time and met some great people. My mentor at the camp was Wayne Parmley. I thought he was a really cool guy, we got to know each other well. The only fly I used was the Pink Squirrel, I caught every fish of the trip on it! I didn't catch any fish on the stream but it still was a great experience. The schedule was shaken up on our last day due to the weather so we didn't go fishing. I still had a good time though.

Thank you for your time and thank you for sponsoring me.

Future TU member and Driftless angler,
Michael Endres



ALCTU HONORED BY DNR

Todd Kalish, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Bureau Deputy Director, awarded the *External Partner Award* to ALCTU at this year's picnic fund raiser on June 14th, in Lodi. As described by Todd, ALCTU was selected as the outstanding fisheries conservation organization based on the following criteria:

- Raised over a half million dollars to date through grants, gifts, and donations that have completed extensive trout habitat improvements on over four miles of Bear Creek. They have sponsored volunteer work days to construct over two hundred LUNKER structures that have been installed into the stream as part of the first two work phases. Because of their positive influence, additional landowners are coming forward with an interest in the trout resource, stream restoration and public fishing easements.
- The Aldo Leopold Chapter helped fund the Bohlman Branch of Lodi Creek Trout Habitat Improvement Project and helped with the construction phase, as well. They built and erected the public fishing signage, benches and footbridge decking.
- The Aldo Leopold Chapter has held numerous volunteer work days on local trout streams. They have cleared brush and trees and opened up the stream corridors on public fisheries areas on Rocky Run, Lodi Spring Creek and Rowan Creeks in Columbia County and Manley and Dell Creeks in Sauk County. Their hard work helped improve the fisheries and provided better fishing access on miles of trout streams for the fishers of the state.
- To pass on their love of fishing and our natural resources to the next generation, they also host fly tying classes, participate in the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo in Dodge County, and support Trout in the Classroom.



HULBERT CREEK IN SAUK COUNTY CONSIDERED FOR STATE LAND SALE

By Mike Stapleton

The potential sale of state lands entered its third and final phase in June when the DNR released a list of 128 parcels in 37 counties containing 5,300 acres. One of the properties is a 3.66 acre parcel in Sauk County, just west of Wisconsin Dells. ALCTU viewed the property and discussed the possible sale at our July meeting.

The parcel lies adjacent to the west boundary of I-90/94, borders a large cultivated field, and currently receives runoff from that field, which flows along the fishery area/interstate boundary and enters the creek at a large box culvert where it passes beneath the highway. Downstream from there, the creek runs through a developed commercial area before joining the Wisconsin River below the Kilbourn Dam.

The parcel appears to have limited development potential because of its location and steep slopes. In Phases 1 and 2, landlocked properties such as this, if they are offered for sale at all, have been offered only to adjacent landowners. The Board considered this information and declined to register any formal objection to a potential sale since it appeared that the sale of this parcel is unlikely to impact that portion of the stream lying within the Fishery Area. Our review and lack of objection was made known to local DNR staff who are involved in the formal staff review. The Natural Resources Board will likely act on this matter at their September meeting.

For those of you wishing to see the DNR map of this parcel, or any of the other lands being considered, log on to the DNR web site at dnr.wi.gov, and enter "land sales" in the search window. Staff recommendations will be posted on this site at some point prior to the September 27 NRB meeting.

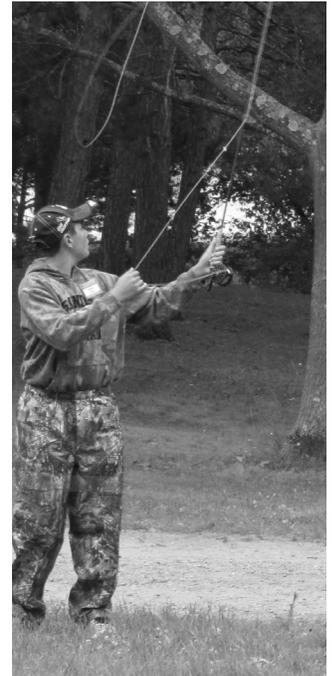


CONSIDER ALDER FORK JOURNAL FOR YOUR ADVERTISING

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.

YOUTH FISHING CAMP

Chapter member Bob Asam volunteered as a mentor/helper at the camp this year and snapped some photos of the event's activities. Thanks Bob!



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

ALCTU Newsletter
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