

# ALDER FORK JOURNAL



## Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Serving Columbia, Dodge and Sauk Counties since 1982

WINTER 2020

### WADING IN

By Mike Barniskis

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter



It is hard to believe that not too many weeks ago I was fishing for trout in a light jacket. Winter came way too early for my liking this year. But winter offers us time to reflect, remember, and to plan for next year, which is a “reminder” to you all that the early season is now open and the weather of the first few days has been really perfect for fishing our creeks.

One way our chapter “remembers” is through memorials such as the Leopold benches dedicated in the memory of long-time member and chapter Treasurer, Steve Hill. A few years ago, four benches were installed at DNR access sites on Lodi and Rowan Creeks, and time has taken its toll on them. So this winter Eric Lorenzen will lead an effort to build four new replacement benches that will be installed next spring.

About a year ago the chapter committed \$250 to The River Alliance for an Aquatic Invasive Species Education and Prevention grant match. They received the grant and we recently disbursed the funds. This past spring we pledged \$500 to the The Riverland Conservancy for wetland restoration projects along Manley Creek, as part of a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant. They were awarded the grant and we have disbursed those funds as well.

As I reflect on 2019, I note that in July Brent Bergstrom, long time Sauk County Land and Water Conservation Department leader retired. He was instrumental in our Bear Creek project, but Brent’s legacy includes incredible improvements in many watersheds including Dell Creek, Otter Creek, Narrows Creek, and the Baraboo River. The department has been reorganized as the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department and has a new leader, Lisa Wilson. I will be meeting with her soon to discuss project and partnering opportunities in Sauk County. I look forward to continuing our long history of collaboration with Sauk County.

Planning for next season includes tying flies, and our Bar Flies events are a great way to get some tying done. See page 5 within this newsletter for more details on places and times. Aside from tying, these events are a great way for us to spread the TU mission to people who might not know about TU and what we do. Even if you don’t tie flies, join us for a drink or two and help us spread the TU word.

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# IMPORTANT CHAPTER DATES TO REMEMBER

**BAR FLIES** nights in all three counties. Wednesdays and Thursdays Jan 15, 22, 23; Feb 12, 19, 20; March 11, 18, 19. See page 5 for details.

Saturday, February 1, 2020, WITU Banquet, Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center, Oshkosh, WI.

Saturday, May 2, Regular Fishing Season opener.

Weekend of May 16, 2020, ALCTU fishing weekend get together in the Driftless. More information coming soon.

## OFFICERS AND BOARD DIRECTORY

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of January 07, 2020

Checking \$5,768.88

Savings \$3,048.85

Total \$8,817.73

Michael C. Stupich, Treasurer

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On December 7th, a team of five from our chapter attended the Bear Creek workday and leveled a willow grove that had taken root on the upper stretch of the Fargen property. The weather was absolutely perfect and the work continued smoothly through the morning. The effort provides additional casting space along the creek. Check it out the next time you are on the stream ... it is a good stretch of water as well. I would like to "thank" everyone that helped out that morning: Randall Durner, Dan Endres, Tom Gawle, and John Grady.



## BRUSH'N THE BRUIN WORKDAY



*Starting to remove willow.*



*Evidence of beavers.*



*Shoreline brush was carefully removed by hand.*



*Cut, sprayed and branches stacked.*

# OCTOBER 9, QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

ALCTU Board Meeting,  
October 9, 2019, Suzy's Steakhouse, Portage.  
Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Attendance: Mike Stapleton, Todd Bennett, Ethan Bennett, Sally Gawle, Tom Gawle, Jim Peters, Mike Barniskis, Dan Endres, Bob Moss, Dave Murphy, Mike Stupich.

1. Minutes from 8/7/19 meeting: No additions or corrections were raised in regard to the minutes from the August meeting. The minutes were so approved by a motion from Mike Stapleton and a second by Dan Endres. All were in favor.

2. Treasurer's report: Treasurer Mike Stupich reported—  
a. Checking \$6008.33  
b. Savings \$3048.47

Regarding future expenditures. ALCTU has previously earmarked a sum of \$500 for a grant to Riverland Conservancy. Currently it is unclear if and when the money will be needed by Riverland. Mike Stapleton will check on this through his contact. Likewise, in the past, we have agreed to an invasive species grant match with River Alliance. The status of this grant is being checked on by Mike Stapleton.

Sally Gawle's audit concurred with the Treasurer's quarterly report.

3. Facebook/social media effort: Dan Endres reported a gain in our Facebook page usage. Reach is at 128 users, a 3x increase and a 6x increase in engagement since the last quarterly report. This is good news. Dan also ran us through an on-screen visit to the page and explained what his recent efforts included. He also told us that even if we don't use Facebook, we should make an effort to send Dan content that he will post for us. We did receive a number of "captions" for the posted



picture. Dan read them to all present and the members voted (after the laughter subsided). Vote of hands, the winning caption is,

"Does this net make me look fat?"

Tom Gawle will provide one dozen hand-tied Pink Squirrels to the winner. We are looking to post another caption contest picture soon, so if you have a photo that we could use, please send it to Dan Endres.

4. December 7, 2019 Bear Creek Work Day Update: Tom Gawle will check with Scott Allen on the status and condition of the herbicide and sprayers. We may consider driving over to Bear Valley for lunch at the local pub. This will probably be spur of the moment. Mike Stapleton will bring donuts for the morning. We should encourage the workers to bring their own coffee or tea. A chapter-wide e-mail reminder will be sent out before the workday event. Equipment (loppers, saws, brush-cutting, sprayers, warm clothes, waders) and possible weather issues were discussed.

(Secretary's note: Late in the meeting, we had a discussion of first aid and it was decided during the meeting to purchase a well-equipped first aid emergency kit for the chapter to be available during work days. Dave Murphy will suggest various levels of kits and purchase the one we choose.)

5. Bar Flies Update: Dodge County will hold events on Wednesdays. Columbia County will hold events on Thursdays. Sauk County will hold events on Tuesdays. Ooga Brewery in Beaver Dam is set up with dates and times. Suggestions for Columbia County locations were Riley's back room area or the Ballroom in Portage. Mike Stapleton will pursue each as candidates. In Sauk County, Tumbled Rock Brewery and Kitchen was recommended. Dave Murphy will pursue this location. (Secretary's note: After the October 9th quarterly meeting, Dave Murphy reported a change to the Sauk County days from Tuesdays to Wednesdays because Tumbled Rock Brewery is closed on Tuesdays.)

We will make an effort to publish the events in local newspapers, within the locations themselves, on Facebook, in Wisconsin Outdoor News (Gawle) and through a chapter-wide e-mail announcement.

All of this will need to be completed by the chapter board through e-mail discussion and decisions.

6. Potential Bear Creek Feeder Stream project: Mike Barniskis was contacted by Bear Creek area landowners regarding

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improvements to a high-quality feeder creek to Bear Creek. Currently this possible project is in the very early stage. The chapter needs to find out who is our new contact at Sauk County Land and Water department since Brent Bergstrom recently retired. We need to discuss the feeder creek status with the County and DNR. Mike Barniskis will move forward on these early steps.

7. Other Topics: State Banquet Donation—It was agreed by the board to donate a similar chainsaw to 2019’s banquet raffles along with a first aid kit and a bottle of whiskey or brandy. Dan Endres and Dave Murphy will be chasing after these items. Mike Stupich will make sure these three items stay together during the banquet fund raising.

Bear Creek 2020—Tom Gawle explained Total Phosphorus tests were postponed in 2019 due to rehab work being done in the upper section. He will contact

WDNR to find out if they want to run tests in 2020 and check to see if the rehab work is completed.

May 16, 2020 ALCTU Fishing Weekend—A location committee was formed to zero in on a central location meeting place for the weekend. Committee members are Mike Stapleton, Dan Endres, Eric Lorenzen and Sally Gawle.

Currently, committee members should begin looking for possible campsites within short driving distances to Driftless streams. This can be done mostly on-line looking for possible locations, facilities offered, private sites vs public sites, if reservations are honored, fees and the like. Findings and suggestions should be e-mailed to the board for review and discussion. This topic will remain on our quarterly board meeting agendas.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mike Barniskis, with a second by Jim Peters and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. Minutes prepared by Tom Gawle, Secretary.



## THANK YOU!

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

Scott Allen, Ron Benisch, Edward Brockner, Clint Byrnes, Mike Carron, Randall Durner, Ron Fargen, Sally Gawle, Tom Gawle, Peter Grimm, Tim Hood, Jeffrey Jonson, Richard Kekula, Paul Martin, John Moore, Bob Moss. David Murphy, Jim Peters, Bill Pielsticker, Jack Saunders, James Schommer, Mike Stapleton, Mike Stupich, 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!

### 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.

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.

### — IMPORTANT NOTICE —

At the July 2015 board of directors meeting held in Portage, a vote passed unanimously to have regular chapter meetings, to be held quarterly on the second Wednesday of January, April, July, and October of each year. The chapter newsletter will follow each meeting a few weeks later. All chapter members are invited to attend these meetings. Details will appear in the “Important Dates” section.

### FOLLOW/LIKE US

Like us on Facebook  
Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited



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aldoleopoldctu



Follow us on Twitter  
@aldoleopoldctu



STOP IN FOR SOME  
**FLY TYING, FISHING STORIES & CONVERSATION,**  
**HAVE A BEVERAGE OR TWO, MEET MEMBERS**  
OF ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED.  
**BRING YOUR VISE OR JUST COME TO**  
**WATCH AND LEARN.**



**WEDNESDAYS**  
**6:30 PM**

**JAN. 15, 2020**  
**FEB. 12, 2020**  
**MAR. 11, 2020**

**TUMBLED ROCK**  
**BREWERY & KITCHEN**  
**S5718 STATE RD 136 & DL**  
**BARABOO, WI 53913**

**THURSDAYS**  
**6:30 PM**

**JAN. 23, 2020**  
**FEB. 20, 2020**  
**MAR. 19, 2020**

**THE BALL ROOM**  
**112 E COOK STREET**  
**PORTAGE, WI 53901**

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**6:30 PM**

**JAN. 22, 2020**  
**FEB. 19, 2020**  
**MAR. 18, 2020**

**OOGA BREWING COMPANY**  
**301 S SPRING STREET**  
**BEAVER DAM, WI 53916**

## **FLY FISHING IN WINTER IS A UNIQUE ADVENTURE**

Ever stand on a creek bank covered with snow and come to realize your prints aren't the only ones present? If I see wader boot prints, I try to judge how old the impressions are ... the older the better. I enjoy seeing wildlife prints because they tell me who's recently passed by. Now, where are the fish?



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

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