

## WHAT TROUT EAT *continued from page 3*

Some larvae dig tunnels in the stream bottom and others are free-living, often referred to as the green rock worm, crawling through the spaces between stones in riffles. This larval stage usually lasts several months. Because of their protected habitat, the caddisfly larvae are less important to trout as food but in streams and rivers, trout do feed on the larvae as they become dislodged from the bottoms and drift with the current. Try fishing a weighted Caddis larva fly that has a tan- or olive-colored dubbed body and a dark-colored thorax and head in our region's streams. Use sizes 14 to 18.

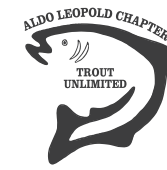
**Pupae** – Toward the end of the larval stage the immature caddisflies transform into the pupa stage with wing and leg development. The pupae cut their way out of their protective larval homes to swim, drift and float to the water surface. This is a very brief occurrence in their life cycle. They hang in or just below the water surface film until they break their outer skin and emerge as adults. As they drift, float, swim and hang they are easy prey and trout will

actively seek them out as food. This feeding activity is often subsurface. Try fishing a Hare's Ear pattern, size 12-16 or a Sparkle Pupa, size 14-20.

**Adult** – After the pupae rise to the surface of the water and split their skins, the winged adult caddisflies emerge. They quickly fly away, spending little time on the water. The adults remain active for couple of weeks to months. They return to the water surface often to drink or deposit eggs. Some species will even dive below the surface to lay eggs. At these times, they once again become vulnerable to surface-feeding trout. Often, when they first emerge, adults are unable to escape their pupal skin and remain trapped on the water surface. These "cripples" are eaten by trout during the hatch and after, as they are "washed up" in concentrated areas. Try fishing an Deer or Elk Hair Caddis or other black & tan patterns, size 14-16. The caddis is one of the last aquatic insects to start hatching in the spring and one of the first to disappear in the fall. In the Aldo Leopold Chapter region, the general caddisfly season is between May and September.



ALCTU Newsletter  
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Volume 6, Issue 2

# Alder Fork Journal

Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Serving Columbia, Dodge, and Sauk Counties since 1982

March 2008



## WADING IN

*By Mike Barniskis*

*President, Aldo Leopold Chapter*

As I write this, the winter is melting away, everywhere, leaving the grey-brown hues of early spring. So nice it is that we can live these drear hours with spots of red and blue, fins of orange, bellies of yellow. Yes, early trout season is open and the vibrant colors of trout are so welcome after the darkness of a Wisconsin winter. I hope you can get out and enjoy some fishing, but do remember that it is catch and release, artificial and only barbless hooks until April 27th. The season is closed from April 28th until May 3rd when the regular season opens.

I was able to get to the water once, after spending the day at the Lodi Reads Leopold event. I found a few hours available and some water that wasn't guarded by four foot drifts of snow. I also found a few fish. I felt like a kid on Christmas morning whenever I felt a tug on the line, as the stream gave me the gift of a beautiful trout. I left the water refreshed, enlivened and full of hope ... all of that from an eight inch fish. Wonder full.

The fly tying class was, I think, a success. I want to thank our instructors and assistants, John Doucette, Jerry Gorman, Eric Lorenzen and Steve Hill. Great job one and all. We had 14 or so students, and it was great to see the progress made over the weeks. I enjoyed my first stint at teaching a class, although I was nervous and sure I was leaving out some essential ingredient. Luckily I didn't, and in the end some quite buggy flies were coming off the students' vises. I think they enjoyed the class, I know I did. I am really looking forward to next year's class already. The Beaver Dam Library location seems a good one so I believe we will return there.

The Lodi Reads Leopold event was another success as many who honor him came together to celebrate and reflect on his legacy. One of the highlights this year was seeing a book made by Lodi grade school students, a "Leopold ABC" book. A few years in the making, the children wrote a short entry and drew great artwork

highlighting an aspect of Leopold's ethic for every letter of the alphabet. I really enjoyed this and was impressed by the students' understanding of Leopold. The community forum on ethanol drew a large crowd and raised many questions as to whether ethanol is a boon or threat to our environment. The answers, as always, are complicated. I do know this, corn and other row crops can be grown in a manner that doesn't harm streams, but all too often the methods and chemical inputs used imperil our streams. The forum really did a good job of presenting many sides of the ethanol equation and I think the participants left with a better

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 12, 2008**  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Brush removal work on Rocky Run Creek.

**April 14, 2008**  
Conservation Congress Spring Hearings

**April 19, 2008**  
Brats on the Bridge, Downtown Lodi.

**April 27, 2008**  
Last day of early trout season.

**May 3, 2008**  
Regular fishing season begins.

**May 14, 2008**  
5:00 p.m. until dark  
ALCTU Fundraiser Picnic, Habermann Park on Fair Street, Lodi

**May 15 and 16, 2008**  
Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo,  
Dodge County Fairgrounds

**June 21 and 22, 2008**  
ALCTU Annual Trout Fishing Weekend,  
Avalanche, Wisconsin

**WADING IN** *continued from page 1*

understanding of how complex the issue is. A great job, again, by the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley on the whole event. Thank you for letting us be a part of it.

The Conservation Congress will hold their annual Spring Hearings on April 14th. These are important forums and impact the chapter's work. Please consider attending. April brings two chapter events. The first will be on Saturday, April 12th when we will clear brush along Rocky Run in Columbia County. We will be meeting in the parking area at N5027 Dunning Road (pg 37 in your DeLorme Gazetteer) from 8 am until noon. Bring loppers, hand saws, work gloves, waders and enthusiasm. Chainsaws are also needed. Lunch will be provided, so come on out and enjoy the day! It's amazing how much we get done on these work days, and the work benefits both anglers and trout.

The second April event is "Brats on the Bridge," a brat sale fundraiser held in downtown Lodi on the bridge over the creek. Held on Saturday, April 19th this year, this is part of Lodi's Earth Day celebrations. We are also hoping the signage for the Bohlman Branch project is completed in time for this event so we can install it. Bill Gatzke is working hard on the sign and hopes to complete it, time permitting. One side note on the Lodi Reads event and the Bohlman Branch: I was able to discuss easement issues with a landowner at lunch that day. He had some concerns but was interested in discussing what an easement would entail. I think we can address his concerns in a positive way and the chapter will work on putting together an informational proposal for him.

May 14th is the date for this year's fundraiser picnic. We will return to Habermann Park in Lodi along the banks of Spring Creek. We will have great raffle prizes again, including guided trips, fishing gear, a portable fly tying bench and more. Add to that good food and good company, especially if you join us. This is our main fundraiser for the year and your generosity in the past has been instrumental in helping us complete phase one of the Bohlman Branch project. Your continued support is appreciated.

One other thing our chapter spends money on is supporting youth in trout fishing. For the past few years we have helped support the Project Green Teen program at Shabazz High School in Madison. This worthwhile program takes a group of high school kids out to the West Fork of the Kickapoo area for a week of hands on biology, habitat work and fishing. We are happy to once again be providing two fishing license/

trout stamps to the program. Anyone interested in helping teach trout fishing to and/or guiding these kids please call me, as volunteers are always needed.

Another very local opportunity to help bring kids into the outdoors is through the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo to be held May 15th and 16th at the Dodge County Fairgrounds. From the website (<http://www.wisexpo.com/>): *The Expo provides Wisconsin students with learning and participation opportunities in the outdoors, the Expo 2008 will communicate the relevance of wildlife and habitat management in our lives. The Expo 2008 will teach outdoors skills, encourage ethical behavior and perpetuate Wisconsin's hunting, fishing and conservation heritage.*

The Expo really needs volunteers, as last year over 4,000 kids attended. Please, make a difference in a child's future and the future of our outdoor heritage by volunteering. TU is trying to provide both fly tying and fly-casting instructors, but if you have any outdoor skills they can likely be put to good use. Contact me with questions or to volunteer.

June brings one more chapter event. No need to bring chain saws, unless you are cutting your own firewood, this is our annual chapter trout fishing weekend, June 21st and 22nd. We are returning to the driftless region in Southwest Wisconsin this year, camping on the banks of the West Fork of the Kickapoo at the West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche. We are inviting all of you, and especially those either new to trout fishing or new to the driftless region. Chapter members will be ready, willing and able to guide and instruct anyone who wants/needs assistance as we spread out across some of the finest trout waters in the country. If you haven't fished the West Fork region you owe it to yourself to experience it. Again, call me with any questions or to let me know if you are joining us so we can plan accordingly. I really hope to see you there!



### TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of March 24, 2008

Checking	\$957.00
Savings	\$585.07
Grant	\$57.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,599.85</b>

Steve C. Hill, Treasurer

VISIT  
THE ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER  
WEBSITE



[www.alctu.com](http://www.alctu.com)

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### ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

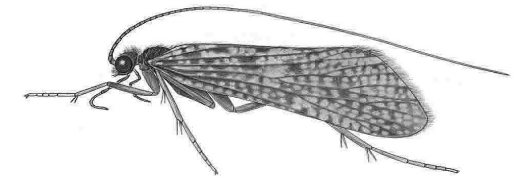
The Aldo Leopold Chapter's mission is to conserve, protect, restore and enhance trout and salmonid fisheries, watersheds, the groundwater that sustains them, and the doctrine of public trust that defends them, in Columbia, Dodge, and Sauk Counties. We do this through education, cooperation, rehabilitation, and advocacy using an extensive and dedicated volunteer network.

### WHAT TROUT EAT

*Part Two of a Series – Caddisflies*

*By Tom Gawle*

Adult caddisflies are winged insects and look very similar to their butterfly and moth cousins. When at rest, the adult caddis folds its four wings over its body in an inverted "V" shape. Since the adults do not eat, they lack the siphon tube mouth that butterflies and moths have. There are roughly 1,400 species in North America alone.



Caddisflies are generally very common in most trout streams and some are more tolerant of pollution and warmer water than other types of aquatic insects. These insects go through a complete four-step life cycle: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The full life cycle lasts a year or more depending on the species. The two most important phases to trout, as food, are the pupa and egg-laying adult.

**Larvae** – Eggs are deposited at the water surface by adult females as they fly/skim across. The eggs sink to the bottom and hatch into larvae in about 10 to 12 days. The larvae are wormlike, without wing pads or tails. For protection, some larvae build and live in stick or stone cases on the bottom of bedrocks. These cases are rebuilt as the larvae grow in size.

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### THANK YOU! TO THE FRIENDS OF THE ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER

The following people have contributed \$25 or more to our East Branch Project. A hearty "Thank You!" to you all.

- Robert Barniskis, Thomas Brownrigg, Clint Byrnes, Paul Douglas, Greg Ericson, Robert Feldman, Mark Gilbertson, Peter & Mary Grimm, Patti & Bill Hermann, Steve & Donna Hill, Ron Hood, Eric Lorenzen, James Peters, Jerry Scheiber, Teresa & Kevin Searock, Mike Stupich, Ray Piehl, and James Zeibel.