
ALDER FORK JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Serving Columbia, Dodge, and Sauk Counties since 1982

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WADING IN

by *Mike Barniskis*
President, Aldo Leopold Chapter

A few weeks ago I was out fishing in a t-shirt in 74 degree weather. Today it is below freezing. I love "spring" in Wisconsin! One good thing has been all the rain: Wisconsin has been in a rainfall deficit for years, so I don't mind some rain.

The DNR crews have been working on the East Branch project and should complete it before the end of April (weather permitting). When I last wrote we were awaiting news on our Embrace-A-Stream grant application. The unfortunate news is that we did not receive a grant. However, we have worked with the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department and they have applied for up to \$10,000 in County AIDS funding. In order to receive this we need to provide a dollar for dollar match. So the \$10k challenge is on. A very generous \$2,000 donation was made by **The Badger Fly Fishers** in Madison. With the Badger's donation we have about \$7,500, with another \$2,000 being applied for from the Friends of Wisconsin Trout. We'll know about the Friends request in late April. If we get that we'll be around \$9,500.

We have a couple other possible fund sources, but even if we receive them I expect our chapter treasury to be much depleted in the next month. A really good (and generous) turn out at our fundraising picnic in May would do a lot to help us make it through the next year financially. Given that we'll have not **1** but **3** Grand Prizes consisting of guided trout fishing trips, plus a lot of other great stuff, you really have no excuse for missing the picnic. We are also planning a trout shocking demonstration on Lodi Creek by the DNR, so you can see all the trout you never catch.

One fund raising program we have just joined is the "**Spring Creek Partners**" (<http://www.springcreekpartner.org>). Basically, this is a hat sale program. However, the very lucky fishing hat we are selling costs \$250, with 100% of the money coming to us. Anyone who purchases a hat also gets entered into a drawing for great prizes at the Nohr Chapter's Spring Creek Festival in the fall. Even without the prize, you'll know your dollars went into our stream project, and that is winning too. If you would like to buy a hat or want

more information, contact me at 920-356-0081. So far we've sold two hats, with two more possible sales. Won't you join your name to the list of partners?

We are once again planning a chapter outing weekend for this summer. Mid to late June, with a return to Pierce County and the Rush River being a possibility, but other ideas also being considered. If you are interested in going, and have a preference or idea on a location, let me know.

Last, I hope to see a lot of you at our April 18th meeting with Steve Gassman, in Baraboo at the Log Cabin Restaurant. Steve's program will start at 7 p.m. in the south dining room; his program is unique, beautiful, and inspiring.

April 14th Work Day on Rocky Run Creek

For the second year in a row we will be brushing a section of Rocky Run Creek in Columbia County. We will be meeting at the parking area at N5027 Dunning Rd. (pg 37 in your DeLorme Gazetteer) on Saturday, April 14th, from 8am 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.

- *Steve Hill*

Friends of Aldo Leopold Chapter – THANK YOU!

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

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, and James Zeibel.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PHOTOGRAPHER STEPHEN GASSMAN FEATURED AT APRIL 18th MEETING

by Kevin Searock
Secretary

We are privileged to have professional photographer Stephen Gassman as a presenter at the April Chapter meeting, which will be held on **Wednesday, April 18th**.

Steve has been a professional photographer for nearly two decades; he began his professional photography career as a photojournalist for the Cedar Rapids Gazette in Iowa. While working for the Gazette, Steve started building his personal image library so he could eventually achieve his goal of becoming a full time freelance and fine art photographer. In 1994 he achieved that goal and his work appears regularly in publications, advertising, galleries and private collections across North America. He has received numerous awards from various professional photography organizations. Stephen lives in rural Platteville with his wife Suzanne, their children Brook and Cooper and their dogs Ellie and Buddy.

Stephen's photographs have a broad appeal for anyone who likes to spend time in the outdoors and are enjoyed by non-fishing family members at least as much as the anglers! Steve's presentation will begin at **7 p.m.** in the south dining room at the **Log Cabin Restaurant**, located on Highway 33 East in **Baraboo**. I have been fortunate to see a couple of Steve's presentations; they are awesome and inspiring. This is one you don't want to miss!

Earth Day "Brats on the Bridge" in Lodi – and a Call for Volunteers

Once again we will be working with the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley at our second "Brats on the Bridge" event. This fundraiser will take place on **Saturday, April 21st**, from 9 am-2:30 pm on top of the Highway 113 bridge over Lodi Spring Creek. This is the bridge in downtown Lodi right next to the alleged home of Suzy the Duck. **All proceeds from the brat sale will go directly to the trout habitat improvement project currently under construction on the East Branch of Lodi Spring Creek.** The theme for the day is "Eat a Brat – Save a Trout!" We could really use two or three more volunteers for this event, so if you're looking for a meaningful way to spend some time on Earth Day, why not pitch in and help us at this event? Call Kevin Searock (608.356.8519) or Allison Seaton (608.592.4711) for more information.

Check out our new Aldo Leopold Chapter
website at

www.alctu.com

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 1/31/07

Checking - \$1,736.29
Savings - \$ 583.90
TOTAL \$ 2,320.19
Grant - \$4,372.92

Checking Disbursements

1184	2/7	WI Wildlife dues	60.00
1185	2/7	Project Green	60.00
1186	2/15	new member	17.50
1187	2/15	Kevin Searock (fly tying class supplies)	39.00
1188	2/23	Fly tying class supplies	63.04
1189	3/13	Budget Print flyers, postage	179.22
1190	3/13	Budget Print (reimburse charge card for fly tying class supplies)	82.34
TOTAL			501.10

Checking Deposits

2/15 80.00

Savings Interest

.17

Grant account

1031 2/15 Vierbicher Associates \$2,000.00

Balance as of 3/13/07

Checking \$1,315.19
Savings \$ 584.07
TOTAL \$1,899.26
Grant \$2,372.92

Steven C. Hill, Treasurer

Spring Picnic/Fundraiser May 16th

Please join us (and bring the whole family) for the Aldo Leopold Chapter's Annual Spring Picnic/Fundraiser at Habermann Park in Lodi on Wednesday, May 16th from 6 pm-9 pm. As always the picnic features **free food and soft drinks**.

The evening will feature fly-casting demonstrations and fly-tying demonstrations. We will be raffling off three guided fishing trips, fly-tying supplies, sporting books, artwork, and assorted merchandise. There will be a free kid's raffle.

Questions or donations, please contact Steve Hill at 920.261.4005 (days).

Picnic details can also be found our website –
www.alctu.com

- Steve Hill