

CHAPTER BOARD ... continued from page 3

You don't have to be "The Project Chair", but maybe you can be the chair of a single project day. A few hours working with other board members can make it happen but only if you take the lead.

So far the chapter has been blessed with an active group of volunteers who have done a lot, giving hours of their time to help the resource. But they can only give so much and I worry about burn out sooner or later. The point I want to stress is that we are a volunteer lead organization and if we are going to continue to get things done, we need volunteers. Maybe you?

I want to finish with a quote from the author Thomas McGuane that eloquently states why I am active in TU and why I hope you will be too:

We have reached a time in the life of the planet, and humanity's demands on it, when every fisherman will have to be a riverkeeper ... We are beyond having to put back what we have taken out. We must put back more than we take out.

Keep us in mind and thank you,



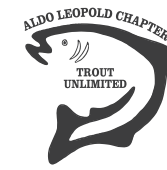
JOIN US FOR WATER MONITORING TRAINING!

Lodi Spring Creek is our chapter's "home water" and here is a great way to help keep it a healthy trout stream.

On May 9th there will be Volunteer Water Monitoring Training in Lodi. This training session is free of charge, will take place at Lodi Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and was put together by the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley as part of a comprehensive watershed improvement plan.

Volunteers for the class will be able to put their training to work this summer gathering data that is crucial to maintaining stream health. We really need as many volunteers as possible. Please step up and give a few hours to this wonderful stream. No experience is necessary, the monitoring is simple to do once trained and the task of building a quality base line for Lodi Spring Creek will certainly be rewarding, so really there is no reason not to attend.

Contact Allison Seaton of the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley at jmseaton@merr.com or 608-592-4711 to sign up.



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Alder Fork Journal

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

April 2009



WADING IN

By Mike Barniskis

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter

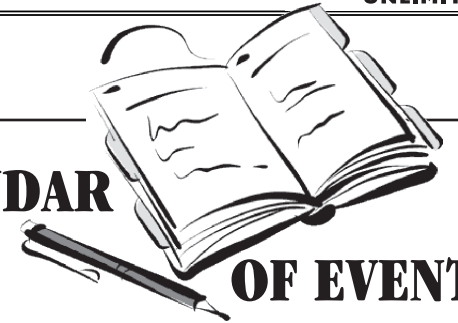
May 13th our annual fund-raising picnic and raffle will be held. Once again, we will be at Habermann Park in Lodi, along the banks of Lodi Spring Creek. Last year people were catching trout within sight of the barbecue. If this appeals to you, we're appealing to you also: bring your checkbook and your appetite. Eric Lorenzen will again provide homemade pulled pork and smoked turkey, prizes will abound and much fun will be had. FFF Certified Master Casting Instructor Dave Barron will be on hand to give both a casting demonstration as well as aid and advice on improving your cast. That's right! get a casting tune up from a Master Instructor, for free. Join us on May 13th from 5 p.m. until dark.

As winter recedes and spring begins to gain strength here in central Wisconsin, we also begin the important season of stream improvement for our tri-county waters. There are a handful of stream improvement dates I want to bring to your attention and personally ask that you to consider volunteering for at least one of them. Take your pick or attend them all. I hope to see you there!

On April 18th our chapter members will be clearing brush and trees on Rowan Creek near Poynette, preparing the shoreline for an upcoming DNR stream bank project. Our work will allow the DNR crew to focus all their efforts on the stream and stretch critical DNR trout stamp dollars to improve even more feet of stream. The DNR asked us to help them and now I am asking you to help your chapter. We'll even feed you and fill you with coffee. The work will be strenuous, this is chain saw work not loper work. We'll need additional bodies to cut and/or move the cut lumber into piles once the trees are down. Bring waders or boots, gloves, rope and a chain saw if you can. If you would like to fish Rowan after the work, there will be a couple of "guides" on hand. Please see the Calendar of Events in this newsletter for meeting location and time.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 18, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Brush/tree removal work on Rowan Creek. Rain or shine, lunch provided. Meet at DNR parking lot on Loveland Rd., west of Tomlinson Rd., just southeast of Poynette. See page 36 of your DeLorme Gazetteer.

April 18, 2009
Friends of Rowan Creek Clean-up Day on Rowan Creek. For more information: Paul Charland 608-635-7003.

April 26, 2009 Last day of early inland trout season.

May 2, 2009 Regular fishing season begins.

May 9, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Volunteer Water Monitoring Training, Lodi Elementary School, Lodi. For more information: Allison Seaton 608-592-4711

May 13, 2009, 5:00 p.m. until dark
ALCTU Fund-raiser Picnic, Habermann Park on Fair Street, Lodi.

May 16, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

June 13, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

July 18, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Aug 22, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Sept 19, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley Spring Creek Clean-up Days. Meet at Lodi Water Treatment Plant. For more information: Fred Hofmann fjhofokeebay@charter.net

June 12-14, 2009, Rush River, Pierce County
ALCTU annual fishing trip. For more information: Mike Barniskis 920-356-0081

Note: to check on calendar updates or last minute cancellations, call 920 206-8433 and ask for "Trout Unlimited Messages."

VISIT
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WEBSITE
www.alctu.com

ALCTU Newsletter
c/o Red Top Studio
112 South Spring Street, Ste 2, Fl 2
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

WADING IN *continued from page 1*

That same day, April 18th, The Friends of Rowan Creek will be holding their annual creek clean up as part of their Earth Day celebration. For those of you who find a day of brush and tree cutting daunting, this clean up offers a much lower level cardio work out that is still vital to keeping Rowan Creek a healthy stream. Join the Friends in Paquette Park, downtown Poynette, at 9 a.m., then walk the stream picking up trash and debris. If you have questions about the Friends of Rowan Creek clean-up event, call Paul Charland at 608-635-7003. Please consider lending a hand at either one of these important local stream-improvement efforts.

I also want to call your attention to the Calendar of Events dates in this newsletter regarding clean-up days on Lodi Spring Creek, our chapter's "home water". These days are a great way to help improve the health, cleanliness and flow of the stream. It is really satisfying to see the pile of junk collected at the end of the day. Please join the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley for one or more of these days and help our home water.

In our last newsletter, I wrote about a landowner along Bear Creek approaching us about doing a habitat project on the creek. This parcel is upstream from the existing Bear Creek State Fishery Area. A DNR easement acquisition is almost completed. The stream's potential is excellent, with great water quality but degraded habitat. The parcel has about one mile of stream, so this is a much larger project than we've tackled before. Eric Lorenzen from our chapter has taken the lead on this project, so much thanks to him. To help with planning this project, Eric, Steve Hill and I have attended the TUDARE Stream Project Planning Workshop in Westby on March 28th and 29th. The Bear Creek project looks to be a great opportunity for the chapter and we'll keep you posted as to progress.

Our chapter is also establishing a working relationship with the Baraboo Range Preservation Association, a land trust working to preserve land and waters in the Baraboo Range. They have been establishing conservation easements throughout the Range and are interested in improving land use practices along trout streams, so they have asked for our guidance. After meeting with David Wernecke, their Executive Director, I think our shared goals will help us increase the effectiveness of both our groups. Check them out at <http://www.baraboorange.org>.

Monday April 13th, at 7 p.m. the annual Conservation Congress meetings will be held in every county in the state. The congress is where you the citizen can directly influence the management of Wisconsin's natural resources. This year there are two resolutions up for a vote that I want to draw your attention to. The first resolution seeks to eliminate the "barbless only" requirement during the early catch and release season. This change is being sought because a lot of science shows no significant mortality difference between barbed and barbless hooks. Eliminating the current requirement would simplify the regulations and eliminate enforcement issues. While I personally will continue to use barbless-only year-round, I support repealing the requirement.

The second question of interest to our chapter is a request to change the daily limit on Manley Creek in Sauk County from 3 fish/9" minimum to a 5 fish/9" maximum. The change would be for 10 years to allow for evaluation of the effects. The desire is to reduce the incredibly high number of small brook trout, 1,800 per mile, and to allow for protection of larger trout. Tim Larson of the DNR requested this change before his retirement, and I am asking you to support this change.

Last, but not least, the chapter is going fishing! June 12/13/14 we will be heading up to Pierce County and the Rush River area. Early to mid-June is sulphur time on the Rush, a hatch that can be prolific. If you join us but don't know the area, I can guarantee that someone who does will lead you to water that holds trout. Whether the trout in that water cooperate is out of my hands. Prayer can help. We have a few camp sites reserved at Nugget Lake County Park but the park can fill up so if you want to join us let me know and we'll make sure you have a place to stay.



THANK YOU! TO THE FRIENDS OF THE ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER

The following people have contributed \$25 or more to our chapter's fundraising drive, which brought in about \$600 this year.

Bill Brashear, Edward Brockner, Tom Brownrigg, Gene Edwards, Tom Gawle, James Glanville, John Hood, Wayne Houston, Eric Lorenzen, Kevin Searock, Mike Stupich, Randy Thomas, Robert Wyman, Dr. Kenneth Yarnell

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of March 11, 2008

Checking	\$4,130.00
Savings	\$650.00
Total	\$4,780.00

Steve C. Hill, Treasurer

Aldo Leopold Chapter Directory

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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.

CHAPTER BOARD AND APPEAL

I wanted to take a few minutes to write about your chapter. Not a "what are we doing" article like my usual "Wading In" but a "how are we doing?" article. Another chapter recently sent to their members, "An Appeal from the Board" and I decided it was a good time to write an appeal to you, the ALCTU members. In fact, I may crib a few parts of their appeal, because it was well written. So - this is "An Appeal From Your President".

January saw the election, or re-election, of the chapter's officers and part of the board. A big "thank you" to Tom Gawle for joining the board, but I note that with the exception of Tom, the current board and officers have each been on the board for 5 years or more. While "institutional memory" and experience are invaluable, so are new ideas and new energy. We need new members of the board to keep it fresh, to keep it energized and to make sure the chapter is doing the right things. Any one of you can be a member of the board. There are no requirements beyond chapter membership and a desire to help the resource. A look at the articles elsewhere in this newsletter shows a half dozen activities or projects the chapter is involved in within the next few months. Each of these takes time to plan, organize, staff, or just do. There are details that need attending to for each of these events and you could be the one to attend to them. A few hours of your time, and you would be amazed at all that can be accomplished.

But beyond vague, yet real, appeals for help, there are some specific things I think would really help our chapter to succeed. We have 17 members from the Baraboo/Reedsburg area but only 1 board member from that area. I would love another on the board. There are so many opportunities for the chapter in Sauk County but without help we won't be able to realize those opportunities. We have had a Dodge County focus to our meetings because we have a Dodge County focus to our board. You can change that.

Assuming the Bear Creek project moves ahead, we will need help with writing grants. Do you have a way with the written word? If so, you can help us. Imagine spending a few hours at your keyboard and generating thousands of dollars for trout habitat. Does that sound rewarding? If so, help us out. Planning a work day like the one on Rowan Creek takes time. Is there a section of your favorite stream that needs help? Help it out by being the person to get it help.

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