

ALCTU WELL REPRESENTED AT STATE COUNCIL MEETING

By Todd Franklin


Groundwater issues, invasive species, VHS, new and improved web sites, DNR budgeting and future trout regulations were just a few of the subjects discussed at the most recent Wisconsin Council of TU annual meeting in Stevens Point last month. Our chapter was well represented, with three board members in attendance: Mike Barniskis, Steve Hill and Todd Franklin.

Rep. Louis Molepske, a member of the Wisconsin legislature's Groundwater Working Group, discussed possible future legislation regarding the use of our valued groundwater resources. His district falls in the central sands region. He said in Portage County alone, more water is pumped from the ground than is pumped for the cities of Milwaukee and Madison combined. Besides municipal and residential wells, there are many high-capacity wells used for irrigation. Vegetable farming, especially for potatoes, is a huge industry in that area. Unfortunately, some streams are suffering from this situation. The Little Plover River has even run dry on several occasions. Molepske

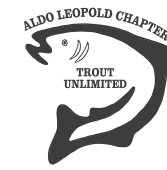
provided an overview of the issues and hopes to help craft legislation that can balance the needs of all water users, including trout.

With our chapter's Bear Creek project approaching, we are trying to learn everything we can about the various local, state and national programs that can potentially provide funding for our project. Several of these were discussed at the council meeting. In particular, we learned more about two new funding programs – one from the State Council and one from national, that will provide grants to chapters for land and easement purchases. TU's Coldwater Conservation Fund and the Wisconsin Council's Watershed Access Fund give priority to chapters who are working with land trusts or other agencies.

Meanwhile, DNR Fisheries Management Director Mike Staggs was invited as a guest speaker and covered a variety of subjects, from VHS movement to tough budget and staffing choices involving trout. The good news is that most wild trout stocking and planned trout habitat work will be completed, he said.

For Internet users, we learned that both the State Council and TU national have exciting new features on their web sites, so take some time to check them out. Members are encouraged to "register" on the state TU web site, which is www.wisconsintu.org. 

ALCTU Newsletter
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112 South Spring Street, Ste 2, Fl 2
Beaver Dam, WI 53916



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Serving Columbia, Dodge, and Sauk Counties since 1982
Spring 2010



WADING IN

By Mike Barniskis

President, Aldo Leopold Chapter

On February 24th, the chapter lost a great friend in Steve Hill. Steve had just received the *Gold Net Award* from The Wisconsin State Council for all that Steve had done for both the chapter and the State Council, and I am glad we were able to tell him what he meant to us. But I also want to take a moment to tell you all what he meant to me. Over the years, I called Steve over and over seeking advice, assistance, and guidance. He was always there, willing to listen, to help, to teach me. On the water Steve taught me how to gut and clean a trout, how to properly present a dry fly, and a lot about reading the water. In short, Steve was a mentor to me, for which I will always be grateful. My life is richer and better for having known him.

After seven years on the Board, Bill Brashear has stepped down due to time considerations. I recall well that first meeting he and I had with Clint Byrnes in 2003 when we decided to revitalize the chapter. Without his help I wouldn't have tried. Tight lines Bill, and thank you.

On April 12th, the annual Conservation Congress Hearings will be held. Meeting locations for our three counties are: Dodge County at Horicon City Hall, Columbia County at Portage Junior High School, and Sauk County at UW Baraboo Campus, A4 Lecture Hall. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. There are two advisory questions of note to the trout angler. One proposal is to keep the inland trout season open until the end of October. The second proposal is to open the regular trout season one week earlier than it does currently, changing it to the last weekend in April. Trout Unlimited has no formal position on either question, nor does our chapter. My personal position is to vote "no" on both questions, for a host of reasons I won't bore you with. What is important is that if you want to have a say in the vote, you must attend the meetings! These hearings are unique to Wisconsin and afford you a place to make your opinions known, so take advantage of that opportunity and attend the hearings. *continued on page 2*

CALENDAR



OF EVENTS

ROCKY RUN WORKDAY

Mark Your Calendar & Join In!

SATURDAY, APRIL 17th.

Monday, April 12, 2010, 7 p.m.

Annual Conservation Congress Hearings per county.

Saturday, April 17, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

Brush removal work on Rocky Run Creek, Columbia County. We will be meeting at the parking area at N5027 Dunning Rd. Rain or shine, lunch provided.

Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

Monthly meeting held at Ponderosa, 1520 N Spring Street, Beaver Dam.

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Last day of early trout season.

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Regular fishing season begins.

Wednesday, May 12, 2010, 5:00 p.m. until dark.

ALCTU Fund-raiser Picnic, Habermann Park on Fair Street, Lodi.

Thursday & Friday, May 13 & 14, 2010, 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo, Dodge County Fairgrounds, Fabish Rd at State Road 33, Beaver Dam.

Watch for Details on the ALCTU Summer Outing

Every year the Chapter holds an annual outing, and this year we're thinking about setting up camp along Camp Creek (coincidence?) near Viola. We haven't picked a date yet, but we're thinking about some time in June or early July. If you're interested in joining in on the fishing, camping, tall tales and mosquitoes, contact President Mike Barniskis and he'll keep you abreast of the exact date, time and location.

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

WADING IN *continued from page 1*

The fly tying class, held in Beaver Dam this year, was a really enjoyable time. While we didn't have a huge class, we had a group of really dedicated, and skilled, students. We really enjoy helping teach classes, the students are great to work with, so we are already looking forward to next year's class. If you know someone who might want to try tying flies, let them know that next winter they will have their chance.

We have formed a "Bear Creek Work Group" that will be leading the restoration project. If you would like to be a part of this group, contact me, or Todd Franklin; we would welcome the help.

In January, Brent Bergstrom, Sauk County Land Conservation Department, completed designs for about half of the Fargen land. Scot Stewart of the DNR has been assisting us as well, helping arrange for permitting of the project. Additionally, it looks like day to day DNR oversight of the project will be handled by Dan Fuller out of Poynette. We've worked with Dan in the past and it will be great having his experience brought to bear (no pun intended) on this project. We are currently working on an application for a DNR River Management Grant with a due date of May 1st. After that there are a number of other funding sources we will need to apply for, both State, Federal, and private. We will also need to determine who we will use as a contractor, and we will be working on a more concrete time line for when work may start.



As part of the Bear Creek project, a number of us attended the recent TUDARE training in Westby. I came away with a much better understanding of a host of funding sources, how they all match to one another, how to leverage one fund source into another, and had many, many questions answered. It was a valuable weekend for all of us.

When you purchase your fishing license this year you will be asked if you want to donate \$2 to Wisconsin's Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Program. I encourage you to say "yes," and help fund invasive species control and eradication in Wisconsin's waters. Invasive species are a growing threat to our waters, trout waters are not immune, so chip in less than


Do we have your e-mail address?

In an effort to deliver more frequent and timely announcements about current and future chapter activities such as work days and fishing outings, and also to save the chapter money on postage, we're trying to get e-mail addresses from as many chapter members as possible. Send yours to Eric Lorenzen (aldoleopoldtu@gmail.com) Our goal is also to send our Chapter newsletter via e-mail, with hard copies being mailed only to those who request it.

the price of a Panther Martin, a box of night crawlers, or a 3x tippet spool to help preserve our ecosystems.

Speaking of licenses, the Chapter is once again happy to donate two fishing licenses and two trout stamps to the Shabazz High School, Project Green Teen program. Project Green Teen will be held in Vernon County this May, working on stream restoration, invasive species control, trout stream ecology, and trout fishing. Volunteers to help out on the water are always needed, so consider volunteering to help our next generation get hooked on trout fishing.

The Wisconsin Outdoor Expo will be held this year on May 13th and 14th, at the Dodge County Fairgrounds. Volunteers are needed for both fly tying, and fly casting. This event brings upwards of 4,000 kids into contact with outdoor sports and activities, from fishing to hunting. This event happens, literally, in our chapter's backyard. I am asking for volunteers to help us out at this event. You do not need to be a master tier or caster—you just need to be willing to help the next generation learn to love the outdoors like we do. TU is not a "young" organization, and if we don't bring kids into the sport, TU will fade. Help assure a future for cold water by giving a few hours of your time to this worthy cause. Contact me if you can help.

May 12th is our annual fund raiser picnic, and we can use donations. Fishing gear, fish related "stuff", books, art, all donations welcome. The more stuff, the more you can win when you join us for another night of yummy food, great company, and great loot. May 12th, Habermann Park in Lodi—see you there! 

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.



REFLECTING ON STEVE

By Eric Lorenzen

February 24th was a sad day and marks a huge loss for ALCTU. Steve Hill, a fellow board member and our chapter treasurer, passed away. I had the pleasure to call Steve a close friend, and I have ALCTU to thank for that friendship.

I met Steve for the first time on the West Fork of the Kickapoo—I was just coming off the water as he was pulling into the parking area. I caught a few small fish, but I was still working on a number of things, including my casting. We talked for a bit, exchanged contact information, and he encouraged me to get involved in TU. The ALCTU picnic was a week or so away, and he invited me to attend. We became friends almost immediately. Steve had a great personality and a wonderful way of teaching on the water—a way that always made me feel at ease.

Steve took me under his wing, and we became friends and fishing companions for the last several years. We shared a passion for the sport, a love of the outdoors and a desire to preserve and protect a valuable resource. Above all, we just plain liked to hang out. We didn't let a mere 26 year age difference get in the way. We fished together most weekends during the season, and spent the offseason tying flies and planning our summer trips.

I'm certain that I wouldn't be half the fisherman I am today without the friendship I enjoyed with Steve. Steve was a kind, compassionate, caring person that ALCTU owes a great debt to. I know that the entire ALCTU board feels that our chapter wouldn't be where we are today without the leadership, passion and friendship we all received from Steve Hill.

Opening day wasn't the same this year. It never will be. 

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of April 1, 2010

Checking	\$5,911.49
Savings	\$1,119.86
Total	\$7,031.35

Michael C. Stupich, Treasurer

Aldo Leopold Chapter Directory

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Eric Lorenzen accepts a monetary donation from Donna Hill to ALCTU, in memory of Steve Hill. Donna matched other memorial donations to the chapter.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MAY 12th

IS PICNIC TIME.

Our main fund-raising event will be held along the banks of Spring Creek in Lodi, Wisconsin. We need your support at this event. Expect a great time because we will be providing great food, great raffles, great prizes and if you attend, great company!!!

**Wednesday, May 12th
5:00 p.m.
Habermann Park in Lodi**

Please call one of the chapter board members if you are interested in donating a prize for the evening.