

Autumn Meetings Kick Off with September 21 “Fall Fling” in Naperville

The Oak Brook Trout Unlimited autumn membership meeting schedule kicks off with a September 21 “Fall Fling” event featuring a grilled brat dinner at the White Eagle Homeowner’s Clubhouse, 4265



White Eagle Drive in Naperville from 5:30 to 7 p.m. preceding our guest speaker—Ann Miller. Ann is an aquatic biologist, fly fisher, Michigan Trout Unlimited member and author of “Understanding Hatches: The Key to Better Fly Fishing.” Members, their guests and the general public are welcome. There is no charge.

In her book “Upper Midwest Hatch Guide,” Ann discusses the naturals and their behaviors then provides matching fly patterns and fishing techniques. Fly tying is a combination of art and science; fly tiers understand the biology and behavior of an insect,

and then imitate it artistically. Color, size, silhouette, and behavior of an artificial are essential, which is why it’s important to have some knowledge of the local insects. Mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, lesser insects, and crustaceans of the upper Midwest are covered in Ann Miller’s book. Learning to identify insects can be daunting for anyone, but doing so will pay off for you with more fish.

Jen Ripple to Provide Fly Rod Casting Tips

The special event starts at 5:30 p.m. with fly casting tips provided by Jen Ripple, Editor-in-Chief of Dun Magazine and the Executive Editor of Tight Loop Magazine. When not on the water fishing, Jen spends her time empowering women in fly fishing by teaching fly casting clinics, speaking nationwide and devoting her time to conservation efforts.

Meet Local Fly Fishing Store Reps

Representatives from Orvis Yorktown, DuPage Fly Fishing Co. and Whitetail Fly Tying Supplies will be available to share their latest products and answer questions from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.



Learn About Volunteer Activities

OBTU board members will be present to discuss volunteer opportunities for interested members. Learn about our Youth Education programs (Fly Fishing Classes, Trout in the Classroom, Annual Summer Youth Camp); Conservation projects; and various committee opportunities (Fundraising, Communications, Membership).

Meetings and Events

Save the dates on your calendars

Chapter meetings are at 7:00 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at the Oak Brook Recreation Center, Central Park West Building near 31st Street and Jorie Blvd. in Oak Brook unless otherwise noted.

September 14, Wednesday,
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

September 21, Wednesday,
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Membership Meeting

White Eagle Homeowners Clubhouse, 4265 White Eagle Drive, Naperville

Speaker: Ann Miller on “Understanding Hatches: The Key to Better Fly Fishing”

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Brat cookout, fly casting tips on White Eagle Lake

October 8, Saturday,
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Coldwater River Watershed

Macroinvertebrate Study
Alto, Michigan

October 12, Wednesday,
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

October 19, Wednesday,
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Membership Meeting

Oak Brook Recreation Center, Canterbury Room

Speaker: Guide and Author Rich Osthoff on “Driftless Nymphing Techniques”

November 9, Wednesday,
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

November 16, Wednesday,
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Membership Meeting

Oak Brook Recreation Center, Central Park West Building

Speaker: Shedd Aquarium Research Biologist Dr. Phil Willink on “Lake Michigan Aquatic Ecosystems”

December 7,
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

December 14,
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Annual Holiday Party & Rod Raffle Drawing. D.O.C. Wine Bar Yorktown Center (around the corner from Orvis)

All Things OBTU...

By Rick Ralph, President

Fun, organized, and valuable opportunities await you this fall with our Oak Brook Trout Unlimited chapter.

First, our September 21 Fall Fling event will feed you, inform you, and engage you. You've seen the email announcement. It's at the White Eagle Homeowners Clubhouse beginning at 5:30 p.m. with grilled brats; Jen Ripple of Dun magazine and Tight Loop magazine providing fly casting tips; and Orvis Yorktown, Naperville's DuPage Fly Fishing Co. and Whitetail Fly Tying Supplies sharing their latest products, sale items and equipment.

Then at 7 p.m. aquatic biologist, fly fisher and author Ann Miller will speak on "Understanding Hatches: The Key to Better Fly Fishing." Members of our board will be there to explain the opportunities that we have within our chapter committees. Jen, Ann and our preferred providers Orvis, DuPage Fly Fishing Co. and Whitetail Fly Tying Supplies will definitely appeal to women anglers. Whatever your skills and interests are, we have something for you, your guests and the general public. Your friends will thank you for bringing them to this event.

Our annual Fall macroinvertebrate study will be October 8th meeting at Tyler Creek Golf Course and Campground near Alto, Michigan. It's easy effort and a lot of fun. See the related story in this newsletter for more information.

Watch for more information on our fabulous Christmas Party at DOC Wine Bar, in Lombard on December 14.

Over the summer Dave Moore delivered a fun conservation work day in Sparta Wisconsin, Marvin Strauch led five Youth Fly Fishing Days, and several members supported the ninth annual Illinois Council Youth Camp near Grayling, Michigan. Thanks to our volunteers who made the Youth Fly Fishing Days and the Illinois Council Youth Camp very memorable. Thanks, also to Stan Zarnowiecki for provided fly casting instruction on Tuesday evenings. All can cast. Not everyone can cast well. I think those who attended even one of Stan's evenings can now cast well.

Hopefully you have had a chance to visit our newly designed web site at www.obtu.com. Jim Schmiedeskamp delivered a best-in-class chapter website at lower on-going operating costs. Thanks for the great work, Jim!

Your chapter board of directors approved an exciting conservation agenda for next year and is working on the 2017 budget. Watch for more of this information in later newsletters. Next we will form a slate for the election of directors and officers. Contact me, r.ralph1@comcast.net or Steve Carlson, s_carlson@msn.com to express interest in serving as a director or officer.

Oct. and Nov. Meetings Return to Oak Brook Recreation Center

Wednesday, October 19, 7-9 p.m.

Speaker: Guide and author Rich Osthoff on "Driftless Nymphing Techniques"

Rich is an author, guide, and fly tier based in Wisconsin's Driftless Area. In his presentation, Rich makes extensive use of videos to demonstrate effective Driftless Area small stream nymphing tactics. The proof of his techniques is clearly evident by the results he achieves on video. Among numerous credits, he has authored 3 books: *Active Nymphing--Aggressive Strategies for Casting, Rigging, and Moving the Nymph*, *No Hatch To Match--Aggressive Strategies For Fly-fishing Between Hatches*, and *Fly-Fishing The Rocky Mountain Backcountry* based on Rich's 20 years of backpacking and fly fishing out west.



Wednesday, November 16, 7-9 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Phil Willink, a senior research biologist at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, will speak on Lake Michigan's aquatic ecosystems.

His talk will include fluctuating water levels, oil spills, invasive species and current conservation initiatives impacting endangered species. Dr. Willink will also review current research projects. Dr. Phil Willink joined Shedd in 2012 as senior research biologist for the aquarium's Daniel P. Haerther Center for Conservation and Research, leading Shedd's efforts to develop a comprehensive evaluation of the state's list of threatened and endangered species through on-the-ground population assessments. Dr. Willink has more than 20 years of



experience in research, teaching and global expeditions studying fish biodiversity as well as endangered and invasive species. His work includes studies on the Great Lakes, examining the genetics of invasive species and the impact of development and invasive species on native fish populations, as well as a project to publish a field guide of Chicago lakefront fishes. Dr. Willink holds a doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Michigan.

2016 Illinois TU Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp A Success!

By Willie Beshire

The ninth edition of the Illinois Council Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp took place Sunday, July 24 through Friday, July 29. The camp drew rave reviews from 11 campers aged 13 to 18. Teens who attended departed with a new level of understanding of coldwater conservation as well as an enhanced passion for fly fishing for naturally reproducing stream trout. Although we dodged thunderstorms to the north and south, the camp was blessed with favorable weather and all planned activities were well executed.

As in past years, the trek to the Ralph A MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center in Roscommon, Michigan began early on Sunday morning from Oak Brook with the caravan arriving at the RAM Center by mid-afternoon. After check in, the teens were immediately led to a nearby lake for a fly casting lesson and individual coaching. Casting abilities among the 11 campers ranged from beginners to skilled anglers who talked of their bone fish, tarpon and shark exploits.

Campers experienced an intensive week of educational and recreational adventure during their week in northern Michigan. Other highlights included:

- **Fishing the famed Au Sable River, birthplace of Trout Unlimited:** Campers were able to fish several locations on the main, south and north branches of the Au Sable. We're pleased to report that all campers landed at least one trout on a fly rod by Wednesday morning. For many of the campers, this was a "first of lifetime experience."
- **Working on a stream improvement project on the Au Sable River:** Camp participants provided the muscle necessary to haul logs down to the river to build natural protective structures along the river banks. They learned to use a high-powered water jet drill to embed timber pylons deeply into the stream bed which were then used to anchor erosion barriers and lunger structures to provide protected trout habitat. Although it was a hot afternoon, our campers completed an impressive amount of work and were kept cool by the Au Sable's clear, cold water.
- **Participating in the electro-shocking fish survey:** Our campers had to be alert and respond quickly as they participated in the various types of electro-shocking. It was amazing to see the number and size of trout which were quickly caught from the South Branch of the Au Sable. One camper netted a 19 ½ inch brown!
- **Studying the Au Sable River along with the macroinvertebrates** and fish that are included in its food chain: Professor Steve Kohler from Western Michigan University shared his knowledge of stream biology and geology with the camp attendees. Professor Kohler led a tour of the watershed to review its origins and explore the geology of the stream. He also led an hydrology experiment to demonstrate the measurement of stream flow. Our campers used kick nets and "D" nets to examine a diverse array of immature insects living in the Au Sable's waters. The adult insects were captured in a later evening session to complete the "full life cycle" study. Professor Dan Hayes, from Michigan State University, led the campers through a dissection of a trout during another afternoon session which included discussions of the differences between warm and cold water species.

- **Learning the art of fly tying:** Fred Hodge once again leant his talents and expertise to teach the art of tying flies. All of the campers successfully tied flies and were encouraged to pursue the satisfaction of landing a trout using their own hand-tied creations.
- **Touring Lovells Museum:** Our campers were able to learn about the history of logging in this part of Michigan and its devastating impact on the Au Sable River and its native trout. The guide for the tour was Ken Burg, Lovell's Museum Director and Historian.

A big thanks goes to our Youth Camp mentor team including Darwin Adams, Dick Augustine (from the Lansing Michigan Chapter), Steve Carlson, Fred Hodge, Carol Hennessy, Keith Sutherland, Joe Weisenberger, Joe Lentino, Jim Sharritt, and Phyllis Frick.

We would especially like to thank a number of outside contributors who unselfishly volunteered their time to help make the camp special. Special thanks to Chris Schelb, Michigan DNR Biologist for coordinating the electro-shocking; Steve Sendek, retired DNR biologist and project contractor for arranging the Stream Improvement Project; Professor Kohler from Western Michigan University for conducting the sessions on Macro-invertebrates; Professor Dan Hayes of Michigan State University, for leading the session on trout dissection; Glen Blackwood, owner of the Great Lakes Fly Shop, for opening his shop for our campers; Nichol DeMol, TU National Manager, for arranging the Rogue River Visit; and Carl Hueter for hosting our camp for a day at his river house on the North Branch of the Au Sable. We are grateful to Bill Duncanson and John Dallas for arranging private access to the North Branch and their outstanding leadership in helping to guide the fishing of our campers.

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A proud camper displays a nice brown trout.



The ninth annual Illinois TU Youth Camp participants pose for group photo.

OBTU Work Day on Farmers Valley Creek

Oak Brook TU held a workday on July 23 at the Farmers Valley Creek in Sparta, WI. The work was done at Fisherman's Park in Sparta and followed the chapter's initial stream restoration financial and workday support in 2014. It was well attended with 16 workers, including eight members of the Oak Brook TU chapter:

OBTU members in attendance included Dave Carlson, Ken Krueger, Dave Moore, Jack Potts, Rick Ralph, John Snyder, and Frank Zbylski. Also participating were the project contractor's two-man crew and Bob Micheel, the Monroe County Land Conservation Department Director and project manager. Additionally, four local high school students also participated.

"We started work at around 8 a.m. and managed to build eight LUNKER structures and place four in the stream before thunderstorms arrived around noon," said Dave Moore, Oak Brook TU Vice President and Conservation Committee Chair. "This stream restoration and habitat improvement work took place upstream from our 2014 project. The physical labor of cutting, pounding nails and setting rebar was a good change for many of us from our week-day desk jobs. We also replaced some rock that had washed out on nearby Beaver Creek."

The project scope included sloping and rocking the banks to prevent soil erosion during high-water periods and installing in-stream cover such as submerged rock weirs and cross logs to create a scour area to prevent sediment build-up along with limestone rock riprap.

"Despite the rain, we managed to light the charcoal and grill brats for lunch and enjoy some fellowship among our volunteers," said Dave Moore. "Even the Sparta mayor stopped by to welcome and encourage us. Since we were in the Driftless Area, many of us took some time to enjoy the local fishing. John Snyder turned out to be the champion fisherman, landing a 16-inch brown on Timber Coulee Creek. Heavy rains had some of the streams muddied up and off color. Still, we made the most of it. Saturday night we ran into Wally Bock at the Old Town Inn Supper Club in Westby. So OBTU was well represented in the Driftless Area for the weekend!"

Top Photo:

Oak Brook TU volunteers and Bob Micheel (Ken Krueger, Jack Potts, Bob Micheel, Frank Zbylski, and John Snyder, left to right) construct one of eight LUNKER structures at Farmers Valley Creek in Sparta, Wisconsin.

Middle Photo:

Oak Brook TU volunteer John Potts pounds rebar through LUNKER structure into the stream bed at Farmers Valley Creek for one of eight LUNKER structures built and placed on July 23.

Bottom Photo:

A back hoe positions rock over LUNKER structures to secure them in place.



What good is casting a fly rod on a lawn...

By Stan Zarnowiecki

May is the last month for organized meetings for a lot of fishing clubs and TU chapters. What's a person to do if they want to keep seeing their friends and keep motivated about fly fishing? I pondered this question and decided to organize a weekly casting night. The official kick off was on Tuesday after Memorial Day and the meeting location was the Oak Brook Recreation Center—specifically the back lawn behind the Central Park West Building. Not the easiest of places to find for new comers but a perfect location none the less. Ron Abrant, Fred Hodge and Greg Prosen helped out as instructors.

Over the summer months we had a lot of new faces showing up for the weekly Tuesday evening practice sessions. It was great to see so many people seeking new ways to improve their fly rod casting skill. The weekly event was also publicized on the Illinois Smallmouth Alliance message board and Orvis Yorktown and DuPage fly fishing helped spread the word.

Hula hoop targets and orange construction cone distance markers were set out so that casters could get a sense of how far they were actually casting. Participants had a good time and instructors provided some helpful suggestions. I noticed much improved performance with the casters that came on a regular basis. Bob really got into the double haul and Angela finally got out of her lawn chair, taking a break from watching Sunny for me and started casting after watching John wave the Winston every Tuesday night. It would have been great to capture their "before and after" casting using some video equipment. We concluded the summer with a cook out on the last Tuesday in August. Everybody brought something to the party and we even managed a little casting practice. Sunsets and mosquitos provided the natural quitting time for these evenings so there was no need to sound a horn.

I did notice two specific things over the weekly summer meeting with participants who came to cast. The first was that many of us do not know the basics of the cast, specifically the correct execution of the pickup and lay down. Every cast is a variation of two basic casts, the pickup and lay down and the roll cast. You need to correctly practice these two casts and everything else will follow effortlessly.

Also, some casters just did not have the correct equipment to cast properly. Their rod was either too big or too small for them to handle or their equipment was mismatched. Since they could not cast properly they were struggling to cast a rod that was the wrong weight for them to practice with. A 5 or 6 weight rod is ideal. Experienced fly fishers often practice with heavier 8 weight rods when going on an extended fishing trip to limber up. There also seems to be a misunderstanding about smaller weight rods. A rod that is too small in weight, like a 2, 3 or sometimes even a 4 weight rod can frustrate a caster that cannot execute the proper technique. It's not easier just because it is smaller and lighter. Equipment mismatches usually manifested themselves in the wrong fly line for the rod.

I think that it's great for OBTU members and friends to come to events like this because you can try different equipment and get lots of instruction and tips on what works. It's up to you to sort out the wheat from the chaff and get you moving down the path to better fly rod casting. See you next year...

Volunteer for October 8 Coldwater Aquatic Study

OBTU members will return to the Coldwater River near Alto, Michigan on Saturday, October 8, to continue the three-year macroinvertebrate survey as part of a Michigan Clean Water Corps grant which commenced in 2014.

"The Coldwater River Watershed Council has asked our chapter to re-up for another round of counts starting next year which is a great endorsement for the value of our members' work over the last few years," said Marv Strauch, who is a member of the Coldwater River Watershed Council. "We'll again require a staff of volunteers to complete the survey. And once again, the Coldwater River, Tyler Creek, and nearby Rogue River and Muskegon River will all offer varied fishing opportunities for anglers interested in catching trout and fall spawning chinook salmon while in the area. And of course there is the camaraderie of working together with your friends on a valuable project."

As with the past spring and fall surveys, audit teams will be formed, and each team will visit one of five sites along the Coldwater River or its major tributaries. Each site will be observed for any physical changes since the June audit. Then samples will be taken by volunteers using D-nets from the various habitat types within each site. Samples will be collected into large pails before each team returns to our base at Tyler Creek Country Club where we will identify and count everything collected. This Saturday morning activity is usually followed by a cookout and the opportunity to do some local fishing. Drive time from Chicago to the Tyler Creek Country Club is about 3.5 hours.

"Our base camp will once again be at the Tyler Creek Country Club campgrounds," said Marv Strauch. "Campers can stay free at the campground, so long as they advise us beforehand so we can book the correct amount of space. There are plenty of rooms in the Grand Rapids hotels as well. A number of us have been staying at the Wyndham Gardens Grand Rapids Airport location. I understand they provide a discount to TU members."

To volunteer for the October 10 Coldwater Study, please contact Marv Strauch at your earliest opportunity if you plan to be attend. (mjstrauchjr@gmail.com; 708-638-1318).



Volunteers need only bring a pair of waders and rain jacket.

The Librarian's Corner

by Phil Young

Streamer Fishing for Trophy Trout with Kelly Galloup

Cascade Media Works / 2009) 120m / DVD

Kelly Galloup fishes for the big ones – the trout you will never see take a dry fly. These fish are predators that feed early and late in the day on the young, the old and the injured. They are the top of the food chain.

On this DVD, Kelly explains his theory of predatory trout, what they eat and how you can trigger a predatory response. He dissects the water pointing out feeding and holding areas you may not have considered fishing. Rods, reels, lines and leaders are discussed as well as fly selections and retrieves.

This is a very good DVD for those who would rather take the time and effort to catch one trophy fish in a day of fishing than a boat load of smaller fish.

This DVD, as well as others in the chapter's library, are available for check out at chapter meetings. If you are holding any of the chapter's other videos, please return them when you are finished so that others may view them.

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Fly Fishing Camp A Success!

Mark your calendars!

Next year's camp is scheduled for July 23 thru 28, 2017.

Please invite your friends and relatives in the 13-to-18 age group to apply to the 2017 camp. You can email them a link to our Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp page on our new website for more information. Our 2017 flyer and application will be posted to his page shortly.

Attention adult TU members: Please let us know if you have interest in serving as a camp mentor.

Contact Willie Beshire, Illinois Council Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Camp Director, for more information: wbeshire@aol.com

Operating Fund Donation Form

Please donate to our Operating Fund to help Oak Brook TU cover expenses for chapter meetings, guest speakers, special events and communications programs. OBTU is a 501(3)C non-profit and donations are fully tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Add \$10 for an OBTU plastic name badge.

Please make your check payable to Oak Brook Trout Unlimited and mail to: P.O. Box 5046, Oak Brook, IL 60522

Retain a copy of this completed form for your tax records

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ Other _____

Name

Address

Address (Apartment Number)

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email (optional)

Please contact the following board member regarding volunteer activities or other questions

Rick Ralph	President	Officer	r.ralph1@comcast.net	630.939.2643
Dave Moore	Vice President	Officer	bpdave56@alum.lehigh.edu	630.881.4047
Dave Lunardini	Treasurer	Officer	djl22@attnet	630.939.3471
Carol Hennessy	Secretary	Officer	clhennessy@earthlink.net	815.341.6010
Willie Beshire	Director		wbeshire@aol.com	630.200.2532
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Jim Schmiedeskamp	Director	Publicity/Communications	jimschmieds@gmail.com	312.375.6502
John Snyder	Director		frazier-tech@attglobal.net	630.977.9077
Marv Strauch	Director Emeritus	Youth Education	mjstrauchjr@gmail.com	708.638.1318
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Dennis Wisnosky	Director		dennis@wisnosky.net	630.240.6910
Stan Zarnowiecki	Director	Ex Officio	shotawisky@yahoo.com	708.606.4148