

## December Holiday Party and Rod Raffle a Success!

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited would like to thank everyone who participated in our 2015 Rod Raffle and December 9 Holiday Party fund-raising activities. And an additional thank you for your financial support via monthly chapter raffles and other programs throughout the past year! Combined the two programs raised \$5,812.

### Rod Raffle Mailing Program Netted \$2,154

We had 110 participants in the Rod Raffle which netted \$844 after expenses plus another \$1,310 in donations. The total of \$2,154 for the entire program compared to \$2,122 in 2014 when we had 106 participants.

Our Rod Raffle winners were:

- First Prize:** Tom Kribs of Brighton, IL.; winner of a custom rod built by Coren's Rod & Reel.
- Second Prize:** Tom Wilhelm of Wheaton, IL; winner of an Orvis fly rod.
- Third Prize:** Brian Ross of Woodridge, IL; winner of an Orvis fly reel.

Special thanks to Coren's Rod & Reel and the Orvis Yorktown store for their donation of the Rod Raffle prizes.

### Holiday Party at D.O.C. Wine Bar Draws Crowd

Our Holiday Party at the D.O.C. Wine Bar in Lombard drew 53 members and guests compared to 27 attendees at the Rock Bottom Brewery in 2014.



The 2015 Holiday Party was successfully hosted at a new venue—the D.O.C. Wine Bar around the corner from Orvis in the Yorktown Center.

The silent auction and bucket raffles netted \$3,690 after expenses compared to \$1,689 in 2014.

The holiday event featured a "Wines Around the World" theme with wines paired with various appetizers which helped promote member mingling and opportunities for new and old acquaintances.

Silent auction donations included guide trips from Kevin Feenstra of Feenstra Outfitters for a day on Michigan's Muskegon River and a half day fishing the Driftless Area with Mat Wagner of the Driftless Angler. Orvis and Fishpond fishing gear were featured along with several gift baskets of craft beer, cheeses and special edible products from Minnesota.

Special thanks to Steelhead Vineyards of Sonoma Valley—a national Trout Unlimited sponsor—who donated a case of wine for our silent auction, wine for three wine basket bucket raffles, and a special take-home party favor for all attendees. Also special thanks to Carol Hennessy and Ed Michael for their event planning with support from Dave Lunardini and Jim Schmiedeskamp.

Your donations to our annual rod raffle and holiday party event help fund our Chapter's general operating expenses for the year for monthly meetings, speakers, and various conservation activities.



## 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.

**February 10, Wednesday**  
OBTU Directors Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**February 17, Wednesday**  
Membership Meeting  
Speaker: Jason Randall  
"Where Fish Are"  
7:00 p.m.

**March 5, Saturday**  
Youth Program  
"Train the Trainer"  
Camp Sagawau Environmental Education Center  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**March 9, Wednesday**  
OBTU Directors Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**March 16, Wednesday**  
Chapter Meeting  
Speaker: TBD  
7:00 p.m.

**April 13, Wednesday**  
OBTU Directors Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**April 20, Wednesday**  
Chapter Meeting  
Speaker: TBD  
7:00 p.m.

**May 11, Wednesday**  
OBTU Directors Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**May 18, Wednesday**  
Chapter Meeting  
Speaker TBD  
7:00 p.m.

**June 11, Saturday**  
Coldwater River Watershed Macro-invertebrate Study  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Alto, Michigan

## All Things OBTU...

By Rick Ralph, President

The champagne glasses and party hats are put away. The long, cold, dark nights of mid-winter can be good for reflecting on the past, dreaming about the future, and making plans to make that dream reality. Perhaps your family had a graduation, had a wedding, or traveled in 2015. Perhaps your dreams for 2016 include a career change, outdoor adventures, or family celebrations. You may be even starting to pencil in some blocks of time for your dreams this year. We wish you a happy 2016!

Last year, we provided opportunities to our members in the areas of conservation, youth education, building our community both within the chapter and outside the chapter, and sustaining our chapter through fundraising and leadership development. We are grateful to the leaders of these efforts. Most recently, in November the board of directors began to revise our chapter's strategic plan to improve our direction and focus. This effort will conclude in 2016. In December, the Nominations Committee presented a slate of directors for the election January 20.

Special thanks to the people who planned the fun and festive Holiday Party, Carol Hennessy, Ed Michael, and Jim Schmiedeskamp. It was a great social event and important fund raiser for the chapter. Tom Kribs of Brighton, IL won the raffle for the Coren's Rod and Reel custom rod, Tom Wilhelm of Wheaton, IL won the raffle for the Orvis Superfine 5 wt rod, and Brian Ross of Woodridge, IL won the raffle for the Orvis Battenkill 3 reel with Superfine line. Best of luck using those excellent prizes this year!

As you plan your 2016, decide now how you can become more involved in our chapter and what it has to offer: conservation, youth education, connecting with our members, connecting with our community, and sustaining our chapter through fundraising, training, and leadership opportunities. Here is a partial list of fun, rewarding opportunities that we offer in 2016: macro-invertebrate studies on the Coldwater River watershed in Michigan in June and October; stream bank improvement work days in Sparta, Wisconsin—likely in May; "Trout in the Classroom" release days in May; Youth Fly Fishing Education events May through September; fundraising for conservation projects; member fly fishing trips; teaching opportunities at Orvis Fly Fishing 101/201 sessions; and social, entertaining, and educational member meetings. Watch for details in our upcoming emails and newsletter.

## February Speaker: Jason Randall on "Where Trout Are"

Jason Randall will make another appearance as our featured speaker at our Wednesday, February 17, 7 p.m. chapter meeting when he discusses "Where Trout Are." This presentation will focus on how to identify feeding lanes and food distribution in rivers to help locate trout feeding lies in all types of water. Information from Jason's interactive presentation will help fishermen pick out high-confidence lies where trout are approachable for short-line techniques and spot prime lies to target the largest fish.

Jason Randall, a resident of Woodstock, Illinois, has been an outdoor writer for the last 12 years with feature articles appearing regularly in *American Angler*, as well as *Fly Fisherman*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Northwest Fly Fishing* and many other outdoor magazines. He is a veterinarian certified in fish health and medicine. He is also a member of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association and the Society for Freshwater Science.

His first book, *Moving Water: A Fly Fisher's Guide to Currents* was released in 2012 by Stackpole/Headwater books. It studies the effect of current on trout, their prey species and presentation, where vertical layers of current create drag and requires adjustments to improve nymph fishing success.

His second book *Feeding Time: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What, Where and When Trout Eat*, was released in August of 2013. It focuses on matching your fishing strategies to the trout's feeding strategies, especially when targeting large trout.

In 2014, the third book in the Fly Fisher's Guide trilogy was released. Titled *Trout Sense: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What Trout See, Hear and Smell*, it offers anglers an opportunity to know more about the quarry they seek.

In January 2017, Jason's fourth book will be released from Stackpole/ Headwaters Books on Advanced Nymph Fishing techniques and as yet is still untitled.



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## 2016 Conservation Projects Planned

OBTU's 2016 conservation activities include both volunteer and support for projects in both Wisconsin and Michigan.

Our conservation commitments this year include financial support for TUDARE (Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort); financial and volunteer work support for Farmers Creek stream restoration in Sparta, WI; macro-invertebrate studies on the Coldwater River Watershed in Alto, MI on June 11 and in October; and financial support of the Weister Creek restoration in Vernon County, WI.

"We plan to return to Farmers Valley Creek in Sparta, Wisconsin and to begin support of Weister Creek (pronounced wē-stir) in the Driftless Area," said Rick Ralph, Conservation Committee Chair. "The Conservation Committee will also pursue other conservation project work days in conjunction with TU chapters in Wisconsin and Michigan as stream restoration opportunities for chapter members."

"We will notify OBTU members of new conservation projects in our next newsletter and/or by email update," said Rick Ralph. "We use the term 'work' lightly here as a few hours of light physical activity is followed typically by a grilled lunch and member fellowship. Our events are accessible, social, educational, and valuable to the environment. Our members also typically try to schedule a little nearby fishing as part of their itinerary. Since our Wisconsin and Michigan projects are three-plus hours' drive time from Chicago, we will try to facilitate carpooling for interested members."

Volunteers are needed to make these commitments happen. The Conservation Committee is looking for members who do not serve on the board of directors and are interested in leading or supporting an event. If you'd like to be on the Conservation Committee, email Rick Ralph at r.ralph1@comcast.net. The Committee meets by phone conference calls each month, so location should not be an issue for ongoing participation.

The financial support of conservation efforts is a bold step forward for our chapter. Our leadership believes that the chapter membership and greater community will respond to our conservation commitments with money. Watch for additional information on fundraising opportunities for you in forthcoming newsletters.

### 2016 Conservation Project Highlights

**TUDARE** (an acronym for Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort) is the umbrella organization that coordinates and supports



Farmers Valley Creek in Sparta, WI was restored in 2014 as a result of both OBTU volunteer and financial support.

cold water conservation in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. OBTU's support is in the form of money donated to directly support TUDARE general operations.

TUDARE is founded on the great work and passion of TU volunteers. There are more than 15 chapters around the region that have worked with agency partners to restore sections of approximately 60 streams. Over \$10 million has been raised in state, federal and private contributions for stream restoration projects. Each year, the TUDARE project restores approximately 12 to 18 miles of stream each year in the region.

**Farmers Valley Creek** in Sparta, WI will continue to receive both OBTU volunteer and financial support in 2016. Stream restoration work and began in 2014 will continue next year with the installation of lunger structures and bank restoration work to reduce both soil erosion and phosphorus discharge within the city. Our financial contribution will be leveraged to get a large government grant. Our work day is currently scheduled in May on a date to be determined.

**Weister Creek** begins a new and expanded role for OBTU in Vernon County, WI. The project is a long-term effort that is expected to quadruple the fish population in this important tributary to the Kickapoo River in the heart of Wisconsin's Driftless Area. Our contribution is financial. All work is done by contractors on government-owned land that comprises the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Government funding is leveraged by private funding such as that from OBTU.

**Michigan's Coldwater River Watershed Council** will continue to receive both OBTU volunteer and financial support in the form of two macro-invertebrate work days on June 11 and in October. Our chapter provides the basic field data that goes into the science of conserving the watershed as a cold water resource. Our work has increased in importance following the devastation last year in which vegetation was scalped from the river bank. The effect of the changes in the stream will be measured, in part, by our work. OBTU is represented on the Coldwater River Watershed Council by Marvin Strauch.

### Conservation Committed Recognition

The Conservation Committee members include Jim Bailey, Willie Beshire, Bob Borhauer, Will Campbell, Jayson Cheever, Dan Donahoe, Rich Ference, Frank Harford, Carl Kernodle, Claude Mays, Howard Miller, Dave Moore, Marvin Strauch, Joe Vitti, Ken Voight, Tom Wilhelm, Dennis Wisnosky, and Stan Zarnowiecki. The committee is chaired by Rick Ralph.



There is room for your participation at our macro-invertebrate studies!

## January Winter Classes and Fishing/Outdoor Show

January kicks off the New Year with a slate of free fly tying classes at the Orvis Yorktown store, guide presentations at the DuPage Fly Fishing Co. Naperville store and the Annual Chicagoland Fishing, Travel and Outdoor Expo at the Schaumburg Convention Center. Orvis Fly Tying Classes Scheduled for January and February

The Orvis Yorktown store will offer free "Fly Tying 101" two-hour classes featuring fly tying basics on Saturday mornings over six weeks. Participants will be provided with fly tying equipment and all materials at no cost.

The 9-11 a.m. Saturday classes are scheduled on the following dates:

- January 23
- January 30
- February 6
- February 13
- February 20
- February 27

Stop by the Orvis Yorktown store or call 630-932-6573 to reserve a spot. Spaces are limited.

### DuPage Fly Fishing Co. To Offer Guide Presentations

The DuPage Fly Fishing Co. store in Naperville has announced free fly fishing presentations by area guides in January and February.

**Saturday, January 30, 4-5 p.m.**—Jay Anglin of Anglin Outdoors ([anglinoutdoors.com](http://anglinoutdoors.com)) will discuss how day in and day out classic Great Lakes style nymphing will out-fish any other fly fishing technique. Whether you're fishing small to medium sized streams such as the Pere Marquette or the Dowagiac, or breaking down larger rivers like the Muskegon and St Joe, when done properly, nymphing is without question the BEST way to hook steelhead and resident Brown Trout lurking in nearly every stream that drains into Lake Michigan. Open your mind and take your nymphing game to another level with Jay Anglin's thirty-plus years of nymphing know-how.

**Saturday, February 27, 4-5 p.m.**—Dustin Harley of Ripple Guide Service ([rippleguides.com](http://rippleguides.com)) will discuss why the St. Joe River is quite possibly the best steelhead fishery in the United States. This presentation covers the vast angling opportunities the river and its tributaries offer throughout the year. Included are techniques for steelhead, salmon, smallmouth bass, longnose gar, rod/reel selection, fly selection, terminal rigging, and reading the water. Open fly tying sessions with both guides who will tie some of their favorite patterns are available on both dates from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Just bring your vise and tools. The shop will provide fly tying materials.

For more information, call 630-857-3468 or check out the DuPage Fly Fishing Co. website: [dupagefly.com](http://dupagefly.com)

### Annual Chicagoland Fishing, Travel and Outdoor Show January 28-31

Whether looking to improve your fishing knowledge through seminars with top-notch local and national fishing professionals, buy the newest equipment, book a trip of a lifetime, or buy a new fishing boat, it's all available January 28-31, 2016 at the Schaumburg Convention Center.

Featuring over 100 travel-related exhibitors (including guides, lodges, resorts and regional promotion agencies), most

of the major fishing tackle manufacturers, local fishing retailers, and almost 100 fishing boats, you can see it, learn about it, touch it, and buy it at "The Sportfishing Spectacular" in Schaumburg.

Covering all species through most techniques, fly fishing to conventional, you can attend seminars with expert instructors and nationally recognized pro fishing celebrities, learn to fly cast, and talk with some of the best guides and outfitters from around the globe.

Show dates and times are:

- Thursday, January 28, 12 noon to 8 p.m.
- Friday, January 29, 12 noon to 8 p.m.
- Saturday, January 30, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sunday, January 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$12.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 5-11.

## IL TU Youth Camp Announced for July 24-29

The ninth edition of the Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing camp is scheduled July 24-29, 2016 at the RAM Conference Center in Roscommon, Michigan.

The 2016 camp mission is to develop the next generation of cold water conservation advocates while also providing a rigorous introduction to the sport of fly fishing on the famed Au Sable River in Michigan. An experienced Trout Unlimited mentor team will guide twelve 13- to 18-year-old participants through prime time morning and evening fishing sessions. Throughout the week, an abundance of "hands on" active learning opportunities will be conducted during the fully loaded mid-day periods.

The fly fishing instruction includes fly casting, fly tying, knots, basic entomology and what fish eat, reading the water, safe wading techniques, catch and release, and other outdoors and fishing related skills.

"The camp is designed to be an intense experience that makes a significant impact on youth," said Willie Beshire, Oak Brook Trout Unlimited board member and camp director. "Campers will learn more about conservation and fly fishing in a week than most of us learn in a lifetime. It is an enjoyable and educational experience."

The camp mentors and instructors will be comprised of Trout Unlimited members from Chicago's Oak Brook and Gary Borger chapters and Michigan Trout Unlimited, along with biologists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Michigan State University, Western Michigan University and a private coldwater conservation company.

The camp cost includes round-trip transportation from Chicago, lodging, meals and equipment. The tuition fee is \$575 (comprised of a \$75 deposit at the time of application plus a \$500 remaining balance due one month before camp). Sponsorship is available for campers with financial need.

For more information, including an application please visit the Oak Brook Trout Unlimited website ([obtuo.org](http://obtuo.org)), or contact Willie Beshire, Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited Youth Camp Director ([wbeshire@aol.com](mailto:wbeshire@aol.com); 630-200-2532).

## Youth Fly Fishing Program and Train the Trainer Day Need Volunteers

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited (OBTU) is now in our 12th year of offering introductory one-day youth fly fishing classes. The program is open to boys and girls 11 years and older. "We provide an easy-to-understand overview to the sport of fly fishing. All fly fishing equipment and fly tying materials are provided by Oak Brook Chapter Trout Unlimited," said Marv Strauch, OBTU's Youth Education Chair. "There is no cost to participants."

The program is designed around the requirements of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Fly Fishing Merit Badge, so scouts who successfully complete the class will have met all the requirements of the merit badge. The staff includes BSA merit badge counselors. Scouts are responsible for reading the Fly Fishing Merit Badge book and bringing their blue "Application for Merit Badge Card" signed by their troop leader.

This program has become a hugely successful program for OBTU. Over the years, we have taught over 700 young boys and girls to fly fish. The program moves to a new location this year—Cook County Forest Preserves located in Lemont, IL. The fishing is for bluegills and largemouth bass in the ponds and lakes of the forest preserve.

"It's important for interested kids to register early as there are only 15 spaces per class, and classes fill early, said Marv Strauch.

"Anyone who is interested learning the basics of fly fishing should email or call me for a registration form, directions, and a schedule."

### Who Teaches the Classes?

- Adult members of Oak Brook Trout Unlimited
- BSA Certified Merit Badge Counselors

### What We Cover?

- Understanding fly tackle: rods, lines, leaders and flies
- Fly casting: the overhead cast, and roll cast
- Basic fly fishing knots
- Fly tying
- Outdoor safety
- Outdoor ethics, care of the resource, and the mission of Trout Unlimited.
- FISHING!!!!

### What to Bring?

- Lunch
- Weather appropriate clothes, including a hat
- Sunglasses/eyeglasses (eye protection)
- Fishing license (for ages 16 and older)

### When?

The Youth Fly Fishing Program runs from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on five dates as follows:

- May 7
- June 18
- July 16
- August 13
- September 10

### Where

Classes are based at the Camp Sagawau Environmental Education Center – a unit of the Cook County Forest Preserves located at 12545 West 111th Street, Lemont, IL, with fishing on nearby Cook County Forest Preserve ponds and Lakes in the Palos area.

Parents of interested boys and girls interested in enrollment should contact:

#### Marvin Strauch

Youth Education Chair  
708-638-1318  
youthed@obt.org

### Train the Trainers Day— Saturday, March 5

In preparation for this year's Youth Fly Fishing classes, OBTU will conduct a "Train the Trainers Day" on Saturday, March 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Camp Sagawau Environmental Education Center.

"We use this program to familiarize new volunteers with the program, and to run through the skills covered in the program. This allows our volunteers to all be operating on the same page," said Marv Strauch.

"We need 30-40 volunteers and currently have about 15 commitments, so we need our OBTU members to come through!"

Please contact Marv Strauch if you would like to volunteer as a trainer or would like more information via phone (708-638-1318) or email (youthed@obt.org).



Since its inception 10 years ago, Oak Brook Trout Unlimited has taught over 700 young boys and girls to fly fish and enjoy the outdoors.

## Orvis Gift Wrapping Nets OBTU Donations

Oak Brook TU members generated \$230 in donations over three weekends in December at the Orvis Yorktown store. The annual volunteer effort provides Trout Unlimited and our chapter with exposure to potential new members through a traditional partnership activity with Orvis.

Special thanks to our volunteers: Willie Beshire, Steve Carlson, Carol Hennessy, Tom Hoagland, Fred Hodge, Mindy March, Ed and Lin Michael, Greg and Sheila Prosen, Jim Schmiedeskamp, John Snyder, Joe Weisenberger, Tom Wilhelm, and Stan Zarnowiecki.



Greg and Sheila Prosen take a break along with Joe Weisenberger and Mindy March during a weekend of gift wrapping at the Orvis Yorktown store in December.

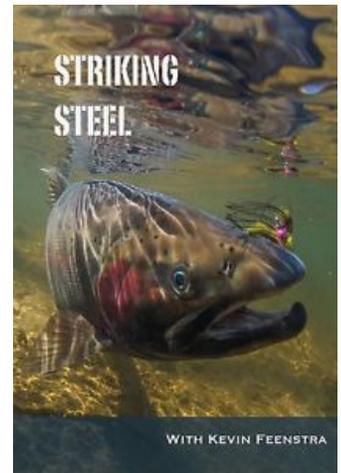
## The Librarian's Corner

by Phil Young

### Striking Steel with Kevin Feenstra

(Snap "T" Pictures / 2015) 80m / DVD

A number of our OBTU members have fished the Muskegon River in the fall, winter and spring for salmon and steelhead and a few have fished with Kevin Feenstra. In *Striking Steel*, Kevin focuses on catching fish in tough conditions. Reading water and fishing structure are covered in detail regarding crossover currents, flat spots between currents, the magic depth from 3 to 5 feet, timber and brush, boulders and drops behind gravel bars. Kevin discusses fly selections that change with the seasons due to water temperatures, feeding windows and hazards such as leaves and ice flows, as well as fly construction to meet these challenges. Clothing, fly rods, reels, lines and sink tips are also covered. This is an excellent DVD that provides basic information and tips from an experienced guide for those who fish the upper Midwest for salmon and steelhead in colder weather.



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.

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

<b>Rick Ralph</b>	President	Officer	r.ralph1@comcast.net	630.939.2643
<b>Dave Moore</b>	Vice President	Officer	bpdave56@alum.lehigh.edu	630.881.4047
<b>Dave Lunardini</b>	Treasurer	Officer	djl22@attnet	630.939.3471
<b>Carol Hennessy</b>	Secretary	Officer	clhennessy@earthlink.net	815.341.6010
<b>Willie Beshire</b>	Director		wbeshire@aol.com	630.200.2532
<b>Steve Carlson</b>	Director		s_carlson@msn.com	312.961.5970
<b>Jim Schmiedeskamp</b>	Director	Publicity/Communications	jimschmieds@gmail.com	312.375.6502
<b>John Snyder</b>	Director		frazier-tech@attglobal.net	630.977.9077
<b>Marv Strauch</b>	Director Emeritus	Youth Education	mjstrauchjr@gmail.com	708.638.1318
<b>Joe Weisenberger</b>	Director	Membership	flytie8@yahoo.com	630.390.9494
<b>Dennis Wisnosky</b>	Director		dennis@wisnosky.net	630.240.6910
<b>Stan Zarnowiecki</b>	Director	Ex Officio President	shotawisky@yahoo.com	708.606.4148