

## Coldwater River Survey

by Joe Weisenberger

**S**aturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, a group of Oakbrook TU members traveled to Michigan to participate in a training and work session for a macro-invertebrate survey on local streams. The training session was run by members of the Michigan Coldwater River Watershed Council.

We met at Tyler Creek campground at 9:00 AM. After a brief explanation and demonstration of the work needed to be done on the stream, we divided into groups of four. Each group consisted of three trainees and one certified trainer. The trainer's job was to answer any questions and show us the procedures involved in taking samples from the stream. We then left the campground and proceeded to our designated stream to begin our survey.

Upon arriving at the stream, two members of the group, the trainer and the designated group leader trainee, went in the water. The other two members walked along the bank, filling out the paper work with details of the stream. This consisted of making a drawing of the stream, including landmarks; listing of trees, shrubs, grass, weed varieties, downed trees or other obstructions either in or along the stream. We also recorded the consistency and condition of the stream bed; gravel, sandy bottom, boulders,



sunken logs etc. The two members in the water collected samples at various spots along the stream. These included undercut banks, edges of riffles, back-currents, and any deep pools. Samples were netted by one member and collected in a bucket carried by the other.

Each stream location was worked for twenty minutes and covered approximately 300ft. of stream. After collecting the samples, we returned to the campground. We then sorted and counted all the various species of insects found in our sample bucket. This was a bit of a task since none of us are entomologists. Each team had a number of charts with pictures and explanations of how to identify the various insects. Also a few books were on hand to help with this process. All information was recorded on survey sheets provided by the watershed council. These information sheets will be saved in a binder file. Future survey information will be added to this file. This study will be ongoing and will help keep track of what the effects of weather and the surrounding farm lands have on the stream.

When the survey was completed, lunch was served, prepared by Stan Z. Great job as always, thanks again Stan. After lunch the conversation turned to fishing, of course. Some of us stayed and fished the local streams while others drove to the Muskegon River. I was in the group that went to the Muskegon. On the way we made a stop at Great Lakes Fly Shop. We were told the Grey Drake in size #10 was the hatch to match. They were spot on. Numerous fish were caught on this fly. Both browns and rainbows in the 8" to 10" range. Not exactly trophy fish, but fun to catch. We didn't leave the water until nearly 10:00 PM.

Al in all it was a great weekend. Thanks to all who attended. This survey will continue as a bi-annual event. So if spending a little time counting bugs and doing a little trout fishing sounds good to you, think about attending a future survey. I guarantee you will have fun.

## Future Meetings and Events

Go to your 2014 calendar and mark down the following meeting and event dates:

### July 9<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Board of Directors Meeting

### July 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday

Youth Fly Fishing Skills Class

### July 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday

OBTU Annual Picnic

### August 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Board of Directors Meeting

### August 16<sup>th</sup> Saturday

Youth Fly Fishing Skills Class

### September 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday

Youth Fly Fishing Skills Class

### September 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Board of Directors Meeting

### September 17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

General Membership Meeting

Please see our website for a full listing of calendar events. [www.obtu.org](http://www.obtu.org).





All things OBTU...

# ALL THINGS OBTU...

It's close to midsummer now and our chapter has already done a lot of activities. Our monthly youth fly fishing classes have taken place and there was a great turnout of new OBTU mentors to assist attendees learn the basics. Our May Coldwater river invertebrate study was washed out so we moved it to June and had 8 volunteers travel up to Freeport and participate in our first of many sessions in that watershed. The October date is set for Saturday the 18th so plan on making the fall session.

June continued with Orvis 101 and 201 classes every weekend. Again, Greg Prosen has done a great job coordinating OBTU mentors to lend a hand. I think everyone who participated benefited from having our members share their knowledge with those who Orvis signed up for the program. Our conservation committee traveled to Sparta, Wisconsin to work on a stream, you can read more about that event in this edition.

July will once again see our annual picnic, an announcement of that event is also included so please join us for a pleasant Saturday afternoon with our hosts, the Vanerka's. August will not have any formal meeting so please get out and wet a line. We still have 3 youth fly fishing skills days in July, August, and September so contact Marv Strauch if you want to lend a hand.

Our board of directors still continues to meet monthly and I am proud to say that we have a great turnout of board members at each meeting. It's great to work with so many dedicated people. Members are always welcome to attend board meetings so check our calendar and contact a board member if you want to know more.

Monthly Feature

## The Librarian's Corner

by Phil Young

# Fly Tying Fundamentals

with Davy Wotton (Cascade Media Works, LLC / 2012) DVD

**Fly Tying Fundamentals** is a series of detailed lessons in the techniques of fly tying. Starting with 1) "Tools and Materials", Davy Wotton describes and demonstrates the use of the vise, bobbin, scissors, whip finish tool, hackle pliers, dubbing needle and hair stacker. He continues with 2) "Hooks and Threads" to show how different types of hooks are used for dry flies, nymphs and streamers and how to control tying thread and wind a thread base. Davy then demonstrates how to tie a zebra midge, a pheasant tail nymph, a hare's ear nymph, a hare's ear soft hackle, a blue-winged olive dry, an elk hair caddis and an olive woolley bugger. His precise instructions for working with thread and dubbing and winding ribs and hackle are matched with these practical lessons created for beginning fly tyers. Experienced tyers and tying instructors can pick up some tips as well. This is a great instructional video.

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.

## Operating Fund Donation Request

Please donate to our Operating Fund to help us defray expenses for chapter meetings, guest speakers, printing, and mailing of our newsletter. This donation is fully tax deductible and is greatly appreciated.

- \$15     \$25     \$50     \$100     \$ Other

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### General Survey

**Involvement Interests:**     Trout in The Classroom Program

Scout Merit Badge Program     Conservation programs

Assist as a Director for OBTU     Fly fishing trips

Fly tying instructor     Assist with fund raising programs

Amount of involvement desired in OBTU: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours per year

Please retain a copy of this form for your tax records.

Please select your tax deductible donation and make your check payable to: Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited P. O. Box 5046 Oak Brook, Illinois 60522

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# Trout in the Classroom

**W**e have completed another successful year of Trout in the Classroom here in Illinois. Oak Brook Chapter helped to support the programs at 8 schools this year. The year was not without its complications, though. The brown trout eggs arrived on November 21<sup>st</sup>, and were delivered to the schools without any complications. The schools had little complications this year, and all were raising healthy brown troutlings in their tanks. As the year progressed, we were able to visit a number of the schools to speak on coldwater conservation issues, and brought a bit more insight to the threats to coldwater environments in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Dean Hansen was able to come to the Chicago area in April, to bring his “Wetbugs” presentation of live stream insect nymphs to the students at St. Patricia School, Roosevelt Middle School, and Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School. This is always a hit with students and teachers at the participating schools. We hope to be able to bring him to more schools next year.

Our release dates were scheduled for the week of April 28 – May 2, which in the depths of winter looked to hold the prospects of warm weather and clear skies for all our schools.



Mother Nature had other ideas. The week of April 28<sup>th</sup> was cold (rarely over 50<sup>°</sup>), drizzly, and very windy. But the students and teachers were real troopers. Our TU volunteers arrived clad in waders, fleece, rain jackets, etc. But the kids went about the program, wading into the Kinnikinnick Creek in shorts and gym shoes. We conducted the regular program of water quality testing, seining, and rock rolling to survey the insect nymphs, crayfish, and baitfish present in the Kinnikinnick that would support our brown trout. Students eagerly pulled water samples, inspected stream rocks, and handled nets to learn about the ecosystem of a trout stream. Each program day concluded with the release of each school's trout.

Many thanks go out to the volunteers, who dealt with last minute rescheduling, lousy weather, and long drives to help in the program. They are: Ted Bernhard, Steve Carlson, Neels de Coning, Carol Hennessy, Jeff Kroger, Gary Padalik, Kristina Kurdts, Ed Michael, Greg Prosen, Joe Weisenberger, Phil Young, and Frank Zbylski. In addition, Rich Ference, Fred Hodge, Dave Lunardini, and Tom Wilhelm were among our volunteers for the Dean Hansen visits.

This program cannot exist without the support of our membership, and this year you all really stepped up. For the 2014-15 school year, we lose one school from the roster, but will add Prairie View Middle School in Tinley Park, and will also assist Lara Academy in Chicago with their TIC program. I join Stan Zarnowiecki in thanking all who participated in the program this year, and all who supported our efforts.

Marvin Strauch  
Youth Education Chair



# Conservation Work Day Enjoyed in Sparta, WI

by Rick Ralph

**O**n Saturday, June 14, the Oak Brook Trout Unlimited (OBTU) Chapter participated in an on-going conservation initiative to prevent soil erosion and improve the water quality of Farmers Valley Creek running through Sparta, Wisconsin.

The project consisted of the construction and placement of 10 LUNKER structures in the Farmers Valley Creek.

Project sponsors included OBTU, Coulee TU (of La Crosse, Wisconsin), U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Monroe County (Wisconsin) Land Conservation Department, and the City of Sparta. OBTU participants were Dave Luardini, Ed Michael, Greg Prosen, Jim Schmiedeskamp and Rick Ralph—OBTU Conservation Committee Leader.

Located in Wisconsin’s Driftless Area, the project represented the latest phase in a multi-year effort to restore the Farmers Valley Creek to its original width and depth. According to Bob Micheel, County Conservationist for Monroe County, Wisconsin, the goal of the project is to return the stream to its natural state by pinching up its base while opening up the flood plain to alleviate springtime flooding and the resulting soil erosion. Another benefit of the project is the reduction of non-point source phosphorous which is a goal of the wastewater treatment plant in Sparta.

LUNKER structures are crib-like, wooden structures installed along the toe of a stream bank to create overhead cover and resting areas for fish. These structures were originally developed in Wisconsin for trout stream habitat improvement projects, but have been found to work well as bank protection devices. A LUNKER structure consists of two planks with wooden spacers nailed between them. Additional planks are then nailed across the spacers perpendicular and crib like structure is formed. (See photo).

Figure 1

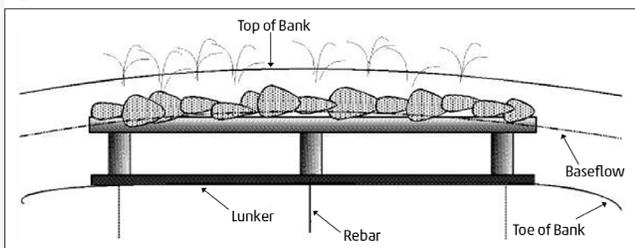
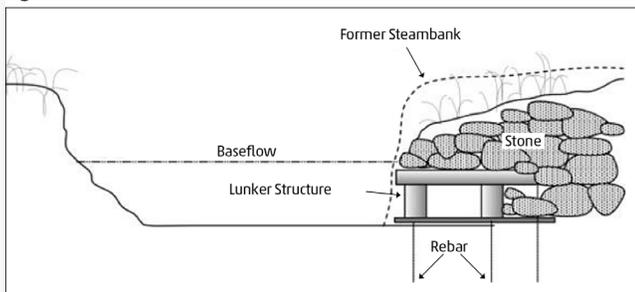


Figure 2



Greg Prosen , Jim Schmiedeskamp, and Maurice Amundson (Coulee TU Chapter member) prepare one of the structures before setting rebar into place on a LUNKER structure.



Farmers Valley Creek is narrowed to its original size and flow velocity in this location.

The structure is installed by first grading the stream bank back, then placing it in a flat section of the stream bed at a depth that covers the structure. The structures are then secured to the stream bottom by driving rebar through the wooden crib framework. Once in place, rock is placed on top of and behind the structures and the stream bank is graded down to meet the front edge. The upper bank is then stabilized using bank stabilization techniques. Once installed, these structures blend into the natural setting and last a lifetime.

OBTU participants started the day by installing quarter-sawn logs onto pre-constructed structures completed by Sparta high school students, then setting the rebar rods flush with their bottom. Next, an excavator placed the structures into the water. OBTU volunteers then drove the rebar into the stream bed using post drivers. Large rocks were then placed by the excavator on top of the structures to permanently hold them in place and create a very natural appearance.

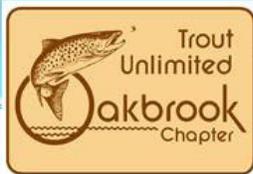
OBTU's work concluded with a walking tour of past restoration efforts in town and a picnic lunch. Driftless Area fishing was enjoyed by OBTU participants the night before and after the work on Saturday. The weather was excellent and the experience was enjoyed by all.



*Dave Luardini drives rebar into the stream bed while Greg Prosen assists.*

*The work crew poses for a photo after project completion*





*You don't want to be on the stream on July 26<sup>th</sup> because you will miss the Picnic!*



**Announcing the OBTU Annual Picnic at the Vanerka Residence!**

**Italian Beef / Sausage / Broasted Chicken / All for only \$15.00 a person.**

**Date: Saturday, July 26, 2014**

**Time: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Location: 44 Breakenridge Farm, Oak Brook**



**RSVP by Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> to**

**Carol Hennessy at 708 749-3210 or**

**by email to: [clhennessy@earthlink.net](mailto:clhennessy@earthlink.net)**

**Donation of \$15 per adult is requested and will be collected at the door.**

**Reminder: This is a BYOB picnic. Soda and water will be provided. Please bring your own lawn chairs.**



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**Oak Brook Chapter meets at the Oak Brook Park District Recreation Center 1300 Forest Gate Rd.**

From Jorie Blvd. Turn west at Forest Gate Rd. (first stop light north of 31st Street). Follow Forest Gate straight into the Recreation Center parking lot. We meet in Meeting Room 2/3.



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