

Youth Fly Fishing Program and Train the Trainer Day Need Volunteers

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited (OBTU) is now in our 11th 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 initiative 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 (for eye protection)
- Fishing license (for ages 16 and older)

When

The Youth Fly Fishing Program runs from 8am to 4:30pm on five dates as follows:

- May 16
- June 20
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12

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@obtuo.org

Train the Trainers Day—Saturday, March 7

In preparation for this year's Youth Fly Fishing classes, OBTU will conduct a "Train the Trainers Day" on Saturday, March 7, from 10am to 1pm 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@obtuo.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.

Meetings and Events

Save the date on your calendars

Chapter meetings are at 7PM on 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.

January 17, Saturday
Orvis Free Fly Tying 101
Through February 28

January 21, Wednesday
Chapter Meeting Speaker:
Robert Thompson
"Fly Fishing Film Production"
7PM

January 29 - February 1
Chicagoland Fishing, Travel and Outdoors Expo
Schaumburg Convention Center

February 11 Wednesday
OBTU Directors Meeting
7PM

February 18 Wednesday
Chapter Meeting
Speaker: TBD
7PM

March 7, Saturday
Youth Program
"Train the Trainer"
Camp Sagawau Environmental Education Center
10AM -1 PM

March 11, Wednesday
OBTU Directors Meeting
7PM

March 18, Wednesday
Chapter Meeting
Speaker: Keith Vieth
"Minnesota Fly Fishing"
7PM

April 8, Wednesday
OBTU Directors Meeting
7PM

April 15, Wednesday
Chapter Meeting,
7PM
Speaker: TBD

April 29 - May 3
OBTU Fly Fishing Trip
Minnesota Driftless Area

All Things OBTU...

By Stan Zarnowiecki

The New Year kicks off for our chapter with lots of activities planned for our members.

But before we look ahead, just a few words about 2014 and our chapter events.

December was highlighted by our holiday meeting at Rock Bottom Brewery in Warrenville. We had a great crowd and everyone had their happy face on as they mingled, tasted the craft beer selection and munched on the appetizer buffet. There were bucket raffles, a silent auction and the culmination of the night was the annual rod raffle drawing.

Bob Borhauer was the winner of the custom rod prize and will be contacting Corens's for his selection. Mike Pieklo was the winner of the Orvis fly rod and Ernie Brevik won the Orvis fly reel. Congratulations to all three winners!

All of the events netted OBTU some much needed revenue, so thank you to everyone who donated and participated in all of the raffles. We couldn't continue to provide quality programs without the supporting funding.

The January meeting will kick off 2015 with election of directors of the chapter. If you are ever interested in helping with the direction of OBTU please contact any of our directors or officers.

Robert Thompson will be making a presentation on his career as an outdoors filmmaker and his latest work. Along with membership meetings in February and March, we will have a fly tying event in March with our March speaker—Kip Vieth, who is a Minnesota guide who will speak on "Minnesota Fly Fishing, from Trout to Muskie and Smallmouth and Everything In between."

We already have our annual fly fishing trip scheduled to the Minnesota Driftless Area April 29 to May 3, with details in this issue. Please join us for a great time.

Our annual youth "Trout in the Classroom" and 11th Youth Fly Fishing programs will roll out this spring. The planning for our May 9 "Spring Fling" open house and fund raiser has started. These all have volunteer hours available so please review each program's needs and volunteer as much as you can.

It looks like another great few months for OBTU so please enjoy what we are planning, come out to our meetings, and participate in our programs while getting to know other chapter members.

2015 Spring Event Is in Planning Stage

Start thinking about your used fishing equipment, outer wear and fishing artwork that would be appropriate for the used equipment sale or silent auction as part of our 2015 spring event—especially if you are "downsizing" or received new stuff from Santa during the holiday season.

We are planning three ways for members to participate in the "Used Gear" event: 1) reserve your own table for \$20; 2) have OBTU sell your equipment and items on a 20% consignment basis; or 3) donate your items to OBTU for resale by the chapter with all proceeds supporting the chapter's operating fund and conservation initiatives. Used equipment, clothing and artwork donations are tax deductible.

If you have items to donate or sell on consignment, either bring them to an upcoming meeting or schedule a pick up by contacting Jim Schmiedeskamp (j_schmieds@yahoo.com or 312.375.6502).

January Speaker: Fly Fishing Film Producer Robert Thompson

Robert Thompson is a native of Michigan and currently works for CBS Chicago as a producer. He is an avid outdoorsman and started creating fly fishing content five years ago. In 2010 he released his first DVD—"Night of the Hex." He followed that production with "Musky Country" in 2011 and "Heart of the Driftless" in 2012. In the spring of 2012, Thompson started work on his most ambitious project—"The River"—with the subject matter being the famous Au Sable River in Michigan, the birthplace of Trout Unlimited.

Two years in the making, The River was officially released for retail sales in the spring of 2014. In addition to the main feature, the DVD also includes the full version of "The Brothers Brown," which was featured on the 2013 fly fishing film tour and "Summers," a piece on legendary Michigan bamboo fly rod maker Bob Summers.

Thompson recently started production on his fifth fly fishing DVD—a Great Lakes steelhead piece "Spey Daze"—that he expects to release in the spring or fall of 2016. He is also currently in the final stages of editing a music/fishing project titled "Cousin Joe" which will be a DVD companion to the eventual CD release from Michigan musician Joe Shields' alter ego "Cousin Joe Twoshacks."

Thompson will talk about some of his past projects, but will mainly focus on his current steelhead and music projects. He also plans to show footage from both of the current projects and perhaps footage/trailers from some of his past work.

Thompson is an Emmy award winning producer and his outdoor content has been featured in both the F3t and I4 fly fishing film tours. His 2011 film Musky Country was named Fly Fishing Film of the year at the IFTD show in New Orleans. If you've ever wanted to know what goes into making a fly fishing film and the thought process behind their production...this is your chance.

"The River" is currently available for purchase on amazon.com.



Outdoor film producer Robert Thompson will discuss his career and latest film project—"The River" —at the January 21 chapter meeting.

Fly Tying Classes for Novices and Experts

Orvis Free Fly Tying Lessons for Novices

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

The 9-11AM classes are scheduled for the following dates:

- January 24
- January 31
- February 7
- February 14
- February 21
- February 28

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

Oak Brook TU Advanced Fly Tying Lessons Scheduled for March 19

Minnesota guide Kip Vieth will lead a special fly tying class sponsored by Oak Brook TU on Thursday, March 19, from 5-9PM, at the Bass Pro Shop in Bolingbrook. Cost for the class—which includes all materials—is \$40.00 per person.

Kip Vieth—who will speaking on fly fishing the Minnesota Driftless Area at our March 18 chapter meeting—will lead the class and demonstrate some of his favorite patterns such as:

- Turkey Leech
- Simple foam popper
- X-wing fighter (for panfish)
- Templeton foam diver
- Wild Critter foam hopper/bass bug
- 3M minnow (Goldie)

The class will try and tie as many of these patterns as time and skill levels will allow.

For any questions and to reserve your spot please contact:

Stan Zarnowiecki
708-606-4148
shotawisky@yahoo.com



Orvis Yorktown and Oak Brook TU are offering fly tying classes for novices to experts.

When I say Driftless, You Say Minnesota?

Guide Kip Vieth to Speak at March 18 Chapter Meeting

OBTU will focus on Minnesota fly fishing in March with guide Kip Vieth speaking on "Fly fishing Minnesota: From Trout to Musky and Smallmouth In Between" on Wednesday, March 18, at our monthly chapter meeting. Keith will then host an OBTU sponsored fly tying class on March 19, 5-9PM, at Bass Pro Shops in Bolingbrook. (See related story on this page).

Kip Vieth and his family have owned and operated Wildwood Float Trips since 2003. His business includes being a full service Orvis Endorsed guide and outfitting service located in Monticello, Minnesota. Kip has been exploring the rivers and streams of the Upper Midwest for well over 30 years. He lives and runs Wildwood Float Trips on the banks of the Upper Mississippi. The business is located right in the heart of the "catch and release" section which is home to some of the largest smallmouth bass in the country. He spends over 200 days on the water mostly in pursuit of smallmouth bass and muskie. On most days during the season you can find him rowing his drift boat on one of the Upper Midwest premier warm water fisheries.

Now if You Want to Fly Fish Minnesota...

OBTU has a spring fly fishing trip planned for the Driftless Area of Minnesota. We have a reservation for at least 16 people—and everyone gets their own bed—at the Cedar Valley resort in Whalen, Minnesota near Lanesboro. We will rendezvous on Wednesday, April 29, when our reservation starts and stay in the area until Sunday, May 3.

This is an all-inclusive trip; guide Kip Vieth of Wildwood float trips will be in charge of the entire trip. All meals will be provided starting on Thursday, April 30. Kip has been our host each time we have gone on similar trips and everyone has always had a great time. He will be on hand to provide fishing knowledge and also be both chief cook and bottle washer.

Along with the great fishing on your own, you can take advantage of a fly fishing class on Thursday or booking a guide to learn the area and its many streams. Hiring a personal guide will be separate from the trip price, so you can decide what you would like to do. The class will be structured based on the skill level of the participants, so if we have beginners who would like to start out with the basics, then that will be how the class will be conducted. We can also run an intermediate class on Friday.

Although we have a lot of spaces, get your reservation in soon. Last year OBTU had to turn away spring trip reservations because of our lodging limitations. We have moved to larger and better digs so we will be able to accommodate more fishermen.

Pricing will be as follows:

- Four nights lodging, meals for 3 days, ½ day fly fishing with Kip Vieth (if you choose) will be \$475.00 per person.
- Thursday or Friday fly fishing class with lunch included with Mark Reisetter will be \$50.00 per person, based on 6 participants.

Stan Zarnowiecki is taking reservations now and can be reached at 708-606-4148 or email at shotawisky@yahoo.com if you have questions.



Kip Vieth will be our March 18 speaker and lead an OBTU sponsored fly tying class on March 19 at Bass Pro Shops in Bolingbrook.

Oak Brook TU Photo Gallery



Rock Bottom Brewery was the site of OBTU's 2014 Holiday Party.



Jim Jones, Larry Varsek and Mitch Schwarz enjoy "Pint Night."



Fred Hodge, Tom Wilhelm, Rick Rowe and Marty Durkin discuss their fishing plans in 2015.



Carol Hennessy, her husband Steve Stricker, Willie Beshire and Rick Ralph pose for the camera.



Marv Strauch was the winner of a craft beer basket and was also a silent auction winner of a guided trip with Kevin Feenstra.



Carol Hennessy proudly displays her craft beer basket bucket prize.



Bob Borhauer accepts a \$350 certificate as the Rod Raffle first prize toward a custom rod from Coren's Rod and Reel from Dave Lunardini.



Greg Prosen (left) presents Mike Pieklo with the second prize—an Orvis fly rod—along with Joe Weisenberger and Orvis store manager Glenn Martenson at the Orvis Yorktown store.



Jim Schmiedeskamp accepts the "Traveling Trout" (actually cod) from the 2013 winner—Dave Lunardini as the Rod Raffle "honorable mention" prize.

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

Stan Zarnowiecki	Vice President	Officer	vp@obt.org	708.606.4148
Dave Lunardini	Treasurer	Officer	djl22@att.net	630.939.3471
Carol Hennessy	Secretary	Officer	chennessy@earthlink.net	815.341.6010
Rick Ralph	Director	Conservation Program	Rralph1@comcast.net	630.939.2643
Jim Schmiedeskamp	Director	Publicity/Communications	jimschmieds@gmail.com	312.375.6502
Marv Strauch	Director	Youth Education	mjstrauch@comcast.net	708.638.1318
Joe Weisenberger	Director	Membership	flytie8@yahoo.com	630.390.9494