



## Oak Brook Trout Unlimited Conservation and Youth Education Program History

### Stream Restoration Projects

Our Chapter has been a persistent advocate for and contributed money and volunteer energy to coldwater conservation projects nationally, regionally and in its home state. It has helped with conservancy projects from the shores of Lake Michigan and Superior to the Ozarks of Missouri. OBTU has supported TUDARE (Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort), TU's current flagship Midwestern stream program, through operating grants and monetary contributions, volunteer efforts and planning collaboration with local government partners for projects in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. *OBTU will provide volunteer and financial support to TUDARE (\$1,000) and to TUDARE projects on Farmer's Valley Creek (\$4,000) and Weister Creek (\$4,000) in Wisconsin in 2016.*



### Coldwater Fishery Grants

OBTU has raised its voice and opened its pocketbook for the benefit of Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes, the rivers that feed them and the trout, steelhead and salmon fisheries they support. It has consulted on management issues and contributed to physical projects such as experimental spawning beds in Lake Michigan for lake trout restoration; it has put money, time and expertise into stream improvement, spawning habitat and passage projects for salmon and steelhead; and it has supported brood stock development, stream improvement, habitat conservancy and population tracking related to Lake Superior coaster brook trout restoration efforts. *Our future initiatives will investigate opportunities to partner with like-minded coldwater fishery conservation organizations in the Midwest and Great Lakes.*



### Michigan's Coldwater River Watershed

OBTU continues to put volunteers to work on aquatic conservation projects throughout the Upper Midwest. For over a decade, it has worked at least once a summer on various projects on the Coldwater River and its tributaries with the Schrems West Michigan Chapter and the Coldwater River Watershed Council. In the recent past, this has included monitoring the insect populations in the mainstream and in some upstream tributaries of Michigan's Coldwater River watershed. These survey results already constitute base-line data for assessing the impact of an unfortunate tree and shrub removal project gone wrong on this river last summer. *OBTU will continue its commitment to the Coldwater in 2016 when its volunteers will again conduct spring and fall macro-invertebrate surveys in the watershed.*



### Trout in the Classroom

OBTU's "Trout in the Classroom" curriculum was introduced in 2008 to south and western Chicago suburban middle school and high school classrooms. OBTU provided funding for many aquaria and equipment packages, as well as untold hours of set-up time and classroom instruction. Seven years and over 4,000 students later, the environmental educational program is in its eighth year educating students about the water quality parameters necessary to transform trout eggs into the tiny fish that those students will release into DNR specified Illinois waters. *As TU leaders, we know that the future of our continued success is the next generation of river stewards we inspire to take care of our rivers and streams long after we are gone.*



### Youth Fly Fishing Instruction

The Chapter's Youth Fly Fishing Program is now in its 12th year offering one-day fly fishing classes to boys and girls 11 years and older. OBTU furnishes all equipment, fly tying materials and instruction free of charge. The Chapter has introduced over 700 young people to fly fishing through this program. OBTU supports a TU Teens program at Riverside Brookfield High School where young men and women learn the skills of fly fishing and fly tying and are introduced to TU's conservation ethic. The Chapter also provides leadership, mentors and financial support for the annual Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp on the banks of the Au Sable River in Michigan for 13-18 year olds. *OBTU will continue all of these programs in 2016.*

