



## My Kind of Summer Camp

By: Brienna Shear

Illinois Trout Unlimited holds a week long camp every summer in Michigan on the AuSable River, and I was one of the lucky people invited to attend this year. During this camp I learned more of the ins and outs of fly-fishing. My grandpa taught me how to fly-fish when I was little, but I hardly ever caught fish and I didn't know why. This camp taught me a multitude of things that made me a better fly-fisher. Being part of this camp gave my new friends and I many amazing experiences. I learned so many things during our week of fishing; I hope I can remember them all.

Throughout the week I had the opportunity to share my knowledge of the AuSable River and teach everyone else there about it. I was asked to share information about a telemetry study I'm involved in that tracks Brown Trout on the AuSable River. One day I taught everyone about the Kirtland Warbler a bird that migrates all the way from the Bahamas just to nest in the jack pines native to Grayling and Roscommon. The rest of the week I shared my experiences on the AuSable, and I was a navigator for my instructors so they wouldn't get lost.

Most of the week we learned about the AuSable River and how it was destroyed during



the logging era. The loggers used the AuSable River to transport the felled timber, destroying the fish habitats along the way. After the logging era the people of Michigan decided to put trout in the river for fishing. To make the river habitat more suitable, conservationists have been building structures and modifying the river to how it will best suit the trout. Our group worked together helping put in new log structures for trout spawning beds, so when they spawn they can hide from predators. It was amazing that I got to help make my own hometown river a better place with my friends.

The new friends I made were the best! There were fifteen other attendees to this camp. Four of them, including me, we're from Michigan, which was great because I got to get reacquainted with friends from the TU camp I went to last year. The rest of the people there were from Illinois. It was

## Future Meetings and Events

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

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

Board of Directors Meeting

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

General Membership Meeting  
Strip mining the Driftless area

### October 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Board of Directors Meeting

### October 15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

General Membership Meeting  
OBTU membership survey presentation

### October 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday

Coldwater Invertebrate Study

### October 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday

Manistee Fishing Trip

### November 12<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Board of Directors Meeting

### November 19<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

General Membership Meeting  
Randy Berndt fly fishing in the U.P.

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

Holiday Meeting

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





cool seeing people from a different state enjoy the AuSable the way I do. My roommate was awesome, her name was Adriana and she had never fly-fished before, but by the end of the week, you would have thought she grew up doing it. In fact, a lot of the people who attended had never fly-fished, but they were feeling like pros by the end.



The instructors were so great and helped me understand what flies to use and how to execute good casts. Most of the week I either used a Trico or a Blue-wing-olive (both are super small flies) while fishing. We fished in the morning and at night when the hatches were taking place. It's amazing to watch millions of bugs float down the river and cast your fly in the midst of it. I learned though, that even if you have the right fly on, there's still a chance that the fish aren't going to hit your fly. That chance is one in a million. Also, I learned even if you aren't getting any hits, it does not mean there are not any fish in the river.

On the third day of camp we went to Stephan bridge to shock fish with the DNR for a count. To shock fish, the DNR use electrified poles to stun the fish so they will float to the surface where they are collected with nets. The electricity does not hurt the fish, it just stuns them for a bit. Once the fish are netted, they are marked and then released. Then, the DNR repeat this process. Taking the ratio of how many fish were tagged to those that were not, they find out how many fish are in the area. This tells how climate and habitat conditions have effected the fish population. We shocked so many fish you couldn't possibly say there were none in the river.

One of the best experiences I had was on the fifth night while we were fishing on the North Branch with the camp leader Greg Prosen. Nothing was rising and there were no bugs coming off of the the water. So, Adriana and I decided to use a streamer which represents a type of water fly. Nothing was biting at all, so slowly I started walking down stream. It was almost dusk when the fish started rising, but only in one spot, right in front of me! First we put on a Catis Emerger but that didn't seem to work, so we put on a Mole Fly. Luckily the Mole Fly was the perfect fly for the Blue-wing-olive hatch that was going on. The Mole Fly replicates a fly that just hatched and could still be found floating on the water. Right off the bat I caught a nine inch Brook Trout, the biggest fish I have ever caught on a fly rod. Then, I started pulling them in one after another. Since there were so many flies on the water, I couldn't tell which one was mine. I cast my fly out where the fish weren't really rising, so when they did rise, I knew it would be at my fly. I caught five fish in only half an hour. It was amazing!

This camp was the highlight of my summer and I hope I will never forget it. I met many new friends, learned new things, and most importantly caught fish! Trouts Unlimited fly-fishing camp, I believe, has made myself and all the other attendees better fly-fishers and conservationist of our trout streams and rivers. I will always be grateful that TU provided me with the opportunity to go to this camp. A sincere thank you to all those involved.

## More thoughts on the camp experience

By: Audrey Jennings

Overall, my experience at camp was fantastic. I learned a lot, laughed a lot, and had a lot of fun. This camp was great if you enjoyed science or are simply curious, because the long days are spent collecting bugs, learning about fish, exploring habitats, observing stream ecology, hearing about fluvial geomorphology (Vocab points), wading, exploring the AuSable area, fly tying, and, of course, fly fishing. (Personally, I enjoyed the fly fishing the most.) I learned so much about all of these things, the week in Michigan felt more like a year's worth of adventures and excitement. Also, everyone there was very nice, including the camp leaders, the campers, and the kind people we met. This was one of the best weeks of my life, from the people to the activities to the beautiful scenery.

One event I remember is from after we had had a very long day. That morning, we had fished, collected bugs, took a hike, learned about how the water shapes the earth, the way the Ausable's ecosystem(s) survive, and had surveyed a section of the river, as well as a lot I am forgetting. More specifically, I believe we had gone to our fishing spot when it began to thunder and lightning. It was four of us girls, three mentors, and bags of gear, and as the rain came down we all scrambled to get in the car. I remember landing on my roommate Trinity after jumping in. So at this point we were cold, wet, and sad because we couldn't go fishing. Everyone sat kind of miserably for a few minutes as we drove away, until us four girls happened to glance at each other. We cracked up. Once we regained our breath, we asked the mentors to crank the radio up and sang aloud, told stupid science jokes (A photon checks into a motel. The bellhop asks if he needs help with his luggage, to which the photon responds "No, I'm travelling light"), and laughed the whole hour back to camp. Even when the night went wrong, we still had a fantastic time, and were able to go fishing about 11 times that week.



All things OBTU...

# All things OBTU...

Monthly meetings will return with our September meeting on Wednesday the 17th, starting at 7:00 pm. The big surprise for that night will be a change in meeting location. From now on, all meetings will be held at the Central park West building at the Oak Brook recreation center. This was the old location of meetings a few years back. Thanks to the recreation center director we can now afford the rent and what a great venue this change will be, more space to do more things.

For all of you old time members you know the place, newer members please refer to the map on the recreation center website. Basically drive into the facility like always but before you enter the parking lot turn right at the stop sign and follow the road until it dead ends, keep going, you will find it!

September will also kick off our annual custom rod raffle and it also has a new addition. We will be adding 2 more prizes, a fly rod, and a fly reel. When you get your tickets in the mail please send them in with your donation. This money goes to help with our general operations, like the monthly meeting room rent, along with speaker fees and other costs associated with that part of the budget.

October will be our month for travel as we head up to the Coldwater river for our fall invertebrate study and our fishing trip to the Manistee river at Schmidt outfitters. There is more information on these two events in this issue.

If you have been opening your email from OBTU you should have seen a request to fill out a membership survey that was designed and implemented by one of our newest board members, Jim Schmiedeskamp. Jim has a background in advertising, media, publicity and communications and he really did a bang up job on this project. I am very glad to have him as a board member. Jim will make a presentation of the results at our October general meeting. He, along with all of the other board members are really doing great work. Dave Lunardini, our treasurer, just held our annual budget meeting, Rick Ralph, conservation chair, has an ongoing committee and is always on the look out for new projects for our chapter to get involved in, Marv Strauch, youth education chair has his hands full with our trout in the class program and our learn to fly fish days. Joe Weisenberger, membership chair, is contacting all of the new members that we have been getting from the Orvis 101 and 201 classes. Carol Hennessy, secretary, has produced excellent board meeting minutes and even hosted a board meeting at her home in beautiful Berwyn. Rounding out the board, Ron Abrant, Joe Vitti, and Claude Mays always lend a helping hand and pitch in where we need them.

Board meetings have been well attended, spirited, and everyone is doing their best to make your chapter great. But we can always use more help so if you are interested in helping out please contact a board member and talk it over.

## 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

**Officers: President:** Open • **Vice President:** Stan Zarnowiecki - vp@obtuo.org - 708-606-4148 • **Treasurer:** David Lunardini - dj122@att.net - 630-939-3471 • **Secretary:** Carol Hennessy - chennessy@earthlink.net • **Directors:** Ron Abrant - rjafisher@gmail.com - 630-865-3086 Claude Mays - cmaysiii@gmail.com • Joe Vitti - vittifam@ameritech.net - 630-969-2251 • Joe Weisenberger - flytie8@yahoo.com Rick Ralph - r.ralph1@comcast.net • Jim Schmiedeskamp - j\_schmieds@yahoo.com **Emeritus Directors:** Jeff Berg - salmonsafari@sbcglobal.net - 630-629-5681 • Wally Bock - wjbock1@comcast.net - 708-598-6718 • Joe Hammon - jhammon@aol.com - 708-453-8102 • Ed Michael - e1michael@cs.com - 847-831-4159 • Doug Vanerka - dvanerka@comcast.net - 630-655-0084.

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## Survey Day

# OBTU – CRWC Macroinvertebrate Survey Day October 18, 2014

**O**ak Brook TU members will be returning to the Coldwater River and tributaries to conduct our 2nd Macroinvertebrate Survey in 2014. We will be conducting a survey each spring and fall, returning to the same sites, and hopefully adding new sites, as our volunteer base increases. The plan is to meet at Tyler Creek Country Club campground at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning, October 18th.

From there we will break into teams of four volunteers visiting each of sample sites in the watershed: Dolan Preserve on the Coldwater River; Freeport Dam site on the Coldwater River; Duck Creek; Messer Creek. Sampling will take place over a 300 linear foot run of the river.

A summary of the protocol is as follows:

- Each team consists of 4 members.
- Two members actually sample; one with a net scooping under bankside features or disturbing stream bottom, the other carrying a collection bucket for the materials collected.
- The other two members draw an initial diagram of the sample site (300 linear feet of stream), and in the future note any significant changes to the stream features – deadfalls, emplacements, etc.
- The team returns to a central point and looks through the contents of their container; sorting the invertebrates, and then counting.

Work should be concluded by 1:00 PM and lunch.

This is a great opportunity to pitch in on a valuable data collection program, which will enable the Coldwater River Watershed Council (CRWC) to monitor the effects of their stream improvement projects, mitigation of agricultural run-off, and in general, to better understand the invertebrate populations of the Coldwater system.

As well, this is a great opportunity to enjoy a weekend of fishing in western Michigan. The Coldwater River and Rogue River are open to trout fishing year-round through much of their course. Mid-October is prime salmon fishing on the Muskegon River. And OBTU is also planning a trip to the Manistee to coincide with this project.

There are campsites available at Tyler Creek Country Club, and numerous reasonable & fine hotels in the Grand Rapids area.

So please contact Stan Zarnowiecki [vp@obtu.org](mailto:vp@obtu.org) or Marvin Strauch [youthed@obtu.org](mailto:youthed@obtu.org) to sign up, or for more information.

## Monthly Feature

### The Librarian's Corner

by Phil Young

## First Cast to Double Haul

with Cathy Beck (Barry and Cathy Beck / 2008) 1hr 57m / DVD

*First Cast to Double Haul* is a series of detailed lessons in the selection of fly fishing equipment and in the techniques of fly casting and fly fishing. For beginning fly fishers, Cathy starts with a discussion of rod and line weight, how to assemble a fly rod and reel and how to string and hold a rod. Basic casts include the overhead cast and the roll cast and how to shoot line. Also discussed are how to load a reel with backing, fly line and leader and the knots required to do so. Cathy then moves to the water to show pond and stream fishing techniques, how to mend line to reduce drag and how to cast with a single and double haul.

This is a great DVD for everyone. Beginning fly fishers can get valuable information regarding basic fly fishing equipment and techniques. Intermediate fly fishers can get tips on stream presentation and the double haul cast. Experienced fly fishers, who are instructing others, can observe Cathy's easy-going teaching style as she gives casting and fly fishing lessons.

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.



**September Speaker**



**Strip Mining  
the Driftless Area**  
Reggie McLeod

Our September speaker will be Reggie McLeod, currently editing and publishing Big River Magazine. Since 1980 Reggie McLeod has written about the Upper Mississippi River for countless publications, including USA Today, The Chicago Tribune and the St. Paul Pioneer Press. He has served as editor and publisher of Big River Magazine since the first issue, in January 1993. He frequently fishes and explores area streams, channels and backwaters. Big River Magazine covers more than 400 miles of the Mississippi River and the river communities from the Twin Cities to the Quad Cities. To the best of our knowledge, Big River is the only independent magazine about a river in the world

Reggie will talk about the explosive growth of frac sand mining in the Driftless Area and how it is affecting the area's environment and communities. He will also show dramatic aerial photos of three of the largest mines.

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 17th, and make sure you don't miss this presentation.

You can visit [www.obtu.org](http://www.obtu.org) for directions on the location of the meeting



**October Presentation**

**Oak Brook TU Membership  
Survey Presentation**

Results from our recent Oak Brook Chapter membership survey will be presented at the October 15 General Membership meeting by Jim Schmiedeskamp, Oak Brook TU board member. Over 170 surveys were completed by our membership.

The objectives of the 33-question survey were:

- Obtain current membership information to help develop and tailor communications and programs of value.
- Confirm reasons for being a TU member.
- Obtain feedback on current Oak Brook TU meetings and activities.
- Identify fund-raising opportunities.
- Identify potential volunteers for various Oak Brook TU activities.

Some key findings include:

- Primary reason for TU membership is national and local conservation initiatives through financial and volunteer support.
- Members want more local fishing information at chapter meetings and from the Oak Brook website.
- Six of 10 members were not aware that the Oak Brook TU chapter does not receive any financial support from annual TU membership dues.

In addition to all other findings, improvements to Oak Brook TU chapter communications and new programs will be introduced for the upcoming year in response to membership feedback.

A copy of the complete survey results will be posted to the Oak Brook TU website in October after the chapter meeting presentation.

**OBTU Needs You.  
Volunteer Today.**

# October in Michigan...

Stan Zarnowiecki

This October, Saturday the 18th through Tuesday the 21st, OBTU members can come along on a fly fishing trip planned to the Manistee and Pine rivers in Wellston, Michigan. We have reserved accommodations at Schmidt Outfitters. The house will sleep up to 6 comfortably and we also have a cabin room that will hold 2 more. You can wade or we have guides booked currently for 6 people, 3 boats for 2 days, Sunday and Monday.

The cost will be \$150.00 per man which covers lodging only for all three nights; guides, boat rental, licenses, and food will be extra. We are asking for a \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit as soon as possible to secure your reservation. Guide fees are \$400.00 per trip with 2 fishermen per boat. If you want to reserve a spot in the boat, send \$100.00 per man per day.

Contact Stan Zarnowiecki for more info, [shotawisky@yahoo.com](mailto:shotawisky@yahoo.com) or 708-606-4148 cell.

Please make separate checks for lodging and guiding.

Checks can be made out to Schmidt Outfitters and given or mailed to:

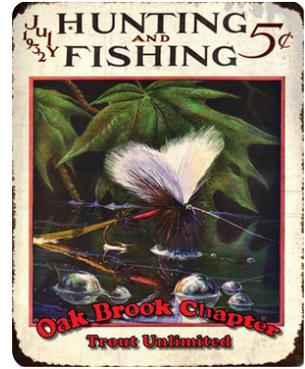
Stan Zarnowiecki  
745 S. Ashland Ave.  
La Grange, Illinois 60525

See <http://www.schmidtoutfitters.com/> for our accommodations.

OBTU for your rec room, garage, family room, fly tying room, etc...

We have made arrangements with a manufacturer of high quality, made in America, nostalgic, metal signs depicting various outdoor and fly fishing related images. Each year we will have a new sign with a different fly fishing related logo. We will be taking orders

for these signs in the next few months and put together a group order. The cost is \$30.00 for each sign and an example of this year's sign is below. They will be ready by December and ready for the holidays. We will have the order shipped to one location and distribute them at meetings, or we can mail them to you. Please contact Stan Zarnowiecki for more information and send your order of how many signs that you want along with a check made out to Oak Brook Trout Unlimited (OBTU) to:



Stan Zarnowiecki  
745 S. Ashland Ave.  
La Grange, Illinois 60525  
708-606-4148

Visit <http://classicoutdoormagazines.com/MetalSignsCstmTxt-Location/metalSigns-Oakbrook.html> for some additional information.

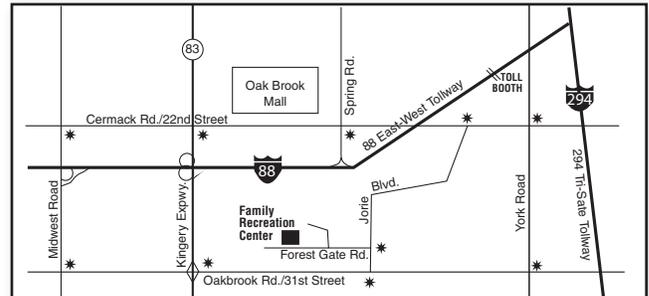


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**Oak Brook Chapter meets at the Oak Brook Park District Recreation Center 1300 Forest Gate Rd.**  
From Jorie Blvd. Turn west at Forest Gate Rd. (first stop light north of 31st Street). Follow Forest Gate straight into the Recreation Center parking lot. We meet in Meeting Room 2/3.



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