

## Spring Fling Event Kicks off Fishing Season

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited (OBTU) hosted its first-ever Spring Fling event for its members and the general public on Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the White Eagle Homeowners Clubhouse at 4265 White Eagle Drive in Naperville.

"This program was an opportunity for both our members and the general public to learn more about our conservation volunteer activities, youth education programs and fly fishing basics—from fly rod casting to fly tying for beginners," said Jim Schmiedeskamp, Oak Brook TU director and event organizer.

### Event Had Something for Everyone

The event featured information about Trout Unlimited conservation volunteer activities planned for the 2015 spring, summer and fall seasons as well as youth education programs including "Trout in the Classroom," youth fly fishing Saturday classes this summer and fall, and a summer youth fly fishing camp in Michigan on the famous Au Sable River.

To support the organization's fund raising, the Spring Fling event featured a used gear sale and a "One of a Kind" silent auction featuring guided fishing trips to Wisconsin, Michigan, Montana, Idaho and Vermont as well as new fishing equipment and collectible artwork. "The used gear sale generated around \$700 in revenue thanks to a combination of donated items from our members and consignment sales," said Jim Schmiedeskamp.

The event concluded with an informative presentation by Kyle Zempel, owner and lead guide of Black Earth Angling Co.—a Wisconsin guide service which offers trips in pursuit of trout, smallmouth bass and pike. A free lunch featuring grilled bratwursts and hot dogs was provided for attendees and enjoyed on the outside patio as we received a break in the weather.

"While the attendance by our members was disappointing, we had over 40 members of the general public attend and signed up five new TU members," said Jim Schmiedeskamp. "Many of these attendees enjoyed our open house event and purchased both used gear items and merchandise from our vendor partners—Orvis Yorktown and DuPage Fly Fishing Co. They also supported our silent auction and bucket raffle.

### General Public Attendees Enjoyed Event

A sampling of non-OBTU attendees enjoyed:

- Jim Chesniak of Bridgeview. Jim learned about the Spring Fling event when he picked up a flyer at the Orvis Yorktown store. A regular attendee of Ducks Unlimited events, Jim was impressed with the organization of OBTU's event and grilled brat lunch. He thought the used gear sale was a great idea and purchased a used fly tying vise for \$40. He also won a silent auction "Pheasants" framed print donated by Bass Pro Shops. He said he'd be back next year.
- Maryellen Long of Lisle. Maryellen is new to fly fishing and heard about the event from an OBTU member. She tried her hand at the fly rod casting instruction station and says she will follow up by attending one of the Orvis Yorktown FF101 classes in July. She learned about the Women's Initiative from our Membership Table and purchased some raffle tickets which netted her one of the 16 bucket raffle prizes.
- Jim Raaf of Naperville. Jim learned about the event from the White Eagle newsletter and decided to check it out. Jim is somewhat new to fly fishing and takes advantages of trips to the family condo in Colorado to fish whenever possible. Jim didn't return home empty-handed. He was a silent auction winner of the Big Sky Brewing "Trout Slayer" bar sign which he'll take back to Colorado.
- Phil McCluskey of Plainfield. Phil wasn't sure where he heard about the Spring Fling event but was glad he came as he signed up as a new TU member. He came looking for more information on fly fishing and found it from OBTU's many knowledgeable volunteers working the event. He was impressed with the event's multi-faceted activities.
- Brad Eaton of Bloomingdale. Brad is a fly fishing blogger who learned about the event from Kyle Zempel—the event's featured speaker. Fly fishing and taking great outdoor photos are two of Brad's hobbies away from his full-time job. He enjoyed meeting OBTU's many volunteers and finally joined TU as a member. Brad did a nice photo essay about the Spring Event for his blog "Tippetts and Tales" which is posted to his website ([www.tippettsandtales.com](http://www.tippettsandtales.com)).

"I want to thank all of our OBTU volunteers who did a great job with the event planning and supporting the various activities during the day of the event," said Jim Schmiedeskamp. "The attendee feedback was very positive and we'll make it better in 2016."

## Meetings and Events

Chapter meetings will resume the third Wednesday of the month starting September 16 at the Oak Brook Recreation Center, Central Park West building near 31st Street and Jorie Blvd. in Oak Brook, Illinois.

### August 12, 2015

OBTU Directors Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

### September 9, 2015

OBTU Directors Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

### September 16, 2015

General Membership Meeting  
Speaker: Badger Tenkara  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### October 10, 2015

Coldwater River  
Macroinvertebrate Study

### October 14, 2015

OBTU Directors Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

### October 21, 2015

General Membership Meeting  
Speaker: TBD  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### November 11, 2015

OBTU Directors Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

### November 18, 2015

General Membership Meeting  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

[www.obtu.org](http://www.obtu.org)



Carol Hennessy and Joe Weisenberger welcome Spring Fling attendees who participated in fly tying workshops and fly rod casting instruction sessions.

## All Things OBTU...

By Stan Zarnowiecki, President

I hope you are enjoying your summer and wetting a line as often as possible. Oak Brook TU has been busy despite our summer vacation without any general membership meetings in June, July and August. Volunteers are helping out at Orvis Yorktown with 101 and 201 fly fishing classes. If you would like to volunteer for this program, there are plenty of dates left so contact Tom Hoagland at trhmt1@yahoo.com.

Saturday June 13th, 13 OBTU members traveled up to the Coldwater River and Tyler creek in Michigan for our second spring macroinvertebrate study. I went up earlier, Wednesday, to get things set up for our newly formed teen club members—students from Riverside Brookfield High school. Six of them, three young ladies and three young men, along with two teachers came up to camp out, learn how to fly fish, catch a trout, and participate in the project. Everyone had a great time, despite the omnipresent rains that washed out Tyler creek and the Coldwater River for fishing.

New plans were made and OBTU members and the teen club traveled a little bit north to the Muskegon River, which although rising was not muddy. Students donned waders and fly rods and everyone caught a trout, with some catching multiple fish. I was privileged to spend the entire weekend with a group of students, teenagers, young adults, whatever your choice of description, who were the most interested, unselfish, complaint-free, engaging group that I have ever been with. After a weekend of leaky waders, on and off thunderstorms, a muddy campground, leaky tents, bugs, (in and out of the water)—in a few words, not ideal conditions—they packed up on Sunday morning and before they left, thanked our chapter for providing them with the experience that weekend and all of the previous meetings that we had at the high school throughout the year.

The board of directors still meet every month, working on many different aspects for our members. The Illinois TU youth camp is scheduled at the end of July where OBTU members and volunteers led by Willie Beshire, will serve as mentors, helping a new group of youth to experience the outdoors, fly fishing, and a great time.

Keep our upcoming first fall meeting on your schedule—Wednesday September 16. We will be meeting again at 7 p.m. at the Oak Brook Recreation Center, Central Park West building near 31st Street and Jorie Blvd. In Oak Brook. Our speaker that evening will be from Badger Tenkara who will provide demo rods for members interested in casting these rods out back prior to the meeting starting at 5:00 pm.

## Orvis Yorktown Thanks FF101 and FF201 Volunteers

Orvis Yorktown kicked off their 2015 fly fishing basics classes for beginners on April 25 and will conclude them on July 12. Orvis segments their classes into two sessions—Fly Fishing 101 and Fly Fishing 201. FF101 is for beginners of all ages where attendees learn the fly fishing basics from outfit rigging through fly casting. FF101 graduates can advance to the FF201 class which features a short outing on local water for a chance for each participant to catch their first fish!

“With the Orvis Fly Fishing 101/201 season winding down and only a handful of classes to go, I would like to thank all of the OBTU volunteers who took time out of their weekend schedules to help run the program,” said Glenn Martenson, Orvis Yorktown store manager. “We truly would not be able to have the success we experience with this program without the help each from Oak Brook Trout Unlimited and its members. And special thanks to Tom Hoagland for coordinating the volunteer efforts this year and assuring we had enough volunteer staff for each class.”

### Over 170 Participants and New TU Members

To date, over 170 participants have taken the 101 and 201 classes through June which will help the Orvis Yorktown store meet its 2015 participation goal with several more July classes to be conducted. However, this year’s total will fall short of its 2014 participation of 280 class members—which was a stellar year according to Martenson.

The FF101 classes are usually comprised of 12 to 15 participants which are led by 5-6 OBTU and Orvis volunteer instructors. The FF201 classes are larger (15-20 members) because there are fewer classes.

“I think it’s a great program for TU because it not only introduces new people to the sport of fly fishing, but also adds to the ranks of our members,” said Tom Hoagland, OBTU volunteer organizer. “The class make-up is typically 80% male adults with the balance being women and kids. We have had OBTU volunteers fill 71 instructor slots through the month of June with at least 2 hours per session for a total of 142 man hours devoted so far to this program.”

In addition to the free instruction, all FF01 participants also join Trout Unlimited through a special free first-year membership.

### OBTU Volunteers Recognized

OBTU volunteers included Darwin Adams, Wayne Bernahl, Steve Carlson, Ed Evans, Frank Harford, Fred Hodge, Tom Hoagland (OBTU coordinator), Ron Kurasz, Ralph Loza, Jeff Kroger, Greg Prosen, Frank Sprouse, Craig Thornton, Joe Weisenberger, Tom Wilhelm, Phil Young, Stan Zarnowiecki and Frank Zbylski.



An Orvis FF101 class participant receives fly casting instruction (left photo) while a FF201 class poses for their “graduation” photo.

## Coldwater River Spring Study Revisited June 20

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited (OBTU) members returned to the Coldwater River on June 13th to continue the three-year macroinvertebrate survey as part of a Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) grant which kicked off in 2014.

“Every year, for the past 10 years, the various Coldwater River watershed projects have attracted a healthy number of OBTU volunteers,” said Marv Strauch, who is a member of the Coldwater River Watershed Council (CRWC). “This year was no different. Thirteen members either spent the weekend combining the survey with fishing opportunities in western Michigan, or traveled up for the day to take part. But this year we were also joined by six students and two teachers from Riverside Brookfield High School TU Teens.”

### It's Worth Stepping Back a Bit at This Point...

Back in 2010, OBTU initiated a Trout in the Classroom program with Riverside Brookfield High School (RBHS) in Mr. Jame Holt's freshman science class. Mr. Holt was also moderator of the RBHS Fishing Club, and eventually we began to look at possibilities of future joint activities. Entering the 2014-15 school year, OBTU President Stan Zarnowiecki approached RBHS with the concept of forming a TU Teens group within the Fishing Club activity. This move from youth education to full TU membership would be incorporated into Trout Unlimited's Headwaters Youth Program.

There have been a few activities during the winter, including fly tying dates, and a casting instruction class. Things were formalized with a Memorandum of Understanding completed in April. It's a first effort for OBTU, and based on the caliber of young people joining us this year, it's definitely time and effort well spent.

### Coldwater River Study—Year 2

As with the past spring and fall surveys, audit teams were formed, and each team visited one of five sites along the Coldwater River or its major tributaries—Tyler Creek, Duck Creek or Messer Brook. Each site was observed for any physical changes in the past year, and then samples were taken by D-nets of the various habitat types within that site. The samples were collected into large pails and each team returned to our base at Tyler Creek Country Club to identify and count everything collected.

This year presented a couple of challenges to our project as well as area fishing opportunities. First was the rain. Over three inches fell in recent days in the area,

and virtually all the streams and rivers were high, and off-color or completely roiled. Fortunately, the Muskegon River, though high, was flowing clear. It provided an opportunity for OBTU volunteers, RBHS students and a few CRWC mentors to fish on Friday, and some returned for Saturday fishing. Of course, this same rain made the survey itself a bit more complicated, as the Coldwater and tributaries were all completely off color.

More importantly, in a case of what seems to be bureaucratic bungling, the upper 10 miles of the Coldwater River were almost completely denuded of the trees along its banks which caused the banks of much of that same stretch to be severely damaged. This work was supposedly undertaken to improve drainage for area farms. Thanks to an intervention by Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality, this work came to a halt. More on this story in another newsletter issue. But for now, the upstream damage led to more dramatic siltation in the river.

### Thanks to OBTU and RBHS Volunteers

It was a good weekend. As always for these events, the Tyler Creek Country Club provided free camp sites for all our volunteers. Paul Eberhart of the CRWC provided a dinner of pulled pork, home baked potato bread rolls, and cole slaw for us on Friday evening. Stan Zarnowiecki made breakfast and lunch on Saturday for all. And of course, the survey – our project – was a success.

Thanks to OBTU volunteers Willie Beshire, Bob Borhauer, Steve Carlson, Rich Ference, Mike Governale, Jim Jones, Dave Lunardini, Ed Michael, Greg Prosen, Rick Ralph, Marvin Strauch, Tom Wilhelm, and Stan Zarnowiecki. Also, thanks to the Riverside Brookfield HS TU Teens – Lauren Primer, Rena McCullough, Patrick Coy, Johannes Gundlach, Tim Kuchynka, and Margaret Miezio, as well as their faculty moderators – Jame Holt and Kevin Baldus.

We return to the Coldwater River on October 10th for the fall survey. We will once again require a staff of volunteers to complete the survey. And once again, the Coldwater River, Tyler Creek, the Rogue River, and the Muskegon River will all offer fine and varied fishing opportunities for anglers interested in catching trout and fall spawning chinook salmon. And of course there is the camaraderie of working together with your friends on a valuable project.



Caption: OBTU member Bob Borhauer (center) and RBHS teacher Jame Holt along with a Riverside Brookview High School student pause while collecting Coldwater River samples.



Grillmaster Stan Zarnowiecki prepared both breakfast and lunch for the Coldwater Study volunteers.

## Minnesota—Land of 10,000 Lakes and Driftless Area!

By Willie Beshire and Frank Sproue

For Oak Brook TU members, your first thoughts of “the Driftless Area” are probably of Wisconsin, or perhaps Iowa. Participants in OBTU’s April 29-May 3 spring outing discovered that the Minnesota Driftless Area also offers superb fly fishing only five hours from the western suburbs.

The Minnesota DNR publication “Trout Angling Opportunities in Southern & Central Minnesota” provides detail maps of more than 100 trout streams. The streams are well managed and improved. There is an abundance of quality water with ample public access. Fishing pressure is lower than Wisconsin and Iowa.

Minnesota has a diversity of cold water streams to satisfy a wide range of appetites. Brown trout are plentiful in water classed as “catch and release—artificial only”. Besides wade fishing, there is larger water for drift boat enthusiasts. A conservationist can search for elusive heritage brook trout in a secluded spring creek. One can fish unobstructed water in pasture land nestled in a picturesque valley—“groomed like a golf course”—to quote more than one participant. The adventurous can venture down a 4-wheel drive track to explore streams through rugged, wooded, public land rich with wildlife.

We caught a lot of trout! We arrived with invaluable pre-trip intelligence from our own Carol Hennessy who is a native of the area. Carol informed us of her husband’s favorite fishing hole. (We’re sworn to secrecy). We had the good fortune of arriving at the location in the midst of a prolific black caddis hatch with the brown trout rising like popcorn. We had a blast! Throughout the trip, there were multiple reports of 20+ fish days within our group and Stan reported a 50-fish day from his drift boat trip—can anyone verify that? There were also reports of members getting more than their waders wet.

Accommodations at the Cedar Valley Resort were outstanding, offering comfortable, private rooms with spacious common areas for dining and socializing. We had a lively group. Every subject imaginable was vigorously debated in colorful style. One high point was watching Game 1 of the NHL Minnesota Wild vs. Chicago Blackhawks play-off series. There were nine Chicago fans congregated around a wide-screen TV in one common area. There was one Minnesota fan (our guide and chef Kip Vieth of Wildwood Float Trips) who was exiled to his own wide-screen TV in a separate area. When the first period score reached Blackhawks 3, Wild 0, the Chicago mob was riotous. However, the tide quickly turned when the Wild tied the score 3 to 3 in the second period. We all enjoyed an exciting finish with the Hawks prevailing 4 to 3. OBTU’s Spring Outing 2015 was a total success.

We highly recommend that you put the Spring 2016 return outing to Minnesota on your calendar!

(See Minnesota trip photos on page 5)

## Michigan Kings of October

Are you interested in targeting fall King Salmon this fall?

Oak Brook TU member Tom Hoagland has reserved guides and accommodations in Newaygo, Michigan on the Muskegon River for a fall fishing trip. Along with Kings (also known as chinook salmon), the river should be holding steelhead, browns and rainbows.

The fall bite is memorable, as most fish will be keying in on eggs being laid by the salmon in their redds or spawning gravel beds. Guides use egg patterns and beads to fish these giants. Key areas are from the Croton dam on the Muskegon River downstream to Newaygo.

The cost of the trip is approximately \$850.00 per fisherman which includes three days of lodging at a very nice B&B providing breakfast each morning. Kevin Feenstra’s guide service ([www.feenstraguideservice.com](http://www.feenstraguideservice.com)) will be providing the guides with drift boats and lunches for each of the three days. What’s not included are dinners for each of the three days and tip for the guides.

The dates of the trip are Monday, October 12, through Wednesday, October 14. Travel dates would be departing Chicago on Sunday, October 11, and coming home after fishing on Wednesday October 14.

Tom is looking to finalize the reservations and has room for eight fishermen (including himself) so he needs a \$200.00 deposit to hold your spot. Reservations need to be made as soon as possible, as the Feenstra guide service is in very high demand during this fall peak fishing season and these available dates won’t last if they are not reserved soon.

To confirm your reservation or talk to Tom about details, please call him at 630-664-8471 or email him at [trhmt1@yahoo.com](mailto:trhmt1@yahoo.com).

Sounds like a great trip so thanks to Tom for putting this together.



King or chinook salmon will be one of the species pursued during OBTU’s fall trip on the Muskegon River in October.

## Oak Brook TU Photo Gallery



John Weibel and his son visit the DuPage Fly Fishing Co. tent at the Spring Fling event.



Wally Bock and Rich Ference sell raffle tickets for many great prizes at the Finance Table.



Bob Borhauer keeps an eye on the Spring Fling bucket raffle tables.



OBTU members Rick Ralph, Steve Carlson, Marv Strauch and RBHS students Lauren Primer and Rena McCullough (left to right) identify Coldwater River macroinvertebrates.



The spring Coldwater River Study included student and moderator volunteers from Riverside Brookview High School.



Jim Jones helps a Riverside Brookview student identify collected samples from the Coldwater River macroinvertebrate study.



OBTU's spring trip to Minnesota's Driftless Area included both wade fishing and fishing from driftboats.



An OBTU fly fisher proudly displays a nice brown trout from the Minnesota Driftless Area.



Spring trip participants to the Minnesota Driftless Area. Stan Zarnowiecki, Joe Wiesenberger, Jim Jones, Larry Varsek, Ron Kurasz, Ron Abrant, Bob Abrant, Willie Beshire, Frank Sprouse, Ed Michael, Kip Vieth and Carol Hennessey.

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

<b>Stan Zarnowiecki</b>	President	Officer	vp@obt.org	708.606.4148
<b>Rick Ralph</b>	Vice President	Conservation Program	Rralph1@comcast.net	630.939.2643
<b>Dave Lunardini</b>	Treasurer	Officer	djl22@att.net	630.939.3471
<b>Carol Hennessey</b>	Secretary	Officer	clhennessey@earthlink.net	815.341.6010
<b>Jim Schmiedeskamp</b>	Director	Publicity/Communications	jimschmieds@gmail.com	312.375.6502
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