

Rod Raffle Drawing and Holiday Party Fundraiser December 14

Mark your calendar now for our annual Holiday Party Fundraiser and Rod Raffle drawing scheduled Wednesday, December 14th, from 7-9 p.m. at the D.O.C. Wine Bar in the Yorktown Center around the corner from the Orvis store.

This year's event features a wine tasting and food pairing. Besides wine, beer, soft drinks and water will also be available. In addition to the Rod Raffle drawing, a silent auction will feature Midwest and Wyoming guide trips; Orvis and Fishpond gear; wine and craft beer baskets; plus plenty of bucket raffle items.

"We hope this year's holiday event will attract our newest members as well as spouses and guests to get to know each other better," said Jim Schmiedeskamp, board director. "Tickets to the event will cost \$45 apiece and will be available for sale at our November 16 chapter meeting and at the door via check and credit card. Members who purchase tickets at or in advance of our November 18 meeting will be eligible for a special door prize."

Fund Raising Helps Cover Annual Costs

Your donation to our annual rod raffle plus funds raised from our silent auction and bucket raffles help cover our Chapter's general operating expenses for the year for monthly meetings, speakers, and various conservation and youth education activities. The mailing to each member of the Oak Brook Chapter was delivered late October. Additional tickets will be available for sale at the December Holiday Party when the drawing of winning raffle tickets will take place.

"We must provide Chapter funding for these programs because there are no other outside sources of funding," said Dave Lunardini, board director and treasurer. "National Trout Unlimited membership dues are not shared with our Chapter for funding our local conservation activities, youth programs and general operating expenses."

The Chapter hopes each member will also make an optional donation of \$5 per ticket or \$20 for the book of five tickets. Though a financial donation is

appreciated when you return your tickets, it is not necessary to send a donation to enter or win one of the rod raffle prizes, and sending a donation does not increase your chances of winning. To enter the raffle, simply fill out the stubs that are attached to the tickets and mail them back to Oak Brook TU. Any donation to Oak Brook TU is tax deductible.

Rod Raffle Features Orvis Great Prizes

FIRST PRIZE: Orvis RECON 5wt Rod, Reel and Line Outfit-\$653 retail value! Lightest-weight rod in its class. Outfit includes: RECON 9' fly rod, Hydros SL reel, Access line, aluminum rod case and 25-year warranty.

SECOND PRIZE: Orvis Safe Passage Carry It All and Safe Passage Sling Pack-\$268 retail value!

THIRD PRIZE: Orvis \$25 gift cards for 10 winners. Redeemable at any Orvis store or via a website or catalog phone order.

The winning tickets will be drawn at the annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 14th at the D.O.C. Wine Bar around the corner from the Orvis Yorktown store. You can return raffle ticket stubs and your check at our monthly membership meeting on November 16th. Otherwise your ticket stubs should be mailed by December 1, 2016. You do not have to be in attendance at the December 14th Holiday Party to be selected as a winner.

Conservation Projects, Youth Camp and Endowment Fund Donations

Our Rod Raffle mailing will also provide you with the opportunity to specifically donate to our upcoming conservation projects, 2017 Youth Camp and/or Endowment Fund. The objective of the Oak Brook TU Endowment Fund is to provide long-term funding of key conservation initiatives through the fund's money market earnings. The Endowment Fund principal is not available for withdrawal. For questions about the Endowment Fund, please contact Dave Lunardini at djl22@att.net.

Meetings and Events

Save the dates on your calendars

Chapter meetings are at 7:00 p.m. 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 unless otherwise noted.

November 16, Wednesday Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Oak Brook Recreation Center,
Central Park West Building
Speaker: Shedd Aquarium Research
Biologist Dr. Phil Willink on "Lake
Michigan' Aquatic Ecosystems"

December 14, Wednesday Annual Holiday Party & Rod Raffle Drawing 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

D.O.C. Wine Bar
Yorktown Center
(around the corner from Orvis)

December 15, Wednesday Board of Directors Meeting

January 11, 2017 Wednesday Board of Directors Meeting

January 18, 2017 Wednesday Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Oak Brook Recreation Center, Central
Park West Building
Speaker: Guide Will Winan of Big
River Fly Fishing on "Kankakee River
Smallmouth Fishing"
Plus Annual Board Elections



The Oak Brook TU Rod Raffle features as first prize a \$650 Orvis Recon 5wt Rod and Hydros Reel outfit with line and case. Second prize is an Orvis Carry-It-All Case and Sling Pack. There will be 10 third place prizes of a \$25 Orvis gift card.

All Things OBTU...

By Rick Ralph, President

Now is a busy time of year as we focus on holiday traditions. Holidays are good opportunities to re-connect with friends and relatives. We offer some rewarding opportunities to stay connected with Oak Brook Trout Unlimited.

Dr. Phil Willink will give us a better understanding of what's happening in The Great Lakes at our November 16th meeting. We are increasing our conservation focus concerning The Great Lakes, so I am looking forward to Dr. Willink being with us.

If you haven't yet responded to our annual rod raffle offer, bring your tickets to the November 16th meeting or mail them to us now. While there is only one fabulous rod in the raffle the valuable other prizes make this fundraising event a fun way to contribute funds to the chapter operating fund.

The December 14th holiday party will be a great social and fundraising event. Thanks to Carol Hennessy for leading the party planning. We are working hard at providing exciting merchandise and expert guide services in consideration to your donation at the party. Our chapter depends on funds raised at the party to support our operating fund.

Now for some rewarding things that won't cost you anything. We offer you the opportunity to spend a few hours at Orvis Lombard store gift wrapping customer purchases. This is a unique way to meet a number of people and share the OBTU story of conservation and education. Sign up for a time slot with a friend or get to know someone better by working with them.

Our chapter library contains a complete array of resources to learn from or to be entertained by. See our librarian, Phil Young, at our meetings and take home something you will enjoy. We offer opportunities in chapter leadership to fit your skills and interest. All the activities described in this article are the result of members' service. I encourage you to get involved in what we do and consider higher leadership in the future.

Let me know how you'd like to become more involved by email r.ralph1@comcast.net or talk to me at the November 16th meeting or December 14th party.

In December we will publish the nominations for election of directors for 2017. The election will be at the January 18th meeting.

I hope that what we offer is part of your wonderful holiday season.

Rick Ralph

Shedd Biologist to Speak on Lake Michigan Aquatic Ecosystems November 16

Dr. Phil Willink, a senior research biologist at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, will speak on Lake Michigan's aquatic ecosystems including invasive species and current conservation initiatives impacting endangered species. Dr. Willink will also review current research projects.

Dr. Phil Willink joined the Shedd Aquarium in 2012 as senior research biologist for the aquarium's Daniel P. Haerther Center for Conservation and Research, leading Shedd's efforts to develop a comprehensive evaluation of the state's list of threatened and endangered species through on-the-ground population assessments. Dr. Willink has more than 20 years of experience in research, teaching and global expeditions studying fish biodiversity as well as endangered and invasive species. His work includes studies on the Great Lakes, examining the genetics of invasive species and the impact of development and invasive species on native fish populations, as well as a project to publish a field guide of Chicago lakefront fishes. Dr. Willink holds a doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Michigan.

The meeting is open to members, guests and general public at no cost and will be held at the Oak Brook Recreation Center Central Park West Building.



Dr. Phil Willink will speak on Lake Michigan's aquatic ecosystems.

2016 Marks 12th Year of Youth Fly Fishing Classes

By Marvin Strauch, Education Chair

Well, we have now closed the books on the 12th year of Youth Fly Fishing Classes for Oak Brook Chapter Trout Unlimited. By the numbers alone, it was a pretty darned good year: We had 18 OBTU volunteers pitch in to teach 57 young people the basics of fly fishing during Saturdays starting in May through September.

Camp Sagawau, a Cook County Forest Preserve facility, has worked out quite well for us over the last two years. It's an easily accessible site in the Palos area, and provides us with a sizable classroom, with a large flat-screen monitor for the instructional portion of the class. It is also very close to a number of Forest Preserve lakes. We appreciate the cooperation of the Cook County Forest Preserves and staff.

Of course, the six-hour class covered the expected starting points; a basic discussion of fly tackle—rods, reels lines and leaders, and the different types of flies to imitate different foods. There were sections on knot tying, outdoor safety, and fly tying. Each participant learned to tie two flies (a foam beetle and a soft hackle wet fly). After a lunch break, we leave Camp Sagawau and head to an area lake for fly casting instruction and plenty of fishing. All of these activities provide a taste of the sport of fly fishing.

But in addition to this instruction, we are able to speak to these young people about fishing etiquette and ethics, state regulation, and the message of Trout Unlimited. We are able to explain the origin of TU and the conservation activities we undertake in the Midwest. The program also provides these young boys and girls with a complimentary one-year membership in TU, and we invite them and their parents to join us at our meetings.

Many of the participants this year and in the past are Boy Scouts who earn the BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge by successfully completing the program. We are pleased to continue this cooperation as well.



One of the hallmarks of the Youth Education program has been the consistent level of support from our OBTU members. As I mentioned, this year we had 18 volunteers who helped with the program. At this level of participation, we are able to have plenty of different people at each class to assist the young people. But also, we allow volunteers to easily participate in a chapter activity, close to home, and meet other chapter members. We all enjoy sharing our love of the environment and the fun of fly fishing with young people.

Only time will tell if we have passed the torch to the next generation of cold water stewards. Planning is underway for next year's program. Please talk to your young folks at home, neighbors, or grandchildren about the program. And consider joining us as a volunteer mentor. It is definitely a rewarding experience. Look for information on our 2017 Youth Fly Fishing Class program and schedule in our 2017 January newsletter.



Get Involved in Oak Brook TU!

The Oak Brook Chapter is fortunate to be led by a President and Board of Directors who provide the leadership for the organization today and the direction for its conservation agenda in the future.

Our board is comprised of a group of leaders with diverse professional experience and backgrounds—from both the corporate and non-profit sectors—and is always looking for new talent with new ideas, energy, vision and commitment to the Trout Unlimited mission.

At the Annual Meeting on January 18, the membership will elect two new Board members. New officers, Illinois Council representatives and Endowment Fund Trustees will also be selected at this January meeting.

There are plenty of opportunities to participate in our Financial Development, Conservation, Membership and Communications Committees and other volunteer activities such as our Trout in the Classroom program, Youth Fly Fishing Classes (May through September), and Orvis Fly Fishing 101 instruction program. Consider leading a chapter special event or fishing trip.

If you would like to get more involved or just find out more, please connect with the Committee Chair identified on our website or to talk with any Board members at the next membership meeting.

The Librarian's Corner

by Phil Young

Madison River with Kelly Galloup

(Cascade Media Works / 2005) 100m / DVD

Lately, at OBTU meetings and events, I have overheard more conversations about the Madison River in Montana. We have members that have fished there and members who would like to visit this fabled trout water.

On this DVD, Kelly Galloup drives, wades, fishes and floats the Madison from Yellowstone Park to Ennis Lake. Along the way, he points out classic dry fly water, pocket water and soft edges of fast water, access points and parking areas and the flies and techniques necessary to fish these locations. Information is also provided regarding public and private lands and wading and floating regulations. If you are planning a DIY trip, it would be wise to study the regulations for the specific area you will be fishing.

This is a very good DVD for both those who have fished the Madison River and those who plan to.

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.

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

Rick Ralph	President	Officer	r.ralph1@comcast.net	630.939.2643
Dave Moore	Vice President	Officer	bpdave56@alum.lehigh.edu	630.881.4047
Dave Lunardini	Treasurer	Officer	djl22@attnet	630.939.3471
Carol Hennessy	Secretary	Officer	clhennessy@earthlink.net	815.341.6010
Willie Beshire	Director		wbeshire@aol.com	630.200.2532
Steve Carlson	Director		s_carlson@msn.com	312.961.5970
Jim Schmiedeskamp	Director	Publicity/Communications	jimschmieds@gmail.com	312.375.6502
John Snyder	Director		frazier-tech@attglobal.net	630.977.9077
Marv Strauch	Director Emeritus	Youth Education	mjstrauchjr@gmail.com	708.638.1318
Joe Weisenberger	Director	Membership	flytie8@yahoo.com	630.390.9494
Dennis Wisnosky	Director		dennis@wisnosky.net	630.240.6910
Stan Zarnowiecki	Director	Ex Officio	shotawisky@yahoo.com	708.606.4148