

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited's 2016 Conservation Fundraising Campaign Needs Your Support

The mission of Oak Brook Trout Unlimited is to conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in the Midwest. Oak Brook Trout Unlimited fulfills its mission through advocacy and education efforts regarding the impact of pollution and soil erosion on water-based ecosystems, and by engaging volunteers in hands-on projects to improve and rehabilitate cold water river systems.

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

Over 40 Years of Grassroots Conservation Programs

Since its founding in 1973, our chapter helped found the TUDARE initiative in Wisconsin: restored miles of Midwest streams and rivers; donated thousands of volunteer hours; engaged over 4,000 Trout in the Classroom students; taught over 800 youth fly fishing class participants; supported a "TU Teens" program at Riverside Brookfield High School and supported 12 years of Illinois Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing camp attendees with financial aid for deserving applicants.

Thank you very much for your volunteer and financial support of these past activities!



Three-year Strategic Plan Supports Funding Goals

Going forward, our new leadership team has completed a three-year strategic plan which has identified a more aggressive conservation agenda which builds on our past and current Farmers Valley Creek and Weister Creek projects in Wisconsin and Michigan's Coldwater River watershed macroinvertebrate studies. (See related story on the strategic plan on page 2.)

To fund these and new conservation and youth education programs, our board has identified a fund-raising target of \$15,000 for these initiatives and would like your support in reaching this goal by June 1, 2016. Our last major fund-raising program was our 2013 banquet which raised \$13,000. These funds have been used for conservation projects over the last two years.

Each Board member has committed a personal donation of at least \$100.00 to kick off this fund-raising effort and would like your support at this same level—if possible. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your donation is tax deductible and may also be matched by your employer. However, whatever you feel you can afford to support our local conservation and education programs is appreciated. All Oak Brook Trout Unlimited members will receive a mailing this week with a personal appeal for support and return envelope for your donation.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.



Oak Brook Trout Unlimited's three-year strategic plan featuring both new and existing conservation and youth education programs needs your financial support.

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.

May 18, Wednesday

"Spring Fling" Chapter Meeting 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Brat Dinner and Fly Fishing Equipment Showcase by Orvis Yorktown and DuPage Fly Fishing Co.
Speaker: Marcy Hamilton
"St. Joseph River Watershed Conservation Update" 7:00 p.m.

June 8, Wednesday

OBTU Directors Meeting 7:00 p.m.

June 11, Saturday

Coldwater River Watershed Macroinvertebrate Study Alto, Michigan 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

July 13, Wednesday

OBTU Directors Meeting 7:00 p.m.

August 10, Wednesday

OBTU Directors Meeting 7:00 p.m.

September 14, Wednesday

OBTU Directors Meeting 7:00 p.m.

September 21, Wednesday

Chapter Meeting
Speaker: TBD
7:00 p.m.

All Things OBTU...

By Rick Ralph, President

This year our chapter is focusing on three areas: strategic planning, leadership development, and fundraising. Our revised strategic plan was ratified by the board of directors in April. This newsletter contains a short article on details of the strategic plan. The next step for the board is to write specific goals for this year as an operating plan.

Leadership development includes helping you use your skills and interests in what we do. You may like getting your boots wet while working in a stream, educating youth, writing letters to legislators to influence their decisions, making our events happen, building relationships outside of OBTU, or help with our new website. We have more to do in these areas.

Fundraising is ready to begin this month. Our last major fundraising effort was our 2013 banquet. We offer you the opportunity to fund some awesome conservation and education that is only possible through our combined efforts within our Oak Brook Trout Unlimited chapter as we receive no funding from your annual TU membership dues. Your contribution to this fundraising effort will define how much conservation and education we do next year. Look for more information on this vital role for you in the mail this coming week.

Spring is here and summer will be upon us soon. I hope that you enjoy your time outdoors. We offer you fun, organized conservation work, youth education, and a fabulous May 18 "Spring Fling" meeting. Check this newsletter and our email for specific information on our last meeting before our summer meeting hiatus.

Tight Lines,
Rick Ralph

OBTU Three-year Strategic Plan Approved

By Rick Ralph, President

In order to better articulate what we do and our vision for the future we have revised the chapter's three-year strategic plan. The revision was done during two special board planning meetings and a comment cycle. We began with a model suggested by the national Trout Unlimited organization and completed it with chapter-specific objectives and strategies.

Here is a summary of what it contains:

Conservation – We will ask members to be advocates of conservation to our state legislators. We will continue stream restoration work and Coldwater River watershed macroinvertebrate studies. We also seek efforts to restore Coaster Brook Trout in the Great Lakes.

Communication – We will continue to provide information about what we do both during our monthly membership meetings and on-line via timely email communications and our new website we will be introducing this summer. We have recently introduced a bimonthly conservation blog and new advocacy alert. We will continue to share our story in the media.

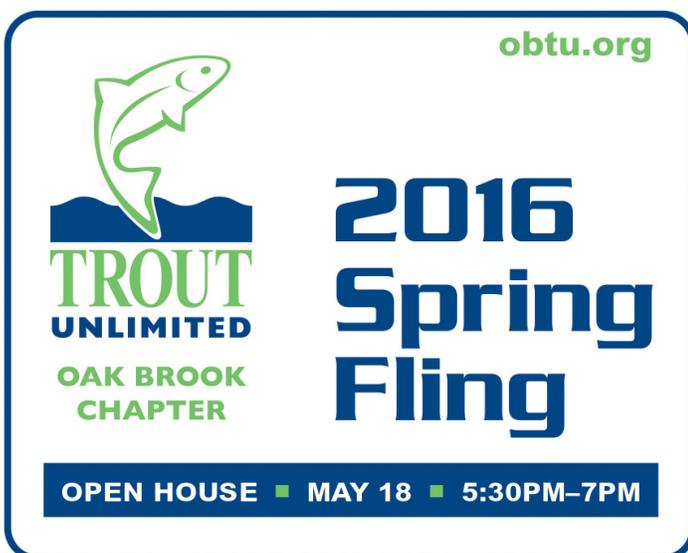
Membership Engagement – We will create fun, organized events for conservation, fishing, community engagement, building diversity, and membership growth.

Financial Resourcing – We plan to double our chapter revenue in the next four years. We expect this to be a combination of increased membership donations and fundraising from outside the chapter.

Chapter Development – We will build strong committees by engaging members in the work of the chapter. We will plan for leadership succession by creating development opportunities for members interested in leadership roles.

Going forward, the board expects to have an annual operating plan that contains specific plans for the year. The board expects to review the status of the strategic plan quarterly. We expect to post the strategic plan on our new website later this summer.

Please contact me at r.ralph1@comcast.net for more information on the strategic plan.



obtu.org



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**
OAK BROOK
CHAPTER

**2016
Spring
Fling**

OPEN HOUSE ■ MAY 18 ■ 5:30PM-7PM

May 18 Meeting Celebrates “Spring Fling” Open House

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited will celebrate its second “Spring Fling” open house as part of the May 18 chapter meeting featuring a 5:30-7:00 p.m. free grilled bratwurst dinner and a fly fishing equipment showcase by Orvis Yorktown and the DuPage Fly Fishing Co. The May 18 membership meeting—the chapter’s last before its annual June-August summer meeting hiatus—will feature Marcy Hamilton as its outside speaker. For more information on Marcy Hamilton and her presentation on the St. Joseph River Watershed and current conservation initiatives, see article on this page. The meeting is open to members, guests and general public at no cost.

“To celebrate spring time and the official opening of trout season in area states, we have lined up Orvis Yorktown and the DuPage Fly Fishing Co. who will be on hand to display their latest rod and reel outfits and fishing gear prior to the start of our membership meeting at 7 p.m.,” said Jim Schmiedeskamp, OBTU board member. “Representatives of both companies will be on hand to discuss and sell their latest fly fishing equipment just in time for the 2016 fishing season. Since we will be back at our normal Park Central West meeting location, members will be able to demo rod and reel outfits on the Oak Brook Recreation Center property pond. So make sure you come early, enjoy a brat, some chips and a beverage while mingling with new and long-time members.”

Raffle Prizes Will Be Prized!

In addition to the DuPage Fly Fishing Co. donation of Scientific Angler 4wt. and 5wt fly line with a retail value of \$74.95 each, three new OBTU sponsors have donated some exceptional raffle prizes for the event.

- The Shedd Aquarium has donated four 2016 single-day passes with a value of \$140.
- Erewhon Mountain Outfitters has donated a \$25 gift card redeemable at their new downtown Naperville store (next to Barnes and Noble on Washington Street).
- Whitetail Fly Tying Supplies of Geneva, has donated over \$30 of fly tying material.

Orvis and DuPage Fly Fishing Co. Reps with Rod Demos

Orvis representatives will be on hand so you can get “hands-on” with their entire current line of rods. From the flagship Helios 2 and new Recon line to the Superfine Carbon and Clearwater models! The DuPage Fly Fishing Co will feature select Redington Vapen Fly rods for sale from \$199.95 reduced from \$349.95 as well as several fly lines on sale ranging from \$28.95 to \$49.95 and the latest gear bags and accessories.

Conservation Project Volunteers Needed

OBTU is seeking member volunteers for our third annual Coldwater River Watershed macroinvertebrate study Saturday, June 11, in Alto, Michigan and a stream restoration work day Saturday, July 23, on Farmer’s Valley Creek in Sparta, Wisconsin. Dave Moore and Marv Strauch will be available to discuss both programs at our May 18 meeting.

Marcy Hamilton to Speak on Dowagiac River

Following guide Jay Anglin’s March chapter meeting overview of the excellent steelhead and trout fishing 90 miles away from Chicago on Michigan’s St. Joseph and Dowagiac Rivers, Marcy Hamilton (Colclough) will discuss the Dowagiac River dam removal in Niles, Michigan and the MEANDRS (Meeting the Ecological and Agricultural Needs of the Dowagiac River System) project as our featured May 18 membership meeting speaker at 7 p.m.

Marcy Hamilton is an experienced Senior Planner with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission who has developed a track record of implementing successful projects for a variety of clients around the Southwest Michigan region. She has a wealth of experience writing master and recreation plans, facilitating planning processes, and developing grants and implementing projects in watershed planning, economic development, and recreation.

Marcy serves on the St. Joseph River Watershed Council and is a board member for the Partnership for MEANDRS. She also established the Two Rivers Coalition and continues to advise this successful watershed organization to improve and protect the Paw Paw and Black River Watersheds. She is the co-chair of the Southwest Michigan Water Resources Council and serves on Michigan’s Water Cabinet for the development of the new State Water Strategy, “Sustaining Michigan Water Heritage, A Strategy for the Next Generation.”

Marcy was the project director for the Dowagiac River Watershed Project with the Cass County Conservation District from 1999-2002. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Biology and Environmental Studies from Ohio Northern University and a Master of Environmental Science Degree from Miami University, Ohio.

A reminder to members that for the May 18 meeting we are returning to the Oak Brook Park District Central Park West building after a two-month hiatus.



Marcy Hamilton will discuss the Dowagiac River dam removal in Niles, Michigan and other Dowagiac River watershed conservation initiatives.

Conservation Project Volunteers Needed June 11 and July 23

The Conservation Committee is looking for volunteers for two programs this summer: the June 11 Coldwater River Watershed macroinvertebrate study in Alto, Michigan and the July 23 Farmers Valley Creek stream restoration project in Sparta, Wisconsin.

Michigan's **Coldwater River Watershed Council** will continue to receive both OBTU volunteer and financial support in the form of two macroinvertebrate study work days in June and October. The June 11 study will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the meeting location at the Tyler Creek Country Club in Alto, Michigan. Our chapter provides the basic field data that goes into the science of conserving the watershed as a coldwater resource. Our work has increased in importance following the devastation last year in which vegetation was scalped from the river bank. The effect of the changes in the stream will be measured, in part, by our work. OBTU is represented on the Coldwater River Watershed Council by Marvin Strauch. Volunteers only need to bring a pair of waders for the study and their fishing gear if they choose to take advantage of some excellent Michigan area fishing opportunities. Volunteers are encouraged to plan some local fishing in the area or on the nearby Muskegon and Pere Marquette Rivers. For guide service, contact local guides Kevin Feenstra of Feenstra Outdoors, or John Glouker of Schmidt Outfitters. To volunteer or for more information, contact Marv Strauch at 708.638.1318 or mjstrauchjr@gmail.com.

Farmers Valley Creek in Sparta, WI will continue to receive both OBTU volunteer and financial report in 2016. Stream restoration work begun in 2014 will continue with the installation of lunger structures and bank restoration work to reduce both soil erosion and phosphorus discharge within the city of Sparta. Our work day is scheduled on Saturday, July 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are encouraged to plan some local fishing in the Driftless Area. To volunteer or for more information on this work day, contact Dave Moore—bpdave56@alum.lehigh.edu or 630.881.4087.



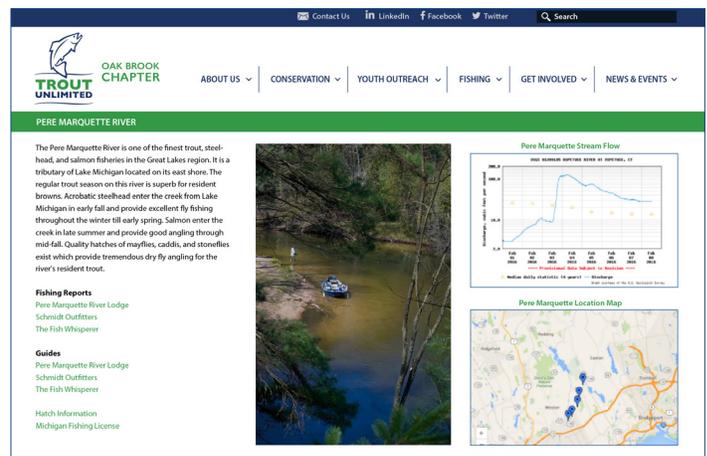
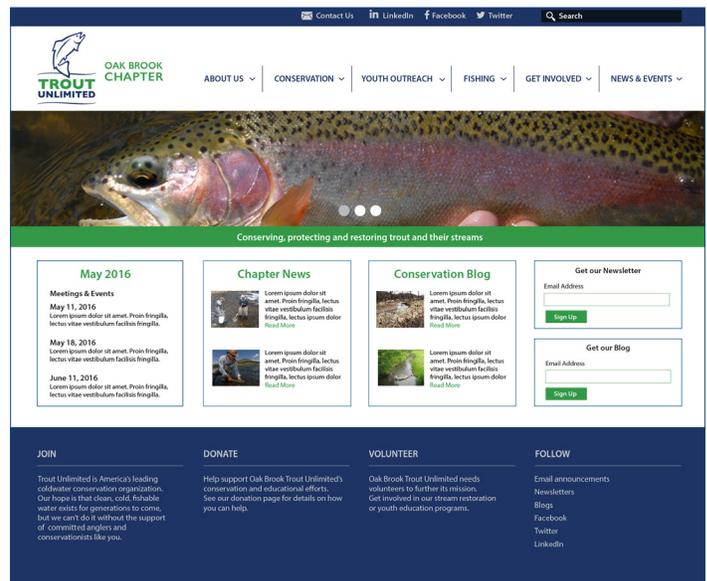
Volunteers will utilize D-nets to collect macroinvertebrate samples from the Coldwater River and watershed creeks.

OBTU to Launch New Website in July

OBTU will be launching a totally redesigned new website in July which will feature the latest information on the chapter's conservation and youth education activities as well as comprehensive fishing information throughout the Midwest. The new website will be mobile responsive—allowing for easy viewing from smart phone and tablet devices—and host the chapter's newsletters and blogs in a truly digital environment for easy promotion via emails, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

"Our new site is modeled after the Nutmeg (CT) chapter website which was recognized by TROUT Magazine as TU's best website in 2013," said Jim Schmiedeskamp, board member who is leading the initiative. "Visitors will find plenty of information on Midwest fishing locations including links to local fishing conditions, area guides, where to obtain a license, seasonal hatches, current stream flow information and a Google location map."

If you have experience with WordPress content management and would like to volunteer your time uploading new content, please contact Jim Schmiedeskamp at 312.375.6502 or jimsmiedes@gmail.com.



Roosevelt Middle School Aces Trout in the Classroom Program

On Tuesday, May 3, 42 students from Mr. Cory Kadlec's Roosevelt Middle School seventh grade science class concluded their six-month "Trout in the Classroom" program with the release of over 70 brown trout fingerlings in the South Branch of the Kinnikinnick Creek near Rockford. The Roosevelt Middle School was one of 10 area middle schools and high schools who participated in the Oak Brook chapter's eighth year of Trout Unlimited's grass roots environmental education program.

The 42 Roosevelt seventh graders represented Mr. Kadlec's "Trout Team"—those students who volunteered out of 190 students across seven classes to personally take responsibility for raising the brown trout from eggs to fry to their final "hands on" streamside release.

Mr. Kadlec participated in the following interview with OBTU.

OBTU: How many years have you and your Roosevelt Middle School been involved in the "Trout in the Classroom" program?

Kadlec: This past year was our seventh school year and we are planning on doing it again next year.

OBTU: What are the most important lessons you want delivered by the "Trout in the Classroom" program to your students?

Kadlec: The most important lessons provided by the program are: Nature is accessible. Middle School students can be interested in the exciting world of Life Science. Middle School students can be advocates for coldwater fisheries now and into the future. Being involved with trout and other people who care about coldwater fisheries can be inspiring and a lot of fun.

OBTU: How is your "Trout Team" selected?

Kadlec: Our special group is called the Trout Team. These students showed interest in the program by filling out an application in the beginning of the school year. These dedicated students perform all trout care duties from hatching to release and they go out of their way to learn about trout and their needs. Our Trout Team also gets 1-2 pages in each Yearbook.

OBTU: How engaged are your students in the conservation mission of Trout Unlimited?

Kadlec: I am extremely appreciative of the efforts of the Oak Brook Trout Unlimited members who work with us. Middle school students are very perceptive and they can tell when an adult is sincere about a task. The students can see how much your group cares for nature and I surely hope that they will want to do the same as their lives unfold.

OBTU: Any final thoughts on the "Trout in the Classroom" program?

Kadlec: I had a parent tell me (I am sure there were more who felt this way) that his son found Trout in the Classroom to be the most memorable/worthwhile/meaningful thing that he did in all of Middle School. Hope for our planet's future rests with young people. Thanks for helping them be on their way to making a positive difference.

"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," said Marv Strauch, Youth Education Chair. "And our Trout in the Classroom is one of the three youth education programs OBTU supports along with our annual Youth Fly Fishing Classes and summer Illinois Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp."

Many thanks to the following OBTU volunteers who assisted with the set up of tanks and delivery of eggs last November, our interactive 2016 "Dean Hansen entomology class" in April, and the May trout release days in support of over 700 students in Chicago's south and western suburbs during the past school year.

Willie Beshire, Wally Bock, Bob Borhauer, Steve Carlson, Carol Hennessy, Rich Ference, Fred Hodge, Michael Lesiak, Dave Lunardini, Ed Michael, Greg Prosen, Rick Rowe, John Snyder, Frank Sprouse, Bill Thomas, Wally Wahlfeldt, Joe Weisenberger, Tom Wilhelm, Phil Young, Stan Zarnoweki, and Frank Zbyliski.



Tom Wilhelm helps Roosevelt Middle School seventh graders identify a stone fly (left photo). Willie Beshire and Stan Zarnoweki provide Roosevelt Middle School students with brown trout fry for their release into the South Branch of the Kinnikinnick Creek near Rockford (right photo).

Illinois TU Youth Fly Fishing Camp Seeking More Applicants

With three months to go, the July 24-29 annual Illinois TU Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp on Michigan's famed Au Sable River is seeking additional applicants to fill out its 12-participant roster.

The 2016 camp mission is to develop the next generation of coldwater conservation advocates while also providing a rigorous introduction to the sport of fly fishing on the famed Au Sable River in Michigan. An experienced Trout Unlimited mentor team will guide twelve 13- to 18-year-old participants through prime time morning and evening fishing sessions. Throughout the week, an abundance of "hands on" active learning opportunities will be conducted during the fully loaded mid-day periods.

The fly fishing instruction includes fly casting, fly tying, knots, basic entomology and what fish eat, reading the water, safe wading techniques, catch and release, and other outdoors and fly fishing related skills.

The camp mentors and instructors will be comprised of Trout Unlimited members from Chicago's Oak Brook and Gary Borger chapters and Michigan Trout Unlimited, along with biologists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Michigan State University, Western Michigan University and a private coldwater conservation company.

The camp cost includes round-trip transportation from Chicago, lodging, meals and equipment. The tuition fee is \$575 (comprised of a \$75 deposit at the time of application plus a \$500 remaining balance due one month before camp). Sponsorship is available for campers with financial need.

For more information, including an application please visit the Oak Brook Trout Unlimited website (obt.org), or contact Willie Beshire, Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited Youth Camp Director (wbeshire@aol.com; 630-200-2532).

Special thanks to Marv Strauch who donated a hand-made bamboo fly rod for a \$2,000 camp fundraiser for scholarships for applicants in need of financial assistance and all of the OBTU members who bought raffle tickets. Congratulations to OBTU member Dan LaFave who won the bamboo rod raffle.

The Librarian's Corner

by Phil Young

Drift (Confluence Films) 65m / DVD

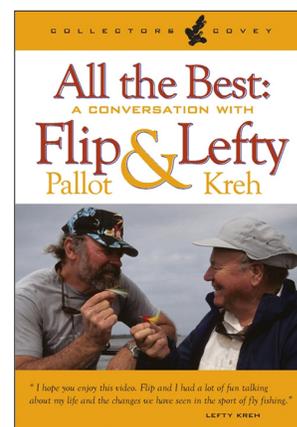
Connect (Confluence Films) / 2011) 93m / DVD

All the Best: A Conversation with Flip Pallot and Lefty Kreh (Collectors Covey/2007) 120m / DVD

Here are three DVDs that are a treasure of fish porn and conversation. **Drift** and **Connect** take you around the world from Alaskan northern pike, to spey casting on the Deshutes, to Yellowstone trout and winter tail waters of the West, to striped bass on the sand flats of Maine, to the Caribbean for bonefish, permit and tarpon, to Tanzania for tiger fish, to India for trout, to Japan for mountain trout. You don't have to think about tiny flies and technique. Just lean back and enjoy the eye candy.

Sit around the campfire with Flip Pallot and Lefty Kreh and learn the history of Florida saltwater fly fishing from two of the men that helped create it and hear the incredible story of Lefty Kreh's career, from his early days to the present. If you have ever met and spoken with Lefty, you know what a warm, humble person he is and that he is one of the founding fathers of modern fly fishing. As for Flip, I miss getting up early on Sunday mornings to watch "Walker's Cay Chronicles".

These two DVDs, 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@att.net	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