2017 Conservation and Education Fundraising Program Needs Your Support

The mission of your Oak Brook Trout Unlimited Chapter is to conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in the Midwest. OBTU fulfills our mission through 1) advocacy, 2) K6-12 education programming, and 3) by providing funding and volunteers for hands-on projects to improve and rehabilitate coldwater river systems. There are no other outside sources of funding for our chapter. National Trout Unlimited membership annual dues are not shared with our Chapter.

“To fund these ongoing and new conservation and youth education programs, our board has identified a fund-raising target of $10,000 for these initiatives and would like your support in reaching this goal by June 30, 2017,” said John Snyder, Financial Development Committee Chair. “Each Board member has committed to a personal donation of at least $100.00 to kick off this fund-raising effort and we would like our members’ support at this same level—if possible. In fact, including a “Friends and Family” focus, your Board members are personally committed to a total of $3,000 in donations.”

Mission success requires that we provide cash funding to cover out-of-pocket expenses including contracting for streamside excavation, replanting, baseline studies and K6-12 classroom fish tanks. Last year’s membership solicitation raised over $6,500 for our 2017 conservation and youth education programs.

Specific 2018 proposed conservation projects requiring cash funding include:

- **Weister Creek** stream restoration Phase 4.
- **Sparta, WI** stream restoration project TBD.
- **Spring and Fall Coldwater River Watershed (Alto, MI)** macroinvertebrate studies.
- **Dowagiac River** stream restoration following the planned 2018 removal of the Pucker Street Dam in Niles, MI.

**OBTU Donations Are Tax-deductible and May be Matched by Employers**

OBTU is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and your donation is tax deductible and may also be matched by your employer. Our Employer Identification Number (EIN) is 38-1612715 and a download PDF of the IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter for 501(c)(3) non-profit documentation is available on our website’s “Donate” page.

Many thanks for your financial and volunteer support in 2017 and this year!

2017 conservation projects include financial support for Wisconsin’s Weister Creek (left) and Beaver Creek (center), and macroinvertebrate studies on Michigan’s Coldwater River watershed (right).
Well it appears that Spring, with all its eternal promises and outdoor grandeur, has arrived in the Midwest.

Hopefully, many of you have already dipped a toe or more into some stream or water way somewhere.

Our Chapter mission and purpose is to ensure this perpetual evolvement continues as it pertains to our freshwater lakes, rivers, streams and tributaries. To that end, we’ve renewed our dedication to the programs we employ to achieve our part in the vision of a future clean water, healthy ecosystems and happy generations of outdoor enthusiasts. The list of activities is impressive.

However, our vision is not shared by all, and in many cases, not by those who have the power to most affect those outcomes.

While we all enjoy the camaraderie and common values we share when we are together, in large groups at functions, or smaller social gatherings, expressing our concerns among ourselves is akin to preaching to the choir.

All of us need to work on expanding our circles of influence as it pertains to those environmental issues we feel strongly about.

Some, but few of us have the ability to single handedly persuade policy makers on the importance of future clean water and air when factored against immediate economic expediency and political fodder. However, strength in numbers can be a powerful tool and we need to engage in that strategy to leverage our views. I ask you to keep up the letters, calls and contacts with your local and national representatives. We need to ensure the sense of priority on the environmental front.

Check out our activities in this newsletter and pick one or two to join us in over the next year. There are great ways to double down on the outdoor experience, get out, give a hand, share your knowledge. We’ve got a whole generation we need to motivate off the couch and onto the water.

David Lunardini
OBTU President

OBTU Receives $2,500 Orvis Grant for Weister Creek

The Orvis Yorktown store has been a “valued sponsor” of Oak Brook TU over the years, donating rod/reel outfits and other equipment for our fundraising programs in appreciation of our members supporting their annual spring/summer Fly Fishing 101 and 201 programs as volunteer instructors.

In support of our relationship, Glenn Martenson—Yorktown Store Manager—backed OBTU’s successful 2017 $2,500 Orvis corporate grant application for stream restoration work on Weister Creek, a Wisconsin Driftless Area stream we provided financial support to in 2016.

Weister Creek is a spring-fed stream some 15 miles long in Vernon County in the Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin and is a tributary of the Kickapoo River. The lower five miles of Weister Creek is surrounded by wetlands, forests and fields and lies in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve—an 8,000-acre public land that was rescued from an Army Corps of Engineers dam project in the 1970s.

More than $95,000 was funded for Phase 1 and Phase 2 work through 2016, with major contributions including about $28,000 from Trout Unlimited chapters in Illinois (Oak Brook, Lee Wulff and Elliott Donnelley chapters) and Wisconsin (Blackhawk and Coulee Region chapters). Phase 3 construction should be completed by July 1, 2017. At that time the project will cover 7,540 feet of stream length, out of a planned project total of 13,000 lineal feet.

“The Weister Creek Project is now in its third phase of restoring a Class 1 trout stream to excellent conditions and giving public access for fishing,” said Dave Carlson, Conservation Committee Chair. “This grant will help with the private matching funds needed to keep this project progressing through Phase 4. Special recognition goes to former Conservation Committee Chair Dave Moore who championed the Orvis grant application.”

Orvis Yorktown store manager Glenn Martenson and fishing department manager Zeph Michaels present $2,500 check to OBTU’s Dave Moore and Dave Lunardini.
Dowagiac River Assessment Kicks Off This Summer

As a result of Marcy Hamilton’s May 18, 2016 Oak Brook TU membership meeting presentation on the St. Joseph River Watershed and her review of plans to remove the Dowagiac River Pucker Street Dam in Niles, Michigan, OBTU became an interested stakeholder. OBTU recently approved a $500 contribution to a baseline assessment of the river over the next two months prior to the dam removal and will utilize volunteers to assist in the assessment of two small tributaries within the watershed.

Marcy Hamilton, Senior Planner with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, serves on the St. Joseph River Watershed Council and is a board member for the Partnership for MEANDRS (which is an acronym for “Meeting the Ecological and Agricultural Needs of the Dowagiac River System). MEANDRS is a 501c3 organization that came into existence to support prior conservation and restoration efforts on the Dowagiac River. Marcy Hamilton has been leading the planning for restoring the Dowagiac River after the dam removal, and has been active over the past year recruiting and organizing various stakeholders, residents, and conservation groups in support of the multi-year effort. (See the related interview with Marcy Hamilton).

**Dam Removal Scheduled for this Year**

“The Pucker Street dam on the Dowagiac River remains on track for removal later this year,” said Marvin Strauch, OBTU’s representative on MEANDERS. “While the dam removal project is being handled by the city of Niles the MEANDRS coalition will focus on the watershed restoration work that will arise after the dam removal.”

In addition to OBTU, other TU chapters involved include Chicago’s Elliott Donnelley, Kalamazoo Valley (Michigan), Little Elkhart (Indiana); along with the Michigan TU council and the St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers organization.

Marcy Hamilton Updates Dowagiac Dam Removal

**By Jim Schmiedeskamp**

Marcy Hamilton, Senior Planner with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, provides OBTU readers with the following update on the Dowagiac River restoration plans including the removal of the Pucker Street Dam. Marcy Hamilton spoke to the OBTU chapter about the project at our 2016 May membership meeting.

**OBTU: What are the current plans for the Pucker Street Dam removal in terms of timing? Who is responsible for its removal and why the removal?**

**(Marcy)** The City of Niles owns the Pucker Street Dam and is responsible for the dam. The City has decided to remove the dam. There are many reasons to remove the dam – financial (cost to repair, liability), social (safety of river users, aesthetics), and environmental (blocks all aquatic passage, disrupts natural transport processes of the Dowagiac River, increases water temperatures above the dam). The City is working with consultants to finish the Environmental Assessment, permitting and final design. The earliest any work would occur with dam removal will be Fall 2017 with in-river work beginning after April 2018. Timing will also depend on TransCanada abandoning 2 pipelines traversing the river upstream of the dam and river conditions.

**OBTU: What is your role in the Dowagiac River restoration initiative?**

**(Marcy)** I work for the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC). SWMPC’s role in the dam removal has been to assist with City of Niles with grant writing and administration, public engagement and developing the Environmental Assessment. SWMPC currently and over the last 20 years has been a partner in the development of the Dowagiac River Watershed Management Plan, the implementation of re-meandering the Dowagiac at Dodd Park, river clean-ups, outreach and education to landowners and local officials about protecting and improving the Dowagiac River and most recently to conduct a habitat assessment and culvert inventory on the Dowagiac River and its tributaries. SWMPC plans to continue working on watershed protection and improvement efforts and also assist with efforts to increase/improve public access.

**OBTU: What will the dam removal mean to the river’s character and flood plain upstream of the current dam?**

**(Marcy)** The dam removal project will include the restoration of almost 6,000 feet of river upstream and downstream of the dam. Through depth of refusal studies, different channel alignments have been discovered. This project will keep the river in its current alignment and floodplain benches and wetland areas will be constructed. The basic physical processes of water and sediment transport have been impacted by the dam. All physical, chemical, and biological attributes required to develop and maintain a functional river system are dependent on these processes. The removal of the dam will restore these processes and restore the natural character of the river itself. Coldwater streams with high gradient are a rare resource in southern Michigan and this project is expected to enhance the ecological value of this rare resource.

The Pucker Street Dam in Niles, Michigan is scheduled for removal this year which will increase habitat for Lake Michigan migratory steelhead, salmon and brown trout. (Photo courtesy of Jay Anglin).
Trout in the Classroom Celebrates 9th Graduation

By Marvin Strauch

Well, we can finally put our ninth year of 2016-17 Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program to bed! Our little troutlings are all snugly tucked into either South Kinnikinnick Creek, or in the waters of Lake Michigan.

But let’s go back to the beginning of the year. We welcomed Mr. Mike Stoehrmann and his 6th grade students at Humphrey Middle School (Bolingbrook) to the program this year. Mr. Stoehrmann was awarded an Illinois Council Trout Unlimited TIC Grant last May. Humphrey School joined 10 other TIC programs that OBTU supports over the course of the year.

Our trout eggs arrived on Monday, November 14. Actually, our brown trout eggs (Plymouth Rock strain) originate at the Saratoga National Fish Hatchery in Saratoga, Wyoming. Our rainbow trout (Arlee strain) are from the Erwin National Hatchery in Erwin, Tennessee. The Illinois DNR (IDNR) procures these eggs for their stocking program in Lake Michigan. We met a staff person from the IDNR Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery in Topeka, Illinois for a sort of clandestine hand-off in a McDonald’s parking lot near Joliet. Eleven bags containing approximately 150 eggs each were prepped for our schools, and OBTU volunteers fanned out to deliver them to all our schools that day.

TIC Program Customized By Schools

Each school program is individualized by the teachers to meet the requirements and interests of their students. Our TIC programs are in classes ranging from first grade (GEMS Academy) to a senior high school AP biology class (Tinley Park HS). Students observe the eggs as they hatch and develop into alevins (newly spawned trout still carrying the yolk), then fingerling trout. Classes monitor the tank conditions and ensure a healthy environment for their fish while teachers incorporate TIC into their curriculum studying the environment and earth sciences. Some teachers use TIC as subject matter in art, writing, math, and other classes. From time to time, schools encounter difficulties in keeping their trout healthy. It may be algae, problems in getting their fish to feed, or maybe even a disastrous interruption of electricity causing failure of the pump, filter and chiller. Even these occasional problems provide tough lessons in how fragile a coldwater environment can be.

During the 2016-17 year, I visited most of the schools, giving a presentation on “Climate Change and the Threats to Coldwater Environments.” The talk was planned to urge young people to get involved in conservation efforts (like Trout Unlimited).

Dean Hansen Visits Remain a Highlight

An annual high point of the program since 2011 has been Dean Hansen and his “Wet Bugs” presentation. Dean is an entomologist from Stillwater, Minnesota and brings an incredible collection of live stoneflies, mayflies, caddis, hellgrammites, and damselflies for a totally hands-on experience, teaching our TIC students about the animals that will be their trout’s diet, and the functions all of these animals play in a coldwater ecosystem.

As the popularity of TIC grows in our area, we have exceeded our ability to bring Dean Hansen to all the schools. Dean graciously offered to help us expand the offering, by sharing his graphics, and (this year) his samples so that we could visit another three schools in a second week. We will continue this expanded program for next year, and plan to begin collecting our own specimens.

Fingerlings Released Near Rockford

Finally, we culminated with five consecutive release days. As in the past, we selected the first week of May to conduct our releases – at Kinnikinnick Creek Nature Preserve in Caledonia and Stone Bridge Forest Preserve in Roscoe (near Rockford). Both of these sites along the South Kinnikinnick Creek allowed students to not only release their trout fingerlings, but to also learn about the stream itself. Students conducted water quality testing; seined and netted to find insect nymphs, bait fish, and crayfish in the stream; and even rolled rocks in a riffle to see how the stream insects cling to the rocks and plants of the stream bottom.

Continued on page 8

The May release days at Kinnikinnick Creek Nature Preserve included seining for macroinvertebrates followed by individual students releasing brown trout fingerlings.
OBTU and Orvis Offer Free Fly Casting Lessons

OBTU members can improve their fly rod casting this summer during weekly Tuesday evening sessions at Oak Brook Recreation Center from 6 p.m. until dark. Improve your distance and accuracy. Ideal for both novice and experienced fly fishermen and women.

Bring your own equipment. No hooks or flies will be used. No reservation required. Oak Brook Trout Unlimited instructors will be on-site every Tuesday night. The location is behind the Central Park West Building at the Oak Brook Recreation Center, 1450 Forest Gate Road, Oak Brook.

For more information please contact:
Stan Zarnowiecki:
C: 708-606-4148
E: shotawisky@yahoo.com

Orvis Yorktown Offers Free Fly Fishing Classes
If you’re looking for a great way to introduce fly fishing to a spouse, friend or other family member, the Orvis Fly Fishing 101 class is the perfect event to get started. All ages are welcome to attend the free class for novices, but those under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Participants will learn the fly casting basics and outfit rigging during the 9-11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday sessions held at the Orvis Yorktown store location.

Upon completion of the course, participants will receive special in-store offers valid toward the purchase of Orvis products and a Free Trout Unlimited membership—a $35 value—for first-time members.

Check the Orvis Yorktown website for June and July dates and register online or via phone.

Visit OBTU Website When Planning Next Fishing Trip

With Summer around the corner, make sure you check out our website if you are scheduling a guide or considering a place to eat or stay, especially if you are planning a trip to Wisconsin’s Driftless Area or Michigan.

The OBTU website “Fishing” pages also feature current weather information and stream flows for rivers, as well as links to state DNR websites where out-of-state fishing licenses can be purchased online. Fishing reports and seasonal hatch information are also available for most locations.

We have added new “Fishing” pages for Southern Wisconsin and Iowa.

Here’s a line-up of guides who have provided our chapter with donated trips to support our conservation fundraising efforts over the years and/or have also donated their time to speak at our membership meetings. See our website for links to their contact information.

Illinois
Kankakee River—Will Winans for smallmouth bass.

Iowa
Driftless Area—contact Matt Wagner of The Driftless Angler.

Michigan
Dowagiac River—Jay Anglin for steelhead, brown trout and smallmouth bass.
Manistee River—John Gloucker (D Loop) for brown trout and smallmouth bass.
Muskegon River—Kevin Feenstra for brown trout, steelhead and smallmouth bass.
Pere Marquette River—Pere Marquette River Lodge for brown trout, steelhead and salmon.
St. Joseph River—Jay Anglin for steelhead, brown trout and salmon.

Wisconsin
Black Earth Angling—contact Kyle Zempel for trout or smallmouth bass.
Driftless Angler—contact Matt Wagner
Rich Osthoff

Visit our website “Fishing” pages when planning your next fishing trip.
Sparta, WI Work Day Scheduled for July 29

OBTU members will be returning to Sparta, Wisconsin for a Beaver Creek stream restoration work day scheduled for Saturday, July 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The work day will be focused on building “LUNKER” structures for installation in nearby Beaver Creek by paid contractors.

LUNKER structures are crib-like, wooden structures installed along the toe of a stream bank to create overhead cover and resting areas for fish. These structures were originally developed in Wisconsin for trout stream habitat improvement projects, but have been found to work well as bank protection devices. A LUNKER structure consists of two planks with wooden spacers nailed between them. Additional planks are then nailed across the spacers perpendicular and crib like structure is formed. LUNKER structures were developed after years of experience with other, less successful structures to stabilize streambanks, and provide habitat and cover for fish.

Look for information via a special email announcement in the coming weeks.

April 23 “Women’s Fly Fishing Day” a Success

The Oak Brook TU chapter conducted a fly fishing clinic specifically designed for women on Sunday, April 23, 2017. The lead instructor for the event was Ms. Geri Meyer from the Driftless Angler, a Driftless Area fly shop and guide services.

OBTU volunteers for the day included Lisa Gilmore, Carol Hennessy, Patricia Hirschstich, Fred Hodge, Phil Young, Joe Weisenberger and Stan Zarnowiecki. The event was held at Queen of Rosary School in Elk Grove Village with activities beginning at 9:00 a.m. The program included an introduction to the sport of fly fishing; equipment basics designed for women; fly rod casting instruction; introduction to entomology; knot tying basics; and an introduction to fly tying. The weather for the day was picture perfect, with only a light breeze which made for ideal fly rod casting instruction outdoors. The class concluded around 2:30. The offer to have additional casting on an area pond was extended to the class with many of the participants taking advantage of this opportunity.

“Fourteen women attended this one-day clinic, surpassing the number we had originally planned for the event,” said Carol Hennessy, the event organizer. “Wanting to keep the size of the clinic manageable, we did cap the number at 14 for this class. We definitely will consider expanding the number of attendees for future women’s events since there seems to be a growing interest in fly fishing from women.”

OBTU members build one of many LUNKER structures last summer for Farmers Valley Creek in Sparta, Wisconsin.

“Women’s Fly Fishing Day” attendees try their hand at tieing flies as part of the day-long event.
The Librarian’s Corner

by Phil Young

Kiss the Water  
(Virgil Films & Entertainment / 2014) 80m / DVD

A Backyard in Nowhere  
(Soulfish Media) 52m / DVD

Both of these DVDs tell stories that are more about people than the fish they pursue, but they could not be more dissimilar in the stories that they tell.

Kiss the Water is the story of Megan Boyd who spent her life in a small cottage in northern Scotland. Using feathers, fur and thread, she tied Atlantic salmon flies that were both beautiful and deadly and were highly sought after. Interviews of people who knew and grew up with her are interspersed with animation and scenes of the Scottish countryside to create a truly entertaining film.

A Backyard in Nowhere is quite a different story of four young men from Denmark who set out to explore the remote Innoko River in Alaska in search of giant northern pike. They find the giant pike in the river, but the flyfishers’ encounter with indigenous native Americans, established outfitters, alcohol, drugs, and guns may give you pause when considering DIY fly fishing in remote areas.

These 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.

Dowagiac River Assessment–

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Also participating are the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Michigan DNR, Cass County Parks, and a variety of other groups.

The initial habitat assessment is being conducted along the guidelines of Michigan TU Stream Stewards. The assessment will take place along the mainstream Dowagiac River from Pucker Street Dam to the confluence with the St. Joseph River (approximately 3 miles), upstream from the dam to approximately the town of Sumnerville (about 4-5 miles). Also included will be assessments of Pokagon Creek, Peavine Creek, McKinzie Creek, and Dowagiac Creek. These had previously been determined to be coldwater tributaries, and quite possibly targets for closer examination.

Assessment to Provide Baseline Data

The purpose of the assessment is to provide a baseline of data on the lower river, and major tributaries. This data will allow identification of any adverse effects of the dam removal to the lower river, but mostly to provide the basis for identifying future conservation projects along the Dowagiac watershed. Obviously, this assessment will also provide much of the data necessary for future grant requests to aid in funding these projects.

“Michigan TU and the Michigan DNR are very actively involved in the work of improving the Dowagiac,” add Marvin Strauch. “I think it is becoming an attractive fishing location, as a coldwater river in southwest Michigan with good populations of migratory steelhead and brown trout from Lake Michigan, and reasonably close proximity to Chicago. These activities are just the beginning to what can be a long-term process on the Dowagiac. With continued interest, there are numerous potential stream restoration projects for OBTU to either participate along with other groups, or to lead on our own.”

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Lunardini</td>
<td>President Officer</td>
<td>(630) 939-3471</td>
<td><a href="mailto:djl22@att.net">djl22@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willie Beshire</td>
<td>Vice President Officer</td>
<td>(630) 200-2532</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wbeshire@aol.com">wbeshire@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Potts</td>
<td>Treasurer Officer</td>
<td>(773) 835-4004</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhp8844@outlook.com">jhp8844@outlook.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Hennessy</td>
<td>Secretary Officer</td>
<td>(815) 341-6010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chennessee@earthlink.net">chennessee@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Borhauer</td>
<td>Director Membership Chair</td>
<td>(708) 710-9290</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rbborhauer@yahoo.com">rbborhauer@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Carlson</td>
<td>Director Conservation Chair</td>
<td>(708) 246-4835</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dmcarlson@hotmail.com">dmcarlson@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Krueger</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>(847) 975-1425</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kenkrueger62@yahoo.com">kenkrueger62@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Schmiedeskamp</td>
<td>Director Publicity/Communications Chair</td>
<td>(312) 375-6502</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j_schmieds@yahoo.com">j_schmieds@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Snyder</td>
<td>Director Financial Development Chair</td>
<td>(630) 977-9077</td>
<td><a href="mailto:frazier-tech@attglobal.net">frazier-tech@attglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Wisnosky</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>(630) 240-6910</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dennis@wisnosky.net">dennis@wisnosky.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Ralph</td>
<td>Ex Officer Director</td>
<td>(630) 993-2643</td>
<td><a href="mailto:r.ralph1@comcast.net">r.ralph1@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Michael</td>
<td>Emeritus Director</td>
<td>(847) 831-4159</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michaelled223@comcast.net">michaelled223@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Prosen</td>
<td>Emeritus Director</td>
<td>(630) 986-1310</td>
<td><a href="mailto:g.s.prosen@sbcglobal.net">g.s.prosen@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvin Strauch</td>
<td>Emeritus Director Youth Education Chair</td>
<td>(708) 599-5101</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mjstrauchjr@gmail.com">mjstrauchjr@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Vitti</td>
<td>Emeritus Director</td>
<td>(630) 969-2251</td>
<td><a href="mailto:josephvitti@ameritech.net">josephvitti@ameritech.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Hodge</td>
<td>Endowment Chair</td>
<td>(630) 267-9643</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fh435@aol.com">fh435@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Carlson</td>
<td>Leadership Chair</td>
<td>(630) 325-7932</td>
<td><a href="mailto:s_carlson@msn.com">s_carlson@msn.com</a></td>
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May/June 2017
Marcy Hamilton—continued from page 3

Michigan. Removal of the Pucker Street Dam will restore approximately two miles of this high gradient habitat immediately upstream of the dam.

OBTU: What is the expected impact on the Dowagiac’s migratory steelhead and brown trout from Lake Michigan during and after the project completion? What will be the primary benefits to the Dowagiac as a coldwater fishery?

Marcy: The Pucker Street Dam currently blocks the upstream migrations of fish species such as steelhead, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, brown trout, white suckers, and walleye to more than 159 miles of main stem and tributary habitat. With the dam removal, migratory fish will migrate long distances into the Dowagiac River system and resident species will move seasonally throughout the system in both upstream and downstream directions. Removal of the Pucker Street Dam will restore approximately two miles of high gradient stream habitat on the main stem and will provide migratory fish species with access to existing high gradient stream reaches in tributary streams. Natural reproduction of steelhead, brown trout, coho salmon, and walleye is expected to increase. The dam removal will reconnect more than 150 stream miles and will create new coho salmon, and walleye is expected to increase. The dam removal supports of the dam removal and restoration efforts. While others species such as walleye, suckers, and smallmouth bass.

OBTU: What has been the feedback from guides and fishermen?

Marcy: The feedback has been mixed. Some of the guides are very supportive of the dam removal and restoration efforts. While others are concerned that the fishery will be negatively impacted. The good news is that many guides and fishermen are bringing their resources and expertise to the Dowagiac River. They are volunteering with the habitat assessment and other improvement efforts in the watershed. It is exciting to see all of the interest in the common goal to improve the river habitat.

OBTU: What are the key work phases and timing?

Marcy: The project’s work phases include:

- **Data Collection** (survey, sediment sampling, sediment volume estimation, sampling for hazardous materials in the dam structure, wetland delineation)—Completed.
- **Concept Design** (vet designs with stakeholders and regulatory agencies merging together desired project goals with the realities of funding)—Completed.
- **Final Design** (development of plans, specifications, and cost estimates, permit applications, environmental assessment)—In progress; 80% completed.
- **Construction** (pipeline abandonment, removal of the dam structure, sediment management and river/floodplain restoration)—Fall 2017 through summer 2018.
- **Evaluation** (track the success of meeting project objectives of restoring natural river processes and increasing fishing and boating opportunities)—2018 – 2021.

OBTU: What kind of volunteer work can Trout Unlimited chapters provide in support of the Dowagiac project over the next couple of years?

Marcy: The Partnership for MEANDRS and Michigan Trout Unlimited are coordinating habitat assessment, a culvert inventory, temperature data collection and fish sampling on the Dowagiac River and its tributaries. Volunteers are needed to complete the assessment work, raise funds for providing local match for grants and in the future work on prioritized habitat improvement projects.

Trout in the Classroom—continued from page 4

This year, Mother Nature challenged us a bit, (...well more than a bit...).

The week before our release brought between 4 and 5 ½ inches of rain to the area. And to top things off, Monday and Tuesday were cold and windy, with intermittent drizzle. But it was amazing to see how quickly the creek recovered from that rain, and although completely roiled, and close to two feet high on Monday, the water level dropped enough by Tuesday that some brave students accessed the water to grab rock samples. By Wednesday, the creek had cleared enough to see bottom and dropped to a safe level for us to allow any willing students to enter the creek; and all of the kids went in. Of course, the water temperature stayed at 48-49°F.

2017 TIC Program By The Numbers

So here is a recap of the program by the numbers:

- **11 TIC schools assisted by OBTU.**
- **7 schools visited with TU presentations.**
- **6 schools viewed the "Wet Bugs" presentation.**
- **2 schools released rainbow trout in Lake Michigan near the Shedd Aquarium.**
- **9 schools releasing brown trout in South Kinnikinnick with over 250 students, teachers, and chaperones visited this spring creek for the release; 476 brown trout fingerlings were released over the week of May 1-5.**

We will be gaining at least two new schools for the 2017-18 school year. The program continues to grow, and we are helping to teach Chicago area young people more about the beauty, importance, and fragility of coldwater fishes and their habitat, as well as Trout Unlimited’s efforts to protect them.

2017 OBTU TIC Volunteers

Now, for the thank you’s. This program could not possibly be undertaken without the support of our members. This year, we blew away old benchmarks with 28 volunteers who helped at some point to deliver eggs, assist Dean Hansen, or work the release days. Special thanks to Willie Beshire, Wally Bock, Bob Borhauer, Dave Carlson, Steve Carlson, John Colwell, Arthur Eckert, Lisa Gilmore, Carol Hennessy, Fred Hodge, Dan LaFave, Dave Lunardini, Ed Michael, Greg Prosen, Rick Rowe, Jim Schmiedeskamp, Peter Sopkovich, John Snyder, Frank Sprouse, Bill Thorns, Walter Wahlfeld, Joe Weisenberger, Tom Wilhelm, Karen Young, Phil Young, Stan Zarnowiecki, Frank Zbyliski.

Planning for 2017-18 school year is well under way. We’re looking forward to seeing you there.