



## Spring 2021 Campaign

### Funding OBTU Conservation and Education

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited 2021 **conservation activities** include financial and volunteer support for projects aligned with our mission of conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in the Midwest. The Conservation Committee is working on numerous projects including stream restorations, coldwater fishery grants and stream monitoring programs including:

OBTU will continue to donate money to support multiple operations led by the Trout Unlimited Driftless Restoration Effort (TUDARE) in 2021. TUDARE is a long-term effort to protect, restore and enhance cold water rivers in the Driftless Area of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois.

- OBTU is the major sponsor and funding leader for the 2020-2021 Conway Creek Stream Restoration project. Conway Creek, located near Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, is a cold spring fed tributary to Tainter Creek, which is a major feeder stream to the Kickapoo River. Using the \$ 8,000 TU Embrace-A-Stream grant OBTU secured last year, we expect Conway Creek will again provide quality spawning and residential habitat for brook and brown trout

OBTU continues to raise our voice and open our pocketbook for the benefit of cold water resources in the Michigan region.

- The removal of the Pucker Street Dam in Niles, Michigan will be completed in 2021 with support provided, in part, by your OBTU chapter. This project will open up the entire Dowagiac River system to upstream migration of steelhead, salmon, and other fish species.
- For over 15 years, OBTU has worked on various projects on Michigan's Coldwater River and its tributaries with the Coldwater River Watershed Council. This year, two macroinvertebrate survey workdays are planned in May and October, where volunteers will collect stream samples from designated sites to classify the aquatic insects and various macro invertebrates found. We also plan to help fund additional real time stream monitoring activities, including water temperature loggers and a Mayfly Sensor Station.

Closer to home, we will be holding DuPage River Cleanup Days in May and October. Volunteers will be removing debris and litter along the West Branch of the DuPage River from Gartner Road to 75th Street in Naperville. This event is part of the DuPage County "Adopt-A-Stream" program to help keep local water resources clean.

Other conservation opportunities include partnering with chapters in different regions of Wisconsin, supporting the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation on land acquisitions, and participating in the development of a pilot watershed plan for Winneshiek Creek in Northwest Illinois.



DuPage River Cleanup

Pucker Street Dam Removed  
Dowagiac River

Conway Creek Restoration

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The **Education Committee** is looking forward to returning to our full array of youth and adult programs, probably starting in midsummer as the COVID threat subsides. As always, your past and continued financial and volunteer support for these activities is much appreciated by all participants and enables your OBTU chapter to accomplish our mission as a Trout Unlimited chapter.

- Trout in the Classroom school programs will resume with the 2021/2022 school year. We intend to fully support all existing TIC school programs. Plus, the funding of a new school program each year at a cost of approximately \$1500.
- Youth Fly Fishing will be conducted on a limited 2021 summer program. However, we hope to be able to return these programs more fully in the fall, including the single day programs that teach the basics of fly fishing to boys and girls aged 11- 18. Remember . . . these classes meet the requirements of the BSA Scouts Fly Fishing Merit Badge.
- Illinois Council Youth Conservation & Fly-Fishing Camp, normally offered by OBTU will not be offered this year due to the COVID situation. This well attended camp is a weeklong residence camp conducted in Roscommon, Michigan and on the Au Sable River. Campers learn the basics of fish biology, entomology, stream hydrology, while conducting a conservation project and learning to fly fish for the brook trout of the Au Sable. See you in summer of 2022.
- STREAM Girls is a *NEW* cooperative program between TU and Girls Scouts. We will use fly fishing as a means to employ STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) as well as Reflection and the Arts to explore a local stream



Macroinvertebrate Capture

Macroinvertebrate Identification



Trout In The Classroom