



## President's Letter

As more & more of our OBТУ colleagues complete their inoculations, we are looking forward to a cautious reopening of OBТУ. Our spring "Flyer" Newsletter highlights planned OBТУ events so you can begin "saving the dates". We encourage you to register your interest with the identified event leader at your earliest convenience. While our plans represent a good start toward returning to normal, we will continue to fill out the OBТУ calendar in the coming weeks. So, stay tuned to our email announcements and our [obtu.org](http://obtu.org) calendar for further developments.

The Spring Flyer includes OBТУ conservation & education updates. We are also announcing the OBТУ Spring Fundraising Campaign needed to pay for these programs. Your generosity enables OBТУ to continue making a meaningful impact on cold water conservation close to home.

We are planning to continue with online "Zoom" chapter meetings thru April and May. With the persistent numbers of new Covid-19 cases & many members still unvaccinated, we hope you agree that large indoor gatherings probably aren't a wise idea just yet. Depending on pandemic progress, we hope to return to our traditional in-person meetings at the Central Park West Building within the Oak Brook Park District campus.

As further detailed in the Flyer, we are planning to begin hosting outdoor activities. I've heard many reports of excellent spring fishing. The trout seem to be very cooperative during our human pandemic.

The OBТУ Spring Flyer Table of Contents is provided below. Don't hesitate to contact me if you want to discuss anything related to OBТУ.

I hope to see everyone in-person soon,

Willie Beshire  
President  
Oak Brook Trout Unlimited  
[wbeshire@aol.com](mailto:wbeshire@aol.com)

## "The Flyer" 2021 Spring Edition

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## 1. Conservation Report

In this edition, we are reporting additional details of the Conway Creek project (below). For a comprehensive report of recent OBTU conservation projects please revisit the winter newsletter:

<https://obtu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Winter-2021-newsletter-final.pdf>

### Conway Creek Update

The Conway Creek Project is a key part of the Tainter Creek Watershed Restoration, planned and managed by the Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE). 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. With habitat restoration, Conway will provide quality spawning and residential habitat for brook and brown trout.

The project will improve 2600 feet of Conway Creek upstream from its Tainter confluence. It will lower and reduce bank slopes so that erosion, phosphorus release and flood damage are reduced significantly. Log weirs, embedded root wads, and mid-stream boulders will provide excellent insect and fish habitat. Stream corners will have stone reinforcement providing both erosion reduction and fish habitat. On either side of the stream, harmful box elders will be removed and replaced with native ground cover. As a result, a half mile of high-quality cold water fishery will be created and the health of Tainter Creek itself will be improved.

The project is being managed and led by Paul Krahn, TUDARE Stream Restoration Specialist. While TUDARE is managing the project, the actual mechanical removal of alluvium and trees as well as the installation of rock and logs will be done by a contractor. Work began in the fall of 2020, when a Wisconsin DNR crew cleared trees and brush along the banks and installed a stile to improve access. Bank stabilization and habitat improvement work is expected to be completed this summer.

The Oak Brook Chapter is serving as a sponsor and funding leader of this project. OBTU received an \$8,000 Embrace A Stream grant from TU in the fall of 2020. With help from the local Coulee Region chapter, OBTU provided a matching contribution of \$8,000, and a check for a total of \$16,000 was presented to TUDARE. The total cost of the project is expected to be around \$70,000, about half of which will be covered by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Other funding partners include Bass Pro Shops, Wisconsin TU State Council (Friends of Wisconsin TU grant), Blackhawk TU chapter and Crawford County. Community partners include the Ed Rayner Farm (provided a perpetual easement held by the Wisconsin DNR), the Tainter Creek Farmer Led Watershed Council, the University of Wisconsin - Madison, the Valley Stewardship Network, and the Wisconsin DNR.

Tainter Creek is a Class I stream which has miles of public fishing easements providing easy access. For those interested in learning more, here is a link to a very informative article written about restoration work completed on the Tainter section of the Rayner property in 2019.

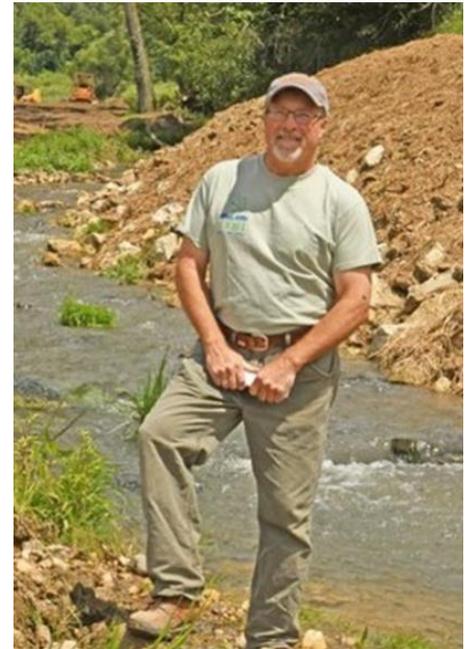
<https://www.swnews4u.com/local/tainter-creek-streambank-restoration-focused-flooding-and-fishing/>

**Conservation Report-continued:**

**More on Conway Creek:**



**Up Stream Section of Conway Creek**



**Paul Krahn,  
TUDARE Project Manager**



**Embrace a Stream (EAS) is a TU program awarding conservation grants to local TU Chapters. OBTU won one of the 17 EAS grants awarded in 2020. (There are a total of 387 TU chapters that are eligible to compete for EAS grants.)**



**Downstream Section of Conway Creek  
(Near Its Juncture with Tainter Creek)**

## 2. Education Update

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 with 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 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 Girl Scouts. We will use fly fishing as a means to employ STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) as well as Recreation and the Arts to explore a local stream.



Macroinvertebrate Capture



Macroinvertebrate Identification



Trout In The Classroom

Marvin Strauch  
Education Chair  
708-638-1318  
[youthed@obtu.org](mailto:youthed@obtu.org)

### 3. Funding OBТУ Conservation and Education Programs:

In 2021 the OBТУ board decided to return to the 2 major fund raising events that have successfully funded OBТУ programs for several pre-pandemic years:

1. A spring fund raising drive.
2. A holiday party in December with the typical bucket raffles & silent auctions; as well as online raffles preceding the party.

### Announcing the OBТУ Spring Fundraising Campaign:

Please expect to receive a mailing within the next couple weeks further detailing the spring campaign and seeking your support. If you prefer the convenience of donating online, please watch for our online fundraising messages. The spring campaign represents OBТУ's largest fundraising event of the year. Net proceeds will be spent entirely on our conservation and education programs.

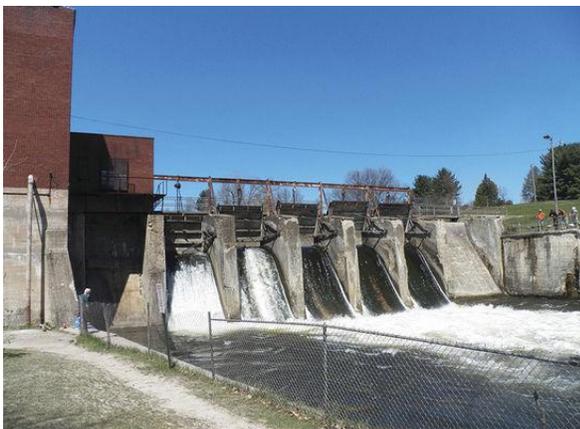
While your Trout Unlimited membership dues benefit the national organization, your OBТУ donations fund local Midwest region projects to improve the cold water environment (and fishing) close to home. Your generosity will enable OBТУ to continue to make a significant impact through fulfilling our mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's cold water fisheries and their watersheds.

**For those who would prefer to donate now, please use the following link:**

### [DONATE TO OBТУ SPRING CAMPAIGN](#)

**The rehabilitation of Michigan's Dowagiac River exemplifies the projects where OBТУ provides ongoing support:**

As pictured below, the recently removed Pucker Street Dam in Niles, Michigan, represents a major impact on the Dowagiac River. Miles of expanded habitat are opened for ready access by migratory fish such as steelhead, salmon, and lake-run brown trout. Increased flow improves the cold water ecosystem. The dam removal is just part of a much larger multi-year program to significantly improve the watershed.



Before



After

**4. Planned Meeting Programs:** OBTU will continue to hold online Zoom meetings in April and May. Depending on Covid-19 status, we hope to return to in-person meetings at the Oak Brook Recreation Center in fall, 2021.

**April 21**

**Topic:** Dowagiac River Restoration & Pucker Street Dam Removal; Niles, Michigan.

**Panel Discussion Speakers Include:**



**Marcy Hamilton,**  
Deputy Executive Director,  
SW Michigan Planning Commission  
Dowagiac Restoration Overview



**Jake Lemmon, TU,**  
Eastern Angler Science  
Coordinator,  
Stream Monitoring Technology



**Jay Anglin, Anglin Outdoors,**  
Fishing Guide's Local Perspective  
On Pucker St. Dam Removal,  
[Click for Anglin Outdoors Web Site](#)

**May 19:**

**Paul Bunker, Colorado TU**

**Topic:** "Restoring Native Trout of Yellowstone"  
"Zoom" online presentation



**Yellowstone  
Cutthroat**

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**\*\*\*Following the customary summer break, chapter meetings will resume in the fall.\*\*\***

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**September 15:**

**Matt Jennings:** TU, Gary Berger Chapter, Conservation Chair  
**Topic:** "Fly Fishing the Tributaries" (Matt's an expert)

Root River  
Steelhead,  
Wisconsin



Milwaukee River Lake Run Brown,  
Wisconsin

**More Chapter Meeting Coming Attractions:**

**October 20:** Michigan TU presents: "TU Conservation - What's happening in Michigan?"

**November 17:** To Be Determined

**December 8:** Holiday Party, Arrowhead Golf Club, Wheaton

**January 19, 2022:** Dustan Harley, Proprietor of Ripple Guide Service, South Bend, IN.

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## **5. OBTU Fishing & Conservation Outings (Save the Dates and Register Your Interest):**

**May 1: DuPage River Cleanup** on a Saturday Morning at Pioneer Park in Naperville

Click for More Info: [River Cleanup Outing Details](#)

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**May 15: Coldwater River Macro Invertebrate Survey & Fishing Weekend.**  
Grand Rapids, Michigan area.

Click for More Info: [Coldwater River Weekend Outing Details](#)

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**September 10-12: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chapter Fishing Outing to the Wisconsin Driftless Area.**  
The trip is based at Nature Nooks Retreat on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River, Near Viroqua, Wisconsin. Nature Nooks Rooms are first come, first served.

Click for More Info: [Fall Fishing Outing to Wisconsin Driftless Area Details](#)

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**October 15-17: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chapter Fishing Outing to the Iowa Driftless Area.**  
The trip is based in Decorah, Iowa, with various lodging options available.

Click for More Info: [Fall Fishing Outing to Iowa Driftless Area Details](#)

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## **“Fishing with Friends” opportunity:**

Paul (Mac) McCall, OBTU member, has taken the initiative to offer an open personal invitation to OBTU members that would like to go fishing in the “Driftless Area” near Decorah, Iowa. Mac will only accept attendees that have completed their Covid-19 Vaccination(s). Each attendee will be responsible for their own individual expenses. Mac will loosely coordinate travel, meal, and fishing plans. Mac is planning two trips on the following dates:

**May 5-8 Iowa Driftless Area**

**June 10-13 Iowa Driftless Area**

Attendees have the flexibility to vary from Mac’s proposed dates as needed.

For more information please contact:

Mac McCall  
[mccalltrout@gmail.com](mailto:mccalltrout@gmail.com)  
(708) 870-0855

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## 6. OBTU Volunteer Opportunities

There are a wide range of volunteer opportunities where you can assist on various Oak Brook Trout Unlimited committees. Please let any of the OBTU Board of Directors know if you would like to get more involved. You will find friendly people, rewarding work and an abundance of fishing buddies!

While there are many ways you can help, some of our higher priority volunteer needs at this time are highlighted:

**-Information Technology Team Members** to help with our web site (Wordpress/Go-Daddy), email system (Constant Contact), and social media platforms (Facebook & Instagram).

**-Communications Team Members** to develop newsletters, announcements and other written communications.

**-Programs and Events Committee Members** to periodically help with managing chapter meeting programs, social events, open houses, fishing outings, trade shows, and other events.

Contact: Willie Beshire  
[wbeshire@aol.com](mailto:wbeshire@aol.com)