



## President's Letter

Welcome to our April, 2022 Edition of the "Flyer". This edition includes reporting of OBTU Activities from August 2021 up to the present. More importantly, upcoming OBTU events are highlighted to help you plan your schedule. Be prepared to mark up your calendar.

### **Despite continued Covid-19 challenges, OBTU has continued to roll with well-attended events:**

- Several outdoor conservation work days have taken place (Coldwater River, DuPage River, SE Wisconsin).
- We introduced a hybrid format for monthly chapter meetings enabling choice of in-person or remote attendance.
- Three chapter fishing outings were held last fall (in addition to numerous private outings by members)
- Trout-on-Tap, Fly-Tying-on-Tap, & OBTU Breakfasts continue to create opportunities to connect.
- Despite Covid consideration, our annual holiday party fund raiser was enjoyed by about 45 attendees & the event netted over \$6,000. While not a record setter, results were respectable when compared to some past years. (Unfortunately, our tradeshow presence was a Covid-19 Casualty---The Early Show, Schaumburg Show, Tinley Park Show, and most vendor in-store events were cancelled putting a damper on OBTU's outreach efforts.)

### **We are now moving closer to normal in 2022:**

- Hybrid chapter meetings with your choice to "attend in-person" or "remote" via Zoom will continue.
- Robust plans for OBTU chapter conservation efforts are prepared with over \$21,000 budgeted for grants to various conservation projects. Several conservation hands-on work days are planned.
- We are returning to a full slate of Education programs including Trout-In-The-Classroom; Youth Fly Fishing Classes, a new Stream Girls program; and restarting of the IL Council Youth Camp scheduled for July 24-29.
- 3 OBTU Chapter fishing outings are currently planned for April 22-24, Sept 16-18 and Oct 14-6.
- As in recent years, 2 major Fund Raisers are planned including our annual Spring Fund Drive and our December Holiday Party at Arrowhead Golf Club.
- Opportunities to connect with colleagues through Trout-on-Tap, Breakfast Club & Fly Tying on Tap continue.

### **If you are looking to get more involved, please visit OBTU's calendar on the obtu.org web site:**

**[Link to OBTU Calendar](#)** The calendar is the easiest way to access the schedule of chapter events, become informed of event details, or contact the event organizer to register. **Make sure you click on the event to "drill down"** to significant details that are often available.

Read all about OBTU news in the April edition of "The Flyer" below. I hope to see everyone at an OBTU event soon. Don't hesitate to contact me or any of the OBTU Board members with your questions or comments.

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

## **"The Flyer" April 2022 Edition**

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## 1. Conservation Update

### Conservation Projects

Led by Dave Carlson, OBTU's Conservation Committee has been very busy lining up opportunities to contribute dollars and work days toward the improvement of trout streams throughout the Midwest. OBTU continues to partner with numerous other chapters, conservation organizations, and watershed councils. In addition to chapter work day opportunities, OBTU has budgeted over \$21,000 to provide financial assistance to the following projects in the current 2022-23 fiscal year:

- Au Sable River, MI** – Replace Pine/Spite Road stairway (still in process from last year)
- Coldwater River, MI** -Install EnviroDIY Sensor Station dissolved oxygen unit
- Dowagiac River, MI** – Improve habitat, contribute to endowment fund
- Kinnickinnick River, WI** – Remove Power Falls Dam near River Falls, WI.
- Monroe County, WI** – assess stream crossings, install easement signage, improve access
- Timber Coulee Creek, WI** – Repair Driftless Area stream flood damage, stabilize banks.
- Traverse Valley Creek, WI** – Improve Driftless Area brook trout stream habitat
- Illinois Driftless** – Install temperature loggers & monitor stream temperature
- Iowa Driftless** – contribute to land acquisition for the public, support Bloody Run CAFO litigation (Concentrated Agricultural Feeding Operation). Plans are a major threat to Bloody Run.
- TUDARE** – Help finance required program management expenses not covered by government grants.

The OBTU conservation money that you donate flows to these projects! Watch for upcoming communications which will provide more specific details as the work progresses.



### Conservation Work Days

OBTU has a great lineup of conservation activities planned for 2022! We will be continuing our Spring and Fall DuPage River Cleanups and our Spring and Fall Coldwater Macroinvertebrate Surveys. Additionally, the Southeast Wisconsin TU Chapter has asked for our assistance with three workdays on streams located in southeast Wisconsin. More specifics on conservation activities may be found below or by visiting the [obtu.org](http://obtu.org) website calendar.

#### DuPage River Cleanup Days

Make sure to mark your calendars for the Spring Cleanup scheduled for **April 30** and the Fall Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, **October 22**.

Bring your boots or waders and join us for a morning of removing debris and litter from the West Branch of the DuPage River. Gloves, trash pokers, garbage bags, and drinking water will be provided. Bring the whole family! This is a fun and safe outdoor activity. No one must get into the water.

DuPage River Cleanup Days are part of the DuPage County Adopt-A-Stream program, which was created to help keep local water resources clean. OBTU began participating in the Adopt-A-Stream program in 2019, with cleanup days held on our adopted stretch of West Branch of the DuPage River south of downtown Naperville, IL.



*Participants of the Fall 2022 DuPage River Cleanup*

### **Coldwater River Macroinvertebrate Surveys**

This year marks OBTU's 9th year of conducting macroinvertebrate surveys on the Coldwater River, located near Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Spring Survey is scheduled for Saturday, **May 21** and the Fall Survey is scheduled for Saturday, **October 8**.

The project takes approximately 4 hours, with teams surveying one of 5 stream sections, collecting insects with seines, recording the stream habitat, and returning to the meeting point to identify and count the insects collected. Our data aids in planning future restoration projects and is uploaded to a statewide database.

After lunch, many participants take the opportunity to extend their stay and get some fishing in. Seasoned Coldwater veterans are happy to share their knowledge of local "hot spots" on the Coldwater, Rogue, and Muskegon Rivers.



*Participants of the Fall 2021 Coldwater Macro Survey*

### Southeast Wisconsin Workdays

Last year, the Southeast Wisconsin TU Chapter generously invited OBTU to join them for two workdays on streams located nearby in southwest Wisconsin. We are excited to continue our relationship with SEWTU and look forward to working together again this year! Scheduled workday dates are as follows:

- **June 11 - Bluff Creek** - Northwest Walworth County Wisconsin
- **July 16 - Karcher Creek** - Southwest Racine County Wisconsin
- **October 22- Tichigan Creek** - Western Racine County Wisconsin

The workdays generally run from 9:00am to noon on a Saturday, followed by a traditional brat fry lunch. Work consists mainly of cutting down buckthorn with a chainsaw and dragging the branches away from the stream corridor. Also, loppers are used to cut numerous other invasive species.



*Participants in the 2021 Karcher Creek Workday. Not shown are two Wisconsin DNR staff members who helped with the project.*

### Volunteers Wanted

If you would like more information on any of the 2022 conservation projects or are interested in volunteering, please contact Dave Carlson at [dmcarlson@hotmail.com](mailto:dmcarlson@hotmail.com) or (312) 953-6759.

## 2. Education Update

OBTU is pleased to report that all of our major youth education programs are fully up and running this year. This is really fun stuff and you are welcome to join in the fun. **WE NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS** and are always seeking new volunteers who can be introduced to these programs to help keep them strong over the long term. It's a great way to connect with colleagues and perhaps learn a few new things. Please reach out to us if you have interest in getting involved. Many thanks to Marvin Strauch who has been serving as the Youth Education Committee Chair and providing superb leadership for many years.

Contact: Marvin Strauch, Education Chair [mjstrauchjr@gmail.com](mailto:mjstrauchjr@gmail.com) 708-638-1318

### Trout-in-the-Classroom

Trout-in-the-Classroom is charging full steam ahead.

-OBTU Volunteers delivered fertilized trout eggs to 14 schools back in November, 2021.

-In April, Dean Hansen, a professional entomologist from the Minneapolis area, was engaged for a week to deliver outstanding live macroinvertebrate samples as well as his expertise in presenting "Entomology Day" to a number of area schools. Dean is assisted by about 4 to 5 OBTU volunteers for each classroom session. Teachers have said, "This is the best science class of the year!"

-Schedules are now being finalized for "Trout Release" field trips during the week of **May 2-6**. Students ride the bus to their respective release site, explore the environment, conduct some bug sampling and execute water quality tests, and then release the 3 to 4 inch fingerlings which have been grown from eggs in their classrooms.

-We are in the process of finalizing a grant to setup an aquarium in a new school for next year. We hope to keep growing the TIC program with the addition of 1 or 2 new schools each year.

### [Link to Trout-In-The-Classroom Info](#)

Contact Marvin Strauch:  
[mjstrauchjr@gmail.com](mailto:mjstrauchjr@gmail.com)  
708-638-1318



### Youth Fly Fishing Training

After resorting to Covid-19 accommodations last year (such as teaching fly fishing knots online via Zoom), the Youth Fly Fishing Training team is so happy to be getting back to full in-person training this year. These classes are free to participants and all equipment is provided. **Class dates are: May 7; June 4; July 9; Aug 6; and Sept 17.** Classes include a half day of classroom instruction followed by a fly casting lesson & fly fishing at a local lake.

Participants can earn a Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit badge in one day.

### [Link to Youth Fly Fishing Training Flyer](#)

Contact Mike Lesiak:  
[michael.lesiak@cbservices.org](mailto:michael.lesiak@cbservices.org)  
630-300-4997





## Stream Girls

OBTU's new Stream Girls Program is now up and running! OBTU's team has been busy collaborating with area Girl Scout leaders to organize the program, arrange for an appropriate stream location, recruit several OBTU volunteers to lead the program, assemble the needed workbooks & equipment; and recruit the girl scouts who will participate. The first "live" pilot Stream Girls program will be run on **Saturday, June 11**. A second session is being scheduled later in the summer or fall.

STREAM Girls uses investigation of a stream as a vehicle to further STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) along with Reading and Art (hence the extension of "STEM" to "STREAM"). Over the course of multiple sessions, Trout Unlimited volunteers lead the Girl Scouts in observing a stream, collecting flow data, sampling macroinvertebrates (aka aquatic bugs), fly tying, and fly casting. Each day also gives the girls time to intimately explore their natural surroundings and record their thoughts, feelings, and observations in their handbooks.

### [Link to Stream Girls Flyer](#)

Contact: Marvin Strauch



### [LINK to 3 Minute Video](#)

## Illinois Council of TU Youth Camp (restarting after a 2 year Covid-19 hiatus)

Youth Camp is an outstanding opportunity for girls & boys ages 13 thru 18 to learn to fly fish for wild trout on Michigan's Au Sable River while also receiving an excellent introduction to cold water conservation through a series of field trips with local university professors, naturalists, biologists and historians. This year's camp will take place **July 24-29**. Camp flyers, presentations, and applications are available on obtu.org.

[Link to Youth Camp Materials](#) Let us know if you are interested in serving as a camp mentor.

Contact: Dan LaFave, IL Council Youth Camp Director & OBTU Board Member



**Seeking educational adventure this summer? Apply now to increase chance of acceptance!**



### 3. Fundraising Update

#### 2021 Holiday Party Fundraiser

Following 2021's Covid-19 hiatus, OBTU was once again able to hold its annual holiday party. The event was held at the Arrowhead Golf Course banquet facility in Wheaton where we have had good experience in past years. Although the attendance was a little lower than prior years, there was a good crowd which led to a very festive event and a respectable fund raising results. Thanks goes out to John Snyder and his Fundraising Committee for pulling this together. We also thank our many generous friends in the fishing guide & hospitality businesses for valuable donations of guided trips and lodging. Please patronize their businesses. Donors include:

**Jon Ray and Mangled Fly**, Centrally located in the heart of the "Century Circle", Western Michigan, <https://mangledfly.com>

**Mike Allen & Kurt Nelson, Midwest Waters Angling Co**, Northern Illinois Guide Service, [www.midwestwaters.com](http://www.midwestwaters.com)

**Kent Kleckner & Bear Creek Anglers**, Iowa Driftless Area, Decorah, Iowa, [www.bearcreekanglers.com](http://www.bearcreekanglers.com)

**Sankoty Lakes**, Situated on the immaculate waters of the Sankoty Aquifer, Spring Bay, Illinois, [www.sankotylakes.com](http://www.sankotylakes.com)

**Glen Blackwood & Great Lakes Fly Fishing Co**, Western Michigan, Rockford Michigan, <https://troutmoor.net>

**Jay Allen and Muskegon River Inn**, Western Michigan, Newaygo, Michigan, <https://muskegonriverinn.com>

**P.J. Smith, P.J. Guide Service**, Wisconsin Driftless Area, Westby, Wisconsin, <https://pjguideservice.com>

**Driftless Angler, Mat Wagner & Jeri Meyer**, Wisconsin Driftless Area, Viroqua, Wisconsin, [www.driftlessangler.com](http://www.driftlessangler.com)

**Nature Nooks Retreat**, West Fork of the Kickapoo River, Wisconsin Driftless Area, Viroqua, Wisconsin, [www.naturenooksretreat.com](http://www.naturenooksretreat.com)

**The Fenway House Hotel**, Wisconsin Driftless Area, Fennimore, Wisconsin, <https://fenwayhousehotel.com>

*The Chapter also thanks the following vendors for generous donations of party prizes:*

<b>Patagonia, Lincoln Park Store</b>	<b>Spotted Bear Spirits, Whitefish Montana</b>	<b>Lynfred Winery, Roselle</b>
<b>Filson, Naperville Store</b>	<b>Cress Creek Country Club</b>	<b>Brookfield Zoo</b>
<b>Rush Creek Distilling, Harvard Illinois</b>	<b>Village Links of Glen Ellyn</b>	<b>The Drake Magazine</b>
<b>Dr. Chris Adams, Fish Wiz LLC</b>	<b>California Pizza Kitchen, Oak Brook</b>	<b>Arrowhead Golf Club</b>
<b>Whitetail Fly Tying Supplies, Internet Sales</b>		

*The Chapter also thanks the following individuals for generous donations of party prizes:*

<b>Joe Gardner</b>	<b>Ed Michael</b>	<b>Joe Vitti</b>
<b>Lisa Gilmore</b>	<b>Frank Sprouse</b>	<b>Dr. Mike Yousi</b>
<b>Bob Hutchinson</b>	<b>Steve Stricker</b>	<b>Estate of Fred Hodge</b>

It would not be much of a party without the generosity of the aforementioned. OBTU Thanks you!

## 2022 Annual Spring Fund Raising Drive

Please watch your mail for the OBTU 2022 Spring Fund Raising Drive request for contributions. The Spring Fundraising Drive is our main fundraiser for our Conservation Program and Education Programs. We are excited about our robust plans for our conservation & education programs including some interesting new projects. Our Conservation Budget for the 2022/2023 Fiscal year is over \$21,000. Our Education budget is over \$6,000. As reported in the Conservation & Education Updates above, your contributions will enable OBTU to support the planned projects:

- Au Sable River, MI** – Replace Pine/Spite Road stairway (still in process from last year)
- Coldwater River, MI** -Install EnviroDIY Sensor Station dissolved oxygen unit
- Dowagiac River, MI** – Improve habitat, contribute to endowment fund
- Kinnickinnick River, WI** – Remove Power Falls Dam near River Falls, WI.
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- Iowa Driftless** – contribute to land acquisition for the public, support Bloody Run CAFO litigation (Concentrated Agricultural Feeding Operation). Plans are a major threat to Bloody Run.
- TUDARE** – Help finance required program management expenses not covered by government grants.
- Trout in the Classroom** – Fund a new school aquarium setup; fund Dean Hanson Entomology days.
- Stream Girls** expenses not covered by government grants
- Youth Fly Fishing Classes** – Fund ongoing equipment maintenance & supplies
- IL Council Youth Camp** – Fund ongoing camp operational costs

Please be sure to give your personal thanks to Carol Hennessy recently accepting the Fundraising Committee Chair responsibility in addition to continuing her long-term service as the OBTU Secretary. Carol works diligently and has demonstrated exceptional commitment to serving OBTU for many years. Thanks again to Carol for accepting this challenging, OBTU mission critical responsibility.

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**Arrowhead Golf Clubhouse, Site of the OBTU 2021 Holiday Party**



## 4. OBTU Fishing Outings

At present, OBTU has the following planned 2022 fishing outings:

### Fennimore, Wisconsin: April 22-24

A group of about 12 are staying at the Fennimore Hotel on Friday & Saturday evening and will be fishing the streams in the southern portion of the Driftless Area including the Green River, Blue River, Castle Rock & others. This is a loosely coordinated trip with everyone making their own reservations. A group breakfast and dinner are planned at the Fennimore Hotel on Saturday April, 23.

Contact: John Snyder: <mailto:frazier-tech@attglobal.net>

### Grand Rapids Area, Michigan: Weekend of May 21

This fishing opportunity is an offshoot of our semi-annual macroinvertebrate survey on the Coldwater River located to the southeast of Grand Rapids. A popular one half day work effort is planned for the Saturday morning---typically with donuts before and a brat roast after. Many attendees make plans for fishing during the weekend on days either before or after the work session. Some popular fishing options in the area include the Coldwater River, the Rogue River, or the Muskegon. If you are interested, efforts will be made to pair you up with those who are familiar with the area. [Link to Added Fishing Trip Info](#)

Contact: Marvin Strauch [mjstrauchjr@gmail.com](mailto:mjstrauchjr@gmail.com) 708-638-1318

### Viroqua, Wisconsin: September 16-18

This is the fourth annual outing to the Viroqua area staying at the Nature Nooks Retreat, a lodge on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in the heart of the Wisconsin Driftless area a short distance from a number of quality trout stream. There is room for up to 12 guests at the lodge where we will share group dinners on Friday & Saturday, and breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday. This trip is designed to be friendly to those who may be new to fly fishing or new to the Driftless Area as well as seasoned experts who may want to go off on their own to be one with nature. Reservations will be taken first come first served. Trip costs are very modest. If the lodge fills, overflow accommodations can be arranged at motels or campsites in the area. [Link to Added Fishing Trip Info](#)

Contact: Willie Beshire <mailto:wbeshire@aol.com>

### Decorah, Iowa: October 14-16

This is the fourth annual outing to the Iowa Driftless Area. Attendees have their choice of accommodations in the area around Decorah, Iowa. Eighteen OBTU members attended this outing in 2021. Group dinners will be organized for the Friday and Saturday evenings---food was very good last year & no complaints were received! For those who want to be pointed in the right direction, we will do our best to help everyone succeed. This is a very modestly priced trip. [Link to Added Fishing Trip Info](#)

Contact: Willie Beshire: <mailto:wbeshire@aol.com>

### Pictures from the Fall 2021 Wisconsin & Iowa Driftless Area Trips:



Foggy Sunrise over the bluff as seen from Nature Nooks Retreat on the West Fork Kickapoo



Jim Moravcik with a West Fork Brown.



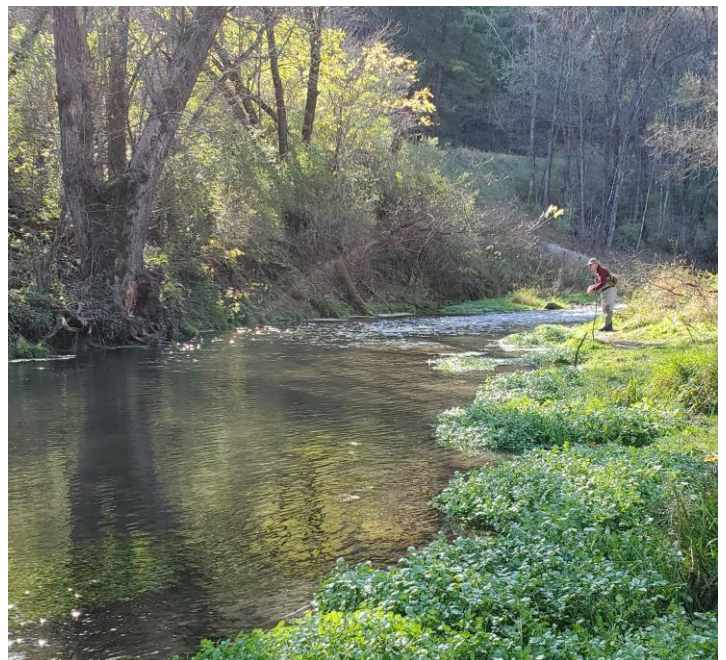
Conway Creek looking good after rehabilitation. OBTU raised substantial funding for this project.



A happy group at Friday evening dinner at the Toppling Goliath Brewery, Decorah, Iowa.



Dave Dial gets lucky at Blood Run in Iowa (near Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin). This stream is currently under threat from planned development of a Concentrated Agricultural Feeding Operation (CAFO) that will runoff into Bloody Run.



Dave fishes a scenic stretch of Waterloo Creek near Dorchester, Iowa. The eroded roots at the base of the large tree is quite a “honey hole”.



Tom & Missey Wilhelm on North Bear Creek, near Decorah, Iowa. Missey is smiling; Tom not so much.



Pan-sized brown coaxed out of very healthy watercress growth on Waterloo Creek near Dorchester, Iowa.



We were graced with the opportunity to fish with Robert Rowe, of Peoria, IL, who joined us from downstate. Rob took the initiative to hike down to NE Iowa's South Pine Creek and was rewarded with this fine brook trout. The South Pine is highly regarded as rare habitat containing a unique local strain of heritage brook trout. Rob is also shown at right with a brown from the Paint River in Iowa. Well done Rob!



Dean Abate, of Palos Park, IL, with a chubby rainbow. Who says we don't have young guys at TU? Watch out for this guy. His story was that he is a beginner. He must be a natural!

Our members from downstate are most welcome at any OBTU event. With our Covid-inspired increase in the use of Zoom video conferencing, we are beginning to see a number of downstate members at our meetings and other events-----one positive side effect of the pandemic!

## **AUGUST, 2021, TRIP TO Kishwaukee**

**WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN IT'S TOO HOT TO FISH FOR TROUT?  
(Our most colorful fishing story: courtesy of Stan Zarnowiecki)**



Left to Right: Paul McCall, Ken Krueger, Bill Seiwert, Stan Zarnowiecki, John Martyn, Steve Shapiro, and Bob Eisenhart (Dave Lunardini not pictured---probably the photographer)

It's 85 miles to the Kishwaukee River, I have a full tank of gas, 5 cigars, it's not dark, and I'm wearing sun glasses, HIT IT!

So begins my short drive to the Blackhawk Valley campground where 7 other OBTU'ers will meet up to fish the Kish, Smallmouth are our quarry. In the summer, lay off killing trout in too warm waters on too warm days and target Smallmouth and other warm water species that are much harder and more fun to catch, especially on fly rods.

Friday evening, by 7 pm, everyone has made the trip safely, tents are set up and dinner is on the grill, Brats, coleslaw and potato salad. After dinner, we settle in to a BS session while listening to the White Sox beat up on some minor league team. Its close to 90 degrees by sundown so no one is moving too fast and sleeping at that temperature, in overheated tents, will be none too comfortable. I choose to use a libation (or two) to hopefully pass out for a few hours at least.



Saturday morning brings breakfast chores and cooking up bacon and eggs. Around 9 am, most everyone departs for fishing, choosing different access points along the river. The Kish has enough areas to wade fish, as long as you start off low enough to avoid the parade of tubers. As the day grows long, it's best to move up the waterway and find access points that tubers have already exited.

Ken and I are going to float the river in our newly purchased fishing kayaks. I have floated rivers, fishing, in every type of watercraft and enjoy the solitude, simplicity and usefulness that a well-appointed fishing kayak can bring to your day. Since I know the river, (HA!) we start at the top and plan to float all the way back to the campground, maybe 12 miles? Well, the plan falls apart as we don't get drifting downriver until close to 11 am, we fish the upper sections too long and have to paddle long stretches just to get to our halfway point. By 4 pm, we are on the phone, texting and calling anybody to come and save us, picking us up at the park, instead of the campground and then getting back to our car to pick up kayaks and gear. We were close to calling in UBER, since cell service was spotty, but eventually we contact Dave and he is willing and able to save us from ourselves.

Everyone is back at the group campsite and the fire is ready to accept our Saturday night dinner, steaks with grilled onions, potato salad and coleslaw, cookies for dessert. The group report is that everyone caught fish, no lunkers this time around, but something that put a slight bend in the rod. Saturday night brings another round chair discussion, tonight the Bears are playing their last pre season game and we overhear the broadcast, along with the hoots of the Barred owl and a great Horned owl too, lucky us.

The weather this weekend is not hot, not sultry, not pleasant, just down right sweltering. Sunday morning, everyone starts to pack up and head home, seeing that fishing isn't that great and the heat and humidity have DAMPENED our spirits, along with our tents and clothes.

Attendees for this trip were Ken Krueger, Dave Lunardini, John Martyn, Paul McCall, Bill Seiwert, Bob Eisenhart, Steve Shapiro, and myself.

Awards were given out on Sunday am as follows:

**Largest tent**-Dave Lunardini, a 12 by 18 domicile including screen porch and mother-in-law quarters. Dave is the smallest framed member of the group at 5 foot nothing.

**Smallest tent**-Steve Shapiro, his tent was so small he had to go outside to change his mind. Steve is bigger than Dave.

**Most help around the campsite**-a tie between John and Bob. They were tripping over themselves, attempting to be the winner of this award by pitching in with all chores, including tent setup, cooking, food prep, cooler cleaning, dish washing, and a ton of other stuff that I missed.

**Grand master planner**-Ken Krueger. Ken made the reservations, advertised the event, assembled the group, procured the eats for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. He cooked, he cleaned, he made a mess, he cleaned the mess, and fished.

Ken is a great planner and also happens to be the OBTU membership chair. He has done a great job, organizing evening and morning breakfast meetings throughout this and past summers. OBTU is lucky to have him, next time you see him, thank him for all of his hard work, even if you didn't come to one of these get togethers.

If any of this sounds like fun, something you want to be a part of, next time sign up for some of the great outings that our chapter organizes.

## 5. 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, and keep our web site content up to date.

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

In addition, we welcome all members to participate in our very popular chapter activities including:

**-Conservation work days** such as river cleanups, stream rehabilitation work, and macroinvertebrate surveys.

**-Education programs** such as youth fly fishing classes, trout-in-the classroom events, adult fly tying classes, and the startup of OBTU's new Stream Girls program. OBTU also has a strong record of providing many adult mentors who serve the 6 day camp at the TU Illinois Council Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp on Michigan's Au Sable River.

To discuss volunteer opportunities:

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

OR: Reach out to the appropriate program leader.



*Insect Capture on the Coldwater River near Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

*Our Mascro Invertebrate Survey takes place twice a year. This is a very popular OBTU volunteer opportunity.*

Contact: Marvin Strauch: [mjstrauchjr@gmail.com](mailto:mjstrauchjr@gmail.com) 708-638-1318