

President's Letter

Welcome to our September 2022 Edition of the "Flyer". With over 2 years of the pandemic under our belts, I'm pleased report that all of OBТУ's major programs remain strong and we are experiencing solid levels of participation from members. In summary:

-Our Spring Fundraising Drive has once again set a new record for the total funds contributed. OBТУ's gross revenue for our 2022 campaign was \$11,100 which exceeded the record of \$10,000 set by the 2021 campaign. Many thanks to our donors who enable OBТУ to keep up the good work and remain strong for the future.

-Our approach to hybrid chapter meetings allowing members their choice of attending in person or remote via Zoom has been working. Attendance has been steady ranging from about 30 to 40 attendees per meeting. Enabled by Zoom, we have gained added participation from a few of our downstate colleagues. However, we have not yet fully returned to pre-Covid attendance levels.

-Our Education Programs have been fully operational during 2022 including our return to "Trout in the Classroom", Youth Fly Fishing Training classes, and the ongoing Tuesday & Sunday Fly Casting Sessions. In collaboration with the Girl Scouts, OBТУ has established a new Stream Girls program and we're planning for growth. After a two-year hiatus, OBТУ played a leadership role in restarting the Illinois Council's "Youth Conservation and Flyfishing Camp" which was successfully held on the AuSable River near Grayling, Michigan, during the last week of July.

-Our conservation programs continue to be active and several stream conservation work days have taken place and continue in Michigan, Wisconsin & Illinois. OBТУ continues to grant financial support to a number of worthy cold water stream habitat improvement projects in our local region.

The OBТУ online calendar is now up to date for OBТУ events through the end of 2022.

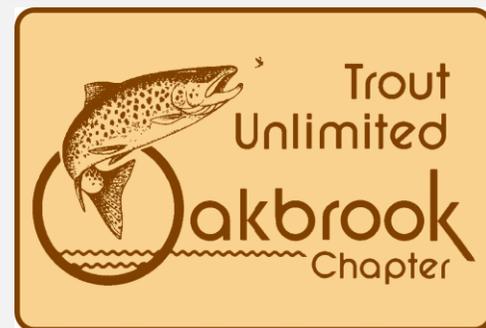
[Link to OBТУ Calendar](#) Stay tuned to the calendar to access the schedule of chapter events, monitor developing event details, or contact the event organizer to register. Make sure you click on the event to "drill down" to significant details that are often available. Also, visit our web site <https://obtu.org> for more information.

Willie Beshire
President
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"The Flyer" September 2022 Edition

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This is a retro image of OBТУ's logo circa late 1980's. OBТУ's 50th anniversary takes place in 2023. Celebration planning is underway!

1. Conservation Update

OBTU has contributed funding to several TU projects this year including the Kinnickinnic Power Falls Dam Removal in River Falls, Wisconsin, habitat restoration on the Timber Coulee, Monroe County Wisconsin efforts to assess stream crossings and installation of easement signage, and continuation of our annual contribution to TUDARE to fund administrative costs not funded by other grants. In addition we have committed to provide a significant grant toward planned efforts to improve Brook Trout Habitat on Traverse Valley Creek. OBTU has also conducted the usual conservation work days connected with our ongoing project relationships in Wisconsin, Michigan & Illinois.

If you would like to participate, OBTU has three great conservation activities remaining for 2022! More specific information on each may be obtained by contacting the individuals listed or by visiting the obtu.org website calendar.

DuPage River Cleanup – Saturday, October 22

(Fall Work Day # 1)

Make sure to mark your calendar for the Fall DuPage River 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 pickers, 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.

If you would like more information on the Fall Cleanup, please contact Dave Dial at d12139@aol.com or (630) 687-2220.



Participants of the Spring 2022 DuPage River Cleanup

Coldwater River Macroinvertebrate Survey
(Fall Work Day # 2)

This year marks OBTU's 9th year of conducting macroinvertebrate surveys on the Coldwater River, located near Grand Rapids, Michigan. 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.

If you would like more information on Fall Coldwater Macroinvertebrate Survey, please contact Marvin Strauch at mjstrauchjr@gmail.com or (708) 638-1318.



Participants of the Spring 2022 Coldwater Macro Survey

Southeast Wisconsin Workday
(Fall Work Day # 3)

This year, the Southeast Wisconsin TU Chapter generously invited OBTU to join them for three workdays on streams located nearby in southwest Wisconsin. OBTU provided five volunteers for Bluff Creek and seven volunteers for the Karcher Creek workdays held earlier this year. There is one workday remaining:

- October 22- Tichigan Creek - Western Racine County Wisconsin

The workdays generally run from 9:00 am 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.



If you would like more information on Tichigan Creek Workday, please contact Dale McDonald at softhackle@gmail.com or (708) 212-2658.



Participants in the 2022 Karcher Creek Workday. Not shown is the Wisconsin DNR staff member who helped with the project.



Installing Bio Logs in Karcher Creek

Conservation – Volunteers Wanted

There are several ways to **get involved** in conservation with Oak Brook TU. First, you can participate in one of our many activities held throughout the year, such as those listed above. This is a great way to get out and get some fresh air and exercise, while doing good.

Another way to get involved would be to join the Conservation Committee. The Committee needs volunteers to help run activities, plan projects, assist with stream monitoring, and keep up to date on regional conservation issues. At our monthly meetings, coldwater conservation issues are discussed, relevant seminars and conferences examined, and potential projects are reviewed and approved.

Committee meetings generally consist of a conference call held on the first Wednesday of the month, beginning at 8:00 pm. A couple of times a year we like to have an in-person meeting to do a little socializing. For example, our September 2022 meeting was held at a pond owned by committee member Dennis Wisnosky (see pictures below).

If you would like more information on joining the Conservation Committee or any conservation activities/projects, please contact Dave Carlson at dmcarlson@hotmail.com or (312) 953-6759.



September 2022 Conservation Committee Meeting including a little recreation on Dennis Wisnosky's pond.



September 2022 Conservation Committee Meeting attendees enjoyed a brat roast in Dennis's shelter.



2. Education Update

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited's education programs have come back to full speed, and then some. Our youth education programs have directly reached well over 1,000 participants in 2022.

Each of our major programs is reported by leaders from our Youth Education Team:

Trout In The Classroom (reported by Marvin Strauch)

This past year, our chapter's 14 participating schools successfully raised rainbow trout from eggs provided by the Illinois DNR, learned about trout development, water quality and environmental issues, and the challenges coldwater fishes face in today's world. They conducted release field trips in May, either to Lake Michigan, or to Waddams Creek in Stephenson County in northwestern Illinois. For the 2022-23 school year, OBTU welcomes back two schools that remained on hiatus after COVID – Burroughs School in Chicago, and Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School in Oak Park. As well, Bednarcik Junior High in Aurora joins the program as the recipient of our annual TIC grant from OBTU. And we received word that St John the Baptist School in Winfield will start the program this year.

This brings our total number of schools to 18! We definitely will need help from OBTU volunteers to deliver trout eggs, help out during the school year by visiting the schools and talking to the students, assisting with our "Wet Bugs" presentations in the Spring, and ultimately with the trout release field trips. Combined with the other 3 Illinois Chapters, our statewide Trout in the Classroom program is now well established in 30 greater Chicago area schools and growing.

Youth Fly Fishing Training Program (reported by Mike Lesiak)

OBTU is in its 18th year of hosting Youth Fly Fishing Classes and includes 5 monthly sessions this year. Approximately 60 youth will have participated in the program for 2022. The Youth Fly Fishing Classes are designed around the requirements of the BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge so scouts who successfully complete the class will have earned the merit badge. Since its inception, this program has introduced over 1,000 youth to fly fishing as well as the conservation work of TU.

The Education Committee is planning on hosting its 19th year in 2022. Look to the OBTU website (www.obtu.org) for more information on next year's program. Volunteers/mentors are needed and all members are welcome. A special mentor training day will be scheduled sometime in late Winter 2023. Contact Mike Lesiak (C: 630-300-4887) if you have any questions or think you'd like to participate.



A 2022 class concludes with a fishing lesson on Maple Lake. Students are required to catch a fish to pass the course!

Fly Casting Tuesdays (Reported by Marvin Strauch)

Stan Zarnowiecki continued this summer organizing Fly Casting Tuesdays at the Oak Brook Park District. These evening gatherings were a great opportunity for new fly casters to learn the basics of fly casting, and others to hone their skills, and just get together.

STREAM Girls (reported by Marvin Strauch)

OBTU volunteers conducted our first STREAM Girls program this spring on June 11th at Camp Dean in Big Rock, Illinois. This program allows girls 11-14 years old to encounter a stream and utilize STEM skills plus Art and some Recreation to better understand what a stream is, and the animals that live in it. One of the hallmarks of the STREAM Girls program, as we are conducting it, is to have our volunteer staff primarily women. We will conduct a second program on Saturday, October 1, 2022 at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville.

Big news for STREAM Girls is that OBTU has been selected as one of only 6 TU chapters or councils to receive the TU Next Gen Gear Grant for 2022. This equipment, for the STREAM Girls program, includes 10 TFO fly rod outfits, macroinvertebrate sampling equipment, and 10 sets of waders and flytying kits from Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's. This will give us the freedom of conducting our various programs without equipment concerns.



Participants in OBTU's first ever Stream Girl's Session in June, 2022



Council Youth Camp (reported by Dan LaFave)

The Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited successfully conducted its 2022 Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp in late July, after a two year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are pleased to report there were no cases of Covid reported during or after camp among our 9 campers and 8 adult volunteers.

This was the 13th edition of the camp, which provides boys and girls between 13 and 18 years old a chance to learn about conservation, fly fishing, and life away from the hustle and bustle of their normal existences. The six-day camp takes place annually along the fabled Au Sable River in northern lower Michigan, where Trout Unlimited was founded. Campers learned about macroinvertebrates (insects), hydrology, water quality testing, and fish anatomy with instruction by professors from Michigan State University. They also participated in electroshocking to study fish populations. They also learned how intense logging over a century ago changed the river systems and affected fish populations ever since and discussed ways human activities continue to change our world. As always, a highlight of camp was working with a professional crew on a stream restoration project

Campers also learned many skills including how to use fly-fishing equipment and cast from top instructors, tie fishing knots, tie their own flies, use various fly-fishing techniques, and read a stream to select the most likely fish-holding spots. They enjoyed time fly-fishing in the mornings and evenings each day under the close supervision of experience Trout Unlimited mentors. All the campers succeeded at the challenge of catching naturally reproducing and elusive wild trout from the Au Sable River.

Planning for the 2023 camp, which is normally held the last full week of July, is already underway. Anyone interested in helping with the camp, fundraising, or making a contribution of your time and talents, or if you just have questions, is invited to contact Camp Director Dan LaFave by phone at 630-270-6036 or email at dlafave@sbcglobal.net. Additional information is available on the website of the Oak Brook Chapter of TU: <https://obtuo.org/youth-outreach/youth-camp/>.

The Oak Brook TU Chapter was represented by Dan LaFave, Youth Camp Director; Willie Beshire, OBTU President (and past Youth Camp Director), Lisa Gilmore; Dr. Mike Youssi (now from the Phoenix area); and Jim Dickens. Randy Daniel and Mark Wortsman of the Gary Borger Chapter also served as camp mentors. Carl Hueter, Past Chairman of the Michigan Council of TU served as an expert mentor with extensive local knowledge and also hosted the camp at his private river house property on the Au Sable North Branch for one day. Thanks to all whose support and assistance made our 2022 camp a success!



2022 Campers and Mentors pose on the North Branch of the Au Sable River.



Campers Electro Shocking Trout on the Au Sable River, a beautiful place!

**More 2022
Youth Camp
Pictures:**

OBTU Flyer, September, 2022



Campers Moving Timber to Work Site



Captured Stone Fly Nymph from Entomology Survey



Professor Dan Hayes, MSU, With Nice Brown Captured during Electro shocking---right next to the parking lot!



Campers Building Trout Habitat

Please feel free to connect with the leaders of the OBTU and Illinois Council Education Programs:

[Marvin Strauch](#) – Education Committee Chair, Trout in the Classroom Director
mjstrauchjr@gmail.com
708-638-1318

Mike Lesiak – Youth Fly Fishing
Michael.lesiak@cbservices.org
630-300-4997

Alexa Cottrell – STREAM Girls
Alexa.d.cottrell@gmail.com
847-651-2818

Dan LaFave – Illinois Council of TU Youth Camp Director
dlafave@sbcglobal.net
630-270-6036



3. Spring Fund Raising Results

OBTU Spring Fund Drive Exceeds Expectations:

The OBTU Board expresses its sincere gratitude to the membership for a record level of participation in the 2022 Spring/Summer Funding Campaign.

OBTU began conducting annual spring fundraising drives 7 years ago as a concentrated effort to raise funds earmarked directly for the chapter's conservation & education programs (described above). We are pleased to report that the 2022 spring campaign exceeded each of the previous years:

- Monetary donations were \$11,100 (The previous record was \$10,000 from the 2021 OBTU campaign.)
- 92 people have contributed with donations averaging a little more than \$120.00 per donor.



OBTU recognizes 92 contributors to our record setting 2021 Spring Fund Raising Campaign. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.

Clyde Alho	David George	Scott Lawryn	Paul Stinsa
Richard Anderson, MD	Lisa Gilmore	Mike Lesiak	Mark Stoll
Peter Ballin	Kevin Graham	Dale MacDonald	Marvin Strauch
Brendan Banaszak	J Grotelueschen	Richard Marson	Gary Stuck
Thomas Banaszak	Andrew Gulya	John Martyn	Peter Sullivan
Peter Barber	Kurt Hall	Scott McCormick III	Michael Thomas
William Beshire	Alex Halverson	Jack Mensching	William Thoms
Theodore Bernhard	James Hancock	Ed Michael	Robert Bruce Tompkin
Walter Bird	Joseph Hawkins	Robert Mitchell	Richard Tworek
Ronald Boyer	Carol Hennessy	Thomas Pendergast	Phillip Uhl
Camden Law Office	Kevin Hogan	Timothy Poisson	Lawrence Varsek
Caleb Carlson	James Hohenberger	Gregory Prosen	Joe Vitti
Dave Carlson	James Hope	Jack Potts	Walter Wahlfeldt
Ed Costin	Darryl Howe	David Rau	James Watts
Alexa Cottrell	Donald Jackson	Gary Rinaldi	Charles Weyhenmeyer
Arthur Cottrell	James Jones	John Rindler	Gary Whalen
Dave Dial	Dennis Kelly	James Risk	Tom Wilhelm
Robert & Barbara Davenport	Kevin Killips	Howard Schwartz	Gary Wilson
David Dugan	Walter Kinney	Nicholas Scouffas	David Wochner
Janet Edman	Ron Koziol	David Semnacher	Ronald Wright
Robert Eisenhart	Kenneth Krueger	Steve Shapiro	Phil Young
Michael Finney	Thomas Kribs	Henry Sledz	Mike Zamis
Keith Gabriel	Dan LaFave	Frank Sprouse	Frank Zbylski

In case you have not yet contributed and feel left out, it is never too late.
Click on the link to contribute now:

[**DONATE TO OBTU**](#)

3. Spring Fund Raising Results-continued

Another Contribution to OBТУ. In addition to the Spring Fund Raising Campaign above, OBТУ has been the beneficiary of a generous, unsolicited corporate contribution:

Thank you to Vulcan Materials Corporation: Vulcan Materials Company is the nation's largest producer of construction aggregates—primarily crushed stone, sand and gravel—and a major producer of aggregates-based construction materials, including asphalt and ready-mixed concrete. The company operates 25 aggregates production and distribution facilities in Illinois. There are many more locations around the country.

The Laraway Plant of Vulcan Materials Corporation (near Joliet) won a hotly contested competition based on conservation accomplishments of their plant. As a consequence, the local plant was authorized to donate \$1,000.00 of corporate funds to a “not for profit” conservation organization. Thank you to Mr. Stan Slusser and the Laraway plant team for selecting OBТУ as the recipient of this donation. We also congratulate and thank the Laraway Plant for its conservation accomplishments.



Laraway Plant Team

It this contribution looks like a “rerun” from last year, that’s because it is! The Laraway Plant is the only plant within the company that has ever won this award two years in a row! We congratulate their outstanding achievement. We also would like to further convey our sincere thanks for once again thinking of OBТУ.

If your company donates to conservation causes (or matches employee contributions), OBТУ would like to talk to you!

If you have a surplus of valuable fly fishing equipment, supplies, or books that you would like to donate to a good cause, OBТУ would like to talk to you!

4. Upcoming Meeting Programs: For the foreseeable future, we plan to continue hosting “hybrid” chapter meetings providing members the option of attending in person, or attending remotely via Zoom. 2021.

September 21: OBTU Meeting with Brat Cookout (Fall Season Opener)

Location: Oak Brook Park District, Central Park West Building (returning to our normal location)

Speaker: Kirk Olson, Wisconsin DNR

Topic: Restoring Brook Trout in a small Wisconsin Driftless Area Stream.

Kirk will be talking about a project the WDNR began in 2019 to restore a declining Brook Trout population by removing Brown Trout from a small Vernon County stream. Following Brown Trout removal efforts, native Brook Trout numbers have exploded in the stream. Brown Trout have yet to be completely removed from the stream, but numbers have continued to decline, and complete removal may be feasible given the presence of a trout passage barrier on the lower end of the stream.

More about Kirk: Kirk is a Senior Fisheries Biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources out of La Crosse, WI. He earned his BS from University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and his Masters from University Minnesota Duluth, where his thesis focused on the ecology of threatened trout species in Mongolia. He has been working in his current position in the Driftless Area for five years. When not working, Kirk can be found trout fishing, birding, hunting, and spending time with his family.



Kirk and colleague with brook trout captured at the project site.



Underwater photography of Brookies spawning at the project site.

Chapter Meeting Coming Attractions:

October 19: Nate Anderson, Wisc DNR, and Loren Hass, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter Board Member
Talk on the latest stream rehabilitation designs in the Driftless Area.
Tune in to learn about “Elevated Riparian Optimization”

November 16: Carl Hueter, Former Chairman of the Michigan TU Council
Talk on fishing Henry’s Fork and other locations in western states.

December 7: Holiday Party, Arrowhead Golf Club, Wheaton

5. Upcoming OBTU Outings and Work Days:

September 23-25: 4th 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 is full, but you can arrange your own off-site lodging.

October 8: Coldwater River Macro Invertebrate Survey & Fishing Weekend.

Grand Rapids, Michigan area.

October 14-16: 3rd Annual Chapter Fishing Outing to the Iowa Driftless Area.

This trip will be based in Decorah, Iowa, with a variety of lodging options available.

October 22: DuPage River Cleanup on a Saturday Morning at Pioneer Park in Naperville

See the obtu.org calendar for details. Link: <https://obtu.org/obtu-events/>

Did You Know Culverts at Road Crossings are Actually Quite Interesting?



Patrick Ertel, Wisconsin DNR, uses a stream table to demonstrate the effects of different culvert designs on trout habitat at the Illinois Council of Illinois Youth Camp. With thousands of road crossings including culverts in our region, this is a major issue related to quality of stream flow and connectivity to allow fish to migrate to seek food, spawning habitat, and preferred water temperature. Patrick models both good and bad culvert designs for our Illinois campers. OBTU recently contributed funding to assist Monroe County in the Wisconsin Driftless area to assess road crossings.

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!

-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.

-Various Committee work: such as helping to prepare and run events, helping recruit new members, assisting with fund raising, assisting with trade shows and other publicity, helping with communications and management of technology, and so on....

To discuss volunteer opportunities:

Contact: Willie Beshire, wbeshire@aol.com

OR: Reach out to the appropriate program leader.



Lisa Gilmore with Stream Girl



Phil Young and Dan LaFave observing Stream Girls in Action