



## 1. President's Letter

It was my great honor in January to begin a term as President of Oak Brook TU. Reviewing all of the activities and accomplishments over the past year, I am amazed what a great chapter we have. I would like to thank our outgoing president Willie Beshire who guided us through Covid's unique challenges.

Our youth education programs received national recognition in 2022. Trout Unlimited President Chris Wood mentioned OBTU youth education in his December Town Hall meeting and his Winter 2023 TROUT magazine president's letter. In addition to our celebrated Youth Fly Fishing and Trout in the Classroom programs, OBTU plays a leading role in the Illinois Council's "Youth Conservation and Flyfishing Camp". And, in collaboration with the Girl Scouts, OBTU began a new Stream Girls program in 2022!

OBTU also had another outstanding year in conservation. Without cold-water streams in our geography, most of our work takes place in surrounding states. I would like to give a shout out to some of our partners across Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois who make our conservation accomplishments possible. Thanks to: American Farmland Trust (Lower Illinois River), Clear Waters TU (Traverse Valley Creek), Coldwater River Watershed Council (macroinvertebrate survey), The Conservation Foundation (DuPage River Cleanup), Iowa DNR (North Bear Creek), MEANDRS (Dowagiac River), Monroe County Land Conservation (easement signs), Southeast Wisconsin TU (stream workdays), and TUDARE (Timber Coulee Creek, Kinnickinnick River).

OBTU's membership programs and special events hit an all-time high in 2022. We had a great lineup of speakers at our Monthly Membership Meetings, and numerous Trout on Tap, Breakfast Club, Fly Tying events, and Tuesday & Sunday Fly Casting Sessions. Not to mention the chapter fishing outings, another great way to get together and meet folks (and catch some fish).

Significant progress was made to improve communications in 2022. Our Facebook page is back up and running. We increased Instagram posts and sent out more Constant Contact emails to keep folks informed. Also, our website was improved and updated. The OBTU online calendar is now up to date for events through 2023. I encourage everyone to check out the calendar to see details of upcoming events and organizer contact information.

Finally, the chapter remains financially strong! The Spring Solicitation and Holiday Party were both very successful fundraisers, and the party was a lot of fun too. All of these activities and accomplishments would not be possible without the generous support of our donors, friends, partners, and dedicated volunteers. Thank you!

Dave Carlson



**“The Flyer” 2021 Spring Edition  
Table of Contents:**

1. **President’s Letter (see above)**
2. **OBTU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**
3. **OBTU Annual Election Results**
4. **Conservation Update**
5. **OBTU Social Media Activities**
6. **Education Update**
7. **Annual OBTU 2022 Holiday Party**
8. **Spring 2023 Fund Raising Appeal**
9. **Chapter Fishing Outings:  
Save the Dates/Register Your Interest**
10. **Upcoming Speakers**
11. **Join an OBTU Committee**



New OBTU President Dave Carlson (standing) and Marvin Strauch, OBTU Education Chair, work the booth at the January, 2023 Schaumburg Fishing Show. Notice the new OBTU show banners thanks to Marvin’s design & procurement efforts!

**2. OBTU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2023!** Planning is underway for a special celebration to take place on August 12, 2023, at the Oak Brook Park District:

- A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration committee has been formed and is being led by co-chairs Jim Dickens and Kevin Graham.
- The Board has decided to invest in this event to raise public awareness of “who we are” and “what we do” to better position OBTU for growth & prosperity within our market place. We also plan to celebrate! (The event is not being planned as a fund raiser)
- A contract to host the event at the Oak Brook Park District has been finalized.
- Chris Wood, Trout Unlimited National Chief Executive Officer, will speak at the event and will be on hand to mingle.
- Detail plans for publicity & promotion, entertainment, concessions, activities, facilities, etc. are being developed.

You are not going to want to miss it.

Have you received your 50 Year Commemorative Pin yet? We have been distributing the pins to attendees at OBTU meetings and events. If you haven’t received a pin yet, come to an OBTU meeting or event and let the leader know----while supplies last! The pin is a retro design modeled after an OBTU logo circa 1980’s.





### 3. OBTU Annual Election Results

The OBTU chapter held its annual meeting on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. Ken Krueger and Mike Lesiak were re-elected to the Board each to serve three-year terms. Art Cottrell and Steve Shapiro were also elected to the Board to fill vacancies created after two former directors resigned. Each were elected to fill the remaining two-years of a three-year term. At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, the directors meet for a special meeting for the purpose of electing the chapter's officers for the upcoming year. Elected president – Dave Carlson; vice-president – Dan LaFave; treasurer – Jack Potts; and secretary – Carol Hennessy.

The directors also appointed Keven Graham to fill the remaining one-year of a three-year term opened after Dan LaFave was elected vice-president.

As prescribed by the OBTU bylaws, composition of the Board of Directors is now as follows:

**Four Officers** (Elected by the Board of Directors. One-year terms):

Dave Carlson, President  
Dan LaFave, Vice President  
Jack Potts, Treasurer  
Carol Hennessy, Secretary

**Six Directors** (Elected by OBTU members. Typically, 3-year terms)

Art Cottrell	Ken Kruger
Lisa Gilmore	Mike Lesiak
Kevin Graham	Steve Shapiro

**Current Directors Emeritus** (perpetual board members)

Ed Michael	Jeff Berg
Greg Prosen	Joe Hammon
Marvin Strauch	Doug Vanerka
Joe Vitti	

(Emeritus Directors are appointed by Board based on long & distinguished service & retain perpetual board membership with voting rights provided good standing in TU is maintained. Messrs. Michael, Prosen, Strauch & Vitti remain actively engaged in OBTU Leadership)

**Ex-officio President** (Most recent past president continues as Director)

Willie Beshire

The Board would like to thank Willie for all of his much-appreciated time and efforts serving as president for the past four years as well as the two years he served as vice-president and the one-year term he served as a director.

#### 4. Conservation Update

### Conservation

OBTU is very proud of all our conservation accomplishments in 2022. Our conservation activities grew to eight outings across Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. We had another successful year of advocacy and financial support for conservation projects too. All of these activities and projects would not be possible without the enthusiastic involvement and generous contributions of OBTU members. Thank you for your continued support!

### Conservation Activities

#### DuPage River Cleanups

In the spring and fall of 2022, volunteers joined together to remove debris and litter from the West Branch of the DuPage River.

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.

Make sure to mark your calendar for this fun and safe outdoor activity. The Spring and Fall DuPage River Cleanups for 2023 are scheduled for:

- Saturday, May 6
- Saturday, Oct 28



If you would like more information on the Spring Cleanup, please contact Dave Carlson [dmcarlson@hotmail.com](mailto:dmcarlson@hotmail.com) or (312) 953-6759.



*Fall 2022 DuPage River Cleanup participants.*

### Coldwater River Macroinvertebrate Surveys

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

The surveys take approximately 4 hours, with teams surveying one of five 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.

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.

OBTU will be conducting spring and fall surveys on the Coldwater again in 2023. Here are the dates:

- Saturday, May 20
- Saturday, Oct 7

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



*Coldwater River Macroinvertebrate Survey.*

### Southeast Wisconsin Workdays

In 2022, the Southeast Wisconsin TU Chapter invited OBTU to join them for three workdays on streams located in nearby southwest Wisconsin. OBTU provided volunteers for Bluff Creek, Karcher Creek, and Tichigan Creek workdays last year.

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.



Southeast Wisconsin TU Chapter has again invited OBTU to join them for three workdays in 2023. Here are the dates:

- Saturday, Apr 15           Bluff Creek
- Saturday, Jul 15           Karcher Creek
- Saturday, Oct 21          Tichigan Creek

If you would like more information about Southeast Wisconsin Workdays, please contact Dale McDonald at [softhackle@gmail.com](mailto:softhackle@gmail.com) or (708) 212-2658.



*2022 Tichigan Creek Workday participants.*



*Clearing invasive species along Tichigan Creek in Western Racine County Wisconsin.*

## **Conservation Projects**

### **Timber Coulee Creek**

In September of 2017, major flooding occurred in Vernon County, Wisconsin. The Timber Coulee creek north of Westby suffered a tremendous amount of streambank erosion due to the historic flood event. The flooding widened the stream, scoured the streambed, and made the streambanks unstable.

Landowner Tom Sharratt had property on Timber Coulee that was severely impacted by the flood. He wanted to stabilize the streambanks with rock riprap and bank sloping as well as incorporate fish habitat. Due to a variety of reasons, the project was not completed until 2022. OBTU contributed \$1,500 to help cover a portion of the cost of this restoration project on Timber Coulee Creek

Tom and Sharon Sharratt have a long history of supporting conservation programs on their farm. They were recognized as Conservation Landowners of the Year by the Vernon County Land & Water Conservation Department in 2022.



*Timber Coulee Creek before and after restoration in 2022.*

### Monroe County Fishing Easement Signs

One of OBTU's most visible projects in 2022 was to help with the purchase of signs marking fishing easements in Monroe County Wisconsin. Last year we provided \$1,067 to help pay for signs marking over 50 county fishing easements.

Monroe County has one of the most successful and innovative fishing easement programs in Wisconsin (maybe in the entire U.S.). In addition to putting up signs at easement locations this year, they worked with digital platforms TroutRoutes and onX Hunt to get the easements on their apps. A new brochure showing easement locations was also developed and is available on the Monroe County website.

OBTU has a long partnership working with Bob Micheel, Director of the Monroe County Land Conservation Department. We look forward to working with him on a new project in 2023.





*Monroe County Fishing Easement Sign at the headwaters of Billings Creek, located near Ontario, Wisconsin.*

### **Kinnickinnic River Powell Falls Dam Removal**

The Kinnickinnic River is a Class I trout stream in the western Wisconsin Driftless Area. One of the most scenic sections of the “Kinni” runs through the town of River Falls, Wisconsin, where two outdated dams are located. Monitoring efforts begun in the 1990s showed that these dams raise summer temperatures of the river below by up to 5 degrees.

Early in 2022, OBTU provided a \$1,000 contribution to the Kinni Corridor Collaborative a non-profit group formed to bring together technical and financial resources to remove the dams and restore the river.

The original goal was to remove the Powell Falls dam by early 2023. However, late last year the Army Corps of Engineers came to River Falls and offered to consider doing a larger project with removal of both dams, ecological restoration of the 1.5-mile corridor, and modifying about half the stormwater inputs from the downtown area into the upper impoundment.

The city and Corps have started their feasibility study which underpins any Corps recommendation. The Corps said only removing one dam wouldn't have sufficient ecological benefit to the river to interest them, so it's two dams and corridor restoration or nothing. Corps feasibility studies normally take around 3 years, but they have suggested that the study could be done in 12-18 months, and the project completed in seven years if they take it on. That is much shorter than the original timetable when the city planned to remove the second dam. So, while conservation groups had to accept the idea that the lower dam wouldn't be coming out soon, the prospect of a full-scale project is much more appealing.



*Powell Dam located in the city of River Falls, Wisconsin is a candidate for removal.*

### North Bear Creek

In 2022, OBTU provided \$2,000 to help cover a portion of a project on North Bear Creek in Iowa.

North Bear Creek is one of the most popular and productive trout streams in the Iowa Driftless Area. The site of this project was near the Minnesota border where work had not been done in the past. There are brook trout in that section of the stream, as there is a large spring nearby and the water is very cold.

Per Mike Seipker of the Iowa DNR, they are planning to improve about four times the amount of North Bear Creek this summer/fall compared to the previous project, so there will definitely be a need for more support in 2023.



*North Bear Creek*

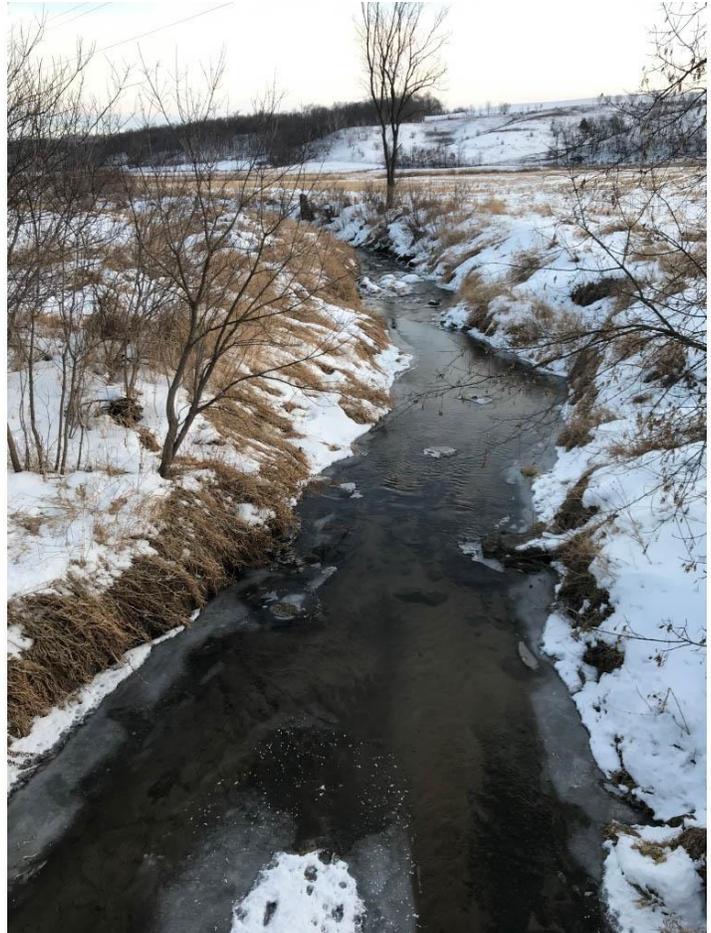
### Traverse Valley Creek

One of our most exciting projects planned for 2022 was on Traverse Valley Creek in the northern Wisconsin Driftless Area. Unfortunately, due to a delay in the announcement of National Fish Habitat Partnership grants, work on this project was not begun last year. The NFHP grant was awarded in January 2023, and the project is expected to be completed this year.

The goals for the project are to protect the native fishery and improve water quality for the entire stream system. Proposed restoration activities include site clearing, streambank shaping, placement of rock riprap on outside corners, installation of in-stream fish habitat structures and seeding and mulching of all disturbed areas. It will build upon previous work that has been done in the watershed and will stabilize and improve habitat on another 1,500 feet of stream.

OBTU is partnering with the Clear Waters TU chapter, and many other local community organizations on this project. We committed \$6,000 to secure finances for the necessary matching funds.

Streams in this area of Wisconsin support native brook trout and are thermally resilient due to cool groundwater inputs. This is a priority area for OBTU, and we are working with the Clear Waters chapter on future restoration projects.



*Traverse Valley Creek*

## 5. OBTU Social Media Activities

### Social Media and OBTU

The Oak Brook Trout Unlimited Chapter has recently been taking action to increase our social media presence. Our primary objective is to extend OBTU's outreach to external audiences within our market place. You can help! Please follow us on the Facebook page, Trout Unlimited Oak Brook Chapter. Our Instagram is [tuoakbrook](#).

Your participation in posting OBTU newsworthy items and "liking" other posts will help draw more followers to OBTU.

## 6. Education Update

### **OBTU is proud of the national recognition our youth education programs have earned:**

-Chris Wood, TU National CEO, included OBTU Education Programs on a short list of Trout Unlimited's most significant accomplishments in North America in his annual address.

-OBTU Youth Education also earned a mention in the latest edition of Trout Magazine.

-Marvin Strauch, OBTU Youth Education Committee Chair, was invited to speak at this year's Driftless Area Symposium and delivered his talk on March 8. Marvin's comments are about 18 minutes in length and can be viewed on YouTube at the following web address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icNNkfETi2M&list=PLEXZijM8NmhvK-qZT74OKYHsKfG-pGS5n&index=18>

### **The "Train-the-Trainer" event formally kicked off the youth education year on Feb 25.**

The event included a review of each youth education program and orientation to help prepare OBTU youth mentors. With about 50 OBTU members in our youth mentoring network, the event attracted a full classroom of participants. Don't fret if you were unable to attend. If you want to get involved, please feel free to contact any one of the youth program leaders listed below. They will advise you on how you can get connected and help out. If you want to see our programs in action to assess how you might fit in, members are welcome to observe.



Mike Lesiak, Leader of Youth Fly Fishing Training, leads the 2023 "Train-the-Trainer" Session at The Camp Sagawau Learning Center where our youth training classes are held.

### **Youth Program Leaders:**

Marvin Strauch, Youth Education Chair, and  
Trout-in-the-Classroom Leader, [youthed@obtu.org](mailto:youthed@obtu.org) , 708-638-1318

Mike Lesiak, Youth Fly Fishing Training Leader, [mdlesiak100@gmail.com](mailto:mdlesiak100@gmail.com), 630-300-4997

Alexa Cottrell, Stream Girls Leader, [Alexa.d.cottrell@gmail.com](mailto:Alexa.d.cottrell@gmail.com), 847-651-2818

Dan LaFave, IL Council of TU, Youth Camp Director, [mailto:dlafave@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mailto:dlafave@sbcglobal.net)

**Please check the [obtu.org](https://obtu.org) calendar for the most current information details on youth education events. Link: <https://obtu.org/obtu-events/>**



## 7. Annual OB TU 2022 Holiday Party

A festive atmosphere was enjoyed by the 43 guests who attended the December 7, 2022 Holiday Party at the Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton. While preparations for this past year’s party were an excellent team effort with many members contributing their work and securing prizes, Carol Hennessey, OB TU Secretary & Fund Raising Chair, deserves special thanks for leading the event. Everything ran like clockwork. Carol worked tirelessly to organize the event, complete much of the detail work, and chase down many of the donated prizes which contributed an entertaining and profitable evening. OB TU’s net proceeds from the event were about \$7,500 comparing favorably with past OB TU outcomes for this event. Funds raised from the Holiday Party go to the OB TU Operating Fund to meet operating costs including communications technology, meeting facilities & speakers, insurance, promotions, trade shows & other administrative costs. After meeting these operating expenses, surplus funds will be periodically transferred to the OB TU Conservation and Education Fund.

OB TU also thanks many organizations and individuals for their contributions which enabled the party’s success. Donors, donated prizes, and prize winners are recognized below:

### **Rod Raffle Grand Prize:**

Joe Vitti was the winner of an Orvis Helios III rod of the weight of his choice. Thanks to Orvis for making the rod available to OB TU at a deeply discounted price.

### **Rod Raffle Consolation Prize:**

Richard Tworek was awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize of a Lamson Light Speed G5 Blackout Reel. Thanks to Lamson for making the reel available to OB TU at a deeply discounted price.

### **Silent Auction Prize Donors and Winners:**

The following high quality prizes attracted many bids. Revenue from these items totaled \$5,075.

(Thank you, thank you, thank you to prize donors & bidders!)

<b>Silent Auction Prize Donors</b>	<b>Donated Prize</b>	<b>Winning Bidder</b>
1. Arrowhead Golf	Golf twosome with cart	Mike Lesiak
2. Village Links Golf	Golf Twosome	Jim Dickens
3. Golf-tec	Golf Swing Analyse \$145	Mike Lesiak
4. Nature Nooks Retreat	2 night lodge for 2 people (with upgrade to a group of 6)	Dave Dial
5. Kent Kleckner / Bear Creek Anglers	1/2 day guide trip in the Decorah, Iowa Area	Joe Vitti
6. P.J Guide Service	1/2 day guide trip, Wisc. Driftless	Dave Carlson
7. OB TU Board of Directors	Wine Basket	Cottrell
8. Patagonia	Guidewater Sling 15L- \$259.00	Gary Stuck
9. Kevin Feenstra	Full Day Guide Trip, Muskegon	Jack Potts
10. Matt Jennings, Speaker at Sept, 2021, OB TU outdoor meeting	Fishing Lake Michigan Tributaries for Steelhead, Lake Run Browns	Joe Vitti
11. Carol Hennessey, OB TU	Homemade Dinner with wine	Lisa Gilmore
12. Orvis (Lombard Store)	Slingback and Net	Dan Lafave
13. Keven Graham, OB TU	Trout Watercolor painting	Lisa Gilmore
14. Steve Shapiro, OB TU	Full Day Kankakee Raft Trip for 1 (or half day for 2)	Phil Young
15. Bob Hutchinson, OB TU	Skeet Shooting & lunch at Glen Oak Club	John Martyn
16. Jay Allen, Guide Service & Owner of Muskegon River Inn	One day guide service and one night at the Muskegon River Inn	Jack Potts
17. Jim Dickens, OB TU	Orvis 3W Nymphing Rod	Joe Vitti
18. John Snyder, OB TU	Green Lake, Wisc. Package with golf, lodging, dinner & spa.	Joe Vitti

## 7. Annual OBTU 2022 Holiday Party-continued

An attractive collection of valuable prizes led to vigorous participation in the bucket raffles. Many thanks to our prize donors and all enthusiastic bucket raffle participants!

<b>Bucket Raffle Prize Donors</b>	<b>Donated Prize</b>	<b>Bucket Raffle Prize Winner</b>
1. Costco	\$100 Gift Certificate	Frank Sprouse
2. Fenimore Hotel	Hotel Room for one night	Jim Dickens
3. Fulton Market	Black Hole Duffel 55L- \$169.00	Phil Young
4. Patagonia - Fulton Market	Planing Tote Bag 32L- \$79.00	Rich Tworek
5. Carol Hennessy/Steve Stricker, OBTU	Montana Spirits - 2 bottles	Brian Klien
6. Marv Strauch, OBTU	Lg bottle of Grey Goose	Dennis Wisnowsky
7. Marv Strauch, OBTU	Kathy Scott Series of Books	Joe Vitti
8. Ed Michael, OBTU	Waring Pro PC 100 Wine Chiller	Mike Goverale
9. Dale MacDonald, OBTU	Box of Flies for fishing the Driftless	Mike Scialo
10. RESERVE	Browning Insulated Backpack	Rich Tworek
11. RESERVE	Framed Norb Brown Print	Bob Hoberg
12. Rush Creek Distillery	Vodka, Bourbon & \$25 gift card	Dennis Wisnowsky
13. Dave Carlson, OBTU	Patagonia Cooler	Phil Young
14. Chicago Bears	2022 Limited-Edition Laser Autograph Photo	Bob Hoberg
15. Willie Beshire, OBTU	Carl Heuter, Wanigas, crafted curly walnut fly box & inlaid TU 50 year Pin	Dave Carlson
16. Driftless Angler, Viroqua, Wisc.	Lodging at Driftless Angler	Mike Scialo
17. Filson Naperville	Dry Bag - Retail \$210	Ken Krueger
18. Dave C. & C. Hennessy, OBTU	Shirt / Hat/ Fishing Sox	Sandy Cottrell
19. Ed Michael, OBTU	Orvis Broden Eco-Clear Wood Fishing Net (\$159.00)	Willie Beshire
20. Ted's Montana Grill	\$40 Gift Certificate	Ed Michael
21. Driftwood Grill	\$50 Gift Certificate	Dave Carlson
22. Keven Graham, OBTU	Whiskey Acres - Bottled in Bonded Bourbon	Dennis Wisnowsky

And it was a delightful party.....



## 8. Spring 2023 Fund Raising Appeal

In 2023 the OBТУ board decided to return to the 2 major fund-raising events that have been productive for OBТУ for the past seven years:

1. A spring fund raising drive.
2. A holiday party in December with the typical bucket raffles & silent auctions along with a premium rod raffle culminating with a drawing at the party.

### Announcing the OBТУ Spring Fundraising Campaign:

Please expect to receive a mailing within the upcoming month 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.

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### Dan & Steve working the OBТУ Booth.

Dan LaFave (Left), is the new OBТУ Vice President. Dan also serves as the IL Council Youth Camp Director. Steve Carlson, a former OBТУ Board Director, (Right) continues to serve on the Conservation and Education committees. Steve has played an important role in maintaining OBТУ relationships with MEANDERS, the Dowagiac River Pucker Street Dam Removal, and ongoing restoration efforts. (Steve is not related to Dave Carlson, OBТУ President)

## 9. OBTU Fishing Outings

### Fall 2022 Chapter Fishing Outings Debrief

A fine time was had by all at the Fall 2022 OBTU Fishing Outings. We were welcomed with beautiful weather and cooperative trout. Our group of 11 lodged at the Nature Nooks Retreat on the West Fork of the Kickapoo near Viroqua, Wisconsin during the September outing. A dozen people attended the October outing based in the Decorah Iowa area with most of the fishing concentrating on the North & South Bear, and Waterloo Creek.

On both trips, fish were slamming blue wing olive dry flies, grasshopper patterns, streamers, soft hackles, and numerous other patterns thrown at them. The following pictures tell some of the story:



Howard Miller invited his son Josh to OBTU's September outing as a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday gift. Josh is shown here with his first trout taken on a fly from the Kickapoo West Fork. Despite an unplanned "bath & bruising" in the river, Howard also went home smiling!



At 85 years old, Frank Sprouse was on top of his game. Frank is shown with one of the many plump brown & rainbow trout he caught from Iowa's Waterloo Creek. Well done Frank and thank you for your Marine Corp service!



These sand hill cranes were in residence with us at Nature Nooks Retreat which provided our trip's lodging a short walk from where Josh nailed the above brown trout.



Despite limited experience, John McKeivitt landed his first trout on the fly in style with a size 18 blue winged olive---nicely done! This was the 1<sup>st</sup> of many. John became so entranced that he didn't turn up for our dinner until well after dark with the meal half over. He entered the supper club exclaiming, "This is the most fun I have ever had fishing!"



## 9. OBTU Fishing Outings-contined

### Planned OBTU 2023 Fishing Outings (Save Dates & Register Your Interest):

**April 21-23 Chapter Fishing Outing to the Fennimore, Wisconsin Area (Southern Driftless Area)**

The trip is based at the Fenway House Hotel in Fennimore,  
Fish the Blue, Green, Castle Rock, Crooked Creek, & others.

**Trip Leader:** Dave Carlson, [dmcarlson@hotmail.com](mailto:dmcarlson@hotmail.com)

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**May 20: Coldwater River Macro Invertebrate Survey & Fishing Weekend.**

Grand Rapids, Michigan area.

**Trip Leader:** Marvin Strauch, [mjstrauchjr@gmail.com](mailto:mjstrauchjr@gmail.com)

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**September 22-24: 5th 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.

**Trip Leader:** Willie Beshire, [wbeshire@aol.com](mailto:wbeshire@aol.com)

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**October 7: Coldwater River Macro Invertebrate Survey & Fishing Weekend.**

Grand Rapids, Michigan area.

**Trip Leader:** Marvin Strauch, [mjstrauchjr@gmail.com](mailto:mjstrauchjr@gmail.com)

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**October 13-15: 5th Annual Chapter Fishing Outing to the Iowa Driftless Area.**

The trip is based in Decorah, Iowa, with various lodging & fishing options available.

**Trip Leader:** Willie Beshire, [wbeshire@aol.com](mailto:wbeshire@aol.com)

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**Please check the [obtu.org](http://obtu.org) calendar for the most current information details on fishing outings. Link: <https://obtu.org/obtu-events/>**

**Don't hesitate to contact the event leader if you want to register your interest in attending or discuss what to expect if you sign on!**

## 10. Planned Meeting Programs:

OBTU will continue to hold “hybrid” chapter meetings in April and May with the option to attend in person or attend remotely via Zoom. Recent chapter meeting attendance has been strong with 50 attendees in January, 68 attendees in February, and 65 attendees at our March meeting. Meeting attendance has been split with roughly 50/50 between in-person and remote attendees for the last 3 meetings.

We plan to continue with the hybrid approach for the foreseeable future. A few of our older, more vulnerable members prefer to meet remotely. Also, Zoom allows our downstate members to participate. OBTU has about 400 members who are more than 100 miles distant from our Oak Brook meeting location.

### April 19

**Topic:** South East Wisconsin Streams  
**Rick Larkin, VP and Habitat Committee Co-Chair,**  
**Southeast Wisconsin TU Chapter (SEWTU)**  
[Click for SEWTU Web Site](#)

Rick and Ken Rizzo, Habitat Co-Chair, will present both fly fishing opportunities and conservation plans. Join us to learn about trout fishing opportunities close to home as well as upcoming chances to get your feet wet on stream improvement workdays. OBTU has 3 workdays scheduled with SEWTU in 2023



Rick Larkin showing off a nice winter caught SE Wisconsin Brookie

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### May 17:

**Jay Anglin, Anglin Outdoors**  
[Click for Anglin Outdoors Web Site](#)

Jay Anglin, Proprietor of Anglin Outdoors, will speak on cold & warm water, multi-species fishing in the Michiana region. Jay is currently serving as the President of MEANDERS (Meeting the Environmental and Agricultural Needs of the Dowagiac River System), a not-for-profit organization advocating for and providing guidance to the Dowagiac River restoration effort. Come & hear how it's going!



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

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## **11. Looking to become involved in a chapter committee?**

Do you believe that you have time and talent to offer your chapter? Would you like to get more involved in helping OBTU to improve and grow? We welcome new committee members, especially in the areas of Financial Development, Communications, and Cold-water Advocacy.

The Financial Development Committee is currently chaired by Carol Hennessy. In the past year this committee organized the Spring Solicitation Drive, the Rod Raffle, and the Annual Holiday Party Fundraiser. If interested please email her at [clhennessy84@gmail.com](mailto:clhennessy84@gmail.com)

Willie Beshire chairs our Communication Committee. This committee is responsible for the WordPress website, our Instagram Account, our Facebook Page, and our newsletters and announcements which are usually sent out via Constant Contact email & marketing software. Our chapter is working on improving our public relations efforts and welcomes anyone that can assist in this task.

Our cold-water conservation advocacy efforts are led by Ed Michael. There is much advocacy work to be done and Ed is always seeking help.

The Conservation Committee is currently chaired by Dave Carlson and meets via zoom.

The Education Committee is chaired by Marvin Strauch with Mike Lesiak handling Youth Education, Alexa Cottrell in charge of StreamGirls, and Stan Zarnowiecki taking care of the behind-the-scenes duties with Trout in the Classroom.

A more complete listing of committees and leadership is available on our [obtu.org](https://obtu.org) web site. Here is a link to the Leadership page: <https://obtu.org/about-us/leadership/>

If you have an interest, please do not hesitate to reach out to the OBTU Board member or committee leader of your choice.