1. President's Letter

Our fall newsletter offers a chance to celebrate the year's achievements and recognize key contributors.

Firstly, the continued generosity of OBTU members and other supporters made our Fundraising Drive a record success. Your support helped us make meaningful contributions to important conservation projects and expand our exceptional education programs. Thank you.

I am especially pleased to see this edition highlight fresh faces participating in chapter activities. This year, we had a special initiative to attract new members through adult fly-fishing classes and free or reduced-dues memberships offered at outdoor expos. Oak Brook TU has long relied on dedicated volunteers whose work is essential to our success. As some long-time volunteers, including me, have begun to slow down, we are looking for new members to carry that work forward. Please reach out to me or one of the committee chairs if you would like to be more involved in any activities. We need your help to keep the chapter going strong!

Looking ahead, mark your calendar for the December 9th Holiday Party—an important OBTU fundraiser and a great chance to reconnect with chapter members. Venuti's Ristorante offers excellent food and facilities in an easy-to-reach location. And of course, there will also be lots of terrific bucket raffle and silent auction items to bid on. I hope to see you there!

Dave Carlson

"The Flyer" January 2026
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2. Upcoming Events

You are invited to save the following dates.

Stay tuned for additional details which will be distributed by email invitations. Further details are also posted on OBTU's calendar as they become available: https://obtu.org/obtu-events/

Nov 18	**OBTU Chapter Meeting:** **Speaker:** Gary Marston, Project Leader of the Alvord Trout study sponsored by TU National. Gary will speak via zoom from his location in Puget Sound region of Washington State **Topic:** Gary will provide an overview & update of the Alvord Trout study. (OBTU has contributed to this project's funding.) **Time:** 7:00pm **Location:** Oak Brook Park District, Central Park West Building (or via Zoom)
Dec 9	**OBTU Holiday Party SAVE THE DATE!** **Time:** 6:30pm to 9:30pm. **Location:** Venuti's Italian Restaurant & Banquet Hall, 2251 W Lake St., Addison, IL. **https://venutis.com/**
Jan 20, 2027	**OBTU Annual Chapter Meeting** with Board Director elections. Speaker TBD. **Time:** 7:00pm **Location:** Oak Brook Park District, Central Park West Building (or via Zoom)
Jan 28-31, 2027	**Illinois Council of TU Booth at the Chicago Fishing Exposition** Location: Schaumburg Convention Center Web Site Address: **https://chicagoland.sportshows.com/**
Feb 13-15	**OBTU Booth at the Tinley Park Fishing Exhibition** **Location:** Tinley Park Convention Center
Feb 17, 2027	**OBTU Chapter Meeting** **Location:** Oak Brook Park District, Central Park West Building
Early March (Stay tuned for meeting details tbd.)	**OBTU Education Programs "Train the Trainer" Orientation** For those interested in participating as volunteers to help deliver OBTU's education programs, this is a great opportunity to mix with the Education team and consider where you want to fit in during the upcoming year. The meeting includes a half day orientation session typically on a Saturday morning in early April. **Location: Sagawau Environmental Learning Center,** 12545 West 111th St, Lemont, IL

3. Annual Fund-Raising Appeal Report

OBTU's 2026 Annual Fund-Raising Appeal: A New Record!

The OBTU Board expresses sincere gratitude to the membership for the success of the 2026 fund-raising appeal. We received an excellent response to our campaign primarily through mailing to our membership, email, and personal contact at meetings & events.

OBTU began conducting annual fundraising appeals 11 years ago as a concentrated effort to raise funds earmarked directly for the chapter's conservation & education programs. **The 2026 appeal set a new record for funds raised from this annual fund drive with monetary donations in excess of $14,000.**

OBTU recognizes the following contributors to our successful fund-raising appeal conducted this past summer and concluded on Sept 30. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you!

J Balmer
Elaine Bednar
Jeffry Berg
William Beshire
Walter and Susanna Bird
Blackbaud Giving Fund
James Boehner
Salley & Joe Bukovsky
David Carlson
Steve Carlson
Jason Cheever
Tyrone Clark
Ed Costin
Art Cottrell
Eric Dawson
Dave Dial
Jim Dickens
Bradley Dorick
Thomas Dorner
Ronald & Christine Dyslin
Janet Edman
Robert & Patricia Eisenhart
Maryann Fronc
Jeffry Fullilove
Keith Gabriel
Cheryl Galloway
Debra Garcia
Charles Gartland
James Giese
James & Mary Geraghty
Richard & Alice Godfrey
Lisa Gilmore
Mike Governale
Andrew Gulya
Susan Hastert
James & Kathleen Hope
James Jones
Greg Keeling
Keven Kilips
Ronald Koziol
Gene Larson
Dan LaFave
Mike Lesiak
Craig Mankowski
John Martyn
James McKevitt
Kevin McLaughlin
Jack & Kathleen Mensching
Edward Michael
Robert Mitchel
Don Jackson & Bev Nelson
Anne Nunez
John Osga
Clifford Pixler
Greg Prosen
Kornelis Riphagen
Eileen & John Sachanda
Steven Shapiro
Mary Shubert
John & Nancy Simpson
Jerome & Debra Skurka
Henry Sledz
Barry Steinmetz
Mark Stoll
Marvin Strauch
Robert Bruce Tompkin
Joe and Susann Vitti
James Watts
Charles & Diana Weyhenmeyer
Thomas and Margaret Wilhelm
Gary & Anne Wilson
Ronald & Delores Wright
Phil Young
Michael Zahn
Michael Zamis

In addition to the annual campaign, we would like to thank the following who made other significant contributions this year:

-Thank you to Cheryl Galloway, OBTU Treasurer Cheryl's printing business performed excellent printing & mailing services in support of the chapter's annual fund-raising campaign mailing to all of OBTU's almost 1,400 contacts. Once again, Cheryl's business provided this service "at cost" which resulted in a significant savings of OBTU expense compared to the previously used commercial printers at market rates.

Continued next page:

Continued: Additional Contributors (over & above our fund appeal) Continued:

-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.

The Laraway Plant of Vulcan Materials Corporation (near Joliet) has once again donated $1000 to OBTU. The plant has been donating to a conservation cause each year. Thank you to Mr.Stan Slusser and the Laraway plant team for once again selecting OBTU as the recipient of this annual donation.

Vulcan Materials Company

Laraway Plant Team

-Thank you to, Marvin Strauch, Emeritus Board Member & Education Committee Chair.

For many years Marvin has donated large amounts of his time and expense to gift his custom, hand-built bamboo rods to help fund the Illinois TU Conservation and Fly-Fishing Camp held annually on Michigan's Au Sable River (The founding place of TU). Once again, Marvin built and donated a beautiful custom bamboo rod with 2 tips, metal rod case and rod sock. Bamboo Rod raffle proceeds of $550 went to the Illinois Council's youth camp fund.



Marvin Strauch, Master Craftsman and Generous Bamboo Donor!

2026 Bamboo Winner
This year's bamboo rod was won at raffle by OBTU member John Hogberg. Congratulations John!

Thanks to all who supported the youth camp by buying raffle tickets!



John Hogberg, 2026 Bamboo Rod Winner!

-Thank you to Mark Stoll for making his personally developed "Fly Fishing for Trout" curriculum materials available for use in OBTU's new adult fly fishing course.



Mark Stoll

-Thank you, Doug Vanerka, OBTU founding member. Doug donated to OBTU requesting that his donation be included with OBTU's grant to the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve.

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

4. Conservation Updates:

Spring Branch Creek, Iowa Update: In September, a contingent of 10 OBTU members took a mid-week trip to Iowa to catch up with our friends at the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Iowa DNR, Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) and Bear Creek Anglers. Mike Siepker, Iowa DNR Fisheries Manager, reported that the Spring Creek Project funding has been sufficient to complete the acquisition of this 192 acre property and no added OBTU funding for the Spring Branch Creek project is planned at this time.

Greg Schmidt, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, hosted three of our group for lunch in Manchester, Iowa, and led a brief tour of the Spring Creek site. Greg was kind enough to a recommend a prime section for a little fishing. Despite the heavy rain before our visit resulting in high, stained water, we were pleased to catch a few trout, including brook trout, rainbow and brown in Spring Branch Creek.

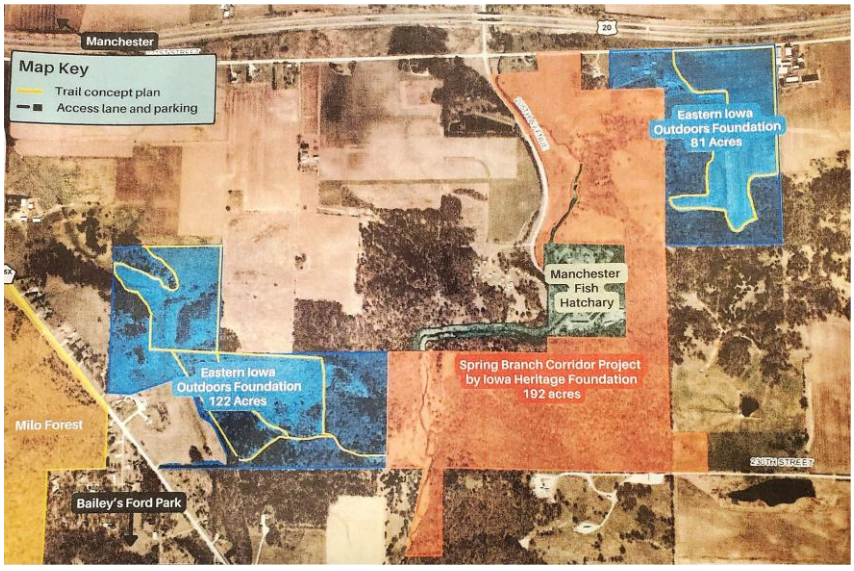
We then travelled north to the Decorah area where we fished a couple more days. Decorah area fishing was very good (much better than recent years when the fall water levels have been low).

We met Mike Siepker, Iowa DNR Fisheries Supervisor, and Cameron Aker, TUDARE, Iowa Driftless Engagement Coordinator, for a dinner at "Dixie's Biergarten" on the north side of Decorah to review upcoming projects with potential OBTU participation.

Important: Dixie's "Smashburger" was recently recognized as the "The Best Burger in Iowa" contest winner. Check it out!



Dave Carlson, OBTU President, and Jack Potts, former OBTU Treasurer, at the Manchester Hatchery.



This new aerial photo shows the full extent of the lands that have recently become public. The Manchester Fish Hatchery along with the Spring Branch Project (in orange) and two added Eastern Iowa Outdoors Foundation procurements (in blue) form a contiguous wildlife corridor of over 400 acres now open to the public.

Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve Expansion Update



Yellow Dog River: 560 acres of river corridor were rescued from commercial development.

Message from the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve:
Our appreciation goes out to all who contributed to the Yellow Dog River Community Forest expansion campaign. The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve has raised the $200,000 needed to earn matching funds from the Carls Foundation and pay off the outstanding $400,000 loan. We now are the unencumbered owners of 560 acres of river corridor that will extend the Community Forest two miles upstream to the west of County Rd. 510.

Although the Preserve has met the initial goal, other riverfront acreage in the vicinity remains at risk. Moreover, opportunities to augment our property gains appear to be opening up. We will keep you posted as the dimension and cost of potential new acquisitions come into view. Your support has created considerable momentum, and we hope to build on it as we seek to protect more of the river and enlarge the Community Forest even further

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OBTU contributed $2,000 to the project. (With matching funds, OBTU made a $4,000 impact)
A special thanks to Doug Vanerka, a former OBTU member who now resides in the Michigan Upper Peninsua. Doug brought this opportunity to our attention and made a significant donation to OBTU that our chapter then donated to the Yellow Dog Preserve project. In addition, OBTU independently made a further donation.

For more information, visit the Yellow Dog web site: **https://yellowdogwatershed.org/**

Roadless Rule Advocacy Campaign Update

Jack Pott, OBTU's former treasurer, is helping lead our chapter's advocacy efforts. He is being advised by Ed Michael, OBTU's advocacy champion for too many years to count. Jack developed OBTU's "Roadless Rule" advocacy alert which was promoted to our members this past Sept. Thanks to all who responded by submitting comments. Many OBTU voices were heard. The comment period is now closed.

Jeff Yates, TU National, reports that over 1.2 million "Roadless Rule" comments were recently submitted by concerned Americans. An estimated 99% of the comments opposed withdrawing the Roadless Rule. For more information, "The Case for the Roadless Rule" authored by Chris Wood, OBTU Chief Executive Officer, can be found on tu.org along with numerous other articles.



Roadless areas are some of the last, best strongholds for coldwater fisheries in the country. The USDA has announced plans to repeal the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which currently protects 45 million acres of national forest land — land that shelters the cold, clean streams native trout and salmon depend on to survive. Without roads, there's no runoff, no erosion, and no fragmented habitat cutting fish off from the cold water they need.

The Roadless Rule isn't something just in the West — it also impacts the Shawnee National Forest here in Illinois, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin, and the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan.

Stay tuned for future developments.

eDNA Testing Success: They did it!



eDNA test team left to right: Keven Graham, Steve Shapiro, John Martyn and Steve Butkus.

OBTU has been piloting eDNA testing for the presence of brook trout in suspected stream locations. Our initial test results had been negative. In order to prove our testing protocol, the latest test was conducted on the Seas Branch, a tributary of the West Branch of the Kickapoo River, which is known to have brook trout. The test confirmed that our testing protocol successfully detected brook trout DNA in the Seas Branch.

The chapter purchased a peristaltic pump that filters a water sample without introducing water into machinery that could contaminate future samples. Operators record how much water is filtered and how long the filtering process takes (15-30 minutes). They seal the filter into an individual bag and send it off to the Meer Laboratory.

Samples collected by our team were sent to the "**M**olecular and **E**volutionary **E**cology **R**esearch" Lab at Michigan State University. Dr. Jeannette Kanefsky, Laboratory Manager, and Dr. Jared Homola, Principal Investigator, prepared a technical report for OBTU confirming the presence of Brook Trout DNA in OBTU's Seas Branch samples.

Wisconsin Workdays: Brush Creek Bio-log Installation Update (April 25 and October 17, 2026)



$4,000 worth of bio-logs contributed by OBTU.



Bio-logs anchored in Brush Creek on Oct 10, 2026, to transform marsh habitat into a well channelized trout stream.



Joint SEWTU/OBTU team celebrating a job well done. The team celebrated completion with a Brat Roast. OBTU was represented by Susan Hastert, Dale MacDonald, Joe Mageria and John Martyn.

Thanks to John Martyn, OBTU Board Member, who leads OBTU's relationship with the SE Wisc. TU Chapter!

OBTU Contributed to Alvord Trout Study sponsored by TU National:

OBTU has granted funding to a TU National sponsored study of the Alvord subspecies of Cutthroat trout (pictured). The Alvord Cutthroat Trout is a subspecies of Cutthroat Trout native to the Alvord Basin of Oregon and Nevada. Due to interbreeding with introduced rainbows, Alvord Cutthroat are considered extirpated in their pure form in larger streams. Researchers hope to document that fish exhibiting the classic, unadulterated physical characteristics of the Alvord Cutthroat still persist in remote, isolated headwaters.

The project proposal is entitled: "Expansion of a genetic baseline for the Alvord Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii alvordensis)*, and investigation of potential remnant populations".

Gary Marston, TU Project Leader, is scheduled to speak (via Zoom from his base in Washington state) at our November 18 OBTU chapter meeting. He will provide an overview and update of the Alvord Trout study.



Michigan Workdays: Macroinvertebrate Survey (May 26 and Oct 10)

Each year, OBTU conducts spring and fall 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. The surveys are a great excuse to get some fishing in on nearby Michigan rivers such as the Coldwater, Rogue, and Muskegon.

OBTU's October 10 work session on the Coldwater River watershed
(Pictures courtesy of members Ali and Kees Riphagen.)



Bill, & Mike, Catching Wet Bugs



John, Kees, & Phil;



Ali, Debra, & Marvin;



Bill & Mike

(Sorting, identifying, & recording wet bugs for the Michigan data base)



A small sample of the many species is shown.

Clockwise from upper left:
1) clinger may fly nymphs,
2) damsel fly nymphs
3) dragon fly nymphs
4) more damsel fly nymphs

"Adopt-a-Stream" cleanup of the West Branch of the DuPage River at Pioneer Park, Naperville, on April 28 and October 26.



Check out OBTU's sign at Pioneer Park

DuPage River Adopt-a-Stream Cleanup, Naperville, October 26: OBTU continues to perform 2 river cleanups each year on 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 spring and fall cleanup days held on our adopted stretch of West Branch of the DuPage River within Pioneer Park, south of downtown Naperville, IL.

DuPage County Adopt a Stream Program

On Oct 26, Twenty-one volunteers shared coffee and donuts and then went to work. Some of the smiling-faced volunteers are pictured below:

Some unique trophies were discovered:

-Spring from a Tesla with part ID intact.

-A very heavy section of iron pipe

-A large & very blue hose.









Viroqua Wisconsin Adopt-a-Highway cleanup



Ken Krueger, OBTU Membership Chair has led the initiative to adopt a half mile section of Route 56 near Viroqua for the past several years. OBTU completes 3 highway cleanups each year near the West Fork of the Kickapoo River Rt 56 road crossing. This event provides another environmentally conscious activity for our members, and combines well with chapter fishing outing where participants fish before and after the work session. During 2026 the three highway cleanups/fishing outings were held on April 11, June 6 and Sept 26.

End of OBTU Conservation Updates
Continue to Next Page for Education Updates.

5. EDUCATION UPDATES:

TWO NEW OBTU ADULT TRAINING PROGRAMS WERE ADDED IN 2026:

During 2026, a modest investment of OBTU funds & a large investment of OBTU volunteer hours delivered 2 very successful adult education programs. Both Classes attracted overflow participation and were well received. OBTU plans to repeat both programs in spring 2027.

Many of the students participating in the new programs have become very active in OBTU Chapter conservation, education and fishing events. New members & active participants are important to keeping OBTU strong.
Help us spread the word about both of these programs:

Training Program #1: OBTU "Fly Fishing for Trout" includes:

-3 local class sessions led by OBTU instructors.
-Reading & video homework assignments
-A weekend field trip to the Wisconsin Driftless Area to fish for stream trout (mentored by experienced OBTU members).

Our Spring, 2026 flyer can be found on “obtu.org/” and contains details to be repeated during Spring, 2027:



The pictured group attended one of the two outings offered for students (during the 1st weekend in May). A festive group dinner was held on Saturday night to exchange the day's fishing stories.

OBTU thanks Mark Stoll (lower right corner) for his contribution of the excellent curriculum which kick-started this new program. Well done Mark!



Susan Hastert, exuberant fly-fishing student, celebrates a great day on the Wisconsin Driftless Area’s “Big Green River” while her OBTU mentor works on a top-secret double nymph rig.

A good time was had by all!

Training Program #2: "Nature 101: Fly Fishing"---continued on next page.

Training Program #2: "Nature 101: Fly Fishing" jointly instructed by DuPage Forest Preserves & OBTU offers a local introduction to fly fishing:

Classroom Session 1:
-Local stream fishing locations & tips presented by DuPage Forest Preserve.
-"Why fly fish?" , "Fly Fishing Equipment" & "Safety" presented by OBTU.

Classroom Session 2:
-Macroinvertebrate and fish ID presented by DuPage Forest Preserve.
-"Fly Tying workshop" presented by OBTU.

Outdoor Session 3: Conservation/Casting/Fishing Outing at Salt Creek (Fullersburg Woods,Oak Brook):
-Salt creek restoration/dam removal tour led by DuPage Forest Preserve.
-Fly Casting lesson & Salt Creek Fly Fishing session mentored by OBTU.



Youth Fly Fishing Training (22nd Year):

The 22nd year of OBTU's "Youth Fly Fishing Training" included five well-attended sessions conducted one per month from May thru September, 2026. This program is available for young women and men aged 11 to 18. Successful participants who are also Scouts earn a fly-fishing merit badge in one day. The 2026 Youth Fly Fishing Flier including the class itinerary and other details can be viewed via the Education & Outreach tab on obtu.org. The program will continue to be offered for interested youth at no cost to participants during 2027. Registrations for the 2027 class will begin during the spring of 2027.

OBTU estimates that well over 1000 youth have completed our program during the past 22 years.

Contact: Mike Lesiak, OBTU Youth Fly Fishing Training Leader: mdlesiak100@gmail.com,

OBTU Stream Girls finished very successful 4th year:

Developed in partnership with Girl Scouts USA, **STREAM** Girls employs STEM education (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **M**ath) plus **R**ecreation and **A**rts to explore a local stream. The girls do this by examining macroinvertebrates, calculating water volume and speed, tying flies, practicing casting, and spending time in the water. Sometimes pond fishing is also available.



Stream Girls capturing macroinvertebrates for identification and study.



Stream Girls conducting stream water flow field study to calculate how much water is flowing (cubic feet per second)

Led by Alexa Cottrell, the Stream Girls team completed 3 fun & successful day camps this year at 3 different locations:

1) Girl Scout Camp Dean in Big Rock, IL, on July 18
2) Rosewood Beach Park in collaboration with the Park District of Highland Park on August 6
3) Blackwells Forest Preserve in Wheaton (Part of the DuPage County Park District) in September

OBTU prefers that the 11 to 13 year old Stream Girls be mentored primarily by women. OBTU's "STREAM Girls" program has built a strong team of Stream Girl mentors: Alexa Cottrell, Kate Anderson, Cheryl Galloway, Carol Hennessy, Patty Smith, Ann Nunez, Debra Garcia and Debra Pohlmann. Added volunteers are most welcome.

Although the program has grown year to year, we can use everyone's help in spreading the word to reach more potential participants. If you know someone who'd like more info, please have them email Alexa (alexa.d.cottrell@gmail.com). Alexa would welcome any suggestions regarding additional audiences where we can promote the program.

Additional online information sources:

OBTU STREAM GIRLS FLIER on our obtu.org web site via the "Education and Outreach" tab.

A short National TU video summarizing the Stream Girls program can be viewed at: https://vimeo.com/296060481
(Please note that the video is based on a full 2-day program. OBTU offers a 1-day version)

Trout-in-the-Classroom(18th Year):

Trout-in-the-Classroom (TIC) gets bigger every year! **Four new schools** joined the program during 2026 resulting in 21 TIC schools now affiliated with OBTU's TIC program. Schools will "go live" with the delivery of fertilized trout eggs sometime in November (depending on the IL Dept of Natural Resources delivery schedule).

Unfortunately, OBTU TIC lost Saints Bruno & Richard School of Chicago as the school was permanently closed. Also, "The Children's School" in Oak Park had faculty & curriculum changes resulting in their departure from the TIC program.

2026 Trout-in-Classroom School (*New this year schools in bold)	Location
Bednarcik Junior High School	Aurora
Burroughs School	Chicago
Downers Grove North HS	Downers Grove
Gower Middle School	Burr Ridge
Grissom Middle School	Tinley Park
Gwendolyn Brooks	Oak Park
Kaneland HS	Maple Park
Lincoln Elementary School	Glen Ellyn
***Lockport HS**	**Lockport**
***Minooka HS**	**Minooka**
Northlake Middle School	Northlake
***Prairie School of DuPage**	**Wheaton**
Prairie View Middle School	Tinley Park
Romeoville High School	Romeoville
Roosevelt Middle School	River Forest
St Patricia	Hickory Hills
St. John the Baptist	Winfield
St. Scholastica	Woodridge
Tinley Park HS	Tinley Park
***Reavis HS**	**Burbank**
Social Justice HS	Chicago

Perhaps you would like to participate in TIC at a school near you? There are many opportunities to help with amazing classroom sessions during our "Wet Bug Days" in April. "Trout Release" field trips in May also need mentors. It takes a big team of volunteers to pull this off!

Our first task during for this year's program is the delivery of fertilized trout eggs sometime in November. We will need a large team of volunteers. **Would you like to deliver trout eggs to a school near you?**

Contact:
Marvin Stauch
youthed@obtu.org



In addition to being an inspirational OBTU leader, Marvin is a hands-on workhorse (Shown here filling a 50 gal. tank by hand.) Water was moved from a lower level by carts with help from a student water brigade!

Marvin Strauch setting up a tank at The Prairie School of DuPage



We helped with the setup of a new 50 gal. fish tank at The Prairie School of DuPage in Wheaton (k thru 8th grade). Some of the younger students were on hand to help setup the chiller, filter, and aerator. (Student faces are obscured due to school youth protection policy.)

Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited Youth Camp (16 years):

We are disappointed to report that the Illinois Council of TU did not hold the "Youth Conservation and Fly-fishing Camp in 2026. In past years, teenage campers have experienced an intensive week-long introduction to fly fishing for wild stream trout on Michigan's Au Sable River, the founding place of Trout Unlimited. Students also received a hands-on appreciation of cold-water conservation.

More information about the Youth Camp can be found on obtu.org/ under the Education and Outreach tab. Our most recent one-page camp flyer, a camp overview presentation, and previously used camp application are included on OBTU's web site.

Members of the camp team are currently planning to regroup and hope to hold a camp in 2027. Efforts are underway to build the upcoming year's camp mentor team.

If you have an interest in volunteering with the youth camp team, please contact:

Dan LaFave: dlafave@sbcglobal.net **or Bruce Watkins:** bruce.a.watkins@gmail.com

2026 OBTU Youth Education Program Leaders:

OBTU's Youth Education programs continue to be among the best in Trout Unlimited as evidenced by the exceptional attention earned at the TU national level in recent years. OBTU is always in need of extra help from members.

We encourage you to contact any of the following leaders:

Marvin Strauch, Youth Education Chair, and Trout-in-the-Classroom Leader, youthed@obtu.org , 708-638-1318

Mike Lesiak, Youth Fly Fishing Training Leader, mdlesiak100@gmail.com, 630-300-4997

Alexa Cottrell, Stream Girls Leader, Alexa.d.cottrell@gmail.com, 847-651-2818

Dan LaFave, IL Council of TU, Youth Camp, dlafave@sbcglobal.net

Bruce Watkins, IL Council of TU, Youth Camp, bruce.a.watkins@gmail.com

We also encourage you to visit our web site:
Check the **https://obtu.org/** web site for the most current information details on youth education events. Monitor the obtu.org web site **"Calendar"** for schedule updates. Check out the **"Education & Outreach"** Section of obtu.org for program flyers and descriptions that typically do not change much from year to year.

If you are aware of youth who may be interested in attending any of our programs, please let us know!

6. OBTU Social Media Activities

The Oak Brook Trout Unlimited Chapter has an active social media presence. Our primary objective is to extend OBTU's outreach to external audiences within our market place. Let us know if you would like to help strengthen OBTU's presence by improving and increasing our online content. You can help attract increased traffic to our sites by visiting and "liking" our content. Please follow us on:

Facebook page: Trout Unlimited Oak Brook Chapter.

Instagram: tuoakbrook.

Web Site: obtu.org or https://obtu.org/

Note: There are close to 400 Trout Unlimited chapters and multiple internet search engines that are used by our audience. If you put in an internet search argument of "TU", you will likely be directed to the TU National web site which includes a brief page on OBTU with minimal information on our chapter. Or, you could accidentally arrive at the wrong TU chapter's web site. There are also 3rd parties out there that play off our good name to attempt to direct traffic to their commercial site. We occasionally get feedback from people who are confused by arriving at a site they didn't expect. Take care to confirm you have arrived at the correct site!

Please check the obtu.org calendar for information details on upcoming events. OBTU Calendar web address: https://obtu.org/obtu-events/

7. You are Invited to Join an OBTU 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.

A complete listing of OBTU board members and committee chairs is available on our obtu.org web site. Here is a web address to the OBTU 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.