



Coldwater River Workday

Oak Brook Chapter TU will once again be joining the Schrems West Michigan Chapter for a weekend of fishing and a workday on the Coldwater River. As many of you know, WMTU owns and actively manages the Dolan Natural Area, including about ¾ mile of the Coldwater River and its tributary, Tyler Creek. The site is located south-east of Grand Rapids, MI. The Coldwater is a designated trout stream with abundant rainbow and wild brown trout populations. (Find out more about the chapter and the Dolan Area at www.wmtu.org/dolan.html)

This year we are planning some woody debris clearing to a downstream section of the Coldwater. This material is then the stock for building of trout cover along the river banks. This project will be in conjunction with a contractor removal of large deadfall trees from the river. This will be an in-stream project.

As was part of the program last year, WMTU will also arrange for a garlic-mustard pull along the banks of the Coldwater. This gives an opportunity

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April in Arkansas . . .

Stan Zarnowiecki

This April, Wednesday the 22nd through Sunday the 26th, our chapter will host a trout-fishing trip to the Norfolk and White rivers in Mountain Home, Arkansas. We have reserved accommodations at the Norfolk Trout dock. The house will sleep up to 12 comfortably and it is right at the confluence of both rivers. You can wade, rent motorboats, or float the river using pontoon boats. We can also arrange for guides for a day.

The cost will be \$180.00 per person which covers lodging only, guides, boat rental, licenses, and food will be extra. We are asking for a \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit as soon as possible to secure your reservation.

Contact Stan Zarnowiecki for more info, shotawisky@aol.com or 708-606-4148 cell.

See www.norfolk.com/troutdock/ for our accommodations. 🐟

Looking back and looking forward . . .

Stan Zarnowiecki

Look back on what activities I got involved in last year and I can't believe I did so much. Where did I find the time? Yes, it's true that I am my own boss and you would think that work doesn't get in the way. But being away from the job does have its drawbacks. Do you work as hard when the boss is not looking over your shoulder and you know that he is miles away? I also have a family with four children and a wife and being away from them causes its fair share of stress.

But, never the less, I get involved. "Involved" with TU starts in February, with volunteer time at the local fly-fishing show. Our chapter is very

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Future Meetings and Events

Go to your 2009 calendar and mark down the following meeting and event dates:

February 18, 2009

Membership meeting at OBPD Rec Center – 7:00 PM – speaker – Kevin Feenstra west Michigan guide and tyer – “Swinging Flies for Great Lakes Steelhead”

February 20 – 22, 2009

Midwest Great Waters Expo – Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel

March 11, 2009

Board of Directors Meeting

March 18, 2009

Membership meeting at OBPD Rec Center – 7:00 PM – speaker – Eric Heckman, owner Coren's Rod & Reel Service – “The Bamboo Fly Rod”

April 8, 2009

Board of Directors Meeting

April 15, 2009

Membership meeting at OBPD Rec Center – 7:00 PM – speaker TBA

April 22 –26, 2009

OBTU fishing trip to Norfolk & White Rivers in Mountain Home Arkansas.

May 9, 2009

Girl Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge class – St. Charles Sportsman's Club – Elburn, IL 8:30 – 4:00

May 13, 2009

Board of Directors Meeting

May 15 – 17, 2009

Work day / Fishing trip to the Coldwater River in Freeeport, Michigan

May 20, 2009

Membership meeting at OBPD Rec Center – 7:00 PM – speaker TBA

June 10, 2009

Board of Directors Meeting

June, 17 2009

Membership meeting at OBPD Rec Center – 7:00 PM – speaker TBA

Letter from the President

Dear Members:

The 15th of July '09 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Trout Unlimited. On that date, now almost fifty years ago, sixteen people, most of who were concerned with the fate of the trout in the AuSable River watershed, met in the living room of George and Helen Griffith's Barbless Hook on the banks of the Holy Waters. Sixty "men" were invited to that first meeting, but mid summer vacation plans took their toll on attendance. Even in that small number of 16, some were just vacation guests of the invited. Those humble beginnings spawned a non-profit organization, with an initial \$815 treasury, which grew to the national organization we know today with well over 140,000 members in about 400 hundred chapters from Maine to Alaska.

In this year of celebration of that anniversary, let us rededicate ourselves to that initial grass roots vision: If we take care of the trout, the trout will take care of the fishing. The joy of fly-fishing for trout unquestionably serves as the mortar that holds us together, but we must never lose sight of our mission to preserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Neither must we lose our vision for the next generation to enjoy thriving populations of robust native and wild coldwater fish in our North American home waters. To achieve that balance, OBTU will be working to have more fishing outings during the course of the year, but well tempered by our mission.

TU national estimates that each TU member gives about 5 hours of volunteer time annually. In reality, a few members tend to do a lot of work. Let us change that in this auspicious year. OBTU has several committees in need of more member participation: conservation, banquet and fundraising, membership, newsletter, programs and outings, and education and youth. Let us one and all try to give

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for those not interested in slugging tree branches and deadfalls (spouses & kids) an alternative project. It's also a great way to learn the flora of this river corridor.


The Coldwater River is about a 3 – 4 hour drive for most of us in the south or western suburbs. It is about 15 minutes southeast of Grand Rapids. The Rogue River is also just 15 minutes north of Grand Rapids. And another 30 minutes will put you on the Muskegon River. This trip is planned to put us on the rivers during the peak of the Hendrickson hatch; something not to be missed.

Many of us plan to be there Friday through Sunday to enjoy the area fishing. There are plenty of hotels and restaurants in the Grand

some of those five-hour energy bursts to OBTU. Trout Unlimited, from its inception, has always been a grass roots organization and now more than ever needs all its members to contribute in their own unique way. Whether it be some evenings serving on a committee, spending a day "rock rolling," or imparting your knowledge of the outdoors to some young kid, let us, as our Canadian brethren say, "give 'er!"

At the heart of any effective organization is its ability to communicate and keep its members well informed. This customarily has come through monthly chapter meetings and publication of the *Flyer*. Meeting attendance has been on the wane lately, what with troubled economy and the struggles with life, but we hope to attract you with interesting and timely programs and events. Our *Flyer* still presents a particularly troublesome problem. To maintain our non-profit tax exemption, we must communicate regularly with our membership. Printing and mailing costs far outweigh our revenues in the form of donations. If you have not already done so, please send \$15, more or less, depending on your ability, to defray the costs of producing the *Flyer*. Many of you have already opted to receive the *Flyer* by e-mail, but out of date e-mail addresses preclude our sending more in that manner. If you have a new or changed e-mail address, let us know thru the OBTU web (www.obtu.org) or by going on TUNA's web (www.tu.org) and editing your member file.

New faces have emerged as chapter leaders: Vice-president Stan Zarnowiecki, Treasurer Rich Ference, and Directors Arnie Leder, Jeremy Slade, and Jeff Kroger. There still are more leadership roles to fill. I look forward to seeing more of you at chapter meetings and activities. It is my fervent hope that we can see this banner year grow our active, participating membership.

Greg Prosen 

Rapids area. But may I recommend the Quality Inn Terrace Club, 4495 28th Street SE. It has reasonable room rates, a nice pool, and a free, high-quality hot breakfast buffet every morning. TU members get a discounted room rate. Check out the hotel at www.qualityinn.com/ires/hotel/MI056

So join us on the Coldwater to work with some great folks who really love their local trout stream. (And they're glad to point us to some pretty nice water to fish, as well.) Bring the spouse, the kids, or a friend. Contact Marvin Strauch mjstrauch@comcast.net or 708-638-1318 for details on the workday or weekend. 🐟

Officers: *President*, Greg Prosen – g.s.prosen@sbcglobal.net 630-986-1310 • *Vice President*, Stan Zarnowiecki – vp@obtu.org 708-606-4148 • *Treasurer*, Rich Ference – treasurer@obtu.org 630-983-7030 • *Secretary*, Clyde Alho – cralho@sbcglobal.net – 630-897-2401 **Directors:** jpkroger@sbcglobal.net 630-369-4148 • Arnie Leder - aleder@cin.net 815-252-3303 • Jeremy Slade – jrsxl3040@yahoo.com 630-853-2948 • Joe Vitti – vittifam@ameritech.net 630-969-2251 • Ken Voight – knvoight@earthlink.net 630-466-9743 • Phil Young – pyoung2653@aol.com 630-553-4307 **Ex Officio Director:** Marvin Strauch – mjstrauch@comcast.net 708-599-5101 • **Emeritus Directors:** Jeff Berg – salmonsafari@sbcglobal.net 630-629-5681 • Wally Bock – wjbock1@comcast.net 708-598-6718 • Joe Hammon – jhammon@aol.com 708-453-8102 • Ed Michael – e1michael@cs.com 847-831-4159 • Doug Vanerka – dvanerka@comcast.net 630-655-0084

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Looking Back and Looking Forward *continued from page 1*

active at the show and there is always a booth to man, equipment to set up and take down, information and TU promotion. . . Thanks to the person that decided that we don't fundraise at the show too. That amount of volunteer time could be the entire weekend or just a few hours. *Are you going to be available to help out this year?*

March was meetings and planning for upcoming events. The year was just beginning and there is more to come. We have held a banquet in April for the past two years but this year we are moving it to the fall. This April we will be running a fishing trip to Arkansas and I put myself in charge, more time. Our Boy Scout merit badge program is a great success and May marks our first Saturday program. We are always in need of volunteers; it's only a Saturday. It's so rewarding when you get a thank you from a parent or a Boy Scout participant. I try to make at least three of the dates. *Will I see you there too?*

May and June get busy with stream restoration projects in Michigan with another TU chapter and our Boy Scout high adventure camp in Iowa. Last year we had to cancel because of the floods in that area but we should be back on schedule for this June. Again, it's just enough to be there and know that you passed on some fly-fishing knowledge to the next generation. *How about you, are you signed up yet?*

July is our brand new Illinois council, weeklong, conservation and fly-fishing camp in Michigan. Talk about gratitude and having fun all at the same time. Although I never touched a fly rod or caught a fish the entire week, I felt like I had been "rode hard and put away wet"! Not much rest, playing guide and camp counselor during the day and meetings at night. It's just enough time to sleep hard and crank it up the next morning. I even was lucky enough to get a new piece of face jewelry, a size 14 caddis to the cheek, compliments of

OBTU Needs You.

Volunteer Today.



some grateful camper. *I'm going to do it all over again, how about you, you in?*

Although August slowed down we still had Boy Scout merit badge Saturday classes and this year TU will be 50 years old. The party is in Traverse city, Michigan. We are planning something, at least a fishing trip. *Are you up for that?*

September was our last merit badge class and a fishing trip to the Driftless area in Wisconsin. This year we plan on ending the year with a banquet to celebrate another successful season in our chapter.

Sprinkle in monthly chapter meetings, board meetings, appearances at local sports stores and scout jamborees to promote TU and our programs, and you need a calculator to add up the hours that I rack up. Although it sounds like I might be complaining, I am not. But it's not just me doing this. There are a lot of others that do the same thing. I hope that you have picked up on a theme to this rant. We need you too, come to a meeting and meet the supporting chapter cast. Show up at a restoration project and meet some new friends and learn a new fishing spot. Come, volunteer some time and feel good at the end of the day for your accomplishment. That's what we are selling, good times with good people. *Are you going to get on the train, it's a great ride and it is leaving the station, don't be left behind!* 🐟

Today, I Remember

Scott Stouder, November 5, 2008

All summer and fall, I've watched the grass-covered ridges and timbered draws across the canyon where we live here in Central Idaho. All summer and fall I've seen no elk. As daylight lit up the season's first, fresh snow this special morning the land was sparkling and full of promise.

Through my binoculars I watched the seasons' first herd of elk silhouetted against the snow as they traveled down slope on their ancient and traditional trip from their high mountain summer home. I thought how much this day will mean to them and how much it means to me. There were tinges of excitement as I watched the bulls feeding, their large antlers sweeping back and forth as they gathered the meager clumps of Idaho fescue and Blue-bunch wheatgrass poking through the first white layer of winter. More importantly, as the cows fed with purpose and the calves romped from the pure joy of life, I felt the roots of hope in my body.

The seeds of that hope came from the possibilities that the future could bring: the possibility of fewer cattle grazing during the summer on the publicly-owned slopes so when the elk come down in the late fall to their low-elevation winter ground more grass will be left for them. The possibility of more trees from less logging in the north-facing draws so when the bitter winter winds blow and the snow comes sideways the calves will have thermal cover to keep their body's warm and the cows and bulls will have security to rest their hearts. The possibility of fewer man-made reservoirs and dams, and more free-flowing rivers so when calves are born in the spring the cows will have lush riparian areas to produce nutritious milk - that right-to-live-life cycle nurtured by the ocean's fertility transported and deposited inland by the millions of salmon that have come to these mountain rivers for eons.

The possibility of fewer oil and gas wells across the West so when the warm spring sun melts the snow and young salmon swim back downstream on their cyclic quest the elk and mule deer can move unimpeded upslope into the higher, greener and cooler mountains. And when the bull's horns harden in the late summer and the forests

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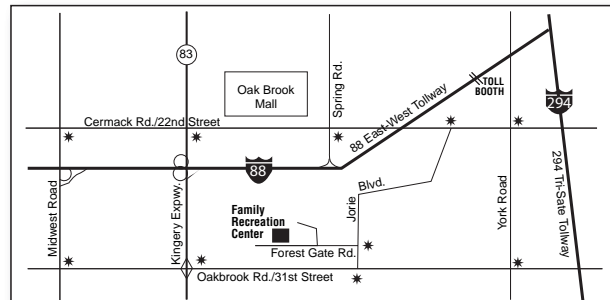
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echo with bugles and the salmon fight their way once again back to these mountains their home—this precious land—isn't overwhelmed and imperiled by humans. These are the bare essentials of hope in my life. It's been so long since I've felt them I've forgotten what they feel like. Today, I remember! 🐟

Scott is the Western Field Coordinator for the protection of Idaho's road-less lands for Trout Unlimited's Public Lands Initiative.



Oak Brook Chapter meets at the Oak Brook Park District Recreation Center 1300 Forest Gate Rd.

From Jorie Blvd. Turn west at Forest Gate Rd. (first stop light north of 31st Street). Follow Forest Gate straight into the Recreation Center parking lot. We meet in Meeting Room 2/3.

MAILING ASSESSMENT REQUEST

Mailing assessment for 2009 are due. We rely on these assessments to print and mail newsletters. The newsletter and mailing costs are a substantial cost for the Chapter, your help is needed to defray these costs. What we do not have to spend on the newsletter we can spend on conservation projects.



Advertisement Space Available!

If you or anyone you know would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact Marvin Strauch (mjstrauch@comcast.net, or 708-599-5101).



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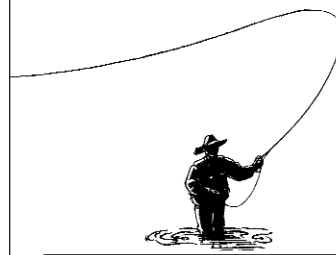
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