

FLYER

OAK BROOK TROUT UNLIMITED MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 06, JUNE 2009

Trout in the Classroom — Release Day Fieldtrip

By Marvin Strauch

The day was beautiful; blue skies, temperature in the 70's and for once, no rain. Seventh graders from St. Patricia School in Hickory Hills stepped off the bus at the Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area, wondering just what would happen next. They were met by six Oak Brook TU members as well as Dan Sallee and Rick O'Neil of the IDNR and Cindy Skrukrud of the Sierra Club Water Sentinels program.

But let's step back 6 months...

St. Patricia School was the first school in Illinois to sign on to the Trout In The Classroom program for the 7th graders of Renee Bartley-Bogard's class. And they were the first to receive their eggs, if only by a couple of hours. The Illinois DNR delivered 150 brown trout eggs. The aquarium tank was ready for them. OBTU's Stan Zarnowiecki had spent many hours in the previous 4 months testing out the equipment — tank, filter system, air pump,

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TUDARE Stream Restoration Project Planning Training

By Ted Bernhard

On March 28 and 29 Stan Zarnowiecki, Claude Mays and I attended the fourth annual TU training session to help TU chapter volunteers implement stream restoration projects. Altogether there were about 60 participants from WI, IL, MN, IA and IN.

The training was held at the Living Waters Bible Camp which is located NE of Westby. The camp is located in a valley on the headwaters of the West Fork of the Kickapoo. The three of us stayed in the camp dormitories, which were suitable accommodations because we were right next to the meeting room and dining hall where we spent most of our time. The entire training session was organized by Jeff Hastings who is a TU professional located in Westby and is in charge of the TUDARE program.

Stan and Claude attended the training to meet other TU members and possibly find out if there were any upcoming projects that OBTU could join

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Future Meetings and Events

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

June 10, 2009

Director's meeting

June 11-17, 2009

OBTU Scout Fly Fishing Camp, Highlandville, IA

June 20, 2009

OBTU Member fly fishing skills day 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM-Dean Property, Oak Brook

June 27, 2009

Lunker structure building day with IA Driftless TU, IA Driftless Area vic Decorah, IA

July 1, 2009

Director's meeting

July 8, 2009

Annual Picnic at Vanerka residence, Oak Brook

July 18, 2009

On stream workday with Fox Valley TU chapter, Iola, WI

July 19-24, 2009

Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited's Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing School, on Michigan's Au Sable River

August 1, 2009

Boy Scout Merit Badge Class-location TBA, 8:30-4:00

August 12, 2009

Director's meeting

August 17-23, 2009

Trout Unlimited's 50th Anniversary National Meeting at Grand Traverse Resort, MI.

August 19, 2009

Membership meeting at OBPD Recreation Center-7:00 PM-Dave Baron to speak about fly fishing SW WI

September 9, 2009

Director's meeting

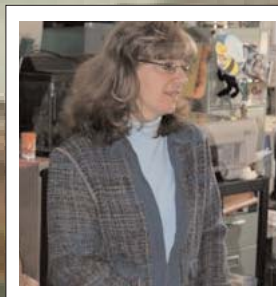
Please see our website for a full listing of calendar events. www.obtu.org.



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Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Every OBTU member should have been privileged to stand on the banks of the Kinnikinnick several Fridays ago to watch Trout Unlimited at its very best. The 7th grade class of St. Patricia's Parish School was culminating several months of work, observation and education by releasing dozens of surviving brown trout into an even greater struggle with nature. Many of those young kids experienced an epiphany in nature as they held darters, various larvae, crayfish, and other sorts of benthic life, never before known to them, in the gently cupped hands of a communion. The initial terror of all those slimy creepy crawlies suddenly evaporated into the bright sunshine of a Waltonian meadow. The moment of truth came at the flash of each little juvenile trout, with all its splendid parr markings, gone to another world. Moreover, all this occurred sans rod, reel, fly book or any of the angling accoutrements, which so often accompany us to the stream. There were no thoughts of barbing fish or counting coup. Only the pure thought of bringing these young fry at one with their environment prevailed.

None of this would have been possible without the sweat and toil of Marvin Strauch and Stan Zarnowiecki, who nurtured this project every step of the way from its seminal beginnings to the release and then some. They, together with a couple of dedicated teachers, kept constant vigil of their brood like sleep deprived interns observing one health crisis after another. In a sense, everyone in the chapter contributed to this project, but Marvin and Stan exhibited the highest degree of truly volunteer effort and should be an inspiration to us all.

The chapter and the Illinois Council are also very grateful to Joseph Meyer at One More Cast for organizing a fly-tying night where 32 dozen flies were donated to TU youth programs. Thanks to all the participating tyers: Ron Abrant, Austin Adduci, Ann Berg, Ernie Brevik, Bob Davenport, Cory Gale, Matt Graber, Arnie Leder, Ralph Loza, Joseph Meyer, Nathan Rothkopf, P.J. Smith, Keith Sutherland, Gregg Taylor, Dave Tripple, Stuart Van Dorn, Wayne Zalokar, and the ubiquitous Stan Zarnowiecki. Again thank you one and all for the time, effort and materials donated. Of those tyers not already TU members, and there were a few, please join in our other activities; we could use, in this case, a few more good men.

June brings on our Fly Fishing skills day. Old hands will be able to hone your fly tying, disentangle the mystery of knots and help you develop your basic casting stroke or perfect your double haul. Instead of our usual Weds nite meeting, this will be an entire Saturday to come out and enjoy the outdoors, pick up some fly-fishing pointers and chew a few dogs or bratwurstchen. Although

our annual picnic will be at the Vanerka residence on July 8th, we need your response NLT June 30th to get an accurate headcount.

The cost of getting our newsletter, the Flyer, to your doorstep can be considerably lessened if we can send it to you at your e-mail address. Having your e-mail address also facilitates your timely receipt of all ongoing chapter activities. Update your current e-mail address on line by visiting www.tu.org and editing your profile or simply by dropping me or Marvin Strauch, our membership chair, a note. We still need donations to keep our day-to-day operating fund healthy. Thank you to those who have already contributed. The Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited's Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing School is also in need of funding. You should have received an e-mail asking for donations, but if not, mail your donation to Treasurer, Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited, and P.O. Box 5046, Oak Brook, IL 60522-5046. A contribution to the school is wonderful way to attract young members to the ideals and visions of Trout Unlimited. Lastly, watch the calendar; we need volunteers for everything. Grab one of the officers or directors and let 'em know what you can do for TU!



**Oak Brook Chapter Annual Picnic
Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at 6:00 PM**

Once again for 2009, Doug and Dottie Vanerka will host our Annual Picnic. For those of you who have not attended in the past, the picnic is an evening of good food, music, and companionship.

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: 44 BreakenRidge Farm, Oak Brook, IL

We will provide the food, water & soft drinks. Please feel free to bring your own beer or wine. Also, bring your own lawn chairs. A contribution of \$15 per adult is required to help cover the food & beverage costs.

Please plan to attend and bring your spouse, friends, and children and let's have a good time.

Please RSVP to Clyde Alho at 630-897-2401 or cralho@sbcglobal.net by June 30th if you plan to attend. 🍷

Officers: *President*, Greg Prosen – prez@obtu.org 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 – secretary@obtu.org 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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TUDARE Stream Restoration *continued from page 1*

and help with by contributing manpower and or money. I attended because I have a possible stream restoration project in mind but didn't know where to start. I have been fishing on a dairy farm in Vernon County for several years and this farm suffered severe damage from the two flood events in 2007 and 2008 as well as bank erosion from the cattle. It is my hope to put together a project that can restore the stream.

Stan and I drove up together early on Friday the 27th and were able to get in a few hours of fishing before dinner and settling into the LWBC. It's a good thing that we did this because we were too busy with the training to go fishing on Saturday afternoon as had been advertised.

The training consisted of many different classes; too many for everyone to attend all of the classes. So where in some cases, Claude, Stan and I divided up so that at least one person could attend each class.

Some of the classes were lectures by a single speaker who had a prepared computer presentation on a technical subject such as how to make a proposal for a grant or metrics for measuring stream restoration success (many grants now require a before and after measurement process of physical water quality and biological activity to fully satisfy the grant requirements).

Other classes were seminars with four or five panel members who would relate their experiences and give practical advice on how to avoid problems.

Some of the topics of the classes were grantsmanship, assembling project partnerships, media outreach, liability and risk management, appropriate habitat practices, using work days to revitalize your chapter and of course planning a project from establishing goals to

budgeting resources and finally a detailed list of activities and tasks.

Without a doubt the best class was when Dave Vetrano of the WDNR took us to Bohemian Coulee and gave an electroshocking demonstration. We were all amazed by the size and variety of fish in a small section of this water.

On Saturday evening, dinner was held at the Westby Rod and Gun Club. The club members served a great chicken dinner. After dinner, Jay Thurston, a local author, spoke. Then Jeff Hastings introduced the First Annual Tall Tales Contest (aka Liars Contest). It probably won't be a surprise to anyone in OBTU that this event was won by our very own Stan Zarnowiecki.

After attending the training session, I now have the various tools to proceed with planning and organizing the dairy farm project. My next step is to discuss the various possibilities with the landowner so he can decide which of the many alternatives is best for him.

I was very pleased with the organization and content of the training course and would recommend it to anyone who has interests in this area. 🐟

Learn to Fly Fish

Presented by Oak Brook Trout Unlimited
Saturday June 20th 2009 | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Oak Brook Park District Dean Property

Four sessions from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.
 One hour lunch break at 12:00 pm.
 Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

INSTRUCTION IN FLY CASTING | FLY TYING | KNOTS | TACKLE WILL BE AVAILABLE.

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.

Name (First, Middle, Last)

Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

E-Mail Address

Please fill out the following form and enclose a check for \$15 payable to Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited to defray the cost of printing and mailing the Oak Brook Chapter newsletter and other mailings in 2009.

**Mail to: Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 MAILING DONATION
 P.O. Box 5046
 Oak Brook, IL 60522-5046**

Special Interests: _____

Amount of involvement in TU desired: _____ *Hours/Month*

Type of involvement desired:

\$15 mailing donation \$10 Name tag

Trout In The Classroom *continued from page 1*

and chiller unit – to ensure there were no leaks, and that the equipment held a steady cold temperature in the tank water. Then he set the equipment up at St. Pat's and stopped in frequently to make sure everything was fine.

So the eggs arrived, and were placed in a small basket in the tank. Within a few days, the eggs hatched into alevins, and developed tails and had visible eyes. Within a couple of weeks, the alevins were ready to leave the basket. The students dropped the basket, and the trout swam out and took shelter in and around the gravel at the bottom of the tank.

The students monitored the tank every day, taking temperature readings as well as monitoring aspects of the water chemistry, including pH, ammonia levels, nitrate and nitrite levels. They kept a daily log. As the alevins absorbed their egg sacs, the student began to feed daily.

The students removed dead eggs and alevins as they found them. Of course, there were lessons learned over the six months. We found that we didn't have all the necessary grades of fish food for our trout. And we didn't know the proper storage procedure (refrigeration). This culminated in a die off of about 15 – 20 of the troutlings in early March.

Fortunately, the DNR folks were quick to respond to our questions, and disaster was averted. With new food and proper storage, our trout thrived.

Throughout the entire development and first year's program, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources fisheries staff, and Dan Sallee in particular have been indispensable. They provided our brown trout eggs and trout food. Dan Sallee arranged a class visit in late February, to meet the students and answer their questions about everything from trout to other wildlife in a coldwater environment.

Over the course of the six-month program, two student leaders emerged in the class - Chris DeLorme and Nick Relstab. They took a greater interest as the trout grew, and really were involved during the field trip day.

So back to May 8th . . .

We arranged a program of activities for the trout release field trip. Dan and Rick placed a net across the stream and took volunteers to kick around in the water to collect fish samples from the stream. They caught sculpins, dace, and crayfish.

After lunch, Cindy Skrukud discussed water quality testing, displayed the equipment her group uses on streams around Illinois, and compared her test with the daily testing done by the students.



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Finally the moment of truth! How would the troutlings respond to the new waters of Kinnikinnick Creek? As the students lined up, Stan and I netted and counted the trout, and placed them individually into cups (there were 61 in all). The students then walked down to the stream, where Greg Prosen, Jeff Kroger, Ed Michael, Arnie Leder, and the DNR folks aided them in releasing the trout. Greg commented that the trout looked immediately at home in the stream, and soon had dispersed along the creek.

Our last activity was an invertebrate survey. The students were divided into groups with identification charts, collection trays, and tweezers. Everywhere kids were turning over rock from the stream bottom, and discovering the life there. They collected scuds, caddis cases, and free caddis, mayfly nymphs, frog eggs and snails. Some of the kids were a bit creeped by handling the samples, but most were interested in how many different life forms they found. And of course, everyone waded into the water.

It was time to head home. Cindy Skrukud had arranged for t-shirts and backpacks for all the students, which was great, and definitely unexpected. And soon they were on the way back to the southwest suburbs.

How do we judge the program? In my opinion, the first year was a definite success. The 7th graders of St Patricia monitored their trout, the water quality, and learned about the natural world of the trout. Their field trip not only provided the link to their class work, it allowed 36 kids from the suburbs stand in the cold water of a trout stream, and discover the life in that stream. For many of these kids, it was a completely new experience.

Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited will continue this program next year and beyond. We look for this program to grow over the years. I heartily suggest that you promote this program at your local grammar school, and consider volunteering to help out with the program. 🐟



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1. Nick Relstab
2. Chris DeLorme
3. Mrs. Renee Bartley-Bogard
4. Netting fish specimens
5. Renee and students
6. Looking at our survey results
7. Cindy Skrukud
8. Taking water quality tests
9. Releasing the trout
10. Placing Trout into the cups
11. Another release
12. Looking at nymphs



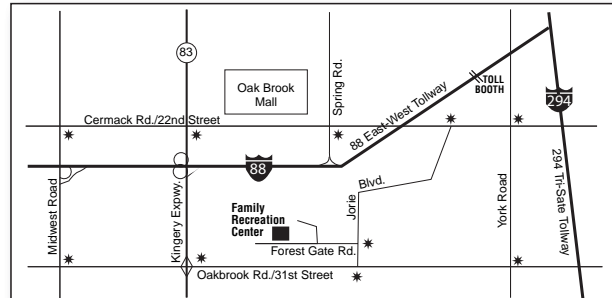
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Raffle Tickets

The annual Oak Brook Chapter Rod Raffle tickets are enclosed in your newsletter mailing. Please buy some tickets or sell them to your friends. The proceeds fund our operating costs: meeting room, speakers, newsletter, website, etc.

Please support your chapter!



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.



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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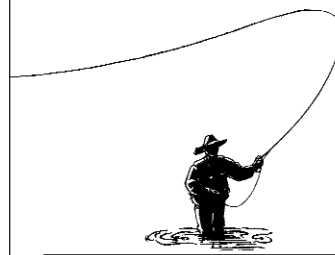
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