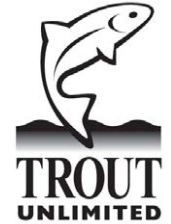


FLYER

OAK BROOK TROUT UNLIMITED MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 04, APRIL 2009

The Anglers' Trail

by Marvin Strauch

The Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo is a godsend for Chicago area anglers, coming in the middle of winter, and giving us a glimpse of spring and summer to come. We have the chance to cast fly rods, listen to presentations by noted guides, outfitters, and authors. We watch fly tyers craft tantalizing artificials that of course we need to try this year. And we run into friends and maybe make some plans for the upcoming season.

One of the really neat features of the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo that differentiate it from other fishing shows is its emphasis on education, especially for kids. This year Tom Helgeson asked Oak Brook TU to pitch in with the learning stations. We joined Dean Hanson's fascinating "Living Stream" exhibit and FFF casting instructors giving casting instruction to adults and kids. Our task was to provide recommendations on basic tackle selections, safe wading, and that bugaboo of all

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Pebble Mine

At the April membership meeting we will show the award winning video "Red Gold". This is the award winning video about the Bristol Bay region of Alaska and the proposed Pebble Mine that would be located there. The Bristol Bay region is the most prolific salmon fishery in the world generating \$330 million for Alaska's economy each year.

The video "Red Gold" outlines, in award winning form, the imminent destruction of one of the world's largest salmon fisheries by choosing this area as the site of the Pebble Mine. This mine would be the world's largest gold/copper mine. Join us on April 15th to view and learn from this outstanding production what we all will lose if the Bristol Bay region's ecosystem is destroyed.

▼ Eddie and Brett Kasper were the winner of the Sage 9 ft. rod given away at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo.



Future Meetings and Events

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

April 8, 2009 - Wednesday

Board of Directors meeting

April 15 - Wednesday

Membership meeting at OBPD Rec Center - 7:00 PM - "Red Gold" a film covering the Pebble Mine project controversy in Alaska - presented by Wally Bock

April 22 -25

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

May 9 - Saturday

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

May 13 - Wednesday

Board of Directors meeting

May 15 - 17

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

May 20 - Wednesday

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

June 10 - Wednesday

Board of Directors meeting

June 14 - 19

OBTU / Scout Troop 80 High Adventure Fly Fishing Camp - Highlandville, IA

June 20 - Saturday

Monthly Membership meeting outdoors at the Oak Brook Park District - "Learn to Fly Fish"

July 8 - Wednesday

Annual Chapter Picnic - Doug & Dottie Vanerka's house

July 19 -24

Illinois Council Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing School

August 12 - Wednesday

Board of Directors meeting



Letter from the President

Dear Members:

One of the duties of the vice president of an organization is to fill in for the president when he is unavailable to complete a specific task. Such is the case today as I, your vice president, write to you, our members. Although it is only March, cold and rainy as any I remember, a lot has taken place with our chapter already.

We have had some very successful monthly meetings at our new location, kind of, the main building at the Oak Brook recreation center. The presentations have been excellent and everyone attending has had a good time. We will continue our meeting this month with a movie about conservation initiatives, more in this newsletter on that subject.

All of the different fishing shows that we participate in have been over for a few weeks. Our best foot was put forward at the Great Waters Fly show where our chapter had a hand in the education portions of the show. Thanks to Marv Strauch for putting together the various components for the Learning Stations and Phil Young for developing the Youth Anglers Trail, both big successes with attendees and the show management. We have already been asked to do a repeat performance next year. Our Trout in the Class program is right on schedule. In February we had a great presentation at St. Patricia School by Dan Sallee, a fisheries biologist from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Our board of directors meets on a monthly basis, rolling up our sleeves, to insure that we continue to plan for all of the future events that the club will be involved in this year. Our next big event will be the fishing trip to Arkansas. There is still room if you have any interest in catching fifty plus trout per day. May will have us participating in our first conservation project of the year on the Coldwater river in Michigan, join us there too for work and fishing. We have some exciting ideas for upcoming meetings too so please keep reading the newsletter and checking our web site for further information.

We still have many needs in the chapter. We are always looking for new faces so volunteer for a committee, or two, we have a lot to choose from. Also please send in your mailing donation, \$15.00, even if you receive your newsletter electronically. The cost of sending the newsletter comes right out of the operating fund of our chapter. We are in desperate need of funds for this portion of the treasury.

As I close, I would like to say thank you to everyone that continues to support our chapter. We are your club; help make it better by raising your level of activity. There is room for everybody.

Stan Zarnowiecki



The Anglers' Trail *continued from page 1*

fly fishers – knots. Things went well, and we thank our volunteers: Laura Anderson, Bob Davenport, Jeff Kroger, Ron Kurasz, Chuck Roberts, Nathan Rothkopf, Jeremy Slade, Gary Stuck, Ken Voight, Phil Young and Stan Zarnowiecki, as well as Gary Borger Chapter volunteers Joel Axelrod, Fung Chen, and Mike Rasmussen.

In planning for the fly show, Phil Young had a great idea. “Let’s find some way to actively involve kids coming to the show,” he said. His plan was an “Anglers’ Trail” for youngsters. They would be given a list of questions and tasks to complete at the show, such as casting a rod, tying a fly, learning knots, identifying some of Dean Hanson’s bugs. Then after completing the tasks, they would come back to our booth, turn in their sheet, receive a TU fly box, and be entered into a drawing for a Sage beginner fly rod outfit.

The turnout was great! Saturday and Sunday afternoon brought a pretty steady stream of kids was moving through the show, tying flies, casting rods, and ogling Dean Hanson’s display. Of course all of them ended up at our booth to find answers to the question

regarding trout and salmon species (good thing we had those posters!) and to tie a couple of knots. Many of the kids were quite young, but virtually all were enthusiastic. And those little TU fly boxes were a big hit! We gave these youngsters someplace to put their newly tied wooly buggers or soft hackles.

As the show wound down on Sunday afternoon, we took the hatful of names for the Sage rod drawing. Tom Helgeson drew the names of young Eddie and Brett Kasper, who came to the show in their own flyfishing vests! And it turns out that at 6 and 4 years old, Eddie and Brett are already members of Trout Unlimited, having recently become Stream Explorers with TU’s youth membership. It might be a little while before they can handle the 9 ft rod, but their dad assures me that they have already been learning to cast a bit, and this will further reinforce their interest in trout fishing. We also hope that these young Stream Explorers will also continue to in their desire to be tomorrow’s stream stewards. 🐟

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My Experience in Trout Unlimited

By Jeff Kroger

I joined Trout Unlimited about ten years ago. Because I live in Naperville, I was assigned to the Oak Brook Chapter. I enjoy our chapter because it offers so many ways you can contribute to coldwater conservation.

At first, because I was busy with work, I paid my dues and contributed money to Trout Unlimited national and chapter projects. My only participation in the chapter for four or five years was a financial one.

As retirement approached, I started looking for places to volunteer. I helped out in the public schools, and volunteered at church. As part of my search, I started to attend more Oak Brook Chapter meetings.

I enjoyed the speakers and met Marvin Strauch and Phil Young. They talked about all the projects that Oak Brook Chapter had and that needed volunteers. Marv mentioned the Coldwater River project that we were helping with in Michigan, and said that I could check the chapter website to see what other hands-on projects I might want to help with. He said that they could use help with the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge program the chapter had established.

As a result, I started volunteering when I retired. I started out by helping with the Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge program. I think I helped out on three Saturdays that first summer. This led to volunteering as a mentor for the first High Adventure Fly Fishing camp in June of 2007. There is nothing quite like the feeling you get helping a youngster catch their first fish on a fly.

Last year, I helped with the Boy Scout program, and mentored at the Illinois Council Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Camp as part of our youth education efforts. I also worked with fellow chapter members on Oak Brook Chapter's part of the Coldwater River efforts in Michigan, and the LUNKER structures we built with the Illinois DNR at the Apple River Canyon State Park.

The variety of programs and commitment of its membership are what I feel make Oak Brook Chapter one of the outstanding chapters in Trout Unlimited.

The variety of programs and commitment of its membership are what I feel make Oak Brook Chapter one of the outstanding chapters in Trout Unlimited. So whether you are a member who is only able to contribute financially, or a person who has the time to become involved in the hands-on projects of the chapter, pick a level of involvement that you feel you can commit to and get involved. Do what you can for cold-water conservation. Many hands make the work much easier. Oak Brook Chapter Trout Unlimited is only as good as we, the members, make it. 🐟



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.

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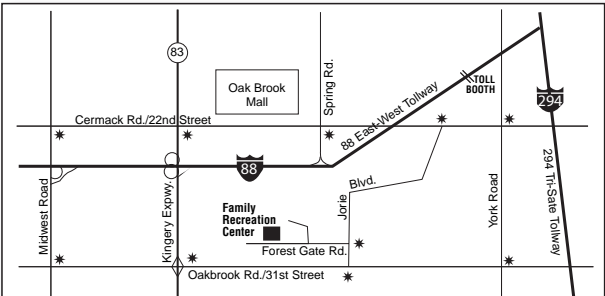
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From Jorie Blvd. Turn west at Forest Gate Rd. (first stop light north of 31st Street). Follow Forest Gate straight into the Recreation Center parking lot. We meet in Meeting Room 2/3.



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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