



Charles Gauvin's Remarks:

At the end of the Second World War, American industrial power wrought many changes in the landscape, perhaps nowhere more profoundly than in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, the hub of the nation's automotive industry, and the eventual birthplace of a fledgling conservation group that called itself "Trout, Unlimited."

The automobile begot legions of suburbanites, people with one foot in the new industrial economy and the other in an older, more rural realm. Preserving that way of life meant fostering industry (What was good for GM was, after all, good for the counter) while maintaining access to the great outdoors. Yet economic growth was taxing Michigan's and the nation's environment in unprecedented ways. One symptom of the larger problem was that Michigan's fish managers were peddling assembly-line trout from hatcheries while ignoring habitat conservation. No one understood the suburban duality's implications for coldwater fish and the environment better than TU's founding fathers-people like George Mason, George Griffith and Art Neumann-who initiated a brand of sportsmen activism that would change the face of fishery management and, ultimately, environmentalism.

That is how I remember my own path to TY. My father and I took to the road to fish in places still wild, in little pockets of Southern New England woodland and in the greater expanse of Maine's North Woods. Having come of age as an angler, I later came of age as an environmentalist, and the first group I joined was TU. I did so because joining meant that I was part of saving both fish and rives, in my home state and beyond. I did so because I came to know firsthand what could happen if there were no activists to protect or restore a stream and its water shed. For the very stream I fished for trout with my father, was a gorgeous, but frail watercourse my father called "Grandfather's Falls," a place with iridescent wild brook trout and a shallow cave where we could eat our lunch and get out of the rain. By the time I sent in my first membership contribution to TU, Grandfather's Falls had ceased to be a trout stream; much of its flow was diverted into a storm drain, and its waters were fouled by polluted run-off.

TU's founders built a volunteer-oriented organization that could thrive in the Automotive Age, but their vision continues to drive TU in today's Information Age. They grouped their early apostles into a highly mobile and dedicated activist network. Today, that network commands a \$30 million annual budget, has a membership

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Future Meetings and Events

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

December 2, 2009

Holiday Dinner, Harry Caray's, Lombard. Rich Osthoff will speak about fly-fishing the West's best rivers on your own. Auctions, raffles and more. Tickets \$40

December 8, 2009

TU Vol Ops Training: "Connecting Education to Restoration." See www.tu.org member login for sign up info.

December 9, 2009

Directors' meeting

December 12, 2009

Project workday with SEWTU vicinity of Kettle Moraine. RSVP to Stan Z. See www.sewtu.org for more detail

January 1, 2010

Happy New Year!!

January 12, 2010

TU Vol Ops Training: "Monitoring Fish and Aquatic Insects." See www.tu.org member login for sign up info.

January 13, 2010

Directors' meeting

January 20, 2010

Membership meeting at OBPD Rec Ctr. Election of 2 Directors

January 29-31, 2010

Midwest Fly Fishing Show, Pheasant Run, St. Charles, IL.

February 9, 2010

TU Vol Ops Training. "Monitoring Water Quality." See www.tu.org member login for sign up info.

February 10, 2010

Directors' meeting

February 17, 2010

Membership meeting at OBPD Rec Ctr.

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



Happy Holidays



Letter from the President

Dear Members,

December is upon us and usually brings with it a quiet time of year to reflect on where we have been and where we are going. In this issue of the Flyer are included the remarks of Charles F. Gauvin, president and chief executive officer of Trout Unlimited, on the occasion of presenting Art Neumann an award at the gathering in Traverse City to celebrate Trout Unlimited's 50th Anniversary. His words are worth reflecting on.

The holidays also bring with them a time of busyness and many commitments. I hope you have all set aside the time to join Oak Brook Trout Unlimited on December 2nd for its annual holiday dinner. Rich Osthoff, great fly tier and author of three very practical angling books, will join us to speak about how to fly-fish the best rivers in the west on your own. This year's dinner at Harry Caray's in Lombard's Westin Hotel promises not to disappoint. What's not to like about Italian food? We will have some great gear and guided trips to auction off and a chance at one of Clyde Alho's custom rods will be raffled off. The raffle tickets for Clyde's rod will be sold to the last hour, but keep those raffle tickets coming in through the mail. For the dinner, please RSVP and mail your check to Marvin Strauch no later than November 25 at 8808 South 85th Avenue, Hickory Hills, IL 60457.

Rich Osthoff will also be conducting a fly tying seminar at Bass Pro Shops in Bolingbrook from 10AM to 3PM on the day of the Dinner. Cost of the class is \$40. Contact Stan Z for reservation and make it a great day!

We are still on for the December 12th workday in connection with the South West Wisconsin and Borger TU chapters. Work will be indoors, so we can shed a lot of sweat constructing all those LUNKERS. Stan Z is still waiting for your call letting us know you will be on hand to help.

Do not forget to keep your e-mail address current. Do so by updating your personal info at www.obtu.org or by notifying our membership chair, Marvin Strauch, at mjstrauch@comcast.net.

The turning of the New Year will bring a lot big decisions to be made on where you want our chapter to go. More on that in the next newsletter when the work begins. For now, Best Wishes for you and your families in this season of joy!

December Guest Tyer: Rich Osthoff

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2009

10:00 am-3:00 pm
Bass Pro shops | Bolingbrook

Rich Osthoff markets his innovative fly designs directly to anglers around the country via his mail-order catalog (available on this website). You'll find the key imitative flies for cracking mayfly, caddis, and midge hatches, plus outstanding attractor dries, nymphs, and streamers for working trout between hatches. Rich's high-performance surface and subsurface flies for warm water fish, including smallmouth bass, are among his most popular patterns.

Rich will be leading a class of a total of 12 tyers, demonstrating some of his favorite patterns:

- Soft –hackle Woolly
- Bobbing Baitfish
- Beadhead Pheasant Tail Midge
- Flara Dun

Cost for the class, including materials provided will be \$40.00 per tyer.

Please contact Stan to reserve your spot or with any questions you have. Stan Zarnowiecki
708-606-4148, shotawisky@aol.com

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Charles Gauvin's Remarks *continued from page 1*

of 140,000, and employs 140 professional scientists, grassroots organizers, lawyers and policy experts, who, together with volunteer activists, make TU the nation's leading river and fishery conservation organization.

We practice conservation on a scale far beyond anything the TU founders likely imagined. But our focus remains the protection of wild fish and wild rivers, and our greatest resource is still the energy and enthusiasm of dedicated anglers who know, as founder Art Neumann put it, that "trout fishing isn't just fishing for trout."

Many organizations are founded on good ideas, and some on great ideas. Only the most exceptional organizations manage to take a great idea and build an enduring institution around it. That TU has been able to do so is in no small part due to the wisdom of its founders, particularly that of Art Neumann. TU is here today to celebrate its 50th anniversary because Art, above everyone else, put the organization on the right track. Art left us a legacy that we have been duty-bound to nurture and to promote in the fertile ground of the dream that every passionate angler experiences when she or he contemplates stepping into a wild trout stream and making that first cast. For it is that sense of expectation and wonder that leads us to step up – as volunteer or professionals – and to engage ourselves in transforming the cold, hard facts of science into the art or conservation. In the process, we have learned to tap into the better instinct of ourselves that leads to stewardship and advocacy on behalf of coldwater fisheries. That's what Art Neumann stood for 50 years ago, and that's what we, as the heirs of Art's legacy, stand for today, tomorrow, and forever. 🐟

I fish because fishing takes me to places where land is still as it always has been, and as long as such places still exist, there is hope for mankind. I fish because fishing humbles a man, and humility is a rare virtue. But most of all, I fish because it makes me feel closer to myself.

*Steve Raymond,
The year of the angler, 1995*

Phil's Christmas List

(or what I think OBTU needs in 2010)

Dear Santa,

It has been some time since I have written to you with a Christmas list. I have been really good all year, have eaten all my broccoli and have attended most of my TU meetings. So, here is what I would like for OBTU in 2010:

Train the Trainer Session some time in February so that new volunteers can review the skills (knots, casting, fly tying) that we teach the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. I think that more people would volunteer to help with these programs if they were more comfortable with these skills.

Two Full-day Girl Scout Programs staffed by both men and women TU members. We can see a need and demand from the Girl Scouts for these programs and need volunteers to make them succeed.

Five Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge Classes like we held in previous years but were not able to do in 2009 due to a lack of volunteers.

A Week-Long Boy Scout Fly Fishing Camp such as the one held in June 2007 at Highlandville, Iowa. Twelve Boy Scouts and their leaders from various troops would handle the camping and logistical chores and TU mentors would instruct them in fly fishing and conservation skills.

You and I both know that these events will not happen without a lot of help, so I am also asking for enough new volunteers to help with all of these programs to make them successful.

Thanks, Santa. I know that I can count on you. Oh, and by the way, did I mention that I have been especially good to the cats this year?

<°)))>< Phil Young

*P.S. Santa's helpers can contact me at pyoung2653@aol.com
or 630-553-4307.*

When I get up at five in the morning to go fishing, I wake my wife up and ask, "What'll be, dear, sex or fishing?" And she says, "Don't forget your waders".

*Paul Quinnett,
Darmin's Bass, 1996*

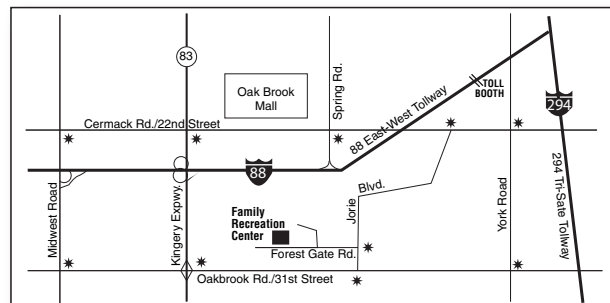


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Annual Custom Rod Raffle

By this time all members should have received your winning tickets for our chapter annual custom rod raffle. We are asking all members to purchase or sell a few books of tickets. This is one of the few ways that we have to raise revenues for our general operating fund. You are welcome to come to our monthly membership meeting and drop off your ticket stubs and money. See Stan Z. for more tickets if you need them. Please be generous and purchase tickets for this great prize, a custom rod of your choice built by Clyde Alho of The Rod Shop.



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.

Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Invites you and your guests to the

Annual Holiday Dinner

To be held December 2, 2009 at

Harry Caray's Italian Steak House & Bar

Located in the Westin Lombard Hotel | Waveland Room 70 | Yorktown Center | Lombard, IL

Cocktail Reception beginning at 6:00 PM

Dinner Buffet 7:00 PM

Ticket: \$40

Menu:

Chicken Marsala, Meatballs Marinara, Mostaccioli marinara, Rigatoni with Vodka Sauce, Salads, Sautéed Veggies, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Assorted Desserts

Fundraising Events

Raffles and Auctions | Sporting Gear, Guided Trips, and More

RSVP and Mail Your Check by November 25, 2009.

To: Marvin Strauch, 8808 South 85th Avenue
Hickory Hills, IL 60457



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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