

FLYER



OAK BROOK TROUT UNLIMITED BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4, JULY/AUGUST 2011



Oak Brook Chapter Annual Picnic Wednesday, July 13 at 6:00 PM

Once again Doug and Dottie Vanerka will host our Annual Picnic. Come for an old-time North Woods Shore Lunch. We'll have some foot stompin' pickin' and fiddlin' from them thar Hollars down yonder.

Get lucky in the raffles and spend freely for silent auction items or just simply enjoy the companionship of some very old and very new members alike.

Time: 6:00 PM
Place: 44 Breakenridge Farm,
Oak Brook, IL 60523

We will provide food, water & soft drinks, but please feel free to bring stronger libations and some lawn chairs of your own. A donation of \$15 per adult is asked to help cover the food & beverage costs.

Please plan to attend! Bring your spouse, children, friends and neighbors. Let's have a good time!

RSVP to David Hilvers at 708-516-5902 or dbhilvers@sbcglobal.net by July 2nd if you plan to attend. Mail your donation check to Stan Zarnowiecki at 745 S. Ashland, La Grange, IL 60525



Roosevelt/St. Pats TIC Release

Sure Beats a Day in the Classroom!

By Dan Cekander

What can be more fun than wading in 48 degree water, in shorts, looking for bugs and releasing fingerling trout into a spring fed creek ON A SCHOOL DAY? "Not much", according to members of Roosevelt Middle School's Trout Team, a select group of students who showed a special interest for Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Class (TIC) program. Students from Roosevelt Middle School, River Forest, and St. Pat's, Hickory Hills, recently completed their Trout in the Class (TIC) Program by releasing their brown trout in the South Branch of Kinnikinnick Creek near Caledonia, Illinois. This year's program began back in November, when TU delivered to the classroom brown trout eggs and placed them into 55 degree water in a 55 gallon aquarium with a filter. The students observed the trout's early life-cycle - from an egg to a 3 - 4 inch fingerling - suitable for release into a trout stream. The students had received valuable classroom instruction in trout stream insect identification from entomologist, Dean Hansen, and were able to identify a wide variety of aquatic insects/creatures, like mayfly nymphs, caddis cases, damselflies, scuds and worms, in a real stream suitable for trout. The students performed water quality tests on the Kinnikinnick Creek that confirmed the water was of suitable quality to sustain trout and a wide variety of aquatic insects. Mr. Kadlec, an innovative 7th grade life sciences teacher and the leader of

Continued on page 7

Future Meetings and Events

Go to your 2011 calendar and mark down the following meeting and event dates:

- July 6**
Directors' Meeting
- July 9-10**
Trout 101, Orvis Lombard
- July 9**
Scout Merit Badge Class, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Dundee, IL
- July 12**
NTU Training: Chapter Strategic Planning
- July 13**
Annual Chapter Picnic, Home of Dottie and Doug Vanerka
- July 31 - Aug 6**
ILCTU Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing camp
- August 10**
Directors' Meeting
- August 17**
Chapter Meeting: Cane Cast and Compare Night, Home of Doug and Dottie Vanerka
- August 20**
Scout Merit Badge Class, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Dundee, IL.
- September 10**
Scout Merit Badge Class, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Dundee, IL.
- September 14**
Directors' Meeting
- September 21**
Chapter Meeting, OBPD Rec. Ctr., Speaker: Jay Anglin
- October 8-10**
Coldwater Restoration Work Day, vicinity Freeport Michigan

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



Letter from the President

Dear Fellow OBTU Members,

We've seen many a new face involved in chapter activities strongly supporting our education efforts. Our Trout in the Classroom programs came to an end with a couple of great days on Kinnikinnick Creek near Rockford. The kids, notwithstanding some pretty brisk weather immersed themselves without benefit of waders or fleece. They rolled rocks and seined the aquatic benthos, compared stream water quality to that of the home tank, and of course each child experienced the penultimate in the release of a little brown trout, the ultimate moment coming with the last glimpse of that chameleon-like fry blending imperceptibly with the bottom strata of the stream. As I watched trout after trout released to the stream, I could not help marvel at the wonder of nature. Almost even more remarkable was the large attendance by parents from the Ames School. Ames incredibly in this day and age has no buses, the kids being walkers, so parents bused their own kids the long road to the Kinnikinnick on Saturday. Those parents seemed even more engrossed in the activity than their kids. Support from the home is what makes any education program tick, perhaps in this case TIC. Several of the parents remarked what great jobs the TU staff members held, not realizing that we, like them, had a daytime job too. Thanks are in order to Ron Abrant, Ted Bernhard, Dan Cekander, Marvin Strauch, Stan Zarnowiecki, and Frank Zbylski from OBTU and Cindy Skrukud and Fran Caffee from the Sierra Club Water Sentinels for their effort in making this event long to be remembered by all.

Our Scout Merit Badge Classes have now gone through two sessions, with the rest of the year through September being booked rather solidly. The April class, filled predominantly with girl scouts, went well despite a cold snap which slowed the bluegills to a snail pace. All the boy scouts did manage to catch at least their two fish to qualify them for their badges. The June class fishing went lots better, with bedding 'gills being vicious in their strikes, but summer heat stoking the growth of weeds, both in and out of the water. The scout program has really seen some new volunteers, Ron Abrant, Ted Bernhard, Dan Cekander, Bob Davenport, Neels De Coning, Frank Harford, David Hilvers, Fred Hodge, Larry Kelsey, Jeff Kroger, Sheila Prosen, Tom Wilhelm, Phil Young, Stan Zarnowiecki, and Frank Zbylski all imparting some of their lifelong fly fishing expertise. There's still time to be one of the new faces for the remaining July, August and September classes. Give Marvin or Stan a call if you can make it a day.

The partnership between OBTU and Orvis Lombard is becoming a huge success. The store at Yorktown is averaging about a dozen or more neophyte fly fishers per session. This means an expected influx of almost a hundred new members to OBTU over the summer.

Most of them live in the OBTU area, although I had a long conversation with an enthusiastic gentleman who'll likely settle in at Wulff. Thanks to Ron Abrant, Keith Bielat, Sam Cefaratti, David Hilvers, Ron Kuraz, Arnie Leder, David Lunardini, Sheila Prosen, John Snyder, Marvin Strauch, Tom Wilhelm, Stan Zarnowiecki, and Frank Zbylski for making this partnership handed down from NTU a realization. We may need a few more volunteers. The first ever Trout 201 had a dozen fly fishers on each of its first days, which was more than Jason and Cliff from Orvis could handle. Everyone caught fish, including a 14 inch bass, so there were a lot of hooks to disgorge. I joined them for the Sunday session at the Hidden Lake Forest Preserve in Du Page, but we could have used another hand. Trout 201 will be offered again on the week-ends of June 25-26 and July 16-17. Let me know if you can make one of those week-ends.

Speaking of Orvis, if you were unable to attend our May chapter meeting, you missed out on a great presentation by Jason Hearle, the Orvis Lombard fishing manager, introducing his audience to the relatively new techniques involved in Euro nymphing, which utilize a really long leader to make a direct connection to a bottom bouncing fly. Jason's presentation was really refreshing because it lacked the perfunctory projector flashing fish porn on the wall. Jason engaged us by merely showing us how to rig up and demonstrating the techniques evolving over Europe from the seminal Czech nymphing. If we are to continue presentation's like Jason's, we all need to make that contribution to our OBTU operating fund. We're still running light on the dollars in!

Education is still our long suit. Although we continue to support TU conservation efforts, we still lack a real working project of our own. We need to form up a new conservation committee starting with the appointment of a new chair to pick up where Ken Voight left off. Call me if you're interested.

OBTU has continued its support for TUDARE by contributing \$1,000 to its operating fund, which was matched by another \$1,000 by the Illinois Council of TU, and which, when combined with similar donations from other chapters, will help to continue the fine work in the Driftless Area.

Our work day with the Coldwater Watershed Council and Schremms will be held over the Columbus Day week-end. Let Marvin Strauch know if you intend to lend your work hands.

We, the chapter, also contributed \$1,000 to the Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited's Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp. Although going into its fourth year, recruiting of kids is its biggest

Officers: President, Greg Prosen – prez@obtuo.org 630-986-1310 • Vice President, Stan Zarnowiecki – vp@obtuo.org 708-606-4148 • Treasurer, Larry Varsek – KESRAV@aol.com 815-729-9380 • Secretary, Clyde Alho – secretary@obtuo.org 630-897-2401 Directors: Dan Cekander – mdcekander@comcast.net 708-366-8052 • Dave Hilvers – dbhilvers@sbcglobal.net 708-516-5902 • Jeff Kroger – jpkroger@sbcglobal.net 630-369-4148 • Arnie Leder – aleder@cin.net 815-252-3303 • Joe Vitti – vittifam@ameritech.net 630-969-2251 • Ken Voight – knvoight@earthlink.net 630-466-9743 • 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 – emichael@cs.com 847-831-4159 • Doug Vanerka – dvanerka@comcast.net 630-655-0084.

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challenge. It's not too late to enroll one of your family or neighborhood kids or make a donation to the cause. Call me (630-986-1310) or go onto our OBTU website to open the world of fly fishing to some new kid (see www.tu.org).

Wally Bock, following his long and meritorious service to our chapter and the Illinois Council, coupled with his full six year term on the NLC, has been nominated by the Illinois Council to be considered to fill one of the three Grass Roots Trustee positions opening up this fall on the Board of Trustees of Trout Unlimited. Competition will be stiff, ten other states having thrown a name into the hat, but hopefully the NLC New Initiatives Work Group, which serves as the nominating committee to select a slate of Grass Roots Trustee candidates to be approved and recommended by the NLC for election by the TU membership at the annual meeting, will recognize Wally, not only for his great experience in TU, particularly his leadership in TUDARE as its NLC work group chair, but for the uncompromising dedication and enthusiasm which he brings to our TU.

Be sure to come to our annual picnic on July 13th for what has become a chapter institution on the lawns of Dottie and Doug Vanerka. RSVP to our Secretary David Hilvers and send your check for each person attending in the amount of \$15 to Stan Zarnowiecki. For our chapter meeting in August, the Vanerka's will also host the Cane Cast and Compare Night, providing an opportunity for all to experience the silky fluidity of casting a variety of bamboo rods. Yo'all come! ■



Greg

Still Wanted

Immediate opening for Treasurer for OBTU.

Accounting or bookkeeping experience required. Working knowledge of Quick books a plus. Call Greg Prosen at 630-986-1310 if interested.

Trout Unlimited Amendment of Chapter Bylaws

All Councils and Chapters within Trout Unlimited (TU) have been requested by National TU to amend their current bylaws during calendar year 2011 so that the amended bylaws conform to the new National Bylaws which were adopted by the TU membership in September of 2010. The OBTU Directors have drafted new Chapter Bylaws in conformance with the new National Bylaws and the TU Chapter Model Bylaws. Our proposed new OBTU Bylaws will be submitted to the Illinois Council and the NLC for review. Once this is done, the OBTU Chapter membership will be called upon to ratify our new Bylaws. The proposed OBTU bylaws will be published on our website, www.obtu.org, for your review. We hope to call for the vote adopting our new Bylaws at our September Chapter meeting. ■

OPERATING FUND DONATION REQUEST

We need donations to our chapter operating funds to defray our monthly cost of meetings, printing, and mailing expenses. What we do not have to spend sustaining our membership, we can spend on our educational programs and conservation projects.

Please fill out the following form and enclose a check for \$15 payable to Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited to defray our monthly costs of operation.

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

Name (First, Middle, Last) _____

Special Interests: _____

Address _____

Amount of involvement in TU desired: _____ Hours/Month

City, State, Zip _____

Type of involvement desired: _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

\$15 operating fund \$10 Name tag

E-Mail Address _____



Making, Rigging, and Euro-Nymphing with the Curly Whirly, Coiled/French Sighter, or straight sighter

By Jason Hearle

How to make a Coiled Sighter:

1. Pick up some Hi-Vis Gold Stren, Suffix, Siman Bi-Color or another very brightly colored mono in 10-14lb test. I prefer Siman Bi-Color due to its opaque characteristics
2. Wrap the mono around a small cylindrical object. I like bamboo skewers, but nails, bolts, dowel rods, and screws can work. Wrap the mono tightly against itself with no more than 20" wrapped the skewer with tag ends of about 5" or more if you wish. Secure with rubber bands or twist ties.
3. Get some water boiling in a big pot. Make sure to swish the water around to coat the sides of the pot before you drop in the skewers to keep the mono from sticking and melting on the sides of the pot. It is advised to add vinegar to the water for colorfastness.
4. Boil the skewers for 5 to 10 minutes.
5. Remove skewers and place in freezer bag, or container full of water over night. You can also freeze the entire pot with the water in it. Some advise 24 hours, but I don't think it makes a difference.

Rigging a Curly Whirly

Although sighters can be tied into any leader to fish euro style nymphing, the use of a 12-15' long steelhead or bonefish leader works well. Even better, would be using a French style leader with a very long gradual taper, like the Hend's French Camou Leader. These leaders tend to be 20'-30' long and allow the angler to switch to any method of Euro nymphing. I prefer the 900cm Length and cut to taper for placement of sighter.

1. Secure the sighter to the leader. I prefer the blood knot.
2. Add around 2' of 3x.
3. Add another 3-5' (I usually go 5') of 5x. At this point you can tie on a fly or add another 2' or so of 5x to fish a tandem nymph rig.
4. If fishing a tandem nymph rig, use the tag end coming from the upper piece of 5x. Often times, anglers will use a heavier fly, also known as an anchor fly, to a smaller nymph down deeper quicker. Anchor flies can be placed either on the end (point) or on the tag of the leader. Experiment to see what works best for you.
5. It is often beneficial to fish a natural looking nymph and an attractor type nymph for your anchor fly.

Fishing A Sighter

Coiled sighters are generally fished with short line techniques such as Polish and Czech style, but can be fished further up and across/Spanish style, straight upstream/French style, or greased to fish on the surface more traditionally associated with indicator fishing.

Czech style-Fishing short line by lobbing flies (mostly into riffles) while allowing them to pendulum under the rod tip and rise just downstream of you. Always staying in contact with the flies, but not leading them.

French Style-Casting the leader only, or very little line directly upstream, while facing upstream, and leading flies back down by raising the rod tip. Generally used in slower or flatter water to known fish.

Polish Style-Lobbing flies upstream while facing across stream and leading them down next to you. Lead flies or stay in contact with them through the drift. Flies generally track along the same plane as the rod tip.

Spanish Style-Casting flies up and across, usually using longer leaders, keeping the line/leader to the sighter off the water and leading from a further distance. Sometimes, this method resembles a sort of upstream or cross-stream swing.

Tips:

Fish with the sighter above the water line. Watch the sighter for subtle moves and set the hook with a quick wrist snap in the event it might be a fish. Sometimes, rocks and other obstructions can create the look of a fish taking on the sighter, but frequent hook-setting leads to more hook-ups!

When fishing heavy or pocket water, lob flies in and do a 2 count and wrist snap hook set. Many fish take before contact is made with the flies. This is called a 2 second hook set. It isn't necessary to do this hook set every time, but at least the first few drifts, after a fly switch, or every now and again.

Every few casts, do a wrist snap hook set halfway through the drift to see if fish are biting "short" or quickly without being detected.

Wrist snaps are also utilized at the end of the drift to hook fish, and also as a way to get the flies moving into the backcast, which tends to be more like a lob. Tandem rigs fished this way are not cast with a traditional fly cast, so a little practice with the rig will help in understanding how to lob them into the water.

Czech and Polish style nymphing I generally fish in riffles into pools or in deep pools where I can get in close proximity to the trout.

French and Spanish style I generally fish in flatter or shallower water, or to fish further away.

In heavy or deep water, I often "hammer" flies into the water to get them deep quickly and immediately move the rod tip downstream to get into contact with the flies and move the sighter into position above the waterline.

When fishing these styles, the rod is often held at chest high or higher to keep the sighter above the water line and the leader to the rod tip out of the water. The sighter can be greased for more traditional style presentations.

Continued on page 5

Making, Rigging and Euro Nymphing *continued from page 4*

Here are some great links for products and information.

Bi-Color Strike Indicator: (I like the .35) <http://www.wflies.com/Tippets.html>

Leaders: (I like the 900cm) http://irishflytying.com/index.php?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage.tpl&product_id=2115&category_id=32&keyword=camou&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=67

Barbless hooks: <http://troutlegend.com/store/>

Tungsten Beads: <http://www.fishegear.com/servlet/the-Tungsten-Fly-Tying-Beads/Categories>

Other Info: <http://troutlegend.com/> ■



CANE CAST AND COMPARE NIGHT

Oak Brook Trout Unlimited, Wednesday, August 17th

At one time, every fly fisher fished a bamboo rod... sixty years ago. Fiberglass, graphite, & boron all came along and most folks put their old cane rods away.

There has been a resurgence in interest in bamboo rods in the last 20 years. A growing number of makers – amateur and professional – are moving the craft forward. And of course there are still a number of anglers fishing the original rods made by Leonard, Payne, Thomas, Young, Dickerson, Winston, and many other shops.

Have you wondered what these cane rods cast like? Or do you have a bamboo rod (or rods) that you have wanted to show off? Are you a rod maker? Why not come to Oak Brook Chapter Trout Unlimited's first Cane Cast and Compare night. Join Ron Barch, editor and publisher of "The Planing Form" the leading newsletter of bamboo rod builders and collectors, and a number of local rod builders and collectors.

Doug Vanerka's House, 44 Breakenridge Farm, Hinsdale, IL. We will start at 5:30 PM and lawn cast until dusk. Ron Barch will present a slide show "Fishing in Michigan". Bring your own lawn chair and beverage, we'll provide snacks.

This will be a unique monthly membership format. Join in on the fun, meet some interesting builders, and cast really neat fly rods. ■

Add Your Voice to the Clean Water Discussion

By Ed Michael

The national office of Trout Unlimited has sent an action alert to its members asking them to go to TU's website and send a comment E-mail to the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers regarding their recent guidance document concerning their jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA). This is one of the more important Action Alerts that TU has promulgated. NTU requests your help to assure a broad membership response to this alert because it concerns one of TU's and the conservation community's most fundamental tools for protecting cold water fisheries. It represents the first step in reestablishing clarity about what waters fall under the CWA's protective mantle.

The action agencies' jurisdiction was confused by limitations imposed by the infamous and complicated US Supreme Court decisions in the cases of Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2001 and particularly by Rapanos v. United States in 2006. Two previous guidance documents (2003 and 2008) made it more difficult for agency personnel to protect streams and wetlands than the Supreme Court decisions required and did not lead to a new rule making which would have given even more focused instruction both to agency personnel and the regulated community. The recently released proposed guidance restores science as the basis for decision-making and establishes a process for evaluating waters for protection that is based on the hydrologic cycle and clear biological, chemical and physical connections between various waters. It could lead to a new rule-making. First, however, the agencies must hear from all concerned parties and finalize the guidance.

TU wants to make sure its "concerned parties" (i.e., its members) step up and tell the agency that the proposed guidance, though not a panacea, is a major step forward in protecting cold water fisheries and to urge the agencies to promptly move on to a rulemaking. TU is asking for your help to make sure that IL TU members do so because every voice will be necessary to overcome the voices of the many who directly benefit from the current confusion.

How can you help? Simply go on to the TU National website, www.tu.org

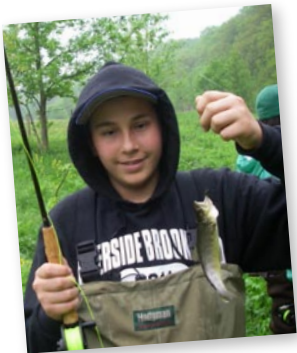
How can you help? Simply go on to the TU National website, www.tu.org, and under TU in Action, Add Your Voice to the Clean Water Discussion click Take Action and simply make the EPA Comment Submission.

It's a simple way to help TU to mobilize for this effort. Let's make sure TU in Illinois does its utmost to help TU to get the Clean Water Act working fully for cold water fisheries again ■!

Road trip to Iowa...

By Stan Zarnowiecki

You never know what will happen when you get involved with Oakbrook trout unlimited and volunteer for a program. I have been helping Marv Strauch run the Trout in the Class program for 3 years now and this year we had our first program in a high school environment, Riverside Brookfield high school, right near the Brookfield zoo. The school has an environmental program and the students learn about different things, they do water quality testing on Salt creek and remove invasive species of plants in the nearby forest preserve. Our program started out with placing the tank in the classroom and continuing with the tic program for the duration of the school year. As I stated, it started out there but we went way beyond that as the months progressed.



The biology teacher at RBHS, Jame Holt, is from Minnesota, so he fished and hunted as a youngster, and as I frequented the classroom he asked me different questions, not only about the tic program but about what obtu does with regard to fly fishing, fly tying and fly rod casting. I explained our capabilities as it regards programs like the merit badge program for boy scouts, and instruction at various events like the sports shows. Jame goes on to explain that the school had received a \$5,000.00 grant

and with it purchased all sorts of outdoor equipment like tents, sports equipment, fishing rods, FLY rods, and FLY tying kits complete with vises and materials. No one at the school knew how to put this equipment to proper use so it sat in the storage closet.

Of course, he stirred my interest and asked me if obtu could help out and run some type of program with the students and teach the fundamentals of the sport, casting fly rods, tying flies and fly fishing. Me, one who never says no to a chance to go fishing, no matter how many people I have to drag along, enthusiastically yelled YES. We loosely structured a program, starting with fly tying. Loosely is the key word because that's how it has to be with high school students today. They are either too busy with other activities, or too tired, or too forgetful. In any case they don't share my passion for the sport and all of the activities that surround it.

Starting in late November, we held a fly tying session twice a month, after school. We had some success with a few boys who crossed over from the fishing club that RB has had for many years. I had several obtu volunteers assist me as we taught fundamentals and techniques as we tied the basics, woolly buggers, streamers, pheasant tail nymphs. As we started the new year the classes continued but soon high school sports programs like baseball got underway and attendance fluctuated, never growing to more than 4 to 5 students at a session. I thought that this was a tremendous success, seeing that the level of interest of high school students is partial at best. At every session we talked about learning to cast the fly rod and fishing and



plans were formulated and re formulated. I made it a point to say that we really needed to practice casting before attempting any fishing with the long rods.

Well, we all know Chicago weather and chances to practice came and went. Casting inside in the gym finally came on a Sunday in May. I had the chance to look over the equipment before the program date was finalized and that was a great idea in hind sight because someone attempted to put the fly rod kits together. Well they didn't know what to do and so the reels all had too much backing, the fly line was installed backwards and don't even get me started on the knots used for the line to line connections. I had to strip and rewind every reel, along with removing yards of backing so that the reels wound without rubbing on the support bars.

Greg Prosen and I met the students at the RB gym and proceeded to bestow on them our knowledge of fly rod casting. It really didn't take long before they all had the general idea and were able to cast at least 30 feet without a tangle or tailing loop, most of the time.

All of this practice and information was leading up to our big fly fishing weekend with the students. It was scheduled for the weekend of May 20th through the 22nd. It was the road trip to Iowa, complete with camping out, hot sun, rain, Saturday night campfire, fly fishing and catching trout. You probably can't imagine what it takes to move a small platoon of students 300 miles, plan the meals, activities, transportation, sleeping accommodations, and other incidentals that come along. RBHS has their own mini bus and the two teachers that accompanied the students can drive the bus themselves. That fact made transportation a breeze, no renting of a bus and driver with the high cost associated with that. Since they had their own equipment for camping and fly fishing another problem was solved. ILTU was able to supply waders and boots for the fishing part of the weekend, a big thanks to them. The only thing that Greg and I had to do was to get to the campground early and set up 5 tents, assemble all of the fly rods, provide flies for the fishing, give more casting lessons, guide the students on the stream along with fellow obtu member Marv Strauch, volunteer to cook Saturday night dinner, untangle knots, remove flies from trees and bushes along the stream, release trout caught, teach more on the water casting, and enjoy the weekend.

It started when the students arrived on Friday night, around 7:00. The tents were up and they all got their gear inside. They were all interested in the program that we had planned. I explained what

was going to happen, a lot of activity in one day, Saturday. We woke and had breakfast. Casting lessons started on the lawn at the Highland general store campground. We quickly became the morning's entertainment for the locals as they watched the practice session. By 9:00 a.m. Chris Wasta from Iowa TU showed up. Chris is a local and a fellow tu member. His knowledge of the area was very appropriate and his fishing skills were up to the task. As he was giving a lesson on fishing with soft hackles, right on south Bear creek in the campground, he hooked a brown trout, the boys were amazed. It really got them in the right frame of mind.

After a half hour of fitting everyone in waders we were off to the stream. Chris chose a section of north Bear creek where we could spread out. We had 8 young fly fishermen and four mentors, two students to one mentor, a great ratio, one on one would have been too much to ask for. We dropped the first group of 4 off at a parking area and then went further upstream with the next four. Chris took the downstream section, divided by the road and bridge, and sent me up stream. He first explained to me what areas that I should cover with the students. He was right on, within 5 minutes and about 3 casts Duffy has his first brown on a soft hackle. He played it just right and we were able to land it and take a picture. It took a little longer for Nico to land his first trout, first fish ever, but he did.



After catching a few more and missing a few, we all packed up back to camp for lunch. The afternoon program was about to begin. Chris was going to explain in stream restoration, complete with pictures and examples. We were headed to another section of north Bear creek where the Iowa chapter has done some great work with boulder bank support and placing trout hides along the creek. Caleb and Ethan, a couple more members of Iowa TU and fellow locals accompanied us on this outing. They explained to the boys a little bit about stream hydrology, erosion, and bank stabilization. Another light came on for these students and they realized, as they fished, that without this work, TU working with land owners, the habitat for these precious fish would not exist. This was a valuable lesson that could not have been so well taught in the classroom. Afternoon fishing slowed and soon it was time to end the day, a quick photo opportunity in front of the bus and then cheeseburgers on the grill and campfire was the next order of business for all of us. Highland campground is right on Bear creek so some of the boys continued fishing as the day grew long. This seemed to be a good sign that they were still interested.



Sunday morning was break camp and head for home. I had planned on an early morning fishing trip, walking distance from the campground, but the RB had to get back to Chicago. Of course we needed more time and I crammed a lot into a short space but everyone had an experience that they will not soon forget. I think that the thank you letters that came from the students explains why we do this. It's part of TU, you couldn't go on a boating fishing trip and learn the same lessons about conservation, restoration, habitat, stream hydrology. You learn those things walking a stream with someone who knows more than you do and is willing to share their knowledge, observing the water and the riparian. Opening up a new world to young people is very satisfying, they absorb it differently than adults. You can see it on their faces, full of amazement, inquisitive, wanting to learn more... ■

TIC Release *continued from page 1*

Roosevelt School's TIC program, is already looking forward to next year's program. He is suggesting a field troop to a fish hatchery and possibly an additional TU lecture covering trout, trout habitat and conservation. Overall, it was a great outing and, thanks to TU, the program will continue again next year. ■





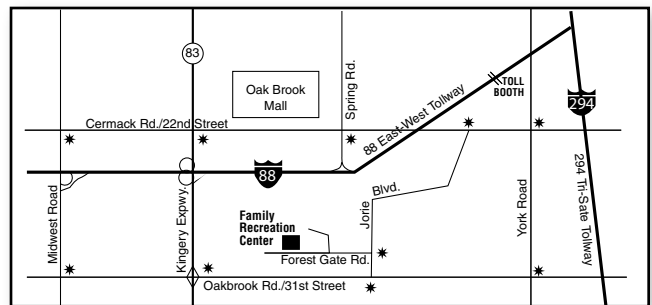
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CHICAGO, IL**

Dear Oak Brook Chapter

Just a quick letter to acknowledge your generous donation of \$1,000. This will help us expand the program we are already doing of additional funding for the Driftless Area, as well as outside the Driftless. We will also continue to try and improve on our already established Stream Restoration Project Planning Workshop in Westby and our spring Driftless Symposium. ■

Thanks, Jeff Hastings



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.

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