



Casting for success . . .

Paul Melchior

Among other factors that lead to angling success, casting well has to be one of the most important. Yet, unlike many other pursuits (think golfers and shot gunners, for example), anglers spend little time perfecting their casting skills. True, it's not as sexy to work on a tight loop in the backyard as it is to spend equal hours on stream actually catching fish, but the time spent on becoming a good caster can pay off handsomely in the long run.

One of the ways to accomplish this is to get involved in tournament casting. Local casting tournaments, which are run by the Chicago Casting Club, take place usually twice a summer at the Lincoln Park Casting Club., located on Fullerton Ave, just west of Cannon drive and adjacent to the Peggy Notabaert Nature Museum. Most tournaments are frequented by casters who enjoy the competition as well as the camaraderie, traveling the country each summer to participate in many state tournaments as well as the largest event, The National. They are also open and generous with their knowledge and skills and eager to take newcomers in and teach them to be better casters.

This year, in order to increase participation from new casters, the "Fisherman's" category was created for entrants who had never cast in a tournament previously.

That last bit of information was crucial to Claire Cekander and Emily Verticchio, both of whom were recent graduates of both the TU Youth Camp in Montana and subsequently, the Illinois Council's Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing School. They were eager to take their newfound skills and passion into new frontiers.

The Chicago Casting Club's All American tournament on Sept 19th was the perfect venue. Each participated in three accuracy casting events: Trout fly, Dry Fly and Bass Bug. All required casting at five 36" diameter rings spaced out between 25 and 50' (plus one additional ring at 70' for the Bass Bug event). All of the events can be cast with standard fly rods, floating lines, 7 1/2' leaders to 9' leaders and hookless flies.

Both of them did exceptionally well in all three events, hitting many of the targets. They also garnered a great deal of support and instruction from many of casters at the tournament, including private instruction from several who consistently finish in the top 10 at national events.

We look forward to seeing Claire and Emily at future events and invite any interested TU members to come and participate as they did. It's a great way to improve your fly casting, which in turn will improve your fishing.

For further information on future events you can contact John Seroczynski - 219-464-1125 or 219-405-4288 or email at: j.sero@comcast.net ■



Future Meetings and Events

Go to your 2010 calendar and mark down the following meeting and event dates:

November 3

Directors' Meeting

November 9

TUNA training: Restoration Using Large Woody Material

December 8

Annual Holiday Dinner. Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse & Bar, Lombard, IL.

December 14

TUNA training: Small Dam Removal

2011

January 1

Happy New Year!

January 11

TUNA training: Organizing Hunters and Anglers to Support Backcountry Public Lands Conservation

January 12

Directors' Meeting

January 19

OBTU Annual Members Meeting



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



Letter from the President

Dear Fellow TU Members,

One of the duties of the vice president is to fill in anywhere when your elected president is unable to. This would be one of the examples of "filling in". Greg Prosen is out in the wilds of Colorado, fishing mountain lakes with his lovely wife Sheila and I'm stuck in front of a keyboard, oh well.

As our year seems to be winding down in terms of outdoor activities, it seems to be just gearing up for a new year and a new chapter in our TU lives. We had a very successful year, a great showing at the fly fishing show in January, girl scout and boy scout fly fishing classes, board meetings and monthly chapter meetings with great speakers, restoration work days at Paradise springs and other Michigan and Wisconsin destinations, participating in the Illinois council camp, fishing trips, four schools with Trout in the class programs, and a host of other activities that seem to be just a blur to me now.

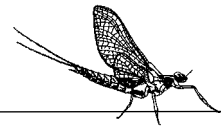
There always seems to be something to do and not enough volunteers to get it done. If you want to know more about everything we do, you should jump in and get involved. We had a member volunteer this past year to take over the responsibilities of the treasurer's position. If you talk to Larry Varsek I don't think that he regrets it, yet. We will continue in 2011 with more great monthly meetings and great activities for all chapter members. If you think there is something that we should be doing please bring it to one of the board members or come to a board meeting and make the suggestion. But please don't hesitate to sign up for any of the many events we will be attending in the new year.

December is our annual Holiday dinner meeting and it brings all of us together at a different venue, a different surrounding. Here, we can talk about the year's events with others, remembering everything, hopefully. I hope you will be reserving your place at the dinner as soon as possible. Please join us for a great night, bring a guest or two. We have a great evening lined up, a great presentation about our latest endeavor, our very own restoration project in the DRIFT-LESS. That night we will also draw the winning ticket of the custom rod raffle that we hold each year. You must have seen the picture of the winner of last year's raffle in the Flyer. Did you notice his smiling face? That could be you, tickets have been mailed to every member, please don't let them sit around or end up in the trash. This is one of the few fundraisers that we have for our general fund, money that we need to keep the chapter running. Send in your stubs and your check TODAY. We need every penny to keep going.

Seeing my responsibility somewhat accomplished I will sign off by saying that I hope to see some of you at all of our upcoming events, get involved, have a good time in Trout Unlimited.

Thank you.

Stan Zarnowiecki
Vice President

**OBTU Mail**

Dear Mr. Prosen and the Oakbrook TU chapter,

Thank you so much for hosting the Fly-fishing and Conservation School in Grayling, MI this past summer. I had such a fun time and made many wonderful memories. I learned so much at the school and made new friends who share a common, interesting hobby. This school was a once in a lifetime experience, and I find it fascinating that I know so much about something that most people will never have the opportunity to take part in during their lifetime. Attending the fly-fishing school has made me consider pursuing a career in Biology/Conservation. I am so glad I got to participate in the school. I hope the school goes strong for many more years so more young people are introduced to fly-fishing and conservation. I would love to help with youth interested in fly-fishing in the future.

Sincerely,
Claire Cekander

Officers: President, Greg Prosen – prez@obtu.org 630-986-1310 • Vice President, Stan Zarnowiecki – vp@obtu.org 708-606-4148 • Treasurer, Larry Varsek – KESRAV@aol.com 815-729-9380 • 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 – jrsl3040@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 – emichael@cs.com 847-831-4159 • Doug Vanerka – dvanerka@comcast.net 630-655-0084.

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Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited invites you and your guests to the Annual Holiday Dinner.

December 8, 2010 at Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse & Bar
Cocktail Reception beginning at 6:00 PM | Dinner Buffet 7:00 PM

Menu:

- > Chicken Parmigiana and Italian Sausage with Peppers
- > Penne con Pesto and Mostaccioli Marinara
- > Vesuvio Potatoes and Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables
- > Garden Mixed Green and Caesar Salads
- > Chef's Selection of Assorted Desserts
- > Freshly brewed Starbucks Coffee and Gourmet Hot Tea Selections

Speakers:

Ken Voight and David Dornblaser
Harrison Creek Project Update

- > Fundraising Events
- > Raffles and Auctions
- > Sporting Gear, Guided Trips, and More



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NLC Minutes

Waterville Valley Resort

September 18, 2010

Attendance: NLC representatives Present: AZ, AK, CA, CO, CN, GA, TX, ID, IL, IA, KY, ME, MI, MID-ATL, MN, MI, MT, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TN, UT, VT, VA, WV, WI, WY

Absent: MA/RI, NM, WA,

Duke Welter welcomed the NLC members to the meeting. He also urged workgroup leaders to get a ready talk account for their teleconference meetings.

Workgroup reports

TU/DARE: Brett Lorenzen

This group has established a Conservation Strategy for the streams of the Driftless Area. There are 1000 miles of streams in 4 states with impairment. TU/Dare lead the coldwater restoration that began in 2005 and will get 1.6 million this year in funding to restore miles of streams. They see more member involvement each year and they plan a meeting with all partners to develop a new strategic plan for the next 5 years. and support their science symposium, spring workshop, etc. A resolution from the NLC gave support for the next 5 year program by TU/DARE.

EBTJV: Bill Oleszczuk

The existing newsletter has kept the many states informed on brook trout projects in the Appalachians. They considered directions for the workgroup activities for the next three years. They want more publicity for the projects to highlight what TU is doing. There is a need to improve communication between agencies and TU councils and chapters. They are considering setting up a blog and they will be working on that through the next year. They also discussed CSI and how to use it more frequently in TU projects.

Conservation: John Wenzlick, MO

The goal of this group is to work with land trusts to promote formation of easements where coldwater resources exist. There is a handout for chapters and councils on how to go about establishing such relationships. TU should not hold conservation easements, but can hold access easements. Duke mentioned that Wisconsin has many such easements that are being reviewed now and may unload them to a land conservancy group. Ownership of land becomes an asset of the corporation and is dealt with differently by the IRS, which now is looking carefully at non-profits that hold such easements.

Great Lakes: Pat Kochanny

Losing Laura Hewitt is a setback to the group, as no other staff currently exists but now is especially needed. He emphasized the need to develop TU issues for the Midwest as the current use of the Mississippi River as a dividing line for east and west does not work for the Great

Lakes. Asian Carp were mentioned as exotic species of concern as are other invasive species. They are looking for direction on how to approach exotics and will have a regional meeting to further discuss this and the coaster brookies. Dee Maciejewski pointed out that NY State is not yet involved. Marsha Woolman commented that the clock is running and dealing with Asian Carp should move soon.

Chapter Fundraiser: Pat Kochanny (acting chair)

They identified the need for banquets and project funding and suggest that we need fundraising workshops to help folks. The group suggests that the Annual meeting might be more of a conference where workshops exist to help us. We have the staff expertise right now to help us with this. Brett Lorenzen suggested that the staff might travel to regions, and Web meetings are also possible and economical. Duke added that grant writing and foundation and fund locators could also help out.

Education and Youth Ted Gardziel

They had a vigorous meeting with 15 states attending. Goal: To invest in youth to create a sustaining constituency that will endure and support future TU efforts. They covered the following: Target 18-25 year olds, Training trainers, Partnerships with other youth groups, More Family opportunities, Youth workgroup, Emphasize Conservation, not just fly fishing.

Pacific Salmon: Jamie Hunter

Several conference calls were held to generate priorities for the states on salmon and steelhead. Salmon stronghold legislation needs to be supported to protect currently good fisheries. 10% of the existing watersheds now provide 2/3 of the fish. Completion of the CSI for remaining species is a priority. Support is needed for escapement management reform projects to assess the number of salmon and steelhead returning to spawn.

Grassroots: John Deakins

Formerly chapter focus, they suggest we need to look at the members themselves to increase activity and productivity. Things to work on: How to prepare members for leadership and increased roles in TU. Retention of new members is another goal as is recruitment and fundraising. We need to find out what members want and then deliver what they need. Their goal is encourage the progression of inactive members to become active members.

Bylaws: Tom Anacker

Model by laws for chapters and councils. National by laws passed yesterday at the Membership meeting. Jon Christiansen reports that by February these revisions will be ready along with a set of instructions for how to amend by laws. Goal: to amend chapter bylaws in 2011. The bylaws will be put on the web for availability. It was suggested that we add a checklist item for reports that indicates that chapters have updated by laws (as part of rechartering). Council by laws are also being worked on and will be available by next year.

Tom submitted the Bylaws Workgroup plan for the upcoming year: Work Plan for NLC Bylaws Work Group

The Bylaws Work Group met on September 17, 2010 and adopted the following work plan:

- 1) The ad hoc bylaw committee will continue working on development of a set of model bylaws to be utilized by State Councils. This committee's plan is to also develop a set of instructions setting forth the procedures for Councils and Chapters to amend their existing Bylaws to conform with the new National TU Bylaws. The Bylaws Work Group will provide any requested assistance to the ad hoc committee.
- 2) The Work Group will circulate the instructions for amendment of model Chapter and Council Bylaws to Chapter Presidents and State Council Chairs.
- 3) The Work Group will serve as a resource to answer questions and provide assistance on amendment procedures and content for Chapters and Councils. The Work Group will also develop a procedure to resolve any questions or concerns regarding compliance with National Bylaws. The goal is for all Chapters and Councils to be in a position to adopt amended bylaws at their annual meetings during 2011.
- 4) The Work Group will develop a procedure for Councils to review and confirm that their Chapters have amended their Bylaws to conform to the new National TU Bylaws. The NLC representative for each State or area will be responsible to oversee this review process and to report amendment status to the Work Group.
- 5) The Work Group will work with Vol Ops to develop a protocol to upload amended bylaws for all Chapters and Councils to the National web site. This protocol will be circulated to Chapter Presidents and Council Chairs.
- 6) The Work Group will work with the Grassroots/Organizational Work Group to incorporate the completion of the bylaw amendment process as a required checklist item for CEI compliance beginning in 2012.
- 7) The Work Group will develop procedures to affirmatively contact any Chapters or Councils that do no complete amendment of their bylaws in 2011 and provide any needed assistance to complete that process in 2012.

Duke thanked the Bylaws group for their excellent work on this "thankless" task.

Native Trout: Tom Jones

The group discussed CSI and how to use it in projects. He also mentioned a Montana proposal to increase efforts to deal with the Lake Trout problem in Yellowstone and other western lakes.

CSI/energy: Bruce Eberle

A group of 20 people showed up to discuss how to reorganize the Easter Abandoned Mines Workgroup to include other forms of energy generation. Members present from Az, Ar, Ky, Md, NY, Pa, Va, WV expressed a willingness to participate in the new Working Group. Proposed name: *Responsible Energy Development Workgroup*. The group also discussed if a workgroup was needed to help increase the use of CSI by the grassroots. The conclusion was that CSI is a proven standard and a workgroup is not needed. On the other hand, regional training sessions would be the most effective way to accomplish increased use of CSI. This requires increased resources for the CSI staff that would conduct the trainings.

EAS Election

The NLC approved the renewal appointments of Bruce Eberle, Rick Stowell and Alex Watson to the EAS Committee.

Rechartering/Dechartering

Beverly Lane showed the list of chapters to be rechartered and dechartered and this was approved by NLC. Three new chapters were mentioned but Duke pointed out that the NLC does not act to approve new chapters.

Duke Welter presented engraved fly boxes to Steve Brown (TN) and Dee Maciejewski (NY), whose terms as NLC have expired.

New Initiatives: Tom Jones

The workgroup considered revision of the NCA with the goal of bringing it into alignment with the TU Strategic Plan. The NLC gave point-by-point consideration to the agenda items listed under the PRRS categories. Hence, the NLC revised and approved the NCA update. Harris emphasized that Steve Moyer will help write a narrative version for the website, which will be shared with the NLC.

We discussed the Montana proposal, which called for an increased focus on removal of lake trout from Yellowstone Lake and other lakes in the west where they threaten native species. The committee noted that this would be covered under the exotics category in the NCA, but found the overall scope of the proposal to be of merit. The committee decided to ask Staff to increase their efforts in this regard and also to move the issue into the Western Native Trout Workgroup. The other issues we covered were increased involvement in developing new initiatives and working on a 360 evaluation to assess how TU works at all levels.

Elections

Duke Welter announced that he would not seek another term as NLC Chair as he will be starting work with TU DARE as a consultant. The NLC then elected Larry Harris to serve as Chair and Tom Anacker as Secretary.

Duke said an emotional goodbye to the NLC, emphasizing the joy he has felt in working with the folks in the audience. Taking editorial privilege, I know I speak for the entire NLC in conveying our thanks for his outstanding leadership over many more years than just his NLC chairmanship. His competence, high standards, wisdom and passion are impossible to duplicate and will be greatly missed. He will continue to give to TU in that new capacity, of course, as he pursues his passion in the Driftless Region. I will miss Duke at the helm, but will carry on keeping his ideals in mind. Thank you my friend.

Adjourned at 11:30 ■

No human being, however
great, or powerful, was ever so
free as a fish.

John Ruskin, The Eagle's Nest, 1872

TU Bestows Youth Education Leadership Award Upon Fred Hodge

At the Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting at Waterville Valley, NH, Fred Hodge received the Youth Education Leadership award. The award was presented at the 2010 National Conservation Awards luncheon, where the Schrems West Michigan Chapter also received the Gold Trout Award. The citation for Fred's award read as follows:

"Fred Hodge has never served as an officer or director of his Oak Brook Chapter of TU. He has never deigned to be a leader of his chapter peers, but when it comes to kids Fred is the Pied Piper. He has taken every opportunity to teach fly casting, fly tying and fly fishing to kids, at Boy Scouts of America (BSA) merit badge classes, Learn to Fly Fish days, the chapter scout camp, and the Illinois Council's Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing School. Fred generates intensity for trout in kids. Perhaps it is his nature. Perhaps it is the old retired

Whatever it is, the magic he works with kids is evidenced in their smiles and their sheer joy on the stream or at the fly tying bench.

airline pilot in him, saying, "This is your captain speaking." Perhaps it is just an old Eagle Scout speaking. Whatever it is, the magic he works with kids is evidenced in their smiles and their sheer joy on the stream or at the fly tying bench.

At [scout] camp, Fred conducted fly tying sessions every evening. The rest of the mentors were exhausted when arriving back at base, but Fred quietly set up his fly tying table and the scouts gathered to look over his shoulder. When it got dark, he simply flipped on his head lamp. By the middle of the week, six or seven scouts sat at a picnic table, each with a vice, a head lamp shining, talking about making a fly that was sure to catch a trout the next day. "Mr. Fred" was there encouraging his young students to follow their whimsies and tie the most outlandish of patterns, using the most striking of colors and materials. The kids had fun and laughter abounded, but after a few days on the river with Fred, they returned to the bench, tying traditional flies.

Fred has been a strong force in solidifying the memorandum of understanding between TU and BSA. He was a member of the panel which met at the Philmont National Boy Scout Ranch to revise the requirements for the Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge as well as to institute a fly fishing program at Philmont. He later served to develop fly fishing programs at the Scout Sea Base in Florida as well as at the Canoe Base in the Boundary Waters at Ely, Minnesota." ■

Highlights of Trout Unlimited's 51st Annual Meeting

Greg Prosen, ILNLC

For the first time in a score of years, the State of TU address at the Annual Members' Meeting was not delivered by Charles Gauvin. Charles has joined the Board of Trustees as CEO Emeritus and will also serve as senior counsel. Chris Wood, who came to TU a decade ago from the U.S. Forest Service, took the reigns. Chris is no stranger to Washington political infighting, but it was immediately apparent that he intends to drive the train while brushing the grass roots. He placed strong emphasis on sustainment through youth education, capacity building, and outreach and communications, without losing sight of the TU mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds through PRR (protect, reconnect and restore) and strong use of the CSI (Conservation Success Index). The litany of works in progress throughout the nation was then reviewed under the aegis of the PRR. High on the protection list was the Tongass National Forest and keeping the Pebble Mine out of the Bristol Bay watershed, to which incidentally Tiffany & Co is strongly committed. The Yampa, Musconetcong, Teton, Penobscot, all names somewhat familiar to us, were cited, among others, as the scenes of reconnection. Restoration is ongoing on the Rogue, Upper Connecticut, S. Fork Snake, Boise, Kettle Creek and of course our own Driftless area. The point was hammered home that TU is indeed accomplishing its mission in countless ways through countless volunteers.

Duke Welter next took the stage for the State of the Grass Roots. With 366 chapters and 35 councils reporting, chapter revenues exceeded 8 million dollars. Volunteer hours were up: 676,884 compared with 620K in '08 and 618K in '07. PRRS broke out at 12% protection (14% in '08), 67% sustainment (60% in '08), 4% reconnection (6% in '08), and 17% restoration (20% in '08). Sustainment hours continue on an upward trend at the expense of PRR. This may be attributed to the increased emphasis on youth education and outreach, but again more hours need to pile on our TU mission as reflected by the PRR. The key to reversing this trend may lie in increasing average volunteer hours, which for the second year running remained at 5.3. When that number was announced someone in the audience cried out, "Is that for a day," which shows that a lot of people in the room were probably doing a lot of TU work, while the majority of members are doing next to nothing! If the effort were made by all to give just give 8 hours a year volunteer time, and newcomers devoted their time to the PRR areas, volunteer time would double and the sustainment percentage would shrink, thereby allowing us to claim that the majority of our TU time is spent on mission!

Of note administratively, all Illinois chapters were re-chartered for the next four years. The National TU and chapter model TU bylaws were approved. Chapters will now have to bring their respective bylaws in sync with the model bylaws. No deadline was set, but can be expected

forthwith. Chapter bylaws as well as chapter strategic plans will have to be uploaded on the TU web. Click on Electronic Documents under Chapter Resources in Leaders Only Tools.

The surprise of the meeting came with Duke Welter's announcement that he was stepping down as Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the National Leadership Council. After many years of fine service, the Duke will return to the Driftless area to concentrate his conservation efforts. Larry Harris, the NLC Secretary and incidentally an old Chicago northsider and U of I grad, will step into the Duke's shoes. Tom Anacker, the Montana NLC rep, will replace Larry as Secretary of the NLC. It was also announced that another Midwesterner, Jon Christiansen from Milwaukee, will assume the duties of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, replacing Oakleigh Thorne, another former Illinois neighbor, stepping down after years of TU leadership. Long live the kings!

In addition to the meeting of the NLC work groups, three workshops were conducted: Leadership and Capacity Building, New Website and Other E-Tools, and Youth Programs, all indicia of areas needing emphasis. A discussion was also convened to address CSI and Energy Development, the latter prompted largely by the expansion of gas extraction from Marcellus Shale underlying a vast portion of the northeast U.S.

The day before the official opening of the annual meeting, came the traditional watershed conservation tour. The Pemigewasset River, which becomes the Merrimack after being joined by the Winnepesaukee, chose to meander through a rather immense interstate highway borrow pit, which became the source of sediment loads that led to the River being placed on the 303(d) list of impaired New Hampshire waters failing to support aquatic life. The Pemigewasset Chapter (nice to have a real homewater), numbering scantily more than 50 members, undertook to restore the river to its original channel. The project was monumental. Crushed rock from the quarry was used to reconstruct the breached right bank on a sweeping curve. Granite blocks of a size used at Giza were emplaced in a series of wings to prevent the River from repeating the disaster. The chapter parleyed about \$2K into over \$700K in grants, making this one of the largest section 319 Clean Water Act awards ever granted, and a monument to what a small number of determined TUers can accomplish.

The Nash Stream Restoration Project, in northern Coos County, NH, was next visited. Those attending the National TU Tuesday night Conservation Training sessions might recall Jim McCartney's presentation last year: Stream Processes for Restoration. Déjà vu all over again. Jim is the driving force restoring Nash Stream, which lies predominantly within state forest land and comprises about a 44 square mile catchment. The watershed historically was forest and the Stream was the conveyor belt upon which logs moved to the mills on the Upper Ammonoosuc. Nash Bog Dam, built in 1900 for log drives and breached in '69, absolutely devastated the Stream. Years of logging prior to the dam failure reduced the geomorphology to a gigantic sluice. The post blow out clean up did nothing but attempt to restore the highway to the saw mill. The recent close of the mill, presented the opportunity to restore Nash Stream to its former self.

TU has partnered with state of NH Departments to restore and reconnect 9 miles of the mainstem with more than 6 miles of tribs. The project is a model for restoration. Extensive ecological and fluvial geomorphologic assessments and surveys were conducted to establish a data baseline and most importantly to identify limiting factors. After 2 years of studies, work has now been ongoing for 5 years in the mainstem to restore instream habitat, incorporating rock and large woody debris. The tribs are being reconnected by replacing culvert and there is strong evidence that trout populations are no longer isolated. Three more culverts are future targets. Monitoring and surveys will continue into the future to assess successes. The real wonder of this temporally huge and still ongoing project is that the restoration is geared largely to let the Stream heal itself, a marvelous strategy from which we all stand to learn.

The 2010 National Awards luncheon gave its usual inspiration. Georgia received the State Council award. A huge but welcome surprise came when it was announced the Gold Trout Award went to the Schrems West Michigan Chapter. The Gold Trout is awarded annually to the chapter that has best contributed to coldwater conservation during the year. In addition to the chapter's work on the Coldwater River, Schrems brought home Michigan's first Home Rivers Initiative, a project to protect and restore the Rogue River watershed. Dave Smith, the newly appointed Michigan Council chair and Schrems member, accepted the award, stating in an aside that OBTU was a little part of the gold for its work on the Coldwater and for funding an instream temperature logger. Another sensation for OBTU pride came when Fred Hodge was bestowed a Youth Education Award for the countless hours he has spent teaching kids fly tying, casting and fishing and for all the work he has done cementing the bonds between TU and the BSA. The Pemigewasset and Valley Forge Chapters carried away the Silver Trout. There were numerous other awards, which undoubtedly will be later published in Trout.

The 51st Annual Meeting of TU was not all work. There was a day to fish and plenty of time to socialize and bond with like minded conservationists at several lunches, dinners, and cocktail hours, not to mention the perhaps infamous hospitality suite. There was also a challenge to not studder like Elmer Fudd when pronouncing the monikers attached to the New England geography (viz. Pemigewabbit, Kancamagus, Winnepesaukee, etc). For most members, the meeting closed with a traditional fund raising banquet, but the Board of Trustees went on to an early morning start of their Sunday meeting, the workings of which will be later announced. If you have not attended an annual TU meeting, catch it if it ever comes close to home. Next year it's in Bend, Oregon. The Deschutes runs right through town! ■

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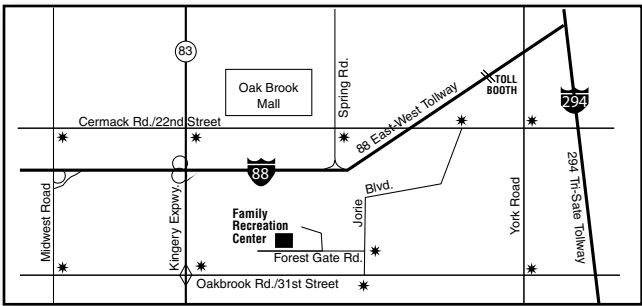


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