



GARY BORGER CHAPTER  
TROUT UNLIMITED

# The Tippet

May 2010

Volume 15, Issue 5

## **May Meeting:**

Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 P.M.

Libertyville Civic Center

135 W Church St  
Libertyville, IL 60048

## **Featured Speaker**

No Speaker This Month

## **Subject**

Review Flapjacks for Fisheries Event  
Trout in the Classroom Planning for 2010-2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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or go to

[www.garyborgertu.org](http://www.garyborgertu.org)

## **NEXT MONTH'S MEETING**

The June 10th meeting of GBTU will be a family friendly picnic and awards ceremony at Century Park in Vernon Hills. We will have burgers, brats, and dogs on the grill to celebrate another great year of participation in GBTU. All active members will be rewarded with a good meal and some especially hard working members will be recognized for their special contributions to GBTU.

This is a free event, and families are encouraged to attend. Please bring balls, Frisbees, and fishing rods as this is right on the water. This will be our last meeting of the year until September 9th when we'll start-up our regular meeting schedule again. The meeting will be from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Boat Dock Pavilion at Century Park in Vernon Hills.

Directions: From Hwy 60 (Town Line Road), turn north on Hawthorn Parkway and the parking lot will be the first left turn after the basketball court.

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

The meandering ways of any all-volunteer organization flow and ebb on the crests of the ideas and energies exerted upon it by its members. This has been the successful way of Gary Borger TU over the last three years, which is when many of our current board members took their positions. During this time the group has worked hard to get GBTU involved in programs such as Trout in the Classroom, Paradise Springs Restoration efforts, Illinois Council Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing School, Highland Park Ravine habitat restoration, and soon Boy Scout Merit Badge Classes.

In addition, people have put their valuable time and energies into providing special opportunities for our membership in the form of wonderful fishing trips, workdays, social gatherings, and informative meetings. To keep all of this moving your board has worked very hard to find new funding sources, through our "Flapjacks for Fisheries" fundraisers, grant writing, trips, and raffles. This ramp-up of activities has been a massive undertaking that I feel we have made both GBTU and our environment better places. It has always been a core belief of mine that a well running volunteer organization like GBTU really runs best if the ideas of one person, or even of one small group, are not held above the ideas of the rest of the group. I have been given the privilege over the last three years to have many of my ideas given credence during my term in leadership. Now it is only natural to let others with new ideas come to the front and lead our group.

I will be stepping down from the President's role in September. Some board members will also be moving into new roles within the organization, while others will relinquish their roles to concentrate on other parts of their lives. Like any self-sustaining system other members with fresh ideas will step forward to fill the void.

I would ask anyone that thinks they would like to share their talents with the group to step-in and help out. Being President has been one of the most rewarding roles I have ever had the honor of holding, but I always knew that I was a steward of this office until the next person stepped forward. I will remain active in the organization and I will be there as a guide for the next person if they want the help.

If you are interested in the position of President, Vice-President, or Secretary please let it be known before the June Meeting when we will hold elections for the officers who will be installed in September. I can't wait to see where we go from here. Thanks to all members for their ideas and help in running Gary Borger TU!

Take Care,  
Matt Jennings

### **FLAPJACKS FOR FISHERIES A BIG SUCCESS**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Flapjacks for Fisheries charity event was a smashing success. Over 150 people attended this year's event, which went very smoothly. Many thanks to Gary Elliott for his tireless work as project manager and to all the volunteers who worked in advance and at the event to assure its success.

This year the event produced a net gain of approximately \$4,600, which is nearly a \$1,000 higher than last year's results. Most of the proceeds have already been earmarked to support GBTU's many sponsored programs, including the following:

1. Paradise Springs- Embrace a Stream
2. Trout in the Classroom
  - a. Fund a 2nd School- Likely Greeley Elementary School in Winnetka
  - b. Continuation of Hubbard Woods Elementary School- no funds anticipated
3. Youth Flyfishing & Conservation School
4. TUDARE support

### **OUTINGS REPORT**

#### SW Driftless Trip

The second outing of the year saw 17 fishers of the Gary Borger Chapter converging in Westby, located in the Southwest Wisconsin area. Spring fishing was good and everyone caught (and released) fish. Weather cooperated this season- what a difference from 2009 when cold and snow was the norm.

Home base was the Old Towne Inn and Supper Club. A small contingent camped in Avalanche and all met up

for a nice dinner on Saturday night. Sunday saw more of the same conditions and good fishing.

Visits to local fly shops "On the Creek Fly Shop" in Cross Plains" and "The Driftless Angler" in Viroqua yielded good local fishing information, including guides, "hot flies", and much needed equipment.

One of the highlights of the trip was the Tiger trout landed by Randy Cochran. For the past 3 years, Matt Jennings has had a running challenge to the 1st member who landed one. A tiger trout is a male brook trout fertilizing brown trout eggs. The rare fish is sterile and unable to reproduce.

The next outing planned is a camping trip on May 21, 22, and 23 to West Fork Sportsman's Camp in Avalanche, WI. Camp facilities include campsites, showers, and toilets. Please contact Mark Wortsman- [MWortsman@aol.com](mailto:MWortsman@aol.com) or Mark Mellicker - [hooked03@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hooked03@sbcglobal.net) Note, if more formal accommodations are required, arrangements are the responsibility of each member.

Additional trips are being planned for the early summer with at least one short trip coinciding with a workday service project June 26 in conjunction with Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter workday.

The new Trout Unlimited President, Chris Wood, is likely to attend. This will be a great opportunity to show GBTU collaborative efforts and have some good fishing as well.

### **CONNECT WITH GBTU AT GOOGLE GROUPS**

GBTU members can connect with one another through Google Groups. Currently 33 members are registered And can be reached through this service.  
<http://groups.google.com/group/garyborgertu>

### **GBTU WORKDAYS FOR 2010**

Please set you calendar now and join GBTU, SEWTU, and Oak Brook TU at the following workdays:

May 15	Coldwater River, MI (OBTU)
June 5	Highland Park Ravines
June 26	Elk Creek, WI Driftless Area
July 10	Paradise Spring Creek
August 28	Paradise Spring Creek
September TBA	Baer Creek, Aldo Leopold Chapter
October TBA	Genesee Creek, WI
December TBA	Rosenow Creek, WI

## TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM REVIEW

Hubbard Woods School, Winnetka, IL  
Mr. Todd Burleson - 4 th grade teacher

### Project Sponsors

Ms. Joan Butzow- Project Coordinator  
Mr. Fung Chin

### Facts:

Total Project Hours - 4,000 hrs over 7 months  
Students - 2,500 hrs  
Parents, teachers, and volunteers- 750 hrs.  
Gary Borger Trout Unlimited members- 750 hrs.

1st phase -118 Trout (2") raised from eggs- expired  
2nd phase- 49 Trout (3-5") released into Lake Michigan

### Start

In the fall of 2009, the 4th grade class presented the Trout in the Classroom project to entire school in a town hall presentation to 300 students. Music and art teachers also joined in the active participation in the program along with the support of the school administration.

An integrated curriculum was developed comprised of math, natural sciences, writing, art, and music. The writing elements include observations, reflections, hypothesis, and charting information. Students kept a journal of all activity through weekly entries. And in turn, these students were teaching kindergarten students through 3rd grade students about the program.

The Art program included a giant painting of rainbow trout with the identification of parts of fish located in the hallway. They studied form, color, and shape. Soft and hard sculptures of fish were constructed and display in the classroom and the hallways. Question cards were posted from other students and answered by the class.

The class corresponded with Fin Pals in Flushing, NY who were raising brown trout. Exchange teachers from Guatemala viewed the program in winter and explored the possibility of developing a similar program for their students studying tilapia.

### Setback

In late February there was a sudden die off of 118 fish, which was attributed to mechanical failure of equipment. One student stated that it was like losing 118 classmates - after all their time, learning, and emotions that they invested into the project. The entire school rallied around the students. Normally, that

would have been the end of the program but the students were to have a surprise.

Central School in Wilmette was raising 130 trout in their tank- from the same batch of eggs that were delivered to both schools. When 4th grade teacher Jim Tingey learned of the die off, he immediately asked his class if they would consider donating 2 fish to replace the Hubbard Wood fish. His class voted unanimously to assist another school. Over the next few weeks, a total of 49 of fish were donated after the problem with the tank had been diagnosed and fixed. This is a fine examples of student helping out one another.



4th Grade Class

On Earth Day 2010, 175 students, teachers, parents and volunteers converged on Wilmette Harbor to celebrate raising the rainbow trout. The 4 th grade classes Hubbard Woods School from Winnetka and Central

School from Wilmette joined forces to create a joint trout release into Lake Michigan. School administration was represented by principals from the respective schools and a district superintendent.

Music and singing by the classes serenaded the trout before they were released. Ranging from 3 to 5 inches, these fish were the largest since the program was instituted 2 yrs. ago. Each student was able to release a trout with the assistance ofGBTU members and



GBTU Project Coordinator Joan Butzow with student  
Photo by Todd Burleson

volunteers. Even a few adults and administrators were able to participate in the release.

Afterwards everyone had a picnic lunch overlooking the harbor. A fitting end to the conclusion of the Earth Day activities and the 2009/2010 Trout in the Classroom project.

After the release, Mr. Burleson asked his students to enter in their journal what they learned most for the Trout in the Classroom program. Excerpts included the following:

“The most important thing I learned from the trout in the classroom project is you have to respect living things in life and take care of things”

“The most important thing I learned in the trout in the classroom project is death is part of the life cycle and this is a great project that should continue next year”

“The most important thing I learned in the trout in the classroom project is small things can teach big lessons”

“We've learned as much from our failure as we have from our success and to me that is the whole goal of education. “ Todd Burleson

By all accounts, the Trout in the Classroom was successful on a number of different levels. Well done to the students, parents, and volunteers. Special thanks to Mr. Todd Burleson and school administrators for their guidance and leadership. Finally, based on the success of the program, Gary Borger Chapter of Trout Unlimited looks forward in supporting Hubbard Woods for a new program this fall and will expand this program to a 2nd school.

## **GBTU CHAPTER CONTACTS**

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