



The Tippet

October 2011

Volume 16, Issue 8

October Meeting:

Thursday, October 13 @ 7:00 P.M.

Libertyville Civic Center
135 W Church St
Libertyville, IL 60048

Elections and Annual Report

Our Thursday, November 10th Meeting shall be the Annual Meeting of the Membership at which the Officers and Directors shall present an annual report of the Chapter's activities. In addition we will hold elections for various positions and, as requested by TU National, present for approval by the membership an updated version of our Bylaws. Please mark your calendar now for this very important meeting

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE GBTU WEBSITE
www.garyborgertu.org

Reflections upon losing a comrade...

And we would bring them all in, the young hipsters whose wives all have back tattoos and pull low sided drift boats behind Toyotas, those that light-up at the mention of new grinds of Antron and Mylar, the distance casters, the Spring creek junkies, the cane rod addicts, the yearly Montana refugees, the just plain odd, and most of all the old ones that smell a little too much of scotch and cigars. The ones with wonderful stories of near and far flung flies. The ones that go slow and wobble in their waders to the water because they are so burdened by wisdom, old age, and skill. We would bring in all the fly fishers into one great tent and we would listen to the stories. For that is how it is all passed down.

We would accept all those that are fascinated by the feathers, fur, and flash upon a hook. That we could all laugh, and brag, and drink from the same flask. The flask, which harbors a momentary respite from the sting of the hook that long ago was set into the meat of our souls. For, we know we are connected, in that we

all believe a perfect mend can override human foibles, if only for a millisecond. In that great and tiny moment of deception we can be connected by a sinewy tippet something greater. We understand we are connected by the life-cycles of water, and the lives of all water born creatures, and we are connected by the lifestyle.

To each of us will come the final sunset, and we will reel up, turn to the shore, but the babble of the river will continue on behind us. Still luring those that look for solace in its healing waters, and it will become theirs, and they will drift their flies upon our waters...

Weeb you will be missed Old Flinger of Flies both near and far!

Matt Jennings

SCOUT MERIT BADGE PROGRAM A HIT



The BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge program finished the year with three separate classes completing the full day program, which consisted

of an introduction to fly fishing equipment, conservation, fishing etiquette, wading safety and first aid, knots, fly tying, casting, and fishing. All of the boys participating accomplished all of the segments to earn their badge, including catching fish.

It was a very successful first year for the program. This success was due to the input from the volunteers who deserve a big THANK YOU, especially Darwin Adams who organized the classes. Special thanks go to fellow GBTU members Kyle Kamp, Barry Coddens, Matt Jennings, and Mark Mellicker who set up and presented the programs. All of the volunteers did a great job. The feedback from the scouts and their parents has been very positive for this program.

The process of working on next year's programs and establishing dates for the classes has already begun. Hope to be able to count on the volunteers we had this



year and add more volunteers next year. Participating in this program been a fun and satisfying year for the people who were involved. Thank you again to the volunteers. Hope even more members can join next year.

SALMON TRIP ON OCTOBER 12

GBTU's 4th annual Salmon Hooky Half Day Trip will be Oct 12th! This is a great quick trip up to Milwaukee for the annual King Salmon run. We will meet in the parking lot of the Gander Mountain off Hwy 50 in Kenosha at 5:45a.m. Since most of the good fishing usually happens in the first couple hours, It's always possible to get a half day of work in after taking pictures of all the giant kings you caught that morning and post them to amaze your co-workers and friends! These fish are huge and an 8wt. or better is necessary. If you need a loaner rod let people in the chapter know so one can be arranged.

R.S.V.P to Kurt Meier at: [\(847\) 331-2053](tel:8473312053) or email at wkurtmeier@hotmail.com

FALL GBTU TRIP - FAREWELL TO WEEB

A fine crew of hearty GBTU chapter members made the migration to the West Fork Sportsman's Club in Avalanche, Wisconsin for a finale to this seasons fishing. The weather was perfect when it wasn't raining, which was random and intermittent. The trees were changing and the trout were biting. Many "Thanks" go out to long time member Duane Watson for going up a couple days early and securing our favorite camping area and getting firewood. Frank Liegner and a friend also came up early to fish and camp. John Collins met up with Duane to catch some early fish. The majority of members showed up on Friday after a fishing on the way up. Member Scott Schweiss had set up camp and had been fishing a few days, and may have logged the most time fishing of any of our members this season.

All shared a lively fire, and it was great that three members of SEWTU came over to share the fire with us. We talked about fishing, projects, and working together in the past and in the future. It was great to hangout with Jason, Henry, and Mike.

On Saturday as more members arrived, groups formed and headed to their favorite waters. Fung Chin, Duane Watson, and Matt Jennings prepared for the nights festivities in remembrance of our good friend Jim "Weeb" Eubanks by preparing his award winning ribs. Weeb took the recipe to the grave with him as he joked he would, but let his lovely wife Dianne share it with us after his passing. There's no joke about how good the ribs turned out!



That night everyone came back to camp early prepared for a true night of remembering and partying, Jim Eubanks style! First there was memorial service centered on stories of Weeb, prayers, and a delicious bottle of Scotch old enough to vote. Thanks, to Duane for donating the bottle!

This was followed by a fun-casting tournament that involved making tricky casts to targets for different point values. Points could also be garnered by telling jokes, stories, singing, dancing, and drinking. Randy Cochran did a fine rendition of "Sweet Home Alabama" loud enough for Jim to hear it in Heaven as a highlight. All present participated, lots of laughs were shared, and all had a great time. Duane, kept score and judged the performances, then promptly burned the results. Afterwards, all shared a great and magical feast as we ate Weeb's award winning ribs until we could no longer do anything but sit around a huge and roaring fire, laugh and rub our full bellies late into the night.

I think Weeb would have been proud. Sunday we awoke to rain and all broke camp then headed to their favorite fishing spots before heading back home. Thanks, to Kurt Meier for setting things up and to all that made this weekend special.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM KICKS OFF

The 2011- 2012 TIC program is gearing up for another year with a new school joining the GBTU program. Braeside Elementary School of Highland Park joins returning schools- Hubbard Woods Elementary school, Winnetka and Maine East High School of Park Ridge for this year. The 3 GBTU sponsored schools now

comprise over 1/3 of the schools participating in Illinois.

The TIC program for Braeside Elementary School will be an important educational component complementing the ongoing Highland Park District's ravine restoration efforts.

In the fall issue of Trout magazine, TU ran an article of GBTU's outreach program, the 1st in the country to do so. The TIC website also lists our pioneering efforts in the general TIC information document.

GBTU looks forward to a very productive and exciting year.

GBTU ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

With elections just around the corner at the November Annual Meeting of the Members, your Board of Directors is seeking candidates for key leadership positions in the Chapter. Any Officer or Board Member would be happy to discuss with you opportunities including the following which will be up for election in 2 months:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Financial Development Director
- Membership Director

CHAPTER OUTING WITH ILLINOIS SMALLMOUTH ALLIANCE

John Loebach and the Illinois Smallmouth Alliance have invited us to join them for a smallmouth outing on the Kankakee River on Saturday October 15. John and some of his fellow members of the ISA will give us some tips on fly and spin fishing for this great game fish starting at 8:30 or so at the Kankakee River State Park. The park is about a 90 minute drive from the Northshore, so we will meet at 7:00 am in front of the Starbucks in Edens Plaza Shopping Center in Wilmette at the intersection of Lake Ave and the Edens.

John and the folks from the ISA will spend about 3 hours with us, and even more if the fish are biting. Plan to supply your own lunch and beverage.

If you wish to join us, please email your RSVP to Kurt Meier so that he can let John and the ISA many of us to expect that day: wkurtmeier@hotmail.com

John offers the following advice for lure selection and technique:

1. Bring your chest waders, and a staff if you use one when wading.

2. Patterns:

- o Clousers – Chart/wht, brn/wht, grey/wht, green/yellow, purple/wht (esp. this one)
- o Madonnas in yellow or olive
- o Meat whistles in olive, black, or orange/brown
- o Double Bunnys
- o Craw patterns (including large buggers) orange, olive, black (helgie imitator)
- o Unweighted minnows like the Shannon Streamer, Murdich, or lightly weighted
- o Poppers/topwater have one or two if warm might work.

3. Technique: My first choice is fast retrieve with clousers or murdich from shallow to drop offs, then slow & probe deeper (med. wt. clousers can do both) before moving on.

If no results I will slow down & dredge bottom or swing casting down & across.

A few flies of the above in the 2 to 4" range will work – don't go crazy if you don't have any that size – with the exception of purple & white (don't leave home without it.)

GBTU IN THE NEWS

Gary Borger Chapter has been recognized nationally for our work in 2 separate articles in the Grassroots Spotlight section of the latest issue of Trout Magazine, the national publication from Trout Unlimited.

The 1st article is on the Wisconsin and Illinois Chapters recognized for their enthusiastic volunteer work for their conservation efforts in teaming up with S.E. Wisconsin Chapter and the Wisconsin DNR. Jim Bailey and Matt Jennings are quoted on their views for partnering with other chapters.

The 2nd article is on the outreach program for Trout in the Classroom conducted earlier this year at the Woodstock outdoor show and the Skokie LL Bean store. Fung Chin successfully developed this outreach program - the 1st chapter in the country to do so.

In the "Tacklebox" section for Lines to Leaders in national Trout Unlimited website, Gary Borger Chapter is specifically mentioned for this unique approach under the TU's Headwaters Youth Education Initiative.

See the link below:

<http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/tacklebox/youth/One-TU%20Youth%20Report%202011-08-23.pdf>

Congratulations to Matt, Jim and Fung for their work."

In addition, GBTU members have been featured in the local press as well. Former conservation chairman Jim Bailey was featured in the Lake Geneva News on October 3rd in an article about his and others efforts to restore and conserve Van Slyke Creek, a Class One trout stream near Lake Geneva.



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SEP – OCT EVENTS	DATES
Salmon Trip (Milwaukee)	Wednesday, Oct 12
Chapter Meeting	Thursday, Oct 13
Smallmouth outing with ISA	Saturday, Oct 15
Highland Park Ravines Clean Up	Saturday, Oct 15
Chapter Meeting	Thursday, Nov 10
Board Meeting	Thursday, Nov 17
Highland Park Ravines Clean Up	Saturday, Nov 19



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Boy Scout Merit Badge

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