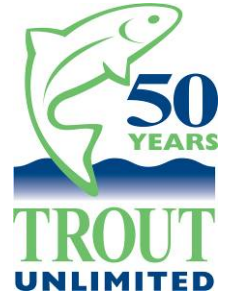




# Stream Lines



A Newsletter of the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
The Voice of Eastern Connecticut Trout and Salmon Anglers

Volume 14 Issue 18

1998 Jean Bollinger Award Winner

December 2010

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December 2010

By Dixie L. Goodwin

Dear Thames Valley TU Member

If you missed our holiday party Saturday, November 13, you missed a wonderful gathering of members, their families and friends. As always, Rich Revere and his wife Karen did a wonderful job of managing ticket sales and raffle/auction items for our party. The men and women of the Moose Lodge (Herb, Stash, Patti, June, and Meg) hosted our party with a festively decorated hall and tables and a delicious dinner buffet. DJ Mark Thomas [www.musicnmore.net](http://www.musicnmore.net) provided music for our evening and assisted with activities. Our own Rick Cedrone was auctioneer again this year, handling fun-filled bidding, prodding and laughter during the live auction. At one point, Rick tried to auction off our DJ's system which added to the levity. A special thanks to members who created/donated wonderful baskets for our basket raffle table. Don Exley received the Rick Ellis award for distinguished service to our chapter and we gave three new awards this year. Neal Hagstrom received the Conservation Professional Award, Alton Blodgett received the Conservation Volunteer Award and John Manfred received the Youth Education Volunteer Award. All 2010 award winners received an engraved fly-box.

Tuesday, November 9, our stocking volunteers assisted the DEP with stocking of 150 Atlantic salmon in the Shetucket River. The salmon were stocked at four locations along the river between Sprague River Park and Scotland Dam which creates an exciting fishery in the delightful little town of Sprague. We had quite a turnout of volunteers and onlookers. And, we

were joined by the DEP Deputy Commissioner, Susan Frechette; Director of Inland Fisheries, Peter Aarrestad; Sprague First Selectman, Cathy Osten and other town officials. For more about this special day, you may go to [www.theday.com](http://www.theday.com) and scroll down to Multimedia, select Photo Gallery and click through to Salmon Stocking.

Wednesday, November 17 was an exciting day for over 1700 students and their teachers as Trout in the Classroom (TIC) volunteers delivered brown trout eggs to twenty Eastern Connecticut schools. Aquariums are set up in classrooms early each academic year to make ready for the arrival of the brown trout eggs. This gives students the opportunity to learn about water testing, establishment of healthy bacteria, and general care of bio systems as they prepare for the arrival of the trout eggs. Teacher, Bill Thorne, and his E.O. Smith students are excited to join the program this year. Teacher, Matthew Smith transferred the Ledyard High School program to Lisbon Central School which creates a knowledge-sharing opportunity for Steve Brown and his students. Many of our TIC schools have been in our program since 2006 because it fits well within their science- --- programs. Data collecting, charting and graphing also fits in well within math programs. One of our teachers said; "Students were amazed at the hatching and growth of the fish. Most knew of trout, but never thought of the developmental process....basically how hard it is to become a large adult fish."

Rich Revere is stepping down this month as raffle coordinator after seven years of sourcing, purchasing, managing raffle inventory, and volunteering much of his time for chapter meetings and events. We greatly appreciate all that Rich has done for our chapter. Jim Clark will take over as Chair of our newly formed Raffle Committee (George DeGray and Ray Schaefer).

(Continued on page 4)

Visit us on the web!!! <http://www.thamesvalleytu.org>

**STREAMLINES**

Editor

*Dan O'Connor***Trout Unlimited, Thames Valley Chapter**P.O. Box 76  
Yantic, CT 06389**Board of Directors**

Email - use address below

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Bill Keister, Secretary	295-0264	bkeister
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Charley McCaughtry, Membership Council Member at Large	429-1016	cmccaughtry
Morgan McGinley	447-2224	mmcginley
John Pallof, Stocking Coordinator	442-1658	jpallof
Gene Cyr, River Coordinator	376-3350	gcyr

Monthly meetings are at the Bozrah Moose Lodge at 115 Fitchville Road in Bozrah, CT on the third Tuesday of the month. Fly Tying starts at 6:30 Meeting at 7:30 PM

Board of Directors meets at 7 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Dime Savings Bank on Route 82 in Norwich.

**Trout Unlimited's Mission**

**To conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon and their watersheds.**

**CALENDAR****Tuesday December 21st Chapter Membership Meeting**

Bill Keister  
Nymph Fishing  
\*See article below

**Tuesday January 18th Chapter Membership Meeting**

Biologist Steve Gephard CT DEP Fisheries Division.  
Update on diadromous fish restoration in CT, focus on Eastern CT, in particular the Thames River watershed.

**Tuesday January 25th Board of Directors Meeting**

### December Guest Speaker Bill Keister

Our speaker for the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be Bill Keister. He will give a presentation on nymph fishing. His presentation will have particular relevance to the Salmon River and other Connecticut rivers. He will define and explain long line and high stick nymphing. Flies which are particularly effective will be described. Rods, lines, leaders, strike indicators and weights will be covered. The importance of drag free drifts and casts and method for producing drag free drifts will be explained. The presentation will be interactive. Questions will be answered at any time during the presentation.



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## Mile-A-Minute vine found on the Shetucket River

by Alton Blodgett

The third known infestation of Mile-A-Minute vine (also known as Asiatic Tearthumb) in eastern Connecticut was found by me while fishing the Shetucket River at the end of August. The patch measuring about 60 feet by 200 feet was found on a large sand and gravel bar at the end of Dogleg Pool. Prior to my 2009 retirement from the State Department of Agriculture I had been a charter member of the state's Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) and recognized the plant that adorns the group's logo. Needless to say, I was extremely surprised to see it and deeply concerned about its location.

The weed was first discovered in Connecticut in 2000. The only other known infestations in eastern Connecticut are two small controlled plots in Lyme and North Stonington. The vine, which gets its name by growing up to six inches per day, may reach lengths of thirty feet long and form a thick thorny blanket over other native vegetation. The plant is a prolific seed producer. The seeds, which can remain viable for up to seven years, are eaten by birds and float like a cork. Thus my fear for the river as much of the vine was within a couple of feet or actually draped over the riverbank.

I notified Donna Ellis, co-chair of CIPWG and Senior Extension Educator at the University of Connecticut, and Peter Picone of the Connecticut DEP of the infestation and took them to the site. In the ensuing two weeks Peter, Roger Wolfe of the DEP and I pulled plants and plucked seed heads, propane torched and then sprayed herbicide in an effort to eradicate the weed. We will monitor the site for the next several years for follow-up treatment.

UConn and DEP officials have been in contact with the town of Sprague and are contacting streamside landowners by postcard to notify them and make them aware of this problem. The Norwich Bulletin and New London Day newspapers ran stories last week and NPR did a radio segment this week. This is where you come in. I believe the best monitors of the Shetucket will be

fishermen and primarily Thames Valley TU members. We will need as many eyes as possible looking for other infestations of this weed. Please be aware that there are some similar looking native tearthumbs and correct identification is important. Take digital pictures if possible. You can report sightings to Donna Ellis at [donna.ellis@uconn.edu](mailto:donna.ellis@uconn.edu) or by phone at 860-486-6448. Additional photographs of the weed may also be found at <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg>.

[Alton Blodgett is an avid fisherman and has been a member of TU for more than 30 years]



Mark your calendars and check our website

[www.thamesvalleytu.org](http://www.thamesvalleytu.org) for details about these great presentations:

**Dec 21** - Bill Keister Nymph fishing

**Jan 18** - Biologist Steve Gephard CT DEP Fisheries Division. Update on diadromous fish restoration in CT, focus on Eastern CT, in particular the Thames River watershed.

**Feb 15** - Scientist John Jasper Nature's Fingerprint. Niantic River Estuary Eutrophication. What is Killing the Eelgrass?

**Mar 15** - Michael Hackney Life TU member and author of "The ReelSmith's Primer", (March 2010). Introduction to rod building - overview on how to get started building your own fly rods in graphite or fiberglass. Covers the blanks, components, tools and techniques.

**Apr 19** - Fishing Eastern Connecticut (panel discussion). Local experts will provide insight into fishing trout streams of Eastern Connecticut. Excellent meeting for anyone new to fishing locally. "Trout Streams of Eastern Connecticut" may be purchased at this meeting at an unbelievable low price.

**May 17** - Paul Dince Lifelong resident of CT and member of Housatonic Fly Fisherman's Association. Will share his passion for Fly Fishing and Cape Cod.

*(Continued from page 1)*

I was disappointed to hear that our state legislature's Regulations Review Committee "rejected without prejudice" the proposed Stream flow Regulations during their meeting in October. In rejecting the regulations, Committee members indicated they are in favor of the regulations but want to see further compromise between the environmental concerns and industrial concerns. Compromise! Compromise!! There is an anti-piscine slogan used by opponents of the Stream flow Regulations: "The fish aren't dying, businesses are dying". Please write your congressmen and let them know that bringing wildlife into the business and job loss issues in this state is malarkey. They must not lose sight of how the proposed regulations only require that commercial water users release a minimum flow into rivers downstream of reservoirs and dams and limit how much groundwater they remove from the aquifers that recharge our streams so that wildlife may live!!!

Tight Lines - Dixie



Our chapter's tent during the "Walktober" event.

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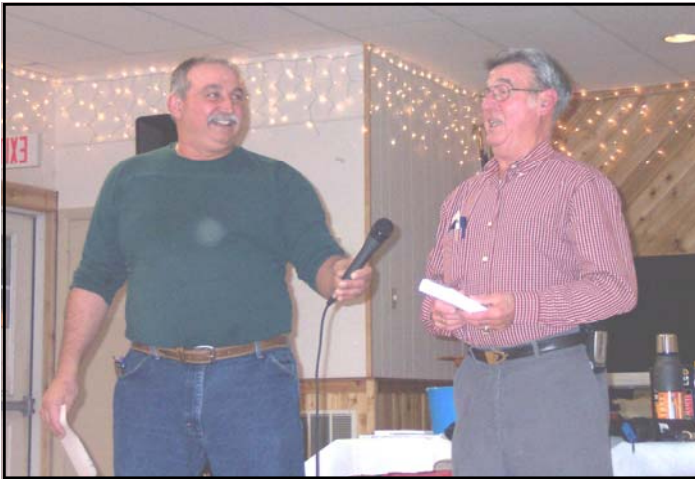
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Past President Don Exley, receiving the 2010 Rick Ellis Award

## 2010 Hunting & Fishing License Fee Refund

Dear Connecticut Hunters and Anglers,

You are being sent this email because you may be entitled to a credit toward your purchase of 2011 fishing and hunting licenses.

During the 2010 session of the General Assembly, legislation was approved and signed into law in April reducing many of the fees for sportsmen's licenses and permits. This was followed in June by legislation authorizing a credit to be applied against the fee for any 2011 sportsmen's license, permit or tag when purchase of a license, permit or tag had been made at the higher prices in place between October 1, 2009 and April 14, 2010. The credit amount will be the difference between the higher amount paid during that time period and the amount set by the new fee structure established April 14, 2010.

If you bought a 2010 hunting or fishing license prior to April 14, 2010, you may be entitled to a refund. To learn more about this credit and to see if you are eligible, visit [www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmensfeereduction](http://www.ct.gov/dep/sportsmensfeereduction)

## Bus Trip to New Jersey Fly Fishing Show

I have gotten a price to rent a bus to go to the New Jersey fly fishing show on Saturday January 22nd. The bus would leave the commuter parking lot located off of exit 1 of the RT 40 connector in North Haven. This connector is off of 91 in North Haven. The bus would leave at 8:00 am sharp they estimate it will get to the show at 10:15am We would leave the show at 6:30 pm sharp and get back at 9:00 am. The bus holds 57 people if 50 people go it will cost \$25 per person. This is for the bus only not the ticket to get in to the show. I need to know ASAP if you want to go so I can see how many people we have and if I get 50 I will rent the bus. You can email me at [sasjes@comcast.net](mailto:sasjes@comcast.net) or call me at 860-510-2383 if you have friends that want to go and are not a member of a club it makes no difference the trip is open to anyone that wants to go. If you want to go send me a check made out to me John Springer if we do not get enough people I will not know till very close to show time, I will rip up your check and throw it away. Everyone must pay in advance so I know if we have enough people.

>< >< John Springer



Shetucket River salmon stocking on November 9th.

## Russia 2010

### John Springer

The plans for this year's trip started at the end of the last trip when my Russian friend Sergey said Dos Vodonya John, in 2008 when I left him. Two years goes by fast when you're 58 and thinking about big free flowing rivers, Spey rods, beautiful Salmon flies, great food and plenty of Vodka and who can forget the infamous Bania for bathing? One part of the trips that never ceases to amaze me is the big smiles on the faces of the many fishermen I have been so lucky to meet. Without a doubt I am sure you have heard all the bad news from TV, Radio and newspapers about Russians. Never having experienced anything besides a warm welcome from these people and making seven visits I can tell you most of what you have heard is false. A fellow fisherman came with me, Bill Keister. Bill is a self taught certified casting instructor as well as a great fly tier and fishermen, a good fishing partner to have along. Because I have friends in Russia my trip's cost is about a third what others must pay. Besides plane fares the cabin we stayed in cost \$45 a day, that was for a warm bed, a hot meal at night and a boat ride up and back to the pools we would fish. Our license fee each day was \$45. We would spend about 12 hours a day on the river then come back. You can't fish for 9 days with a Spey rod for that many hours; breaks are taken for food, drink and a nap or two. Each trip is different as to the amount of fish I have caught. As a rule I do not keep track of the amount of fish I catch, but in Salmon fishing I do. You've all heard that they are the fish of a thousand casts'. Sergey likes to say in Russia it's eight hundred. Even though we were about five days earlier than past trips and they had much snow last winter by the time we got there the water on the Kista was coming down and it seemed not as many fish were coming into the river. That being said I did hook 24 fish and landed 10 of them, but just being there is such a great experience that losing so many does not matter to me. That old saying "there's more to fishing than catching fish" makes a fishing trip much more enjoyable if you live by that expression. You learn to enjoy the people and the conversation much more if you're not just trying to catch more fish. Years ago I was very fortunate to meet and make friends with George Terpening. He use to always say to me when I was in a hurry to get to the river, Johnny I have already caught all the fish; I

don't have to catch them again. He would then explain to me that when he went fishing it was to meet and talk to new people, have a drink and a good meal and catch a few fish. As I was young I did not understand that then, but I sure do now. Terp would really have enjoyed fishing with these Russians; they all seem to subscribe to his way of thinking.

Each day was the same routine; a time was set up the day before for Genaday to have the boat ready. We would get up and eat breakfast. We would boil a big kettle of water and make tea and open one of those dried soup mixes and prepare it, they really fill you up and last quite sometime. By the time it was "ready to eat" we would have our thermos filled up and our food sack filled up. Our goodie bag consisted of some type of cheese, sausage, cookies, bread and some dried fruit. After we ate Genaday would take 3 fishermen at a time up river. We crossed a big fresh water tidal area and headed up river to where the river dumped into the fresh water estuary and hike up to "the first pool". The area we were allowed to fish is about three quarters of a mile long, after that the river is private. Inside the area we are allowed you have about ten spots that consistently produce fish. As the water drops you lose some holding water so fishing gets a bit tougher. Perhaps you have heard that a spot that holds a fish that is taken will fill up again with another fish, it's very true in Salmon fishing. Sometimes it takes a few hours sometimes a day. But there will be another fish there for sure. Sometimes as many as 5 fish will be taken from that same spot as all of us would fish it several times each day. As our morning progress the other fishermen will show up and would ask how we were doing and what flies we had luck with. We showed each other our flies and you got some ideas for what to tie or found out what you were using was wrong. For this trip I spent the winter tying tube flies. I only made about 10 patterns but had them in different weights from plastic tubes to brass. You must go prepared to cover the water from top to bottom no matter what the water temperature is. Ally's shrimp flies worked at the start of the trip, while Green Highlanders were working at the end of the trip.

Each of us would have a favorite spot, mine was always because I had hooked a good fish and I am sure they all felt the same, but we would always keep taking steps down river as you made your cast if someone was behind you. Nine days of fishing the same

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(Continued from Russia 2010 on page 6)

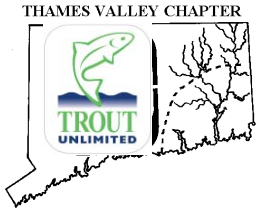
section of river might seem boring to some, but not to me. I guess the reason was because I know it will be two years before I go back to such a beautiful place and fish with such a good friend. Our last day of the trip was like all the rest. You party to much the night before, sleep much too little, fish way too hard, eat too much.

It's a long drive about five hours back to Sergey's house, but it is a quite ride really so many things go through your mind knowing it will be two years till I am back. Nothing like the same trip nine days before when you are talking about fishing catching up on what's new and telling funny stories. Then Sergey fires up his bania and we have our last real Russian bath together eat our last meal and pack. Take a two hour nap and drive 3 hours to the airport for our trip home that takes 28 hours door to door. Totally exhausted you get home but with so many wonderful memories to share with my wonderful wife I must tell her everything before I fall into a deep sleep. And dream about 2012 and my next trip, and what to do to improve myself so I don't lose 14 fish.



**Left:** Members collect samples on the Yantic River during a Rapid Bio-Assessment Training with Biologist Jean Pillo

**Top:** Sorting the catch to provide data for the Rapid Bio-Assessment



Thames Valley Chapter  
 Trout Unlimited  
 P.O. Box 76  
 Yantic, CT 06389-0076

**Next Regular Meeting:**  
**Tuesday December 21st,** at the **Bozrah Moose Lodge** on **115 Fitchville Road** in **Bozrah, CT.**  
**Fly Tiers start at 6:30 p.m.**

