



Stream Lines



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

Volume 14 Issue 21

1998 Jean Bollinger Award Winner

December 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December 2011

By Hendrik Verkade

Dear Thames Valley TU Member,

I hope everyone was able to enjoy their Turkey Day and give thanks for all that we are grateful. I (among other things that day) was grateful for the dishwasher, although I still had plenty to hand wash! This fall has been a busy time for us all, and especially for Thames Valley TU!

Holiday Party: This year's party was a great success – thanks to all of the time and effort put forth by our committees. Each committee worked diligently to achieve success. Raffle tables were full, ticket sales went smoothly, coordination with the Moose Lodge was seamless, and people were checked in with huge smiles and hearty handshakes. It all made for a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Being new to this position, I personally am thankful for all the forethought and work that went into the evening's preparations as it made my part so much easier! The party was well attended and it was great to see many new faces. We even had a guest from the Hammonasset Chapter! Many thanks must be offered to Bob Labbe and the crew at the Moose Lodge. What a spread! Try as we might, we couldn't eat all of the food. Heck, they even brought out to-go boxes and we still couldn't take it all! At the events end, a few members offered to help clean up, but the Moose Lodge crew insisted it was not necessary even though they had another event first thing the next morning. That's dedication!

The Chapters annual awards were given this night as well. Chris McDowell of DEEP was awarded the "Conservation Professional" award for his work with the Salmon Program. Dixie Goodwin was

presented the "Education Volunteer" award for her commitment to the Trout in the Classroom program. Two very dedicated board members have stepped down and to acknowledge their years of service, we decided it was fitting to give two "Rick Ellis" awards this year. The first was awarded to Rick Cedrone for his devoted years as Treasurer, and for his tenure as Stocking Coordinator, John Pallof also received the Ellis award.

Recent Happenings: On November 1st, due to extreme icing, a back-up generator became untrustworthy and led to DEEP doing emergency stocking of broodstock Atlantic salmon into the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers. Each river received 150 fish that thankfully had already been milked and the Program suffered no setbacks.

On November 18th, volunteer groups met at various locations throughout eastern CT to help deliver trout eggs to 18 schools throughout the region who are participating in the Trout in the Classroom program this year. This is not an easy event to plan for as the delivery day depends on egg development so an exact date remains elusive until it is upon us! But, if you ever have the opportunity to volunteer for this, do so. It is very rewarding seeing the kids' faces and excitement when they find out what's in the cooler you've brought. First time students were curious, and second year kids were plain excited to do it again!

Finally, I must thank outgoing President Dixie Goodwin for her endless patience and advice as I settle into this position. She gladly answers my phone calls at any time of day! Her devotion to this organization and all it stands for could not be greater! I hope to see all of you at December's meeting. Good tidings and tight lines to you and yours this holiday season.

>< >< Hendrik

STREAMLINES

Editor

Dan O'Connor

Trout Unlimited, Thames Valley Chapter

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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 6 PM prior to the monthly membership meeting at the Bozrah Moose Lodge.

Trout Unlimited's Mission

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 17 - John Springer, will share new information about fishing in Connecticut and Montana. Be ready for some great fun and rip-roaring laughs!

February 21 - Bill Keister, will provide a nymph fishing clinic. We are fortunate to have his expertise as our TVTU board/chapter member. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from our own Fly Fishing Master!

March 20 - Michael Hackney, "The Eclectic Angler" will speak about 19th Century Fly Fishing. He will also have his book about the art of hand-crafting fly-fishing reels and reel kits on hand.

May 15 - TBD

CALENDAR

December 20th, 6:00 pm BOD meeting prior to membership meeting.

December 20th, 7:30 pm Membership meeting at the Moose Lodge. Paul E. Pezza will present a talk entitled "FlyFishing for Trout and Salmon in Argentina."

December Speaker

Paul E. Pezza

FlyFishing for Trout and Salmon in Argentina

Retired college professor Paul E. Pezza has travelled extensively. He has fly-fished the North, Central, and South Americas as well as New Zealand.

Come out and join us for the December meeting and discover how easily you can be casting flies to big trout well south of New England this winter. You will see many photos of the stunning scenery in that part of Argentina that is referred to as Patagonia where, legend has it, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid spent their final years. You will hear about the spectacular fly fishing opportunities there as well as the local people, culture, foods, and wines. You will learn how to travel efficiently, minimizing the time and dollar cost of escaping the northern winter and visiting Argentina during its summer. Don't miss this one!



My First Chinook

By
Bill Keister

I first went to Chile in 2000. That is when I first heard about Chinook coming up the Rio Simpson. In 2006 I began to go to Chile each year and in that year I saw my first Chinook on the Rio Picacho. In subsequent years we began to come across Chinook more and more often. A couple years ago I began to think about catching a Chinook. I wanted to get that picture holding 'the big fish'. This year there were lots of Chinook in the Rio Toqui.

One day my brother hooked a Chinook while fishing for trout at the gravel pit. The fish grabbed his size 12 Green Beadhead Nymph, steamed over the horizon and broke him off. A couple of days later we were further up stream fishing for small browns. After fishing down through a big pool without a hit I crossed the river and sat on a high bank where I could watch the pool while eating my lunch. After watching for five minutes I spotted a couple of Chinook. After five more minutes I could see 10 to 12 Chinook. They were on my side of the pool only about 20 feet downstream from where I was sitting. They had been there all the time but they had just sort of materialized out of nowhere as time when on. I watched them for another 15 minutes and carefully backed way slowly and crossed back to the other side of the pool.

I was fishing with my nine foot five weight Echo 2 fly rod and a trout size Galvin Open Back fly reel. I had been fishing with 5X so I cut back my leader to the heavy butt section and added six feet of 0X 14.2 pound test tippet. For a fly I put on a size 12 Green Tungsten Beadhead Nymph.

I got into position and cast to where I had seen the pod of fish. On the second cast my strike indicator dipped under the surface and I lifted the rod applying very firm pressure. The fish responded by swimming up the pool at a speed about twice as fast as walking pace. I stood there watching the fly line melt off the spool. Then the backing knot went out through guides. I had 20 pound back on the reel. This was a trout reel after all. The backing was just there to fill the spool. I did not really trust the backing knot and to make matters worse I could

see that there was a loop of backing crossing over the outgoing line. The line was going out a little harder but it was going out. Trouble was it could hang up at any time.

This jolted me out of my complacency. I knew I should have been trying to keep the line as short as possible. That crossed backing made it really important to get the fly line back on the spool. I started moving fast over basket ball sized rocks in mid thigh deep water. The fish got to the far upstream side at the head of the pool and held there. I got close to the top of the pool and moved through waist deep fast water to the middle of the river.

From this point on I managed to keep five to ten feet of fly line outside my rod tip for most of the time. I stayed down stream of the fish as much as I could. When the fish held in fast water I would do as little to disturb her as possible. I just let her pull against my line and work against the current.

After holding for about five minutes the fish swam up through a V formed by two big rocks where the water made the six in drop into the pool. In so doing she snagged my line on a stick that was being held by the pressure of the falling water. I could not get my line free. I took out my collapsible wading staff and with its help crossed some fast water that was more than waist deep. I could see the line angled back toward the middle of the river in the small plunge pool above but I could not see the fish. After a couple of minutes I was able to free the line and was surprised to find that the fish was still on.

I moved up to the rocks separating the plunge pool from the main pool and started to put more pressure on the fish. She sat in current in the middle of the pool pulling against my line and the current for a good five minutes. She then swam the few feet up to the top of the pool. I moved around the side of the plunge pool in waist deep water. The middle of the pool was way over my waders. I put side pressure on her and she edged toward the far bank. Finally she moved to the very top of the pool and went in front of a big black triangular rock. She then dropped downstream on the far side and warping my line on the rock. It took me what seemed like two minutes to work my way out to where I could get my line off of the rock. All the time she just held in the fast water on the far side of the rock.

(Continued on page 5)

Stream Flow Regulation Update

The long-awaited, and greatly debated, Stream Flow Regulations and Standards were unanimously passed by the Legislative Regulations Review Committee on November 30th in Hartford.

Under these regulations, streams will be classified into one of four categories (Class 1 thru Class 4) based on human alteration of the stream to be used for dam minimum water release rates. Class 1 will designate unaltered streams flows, and Class 4 will designate highly altered streams flows - generally associated with public water supplies and hydroelectric facilities. Each class will have a relative-scale stream flow rate. For Class 1, the release rate will be 100%, Class 2 - 75%, Class 3 will vary based on habitat and fish spawning events, and Class 4 will be subject to individual requirements. CT DEEP will begin working on the classification scheme. Within 10 years of the final stream class designation, all dams located within the designated class must meet the required release rates.

The creation of the Stream Flow Regulations and Standards began in 2005, so while it may be a time before we see the "run of the river" enacted, we have taken the first step.

><> ><> Alison Tamsett



We are currently looking for members interested in becoming a Stocking Coordinator.

Benefits of Stocking coordinator :

- * you will allow TU to continue a function it has performed for an unbroken time period of at least 50 years.
- * you will learn the pools and trout holding locations of the Eight Mile, Yantic, Moosup, Shetucket, and Little Rivers.
- * you will learn the access points to these rivers
- * the float stock provides fishing throughout the river versus fishing at the bridges/easily accessed points. Thus the fishing is more fun/pleasant and the fishing period extended.
- * You will meet some of the best fishers of these rivers.
- * It is fun

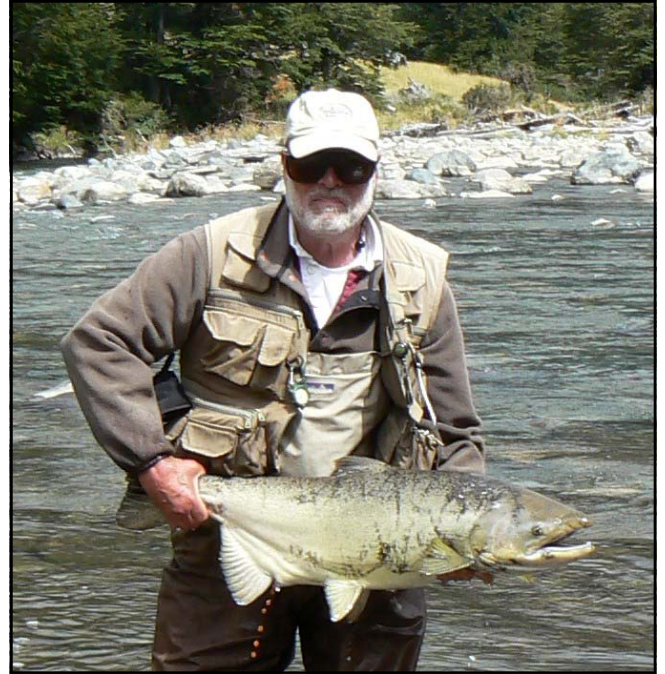
We are also looking for someone interested in becoming a newsletter editor. If being involved in either of these roles is something you would like to pursue please contact Hendrik Verkade, Chapter President at 860-271-5494 or email hverkade@thamesvalleytu.org.

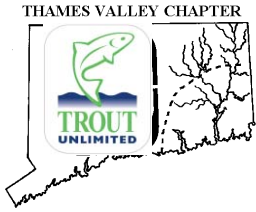
Twice the fish hung up my line. And twice she had waited for me to get it freed before the fight resumed. We sat like this for another few minutes and then she decided to move up into the next plunge pool. She had to go over a one foot drop and she was clearly visible when she swam up through the falling water. The water above the drop was shallow and fast. I applied additional pressure and within two minutes she came back over the drop tail first.

Next she decided that downstream was where she really wanted to be. She went down through the two plunge pools and into the big pool with me scrambling behind her. I was beginning to throw caution to the wind. She deliberately swam down the pool. I crossed near the top in deep fast water. I hurried down the side of the pool in slower water slipping on and sliding over various size rocks in an effort to stay close to her. She got to the tail where the river spread out and got shallow. I knew if she got very far from me here she would have a good chance of rubbing me off or wrapping me on one of the many large rocks just below the surface. For the first time I was able to influence the general direction we both went. Slowly I worked her to my side of the river. I still could not stop her when she decided to go somewhere but I could begin to turn her. Finally I could hold her to a certain degree even if I could not get close enough to tail her. Then I was right behind her. On my third or fourth attempt I was able to get my hand around the base of her tail and we both agreed the fight was over.

Shortly after the fight began I had checked my watch and it had read 12:35. When the fight ended it read 1:10. In the past I have caught steelhead up to 30 inches. They own you for a little while but then you win. This fish was a whole different thing. For the first 30 minutes she did just whatever she wanted to do. It was only in the last five minutes that I began to gain the upper hand. I never really over powered this fish. I could never pull her through the water. She just wound up in a position where I was able to grab her tail and she decided the fight was over. The hook was removed. We posed for some pictures and she swam away without any hesitation.

><><> Bill





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Next Regular Meeting:
Tuesday December 20th, at the **Bozrah Moose Lodge** at **115 Fitchville Road**
In Bozrah, CT
7:30 PM

