



# Stream Lines



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

Volume 14 Issue 19

1998 Jean Bollinger Award Winner

March 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 2011

By Dixie L. Goodwin

This year 2011 may prove to be an interesting and challenging one for our members from many perspectives including rivers and streams stewardship. Governor Malloy has selected Daniel C. Esty to head the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), contingent upon legislative approval of the Governor's plan to consolidate the two departments: Please see the following press release: <http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/cwp/view.asp?Q=473700&A=4010>.

I attended the Commerce Committee public hearing held Thursday February 24 upon receiving notice of Raised Bill #1020 which I believe could seriously compromise the DEP rivers and streams regulations in favor of commercial interests. I spoke in rejection of the Bill and thank all of our members who took the time to write to senators and representatives prior to the hearing. Many individuals with commercial interests were in attendance at the hearing and spoke in favor of the bill but the committee acknowledged the numerous conservation groups who organized around rejection of this bill.

There is an item in the Governor's budget for the Kensington fish hatchery closing. This closing should not immediately impact our TIC program, however, I'm sad to hear that Kensington folk may lose their jobs as they have been very supportive of our salmon stocking and other programs here in Eastern Connecticut. Stocking news from Inland Fisheries is not good. There is no pre-season stocking scheduled for 2011. DEP will attempt to stock at their usual locations depending upon a number of challenging and unforeseen conditions, e.g. limited access to holding pools at

the hatchery and stocking points on the rivers/streams. Availability of staff to drive the stocking trucks is another issue and a challenge to be addressed. Conditions may change quickly during the coming months so stay tuned to "Stocking" updates on our website: [www.thamesvalleytu.org/stocking.html](http://www.thamesvalleytu.org/stocking.html).

Now . . . we can sit around and complain about that which we can't change or we can initiate positive action. Many members have inquired about conservation projects. They joined TVTU because we are not just a fishing club and because our mission is to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain our rivers and streams. However, we as a chapter have not been involved in a related conservation project since the Hewitt Pond project. We now have an opportunity to partner with DEP Inland Fisheries to push forward an ongoing Culverts Assessment Project. This project will serve the DEP and our towns by (1) identifying those culverts which are in most need of work, (2) providing important data as a precursor to grant application, funding of resources (getting tighter all the time) and work to remove barriers, reconnect and restore habitat. Some of the culverts assessment work here in Eastern Connecticut has already

Town number /Culvert number: 145-34



Upstream

Barrier Culvert



Downstream

(Continued on page 3)

**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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Dan O'Connor, Vice President	373-4657	doconnor
Bill Keister, Secretary	295-0264	bkeister
Rick Cedrone, Treasurer	886-4977	rcedrone
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Morgan McGinley	447-2224	mmcginley
John Pallof, Stocking Coordinator	442-1658	jpallof
Gene Cyr, River Coordinator	376-3350	gcyr
Bill Cone	537-1186	bcone
Henry Fredericks		hfedericks

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.**

**CALENDAR**

Tuesday March 15th Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday March 15th Chapter Membership Meeting  
Michael Hackney Introduction to reel-smithing.

Tuesday April 19th Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday April 19th Chapter Membership Meeting  
**\*Held at Nickerson Campground-Route 198 in Chaplin, 06235**  
Fishing Eastern Connecticut (panel discussion). Local experts will provide insight into fishing trout streams of Eastern Connecticut.

Tuesday May 17th Chapter Membership Meeting

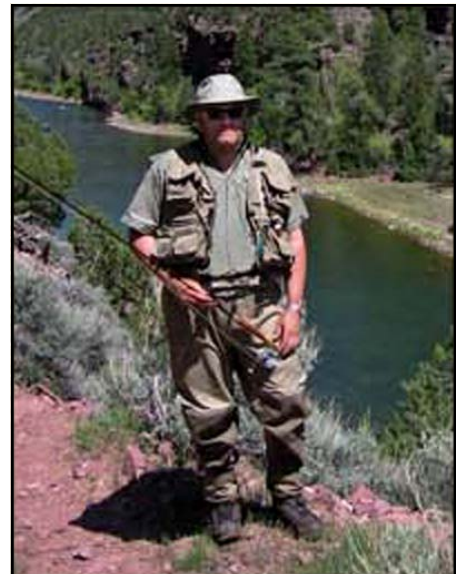
Paul Dince Lifelong resident of CT and member of Housatonic Fly Fisherman's Association. Will share his passion for Fly Fishing and Cape Cod.

Saturday April 30 Natchaug River Cleanup

Meet at commuter parking lot in Phoenixville at 9:00 AM, intersection of Routes 44 and 198

**March Speaker**

The March presentation will be by Michael Hackney, Life TU member and author of "The Reelsmith's Primer", (March 2010). It will cover an introduction to reel smithing. A brief history of reels will be presented followed by a how-to discussion of building brass and aluminum reels using simple tools and materials.



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RENZETTI-HMH-DYNA KING-TIEMCO-MUSTAD-GAMAKATSU-TARGUS**

We lost a member of our chapter on December 29, 2010, Frank White. Frank was a member of Trout Unlimited since 1994. His big smile and easy going manner were ever present at our monthly meetings and when volunteers were called for. He assisted with river cleanup. And he spent many hours wading in cold water, maneuvering a cart full of trout to promote greater dispersion and chance of survival. Frank assisted with the completion of two significant projects – refurbishment of a fish ladder on Latimer Brook and site preparation and installation of a pedestrian bridge across Hewitt Pond dam.

Frank was especially devoted to our Trout in the Classroom program. He assisted with delivery and installation of equipment for many of the TIC classrooms and took on the important role of TIC mentor. Frank loved the excitement of delivering the delicate trout eggs to schools at the start of each TIC year and enjoyed participating with students in their trout release days. Many generous donations for our Trout in the Classroom program have been received by our chapter in memory of Frank White.



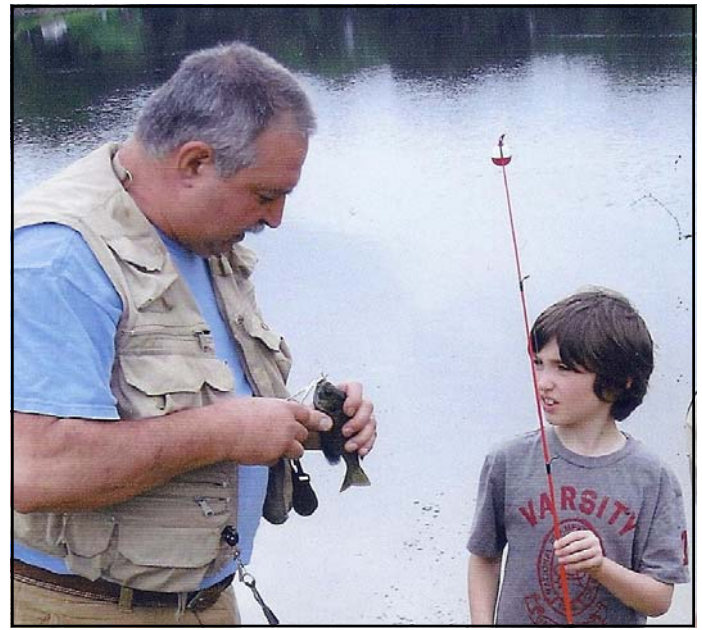
Frank White and his granddaughter during last year's family fishing day at Bozrah Moose Lodge.

*(Continued from President's Message on page 1)*

been done by seasonal DEP staff and Nature Conservancy volunteers. Let's move this important conservation project forward! Volunteer a day or two of your time for this on-the-ground and in-the stream project. We will be scheduling a short field training session soon. ([dgoodwin@thamesvalleytu.org](mailto:dgoodwin@thamesvalleytu.org)).

From a Programs perspective, I've received inquiries from members who missed our December meeting and Bill Keister's excellent nymphing presentation. Bill plans to present for another Connecticut chapter in the future so if you don't mind a bit of a drive, we'll post the date/location of Bill's next presentation on our website. Steve Gephard presented at our January meeting to a large and interactive group including shad fisherman. With the changes at DEP, Steve now wears multiple hats as Supervisor for the Diadromous Fish, Habitat Conservation and Enhancement Programs. He provided an informative presentation and answered many questions about the Thames River Basin diadromous fish program and model for addressing barriers to fish passage. John Jasper, TVTU member and scientist, presented at our February meeting and explained why the Niantic River is not supporting aquatic life including fish communities known to habituate the estuary in the past. He also provided information about what steps are being taken to restore the Niantic River estuary to its natural state.

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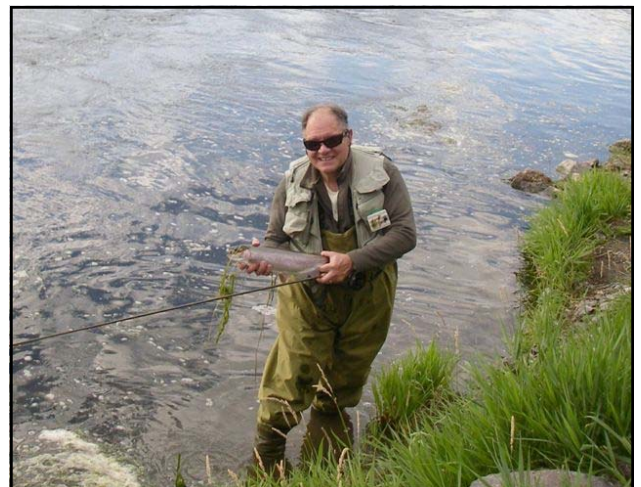


Rick Cedrone with Frank White's grandson at last year's family fishing day at Bozrah Moose Lodge.

### A stranger named Joey by John Springer

The people I have met through fly fishing never cease to amaze me. This past year my friend Mike and I were fishing the Missouri river and it was slowwwwww. I always get a kick out of fly fishermen that use that term. Most of the time when they do it means they have caught nothing. Our fishing was not quite that bad but we were only catching small fish and an occasional “real” Missouri river trout. Mike and I have our favorite spots that are always good to us, but not this time. Oh did I mention the weeds? I’m not sure if it’s because I am getting older or what but the weeds seem to be getting worse and worse in that river. If you have never been there the entire river bottom is covered with very long vegetation we call “salad”. Every cast while nymphing you must clean off your hook, same with streamers. We did run into another fisherman this year who shared one of his secret flies with us as well as how he deals with the weeds. He uses a long fast sink tip line and said it helps out as you get down below the weeds that are floating in the water. As we did not have one of those lines it will be something to be tried out next year. This advice and a hot fly did not help us for this trip, but Joey did. Mike and I have been staying at Frenchy's in Wolf Creek for almost 15 years now and Amel the owner has been telling us about Joey from NY for a few years now, this year we met him. Sometimes it’s just luck that can really make your vacation. Running into Joey made our trip to the Missouri River turn into something memorable. Amel introduced us and Joey asked how we were doing, we said not very well at all. Before I could tell him how it usually is he said I am going right now come with me. I’ll show you where I fish and how I rig up to catch them and what flies I use. He then proceeded to tell us about a 6 pound fish he lost the night before and how he had to cut his line and jump into the river to get his line unwrapped from the cement support for I-15, then his knot between the line and backing broke. Fish and fly line were gone. Mike and I looked at each other and said we have to get a bit to eat then if its ok we will join you if that’s ok. He told us where he would be and told us some flies to pick up at the shop before we came down; we followed his instructions and did just that. Along the river there is a road called Frontage Road and where the river pushes into the banks they have huge boulders so the road does not get undercut and swept away in high water. That’s where the fish were. Lots of hiding places down there and all the food coming down river gets

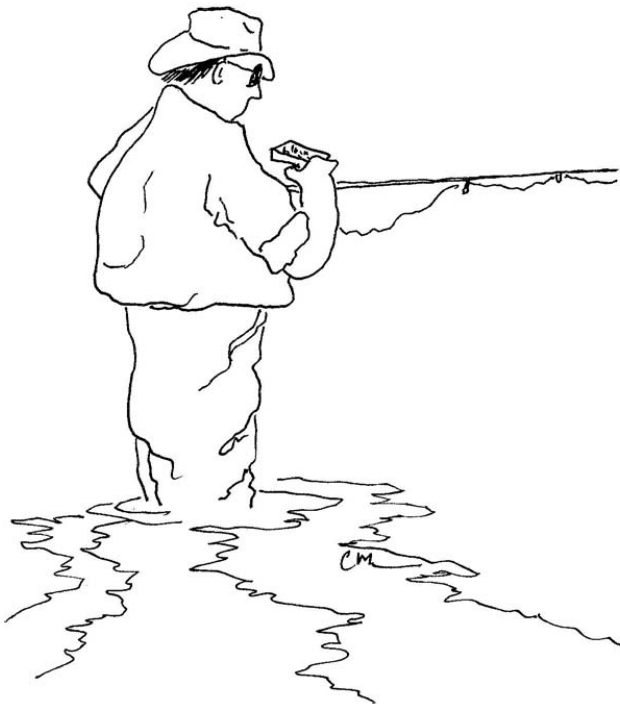
swept into the sharp banks, along with ALL the weeds. But you know what? Joey was right there were fish of all sizes there and none were small. So we dealt with the weeds and climbing over the rocks and caught fish and lost some real nice fish I might add. He even showed us a second spot that was loaded with fish and much easier to fish, we dubbed that hole “dead rattle snake hole” as there was a dead snake on the road that was in the sun for sometime and stuck like hell. We spent about 5 hours with our new friend and wanted to take him out but he could not join us as he had to work the next day. Joey is a real trout bum, he pays for his fishing in Montana by painting houses, staying at French’s, and living as cheaply as he can. Very smart man; he knows what’s important in life. Mike and I went back several times on our trip and on one trip I was walking the bank and saw a fish that looked to be somewhere between 30-36 inches. They have very big carp in the Missouri river. I thought that was what I was looking at at first, then it opened its mouth and I was it was the biggest brown trout I had ever seen. I have heard people talk about fish that size and have seen big fish swim under boats I had been in, but not this big. I backed off and got below that fish and tied on a big fly and tried for him. On about the 5-6<sup>th</sup> cast the line did go tight and start to move, and in about 3 seconds the fly came lose and that fish was gone. I could have hooked it in the mouth or its side fin, I’ll never know. What I do know is I got a shot at the largest trout I have ever seen because of a fellow named Joey who took the time to help 2 strangers he just met out of the goodness of his heart. And that is something you just don’t see much of today. I’ll have another life long fishing memory because of a stranger named Joey. If you’re lucky enough to make it to the “Golden Years” like my dad and some of my fishing friends who can’t walk well anymore those memoires are all you will have. I hope I am lucky enough to have lots of them.



April 19 Membership Meeting  
at  
Nickerson Campground  
On the Natchaug River

This is a great opportunity to come to the Campground early and fish the Natchaug River prior to the meeting. The meeting will start at the regular time of 7pm with a panel of Trout Unlimited members sharing their knowledge of Eastern Connecticut streams. This will be an excellent meeting for anyone new to fishing or to the area, and for connecting with the stream you always wanted to fish. Thames Valley's excellent book, "Trout Streams of Eastern Connecticut" may be purchased at this meeting for a special low price. Come and enjoy the hospitality of the Nickerson's, and the Natchaug River. While you're there please introduce yourself to Chris Nickerson, a long standing TU member and promoter of fly fishing on the Natchaug River.

><><> Charley McCaughtry



Dear Fishing Friends,

I recently received an email which originated from the American Sport Fishing Association encouraging me to oppose S.B. 59, An Act prohibiting the sale or use of fishing sinkers, jigs and tire weights that contain lead.

I am afraid that I have to disagree that this legislation should be categorically opposed.

Lead has long been a documented killer of waterfowl. We had recent proof of that fact this past summer on Toddy Pond in Maine. An adult loon was found near our camp that was near death. It was transported to a nearby rescue center in Ellsworth and x-ray showed a split shot sized chunk of lead in its stomach. The bird was so far gone that it was euthanized and further blood tests showed levels of lead that were off the chart.

Before this incident, I too thought that the lead ban thing was over the top. I have since been thinking otherwise. I have been convinced that a lead

substitute that is benign to waterfowl must be more readily available to fishermen. A ban will certainly hasten availability of such options. Indeed they are already available.

I recently purchased at Cabelas a lead wire substitute that was reasonably priced and I have vowed to change over completely. Please Google "Lead poisoning of waterfowl" if you have any doubts of the scientific validity of the claims that lead does kill. We are not talking just loons here as all waterfowl are susceptible.

S.B. 59 as it is written, in fact, may be overkill in the sense that it bans all lead jigs etc. A better solution might be (as Maine has done)

*(Continued on page 6)*

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to limit the use of lead sinkers and jigs of half an ounce or less. Larger jigs are too heavy to be of any danger to waterfowl and when oxidized become inert. Thus a revised bill may be the answer. As I understand it the bill has been remanded to committee where it will undoubtedly undergo changes. Rather than rejecting the ban entirely, you might consider favoring a revised bill. Please voice your opinion to:

Edward Meyer (Chairman of the Joint Committee on Environment)

407 Mulberry Point Road  
Guilford, CT 06437

[Meyer@senatedems.ct.gov](mailto:Meyer@senatedems.ct.gov)

And/or

Andrew M. Maynard (Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Environment) P.O. Box 245  
Stonington, CT [Maynard@senatedems.ct.gov](mailto:Maynard@senatedems.ct.gov)

Tight (leadless) Lines,  
John Manfred

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## Trout in the Classroom Expands to Community Access Channel and “Production Company”

By Dixie Goodwin

I was contacted last year by Scott Hill of the Charter Communications community access channel. He inquired about TIC and expressed his interest in producing a video that follows one of our schools through their TIC year right up to trout release day. I contacted TIC mentor, Charley McCaughtry, who helped to connect Scott with Rick Rossi of the Ashford school. It was lights, camera and action beginning with the arrival of trout eggs and continued this month of March as Charley, joined by John Manfred and Alton Bodgett, provided two days of fly-fishing instruction to Ashford students. The students proudly displayed their flies for the camera; a few even made their flies into earrings and all students were given a “Walk Book”, compliments of Joshua’s Tract Conservation and Historical Trust. We are very excited about this opportunity for Ashford students and look forward to the video.

I’ve recently been invited to meet with newly formed environmental clubs at some of our TIC schools. This created an excellent opportunity for me to speak about our TIC mission and participate in environmental awareness in our communities. I was a bit nervous during my first meeting with our newest TIC school, Lisbon Central. However, I gained confidence as I reference our Trout Streams of Eastern Connecticut book, spoke about the lower Quinebaug River watershed and answered question about TIC spring release activities. I left the school with the realization that I’ve learned a great deal because of my involvement in this wonderful program. More recently, I met with Norwich Independent Day Charter School (IDCS) students. They were just forming what they referred to as a “production company”. I became the student as I inquired about this concept. The students explained that there are many production companies at their school and that their group was producing a company around interested in the environment. Their present “streams of activity” include developing a TIC blog and learning about caring for their TIC tank. I was asked to join the technology stream in developing their blog. Wow! Things have changed since I was in elementary school too many years ago to mention.

(Continued on page 7)




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LOCATED ON THE THAMES RIVER

(Continued from page 6)

As their TIC Mentor, how could I resist!

Speaking of TIC Mentors, I've made many inquiries but we still have schools which do not have mentors. Some of our mentors are presently supporting this wonderful program in five schools. That is really too much! Please consider getting involved in the TIC program. **Become a TIC mentor!**

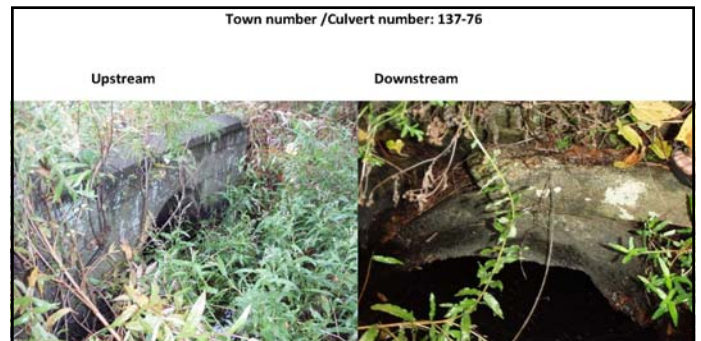
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I'm delighted to say that two members, Bill Cone and Henry Fredericks have recently joined our Board of Directors. Bill Cone, a familiar face and accomplished fly-tyer invites members to get involved in our fly-tying round-table. Our Board now meets just prior to Membership meetings so Bill will need to step away from fly-tying at times to contribute from a leadership perspective. Henry Fredericks and a group of anglers from the Salmon River area are interested in reestablishing a river stewardship committee that was once an integral part of our Thames Valley chapter. His small group has already been using our float stocking carts to stock the Salmon River. This group will continue with their stocking efforts but will also promote stewardship and activities that were part of the recently dissolved Salmon River Angler's Association.

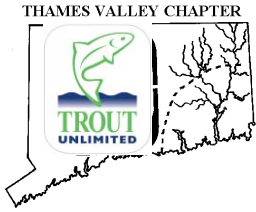
We have an important Board position that has yet to be filled. The Programs position has been open for over two years, since Harold Lindner stepped down. I have been wearing this hat and with the help of Board members filled this void but will not continue going forward. In the spirit of the volunteerism of Jim Clark, George DeGray and Ray Schaefer who stepped forward to form a great Raffle Committee, we need volunteers to do the same if we are to enjoy programs and events next year. This is an opportune time to begin contacting possible presenters and get TVTU on their calendars early. Please contact me with your interest ([dgoodwin@thamesvalleytu.org](mailto:dgoodwin@thamesvalleytu.org)).

Tight Lines,

Dixie



Join the TVTU Culverts Assessment Team!



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

**Next Regular Meeting:**  
**Tuesday March 15th, at the Bozrah Moose Lodge on 115 Fitchville Road in Bozrah, CT. Fly Tiers start at 6:30 p.m.**

