



Stream Lines



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

Volume 14 Issue 20

1998 Jean Bollinger Award Winner

September 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 2011

By Dixie L. Goodwin

Dear Thames Valley TU Member,

My thoughts and prayers are with all members who have been directly impacted by "Irene's" destruction here in Eastern Connecticut. I sincerely hope that you fare as well as possible. Prior to writing my message, I also thought about our neighboring areas and states which received heavy rains from "Irene" and extreme inland flooding destruction. This made me recall an article that I cut from the Sunday issue of The Day exactly fourteen days prior to "Irene" (Please go to Page 6 to read this article. The titled; "Survey finds most culverts in New England are subpar" and the article clearly states that numerous culverts are of old infrastructure and can't possibly handle the volumes of water from storm, modern-day traffic and development related activity. I am most convinced that our chapter has taken the right steps with initiating a culverts assessment project to help our communities. We presently have twenty volunteers working in ten towns but there is so much more work to be done to move this project forward. More volunteers are needed so please contact me (dgoodwin@thamesvalleytu.org) if you are interested in helping with this project. We will be scheduling a second information and training session soon.

I am very proud to say that four TVTU Board members represented our chapter at the Trout Unlimited Northeast Regional Meeting. This meeting was held in Farmington, CT the last weekend in July and was the largest regional meeting ever held! We shared our chapter's experiences, enjoyed getting to know each other at a Saturday evening barbecue, and came away with lots of

ideas. Charley McCaughtry enjoyed a great day of guiding Brian Moore, VP of TU Volunteer Operations and Jim Glowienka, CT Council Chair on the Farmington River prior to the start of the meeting.

Our Board members, spouses and others gathered the very next weekend at Dan O'Connor's house in Lebanon for our annual planning meeting and picnic. This gathering gave us the opportunity to jump start the 2011-2012 year after our summer break. More importantly, it offered fun, food and relaxation for our hard-working Board and family members who provide leadership and support to TVTU.

September 20 Our first meeting of the year, will be at Nickerson Campground, Route 198, Chaplin, 06235. Chris Nickerson and chapter members who reside in the northerly towns really enjoyed our April meeting at this location and requested that we come back soon. **Please note the change in location and plan to attend our September meeting at Nickerson's in Chaplin.** Chris invites you to come early, bring your own barbecue/picnic fixings (he'll provide the grill), and fish the Natchaug River. Steve Babbitt will present "Tips, tricks, and hatches on Eastern CT waters".

October 18 Meeting will be held at our usually meeting location, Moose Lodge, 115 Fitchville Road, Bozrah 06334. This is our official Annual Meeting so plan to attend this important meeting and vote for our slate of Officers and our revised By-Laws. **Please contact our Nominations Committee Chair, Bill Keister (bkeister@thamesvalleytu.org), no later than September 16 with candidate nominations, questions, etc.** Candidates will be posted on our website 15 days prior and By-laws for review 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting which will begin at 7:30 PM and will adjourn following election of Officers. Mark Cohen will talk

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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

BOARD MEMBERS	PHONE	@thamesvalleytu.org
Dixie Handfield-Goodwin, President / TIC Coordinator	464-2685	dgoodwin
Dan O'Connor, Vice President	373-4657	doconnor
Bill Keister, Secretary	295-0264	bkeister
Rick Cedrone, Treasurer	886-4977	rcedrone
Mike Goodwin, Webmaster Past President	464-2685	mgoodwin
Dan O'Connor, Newsletter editor	373-4657	doconnor
Jim Clark, Raffle Chair	546-6924	clrk2knt@aol.com
John Manfred	423-8683	jmanfred
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
Bill Cone	537-1186	bccone
Henry Fredericks		hfedericks
Jackie Preston	546-6690	jpreston
Hendrik Verkade, Program Chair	271-5494	hverkade

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 September 20th Chapter Membership Meeting
*Held at Nickerson Campground-Route 198 in Chaplin, 06235
Steve Babbitt -

Tips, tricks, and Hatches on Eastern CT Waters

Tuesday September 20th Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday October 18th Chapter Membership Meeting

Chapter Elections

Mark Cohen - "How political, geological and hydro-logical factors combine to make a state with 45 inches of rainfall a year thirsty for more and what two communities are doing about it".

Tuesday October 18th Board of Directors Meeting

November 12th, 5:30 pm Holiday Party at the Moose Lodge.

December 20th, 7:30 pm

Paul Pezza—photos and information about his fishing trip to Argentina.

September Speaker

Steve Babbitt has been fly fishing for 38 years fishing, and trout fishing for 40 years. He grew up in Pomfret and fished Mashmaquet brook with his dad from the time he was 9.

Steve has fished from the Miramichi in new Brunswick to Florida for snook/ tarpon and the western US, his passion is steelhead fishing and wild trout. He studied forest management in college and worked part time doing consulting forestry work from 1984 until 1991 when the effects of a car accident limited his physical ability.

In 1997 as favor to a friend with a tackle shop Steve guided a couple of doctors. The following year he began to guide part time and has been guiding ever since. Steve guided under Connecticut Highlands fly fishing until 2008 when he began to help out at JT's fly shop. Prior to JT's he had also worked part time for Crystal Lake sports in Stafford and then Yankee Outdoors in Enfield CT.

This year Steve became part of the Hardy / Greys guide program.

One great interest he has is aquatic entomology, and took two semesters while at college and nearly changed his major. When he did forestry work they always did a bio assessment of streams, brooks or rivers near or on a cutting site. This would give a clear base line if there was any change to the water course or bug population. This also naturally translated to his love of fly fishing and Steve believes it has given him an advantage just knowing the habits and habitats of the common aquatic insects.

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THE LARGEST SELECTION OF FLY TYING MATERIALS IN RI
HARELINE-WAPSI-DOUG'S BUGS-WHITING-METZ-SPIRIT RIVER
RENZETTI-HMH-DYNA KING-TIEMCO-MUSTAD-GAMAKATSU-TARGUS

Annual Campout and Breakfast

Thames Valley TU had there yearly campout on the Shetucket River this weekend. First people to be thanked are the Konow Family for letting us camp and have the Breakfast at Sandy Beach. Second Jackie, John, and Duke Preston for getting all the food to cook for us and then clean up. I'm glad they had lots of coffee as it was a bit cool Friday night. Hendrik Verkade donated the eggs and were there ever eggs! Some of us got there Friday afternoon, set up, and when the water came down we got to fish for about 3 hours until it came up. Fishing with caddis type flies worked very well. When the water came up we ate and drank and then helped Panther Martin set up his in the truck tent. It was a very complicated procedure. When the fire died down everyone turned in. Some got up at 5am to fish others slept in until 7am. Breakfast was great and fishing was good when the water came down. The campout came to an end at 12 noon when I closed and locked the gate. A wonderful time was had by all.

><> ><> John Springer



(Continued from President's Message on page 1)

about "How political, geological and hydrological factors combine to make a state with 45 inches of rainfall a year thirsty for more and what two communities are doing about it".

Please go to Home and Calendar pages of our website (www.thamesvalleytu.org) or go to Page 2 of this newsletter for more details about our upcoming meetings and presenters.

><> ><> Dixie



My friend Capt. George Kelly

By John Springer

Another brother of the angle passed on. We met at a salt-water club meeting that I joined many years ago. George was about 82 then and asked me if I wanted to go fishing sometime; it was the start of a wonderful friendship. We never got to fish Montana or any far off places; the furthest we got was the Connetquat River on Long Island. What we did do was spend many days fishing his beloved Thames River, all year long. George was one of the most interesting people I have ever met; of course he was part of the Greatest Generation. When we fished, he told me war stories that were very hard to imagine. He was injured several times while in the service but he never regretted going in to defend our country. He had many interesting jobs in his life from being a dance instructor, game warden, and even a steeple jack. When I met him he was working as a maintenance man in a nursing home, while he was in his 80's. He knew how to fix anything from his boats to his home; he helped me on several projects at my house as well as gave me instructions over the phone on how to get my lawn mower to run better. Growing up during the depression makes you learn these things.

We always fished during the week; many times we had the river mostly to ourselves. Our day always started the same, I would show up with a full gas can and we would launch from his dock in his back yard except for the time of year we had the boat on a trailer. We would head out of what I called Kelly Cove and troll around looking for fish; he knew ever inch of the river. George pointed out many things over the years and would tell me the history of them like the barge up at Dow Chemical that caught fire at the turn of the last century during winter when there were not many houses on the river and many people died. Other stories were about where they loaded apples or hay on barges to be shipped out. He also showed me all the spots he and his wife Kay would fish many years ago and catch stripers as well as other fish they took home to eat. Later on, when he became a fly fisherman, he would throw all his fish back except a Blue fish every now and then to eat. At the end of our fishing time, we would park the boat and while I gassed it up he would go in and let Kay know we were back. During our time fishing Kay would make a Chocolate Cream pie every week with Mighty Fine Chocolate pudding and fresh whip cream. She did that for me really, because I know George's favorite pie was Lemon Meringue. We

would talk for quite some time each week then he would shake my hand and say give me a call next time you want to go out. George never put his boat away and we would fish all winter as long as it was not frozen in. George was always ready to go fishing.

The Connecticut Rhode Island Fly Fishermen's group started an award years ago; it is called "The George Kelly first with a helping hand". They did this because George was actually always there first offering to help in anyway he could. I remember how many times he sold raffle tickets all day in the hot weather at the yearly picnic not really getting a chance to see the yearly guest speaker like everyone else. He took every task seriously and was very dedicated to TU as well as Conn/RI. He donated many trips to the raffle table for people to bid on to raise money for both groups, never asking for anything in return.

The past 2 years were rough on George with several medical problems so we did not get to fish much. When he went to live in the nursing homes, I would go to visit him often and bring my laptop computer. After I ate lunch with him, we would look at some of the many fishing pictures I had taken and also the places I had been recently; he enjoyed them all immensely and when I showed him pictures taken of him on his boat we would talk about the spot it was taken and what was going on out there then. About 3 weeks ago I gave George his last laugh with one of my stories. I had taken one of my wife's girl friends to try fly fishing and I mentioned how she said I came across as "intense" in my way of teaching. George laughed and laughed, so that's how I will remember him. George is up there fishing now with many of his old friends. Catching some very big fish I am sure he is young again and has his full strength back in his arms hands and legs. He'll know all the good spots to take me when my time comes I'm sure.





John Manfred and John Reynolds assisted Charley (above) McCaughtry who provided two-day fly tying classes for TIC schools this past spring. This photo is from the Ashford School.

Volunteers Pull MAM Vines Along Shetucket River

Alton Blodgett provided us a link with a great selection of photos and comments about mile-a-minute vine pulling parties. TVTU members who signed up to be a volunteer for this initiative were notified of dates and invited to participate throughout the summer months. Use the following link (www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg) to the University of Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group website to view the slide show and learn more about this initiative. Below is a photo from one of these vine pulling parties.



Thames Valley Trout Unlimited Annual Holiday Party

November 12, 2011

5:30 PM

Bozrah Moose Lodge

Cash Bar, Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner & Desserts
Basket & Table Raffles and Auction

Tickets are \$20 per adult and \$45 per family.

Name: _____

Number attending: _____

Please return this completed voucher with payment to:
Thames Valley TU, P.O. Box 76, Yantic, CT 06389-0076

Survey finds most culverts in New England are subpar

By BOB SALSBERG
Associated Press

Taunton, Mass. - Few who travel along a quiet residential street in this southeastern Massachusetts city would ever give much thought to what lies below: a rotting culvert built under the roadway decades ago to convey water from a narrow, unnamed stream that empties into the scenic Taunton River.

But environmentalists are paying attention. And they are dismayed by what they are seeing.

"It's wicked nasty in there," says Alison Bowden, freshwater program director for The Nature Conservancy, as she slogs through mud and debris to inspect the culvert, a circular pipe bracketed by a decaying stone wall.

"If you were a fish, you would probably die," she said.

Bowden and her organization are among those participating in an ambitious project to survey and evaluate river and stream crossings around New England - with an emphasis on culverts - using standards adopted in recent years by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The standards seek to reduce the threat of flooding from aging or structurally unsound culverts and to minimize barriers to fish and other wildlife as they navigate through culverts.

Organizers could not estimate how much the effort would cost, but said they have received some state grants and funding from environmental trusts. Much of the survey work is being done by volunteers and college interns.

On first glance, the task appears overwhelming. Scott Jackson, a wildlife biologist at the University of Massachusetts Extension, said the exact number of crossings in New England isn't known, but he estimates there could be about 250,000 in the six-state region.

To date, teams have inspected and graded about 6,000 culverts and are compiling a database that project managers hope to make available to the public online by the end of the month.

The early data gathered so far show less than 15 percent meet general or optimum standards. Nearly half were found to have blockages or other obstacles that caused moderate or severe impediments to the passage of fish and wildlife.

The enormity of the problems would make any kind of quick fix unlikely, said Jackson, who helped compile the standards and spearheaded creation of the database.

"What it screams out for is some kind of prioritization process, where you don't try to do everything at once," he said.

Culvert failures can have devastating consequences for people. During torrential rains in October 2005, a wall of water smashed through a culvert in Alstead, N.H., sweeping away a dozen houses and leaving four dead. While such catastrophic events are rare, defective culverts can cause flooded roads or even threaten local drinking water supplies, Bowden said.

Culverts come in all sizes and shapes, including the circular type found at the Taunton site. Others are rectangular or elliptical in shape, or form an archway with an open bottom. Originally built of stone, most modern culverts are made of metal or concrete. Bill Napolitano, environmental program director for the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District, said many were constructed without foresight of modern-day traffic and development impacts, and have become functionally obsolete.

"They can't possibly handle the volume of (storm water) that comes off the road anymore," said Napolitano. The Taunton culvert, for example, sits only about a half mile downstream from Route 44, a major thoroughfare dotted with strip malls, car dealerships and department stores.

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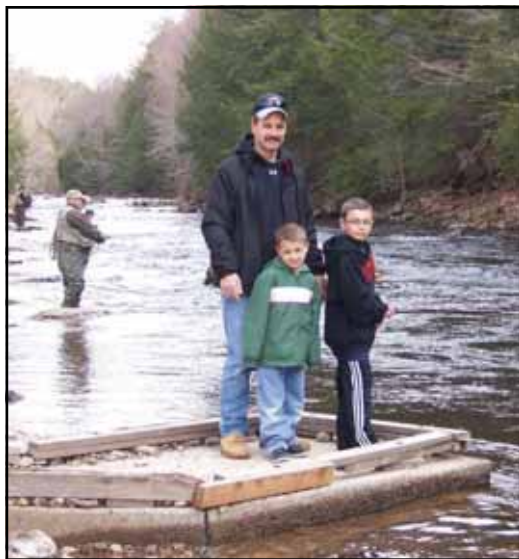
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Jacqueline P. Preston
Owner



Father with his sons Chris Jr. and David stopped by our TVTU area, Opening Day on the Salmon River. Chris Jr. enjoys fly-fishing. David opted for a donut and a Trout in the Classroom "we love bugs" tattoo.



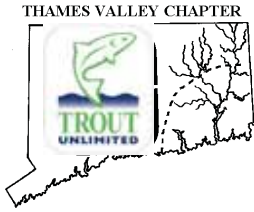
LCS Presents TIC at Environmental Symposium

Lisbon is a small town in South-Eastern Connecticut, just 45 minutes South of Hartford. There are currently around 500 students attending Lisbon Central from preschool to 8th Grade. The Environmental Club is made up of 17 students advised by Mr. Brown and Mr. Mlyniec. One of the major projects that this group accomplished this year was raising and releasing Brook Trout. They received 200 eggs on November 17th, 2010. Everything was going great and the death numbers were pretty low. But on Monday, January 3rd, the students were able to count all the fish in the tank and the water smelled like death. The group dismantled the filter and was confronted by a depressing and repulsive fish jelly. They spent almost an hour removing fish particles from the components and trying to figure out how this had happened and decided that they must have slowly been sucked into the filter and shredded. The death toll was estimated at around 160 fish. This event has properly been named the Trout Massacre.

They relayed this horrible news to Dixie Goodwin, a Trout Unlimited member, and she was wonderful enough to provide us with another 70 fish that had been fostered by another school. The group asked a couple classes to help us decide on our release location by studying the Blissville Brook's water quality and anything else that would affect the trout's chances for survival. The 2 classes didn't find anything that would be cause for alarm, so we set the release date. On April 14th with the help of the two classes, the LCS Environmental Symposium released 82 Brook Trout that we had raised from eggs for almost 6 months. Together the sixth grade and seventh grade classes joined them as fellow environmental stewards in finding the perfect home for our trout. These brook trout had a 30 percent survival rate, a very substantial difference compared to the one hundredth of a percent survival rate of wild Brook Trout in Connecticut.

They also presented this project at the Wheelabrator Environmental Symposium, located in Sunrise, Florida on May 2-5, 2011. Fifteen schools from all over the Eastern Seaboard presented their environmental projects that they have accomplished this school year. This group's experience with the Brook Trout was one of our featured projects and got a lot of positive feedback from the judges and the other schools.

Stephen E. Brown
Lisbon Central School Science



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

Next Regular Meeting:
Tuesday September 20th, at the
Nickerson Campground on
Rte 198
in
Chaplin, CT
7:30 PM

