



# TROUT UNLIMITED

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

## Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

November 2016

### "Special Notice"

Please note that our membership meeting site has been changed for the rest of the season (November - May) to the:

Bozrah Firehouse, 239 Fitchville Rd., Bozrah, CT [Directions](#)

Dear John,

Hello Everyone! It is getting brisk out there! First off I want to inform everyone that due to unforeseen events we have lost the venue of the Moose Lodge for our Membership meetings, and after a lot of phone calls, some searching and approval from the board we have chosen the Bozrah Fire house at 239 Fitchville Rd., Bozrah, CT 06334. The room is very nice, it's a big space and not far at all from the Moose! Please spread the word!!

I would love to see our meeting attendance grow, if you know any members or friends that may not have been to a meeting in a while, throw out a line and reel them in. You never know if a speaker or event will spark a fire in someone to start coming to the meetings. Then maybe they spread the word and that would be wonderful.

I would also like to remind everyone we are always looking for donations for the raffle table. If you or anyone you know has anything they don't use or want any more please suggest TU and have them speak to any board member, this really helps out our club immensely and any large donation will come with a tax write off. We would also like to do more limited ticket raffles as well.

Jenn, Ray and I have been working on developing a banquet and would really like to get that rolling and shooting for spring. If there are any volunteers interested in helping plan and execute the banquet please let us know... we can use all the help possible. I am looking forward to our winter/spring meetings and events for the rest of the season. I want you all to know I am open to suggestions of events and ideas so please feel free to bring them to me.

Respectfully,



Duke Preston  
President TVTU  
[Email Address](#)

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### Calendar

**Tuesday, Nov 15th - 6pm**

Bozrah Firehouse  
239 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT

**Ben Bilello - Traditional Techniques for Broodstock Atlantic Salmon**

**November 19 & 20**

**Fly Tying Symposium**  
Somerset, NJ

**December 20th - 6pm**

Chapter Membership Meeting,  
Bozrah Firehouse  
239 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT  
TBD

## Thames Valley Chapter Monthly Meeting Tuesday, November 15th, 2016

### Featured Presentation - "Traditional Techniques for Broodstock Atlantic Salmon" by Ben Bilello



For anglers in and around Connecticut, broodstock Atlantic salmon fishing is one most reliable ways to catch a large fish in fresh water. For anglers who fish for sea-run Atlantic salmon in Canada or Europe, the broodstock fishery is a good way to practice presentation close to home and for a minimal investment. For anglers new to Atlantic salmon fishing, this fishery is a great way to learn the techniques used to catch Atlantic salmon around the world.

Topics will include:

- Locations of the fishery (Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers)
- Regulations
- Equipment: fishing with one and two handed rods
- Identifying salmon lies and typical holding water
- Salmon behavior
- Fishing strategies: wet fly, dry fly, tube flies and the riffing hitch
- Fishing in a rotation
- Fly selection
- Fighting, landing and the safe release of salmon

When he's not behind a set of drums in a concert hall, jazz club, or recording studio, Ben Bilello can be found either on the water or behind the vise. While he's an avid trout fisherman and fly tier, Ben's true fly fishing and tying passion is the Atlantic salmon. Ben has spent several seasons chasing sea-run Atlantic salmon in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Russia; landlocked Lake Ontario Atlantic salmon in New York and broodstock Atlantic salmon at home in Connecticut.

See John Springer's book review in our May 2016 Stream Lines newsletter on Ben's e-Book: "Flies for Connecticut Atlantic Salmon: How to Tie and Fish Them"

Visit [Ben's blog](#) and [website](#) that contains a wealth of information on Atlantic Salmon fishing & flies.

**Door opens at 6pm.** Fly Tying demonstrations. The presentation will start after a short chapter "business" meeting (approximately 7:30pm).

**Raffle Table:** For the membership meeting the Raffle Table will be loaded with thirty items including a new 6wt-4pc-9 ft fly rod with a loaded reel. A new 3/4 wt. reel will be among other items including tying feathers, fur and packages of hooks. Many more items will be on the table for your choosing.

## TVTU Visits the Quinebaug Hatchery

By Ed Walsh



On Saturday, October 22, a small group of TVTU members took a guided tour of the Quinebaug Hatchery in Plainfield. Doug

## We are now on Facebook!

When you visit our website there is now a link to our Facebook page. Also see our Quick Links below. Jenn Miner is our administrator and we are looking for an additional person assist her. Please contact [Duke Preston](#).

## Quick Links

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## Donations Wanted

You can help our TU chapter out by donating your unused fly fishing equipment including rods, reels, fly's, books and other fly fishing related items. We will raffle the items off and used the money raised to support our chapter's programs including stream clean up, stocking, trout in the classroom, speaker expenses, and meeting hall rent cost to name a few areas of expense. Call Jim Clark at 860-546-6924 if you have something to donate or bring the item (s) to the next membership meeting. Thanks for your support.

## October Membership Meeting Recap: A Evening with Jean Pillo (The Last Green Valley)

By John Preston



Jean Pillo is a Watershed Conservation Project Manager for the Eastern

Connecticut Conservation District. This position includes coordination services for The Last Green Valley Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program since 2006. She also is the coordinator for the Thames River Basin Partnership. She earned an MS degree in Biology



Beaulieu, a member of the hatchery's management team, introduced us to the facility and guided us through the administrative offices. At this point staff member Amy Russell took over and continued the tour through all phases of the hatchery operation. Doug stayed close by to help answer questions.

We started in the Hatch House where fish eggs are placed in incubators. When the Fry reach 3" they are transferred to intermediate tanks. These tanks are 20' in diameter and can hold up to 30,000 fish. This location holds has 30 tanks. The fish remain in these tanks until they reach 6 - 8" when they are moved to the outside grow-out tanks.



*Doug Beaulieu welcomes TVTU*

from Southern Connecticut State University. She is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control, and an active member of the Woodstock Conservation Commission. Her previous work experience includes teaching at the high school and college level. Jean is a Connecticut native, and has a strong passion for a healthy outdoor environment.

The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) is a nonprofit charitable organization established in 1995. They are advocates for the fragile and irreplaceable resources of The Last Green Valley. Founded as a grassroots organization TLGV is ensuring a natural and cultural legacy for generations to come.

"The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley of northeastern Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts has been called "The Last Green Valley" in the sprawling coastal metropolitan Boston-to-Washington corridor. The region appears distinctively dark in the urban and suburban glow when viewed at night from satellites or aircraft. In the daytime, the green fields and forests confirm the surprisingly rural character of the 1,085 square-mile area defined by the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers systems and the rugged hills that surround them. The relatively undeveloped character of this green and rural island in the midst of the most urbanized region in the nation makes it a resource of local, regional, and national importance. The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor encompasses about 695,000 acres. The area stretches from Norwich, Connecticut north to Charlton, Massachusetts and from Coventry, Connecticut east to the Rhode Island border. More than half the size of Grand Canyon National Park and ten times the area of Acadia National Park, its 35 towns with numerous villages have a total population of about 300,000. The Last Green Valley is notable for its quality of life and quality of place. Amid the enormous economic and population changes of the 20th and early 21st centuries, the region has retained its fundamental attributes of lush pastures and woodlands, clean streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes; small cities and smaller towns representing important developments in American history; and continuing opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy a rural small-town life-style. In 2010, The Last Green Valley remains 78% forest and farm land." (taken from [TLGV website](#)).



*Fry tanks hold as many as 30,000 fish.*

imagine there were some very large fish in these tanks. Interestingly I found a few large fish mixed in with smaller fish. I asked the reason for this and Doug said it's not uncommon for fish to jump from one tank into another.

The outside tanks are 50' in diameter and can hold as many as 13,000 small fish. All outside tanks are covered with netting to prevent predatory invasion. There are 40 tanks outside.

We also visited the Brood Stock tanks where larger egg producing fish are housed. This location is indoors and has 20 large rectangular tanks with two tanks back to back. As you might



*Brood stock tanks hold the egg producers*

Doug and Amy provided a most interesting and informative tour answering

every question. One of our attendees was Mike Carl's seven year old son Jacob. Jacob asked Amy a lot of very interesting questions that made me realize they must really enjoy school visits with a group of enthusiastic kids asking all kinds of interesting, and often pertinent, questions. Listening to Jacob made me realize we could all learn something from the innocents of youth.



*The grow-out tanks hold fish before stocking*

Another thing that came to mind after this visit was more of our members, and children and possibly grandchildren, would benefit from visiting our hatcheries. People like Doug and Amy are dedicated, enthusiastic and most importantly passionate about the job they do and the career they've chosen. They deserve our thanks and appreciation.

Another thing that came to



And a big thank you to Ray Schaefer for arranging our visit. It was well worth a few hours on a Saturday morning.

## UNDER THE HUNTER'S MOON



By George Jacobi

I am outside on my back, slowly surrendering consciousness to the night sky, a ritual I engage in on occasions -it just shows up



Jean walked us through many of the water quality programs they conduct. Such as: physical, chemical nutrient,

bacterial monitoring; visual assessments; bio-assessments; Secchi Disk assessments (water

unannounced on my emotional radar. The temperature is perfect. I am warm in the down sleeping bag, and the slight chill on my face (the thermometer is in the mid-fifties) is refreshing. Tonight is ideal for this. Late October has benevolently supplied a few days of Indian Summer. It will go up to the 70s during the days ahead, but because there has been a frost or two, mosquitoes are gone for the year.

Crickets, though, have yet to give up on the season. Thankfully, their loud sawing fills the night. The only sound I sleep better to is the joyful racket of the spring peepers, a blessing that can cause me to keep a window open during an April night in the forties. (This, of course, can only happen in a separate room from my cozily slumbering wife). There are a handful of leftover Katydid's out here too, both insects running out of time fast, calling poignantly for companionship. Singing (leg scraping) comes from 360 degrees. Although I wasn't here, this earth music began in mid-July signaling midsummer. As it does each time I'm around to hear it, it means the slippery slope toward winter has begun, despite also meaning to each life in the night, "This is as good as it gets - do it now!"

Having just returned from a summer in the high desert, I am lucky to get this opportunity to sleep out in Connecticut, and I revel in it - in northern Arizona it seemed like only one cricket had been assigned to each yard. Nights there were way too quiet.

Why does a guy in his late sixties choose to spend a night on a marginally comfortable plastic chaise lounge on the patio once in a while? I do own a fine tent. Despite all my other interactions with nature (and there are many) once I discovered this, it stuck. It's easy, and in a mild way, it evokes the feeling of being unprotected, and that is profoundly satisfying to me in this overly PC, claustrophobic mechanized 21st century. One of the local coyotes might walk up and sniff my snoring exposed face. A skunk may disapprove of my rolling over. I could get bit by a tick or a mosquito and contract a terrible disease. Oh, and a meteor might hit me. I'm kidding - none of that is real; it's probably just a Paleolithic memory of danger in the dark which now pleasantly drifts through my thoughts.

This is my home, this back yard, just as much as the rooms inside. It's an auxiliary living room and dining room for much of the year; it might as well be a bedroom too.

There is a thin cloud cover obscuring the sky, and so on this night of the full moon, the whole firmament gently glows except a few holes through which stars are visible. Used to be able to see a lot more of them when we moved in here. Blocked from of my sight by the house, Orion is beginning his swing up into the eastern sky.

Against this unusually pale background, the oaks are dark silhouettes all around, and if I rolled on my side I'd see their shadows. In the front yard, there is a huge White Oak and an equally tall Red Oak, both now dramatic figures visible over the roof. I get to compare them each season for color, amount and size of acorns, times of leafing out and times of losing the last of the dry brown leaves to winter. Botany 101. The Red Oak has one branch on which leaves rattle on until spring. For reasons known only to them, the Orioles usually choose this tree to nest in over the White Oak.

Motorcycles and trucks gear down for the intersection by the Drive-In a half mile away, and then wind it out again. Used to be quieter here too, I recall resentfully for the hundredth time. By far the loudest noise, though, is the acorns. When they fall, they violently rip through several leaves on the way, then hit the ground with a satisfying thunk. Cannon shells. The ones that fall on the roof bonk, the ones that hit the driveway chink, with a clear cracking sound. (A windy October day here demands a hard hat.) I see now; in the absence of day's distracting sights and sounds I'm paying attention better, despite gradually falling asleep. Thunk bonk chink.

You wake up too often when you sleep out like this, but you go back to sleep quickly too. There's the Barred Owl hooting. I wonder if he's one of babies that fledged around the yard years ago in the evenings, now grown. There were four of them, playing follow the leader from tree to tree in the early evening, announcing "scree-eee" and looking curiously at me. I can even see the leaves, pirouetting their way down, silhouetted against the sky. Yeah, it feels like home.

clarity) of lakes and HOBO temperature monitoring. In addition, she described some of the equipment used gathering data on water quality. She provided some details on the effects of summer stream temperature, habitat continuity (culverts), streamside riparian cover, and storm water runoff on fish communities.

Another program that TLGV is pursuing the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to work with volunteer land owners to improve the soil health and water quality in the Thames River watershed. The Last Green Valley is part of the Thames River Basin Partnership and they hold quarterly TLGV Water Advisory meetings to discuss water quality and quantity issues, conduct field trips with representatives of other CT & MA groups. Jean Pillo provided us with a very informative and outstanding presentation.

Anyone interested in representing Thames Valley TU at the Advisory Meeting or the Thames River Basin Partnership meetings please contact Duke Preston or a Board of Directors member. This would go a long way in working on one of our **Strategic Goals: Build Relationships with Landowners, Conservation Groups, and Local/State Agencies.** See our [Strategic Plan](#) on our website.



Considering the last minute change of our monthly meeting location to the American Legion in Jewett City we had a good turnout for our annual election and featured guest Jean Pillo. A special thanks to Gene Cyr and the American Legion for accommodating us on short notice.

## Fly Tying Tips

By John Preston

### Magnetic Pick-up Tool...

Here is handy tip I just picked up (pun intended) from Bob Walsh. I noticed he had a couple of magnetic pick-up tools (I use them all the time when I drop screws & bolts into the engine compartment while working on my cars) by his fly tying area while he was cranking out some Glo-Bug eggs. I asked what he use them for. And, before he provided me the answer the

The vehicle noise diminishes to nothing around two, followed by the Katydid's. Crickets will not quit, nor will the acorn bombs, but the overall impression is now of peace. Fade out. Later on, I am again awake for the first whistle of the northbound freight, and notice through an open patch that Orion is now almost overhead. The train blows its 5-note diminished chord for each of five crossings on its journey up the river valley, faint at first. As it passes, the two longs, one short, one long call is loud and the clatter of steel wheels drowns out the crickets, then for the last crossing it's barely heard again. Night trains have been part of my life here for forty years; other ones go back to childhood. Mysterious yet familiar, they seem like part of a vaguely remembered story that actually was real all the time.

It's still bright with moonlight, though the moon too has moved. If it was daylight, the Oaks would be green except for deep red tops, but the Maples, Hickory, Birches (and the Black Cherry that the Pileated Woodpecker likes) are orange and yellow. Baby Maples are a sparse red ground cover. The hill drops quickly down to the brook where I will watch the deer doze winter days away snuggled in snow. Tomorrow Chickadees will land on me and complain if don't fill the Black Oil Sunflower feeder first thing. They along with the Titmice and Nuthatches are somewhere hidden until morning, when the Barred Owl will take a last look around for suckers. Think bonk chink.

Sleep comes again easily. I'm just an insignificant part of the local geography right now, but by being out here I've reaffirmed my connection to the earth. Comfortable in this minor role, I'm back in my world. The next time I wake, the short-lived but vivid colors of autumn in New England will be just appearing in the soft blue morning light.

## Yantic River Clean-up



Gene Cyr and the guys removed a lot of debris from the river banks during the October 15 clean-up. Don Avery shows the rivers normal level which is a few feet above the present condition. We need rain and a lot of it.

light went on and, of course, he used them to pick up any hooks that fall on the floor. If you ever had to look for those #24/26 hooks that fell on carpet floor you know what I mean. No bending over or on your hands knees...Great idea! And your bare feet will thank you too...



## Fly of the Month - "Nick's Soft Hackle"

By John Preston



This productive soft hackle has earned a permanent place in my fly box. Designed by Nick Nicklas, this

English styled pattern uses a collar of partridge and the flash of zelon with a natural fur body, creating the perfect classic caddis emerger.

Attach the tying thread at the rear of the hook and dub a shaggy/spikey body forward just a few wraps behind the eye. Attach the underwing of zelon (10 - 15 strands) on top of the hook. I find if you use too much zelon the fly tend to float which can be good thing sometimes. The underwing is about the length of the body. As you secure the zelon, fold & fan it out from side to side of the top of the hook. Tie in the partridge hackle by the tip and wrap it two or three times around the hook. Form a small head very close to the eye and whip finish. Normally, it is fished across and downstream but it can also be fished upstream and dead-drifted. It is a great searching fly and a deadly fly when the caddis are hatching...

### Fly Tying Recipe: Nick's Soft Hackle

**Hook:** Tiemco 2302 #16 or equivalent

**Thread:** Danville's brown 6/0

**Body:** Green, tan or brown fur (hare's ear) dubbing

**Underwing:** White zelon

**Hackle:** Brown or gray partridge



## Editor's Desk

As much as I don't like admitting it I am a name dropper. I'll often talk about the people of notoriety I've met and even rubbed elbows with. And I am going to do that right now mentioning a name all, or certainly most of you know, and that's George Jacobi.

Now I don't think I've met George yet but I've certainly read his articles in this publication over the past few years and they give me a pretty good sense of his writing skills and the person he is. And when we do meet I am sure I'll feel like I've known him for years.

George has the rare talent of connecting with people through his writings. He makes you feel like you are there with him on the adventure. Enjoying every minute and wishing the story wouldn't end.

His piece "The Well" was printed in this very newsletter back in October 2014. It was so well received that it found its way into the most recent issue of Trout Magazine under "Voices from the River". And if you are a regular reading of our national publication you that is no small accomplishment. Only the best of the best find their efforts used in this outstanding magazine.



Now realize George's article doesn't only bring him notoriety it does the same for the Thames Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter. We share in the glory as one of our own is recognized for his outstanding contribution. So let's all join in saying thank you George for a job well done. And don't hesitate to tell your friends that you know George Jacobi. Being a name dropper isn't always a bad thing.

Ed Walsh



## Place an Advertisement in "Stream Lines"

Looking to reach a new and diverse audience? Presently we have over 470 members in Eastern CT and the newsletter is published September through May (9 issues). If you have a service or product and would like to reach out to our outdoor and conservation minded readership, consider placing an advertisement in the chapter's newsletter "Stream Lines" and website. The cost is only \$50 for the entire year (9 Issues). For more information and to place an ad, contact [Jackie Preston](#).

Thanks for your support!

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**Jacqueline P. Preston**  
 Owner

## About Us

To join Thames Valley TU or for information please visit our website [www.thamesvalleytu.org](http://www.thamesvalleytu.org).

Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact: [walsh4613@cox.net](mailto:walsh4613@cox.net) | PO Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350 | Thames Valley Trout Unlimited | (401) 742-6536 |.

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