



## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*"The Voice for Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers"*

October 2015

**Dear Member,**

This month's Membership meeting will feature Bruce Marino, a veteran Farmington River guide, and Ted Johnson (videographer). They will present detailed information on hatches, guiding techniques and where to fish the Farmington River. This should be great opportunity to learn more about one of the best "year-round" trout rivers in CT. Visit our website for more information.

In addition, we will conduct our TVTU annual election of officers. The candidates who have asked to be considered for: President: John Preston; Vice President: John "Duke" Preston; Treasurer: Jackie Preston; and Secretary: still vacant. Additional candidates may be nominated at the meeting. Please consider volunteering for these positions and for the Board of Directors position of TIC/Education Coordinator.

Shortly we will be receiving trout eggs for our TIC schools and will need a few volunteers to help deliver them. Please contact me if you are interested helping out. We have recently added the Griswold Elementary School and C.H. Barrows STEM Academy in North Windham, CT to increase the number of TVTU TIC schools to 14. Therefore, it would really expedite delivery times with a few more volunteers. If any of you are interested in becoming a "TIC Mentor" to these schools, please let me know.

Another opportunity for us is to lend a hand with the Wounded Warrior Appreciation Day at the Pomfret Rod & Gun Club NOV 7th. We will be providing fly tying and fly casting instruction for the veterans. It's the least we can do for the veterans who have sacrificed much for our country. We could use some fly tiers and casting help. Details are posted on the website. Contact Ray Schaefer or sign-up at the meeting.

As mentioned at our last meeting and thanks to Gary Lussier, Jenn Miner and Sal DeCarli, we will soon have a Facebook page up for all you "social media" fans. Once the format has been finalized you all will be notified. Stay tuned....

See you at The Moose!



John Preston, *President*  
Thames Valley TU, Chapter 282  
[jpreston44@yahoo.com](mailto:jpreston44@yahoo.com)



# Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, October 20th - 6:00pm**  
**Chapter Membership Meeting, Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT**  
*Bruce Marino (Farmington River Guide)*  
*Annual Election*

**October 31- November 1, Art of the Angler Show**  
*Ethan Allen Inn, Danbury, CT*

**November 7th, Veterans Event (Wounded Warriors)**  
**Pomfret Rod & Gun Club, Pomfret, CT**  
*TVTU providing Fly Casting & Fly Tying instruction*  
*Volunteers Needed. (See website for detail)*

**Tuesday, November 17th - 6:00pm**  
**Chapter Membership Meeting, Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT**  
*Douglas Thompson - Book talk "The Quest of the Golden Trout"*

## October 20th Membership Meeting - Raffle Table

At the October 20th meeting the raffle table will be stocked with over thirty quality items including a new 8ft-4wt-2 piece fly rod, a new "John Norris Evolution WF6 fly line", and a new Reel. If you can donate a fly fishing item or two bring it along to the meeting. Donated items are very important to our fund raising effort.

## [Free Upgrade to a Family Membership](#)

We are pleased to launch [a new Free Family Membership Upgrade offer](#) to any existing Trout Unlimited member -- for a limited time only! By signing up and adding the names and information for the family members living in your household at [www.tu.org/familymembership](http://www.tu.org/familymembership), you will enjoy the benefits of a TU family membership for the duration of your regular membership for free.

## Riffle Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV) Training

by Jim Smith



Irv Stanley & Dave Parry RBV-ing

In late August, TVTU members Mike Lake, Mary Lake, Dave Parry, Irv Stanley, Gary Lussier, Jim Smith and Don Avery participated in training to become Riffle Bioassessment Volunteers, or RBVs. The training was conducted by Jean Pillo of The Last Green Valley Water Quality Monitoring Program.

The RBV program was developed by CT DEEP to train citizen scientist how to help document healthy

streams. The program uses sampling nets and a specific protocol to capture, sort, and identify nymphs or bugs living in riffles in first order streams or brooks.

Nymphs and other aquatic insects are good water quality indicators because they are surrounded by the water most of the year. Certain nymphs, such as Isonychia, BWOs, and Golden Stones, to name a few, are more stressed by pollution than others and considered "Most Wanted". If these pollution sensitive nymphs are living in a brook, then a lot is known about that brook without any chemical analysis. The RBV process helps to gather important baseline information on the healthiest streams and the information is useful to municipalities during land use decision making. In addition, CT DEEP uses this volunteer data as part of their water quality assessment report to Congress when four or more "good" bugs are found in a stream.



The RBV program is a fun way to collect important information to help protect our local watersheds. It's also a great lesson on how to ID nymphs and a fun way to meet other people that share your interest in habitat conservation. Sampling season is from September - November. The RBV goal this fall is to survey at least 20 streams. Due to low water this fall, sampling has been limited; however, with the recent rains sampling is now feasible in some areas. TVTU members Irv Stanley, Dave Parry and Jim Smith were able to conduct one sampling event in early Oct at Beaver Brook in Scotland at the Talbot WMA. See photos within article.



For more information or to volunteer for the RBV program please contact Jean Pillo at The Last Green Valley;

Jean Pillo, CPESC  
Watershed Conservation Project Manager  
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District  
[www.ConserveCT.org/Eastern](http://www.ConserveCT.org/Eastern)  
Thames River Basin Partnership Coordinator  
The Last Green Valley Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring  
Coordinator  
860-928-4948 x 605

For additional details on the RBV program visit the [CT DEEP website](http://www.ctdeep.org)

## Housatonic River Fishing Trip September 18 & 19

by John Preston



Pete & Rick wet wading

George Jacobi and I got an early start by arriving on the 17th to ensure we could reserve lodging for the twelve Thames Valley members and family planning to attend our 2nd "Housy" Fishin' trip. Though this may sound very noble of us we really wanted get the upper hand on how the fishing was... especially, since the water levels were low and day time temps were high. We were rewarded with some good fishing. George reeled in 9 trout and a couple of smallmouths, and I only managed a couple (missed plenty). My excuse is that I was still on western timing because cutthroats are slow takers. The Iso's came off first and after a 15 -20 minute pause... followed by Light Cahills (size #16). A pattern that repeated its self each night we were there.

Friday morning after securing a cabin and campsite we sampled a couple of pools with little action. George was able to catch a couple small browns with a Honey Ant. It was just too bright and warm for

sustained hatches/action. Unless you targeted smallmouth the fishing was confined to the morning and evening. Because of this we planned our meals accordingly (4:30 pm).

As usual meals were prepared by Duke Preston and Jenn Miner. I believe all campers would agree we were well fed (steak and BBQ chicken dinners and pancake & sausage breakfast) and worth much more than the small fee charged. Some members brought some various sweets and snacks for desert and munching by the fire after an evening of fishing.



Steak Night along the Hous

Fishing Friday evening was a mixed bag. George and I had good luck somewhere below Carse Brook Pool. This time I was more successful and brought to hand 4 nice browns (missed a couple)... not bad for an hour or so of time on the water. The others worked the campground pools with fair results. The fish were there but you needed to locate the holding spots due to the low water & high temps.



Heading out to the "Spot"

Saturday was a much better fishing experience for all. Rick did well but Pete (9 years old) out fished George "Midge Master" DeGray (39 +/- years old) by catching two browns and a bass during the day. George who was having trouble having to fish with flies bigger than #24 finally was able redeem himself that evening by hauling a couple. Tim "Energizer Bunny" Pindell as usual was only seen and "dry" during meals... the rest of the time he pounding the river and reeling in the fish. Cabin "boys" Irv Stanley, Gary Lussier and Bob Davis caught their share at the Pine Hole and other pools that they

explored. Duke was hot that morning by netting 4 trout... one being a plump 15 inch Rainbow. Jenn caught a Brownie... a great improvement over her 50 lb. "granite trout" last year. And Tristan (new to fly fishing) caught his first fish... a (Housatonic Tarpon) on a fly! Jacobi had to leave so I hung around the campground and did real well after a 10 minute shower perked up the trout hiding in the riffles with a #16 Light Cahill until I couldn't see it any longer.

Again, another great Housy trip! If haven't joined in the fun, food & fishing along the banks of the Housatonic yet... you don't know what you are missing. Of course, there is always next year...

For more pictures of the trip. [Housy Slideshow](#)

# "The River"

by Peter Fallon

Submitted by Charley McCaughtry

He is whipping the air into  
shape;  
the flies he has tied  
drift dry as a bone.  
He has taken an element  
in his stride.

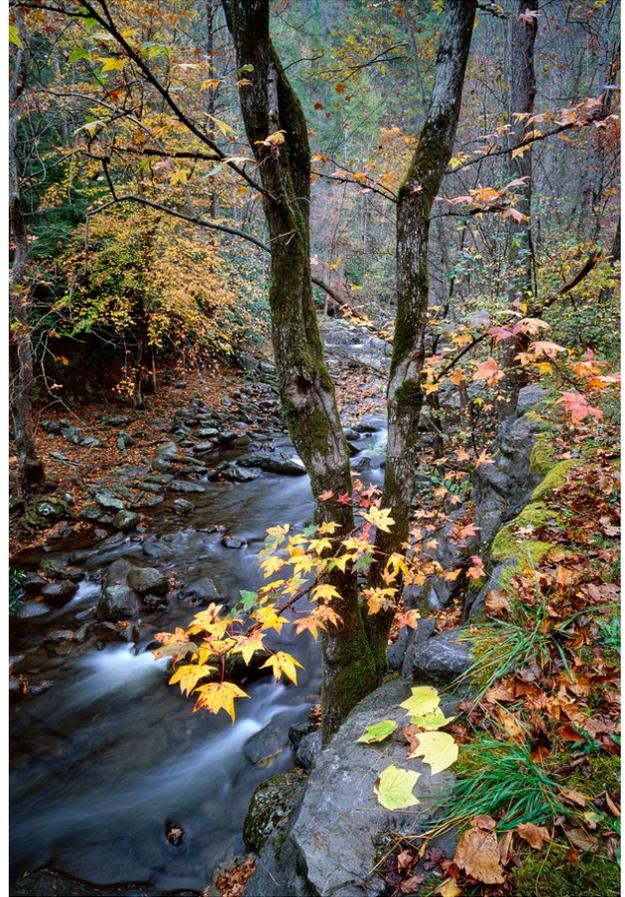
He is driving them on,  
the waterway horses,  
flailing the crop of up country spawns.  
Beneath is the grain. Splashes  
are chaff of whitewater courses.

He has stepped into the same stream  
often and recently seen it putrefy.  
He has loved a place  
he'll feel a need to leave.  
They had to milk the good cow dry.

He was making light but not little of  
the tarnished hallmark  
of the bank, the copper line,  
dank overgrowth. He was making  
light of midsummer dark.

When we were fishing and thinking  
with a friend. 'There's a lake,'  
wrote a man, 'deep  
in the mind of everyone,'  
and he was making a mistake.

It's a river...



c 1992 Peter Fallon



## Fly of the Month *"Ausable Wulff"*

*Video and tying by Tightlines Productions*

The Ausable Wulff has been one my top go-to "searching" flies forever. Just like the Adams it just so buggy looking that it represents various aquatic insects hatching throughout the season.

(Shhhh...secret) It is very effective during a tan caddis hatch on Grand Lake Stream in June. No fly vest should be without one. Tie one today. [Link to tying video](#)  
Fly Tying Recipe: Ausable Wulff

Hook: Dai-Riki 300 dry-fly hook, size 14/16.  
Thread: Orange, 8/0 or 70-denier.  
Wing: White kiptail (or calftail), cleaned and stacked.  
Body: Cinnamon-color or tan Australian possum.  
Hackle: Brown and grizzly.  
Head: Tying thread and head cement.

## CT Fishin' Tips

The following articles are taken from CT DEEP's "CT Fishin' Tips" November 2014 newsletter that you can subscribe to. [DEEP Website](#)



Atlantic Salmon (Surplus broodstock): The Connecticut River strain of Atlantic salmon is the southernmost population in the world. The Inland Fisheries Division, at our Kensington Hatchery, maintains enough fish to keep this strain genetically viable. Each year some of the fish in the 2-3 year old range are determined to be "surplus". These fish are stocked into the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers, as well as selected lakes, creating a unique opportunity to catch a fish once prominent in Connecticut's larger rivers.

Please be advised that wild Atlantic salmon, returning from sea, are no longer being captured and retained for restoration efforts. As such, there is a small possibility that an angler may catch one in a river or stream other than the Shetucket or Naugatuck. Fishing for Atlantic salmon outside of the designated surplus broodstock areas is prohibited. Any "wild" salmon accidentally captured should be treated with utmost care with immediate release upon capture.

## Have You Fished Here?

Naugatuck River, [Campville Section](#).

Once home to tremendous levels of industry and manufacturing, many of us can remember when the Naugatuck River was synonymous with pollution (and a big flood). Welcome to the new and improved Naugatuck. Years of work to improve water quality, reducing nutrients and other pollution, now make fishing the Naugatuck a reality (not a secret to those of you who are routinely out on the river). A ride along Route 8 allows you to get a glimpse of the incredible river channel, carving its way through from Winchester Lake to the Housatonic River in Derby. While the Naugy offers a diversity of fishing locations and opportunities, we call your attention to the section from Route 118

(Torrington/Litchfield) south to the Army Corps flood control dam (Thomaston). Known as the "Campville" Section, much of the river is hidden from Route 8. Popular with anglers, this trout management area (year round catch and release) has a lot of room to spread out, making you feel like you have the entire river to yourself. The Inland Fisheries Division also stocks surplus broodstock Atlantic Salmon into this section, drawing anglers from all around (please refer to the Angler's Guide for regulations).



Preston

## September Meeting Recap Scotland Dam Update Shetucket River

By John

FirstLight representative Mr. Stuart Piermarini provided an update of the Scotland dam. His presentation walked us through the history of the run of Shetucket River from "pond and release" days, the present situation, to hopefully, by November 2016, when there will be instantaneous Run-of-River. This will be possible once FirstLight upgrades the present turbine which requires a minimum of 1000 CFS to produce electricity to a double regulated Kaplan turbine which can operate between 160 CFS and 1350 CFS. Of course, when the river flows greater the water will be allow to spill or gates will be opened.

Mr. Piermarini also went over the Recreation Management Plan for the dam which has been approved by FERC this September. Since the property along the east bank of the Shetucket is own by Providence & Worcester Railroad, FirstLight cannot develop the access to the river. However, there will be tailrace fishing access and a canoe portage trail along the west bank. A gravel path and bench area will be provided for the canoe portage trail. Unfortunately, presently there is no direct land access to the west bank fishing area. In addition, there is a 250 foot restricted "No Fishing" area below the dam and the east bank for obvious safety reasons and protection of the fish passage on the eastside of the dam. Please see PowerPoint presentation posted on our [TVTU website](#) for clarification.

There was some concern from some of our members on knowing what the flow or CFS will be at any given day... we use to be able make a phone call to determine how the river was flowing. Presently there is process to convey this information. For now the only way is to look at the flow near Willimantic above the pond area and it will give you an approximate rate of flow. In other words, the rate that flows in is about the rate that flows out of the dam. [Shetucket Willimantic](#)

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**Jacqueline P. Preston**  
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## 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 purchase an ad contact Jim Smith via email at, [jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com). Thanks for your support!

## Help Raise Funds for Thames Valley TU



by Jim Clark

### Dear Chapter Members...

Here is a way you can help us raise funds to support our various projects. Donate your no longer used Fly Fishing equipment and books. We will raffle them off and use the money raised to support the chapter's various projects. As a non-profit chapter we can give you a letter for the value of your items which you can use for tax filing purposes. For more information and to make a donation call Jim Clark at 860-546-6924. Thanks for your support!

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