



## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

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

**April 2014**

**Dear Member,**

Spring has finally arrived! The crocus and daffodils are blooming. The robins are rockin', DEEP is stockin', and UCONN is once again the college basketball center of the universe, Go Huskies! All is right with the world...

If you're like me this year, you haven't even started preparing for another season of trout fishing. By now, I usually have cleaned and stretched my fly lines, greased and oiled the reels, checked my waders & boots, and tied several dozen flies for the new season. Not this year... With instruction from Bob Walsh, I have been busy putting in over 60 hours building my first bamboo fly rod. It has been a lot of work and I am almost finished. Can't wait to try out my Payne "98" (7 ft., 3/4 wt., 2 pc, 2 tip) fly rod. It isn't perfect but it's not bad for my first effort. I will be proudly displaying it at the April meeting. I'll see if fellow student John Pallof will display his bamboo rod too. Check them out. If I can do it, so can you! Boy, I'm hooked and I am already planning two more!

By the way, Bob Walsh has built and donated a "Thames Valley TU Special" graphite multi-piece fly rod and custom hand crafted cedar hexagon rod case to the chapter for our fund raising efforts. Thanks Bob!!! More info to follow.

I and all the board members and volunteers, have also been busy working to improve our newsletter, updating our website (more info to come), scheduling programs for the remaining membership meetings, stream clean-ups, and events. We just scheduled a combined clean-up and fishing trip outing on the Natchaug River for Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 (see details below).

Anyone interested in participating in the stream cleanup in the morning and/or fishing the Natchaug River in the afternoon just meet at Diana's Pool at 9:00 AM. Please see the newsletter for more information and directions. A lunch of hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be served around noon at the Natchaug State Park Trout Park to all who participate. After lunch, we hope to have a great day of fishing! If you've never fished the Natchaug come join us and I'm sure there will be a stream "master" willing to give you a few pointers. Or, if you are familiar with the Natchaug, join us anyway and we can all lie about the one that got away!

John Preston, *President*  
Thames Valley TU, Chapter 282  
[johnpreston@thamesvalleytu.org](mailto:johnpreston@thamesvalleytu.org)



# Calendar of Events

**Tuesday April 15th, 6:30 pm**  
**Chapter Membership Meeting**  
*Wet Flies 101, by Steve Culton*

**Saturday April 19th**  
**Opening Day!**

**Sunday April 27th, 9:00 am**  
**Natchaug River Cleanup**  
Meet at Diana's Pool (details below)

**Tuesday May 20th, 6:30 am**  
**Chapter Membership Meeting**  
Stream Flow Regulations, by CT DEEP

**Friday May 30th & Saturday May 31st**  
**Annual Sandy Beach Camp-out & Breakfast on the Shetucket River**  
Details to be announced soon

**Saturday June 28th, 9:00 am**  
**Moosup River TMA Cleanup**  
Look for details in next month's newsletter



## The Allure of Bamboo

*By Morgan McGinley*

Every trout fisherman should have the experience of fishing bamboo, especially with dry flies. I know, bamboo is expensive, but with many of the best plastic carbon-fiber rods now approaching \$900, the gap has closed.

And you don't have to pay \$1,500 to \$2,000 to get a good bamboo rod. It's possible to own a well-made production rod -- such as a Granger or Wright & McGill Granger -- for \$400 to \$700. The Granger rods are almost uniformly beautiful casting rods. Bob Summers, the famous Michigan rod maker who worked for Paul Young, told me he never saw a Granger rod that didn't cast well. And that's high praise from Summers, who is pretty fussy when it comes to rod actions.

Summers points out that there are more good rod makers than ever. They include so-called amateurs all over the country who use some of the best tapers ever invented by Payne, Leonard, Winston, F.E. Thomas, Paul Young, R.D. Taylor, Marc Aroner, Per Brandin and others. Many amateurs are artists when it comes to finishing a rod in a pretty way.

One of the greatest bargains in rods today is the Jenkins rod made in Colorado. Jenkins' actions are similar to Garrison tapers and the rods cast effortlessly. Jenkins rods rarely come to the used market, but for some reason, the rods don't cost much when they are available. I tell Steve Jenkins, the successor to his father Charlie, that he doesn't charge enough for new rods. You can buy a new Jenkins for about \$1,800, a price charged by many other rod makers with about one-tenth of Jenkins' experience. If you look around patiently, you might be able to find a used Jenkins in great shape for \$1,100.

That's a lot of money but if you eat out a little less often or throw \$15 in an old coffee can every week, you can soon afford bamboo. Of course, your spouse may protest the infrequency of dinners out, but that's your personal

problem to work out. I suggest just saying: But honey, your sacrifice will get me to bamboo. Then leave the room quickly.

What about the technical elements? A bamboo rod is forgiving, a polite way of saying slower, in a way that graphite is not. The great thing about fishing bamboo with dry flies is that you can make a correction in mid-cast to adjust to where the rise is. The fly lands lighter on the water with bamboo because most graphite rods are generally too stiff and too fast for good dry fly action. Once you start the cast with graphite, there is no turning back. And fishing short casts is much easier with bamboo than graphite because the more progressive nature of bamboo allows for fishing close to the trout. Many graphite rods simply won't fish well on short casts.

Most fishermen think bamboo rods are slow, but that's only because the makers keep turning out graphite rods that are increasingly faster. For example, Summers' rods are semi-parabolic -- meaning that they have the feeling of bending right down into the grip. But his rods are by no means slow. Even his small rods will deliver line quickly and produce tremendously long casts for their relative weight.

I like to tell my non-fishing friends that fly fishing is wonderful because: Trout always live in beautiful places. The sound of the water going by is hypnotizing in the fashion that the sound of the ocean is. The flow of water as you are wading is almost like being in a whirlpool bath. Finally, there is a sweet rhythm to the casting and a wonderful sensation as you feel the rod -- bamboo of course -- working in your hand.

But my old friend Jay Crowley, a wonderful fisherman and longtime Thames Valley member, had the best answer. It seems a graphite rod fisherman was waxing poetic about all the virtues of his rod -- lighter, faster, able to throw long lines easily. On and on he went until Crowley, couldn't stand it any longer. Being ungrammatical on purpose for emphasis, Crowley replied: "Yeah, but graphite don't smell good."



## Fly of the Month

### *The Iris Caddis*

Article by John Preston, TVTU  
Video by Tim Flagler, Tightline Productions

I discovered the Iris Caddis at my favorite fly shop in West Yellowstone in 2008 and it's the most effective fly I have ever fished, East or West, Period! I don't have 25-plus fish days often, but that year I had eight in a row. It's now my go-to-fly. In fact, it's replaced the Adams and Ausable Wulff as the fly I fish most often.

The Iris is tied to simulate an emerging caddis and I fish it mostly like a dry fly. It's extremely easy to see, even with my aging eyes, and floats high in the water. It's also a great attractor fly when there's nothing happening.

The Iris is very easy to tie and a dozen can be cranked out in no time at all. Size 16 is the best all-around size, but the pattern can also be tied in sizes ranging from 14-20. It's best to blend the dubbing for the thorax, i.e., green & olive instead of straight olive or straight green. It can also be tied in a variety of colors depending on the season and type of caddis being imitated. When tied on an emerger hook, dress the wing so the body will lay downward in the film, deadly during an evening hatch!

A little tip... add a dozen or so Improved X Caddis (also known as X2 Caddis) in similar colors to your fly box. You be glad you did.

Click the video link to learn how to tie the Iris Caddis; [Iris Caddis Tying Video](#)

Recommended reading: "Fly Patterns of Yellowstone: Volume Two" by Craig Mathews/John Juracek. Or check out their website: [Blue Ribbon Flies Website](#)



# Conservation Call to Action

## - Fracking Waste in CT

## - Protect CT Public Lands

By Alicea Charamut, Farmington Valley Chapter

There are three bills currently in the legislature that impact our coldwater fisheries resources in Connecticut.

Two relate to hydraulic fracturing waste. This waste has the potential to pollute our surface water and fish habitat. [SB 237 An Act Prohibiting the Storage and Disposal of Fracking Waste in Connecticut](#) would keep fracking waste out of Connecticut. [HB 5308 An Act Concerning the Regulation of Fracking Waste and its By-Products](#) would essentially be a green light for our state to accept and dispose of this waste within our state. For more information on why Connecticut should not accept Hydraulic Fracturing Waste [please click here](#).

The last bill will give citizens a voice in securing state lands that allow public access to and protect many of our pristine rivers and streams. [SB 70 And Act Concerning the Grant of Property Interests in Property Held by the Departments of Agriculture and Energy and Environmental Protection and the Establishment of a Public Use and Benefit Land Registry](#) would require a public hearing for the proposed transfer and sale of state lands. Some legislators do not want this bill to pass because they want to continue to have the authority to transfer land purchased by taxpayers in back room deals. It is very important that we speak up.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please call your state Senator and Representative with the following message ([to find your local legislator, click here](#)): Give the aide your name and address and identify yourself as a Trout Unlimited member if you wish.

Ask them to please support SB 237 in order to protect our freshwater resources in Connecticut. And please support SB 70 to ensure the public is informed of and has a voice in how our lands are disposed.

Then ask them to oppose HB 5308 because passage of this bill would essentially be a green light for Connecticut to accept hydraulic fracturing waste.

You may also email your legislators with the same message.

I hope you will take just a few minutes to help protect our trout habitat in our state.



## TVTU Membership Milestones

This month, it's our honor to recognize the following long standing Thames Valley TU members with **30-34 plus years** on the membership roster. They are to be commended for their dedication to the chapter and countless hours of support and volunteer work. Please help us congratulate them!

### **April Honorees - 30 to 34 years**

Rad Henke, James Kiess, Walter Koncinski, Richard Lamperelli, Michael Lawrence, Joseph Lockwood, John Majewski, Rick Romagna, John Sikorski, Stanley Warykas, Steven Cioria, Robert Frank, Tom Grabarek.

### **March Honorees - 35 years plus**

Lance Magnuson (52 yrs), Morgan McGinley, (38 yrs), Curtis Nelson (38 yrs), Walter Kent Jr. (38 yrs), Stephen Misovich (35 yrs)

## Free TU Memberships for Women!

TU is pleased to announce the launch of a limited time offer. From March 1 - May 31, 2014 TU is reviving the offer to [sign up women as new members at no cost](#). In addition, [women renew for half price, at a special \\$17.50 rate](#).

It's TU's goal to both add more women to our ranks and engage more women in TU's leadership.

In order to accomplish this goal, we need the support of every chapter member and membership chair out there. If you know a fisherwoman that's interested in becoming a new Thames Valley Chapter member please encourage them to visit the TU website at the link provided below and sign up for free. [Link to Free Women's Membership](#)

For any questions please contact John Preston at [john.preston@thamesvalleytu.org](mailto:john.preston@thamesvalleytu.org).



## Dear Thames Valley TU Members...



*Brook Trout, by Charley McCaughtry*

As you may have noticed, we're working hard to maintain communication with our chapter members via the newsletter and other announcements. Please help us spread the word! Forward this email to a buddy or family member and encourage them to attend a meeting and perhaps join our chapter.

Also, if you know someone interested in joining TVTU for a limited time they can join at half price or \$17.50. Have them visit our website and use the "Join TU" link on the front page. [Link to TVTU Website](#). In addition, for a limited time, each new member will receive a free TVTU published book "Trout Streams of Eastern CT" when they attend their first TVTU monthly Membership meeting. A \$15 value for members and a \$20 for non-members.

In addition, if you know a member that's not receiving our emails forward this newsletter to them and they can click on the link below to register their contact information with Thames Valley TU, [Click here to sign up for TVTU emails](#).

## Save the Date!



# Natchaug River Cleanup

**What:** River Cleanup (fishing in the afternoon)

**When:** Sunday April 27th, 9:00 am

**Where:** Meet at Diana's Pool in South Chaplin\*

\*Directions - Route 198 to Diana's Pool Road in South Chaplin. Park in the gravel parking area.

Come join Thames Valley TU on Sunday, April 27th at 9:00 AM for our annual Natchaug River Cleanup. We will meet at Diana's Pool in South Chaplin at the Diana's Pool access parking area.

We still have plenty of cleanup materials (bags, gloves, etc.) that were purchased with a grant from Last Green Valley. Lunch will be served and we'll make sure that hot coffee is available following the cleanup.

To volunteer or discuss river stewardship opportunities, please contact: Gene Cyr, River Cleanup Coordinator, Tel: 860-376-3350, Email: [gcyr@thamesvalleytu.org](mailto:gcyr@thamesvalleytu.org)



## March Membership Meeting - Salt Water Fly Fishing Napatree Point

We had a great turnout for our March Membership meeting. Captain Ray Stachelek of Cast a Fly Charters gave an extensive presentation of saltwater fly fishing Napatree Point at Watch Hill, RI.

He provided great information on how to read the beach and interpret wave action to help locate areas where bait fish might be when there is no apparent "bird action". He also described the types of baits and the flies that best imitate them, provided theories on fly pattern construction and materials, and gave a detailed geographic breakdown of the mile and half beach sand spit from the cabanas on the eastern edge to the rocky fort area on the west end or point. He also touched-on Little Narragansett Bay to the north and the open waters to the south off the beach.

If you've never fished Napatree before, give it a try in June; and of course, during the fall. You will be rewarded with some great fishing and a peaceful reflective time walking along the shore in search of your "Moby Dick" on a fly, as well as, some memorable sunrises and sunsets.

[Link to Cast a Fly Charters website](#)



# Yantic River - Spring Cleaning!

On Saturday morning March 29, 2014 fifteen TVTU members and non-member volunteers met at the Barstow Road cul-de-sac for the Yantic River Cleanup. We combed the river banks and roads of the Trout Management Area. There were plenty of clean-up materials on hand and coffee, donuts and brownies available following the cleanup. As in past years, the Lebanon Public Works Department assisted with trash removal. All we had to do is bag the trash and place it in a designated area for pick up by the Town crew later. The stream cleanup was funded in part by a grant from The Last Green Valley <http://www.tlgy.org>. In less than two and half hours we collected a great deal of trash. Mostly bottles and cans, but also tires, fluorescent tubes, a discarded mattress, broken glass, foam cups, flashlight, etc.

A very special "appreciation" to the following people who took the time out from their busy schedules to help spruce up the Yantic River: Lebanon Selectman Joyce Okonuk, Robert Heitman, Mark Eilenberber, Lance Magnuson, Don Avery, Morgan McGinley, Ray Schaefer, Charlie McCaughtry, Dixie Goodwin, Jim Clark, Gene Cyr, Peter Belisle, Duke Preston, and Jennifer Miner.



There are two more stream cleanups scheduled; The Natchaug River on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> and the Moosup River TMA on Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>. Bring along a rod & reel and we'll do some fishing after the stream cleaning! Look for details in the chapter newsletter(s).

To volunteer or discuss future river stewardship opportunities, please contact: Gene Cyr, River Cleanup Coordinator, Tel: 860-376-3350, Email: [gcyr@thamesvalleytu.org](mailto:gcyr@thamesvalleytu.org) or, sign up at the Membership meeting.



## Volunteer Needed!

Thames Valley TU could use a little help in the membership department. We are working on a campaign to boost membership and need help contacting members via phone, email, and letter. Short term commitment and you can work from home. If you can spare a few hours during the week and would like to pitch-in please send an email to our Membership Chair, Charley McCaughtry, [cmccaughtry@thamesvalleytu.org](mailto:cmccaughtry@thamesvalleytu.org).

Before you leave...

Meet the Hendricksons

The Forsythia are starting to bloom, get ready. [Link to Video](#).

Good luck on Opening Day!



To join Thames Valley TU or for more information please visit our website | [Link to Website](#)  
Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact Jim Smith, [Email Link](#)

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited | (860) 917-4485 | [johnpreston@thamesvalleytu.org](mailto:johnpreston@thamesvalleytu.org) |  
PO Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350