



Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

"The Voice for Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers"

April 2015

Dear Member,

Fishing season started a bit earlier this year, but ol' man winter just isn't cooperating. I expect sinking lines and/or heavily weighted flies will be in order for the near future. On the brighter side, if the current weather trend holds, early summer (late June/July) could be good for the fish and the fisherman. But I'm certain two rivers will be in a little better condition this year due to our planned stream clean-ups one on April 26th for the Yantic and the other on May 16th for the Moosup. I'm hoping we have a good turnout for these two events and asking you to pencil in these dates and signup now to help keep our area streams in tip-top shape. Bring along the family & friends, have a couple of hours of "clean" fun, making a difference and impact on your watersheds. Afterwards, stick around and enjoy a complimentary lunch with your fellow "conservationist" and maybe a little fishing to boot!

The next few months will be our busiest yet. Once the weather cooperates there will be some stocking. Our stocking coordinator, Ray Schaefer, is in standby mode ready to call the volunteers into action. We are also planning some fishing trips; locally, the Natchaug on May 2nd, and possibly trips with the Mianus chapter to the Farmington on June 13th and/or Housatonic in August for smallmouth bass. Also, based on Rob Nicolas's presentation on the "Housy", I'm considering a trip there in June. He said June is primetime dry fly action on the Hous. Then there's the CT Free Fishing Day on May 9th, and our annual campout and breakfast at Salt Rock State Park on June 5th & 6th. In addition, the TU Northeast Regional meeting is being held in Providence, RI on May 30th & 31st, something to consider. So, keep an eye on the newsletter and website for details or come to a monthly meeting for the latest information. Join in and get involved!

Oh, by the way, the April's meeting presentation will be on "Fishing Yellowstone National Park" by someone I have known all my life... Me! Yeah, I'm no expert or famous guide but I'll do my best to transport you to a place (and area) that I really love. I promise to have some "eye candy" type pics of a few fish I was lucky to know and a "little" (and I mean little) information on the fishing and what the park has to offer. If you haven't been there yet, don't miss it. And, if you have, come and share your experiences.

See you at the Moose...

John Preston, President



Thames Valley TU, Chapter 282
jpreston44@yahoo.com



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, April 21st, 6:00
TVTU Membership Meeting, Bozrah Moose Lodge
Speaker - John Preston "Fly Fishing Yellowstone National Park"

Saturday, April 26th - 9 am
Stream Clean-up, Yantic River TMA
(Details below)

Saturday May 9th, 9 am - 3 pm
Free Family Fishing Day - Gay City State, Hebron
(Details below)

Saturday May 16th - 9 am
Stream Clean-up, Moosup River TMA

Meet at Quinebaug Fish Hatchery, 141 Trout Hatchery Rd, Central Village



March Membership Meeting Recap...

Fly Fishing the Housatonic River, Argentina & Chile

by John Preston

March's Membership meeting featured Rob Nicholas, the longest-serving, full-time guide on the Housatonic River. Morgan McGinley introduced Rob as an "expert guide as well as one of the best companions on a river. He teaches without being preachy and is patient with anglers of various levels of experience." Rob also guides on the Farmington River and runs a travel service for anglers seeking the best of fly fishing in Argentina and Chile. His program was full of great video and stills covering the Housatonic and Farmington Rivers and South American fly fishing.



Rob started his presentation with a float trip down the Housatonic in May blind casting during a March Brown hatch. He said the nice thing about floating is you can use different rigs and outfits easily. Although he covered much of the river, I noticed that the section he discussed above the covered bridge produced some really nice trout. This section is deep and hard to wade. When streamer fishing he mentioned that he likes to use sink tip lines because they are easy to load and require less false casting. Being a disciple of Joe Humphreys he uses 6' to 7', 3X leaders that he ties himself for better performance. Rob is also an advocate of presentation over pattern of the fly.

He also touched on the Farmington River a bit. At times he floats the upper section if it's high enough, but mentioned that the lower section is much better for floating. He took us there during early spring fishing Hendricksons & stone flies, and transitioned to early summer using Iso Klinkhammers and terrestrials. We were treated to a high speed tying video of two patterns he highly recommends, the Iso Klinkhammer and his version of the Black Crowe Beetle. The beetle uses a body of peacock herl and black deer hair with a patch of elk hair on top to make it easier to spot.... this one should go into your arsenal of flies.

His presentation of Argentina was great. Especially the part that included one of our own, TVTU Member, Rodger Mitterling. Rodger was celebrating his birthday by "murdering" them on some lagoon (Lake). Also enjoyable was the camping and float trip down some river I can't remember or pronounce. But who could forget the 100 fish days that were possible.... maybe someday.

For more information on Rob's fly shop, guide services, and travel services, check out his website: www.housatonicanglers.com



The Angler's Art TVTU Fly Tying 101

by John Preston

First, a special shout out to Jack and Joe Balaint for providing their "Fish Connection" store in Preston for our weekly classes.



We had a good turnout and great enthusiasm for the seven sessions that were conducted during the very snowy and cold winter... only had to reschedule once! Bob Walsh, George DeGray, Phil Sand, Jack Balaint and myself provided the instruction in the "Angler's Art" of fly tying. After getting the novices up to speed with some basics we combined the class and proceeded to teach patterns from our experience that first, catch fish and yet they would learn techniques that would enable them to tie most any pattern that is out there. In addition, the students helped choose the type of fly they wanted to concentrate on from week to week.



Starting with the Wooly Bugger, we covered nymphs, dries, emergers, soft hackles, spinners, and streamers (fresh and saltwater). Here is the list of patterns demonstrated, learned and tied: Hare's Ear nymph, X-Caddis, X2 Caddis, Iris Caddis, Shop Vac nymph, Red Squirrel nymph, Thorax dry fly, Organza spinner, hackled spinner, poly spinner, Hendrickson(Catskill style), Muskrat soft hackle, parachute dries, Sparkle Dun, Brook's Stone fly, Borger's Wet/Dry fly, and Lefty's Deceiver. The only area we didn't cover were terrestrials, maybe in the fall.

New members to the fraternity of fly tyers are: Jim Smith, Pete Belisle, Paul Rice, David Parry, Gary Lussier, Robert Heitman, Rodger Mitterling, Jacob Isleib, and Steve Davis.



More photos on TVTU website, slideshow page, www.thamesvalleytu.org/slideshows





THEATER ON THE WATER

George Jacobi © 2015

Familiar streams keep flowing and producing memorable days, but by now some of the familiar characters are gone. Al Nineteen ("Hey, I got nineteen trout!") is fishing high above us now, along with Paul, whose ashes drift in the Matapedia. Joe RedBeard has a white beard - along with the rest of us, I might add. Just Talkin' Teddie long ago disappeared who knows where.

Teddie got his nickname on the Battenkill, a river he introduced us to in the 70s. A born salesman, Ted loved to talk. One time at the riverside camp, he was going on and on, making less and less sense. Someone eventually asked, "Teddie, what are you talking about?"

"I don't know," replied Ted, "I'm just talkin'."

ACT 1

Teddie was driving the four of us home one June evening after the darkness put an end to the dry fly fishing. On the way back to Camping on the Battenkill, he said that every once in a while, it seemed like we had a cop behind us. And then not. What the hell? When I looked myself, it was all black behind us.

Taking no chances, Ted turned right onto a one lane dirt road. We bounced along, and all the beer bottles that littered the floor front and back rattled and clinked. Where Quist and I were in the back, we had to wiggle our feet down between them to reach the floor. No shortage of glass, is what I mean.

We came to a stop as the road dead-ended in a cornfield, and sure enough, the Vermont police cruiser was right behind us. Teddie rolled the window down as the officer walked up to the car.

"Hey, son," the cop says, "Your trunk is open."

The police flashlight shone around the interior of the car. Ted babbled on as he went to close the trunk. The thousand dollars or so of bamboo rods and other fly tackle was all still there. Ted climbed back in the driver's seat. And the cop said, "Be careful on the way home, boys," and went on his way.

When we got frustrated at the Battenkill's relentlessly fussy trout, we would head up to the back of the town of Rupert to a huge woodland called the Merck Forest. A mile or so up the trail was an old farm pond of about a half acre or so that was stocked. Easy pickings. We liked to eat trout too, not just get refused and insulted by them.

At that time, Quisto had a graphite fly reel that he was growing more and more impatient with. The drag was so loose that it would backlash on every cast. Terrible piece of equipment. The well-known manufacturer will remain nameless.

Now when young, Quist was a guy who was not averse to making a dramatic statement. Once he had a party and shot his TV. Having previously determined that everything on it was crap, he got an extension cord and put the TV on the deck railing. The Carol Burnett Show was on at the time. Remington 20 gauge - the second one went through the bottom of the TV as it was airborne. So long, Carol. Good party.

Anyway, I watched, not understanding, as he reeled in and took off his fly, despite a bunch of browns feeding right in front of him. Then he reared back and threw that fly reel as high as he could. It came down in the middle of the pond, spooked the trout, and sank out of sight. I'm sure it's there still, functioning as an

artificial reef, and will be until it becomes a small circle of gray sand. Sunshine and a beer or two carried Quist through the rest of the afternoon. Next stop, Orvis.

ACT 2

My old pal Brown leans heavily toward preppiness, so it wasn't surprising that as a fly fisher he was solidly in the camp of bamboo rods, antique reels, and tweed. He is and was a dedicated, skillful and experienced angler. No graphite for this boy, that is until the lure of steelhead, salmon, and saltwater expanded his horizons.

In the mid-nineties, the False Albacore invaded southern New England like never before. ALL our horizons were expanded, and we learned that the tuna family was faster and stronger than every other fish.

Thousands of albies bombed around eastern Long Island Sound, gobbling peanut bunker and anything else unlucky enough to be in sight. Eight to fifteen pounds of chrome, glowing neon purple and green, they were beautiful - and addictive.

I finally get Brown to come along and give it a try, after explaining that a nine foot 10 weight rod was the only way to go; you needed serious power. That he had never been attached to anything like this before. That when the fish hit, you needed to look down, not watch the fish. Make sure you weren't standing on the fly line and that the loops made it into the guides without snagging, and that all this was going to happen in 2 seconds. And then you would find out how good the drag on your reel was when it got hot, and if you knew how to tie a backing knot.

So Brown shows up with a 10 foot 7 weight.

We're in the boat, tight to the outflow of the Millstone Nuclear Plant, where the tunas liked to hang out in the warmer water. You just cast, let it sink a while, and strip in the line as fast as humanly possible. No fly or baitfish can outrun an albie if he decides to eat it. I get one. Jay gets one.

Brown's turn, and bang, he's on. Oh yeah. The fish screams off to the south. And keeps going. You expect 100 yards of backing to peel off the reel, but this fish wasn't slowing and the bottom of the spool was in sight. Jay puts the boat in gear and we wave goodbye to all the other boats at the outflow.

Brown, rod bent way over, reels and reels. The albie runs and runs. Jay and I stop laughing long enough to sit down and eat our sandwiches. Millstone and Jordan Cove recede in the distance, and the low rocks of Two-Tree Island appear ahead. A half hour goes by. The tuna is now tiring and nearing the boat. Because of the too long, too thin rod, Brown cannot put enough pressure on the fish. Every time it takes off again, Jay and I are in hysterics. Finally the 12 pound football is near enough to see. It's snagged in the tail. No wonder you can't turn his head. More laughter.

The albie digs in and goes around the boat in circles. Maybe Brown will get dizzy and fall overboard. At about 45 minutes, I am finally able to grab it by the forked tail as it goes by and loft it into the boat.

Remarkably, the fish is not quite done. Despite all the abuse it swims off vigorously. The same cannot be said for Brown.

ACT 3

The sun was far below the horizon and the valley had entered that period of dusk that is so still it feels like time has stopped. The Farmington River slipped under the bridge and into the Church Pool, purring like a contented cat. It was a warm May evening with a heavy Sulphur hatch and the pool was full of fly anglers, all working trout that were busy working on the cream colored mayflies.

Trout were being caught and released regularly. Gentle splashes and the swish of rods in the air were all you could hear. An older guy we know named Jerry was into more trout than anyone else, not a surprise to us.

Now, Jerry is a cantankerous sort who doesn't abide fools gladly. He and his pal Charlie used to crab at many of the other fishermen they saw on the local rivers. The kind of guys where if you caught a dozen good browns and happily came up out of the water, they'd badmouth you because you hadn't used the right fly.

Not kidding - I saw this happen. Good stream entomologist, better fly fisherman, short on patience, is Jerry.

So the night got a bit darker and the Dorothea mayflies got heavier. It can be a little tricky during this hatch because the nymph, and therefore the emergent fly, is darker brown instead of light colored. Sometimes trout will key on the emerger only. Tonight was not one of those nights.

There were fish in reach of everyone, sucking in the bright duns as they floated along. So many were airborne that the old 'snowing' cliché made sense. Sulphurs landed on rods, shoulders, and hats. Sulphurs got stuck behind your glasses and inside your shirt. Sulphurs grabbed hold and climbed up waders.

Rods bent consistently around the wide silent pool. Jerry hooked, played and released a nice brown, maybe the 17th or so. There was one young guy in the middle of all this, and he was working hard but not catching anything. He had changed flies a couple of times. No dice. Finally, he screwed up his courage and called out to Jerry, "Hey, what are you using?"

Through the soft and limpid evening, Jerry's voice rang out loudly across the Church Pool. "What are you, @#%*ing blind?"



Stream Clean-up Schedule

Yantic River TMA, Sat April 25th - 9 am

Meet at Barstow Road cul-de-sac in Lebanon off Norwich Ave. Contact Gene Cyr for more information, (860) 376-3350, gcyr@att.net

Moosup River TMA, Sat May 16th - 9 am

Meet at Quinebaug Fish Hatchery, 141 Trout Hatchery Rd, Central Village. Contact Gene Cyr for more information, (860) 376-3350, gcyr@att.net

Spring is here and it's time once again for our annual stream clean-up events. We are looking for volunteers to roll up their sleeves, pitch-in, and pick-up (trash). Details are listed below. Come out and do your part for stewardship. It's a rewarding experience and a great way to meet fellow TVTU members and learn about the stream and where to fish. Lunch and refreshments will be served after each event. Feel free to bring your gear to fish afterwards.

A special thanks to our longtime dedicated Clean-up Coordinator, Gene Cyr. Gene has arranged pick-up for the collected trash and will have bags and gloves available for everyone.

We'd also like to thank The Last Green Valley for providing funding. To learn more about the Last Green Valley, please visit their website; <http://thelastgreenvalley.org/>

Free Family Fishing Day

Gay City State Park - Hebron

Saturday May 9th, 2015, 9 am -3 pm

For more information, go to www.NoChildLeftInside.org
or contact Teresa Gagnon at Teresa.Gagnon@ct.gov



10th Anniversary Great Park Pursuit Kicks-Off

Saturday, May 9, 2015
(and the fun continues until Saturday, June 20)

Free Family Fishing Day!
9 AM – 3 PM

Gay City State Park
Route 85, Hebron, CT

Register until noon on Friday, April 24th to be eligible for the final Great Park Pursuit prize or just come for the day.

www.NoChildLeftInside.org

Teresa.Gagnon@ct.gov
(860) 424-3680



*NEW

CT Wild Brook Trout Project

Web Based Tool to Catalog Wild Brook Trout in CT



Sal DeCarli, the Thames Valley TU Conservation Chair has developed a new web based tool to help catalog wild brook trout populations in the Thames Valley TU area and statewide. The tool was developed to assist TU and others with identifying local brooks, streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds that sustain wild brook trout populations.

The tool is very user friendly and designed to provide valuable data for best use practices related to watershed and fisheries management. Often, DEEP Fisheries does not have the resources and/or manpower to evaluate each potential wild brook trout stream in the state. This tool can supplement fisheries data collection. Our members have local knowledge with boots on the ground and along local brooks and streams and there's no one better than YOU to capture this information!

Please click on the following link to access the site, [CT Wild Brook Trout Project](#)

If you have questions or experience technical issues please send an email to the following email address
TUThames@gmail.com

Help Raise Funds for Thames Valley TU



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!

Fly of the Month *"Klinckhamer Special"*



Video and tying by Tim Flagler, Tightlines Productions

The Klinkhamer Special was developed by Hans van Klinken over 25 years ago. Tied in different colors and sizes, it can represent a wide variety of emerging aquatic insect species.

Ideally, no matter what size or color Klinkhamer you're tying, you should have a nicely tapered abdomen, which will hang down below the water's surface. The multiple hackle wraps along with the floatability of the yarn, will help the top part of the fly to float and be visible on top of the water. Hackle length is up to you, but, I prefer a little longer.

To me, Klinkhamers are more a style of flies rather than one single pattern. Don't be afraid to experiment with different materials, colors and sizes.

[Link to Tying Video](#)

Fly Tying Recipe: The Klinkhamer Special

Note:	Change the colors to match the naturals
Hook:	Orvis Czech Nymph Hook, size 12
Thread:	Black, 6/0
Post/underbody:	White polypropylene yarn
Body:	Tan Super Fine dubbing
Thorax:	Peacock herl
Hackle:	Medium Dun dry-fly hackle, slightly oversize
Adhesive:	Head cement



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". 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. Thanks for your support!

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To join Thames Valley TU or for more information please visit our website www.thamesvalleytu.org
Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact Jim Smith, jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited | (860) 917-4485 | ipreston44@yahoo.com |
PO Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350