



TROUT UNLIMITED

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

"The Voice for Eastern CT Salmon and Trout Anglers"

March 2014

Dear Member,

First, I must apologize if anyone came to last February's Membership meeting only to find out it was cancelled. Based on the weather reports I heard, my intent was not to cancel. By the way, I shouldn't be the one who decides to cancel due to weather... I'd rather drive in the snow than in the rain. And ask my son about driving during hurricane Bob.... our compact car became a submarine for a while. But, after traveling on I-395 around 3pm that day I had second thoughts. Boy, you would think that after all the storms we've had lately the plows would be on top of it and people would know how to drive in the snow!

Although I was able to contact the board members and ask them to reach as many people as they could and a few people who emailed or called me directly, and, get it announced on the radio via a roundabout way, circumstances beyond my and Jim Fonner's control prevented the posting of the cancellation on our website. In the near future, this will not happen again. I am in the process of setting up a different procedure for announcing a meeting cancellation due to weather. This will include TV, radio (I listened to one of our stations and never heard it... did you?), and our website. In addition, we will be able to bulk email all our members via Constant Contact (which we just contracted to better reach out to all of you). The TU.org bulk emailing process presently is unable to perform quick turn-a-rounds (less than 24 hours). So, bear with me and pray we don't get another weather event this month... please!?!

Continued below...

Calendar of Events

Tuesday March 18th, 6:30 pm

Chapter Membership Meeting

Salt Water Fly Fishing, *"From Watch Hill to Cape Cod"*

By Capt., Ray Stachelek

Saturday March 29th, 9:00 am

Yantic River Cleanup

Meet at Barstow Road cul-de-sac (details below)

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

Sat April 12th & Sun April 13th, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
JT's Fly Shop Spring Fling
Fisherman Flea Market, Buckley Plaza, Union (details below)

Saturday April 19th, 6:00 pm
Opening Day!



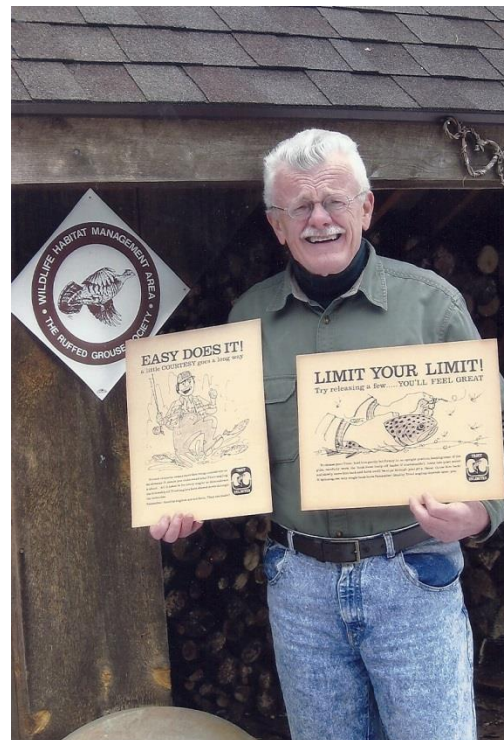
Member Recognition

Lance Magnuson - *Stream and Land Steward*

Lance Magnuson was a freshmen at Eastern Connecticut State College in Willimantic, majoring in biology, when he decided to join Trout Unlimited in the early 60s after receiving a complimentary copy of the organization's magazine *TROUT*. Like many of us, Lance cared about our rivers and streams so he did stream cleanups with a family member, friend or with members of an organization like Thames Valley TU. Lance began with his uncle and participated in cleanups that were organized by Harding Joray and his crew that worked out of the former Connecticut Fish and Game headquarters on Rte. 32 in North Franklin, now known as Franklin Wildlife. In addition, Lance and one of his TU buddies purchased a set of three signs, approximately 50 in all, promoting stream stewardship. They then went around to local streams and ponds frequented by fishermen and the general public and posted the signs. This was the beginning of his many years of commitment to river stewardship.

When float stocking was initiated by our chapter, Lance was streamside in his waders and ready to go. He continues to be a familiar sight along the Yantic and other rivers on stocking or cleanup days with a live cart in tow or trash bag in hand. He also continues to tag fish that he returns back to the streams and rivers where he frequently fishes and has done so, as far north as Alaska, Labrador, Canada, and as close to home as Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

In the later part of 2007, Lance and his wife, Pauline granted a conservation easement to Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust (<http://www.joshuaslandtrust.org>) on 33+ acres of land near their home on Hoxie Road in the town of Lebanon. Their land is now part of over 4,400 acres in Connecticut that Joshua's Trust protects. The conserved tracts consist of open fields, a pond, forested areas as well as wetlands. The conservation



easement protects their land against future development, industrial use, or any possible commercial endeavors. More specifically, it protects the open fields and forest land, and leaves undisturbed its inland wetlands and water courses that ultimately drain into the watershed of the Pease Brook, a primary feeder stream to the Yantic River. Also of considerable ecological importance is the fact that their easement abuts the Pember Wetlands in the town of Franklin of which Lance is the steward. Their conservation easement ensures the protection of an even larger contiguous tract of open space and provides for more diverse habitat for wildlife.

Lance and Pauline applied for and were granted wildlife habitat and environmental quality funds through the USDA and the NRCS (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/>) which afforded them the opportunity to do several important projects including the planting of warm season grasses, the extensive removal of several invasive plant species, as well as the development of a forest management plan. A shelter wood harvest is about to be implemented this summer as part of their efforts which will help to protect the endangered New England cottontail (<http://www.newenglandcottontail.org/projects/connecticut>).

One never knows who may be catching the "stewardship bug." Lance and Pauline have generously had it for numerous years.

Stay tuned to our newsletter and website for more articles about chapter members who have gone above and beyond. Invite a family member or friend to assist with stream cleanup or float stocking and be sure to donate in any way you can to protect our wet and forest lands. If you would like us to feature a story about a deserving Thames Valley TU member, please forward a draft article to; jsmith@thamesvalleytu.org.

Fly of the Month



Little Black Stonefly Nymph

by Tim Flagler, Tightline Productions

There's nothing like the appearance of little black stoneflies to help ease a bad case of spring fever and this little nymph pattern is easy to tie and imitates them well. Tim Flagler shows how to tie a Little Black Stonefly Nymph, one of the earliest effective stonefly patterns of the season. "Just because there's still snow on the ground and you can't feel your hands doesn't mean you can't fish," says Flagler. "I'll tie this pattern on behind a heavily weighted Prince, and it's usually a toss-up which fly gets taken."

Recipe

Hook: 3X-long nymph hook (here a Dai-Riki #285), size 14-20.

Thread: Black, 8/0 or 70 denier.

Antennae/Legs: Black Centipede Legs, mini.

Abdomen: Black Stretch Tubing, micro.

Wingcase: 6-8 natural pheasant-tail fibers.

Thorax: Dark hare's mask.

Adhesive: Head cement.

Note: Pick out the dubbing of the thorax with some Velcro.

[Click here to watch Tim's tying video](#)



Membership Milestones

It's our honor to recognize the following long standing Thames Valley Trout Unlimited members with **35 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!

Lance Magnuson	56 Years
Morgan McGinley	38 Years
Curtis Nelson	38 Years
Walter Kent Jr.	38 Years
Stephen Misovich	35 Years

In addition, Thames Valley TU would like to recognize its founding member David Welch. David started the chapter in 1976. Our thanks and best wishes go out to David!

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](#), and the Thames Valley chapter will receive \$15 of that \$17.50 in the form of a special rebate.



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 Womens Membership](#)

For any questions please contact John Preston at john.preston@thamesvalleytu.org.

President's message con't...

Now for more pressing issues....

As stated above we will be using a private company to communicate via email with our members. We have about 470 members and in the past when we email our newsletter and other announcements it only reaches approximately 200 members and only half of them appear to open the email. Communication is a major component to any organization's ability to function properly. Obviously, we were not doing a good job of it. After speaking to other chapters and much discussion at our board meetings it was decided to use Constant Contact (CC) to improve our communication with you. We should be able to reach many more chapter members, deliver the newsletter and other announcements quickly at a low cost (printing and mailing hard copies is very expensive), and contact people outside our chapter's membership. For much less than 1/2 the cost of mailing one issue of the chapter newsletter we were able to contract CC for a year!

This will provide us the ability to; create customized email publications with an easy editing tool (TU's is a nightmare to use), maintain contacts and lists, have a Library for image storage and editing and receive tracking reports. We will also be able to use CC to manage events, such as banquets and fundraisers and conduct on-line meetings, webinars, live demos and create and send invites via email campaigns and more. In addition, we can create online surveys and polls, and monitor responses and download results.

This brings us to the other issue. I want to follow-up on last February's president's message regarding asking you (our members) on how the chapter should proceed. A survey is being created by a committee of Jim Smith, Bill Keister, Morgan McGinley, and me. With approval from the board, we will be asking you to take a few minutes of your time to provide us with information that will better serve the chapter, decide what is important to the membership, and help us determine how and what we should do in the future. This is your opportunity to shape the future of the chapter... So please complete the survey when it comes in.

Until we are able to complete the survey and analyze the data, I would like to try to schedule some events for the remainder of the year (Oct-Sep). At March's meeting I will ask if there is support for a CT Free Fishing Day event on May 10th at a local area location open to the public, i.e., Devil's Hopyard, Day Pond, Salt Rock State Park, Spaulding Pond at Mohegan Park, and Moose Lodge pond. This could include fly casting, fly tying, knot tying instruction and displays of what we do, such as, TIC, stream clean-ups, conservation, stocking efforts, etc. and information about TU and how to join and/or donate. Of course, Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served.

In addition, I want to know if there is interest in having fishing trips (locally or instate) for those who want get together for a day or so, socially. One of my ideas is to plan a couple of days at the Housatonic Meadows State Park campground around the 2nd or 3rd week in September and reserve some or all of the cabins (up to 4) or campsites for the people who sign up. Attendees would be responsible for the rental cost (\$50/night for cabins that sleep up to 6 each, \$17 for campsites). There is good fishing and several pools within the campground. For fishing a day locally (Natchaugh, Shetucket, Yantic, Salmon rivers, etc.) the only cost involved is your

transportation cost (gas)... carpooling will save even more. We can learn from a "river master" member the ins and outs of your favorite or unfamiliar stream.

Let me know if these interest you via email or at the meeting.



John Preston, president
johnpreston@thamesvalleytu.org
TU Thames Valley Chapter 282

PS: I want to recognize and thank the following members for their donations for fund raising efforts: **John Jasper, Chuck Dobrowski, Morgan McGinley, Jim Clark, Ray Schaefer, Duke Preston, Jim Smith (of Preston), Ken Richards, Phil Sands, Charlie Mc Caughtry, and Gene Cyr.**

Without the membership's support the chapter would not be able to continue. Thank you all again.... Oh yeah, there still are some tickets available for the Orvis Frequent Flyer rod. Buy one or more... you'll be helping the chapter and I can see the trout trembling as you approach the stream with that new Orvis rod!!!!



Almost Spring

by George Jacobi

It's almost Spring now, and I guess I can't wait. With a little time at lunch today, I find myself at the Abutment Pool on the Willimantic River trout management area. One of the first really warm days in late March has arrived, perhaps 60 degrees or so. Robins and red-winged blackbirds have followed the stoneflies north, and horny male robins chase females around the yards when not picking up flies in the grass.

There is only one car here and no-one in sight - he must be fishing downstream past the highway. One of the bad things about the Willi is the ever-present roar of Rte. 84. Two-weight in hand, one fly box in my pocket, I ease along the bank. There are just a few early black Stones in the air. Easy to spot against a wall of dark pines or hemlocks, they look like a tiny bug silhouette made of golden light, dancing erratically. I always wonder how something with 4 wings can be so clumsy. Even caddis look directed and dignified by comparison.

The abutment itself has crumbled and in a few more years one corner will collapse. Much of the bank has now eroded into the near part of the pool, filling what was once a fish-holding drop off. I remember one year when a one-eyed brown took up residence above the abutment, hiding in shallow shade, facing his good eye out. Caught him once, and then left him alone. One day he was gone. How long ago was that?

Down along the pool I see no sign of a fish. This part of the bank was once wetter, full of skunk cabbage, and I spooked a mink and her cubs right here. Squeaks and vibrating skunk cabbage trails went off in all directions. Long ago, out of stubbornness, I decided not to wade the river at this time of year, just to fish off the banks. Try to catch one or two, and let that be the celebration of the beginning of the season. It's usually too cold and too high to spend much time in the water anyway. I tie a grizzly bivisible, a simple imitation of the ever-fluttering stonefly - they can take it or leave it. They usually take it.

The next area used to be an undercut bank, overhung with brush, always populated by a few spooky fish. It's always bothered me that the trail was too close to the stream here. I know where to look, how far ahead to look, in front of which rocks, under which end of which log. No trout - maybe the other guy worked through here.

Passing the big rock at the end of the pool, I walk along the next run. This used to be not much of a trail. After bushwhacking through here one time, I took off my shirt later and found 8 or 10 ticks under my collar, wondering how to get to my head. Creepy. How long ago was THAT?

I've fished here with a fly rod since 1976, when it became Connecticut's first no-kill area. I guess you'd call this my home water. Used to march in here waving a Mickey Finn streamer with the boys at dawn on opening day. I learned on the Willi that 2 PM on a mild afternoon was a better time to fish in April. It's still a marginal trout stream, too warm and low in the summer. Fish hang in bunches beneath the feeder brooks, sitting ducks for poachers. But it's clean, one of the few spots around here hosting a brief Quill Gordon hatch. I wrote on it for Fly Fisherman in 1980 - didn't know much, but it was new and no-one else did either. Gary LaFontaine was here a lot of days, starting to think hard about caddis flies. Miss you, man. Shortly after that, the Housatonic became a jewel, an awesome fishing destination for a decade. We did a lot of driving, left the Willi far behind.

As I limp back upstream, I don't have any trouble telling myself that one trout, or one day, doesn't matter anymore. Spring is what matters. The dark red of skunk cabbage, pushing up. The sand on the stream bed reflecting the ever moving surface. The sweet sounds of water and birds will continue from here on, everything moving and growing through its own allotted time.

On the way home, I check out a spot 5 miles downstream. The river has been stocked here. Thirty or more hatchery trout are rising to more abundant stoneflies above and below the bridge. It's a sight to see. It's almost spring, and I guess I can wait.

Yantic River Cleanup

What: Volunteer for River Cleanup (wear waders and warm cloths)

When: Saturday March 29th, 9:00 am

Where: Meet at Barstow Rd cul-de-sac, Lebanon (off Norwich Ave, aka Rte. 616)

Shake off the winter woes, bundle up and join us Saturday, March 29 at 9:00 am for our Annual Yantic River Cleanup. We will meet at the Barstow Road cul-de-sac in Lebanon off Norwich Ave and clean along the river banks and roads for the

Yantic River Trout Management Area (TMA).

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

As in past years, the Lebanon Public Works Department will assist with trash removal. All we have to do is bag the trash and place it in a designated area for pick up by the town crew.



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



WANTED!

TVTU Stocking Carts

Calling all past dedicated stocking volunteers... Do you happen to have a stocking cart or two tucked away in your barn or garage gathering dust. If so, our current dedicated Stocking Coordinator, Ray Schaefer, could use them back for upcoming stocking events. No questions asked, just give Ray a call or email him and he'll arrange for the carts to be picked up. Thanks for your help! Ray Schaefer (860) 546-9775, rschaefer@thamesvalleytu.org

**JT's Fly Shop - Spring Fling 2014
Fisherman Flea Market**

Buckley Plaza welcomes

Industry Rep Crosby Bean
Hardy & Greys
North America

15% off
@ JT's
Spring Fling weekend

Wide
Variety
Of
Lures

RAFFLES
WIN a Fishing Trip with JT

JT's FLY SHOP
860
684-1575

FLY TYING MATERIALS
GUIDE SERVICE
LICENSES

BAIT & TACKLE

Join the pro-staff at our....

Spring Fling
April 12 + 13
Sat + Sun 8-4

Fisherman Flea Market

Free set up 7AM. Bring your own table.
Vendors Welcome

Dogs & Burgers & Drinks

Cast a new rod with our Pro-Staff Steve B and Stan C

Fishpond Hatch, Air Flo
Pacific Fly
Dr Slick

STAND Reels
Rio Lines
Stock up on
Yamamotos

SHIERS PHOTOGRAPHY
Enjoy a free cup of fish chowder
(Sat Only) while supplies last.

JT's Fly Shop Spring Fling 2014 is bigger and better than ever! This year we have made the Spring Fling a two day event with some great raffles, guests and specials. There will be reps from many of the products we carry showing off their latest models and willing to answer any and all of your questions.

The fisherman Flea Market is open to anyone who is looking to pass along their used equipment to others. All you need to participate is to bring your own table and chair. So if you haven't already completed a spring cleaning and inventory of your equipment, now is the time to do so and you just might find something to sell at the flea market.

Best of all is the 15% off your entire purchase made during the spring fling. So come on out and get stocked up on supplies and tackle for the Connecticut Fishing season opener. Discount does not apply to Hardy and TFO products.

Flea Market will be held at JT's Fly Shop in the Buckley Plaza at 664 Buckley Hwy, Rte. 190 in Union. For directions and to visit JT's Fly Shop website click link below.

[Link to JT's Fly Shop website](#)

To join Thames Valley TU or for more information please visit our website | [Website Link](#)

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