



## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# *Stream Lines*

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

**September 2015**

**Dear Member,**

Unfortunately, the Board of Directors does not have a slate of candidates ready for your consideration for the following opening positions: President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary and TIC Coordinator. We have three people who have shown interest, but to date it is not clear what positions they are interested in. The Board is also considering some other options that is dependent on membership permission. In addition, anyone who is a member in good standing of Thames Valley TU may be nominated at the election meeting. The election process and candidate nominations will be the main topic at our September Membership meeting. Please attend this extremely important meeting and consider taking a leadership role for our chapter.

This is my next to last message as your president. Our bi-annual election is scheduled for 20 October. I still plan to be involved but will be doing less "hands-on" presiding of the chapters business in the future. I want to take this opportunity to "Thank You" all for your support during my term. Especially, to those who volunteered their time on the various projects and events during the last two years. I couldn't have performed my duties without the cooperation and support of all of you.

I believe we have been able to achieve most of the major goals I thought the chapter needed to improve and move forward. Such as: more business-like Board meetings; better communications with our membership through an informative monthly newsletter, e-mailings, membership survey, and an up-to-date, easy to maintain website; which also facilitates to increase the participation and enthusiasm in our chapter; and, conducting more varied and social-like events to attract members that normally don't attend.

Of course, there is much, much, more to be done...especially, in the conservation arena. But I believe we now have in place the leadership and expertise to make inroads in this area. For example, we have two grants on the burner... one which should be an exciting endeavor we all can be proud of.

To address the other issues that need to be done, the chapter's leadership has been working on a strategic plan to help us keep focused and on course. Unlike a lot of strategic plans I have seen, ours will not be a product of one or two people, or just a reiteration of the corporate line. Not only will all the Board of Directors members be creating it but the membership will be involved too... buy-in is an often overlooked but crucial factor in the creation & implementation of any strategic plan. (Please see the below article on the strategic plan.)

In closing, I encourage all of you to get involved, volunteer your time, take on a leadership role, or donate to help our chapter to execute and achieve its Mission: To conserve, protect and restore Eastern Connecticut's trout and salmon and their watersheds.

See you at The Moose!

John Preston, *President*



Thames Valley TU, Chapter 282

[jpreston44@yahoo.com](mailto:jpreston44@yahoo.com)



## Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, September 15th - 6:00 pm**  
**Chapter Membership Meeting, Moose Lodge, Bozrah CT**  
*Stuart Piermarini - "Scotland (Shetucket River) Dam Update"*

**September 16-20 Annual TU (National) Meeting Scranton, PA**

**September 18-20**  
**TVTU Housatonic River Fishing Trip**  
**Housatonic Meadows State Park, Sharon, CT**  
*(See below Details)*

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

**November 7th, Veterans Event (Wounded Warriors)**  
**Pomfret Rod & Gun Club, Pomfret, CT**  
*TVTU providing Fly Casting & Fly Tying instruction (More Info to follow)*

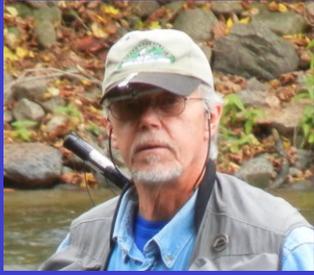
### **September 15th Membership Meeting - Raffle Table**

Ready to go with many new items including a 9' Redington 5 wt, 4pc Fly Rod!

### **[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. These benefits include:

- \* Ensuring your family members feel that great sense of belonging to the nation's leading trout and salmon conservation organization.
- \* Additional family members can expect to receive communications and invitations to local, statewide and national events and activities, like for example one of our dozens of chapter-hosted women's specific fly fishing seminars or youth fishing days.
- \* A complimentary copy of Stream Explorers magazine for any youth under age 12.
- \* All members of the household will be able to create a unique member profile on [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) to engage in our online community, join discussion groups, access member-only content such as the digital version of TROUT Magazine and more...



## *Killed 'Em*

G. Jacobi ©2015

by George Jacobi



It's not often anymore that I get to imagine myself as a really skilled trout fisher. That started to fade when Ali was born and time got short. And nowadays the bad eyes and bad feet don't help. But I was pretty good yesterday. After scoping out a few places on the Farmington River, I ended up at the tail of Halfords Run, two pools up from the bridge at the Church Pool. I've fished the area before, caught a few trout, and been embarrassed by a

host of others. It's much easier to fish the stretch just below, a rock garden cynical regulars laughingly call the "Canoe Trap".

The Farmington, to my way of thinking, still longs to be a salmon river. A freestone tailwater, it almost always runs crystal clear. Not organically rich, it's sparse on aquatic bugs. Pine-carpeted hills make it seem like you're in New Brunswick, or the Gaspé. I sometimes visualize chrome-bright henfish rolling in the smooth green runs, but the continually stocked parr never seem to return as adults. Thanks for trying. But it is tame here, and spreading McMansion disease creeps up the river from Avon like oriental bittersweet. Homes line both banks in some places.

Not my favorite Connecticut river, it nevertheless is at an equilibrium now which includes some pretty decent trout. The Housatonic has more personality; it will baffle you with complex hatches, sweet-talk you or argue with you (and maybe run you over) but it's another forty-five minutes on the road for me. So the Farmington gets a lot of attention.

There's a small island on the right, just before Halfords drops into the rapids and the rocks. A channel cuts around the eastern side of it deep in brush and overhanging trees, the upper half a flat end to the long pool, and the bottom half a lip over which the water turns into a busy riffle back out toward the main river. The current picks up speed as it nears the lip, except for the last foot or so along the east side where it barely moves.

Good fish lie along this bank in six or eight inches of water, protected from right hand casters by the difference in the current - a floating fly will get immediately pulled faster than natural by the belly of the line in the quick middle of the pool. The rare left-hand caster would spook them by rustling the brush on the bank, or by waves spreading up from a careless step into the still water. Not to mention that nine out of ten people coming to fish follow a path that leads smack into the tail of this little pool. These brown trout are well aware of that, and are gone before most people have any idea they were there.

Nothing else going on anywhere on the river leads me up into this little bower in the late afternoon, and yes, there are trout sipping on that bank, within inches of a small branch hanging downstream half under the surface. Though hatchery raised, these trout are pros - they have inhabited the Farmington for years, been caught more than once before, found a place to hide that is safe to eat. Well, I'm thinking, this is the only game in town. Noise out in the main river causes me to look up. There's a colorful convoy of teenaged inner tube floaters coming. Thankfully, a downed tree almost blocks this side channel and they sweep on by. Their monkey-like chatter fades and the gentle gurgle of the river returns.

An occasional midge is all that is visible on the water, but these trout are steadily sucking down something

tiny in the film. Those cynical Farmington guys say these smart ones only take a #32 midge if its left leg twitches. I have on a grey #14 caddis. Hah; no problem.

In tight quarters, I wade along the left bank trying not to make a ripple. Look around and think it over. Watch the orioles and listen to their arrogant territorial yelling. Take in the perfume of the honeysuckle, strong in this semi-enclosed space.

I think I'll be able to false cast up and downstream sidearm, below some branches, make one backcast up behind me into an open spot in the canopy while looking, then turn my head forward again and drop the fly along that bank while doing a pop stop to put a batch of slack in the leader. A reach upstream with the line before it hits the water will add more slack.

Yeah, right. Amazingly, I do this on the first try.

Trout sips in my fly and I miss the strike. LOT of slack in the leader. Oh, man. But nobody is spooked. The fish just upstream from that one rises again almost immediately. I wait until they are both working again on the invisible hor d'oeuvres. After a few short or misdirected attempts, including one I luckily shake out of the cottonwood branches, the caddis fly alights in the perfect place with the right amount of slack. No hesitation - a trout grabs it with confidence.

A nice 16" brown, fat and healthy, bombs around the pool. Thankfully, she goes everywhere but back in the holding spot and comes to net. How about that! This would be more than enough for an afternoon that started out slow. With the fish breathing in my hand, I am reminded of what Edward Abbey said about the rabbit he 'accidentally' killed by casually aiming a stone at it. Even though I have not taken a life, something of the trout's spirit has become part of my own. "No longer do I feel so isolated from the...life around me, a stranger from another world. I have entered this one. We are kindred all of us, predator and prey". A taste of the spiritual magic a fly fisherman gets to feel sometimes.

The other trout rises again before long. More crazy casts miss the target, and drag quickly downstream, but are far enough away from the bank so they don't scare the fish. One cast drops the caddis right on the spot and it floats perfectly over the trout. There's a tiny change in the river's surface, clearly the trout expressing disdain for a fly he's already seen drag over his head. You must be joking, white man, I won't eat that again.

OK. Out comes the big black ant. I'm not going to 6X or 7X if I can help it. Tie a slow serious knot, wet the tippet with saliva, pull slowly. Looks good. First accurate shot with the black ant, and I am on. Oh, my. This trout runs to the middle of the pool, shaking his head. The tree canopy overhead blocks out the sky's reflection and I can see him. Whoa - this is a really fine trout.

I play him carefully but aggressively, manage to stop him when he thinks about going down over the lip. Take longer than usual, trying not to make any mistakes. Usually I shrug off the loss of a fish, but you know what? I really want to land this one. Going under the log? No, you're not. Going out into the river? Not if I can help it. The rest of the world, the sounds of the river and the birds, the flickering sunlight, the past and future, are gone. There is just the trout and me, and the fragile connection between us. When he finally comes to the net, he hangs over both ends. The fly comes out easily and I cradle the fish gently in my hand, still talking to him. Thanks, my brother. At last the twenty inch brown swims away, no worse for wear. Geez, was that fine! Like we used to say, mostly when the exact opposite was true, "I killed 'em. I was great!"

After a dinner sandwich, I'm back out in the Church Pool, which is reasonably quiet for a Sunday night. Just a few anglers, and alas, just a few sulphurs. Catch four more on #18 BWO dries, nothing too big. The duck family and the goose family both feed along the bank just feet behind me, unconcerned, but the most remarkable thing I see is a huge showy Cecropia Moth which flies out over my head from the forest. Attacked and bit by a robin twice, it survives and makes it into the trees on the other bank. The robin is unskilled in taking down an aerial target. This moth is lucky there was no oriole around. Sometimes it works out ok. Sometimes you kill 'em, sometimes you don't.

---



# Housatonic River Fishing Trip September 18-20, 2015

**What:** Camp-out and Fishing!

**When:** September 18, 19 & 20 (Checkout 11am)

**Where:** Housatonic Meadows Campground, Rt 7, Sharon, CT

**Join us for a weekend of fishing, friends & food or come for just a day!**

We meet and stay at the [Housatonic Meadows Campground](#). Because of State of CT policy we are unable to reserve cabins or campsites... walk-in only after Labor Day. But it is possible to obtain sites together on Friday if I know who is attending in advance. Please note obtaining cabins (sleeps up to six) is limited and more difficult to get. Campsites should not be a problem. Campers are responsible for camping fees.

Also, we need to know the attendance number for acquiring food for Friday night (steak) dinner, Saturday breakfast and dinner (BBQ chicken). This year there will be a fee of \$10 (max. for 3 meals) or less for individual meals you attend... no charge for youths. Of course, you can elect to make your own reservations and meals. This event will be held rain or shine. Cancellation is possible, if weather is severe. Check the TVTU website if there is a cancellation announcement.

At last year's fishing trip we had good weather, better fishing and great food, music & fun. See last year's slide show... [here](#).

If you are interested in participating in our Housatonic River trip, [please contact John Preston by 15 September at \[jpreston44@yahoo.com\]\(mailto:jpreston44@yahoo.com\)](#).

## Strategic Planning for Our Future

by John Preston

The Board of Directors have been working on a new Strategic Plan. What's a strategic plan? Simply a strategic plan is road map to help one get from point A to point B. In our case, to get from our current state to where we would like to be in 5 years or more. The following Goals (draft) were produced during our first planning session. At our second session we concentrated on brainstorming potential objectives and strategies. Our next step is to discuss, finalize, prioritize the objectives for each goal. The Board will distribute the results to the membership for review and comments. Here's your opportunity to let us know if we are on track.

- **Implement Watershed Conservation Projects and Recreational Access**
- **Pursue Membership Development, Involvement and Renewal**
- **Broaden the Appeal of the Chapter through Education Outreach**
- **Build Relationships with Landowners, Conservation groups, and local/state Agencies.**
- **Develop Fund Raising Strategies**

Once the strategic plan is finalized, the Board will identify/recruit leaders, facilitators and form teams for the objectives/projects that were agreed upon. Again, the "final draft" will be given to the membership for final review and comment. Then charters (expected outcomes) will be created or approved by the board for these project teams. A Board member will be assigned for each project team to ensure they are supported and for communication purposes.

When the time comes to put the plan into action the chapter will need your participation if "our" planning and projects are to come to fruition. Membership involvement is critical to the future of the Thames Valley Chapter...

---

## TU Women's Initiative September Newsletter Offers Opportunities to Engage Diverse Members

TU's Women's Initiative was launched in 2011 to address the concern that only 6 percent of all TU members were women, while at the same time women made up 36 percent of all anglers in the U.S.

Since the initiative was started, TU has seen a 25 percent increase in women membership!

The new Women's Initiative Newsletter "On the Rise" is designed to share the best practices and lessons learned by your fellow volunteers in recruiting, retaining and engaging women in TU and in leadership roles.

In this issue you will find special features on:

- Lindsay Agness teaching more than 200 New York women to fly fish
- Chapters supporting Casting for Recovery to engage new women members
- [A free program to add your family members to the TU community](#)
- Coming events for women across the country
- And more...

[Click here to read the September issue of "On the Rise"](#)



## Fly of the Month *"Isonychia Parachute"*

*Video and tying by Tightlines  
Productions*

Here is a timely fly pattern for some late summer/early fall trout fishing. If you ever experienced an Iso hatch... it's great! I just love this hatch... an easy to see, big, juicy fly the seem to float on the surface forever. Trout just seem to love 'em too. Tie one today. [Link to tying video](#) I also suggest using a gray wing post (synthetic or calf hair)

Fly Tying Recipe: Isonychia Parachute

Hook: 1X-long dry-fly hook (e.g. Dai-Riki #300), sizes 10-14.

Thread: Olive, 6/0.

Post: White (or gray) calf-body hair, cleaned and stacked.

Tail: Moose body hair.

Abdomen: Burgundy, black, and gray rabbit fur, mixed.

Hackle: Medium dun neck hackle.

Thorax/head: Burgundy, black, and gray rabbit fur, mixed

## CT Fishin' Tips

Here are a couple tips taken from CT DEEP's "CT Fishin' Tips" July 2015 newsletter that you can subscribe to. [DEEP Website](#)



### Tiger Trout:

This incredible fish was caught in a secret location in Northern Connecticut and the photo posted to the DEEP [Facebook](#) page. A Tiger Trout is a sterile hybrid produced when the eggs of a Brown Trout are fertilized by a Brook Trout. Tiger trout can occur naturally when there are both Brook and Brown Trout living and reproducing in the same section of stream. The Inland Fisheries Division produces a small number of Tiger Trout in our hatchery system to stock each spring into various rivers and streams. Thanks to Pat F. for sharing such a unique fish.

### Visit a natural "cooling center".

Many small brooks within our state parks & forests are fed by seeps and springs. This groundwater enters the stream at about 50-55 degrees F. If you are looking to escape the heat and humidity, sit on a rock and dangle your feet into the cold water. While you are there you may as well cast a line. Wild Brook and Brown Trout thrive in these small streams so you have a good chance at catching one.

Need a park to explore? Check out our web site to [find a park](#) near you.





## Scotland Dam Update Shetucket River

### Run of River Flows challenged by FirstLight Power

By TVTU Conservation Committee

#### **CT DEEP responds to FirstLight Power and denies request to evaluate fish passage design until run of river flows are resolved.**

Robert Hannon, Supervising Environmental Analyst with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) sent a letter to FirstLight Power Resources indicating that DEEP will not evaluate FirstLight's proposed fish passage design until the run of river operations are resolved and is recommending that FirstLight request an extension from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relative to submitting fish passage plans. The fish passage plans are a requirement of the FERC license issued to FirstLight in November 2013.

After a meeting with DEEP on May 5th 2014, DEEP agreed to allow FLPR to operate flows at a modified pond and release schedule between the licensing time, Nov 2013, and until the low flow turbine was to be installed by the due date of Nov 2016. At a subsequent meeting on May 5th, 2015 FirstLight notified DEEP it would not be able to install a low flow turbine and considered its current modified operations consistent with run of river operations meeting the requirements of the license agreement. DEEP, USFWS, and NOAA have all voiced strong opposition to FirstLight's position.

FirstLight is claiming that .50 feet of headpond elevation provided in the license as a buffer to allow for fluctuations for rain, wind, etc., gives them the ability to pond and release for power generation. Keep in mind, 6" of water elevation on the reservoir above the dam is a great deal of water. DEEP stated that information originally provided by FLPR in the license application for Scotland Dam is, at a minimum, inaccurate given the existing set of circumstances surrounding the Project. Therefore DEEP intends to initiate a review of FirstLight's 401 WQC application and determine whether or not the 401 WQC should be revoked.

FirstLight went to Washington D.C. for a Meeting with FERC on May 4th, 2015. No meeting minutes were taken as part of this meeting. FERC Staff told the TU Conservation Committee that the meeting was merely informative in nature, and that FERC has no actions to take in regards to the DEEP letter 1) because the meeting with FERC was "one-sided" and CT DEEP was not present to provide input. 2) FERC does not need to look into any issues further until CT DEEP makes a ruling on the WQC. 3) FirstLight stated at the meeting that they were still in negotiations with CT DEEP.

FERC stated that there are no plans to revoke Firstlight's operation because of their non-compliance, and they are also not considering other qualified applicants whom may be able to reach the T&Cs. FERC stated that their goal is to "work with FirstLight to get them into compliance", and that revoking or transferring the FERC License "is not a foreseeable option at this time."

Stayed tuned for future updates as they become available and join us at the next membership meeting on September 15th for additional discussion.

---

# 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!



## 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 chapters 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!

Thames Valley TU would like to thank the following paid advertisers for their support

**Accounting & Bookkeeping Services**

18 Rapids Trail  
Canterbury, CT 06331  
(860) 546-6690

Bookkeeping  
Payroll  
Taxes: Personal, Business  
Quarterlies

All your personal & business  
accounting needs!

 **Jacqueline P. Preston**  
Owner

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 Jim Smith, [jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com)

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited | (860) 917-4485 | [jpreston44@yahoo.com](mailto:jpreston44@yahoo.com) |  
PO Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350