



# TROUT UNLIMITED

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

September 2016

Dear Member,

### Good and Bad News...

The good news is that Ed Walsh has volunteered to take over the newsletter starting October. Also, Phil Sands has been added to the Board of Directors to head up the Fly Tying program.

Unfortunately, no one has volunteered for the following positions for this year's election: President, Vice President (vacant), Secretary (vacant), and Stocking Coordinator are still open. This will leave the chapter with only one officer (the Treasurer) and therefore, the chapter is in danger of being dissolved. Hopefully, members will step up at our September Membership Meeting and we will be able to present a slate of candidates for an October election. Any current TVTU member may volunteer for the above positions. In addition, we are looking for someone to fill the website administrator position.

Please contact any member from the Board of Directors for consideration. For a description of officer duties go to the [TVTU website](#) (see By Laws on the About page). Current/past officers and Board of Directors members will provide guidance and/or training to anyone who volunteers, so you will be able to take on the duties you fill.

It would be a shame to see the dissolution of this fine chapter. This chapter has done much over the years to conserve, protect and restore Eastern Connecticut's trout and salmon and their watersheds. Please consider taking on a challenging but rewarding leadership role for the continuation of the Thames Valley Trout Unlimited chapter.

Respectfully,



Duke Preston  
President TVTU

[Email Address](#)

**September 20th Membership Meeting**  
featured presentation:

## In This Issue

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## Calendar

**Tuesday, Sept 20th - 6pm**

Chapter Membership Meeting,  
Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT

**William Hyatt - CT Bureau of Natural Resources**

**Friday/Saturday, Sept 23 & 24**

**3rd Annual TVTU Housatonic Outing/BBQ**

**Saturday, Oct 15th - 1 to 4 pm**

**Tuesday, Oct 11th - 6pm**

Board of Directors Meeting  
Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT

**Saturday, Oct 15th (1 to 4pm)**

**Eight Mile River Feast 2016**

**Devil's Hopyard State Park**

**East Haddam, CT**

**Tuesday, Oct 18th - 6pm**

Chapter Membership Meeting,  
Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT

**Jean Pillo - LGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program**

## We are now on Facebook!

When you visit our website there is now a link to our Facebook page. Also see our Quick Links below. Jenn Miner is our administrator and we are looking for an additional person assist her. Please contact

[Duke Preston](#).

# William Hyatt - Chief of the CT Bureau of Natural Resources Quick Links



William Hyatt, Chief of the Connecticut Bureau of Natural Resources, is our featured speaker for the September 20, 2016 Monthly Membership meeting. Mr. Hyatt will be speaking on the State of Connecticut Fisheries with an entertaining overview of the history of Connecticut Fisheries Program.

**Door opens at 6pm.** The presentation will start after a short chapter "business" meeting (approximately 7:30pm).

**Raffle Table** - We will begin this new season with a raffle table containing 30 quality items. Additionally, we will have a special

table with many new items for sale at very reasonable prices. These items include among other things: A new wood frame rubber net, a new, in the box LL Bean 7 ft-5wt., 2 piece fly rod with loaded reel, a Jason 10x50 binoculars with case, several pair of easy on-easy off ice/snow gripping walkers, two new large ponchos, a new Tilley like hat (size medium) and much more. Come prepared to purchase some of these items and remember they will make excellent Christmas gifts if they are not for your own use.

## Getting to Know Our Regional Fly Shops

By Ed Walsh



*This is the third entry in a series introducing region fly shops to our members. Although many TVTU members have patronized these shops for years there are others that might be fishing new waters and need to make a connection with the people who can answer their questions, and supply their needs, for a successful trip.*

### UpCountry Sportfishing



Located on the banks of the Farmington River at 352 Main Street (Rt. 44) in New Hartford, CT. UpCountry offers equipment, supplies and services comparable to the best fly shops in the Northeast and beyond. Not only do they stock a wide range of fly fishing and fly tying equipment but are ready to point you in the right direction with current river conditions, active hatch information and suggested locations to

fish. I fish the Farmington a few times a month and have never been disappointed with the info received from their knowledgeable and professional staff. That has been especially true this summer with low water flows and high temperatures imposing restrictions on all areas of the river other than the stretch from Hogback Dam to just below the bridge at Riverton. Their guidance has allowed many to enjoy days on the river

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## Yantic River Cleanup - October 15, Saturday, 8 am.

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

## TVTU Annual Housatonic Fishing Outing & BBQ September 23 & 24 - Housatonic Meadows State Park



Join us for some great Fall trout fishing on the Housatonic River. There are some nice pools and easy access at the sites by the river (sites 1 thru 18 are along the river/sites 8-11 are cabins It

is just a short drive away from other well-known pools. You have the option of camping at the state park for the weekend or just coming for the day. Housatonic River Outfitters at <http://www.dryflies.com> is a good source for the latest conditions and hatches for the Housy.

The four cabins sleep 4 people or for campers there should be many campsites available. We tried to reserve sites for the chapter but unfortunately none of the cabins or campsites can be reserved during this time of the year (walk-in only). We were told that the only way one could reserve them was on the actual arrival date. During September the cabins are only available for Friday and Saturday (checkout on Sunday). Please note cabins are usually gone before 8AM on Friday (first come first served when the office opens 7/7:30 AM). Duke Preston plans to be there on Thursday and is willing to make

without imposing undue stress of any fish caught.

UpCountry is owned and managed under the watchful eye of Grady Allen. The shop has been in the Allen Family for over 30 years and continues to grow and meet the ever demanding needs of its customers.

I encourage everyone to look at UpCountry's extensive web page at: [www.FarmingtonRiver.com](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.com). Not only will you find

supplies to fill all your fishing needs but important information about local weather and river conditions, area lodging, in-shop sales and an introduction to some of the area's best guides. You'll also see a list of instructional classes offered to help you become a better fly fisherman. Topics like nymphing, streamer fishing and fly tying are scheduled on a regular basis and taught by experts.



If you are visiting UpCountry for the first time "do not" be in a hurry. There is a lot to see. Make sure you look at their "Sales Table" where some great values can be found and the library that contains books and video's (new

If you can't find it at UpCountry you probably don't need it.

and used) to help you become a better fisherman and, or, fly tier. And don't forget to examine the trade-in rack where more great deals are available.

But most importantly spend time with the staff. Whether you're just starting out in fly fishing or an experienced veteran they will help point you in the right direction. As Grady suggests; "a satisfied customer is a returning



Grady Allen assisting a customer. customer".

I spent time with Grady Allen a few weeks ago asking questions about his operation and business plans. Like any successful business owner his answers revolved around attracting new customers and keeping his regulars informed and satisfied. Being able to provide equipment, supplies, services and educational opportunities for the novice and, or, the experienced fly fisherman was #1 on his agenda. And when you spend time at the store, or visit their web site, it becomes very clear he is reaching his objectives.

I was interested to know how he kept his "River Reports" updated and accurate.

Grady tells me he and store manager, Torrey Collins, fish as much as possible and the guides associated with the shop (all are independent) and many of their regulars provide updated info to keep that offering as current as possible. He also keeps in close touch with the CT DEEP regarding stocking schedules and the amount of fish put in the river. This is extremely valuable information to have when visiting the



Store Mgr. Torrey Collins (right) helping with fly selection.

reservations for you first thing Friday morning. You will be responsible for the reservation cost... show or no show. Cabins are \$50/night plus 15% CT tax and processing fee (\$3) with a two night minimum (about \$118 for 2 nights). For four people that is less than \$30 for two nights! Camping sites are \$17/night plus processing fee (\$3).

If this is acceptable to you please contact [Duke Preston](#) by the end of our 20 September Membership meeting. Of course, you may arrange your own reservations or accommodations. Please go to the Housatonic Meadows State Park website for detailed policy information, campsite map and directions at: [State Park Info](#)

On Friday, 23 Sept - Dinner: Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and soda will be provided at no charge.

Saturday, 24 Sept - A full breakfast and dinner will be available.

Sunday, 25 Sept - A light breakfast will be available for campers.

Cost for Saturday and Sunday meals is only \$5.00 total.

## Fly Tying Tips

### Durable Peacock Bodies...

Peacock herl is a great body "fish catching" material but it doesn't stand up to much abuse. But making a durable peacock body is simple. Attach several peacock herls to the hook by their tips. Form a dubbing loop about as long as the herl strands. Capture the thread and herls with a dubbing loop tool. Pull the loop tight and rotate the tool to form the peacock into a chenille-like rope. Now you may wrap the rope around the hook to create a very durable peacock herl body.

A quicker but less durable method is to just make several turns of the tying thread (no dubbing loop) around the strands of herl and then wrap the body..



Farmington. Let me add here that the DEEP stocked almost 2,000 trout from the dam down to Riverton within the last two weeks. This information was included in the River Reports.

Another topic we discussed was how UpCountry can be competitive with the Big Box Stores. Grady wasted no time suggesting they can not only help you select the right equipment to meet your skill level but show you how to



Getting ready for the Fall in the library.

use that equipment, show you where to fish, provide on-site weather and stream conditions, introduce you to the best guides in the area and provide seminars and classes to help you improve as a fly fisherman.

someone just getting started in the sport. But why don't you find out for yourself by visiting the shop or checking out their web site. I am betting you won't be disappointed.

*Note: The Farmington River is one of the most recognizable and popular tailwater fisheries in the Northeast. It is heavily stocked by the Connecticut DEEP throughout the season and is fished by thousands of anglers, many who travel great distances to enjoy what the river, and state, has provided.*



## 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 place an ad, contact [Jackie Preston](mailto:Jackie.Preston).

Thanks for your support!

## About Us

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

## Fly of the Month

### "Griffith's Gnat Emerger"



Video and tying by  
Tightlines Productions

This summer the PMDs hatch at the Soda Butte were much smaller (#18-20) than usual (#14-16) and the Cutthroats were keying in on the emerging phase of the hatch most of the time. When adapted to the PMD this pattern proved to extremely effective in a size 20. We used brown zelon for the shuck, pale yellow/olive dubbing for the body, orange dubbing for the thorax (optional) and a partridge or light dun hackle. It was a killer that provided us with many 20+ fish days. You might want to give the Griffith's Gnat Emerger a try too!

[Link to tying video](#)

#### Fly Tying Recipe: Griffith's Gnat Emerger


Hook: Emerger hook (here, a Dai-Riki #125), size 20.  
Thread: Light olive, 8/0 or 70-denier.  
Trailing shuck: Golden brown Antron yarn.  
Hackle: Grizzly saddle hackle, slightly undersize.  
Thorax: Peacock herl.  
Head: Tying thread.  
Tools: Plunger-style hackle pliers

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