

# TROUT UNLIMITED

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

## Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

September 2017

Dear Member,

Well it's the start of the new Thames Valley season and next month is elections for new board members and treasurer. We have a nominee for treasurer and it is Dan King of Lebanon. He has been a member of Thames Valley for a while but hasn't been as active as he would like to be, so he reached out after our announcement at the end of last year of being in need of volunteers. He is very active with the girl scouts and that is a potential collaboration in the future.

I hope everyone's summer was fish filled and fun, the weather was very cooperative this year and the rivers remained cool and at a good level. So if you have photos of your catches please post them on our Facebook page. This year's fall outing is going to have a change. Last year we had to cancel our Housatonic trip due to the extremely low River level. And this year we cannot go due to the state shutting down all state run campgrounds and parks. So this year we have in the works a camp out and salmon fishing.

Hope to see a big crowd at our membership meeting as we have Rick Little on fly fishing in Maine is wicked good! And remember we are still looking for used up or broken fly line.



"Duke" Preston  
President TVTU

[Email Address](#)

Sept. 19th Membership Meeting

Featured presentation: Rick Little -  
"Fly Fishing in Main is Wicked Fun"

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### Calendar

**September 19 - Tuesday, 6pm**  
**Rick Little - "Fly Fishing in Maine is Wicked Fun"**  
Chapter Membership Meeting  
Bozrah Firehouse  
239 Fitchville Rd, Bozrah, CT

**September 23 - Saturday, 10am - 4 pm**  
**CT Hunting and Fishing Day (Free event)**  
Cabela's  
475 E Hartford Blvd N, East Hartford, CT

**October 17 - Tuesday, 6pm**  
**Annual Meeting Election**  
Chapter Membership Meeting  
Bozrah Firehouse  
239 Fitchville Rd, Bozrah, CT  
**Presentation TBD**

### Visit/Contribute to Our Facebook page!

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.](#)



The West Branch of the Penobscot, Rapid River, Roach River and East Outlet (headwaters of the Kennebec River) are all waters that Rick discusses in this program highlighting some of the wonderful rivers that Maine has to offer. Rick has spent hundreds of days and uncounted hours fishing these waters and will talk about the rivers, his style of fishing, and

the flies and techniques that have been successful. The program is filled with photos of these great rivers and the flies that he uses. For those people who have fished these waters, the program will spark many great memories. For those who have not fished these rivers yet, but want to give them a try, this program will provide information that will give them a head start when they venture out onto the water.

Join Rick for a discussion about some beautiful country and fascinating fishing opportunities.

Rick Little is a self-taught fly fisherman who has had the opportunity to learn from some very knowledgeable outdoors men and fishermen. Much of what he has learned came from observing nature and skillful fishermen on the water, and conversations about fish, flies, fishing and life, around Coleman lanterns and campfires on many rivers. Rick has been active in conservation organizations for years, including serving as president of Trout Unlimited Chapters in Manchester, NH and Bangor, ME.



### Door opens at 6pm.

Our meeting is free and open to members, guests and the general public. Social time, fly tying demonstrations, refreshments, door prize & more... Presentation starts shortly after a 7pm business meeting.

### Join us at the Bozrah Firehouse!



## Editor's Desk

By Ed Walsh



I had a very interesting meeting with Duke Preston last week. I asked a lot of questions about our chapter's history and future direction and listening to his responses realized I had developed a number of inaccurate conclusions. What I also realized is that I am not alone with some of the positions I've taken without the proper facts.

We've all heard the story about getting a dozen or so people in a line, allow the first person to pass on something of interest, pass

## Quick Links

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## "The Vest" ©George Jacobi 2017

By George Jacobi



The program that John Preston and I did at the Goodwin State Forest in April, "Fly Fishing - How and Why" was conceived as a primer for beginners. It wasn't until outside while casting, the give-and-take conversation part, that it sunk in to me that beginners at our sport could be older than I expected, and that maybe not beginners, but people with

merely a moderate amount of knowledge, might look as salt-and-pepper grizzled as myself!

The old fashioned respect I have for most people, especially those of my somewhat advanced age, allowed me to assume - mistakenly - that almost everyone in our chapter was close to John and I in skill and experience. I had never been out there standing next to all our TU club members in some evening pool surrounded by willing trout to see for myself.

So I thought I would try to share more of my experience than I have been wont to in my past scribbles, thoughts about fly fishing, streamcraft, and river hydrology. If you are an old hand at this, you may take it all with a grain of salt, of course. I'll begin with my vest, because it seems to exist in a category by itself. Someone asked me about gear - it was going to be part of the presentation and fell by the wayside when time ran short. Everyone has their own system for carrying trout fishing gear around, so once again, if you think I'm nuts to do this the way I do, you're probably right. Do whatever works for you.

My vest is an ancient Simms model. The Velcro is starting to loosen but that's all that has gone wrong. It's dark gray/green. I have another of the same vest in tan with salmon/steelhead stuff in it, rarely used. I never made up my mind whether a light vest was better than a dark one as far as trout seeing you - it depends on what you're silhouetted against, trees or sky. I'm usually just far enough away from the fish that it doesn't matter; I know I am out of their window.

Several vests have come my way in the years since the Simms ones. Each of them I rejected because the pocket sizes were different - the new vest would have forced me to change all my fly boxes and thus my total fly organization, which has been arrived at over a lot of time on the water. I gave it some serious thought each time, and couldn't come up with a fly box plan that suited me better, or was worth that mental effort. Box organization is key to approaching a fishing season.

I'll break this down into parts for simplicity: Part One is the OUTSIDE. Let's include the fold-up WADING STAFF, which is in a belt holster around my waist. Wish I didn't need it, but the age of sixty is far back in my rear view mirror. While fishing, it hangs downstream behind me by its cord. This is only a problem

that thought on through the entire line and see how it had changed, or altered, by the time it gets to the last person. I think many of us are guilty of drawing conclusions without accurate information and more importantly passing those conclusions on as fact.

If you have a question about the chapter I encourage you to ask a board member. Most BOD members should be able to answer your question or get you the answer after a little research. They all want us to draw accurate conclusions.

As Joe Friday used to open every Drag Net episode with "The facts, nothing but the facts". That's still the best way to communicate.

Note: For anyone interested in information on the old Drag Net TV series please see Don Bernier.

**"Many of us probably would be better fishermen if we did not spend so much time watching and waiting for the world to become perfect."**

**-Norman Maclean**

## Welcome New TVTU Members

### Celesta Esteves

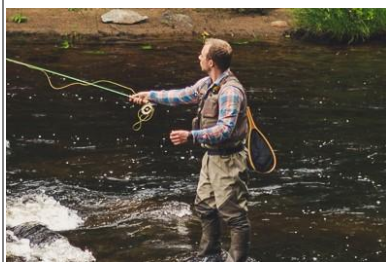
Celesta has been a CT. resident for most of her life. She has lived in Ashford for the past four years with her two exuberant black labs, Pete and Dory.

Celesta is a graduate of Connecticut College with a BA in Economics and Government and a Masters in Professional Accounting. She is the Library Media Specialist for the Tolland Middle School, Tolland, CT. She is also an avid photographer who is presently enrolled in photography certification program at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Celesta started fly fishing quite a few years ago but an injury derailed that effort and it wasn't until recently that she's taken up the sport again. And she is committed having attended both the Orvis 101 and 201 seminars to learn the basics of the sport.

Her early interest in fly fishing started when she watched people fish on the Farmington River, on local ponds and on the Ruby River in Montana. She wouldn't hesitate to ask questions about equipment, fly selection and what they looked for when observing a river. Being an outdoors person fly fishing seemed like a sport she wanted to pursue.

### Jacob ( Jake ) Snyder



Jake is a life time resident of Southeastern CT. He's presently in the Biological Oceanography Master's Program at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point, studying Ocean

when a cast is fished out all the way down and across directly below me, where sometimes the loose line will get wrapped around the staff once. It's annoying, but no big deal unless I've hooked a fish on that cast, and usually the fish will carry the fly line right off the staff anyway. I'm generally fishing up and across, and pick up the line to recast before this happens.

Outside also includes my NET. I sometimes stick it in the back pocket because it annoys me hanging down and can get tangled with the staff. I seem to be the only one who does this. The pocket is made for a rain jacket, one thing I don't bother to carry. You gotta get out of the water to put it on anyway. So I can reach over my head, grab the net handle, and the retractable cord stretches as much as my arm can stretch to net a trout. Honestly, I try not to use the net. Not needed for small trout, it's not quite big enough for memorable trout, and carrying a larger one would be even more awkward. So it comes out for 15" to 19" trout. Trout better than 20 inches come my way VERY rarely, and this net will have to do.

There is a sheepskin DRYING PATCH, and it gets used regularly. Yes, sometimes a fly disappears off it - that's life. There's a FORCEPS, or hemostat, for when a fly just won't come loose from a trout's mouth. Thankfully with barbless hooks this is rare, and though attached, it stays in a pocket so as not to reflect light and spook a fish. The DRY FLY DRESSING hangs out, though, so the sun can warm and liquefy the contents for ease of use. Lastly, my SCISSORS. Not clippers or snips - I like Coughlin's folding camping scissors in case I want to trim a fly's hackle or deer hair as well as replace a tippet. These too hide in a pocket on a bright day.

Part Two is the INSIDE. One top pocket holds my STREAM THERMOMETER and a little square of RUBBER bicycle tire to straighten leaders that retain too much memory. The other holds +350 READING GLASSES. I don't expect anybody else to follow this procedure. After trying everything else for my lousy eyes, I take the time to switch glasses in order to tie flies and tippets in sizes below #20. Slowing myself down is hard during a fish feeding frenzy, but it usually means I do it all better and the chance of snapping off the fly after all that trouble is much less. As it is meant for sunglasses, the pocket is a perfect size.

The left bottom pocket has the tiny NEEDLE-NOSE PLIERS for bending down barbs, CLIP-ON SUNGLASSES, and maybe a granola bar. This is one place I fit in another reel spool with a sink-tip line when I think it might be useful. The right side is a double pocket: it has my box of TIPPET SPOOLS (4X, 5X, 6X, 7X) and a few packs of LEADERS. I wish I had the initiative to still tie leaders to the fly line with a nail knot; it does turn over the leader better. But I succumbed to the loop on loop easy way.

The 6X and 7X are now Varivex - their products are terribly expensive, but work best for me. Just those two critical diameters - 5X and up is not crucial so tippets from many manufacturers work ok. The small pocket has a rarely used spool of 8X. I never switched to a tippet holder that hangs on the outside - to me this just means you don't have enough pockets in your vest. I like stuff safe and out of the way, because I have proven I can screw up almost anything.

Part THREE is the POCKETS. For fly boxes and a few other tidbits, this 9 pocket area contains far more than nine things, and thus is worth coming back to next time. Does one ever have enough flies? Until then, have a good season.



Acidification and its effects on larval fish physiology and survival.

He's been a fisherman since childhood when his dad and uncle would take him to the Catskills and introduced him to the legendary Junction Pool where the Beaverkill and Willowemoc Rivers merge. But over recent years his educational pursuits didn't leave much time for fly fishing. It wasn't until last year when a fly fishing trip to British Columbia rekindled his passion. Locally Jake fishes the Salmon River but is starting to explore more of our regional waters as time allows.

Outside of CT. Jake has fished many of the outstanding Catskills River and the Skeena, Kitimat and Kitsumkalum Rivers in British Columbia.

He looks forward to meeting TVTU members who'll recommend places to fish, what flies to use and share their experiences about the sport we all love.

## What I Did This Summer...



TVTU's Duke and Jen "Tie the Knot" in June. Congratulations and happiness to you both.

## Fly of the Month: "Firehole PMD Sparkle Dun"

By John Preston



Come September Sulfurs start to emerge... especially on the Housatonic. The one fly we should have in our boxes is the Firehole PMD Sparkle Dun. I discovered this pattern out west several years ago. Like our eastern Sulfurs it has a more orange hue to the body than a

traditional PMD. Even though the PMDs on the Firehole are typically the same pale yellow as on other western waters, Firehole trout seem to prefer the orange color. So, if you run into a sulfur hatch, make sure to have these flies on hand, as it should provide you plenty of surface action.

### Firehole PMD material list:

- Hook:** Tiemco 100 or Dai Riki 320, Size 16-18
- Thread:** Light Cahill 8/0 Uni Thread
- Shuck:** Mayfly Brown Straight Zelon
- Dubbing:** Sulphur Orange Superfine or Microfine Dubbing
- Wing:** Natural Sparkle Dun Deer Hair

For detailed instructions on tying the sparkle dun, check out [Craig's Mathews video](#) of tying the standard PMD Sparkle Dun and substitute the materials listed above.

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


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**Jacqueline P. Preston**  
Owner



Pete Belisle had a great time on his guided float trip on the West Branch of the Delaware River earlier in the summer. The trip was donated by Jesse Filingo at our May membership meeting.

## Old Fly Lines Wanted

A company called "Flyvines" located in Missoula, MT. recycles fly line and makes them in to a number of accessory products that are carried in Orvis retail stores, and fly shops across the country. They asked our chapter if we would be interested in recycling any of our old fly lines. If you are interested in participating we plan to collect donated lines at our meetings and bulk send the collected fly line to them. You can check out their website at [www.flyvines.com](http://www.flyvines.com) for more information about what they do! Thank you...



## Donations Wanted

You can help our TU chapter by donating your unused fly fishing/fishing equipment including rods, reels, flies, books and other reusable items. We will auction or raffle the items off and used the money raised to support our chapter's programs including stream clean up, stocking, TIC, speaker fees, and other operating expenses. Email [John Preston](mailto:John.Preston@thamesvalleytu.org) or call 860-546-6690 if you have something to donate or bring the item(s) to the next membership meeting.

**Thank You for your generosity and support...**

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Looking to reach a new and diverse audience? Presently we have over 450 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@thamesvalleytu.org)

**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: [walsh4613@cox.net](mailto:walsh4613@cox.net) | PO Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350 | Thames Valley Trout Unlimited | (401) 742-6536 |.

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