

Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

April 2021

Invitation to Chapter Meeting Via Zoom

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited April 20th Chapter Meeting

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Zoom opens at 6:30 PM for social time.

Join Zoom Meeting via link below (easiest)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81065692322?pwd=VFc1R0JHSWI2Mkc5VWWRHaWJna1F3QT09>

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President's Message....

Happy Spring Everybody!

We will soon be getting into the prime time of our fishing season. The DEEP has been extremely busy and out stocking ponds, lakes and streams as fast as they can. We hope to be hearing from them soon and going out to assist by live carting some of the rivers to spread some fish out and away from the bridges and easy access points to give everyone some better fishing opportunities in more remote and tranquil settings. The stocking team is poised and ready to get going as soon as we get the call. As of today, the water's too high for that but by the time you read this, levels should have dropped and we should be in business.

This month's presenter is Tim Flagler. Most of you, especially fly tiers who go online for tying videos are probably familiar with Tim and his work. For those that don't tie, don't worry, this presentation is not at all about tying. I had a chance to see this presentation earlier in the year and trust me, you do not want to miss this one. I am looking forward to seeing it for the second time.

Tight Lines!

This Months Meeting Presentation

Tim Flagler of Tightline Productions



Tim Flagler is the owner of Tightline Productions, L.L.C., a video production company located in Califon, NJ. Although he produces video programs over a wide range of topics, his specialty is fly fishing. Tim is a well-known fly tying instructor. His YouTube videos are some of the best in the business and his YouTube

channel, practicalpatterns.com currently has over 92,000 subscribers and almost 28 million views. Almost every week he produces a new fly tying or “how to” video which appear not only on his YouTube channel but on Midcurrent and the Orvis fly fishing blog as well. They’re also featured on Trout Unlimited’s national website and in the Orvis Learning Center. In addition, he has a regular column “Beginner’s Masterclass with Tim Flagler” in Fly Tyer magazine. Many of his tying videos take the viewer well beyond just the tying of the fly and show what it looks like underwater, what natural it represents and how it can be fished.

Tim’s a fixture at the Fly Fishing Shows - giving presentations, teaching classes and often as a Featured Tier. He enjoys guiding year round for Shannon’s Fly & Tackle in Califon, NJ. and hosts annual trips to Patagonia in the spring and to the Kootenai River in MT starting summer of 2020.



"Tying the Winter and Early Brownstone"

by Mike Carl

The winter and early brown stone flies are a hatch that spurs fishing activity long before the more famous Hendrickson does. Both are active when winter turns to



early spring and our streams are starting to be restocked by DEEP. They are active flies and these early stones can give you a top water, large fly action much sooner in the season. In fact, I favor these flies over the Hendrickson because there is a lot less pressure on the water when they are hatching.

Here is my favorite go-to pattern for them in sizes 16 to as large as 10 or 12. Although it is a wet fly pattern, I also fish them as nymphs and dub floatant on them and skitter them on the surface as a dry. However, I have found that

swinging them like traditional wets the most effective.

Tie some up and give them a try. Let me know how you do.

Hook: Traditional wet or dry fly in sizes 16 to 12

Tail: Partridge

Body: Touch dubbing of black SLF

Hackle: Black hen palmered through body

Wing: Turkey – you can use duck as well.



"A Delaware River Surprise"

by Dan King

Ahead a small trail weaved its way down a steep embankment, through towering vegetation, thick except for the path worn away by the footsteps of



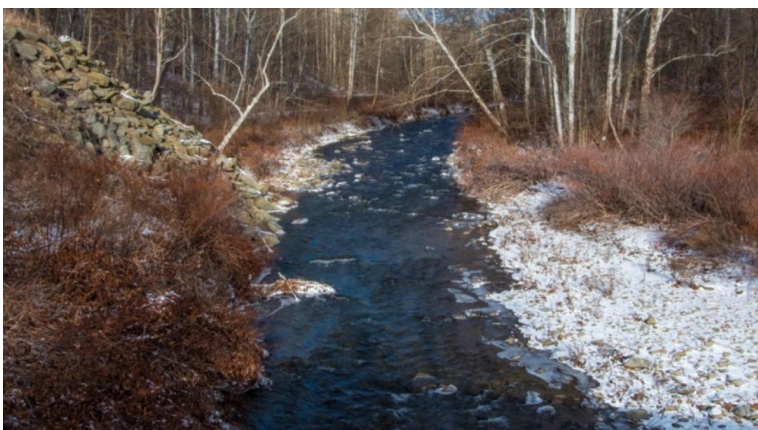
those who came before. The trail was obviously well travelled, although it wasn't easy. It was rocky and steep without many handholds. At the base of the hill the path opened up to a small stream that, in the mid-June flow, hardly pushed through the clusters of large rocks that made the riverbed. A gentle

flow filled periodic pools that teemed with fry swimming in clear tannin-stained water. It continued over a wide spit of land comprised of softball and larger sized rocks until it emptied into a wide slow-moving river.

A 45-minute drive brought me here from a camp not far from Roscoe, NY. Of course, the main branch of the Delaware River wasn't my primary reason for travelling this far from home. The past two days I've fished the Beaverkill and the East branch of the Delaware River. Both offered up some wonderful opportunities and challenging fishing. Everything they



said about these rivers I found to be true. They are technical, difficult to fish, and full of wild bred trout, making it that much more rewarding. For my penultimate day, I thought I would explore the main branch and see what secrets it held. Thus, I found the Basket Creek fishing access point, and it looked promising. On top of that, I had it all to myself.



The first two hours I spent fishing a ripple downstream from where the Basket Creek entered the main flow. I had some luck and landed half a dozen very colorful brook trout, in the 12-16" range. They were healthy specimens that eagerly took a Woolly Bugger fished downstream into the

ripple. It was a hot day, easily 80 F, and the bright sun promised limited fishing opportunities as it climbed overhead. So, I headed back to the base of the Creek, intent on eating my bagged lunch and perhaps finding a shady spot for an afternoon nap. As I walked across the rock spit, I noticed fish hitting the surface just along the shore where the creek entered the main flow. A hatch of tiny Blue-Winged Olives was on. They were appearing just as the cold creek water hit the

warmer water of the main flow. The fish were very active, continuing to surface in a constant cadence that is usually reserved for the hours of dusk when the air temperature takes a noticeable downward step and the sun has already slid from view. For the next hour I spent rotating through the smallest flies in my box, with mixed results. The fish were very close to shore, sometimes hitting my fly in just 6-8 inches of water. They were aggressive and continually bumped my fly in an apparent attempt beat it into submission, or frustrate me to the point of leaving. Landing just two 12" fish over the course of an hour of continual strikes will elevate anyone's frustration. But the hatch continued into the hot June day with a full sun beating down on the water. I wasn't leaving....



As I continued to struggle, a lone fisherman emerged from the path and immediately started making casts into the deep slow, very warm looking water beyond the spit. He was spin casting and didn't at all seem interested in casting along the shore to where the fish were active. He had a crank bait on and was casting out into the middle of a large pool of water beyond a separate

discharge from the creek. And so, we were content to watch each other cast, and cast and cast... with very little catching involved.

Awhile later, I heard a "whoop" and looked up to see the fisherman's pole bent over at an angle that dictated he was snagged on a rock. After watching for a few moments, it became obvious that he was in fact not snagged but had a large fish on, one his ultra-light spinning rod may not be able to handle. I sat down to eat my lunch and enjoy the show as the battle raged on. Over the course of the next 10-15 minutes, the fish walked the caster back and forth along the shore but at last relented, tired and beaten, to meet the fisherman at the water's edge. The guy let out another "WHOOPI!" and held up a 24" striped bass, taken not 100 feet from where trout continued to roll and splash in their excited attempts to eat size 20+ mayflies.

With that single triumphant gesture, the stranger took the fish and abruptly disappeared in to the thick vegetation headed back up the trail. After he left, I was once again left alone to my thoughts and couldn't but help ponder what actually just happened. A testimony to a strong fishery? An unwelcome guest to a stream that has long been touted for its trout and small mouth bass? The questions would have to wait. In the meantime, the trout had slowed considerably and hot sun was forcing me back to camp for my



afternoon nap.

In my single 4-day trip to the Delaware river system, I found beautiful trout, smart and challenging. I found hatches that I've read about, snow storms of wings when a flashlight illuminated a dark area above the river, a fishery that is accessible and welcoming and a striped bass where trout and small mouth should wander. I'll continue to travel to the Delaware River system and hopefully continue to be entranced, amazed and surprised.



"Toddler Tenkara"

by Nate Camp



Today was a good day, just another day in a long series of days getting my almost three year old daughter out on the water. This day she would be no spectator, now she was an active participant in the search for wild trout on the fly.

With her Tiny Tenkara rod in hand, the homemade five foot braided line looped to the lillian, a hot pink thread worm in size ten secured to two feet of 5x tippet and a net man ready to land her river monsters; she set off down the densely covered creek to accomplish three things:

1. To eat every darn pretzel in her snack bag.
2. Try to pick all the leaves within her reach.
3. Catch a fish.

The pretzels were long gone, dad was running block on the skunk cabbage and now there was only one thing left to do.

Carefully picking our way through the briar and brush, we arrived at a spot that usually escapes us. The trees here hang low over the bend in the creek, low enough to prohibit anything but a bow cast and an awkward retrieve. Today we were using a much shorter rod with a much shorter operator. A few casts with dad's hand guiding and then the independent spirit takes over.

Her first cast landed on the water, but it was instantly retrieved and cast again. This time she lets it sink before retrieving and casting again. Third cast and to her credit each cast was landing in close proximity to the one before. A few more tries and her retrieve had a tiny flopping 'baby' fish on the hook.

My daughter's first solo catch was a black nosed dace. She insisted on holding it for a picture, and releasing it herself. It seems she's been watching me intently on these outings. Without any coaching she crouched at the edge of the water, delicately offering the small fish back to the stream, hand open and slowly submerged until its occupant lifted free and darts away.

We fished our way upstream. I caught some trout, she tried some more and our water walking was coming to an end. I let her release a couple trout I caught further along, each time her wet hands cradled the fish and practiced the utmost care. On the way back to the trailhead, a small hand in mine tugged towards that secluded spot where the trees hugged the water.

We stalk around the trees and into position, she was thrilled to be tip toeing towards trout; as if they could see us from the water? We stay low, get right up to the edge and she lets fly. Again she fished alone, casting and retrieving. First cast makes me lurch forward. I'm ready to add my assistance if what I saw decided that ludicrously colored fly is worth grabbing. At the last instant, a swell of water and a distorted view of our target makes Natty retrieve the fly. That action would have set the hook if the trout had taken it.



Relaxing back from my hovering, I take a step back and allow her to fish. Taking my phone from my pocket, I take a picture of her standing there casting. I realize I'm taking a picture of her fighting a fish. She lifts the rod tip, pulling a gem of a wild brookie from the water. I pull out my handy pak net and secure her catch.

Her 'mommy' fish was a looker, her reaction was one of excitement but also a quiet observation of the hook removal. "The fly out of the mouth?" Again she would be in full control of the release. Wet hands, a gentle return into its home and time is closer to her nap; time to go home.



Program Coordinator Needed

We are looking to fill a board position of Program Coordinator.

Duties of this position include:

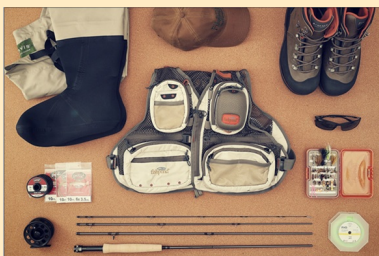
Coordinating who brings refreshments.

Finding and arranging speakers.

Bringing coffee supplies & replenishing as needed.

If you are interested in helping the chapter by filling this position, please contact Gary Lussier [email](#)

Donations Wanted



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

Thank You... for Your Generosity and Support.

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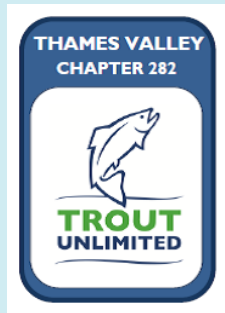
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About Us

TVTU Chapter's Mission

To conserve, protect and restore Eastern Connecticut's trout and salmon and their watersheds.

Our Vision

By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild cold-water fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.

Questions or comments on the Newsletter
contact Editor [Bruce Danielson](#)



Place an Advertisement in "Stream Lines"

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 [Daniel King](#).

Thanks for your support!

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