

Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

December 2020

Invitation to Chapter Meeting Via Zoom

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited December 15th 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=VFc1R0JHSWI2Mkc5WWRHaWJna1F3QT09>

Or, Join Zoom meeting via the app or website

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Or, Join Zoom meeting by One tap mobile

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President's Message....

Hi all,

'Tis the season - to be giving. Have you seen the bulletin that went out last week for our TVTU Sweepstakes fundraiser? Here's a great way for you to support our chapter while possibly winning some nice prizes and I hope you all join in. Keep in mind that everything we do, including the costs of chapter meetings, newsletters, TIC, stocking, outreach programs and

conservation is all funded by the money we raise almost exclusively at our chapter meetings. Since Covid has temporarily put an end to our in person meetings, it has also put an end to our only income. So please consider making a donation and entering the sweepstakes for a great prize while helping support your chapter!

We've had a little bit of a setback on the Papermill Pond Dam Fish Passage. Our original representative from DEEP has retired and we have a new representative with some different viewpoints, particularly on requirements for downstream fish passage. Without getting into all the nitty-gritty details, it basically means we need to consider some significant changes to our approach. We plan to meet soon with the Town of Sprague to discuss the impacts and potential options on how we move forward.

Congratulations to Dave Parry who has sold his house and is in the process of moving to New Hampshire. Dave has been a board member and also served as the Trout in the Classroom Coordinator for a number of years. His positive attitude and contributions will be missed. We wish Dave and his wife the best of luck on this new adventure where he will no doubt be out finding new wild brook trout streams to explore.

Of course this means that we need to fill the role of TIC Coordinator. And this leads me to point out that we have a growing number of positions that we need to fill on the board including Vice President, Conservation Chair, Program Coordinator and Fly Tying Coordinator. Not to mention we always need additional help to support some of our programs especially in functions like fundraising. Ideally some of these functions are best served by committees and today everything is a committee of one. I have a concern that as we have a

growing number of vacancies, the work is getting done as best as possible by fewer people and soon things will start falling through the cracks and we won't be able to do an adequate job on some of these functions. So I encourage each of you to consider stepping up to volunteer and help us keep the chapter running smooth and making it even better for all.

And finally, the Board of Directors and I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays. Stay safe and well, and we'll see you in 2021!

Tight Lines!



Thames Valley TU Chapter Meeting Featuring Samantha Dennis "Strategies for the Upper Delaware"

Samantha learned to fly fish on the freestone mountain streams of Vermont and the small rivers of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. While brook trout will always be her first love, the lure of big browns has drawn her to many locations, including a 23-day trip to Chilean Patagonia and a decade in the challenging spring creeks of the Midwest. However, it took just one epic day on the Upper Delaware to hatch an obsession with the river and make it her specialty. While trout on a dry are her favorite, she loves stalking smallmouth and anything that will devour a streamer.



"The Same River Twice" by George Jacobi

It's nearly the end of this difficult 2020. All the jokes and memes have been recycled by now, so pardon me if I get genuinely philosophical. You know the saying "You can't wade in the same river twice"? Every pool and riffle you ever fished in is past history, swept on downstream. Every fish you ever caught is dead and gone. Except for the ones you got yesterday, all the fish you even released are too. In point of fact, every life is as ephemeral as that of a Blue-winged Olive. Where does a river begin? You know the great hydrologic rotation, the H₂O moving from atmosphere to land to ocean, shifting from gas to liquid, sometimes even solid. Water doesn't begin, it's eternal. "Home river" is not a real concept, though water is the home of life.



Touch it. The water trickling from your hand is the same stream Theodore Gordon fished in, the same river John baptized Jesus in. Or it's the same water that first rained down on a young Earth when the comet struck, distributing oxygen across lifeless steaming volcanic rocks. Pick either story, or both. According to Genesis, water was the second thing created; only light came first. Or maybe water was first, depending on your definition of "the deep". Or if you think "darkness" is something, then water comes in third. Wait a minute; that gets confusing. The spirit of God "moved on the face of the waters", the Bible says. Wind howled, the skies opened up, waves crashed on the sea. In this religious interpretation, I'd choose to be led 'beside RUNNING waters' – somebody else can have the STILL ponds and lakes. Oh, and PS: 'thy rod and thy reel, they comfort me.'

Next, let's try hydrology, meteorology, and geology. Water determines its own path regardless of our philosophies, of course. In point of fact, so do the earth, the rocks, and the sky; they just move at a glacial pace (pun intended) we cannot usually see. We protect trout, and thus protect a hidden resource, the aquifers underlying eastern Connecticut. Imagine: under us, trapped in rock, is the equivalent of Lake Baikal. The result of rain and snow, groundwater fills in every tiny space



between the gravel, clay, sand, and silt laid down 12,000 years ago by ice a mile high. Overflow is squeezed out of the hillsides by the force of gravity and combines into the precious environment we love to fish in. Each trickle becomes each brook becomes each stream. So yes, it's always the same river.

Note: If anyone has the Fall 2020 issue of the relatively new outdoor magazine "Strung", George Jacobi would like to borrow it. gjfishn@sbcglobal.net

Thanks,
George

Thames Valley Chapter 282 Top Prize Giveaway 2020

Enter to win and support local conservation

TVTU TOP PRIZE GIVEAWAY

Six great prizes including a TFO fly rod in any size you choose!



Support all the great local work Thames Valley TU does in Eastern Connecticut [by buying entries in our year-end sweepstakes.](#)

Entries are \$10 each, or you can earn more entries for higher donations. A \$20 donation earns three entries, give \$50 and earn 8 entries, or donate \$100 to earn 20 entries!

You'll have a chance at some great prizes, **including the Grand Prize of a TFO Blue Ribbon fly rod in ANY SIZE YOU CHOOSE!** Whether you're looking for a 7.5-foot 4-weight, a 10-foot, 5-weight or a 9-foot 7-weight, you'll have a choice of the rod you want from 11 different models! Topping off the prizes are two guided fishing trips, an Orvis waterproof sling pack, original art lithograph and a TU logo gear pack.

Best of all, you'll know that every dollar contributed is going directly to support the important work of TVTU here at home. From our youth education programs to our river restoration efforts, we rely on our all-volunteer members and supporters to make the streams we love healthier for the communities they flow through.

[So donate now to earn your entries \(here\)](#) and support TVTU. Thank you!

Deadline to Enter: 12/31/2020 11:59 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Winner Announced: 01/03/2021 11:59 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers denies the key

permit for the proposed Pebble Mine



In a move welcomed by millions of Americans, Alaskan communities, and admirers of the most prolific wild salmon fishery in the world, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) denied the application for the key permit for the proposed Pebble mine. The Corps had said the mine would cause significant degradation and significant adverse effects to the waters and fisheries of the Bristol Bay region.

“The Corps’ denial of the permit for the Pebble Mine is a victory for common sense,” said Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited. “Bristol Bay is the wrong place for industrial-scale mining, and we look forward to working with the people of the Bristol Bay region, Alaska’s Congressional delegation, the state, and other partners to permanently protect Bristol Bay and its world class fisheries.”

The Corps announced in August that the project could not be permitted “as currently proposed” and required Pebble Limited Partnership to create a new compensatory mitigation plan. Since then, technical experts concluded that it would be nearly impossible for the company to meet those mitigation standards. In the meantime, Pebble’s reputation took a hit with the release of the Pebble Tapes, which led to CEO Tom Collier’s resignation.

“Good riddance. The opposition to this project from all corners of the political spectrum runs strong and deep. The process has played out, and the science is clear. There is no way this ill-conceived project can coexist with Bristol Bay salmon,” said Nelli Williams, Alaska director of Trout Unlimited. “The denial of Pebble’s permit is a victory for American jobs, rural communities, and a fishing and hunting paradise long threatened by this shortsighted and reckless proposal. With this behind us, the people of Bristol Bay can start the work of ensuring the region is protected into the future from threats.”

Throughout the two-year permit review process, many organizations, federal and state agencies, independent scientists, and individuals raised potentially fatal concerns about this project. Among them were the project’s expected destruction of streams and wetlands, its untested and incomplete water management and mitigation plans, its unreliable tailings dam design, and its huge economic costs. Those concerned about the mine also cited threats to existing businesses, communities, and cultures that rely on the intact fishery, among various other issues.

“Thousands of us have looked forward to this day for well over a decade,” said Brian Kraft, owner of Alaska Sportsman’s Lodge, president of Katmai Service Providers and a Trout Unlimited business member. “The world-renowned spawning grounds of the Bristol Bay region are simply no place for large, industrial, open-pit mining operations. Kudos to this Administration for seeing this project for what it was—a half-baked and risky proposal that does not belong in the heart of Bristol Bay. This is a good day. We should all celebrate and be thankful today, and get ready to achieve long-term protections next.”

The final Environmental Impact Statement documented nearly 200 miles of impacted streams, 4,500 acres of impacted waters and wetlands (See FEIS at 4.22-15, Table 4.22-1.). The Army Corps said the function of the tailings facility was “uncertain,” and the Corps’ EIS contractor described it as “very similar” to the facility that failed catastrophically at the Mount Polley mine in 2014.

“I am relieved and thankful,” said Nanci Morris Lyon, resident of King Salmon, Alaska, and owner of Bear Trail Lodge. “This is the right call. The message is as clear today as it ever was: Pebble is not welcome in Bristol Bay. Now we can work toward the future without the shadow of Pebble hanging over our heads. We look forward to working with our Senators to make sure this is lasting.”

“Thank you to all who came together and made their voices heard to keep one of the world’s great watersheds pristine. Today, Bristol Bay, Alaska, is one step closer to being a protected American treasure that sustains local communities and industries and that outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy and experience for generations to come,” said Orvis President, Simon Perkins.



"Volunteers Wanted"



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](mailto:gary.lussier@sbctg.org)

Trout In the Classroom Coordinator Needed

Duties include:

- Acting as liaison with participating schools/teachers
- Coordinating with the participating schools.
- Coordinating with DEEP hatchery for the pick-up and delivery of eggs.
- Coordinating with TU volunteers to deliver eggs to the schools.
- Coordinating delivery and setup of tanks for new schools.

Fly Tying Coordinator Needed

We are looking for a Fly Tying coordinator to support chapter events. It is not a requirement to become a board member, but the coordinator is welcome to join the board.

Duties include:

- Contacting and arranging for volunteer tyers at our chapter meetings
- Coordinating tyers for our fly tying classes (usually one six week class at the Fish Connection).
- Coordinating tyers for our outreach events
- Replenishing tying supplies as required.
- Communicate with board to coordinate requirements. Please contact Gary Lussier or Ray Schaeffer for additional information

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](mailto:John.Preston@sbctg.org) 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.

Thames Valley TU Chapter 282 - PO Box 2181, Columbia, CT 06237

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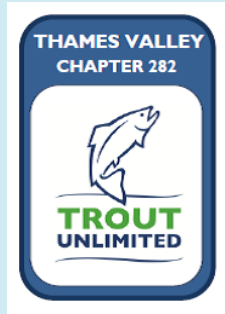
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About Us

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!

Board of Directors

Gary Lussier, President	860-861-9344	gelconn@yahoo.com
Ray Schaefer, Vice President (acting)	860-617-9948	rayschaefer9060@gmail.com
Glenn Levasseur, Secretary	860-204-1201	glenn.levasseur@gmail.com
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Duke Preston, Ex-Officio	860-917-7154	dukeoa5599@yahoo.com
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