



# Trout Unlimited

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

December 2021

## Return to In-Person Meetings



TVTU has resumed holding in-person meetings again at the Franklin Firehouse.

Just to be safe, we are recommending that both vaccinated and un-vaccinated folks wear masks.

Doors open at 6:00 PM for social hour and fly tying. Meeting gets underway at 7:00 PM.

### Directions to the Franklin Firehouse:

Our meeting location will be at the Franklin Firehouse on 5 Tyler Drive (just off Rt 32) in Franklin. The meeting entrance is on the left as you enter the facility. The Franklin Firehouse is located just north of Route 2, exit 27. Go 6 miles north on Rt 32 and Tyler Drive is on your right. [Google Map Link to Franklin Firehouse](#)

### Event/Meeting Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather

In the event that we need to cancel a scheduled meeting due to inclement weather, an announcement will be published on the website (click [here](#)) by 4:00 PM on the day of the scheduled meeting or event. Additionally, it will be announced on WFSB (Channel 3) [WFSB](#)

### Chapter Events

**Jan 18th, 6-9pm**

**Chapter Meeting**  
Franklin Firehouse  
5 Tyler Drive  
Franklin, CT  
**Tim Flagler "Night Fishing"**

**FEB 11 - MAR 11,**  
**Fridays 7:30 - 9 pm:**  
**Ledyard Parks & Recreation**  
**Beginner Fly Tying Class**

**FEB 12 - March 5,**  
**Saturdays 1:30 - 3:30 pm**  
**Ledyard Bill Library**  
**Beginner Fly Tying Class**

**Feb 15th, 6-9 pm**  
**Chapter Meeting**  
Franklin Firehouse  
5 Tyler Drive  
Franklin, CT  
**Annual "Flies and Pies" night**



### President's Message....

Season's Greetings Everyone!

It's hard to believe we're here already. It's December, Christmas is quickly approaching and we're almost at the end of another calendar year. Winter is letting us know its close by. Water temps have been fluctuating in the 37 to 42 degree neighborhood. This is about the range where I start to wimp out (not that I've done much fishing in the last

month anyway). I still see lots of people out there seeming to be unfazed by the cold and you

got to love their dedication.

As you may already know, Thames Valley Chapter members helped stocked Atlantic Salmon in the Shetucket River on Friday, Dec 3. We put in 50 3+ year old salmon and there were some really nice fish that went into the water. This was our second stocking (and the third for DEEP) this year. We've had some very good turnouts of helpers on these salmon stockings thanks in part to member Phil Sheffield who brought along some members from his Facebook Group "Connecticut Catch and Release Fly Fishing". Thank you to all of you that came to help. This also turned into a media event planned by DEEP that included Deputy Commissioner Mason Trumble, Fisheries Director Pete Aarestad, State Senator Cathy Osten, and Sprague First Selectwoman Cheryl Blanchard all of who spoke briefly about the DEEP stocking program. Connecticut River Salmon Associates President Tom Chrosniak was also in attendance. Several media outlets were there including the Norwich Bulletin and Fox 61 News. It was a fun day with some recognition of the efforts by TVTU assisting DEEP with their stocking programs. See our website for pictures and links to news articles.

You should all have received an invitation from DEEP to review and comment on a new initiative around wild trout management. They're also holding Zoom meetings to explain their objectives and solicit public opinion. Jack Kovach (TU State Council Chair) held a meeting with CT State chapter presidents, members of TU National and some senior members of DEEP to discuss how we could best work on common goals and share resources and knowledge with the state initiatives and the TU Priority Waters initiative. It was a good collaborative discussion where we all seem to be in agreement that this looks like a good opportunity to really strengthen our partnership as we work toward common goals to improve wild trout management in the state. Hopefully that was just the beginning of a productive journey toward better fishing opportunities.

Whether your holiday plans have you staying at home or travelling afar, stay safe and enjoy.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Tight Lines!

Gary

---



## The ONE Fly

by John Springer



After losing our trip to Montana because of Covid, this year's trip was something we were looking forward to a great deal. I'm sure there were thousands more like us without a doubt. The thin man and I bought our tickets the first week of December and rented a car also. From what I heard from others renting the car turned out to be one of my smartest moves. People that waited paid a stiff price as well as shortages

of cars. We met 3 people alone in Wolf Creek driving rental trucks you get for \$20 a day plus mileage.

The thing you can never plan on was an early drought and early fire season. Because of the drought and higher than normal air temps turns Hoot Owl rules were applied. This is when you



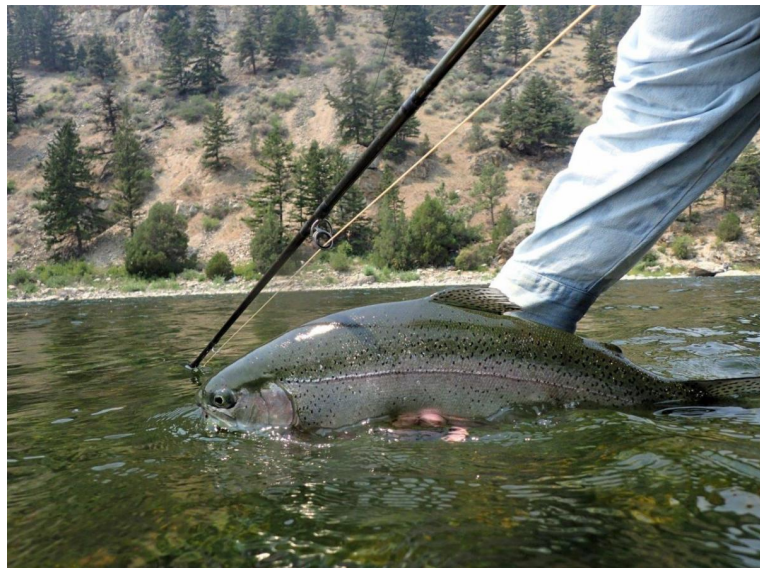
must stop fishing at 2 PM and cannot start again till midnight because of water temperatures. Our first week fishing plans were changed as we were to fish a river these rules applied to, not the biggest deal as we were able to get our room in Wolf Creek early. Like my friend Carl wrote a while ago in a story, you must be flexible.



Wolf Creek has been changing over the past 5 years, not for the better. Frenchmen and Me has been gutted and is all brand new inside, depending on what you like this can be great, or in my case, I miss the old place. It had character, old pictures of the towns and a real bar menus. They even had one of those manual slicers to make French fries mounted on the wall. No frozen fries here! Today they got fancy, as I said depending on what you're looking for it can be real nice. Of course they were closed 2 days a week and no lunch several days a week

either. Signs saying can't get help and help wanted were posted in many places. The Oasis did away with food except frozen pizza, and that's if it gets delivered to them. Years ago they had no food 2 days a week but were open 7 days. Now 6 days a week and all the people we use to see are not around, for the life of me I'll never figure out where they went.

There are 2 businesses that have not changed the gas station general store and the Wolf Creek Angler. Shawn's gas station has anything from cappuccino to fancy beer! He has already made sandwiches both hot and cold, heat and serves burgers and burritos. Breakfast sandwiches and Johnsonville products with buns for lunch. My favorites are the Brats. He is open from 7 AM till 9PM he also has some flies for sale and lures as well as bait; he has a broad customer base.



Right up the road is The Wolf Creek Angler run by Jason and Zach. Don't look for fly tying supplies The Trout Shop in Craig has that. What they do have is everything else you will need, drift boats, guides and flies. Lots of flies. Now all shops have flies we know that and all shops that are located on or near a river will have a board and they list what flies are working. On a technical river it can be many depending what area you're fishing for sure as well as the time of day your fishing. We were there a few days when I went in and mentioned to Jason about some fish feeding and like many times I could not catch. We talked about the rise forms and where I was fishing and he came over and pointed out few patterns I should have. I bought 2 of each, one of them I knew would not work just by looking at it. It was gaudy and I was sure too big for low water on the Missouri River. We all know what they say about having confidence in the flies we are using; I gotta tell you I had none with this one fly I could not have been more wrong. Next day we were back and I bought a dozen as did the thin man. They worked for 2 weeks and accounted for many fish we caught. Jason smiled when I told him what I thought of his recommendation, I apologized for doubting him.

Interesting enough several years ago this same thing



happened to me. There is a spot where you park and when you leave the parking lot there is a back eddy that always has rising fish, it draws you in, at least it does me. It's really a fools pool as everyone fishes it with gobs of worms to dry flies these fish have seen it all. In mentioning this spot to Zach one day he walked over to the beautifully custom made fly storage area picked out a

caddis fly and told me how to fish it. That night went back and did as I was told and caught a very nice rainbow, a very difficult fish for sure and it was very rewarding.

Think about the thousands of dollars we spend on a fly fishing trip plane tickets, car, housing, food and drink, guides and at the end of the day some advice from a fly shop owner can really make your trip. I know it did for the thin man and me several times.



## This Months Presentation

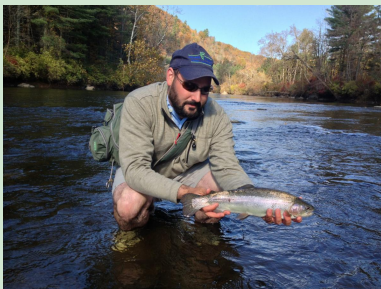
Tuesday, December 21st

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM -fly tying & social hour

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

### ***Fishing the Housatonic River Top to Bottom***

Jeff Yates - Director of Trout Unlimited Volunteer Operations



Jeff works with Trout Unlimited's volunteers in the 36 state councils and more than 420 local chapters and state councils across the country delivering support, trainings and resources aimed at helping volunteers more easily and effectively accomplish TU's mission in their local communities. Prior to joining TU in 2014, Jeff worked as a communications manager for the Fairfield County Community Foundation and as editor of the Wilton Bulletin newspaper. He is also an author and guide, who's first book,

Fly Fishing Fairfield County: Secrets of Suburban Streams, was published in 2011. Jeff is a fourth generation resident of Wilton, CT and earned his Bachelor's degree in English from Kenyon College in Ohio.

Fishing the Housatonic River  
Top to Bottom. Join Jeff Yates,  
author, guide and Trout





Unlimited staff member as we explore the Housatonic River in Connecticut.

Jeff will lead us on a journey from the tumbling native and wild trout headwaters of this fabled freestone stream, through the more than seven miles of fly fishing only trout water where large buttery browns lurk in the depths. The trek will continue downstream through some incredible smallmouth habitat - where it's rumored some big carp and pike cruise the shallows - all the way down to the Long Island Sound where striped

bass can be targeted on flats at the river's mouth.

You'll never look at the "Housey" in the same light.

Jeff is the national Director of Volunteer Operations for Trout Unlimited and has held nearly every volunteer TU position on the board of his local Mianus Chapter and the Connecticut Council. He has been fishing the waters of Connecticut for more than 30 years and has been guiding for nearly two decades. His book, *Fly Fishing Fairfield County: Secrets of Suburban Streams*, details the great trout fishing available in the southwest corner of the state. Learn more at [www.flyfishingct.com](http://www.flyfishingct.com).

## Special Holiday Sale & Raffle

The December "Holiday" meeting is a great way to celebrate, connect with friends old and new, and meet other anglers like you who are committed to our mission and making our local watersheds better and healthier.

A free event for chapter members, their family, friends and fishing buddies.

December's door prize is a TU Hat (choice of Navy, Brown or Cream). Our raffle table features a Fish Connection Gift Certificate, folding camping chair, Fly Vest, Tippet, two Books, Fly Line, Trout Streams DVD and a 4pc. Combo set includes a folding knife, 12 in one Multi Tool, Money Clip. 2.75 in. Multitool and more. In addition, we have TU logo merchandise at discount prizes...all to help you be the Santa of the year!

Don't forget there will be a selection of **FREE fly tying materials** available for those who tie...especially for tyers just starting out.

## Doors Open at 6pm

Our meetings are free and open to members, guests and the general public. Social time, fly tying demonstrations, refreshments, raffle, door prize & more... Featured presentation starts shortly after a short chapter business meeting at 7pm.

## DECEMBER DOOR PRIZE



CHOOSE A COLOR  
NAVY, BROWN, CREAM



# Open Positions

TVTU is in need of some volunteers to help keep the chapter active. We need volunteers for the following Board of Director positions:

**Vice-President** - *The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President if the President is absent or unable to perform the President's duties. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors and the President.*

**Secretary** - *The Secretary keeps the minutes of all meetings of the Board and the membership, and is the custodian of all official records of the Chapter*

**Conservation Chair** - *Coordinates activities and projects that directly support the conservation agenda of Trout Unlimited.*

**Program Director** - *Coordinates monthly meetings including meeting speakers and other chapter activities.*

**Fly Tying Coordinator** - *Board of Directors membership is optional. Maintain the chapter fly tying class material and schedule fly tying classes. Also coordinates fly tyers for monthly chapter meetings.*

Please contact Gary Lussier at [gelconn@yahoo.com](mailto:gelconn@yahoo.com) or 860-861-9344 if you would like to help out the chapter and volunteer for these needed positions.

---

# TROUT UNLIMITED

## Embroidered Hats SALE



Navy Blue Hat w/cream TU Logo

The TU waxed cotton hat features rugged 100% waxed cotton six-panel construction and adjustable strap back. With the TU embroidery.



Brown Waxed Cotton Hat TU Logo

The TU waxed cotton hat features rugged 100% waxed cotton six-panel construction and adjustable strap on back. With TU embroidery.



Khaki Hat TU Logo

This rugged and breathable khaki hat features a classic curved bill, six panel construction, durable buckle strap back, and 100% brushed-cotton. With TU embroidery.

**SUPPORT TVTU TODAY**

## TVTU Fly Tying Classes to Start Soon

Thames Valley TU will be conducting Fly Tying classes again this winter. Bob Walsh, John Preston, and Jack Balint will be teaching the classes. The classes will be held at the Fish Connection, 127 RT12, Preston, CT. Class dates are not determined at this time...please check the TVTU website or it will be announced by the next TVTU Bulletin or Stream Lines newsletter. Classes will be open to members (young & old) and to the public... novice to experienced fly tiers welcomed. Tools and materials will be available if you don't have any. There are no fees for the classes and materials.



In addition, we will be conducting a Beginners Fly Tying Class FEB 11 - MAR 11, Fridays 7:30 - 9 pm: Fly Tying Class, for the Ledyard Parks & Recreation (held at the Ledyard Senior Center); and FEB 12 - March 5, Saturdays 1:30 - 3:30 pm: Fly Tying Class at the Ledyard Bill Library. Please contact the Ledyard Parks & Recreation [website](#) and the Ledyard Bill Library [website](#) to enroll... spaces are limited.

Why Learn Fly Tying? Fly tying is great way to learn some of the finer points of flyfishing; something to do off-season and keep focused on fishing; because you like being creative & working with your hands; and, you want to spend many hours alone or with friends doing a fun hobby. Also, there is great satisfaction catching a fish on your own fly. Another reason people tie is to save money. How many \$2 or \$3+ flies have you lost in the trees or snagged on the bottom of a stream and the hundreds of store-bought flies in your many fly boxes? But the jury is still out on that reason.

But one sure way to save money for sure is to take our fly tying class. This way you can determine if this hobby is for you before you shell out to buy the necessary equipment and materials to get started. There is nothing better than learning by personal instruction. Learning from a book can be hard but not impossible. Today, we would suggest using online videos might be a good alternative. So, if you think you would like to give it a try. Enroll in our fly tying classes. It's fun and you will meet some great people and future friends... and have something that gives you pleasure for a lifetime!

Contact John Preston ([email](#)) or Jack Balint (860) 885-1739 at the Fish Connection to enroll, for questions or information.

## Items for Sale



**HMH Spartan Rotary Vise w/ Omni and Micro jaws: Mint condition - \$195 SALE (MSRP \$308).** HMH's Spartan Vise may just be the best value in a precision machined vise today, with full rotary action and adjustable head angle plus an easy and versatile interchangeable jaw system.

**Bamboo Rod Oven (homemade) - FREE -** The heat gun (not included) oven is FREE for the cane rod maker who will pass it on FREE to the next rod maker.



**Sage Performance Taper II Fly Line: New in box, (1) WF 5 wt. and (1) WF 6 wt. - \$25 each (MSRP \$65).** The Sage Performance Taper II (manufactured by Rio) floating fly fishing line is a smooth-handling, high-floating fly fishing line that provides enhanced line feel through your cast for greater distance, accuracy and consistency. Color Lt Yellow. These are great fly lines & save \$40!!

**LL Bean Travel Fly Rod 9', 7wt, 6 pc. w/ tube & bag, excellent condition - \$65 SALE**

**For the above items or to place your items for sale, contact John Preston [email](#)**



# A Call for Newsletter Content...

## Contribute to "Stream Lines"

Are you a budding photographer or inspired writer? Are you interested in conservation and have news to share? We would like to include your work in Stream Lines, the TVTU newsletter. Don't be bashful, any and all related content will be considered, including, poems, stories, gear reviews, photographs, paintings, conservation news, fishing & tying tips, etc.

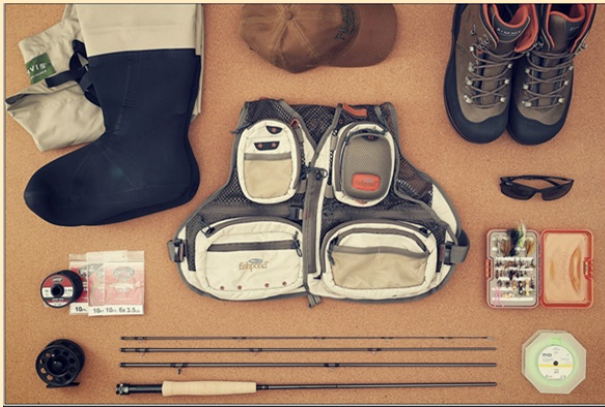
Visit [Charley McCaughtry's website](#)



Our goal is to get the membership involved in the newsletter and provide an outlet for creativity and sharing information. We have some very talented members in our chapter and Stream Lines is a great way to share information, stories, and art work.

To submit content, please contact [Bruce Danielson](#) (Editor) [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 [Pat Gaynor](#) or call 860-319-1690 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

Thames Valley TU would like to thank the following advertisers for their support... Please patronize them



Quality Fishing Tackle  
Freshwater \* Saltwater  
Inshore Charters

Joe Balint  
127 Rte. 12  
Preston, CT 06365

Capt. Jack Balint  
860-885-1739

## EASTERN CT FLY FISHING, SMLLC

Guiding & Fly Fishing Lessons

Michael Carl  
(860) 716-0825  
mjc6624@sbcglobal.net  
easternctflyfishing.com

Bait • Tackle • Fly Tying Accessories • Licenses



664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076  
860-684-1575  
jtsflyshop@yahoo.com

Charles McCaughtry

Original Paintings, Drawings, and Prints  
By Appointment Only

44 Portland Drive Ashford, CT 06278

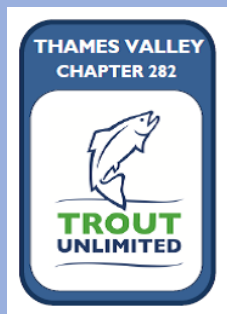
860-429-1016

www.mccaughtryart.com

cmccaughtry@aol.com

## Stay Connected

Trout Unlimited | [Website](#)



### 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

Secretary - Vacant

Daniel King, Treasurer

860-642-4870

dking4870@gmail.com

Paul Liberty - Stocking Coordinator	860-575-5461	paulliberty@comcast.net
Duke Preston, Ex-Officio	860-917-7154	dukeoa5599@yahoo.com
Michael Carl, Membership Chair	860-716-0825	mjc6624@sbcglobal.net
Jim Valuckas, River Cleanup/ TIC Coordinator	215-208-3873	jfvret@gmail.com
Charles McCaughtry	860-429-1016	cmccaughtry@aol.com
Bruce Danielson, Communications Chair	860-237-2686	bdanielson62@comcast.net
Zach Novosad, Social Media	860-917-6751	znovosad555@gmail.com-
Steve Gerling	860-429-4951	segerling@snet.net
Pat Gaynor, Fund Raising Committee Chair	860-319-1690	patjgaynor@gmail.com
Conservation - Vacant		

**Visit Our Thames Valley TU Chapter 282[Website](#)**