



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

February 2021

Invitation to Chapter Meeting Via Zoom

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited February 16th 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=VFc1R0JHSWI2Mkc5VWVRHaWJna1F3QT09>

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....

Happy February!

An update on the Papermill Pond Fish Passage project. We had a meeting with the Sprague First Selectwoman and were able to find a solution to the issue with the new requirements for downstream fish passage. The town will allow us to install flashboards in such a way to guide the fish to a deep enough plunge pool to safely come back downstream and over the dam. NOAA and NFWF have also requested that we install some data loggers to capture water levels below the dam to ensure proper depth of the fish passage entrance. This likely won't be started for a couple months due to high flows and ice so we are still currently on hold while we discuss the period required for data collection.

It looks like winter has finally arrived. After a couple of meager attempts by Mother Nature, we finally got a decent snowfall and as of this writing (on Superbowl Sunday), a few more are in the forecast for next week. Hopefully we can build up some good ground water levels to carry us past spring with some decent fishing conditions. While I'm really drawn to go out and do some fishing, I just haven't been able to rally myself to actually suit up and get out there and brave the cold. I keep telling myself to just dress for it and it won't be bad once I get out there. Maybe next week. Yeah, I'll keep telling myself that.

Meanwhile, this is a great time to go over all of our gear and make sure we're ready for some spring fishing. Check all those lines and reels. Replenish those tippet spools, fly boxes and tackle boxes. Check those boots and laces. There's nothing worse than throwing your stuff together at the last minute, not having looked at it in months and getting to the water and

finding that you don't have something essential to having a good day of fishing. Make the best of being shut in for the winter.

See you at the next chapter meeting.

Tight Lines

Gary Lussier



Thames Valley TU Chapter Meeting

Featuring Brian Berry

"Fishing at Grand Teton Lodge"

Brian Berry, owner/operator of Teton Valley Lodge will tell us about his lodge and fishing waters on the Snake River in upper Idaho.

On your Idaho fly fishing trip with Teton Valley Lodge, expect to fly fish on a different stretch of river every day. With over 25 different sections of river fishing on three blue ribbon fisheries near Driggs Idaho, there are years of discovery awaiting even the most experienced fly fishermen. Experience Teton Valley Idaho, just 30 minutes from Jackson Hole, Tetons and the Snake River.

At six thousand feet above sea-level, Henry's Fork flows out of a spring created by volcanic activity more than a millennium ago. The South Fork of the Snake is insanely gorgeous with enough trout to fill any fly fisherman's net. The Teton has so many different types of water, from spring creek to rushing rapids.



"More Grist for the Mill"

by George Jacobi



I suspect nobody notices the alteration except me and a couple of local worm-drowners. I've fished the pretty little stream for 50 years or so, often hiked the Nipmuck Trail that runs alongside; in fact, Quist and I escaped Poetry class at UConn more than once with ultra-light spinning rods and a sixpack near here. The river bends gently as it passes the historic stone Gristmill once owned and operated by CT Governor Wilbur Cross' father, then

splits into two channels to flow under a stone bridge and a dirt road. Looking upstream (the way I do as a dry fly angler) the right-hand side was always slower and deeper, and held all the trout, hidden in the shade of the bridge. Good water. The left side was fast, shallow, and fishless.

Some storm or combination of storms over the past four years was all it took. A sand bar grew on the right, like a tumor, and the current now overwhelmingly chooses the left. It's still fast there, riffled with a bed of large gravel, but is now much deeper. Too strong, too swift to interest trout looking for a home, and the last time I peered off the bridge, only one nervous brown trout finned on the right. A few small natural changes took place, but it made a difference, and there's nothing to be done about it.



A long time ago Lee and Joan Wulff gave a presentation not far from here, ending up fly casting on a school's front lawn. Middle-aged, in their prime, they each flung the whole fly line across the grass and assured us we could too, with practice (no, it hasn't happened yet). I was lucky enough to have done a bit of

Canadian salmon fishing by then, and the number of returning fish had already become a concern. I asked Lee what he thought about that. His answer was basically "We'll fix it when we decide to". He had faith in the ability of humanity to solve problems. All that had to happen was getting enough people to care about it, then we would collectively make a decision and whatever needed to happen would happen. His confidence in our ability to solve any problem was matched by his faith in our ethics, our goodness. We could use some more of that now.

It was the '80s and I was young and there were still many rivers to cross. Since then I've watched many folks with that trait, that charisma, led us down one rathole after another. I'm not talking about Lee Wulff here, but success in one aspect of life leads some to misplaced belief in themselves. I don't have much confidence in confidence.

My generation was averse to advice (don't trust anyone over thirty!) and I eschewed a mentor, and yes, revising that policy that could have helped me along the way. Some of that distrusting philosophy was left over when I met Wulff. I could see he was right, but I worried. I know, if you're not making mistakes, you're not doing anything. But where are the salmon now? We saved the bluebird and the California Condor, patched the hole in the ozone layer. But Atlantic cod are gone, winter flounder with them, and ash and hemlock are going the way of the elm and the chestnut. Treasure the sight of a Monarch butterfly.

Back to fish. Our efforts to protect the trout fishing we love mean protecting trout habitat. But civilization rumbles on like a freight train, and you can't see the engine and the caboose at the same time. Incrementally, we alter the environment without seeing it happen. By the time we become alarmed, it looks to us like a series of small natural changes, and there's nothing to be done about it.

We are here today, though, and today is all we have. So when the DEEP stocks trout at the Gristmill bridge this year many of them will hightail it looking for a better home. You might find them later, upstream or down, instead of gone to somebody's frying pan. Try a Royal Wulff! Treasure those trout and the Fenton River.

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Thames Valley Chapter 282
2020 TVTU Sweepstakes Winners

TVTU TOP PRIZE GIVEAWAY

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



Congratulations to the following winners in the 2020 TVTU Sweepstakes!

TFO fly rod

Guided trip with TU National Operations Director Jeff Yates

Guided trip with TVTU Board Member Mike Carl

Artwork by TVTU Board Member Charley McCaughtrey

Orvis Slingpack

TU Logo Gearpack

- David Griffiths

- David Redfield

- Douglas Zehner

- Paul Liberty

- George Jacobi

- Richard Tompkins



"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](#)

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.

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

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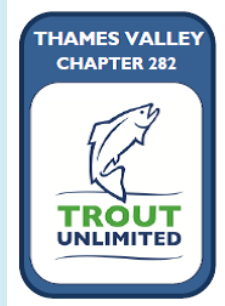
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About Us

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

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