

Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

February 2022

February 15th Meeting Now an In-Person Meeting



The February meeting, will be an in-person meeting 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

All Fly Tying Classes have been canceled

**FEB 15th, 6-9 pm
Chapter Meeting**
Franklin Firehouse
5 Tyler Drive
Franklin, CT
Joe Humphreys "Live the Stream" Video

**March 25th - 27th
Connecticut Fishing and
Outdoor Show - Mohegan
Sun**

**April 19th - 6 to 9 PM
Annual "Flies and
Pies"**
Franklin Firehouse
5 Tyler Drive
Franklin, Ct
More info to follow



President's Message....

Greetings all,

Our 2022 Sweepstakes ran for just about a month and closed at the end of the day on Jan 31. The chapter raised \$1,495 and made a profit of about \$1,100. Thank you to all who made donations for chances to win and also to Jeff Yates, Charley McCaughtry, Mike Carl and Ray Schaefer for your generous donations of prizes that helped make this effort the success that it was. See the list of winners in the article in this newsletter.

You may have heard of the fiasco at Housatonic Meadows where a number of the large trees along the high bank were cut down eliminating any shade they had provided with no plan to replace them. DEEP held a public hearing with an opportunity for anyone to speak on the issue. One of the outcomes was a commitment to work more with the public to give notice when similar activities are planned. In keeping with that commitment, DEEP contacted me recently to inform us that they are doing improvements along the Salmon River in the fly fishing only section to improve access to the river for better access for stocking. They are planning to cut down 27 trees between the power lines and the old bridge abutment. I visited the site and saw the marked trees. Most of the trees are dead and hazardous. The cut is very selective, spread out and the remaining trees will still provide good canopy with little to no impact to shading the river. I responded that I saw no issues with their plan.

I would like to welcome two new members to the Board of Directors. Marc Cardwell and Ryan Pike both joined the board at the January BOD meeting. Marc will assume the role of Conservation chair and Ryan will take on the role of Secondary Conservation chair. This is great news as they are both enthusiastically looking forward to focusing time to future conservation efforts and projects for the chapter.

Here is a two month advance notice that our Annual Meeting and Election of officers will occur in April. Per our bylaws, officers can serve a maximum of two terms and my two terms are up. This means we have 3 vacant officer positions that must be filled in April – President, Vice-President and Secretary. It is time to pass the baton. Who is ready? TVTU needs you now.

Tight Lines,

Gary



So, if you are a fly fisherman, what is your favorite fly and why?

Click below and send me your answers and I will publish them in the next newsletter.

[Click](#)

This Months Presentation

Tuesday, February 15th

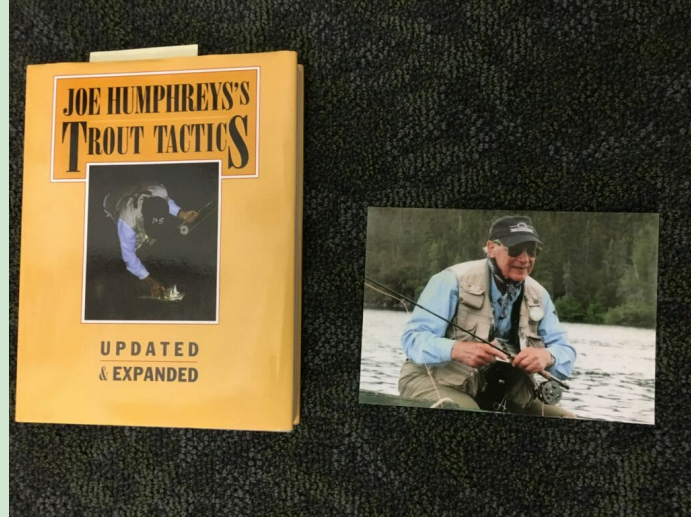
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM -fly tying & social hour

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Featuring "Live the Stream" the acclaimed video by Joe Humphreys

Live The Stream is the inspiring life story of Pennsylvania's fly fishing legend, Joe Humphreys: a man who was born to fly fish, lives to teach, and strives to pass on a respect for our local waters. A visually stunning film, anyone with a pulse can appreciate Joe's contagious spirit and, at 86-years-young, trout

streams are his fountains of youth. This is an emotion-packed adventure and Joe will catch your heart in this powerful tale of tenacity, life and love



FEBRUARY **DOOR PRIZE**

THAMES VALLEY TROUT UNLIMITED

V-Foam Fly Box with Two Compartments

RED TICKET DRAWING

**SUPPORT THAMES VALLEY TROUT
UNLIMITED**

Announcing the Sweepstakes Winners Congratulations to the Winners of the 2021 TVTU Sweepstakes

- Grand Prize: TFO Rod and Reel - Gene Cyr
1st Prize: Guided Fishing Trip - Edmund Brunnock
2nd Prize: Framed Lithograph - Irv Stanley
3rd Prize: Custom Fly Selection - Steve Gerling
4th Prize: Orvis sling pack - George Jacobi
5th Prize: Fly tying bench - Ray Schaefer
6th Prize: TU logo Dry bags - Marc Cardwell

Thank you for your support of the chapter.

Remembering Curt Nelson



Curt Nelson's celebration of life is planned for Saturday, April 16, 2022 from 2:30-5:30pm at the Westbrook Fishing Club, 272 Northwest Corner Road, North Stonington, CT. The family has invited Curt's TU friends.

"What's Going On in the World of Trout Unlimited"

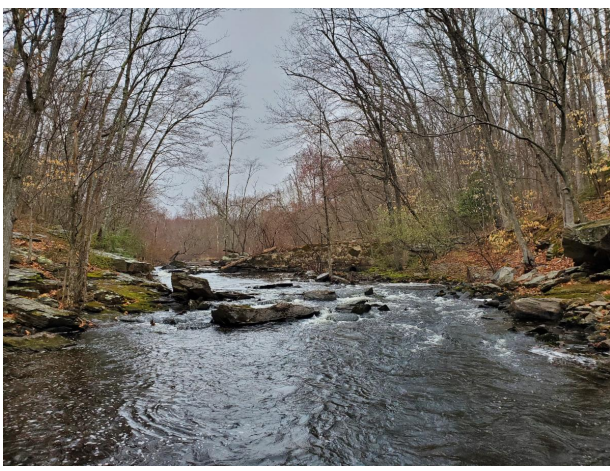


Connect with the TU community across the country at these local in-person and online events hosted by TU staff, state councils and local chapters. You'll find fun, engaging activities like tree plantings, trash cleanups, fishing trips, community science projects, youth education activities and veteran and first responder programs close to you. All TVTU events are scheduled on this webpage. Check it out at [TU Events!](#)



"Why do we Fish?"

By the late Mel Krieger - 1928 - 2008



Sometimes it is friendship and camaraderie. Sometimes it is escape, just getting away from our everyday lives. Sometimes it is competition; getting big fish; getting more fish than the other guy; actual contests or beating our previous goals or accomplishments. Sometimes it is non-competition, just walking the river or the beach knowing that the fish are there. Catch and release puts emphasis on the experience not the reward. Fly fishing is getting back to nature on a simple level. Water has a fantastic allure.

There is also something very mysterious and exciting about the connection with something wild and unknown.

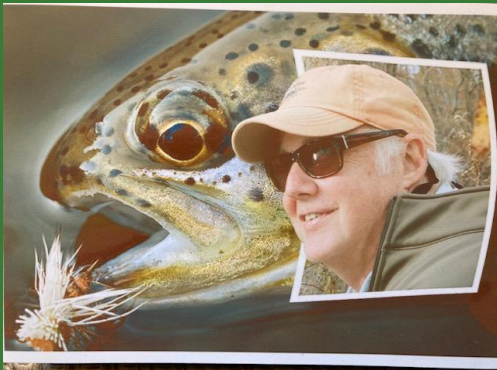
Time on the water must also include people, because they can be even more beautiful and more intriguing than fish. Sharing your fishing experience with friends can be one of the more satisfying aspects of angling. Perhaps that is why some of us derive so much satisfaction from guiding and teaching.

Fly Fishing is "Solitude without loneliness" – Robert Travers in *Testament of a Fisherman*

Travers' also said that he fishes "because one day he might catch a mermaid." Think about this marvelous and intriguing concept. Connecting with something unknown, suddenly feeling life through the line in your hands - it could be the biggest fish that ever lived. It might even be a mermaid. There is no doubt that this connection, this sensual contact with something wild and mysterious is a very special part of our fly fishing experience.

Fly fishing encompasses all of man's moods. – Mystery, adventure, tranquility, solitude, camaraderie, escape. Fishing is being, is living, is LIFE. I think we fish because each day we create our own fishing fairy tale; and because there are times we catch – and times we find – ourselves.

"Fairy tales of man and moods and trout,
Of land and waters, care and cause without
Quixotic games, the rivers' chuckling sound
To solitude and love, where self is found."



Mid November 2020 on the Shetucket

By Greg Dunn

I have been to several Thames Valley Trout Unlimited (TVTU) presentations on salmon fishing and had tried for several years for salmon without success. So to get ready for my first fall trip of 2020 for salmon on the Shetucket I reviewed my notes on salmon fishing. I gathered my equipment and got my "salmon flies" ready. The flies included the "best fly" recommendations from several longtime friends and outstanding fresh and saltwater fly fishermen: "best fly #8 red bead head Woolly bugger and Paulie says: Gartside soft hackle steamer is go to."

With the proper salmon flies and rod, I parked my car above the gate at Sandy Beach but also brought my trout rig along to the river "just in case" the salmon didn't cooperate.

Salmon outfit for me is a 7 weight Temple Fork Switch rod with a Rio Switch Spey 7/8 line.

I entered the water above the picnic benches at Sandy Beach with the switch rod. I did all the traditional stuff with the rod. Fished upstream and across with long casts. Changed flies various times to variety of salmon flies including those mentioned above. Net result was one decent sized creek chub.

After using and wearing out my knees for almost 70 years, wading in the Shetucket on those slippery round rocks isn't easy. With a wading staff getting into the river is OK but after I stand for an hour or more my feet get cold and trying to wade out is a challenge. But after the creek chub I'd had enough and decided to try to see if I could wake up any trout.

I walked slowly, trying to get feeling back in my legs and feet, down past the river's bend to downriver from the house at Sandy Beach.

A bit of background first:

After nearly 60 years of fly fishing (I learned from my dad before I was in high school) I have some pretty "established" ways of doing things. But over the past couple of years, I have developed a curiosity about Tenkara and European nymphing techniques.

Tenkara is a tough one for me to get comfortable with because I am so used to having the line in my hand and using a reel to retrieve. But I have very recently gotten the hang of Euro Nymphing. My first outing a few years back with an ill prepared Euro Nymphing set-up resulted in the fly line constantly falling all the way out of the guides down to my feet. It took a lot of "mental fortitude" not to take the rod across my knee and turn it into a 4-piece rod. But that same rod was the 3 weight I currently favor, obviously re-rigged.

Back to the Shetucket, this time looking for trout. In hand this time my trout rig which is a 10 foot Orvis Recon 3 weight with a Cortland .022 level line and about long leader. (That level line is the key to not having all that heavy fly line pull the leader down the guides). A #6 tippet tied to a non-descript grey bead head nymph size #10 or #12 using a "Davey" knot.

Casting a Euro set up is NOT distance casting. It is short casts, maybe 20 feet away and mostly upstream. You follow the leader through the water trying to keep the nymph just above the bottom on the drift. I have a multicolored sighter segment built into the leader that helps with seeing it all flow with the current.

I targeted a seam in the river flow and sent several casts to it. Then for whatever reason I tried to overcast the rig farther and threw a horrible cast. The nymph got down too quick and it was stuck. Was it wedged between two rocks? Was it a stick or leaves which are everywhere in the river in mid-November? Very hard to put any force on the snag with a 3 weight. I thought grab the line and break it off. Then the "stick" gave me a head shake. My mental genius took over and I realized that sticks don't give you a head shake. OK so the fact that it started to swim was also a big give away.

I don't know how long it took but trying to muscle the fish on a 3 weight as it pulled line off the small reel with the drag maxed out took a bit. I had to palm the reel to keep it from taking line as the reel drag on that small reel just wasn't enough. But I managed to get the fish to my feet after several surges and a significant bend in the rod. And to my great surprise it was a salmon.

With the salmon now at my feet, what to do?

Fly rod is in one hand while trying to palm the reel because the drag just won't hold the fish. Get the net out with the other hand. What about a picture?

So somehow while balancing the rod, the drag, the net and a phone that I DID NOT WANT TO DROP IN THE WATER I realized God only gave me two hands and I could use a few more right about then. But I snapped a picture somehow.

It is not an "official" fishing picture where you hold the fish in both hands up in front of you, close to the camera. As you all know the "official" picture is of you (to prove You caught it) and a significantly larger version of the fish (larger because you hold it close to the camera to make it seem larger than your head). So, this is not an "official" fishing picture because it lacks a few critical criteria. This fish was down deep in the net, almost at water level and it

looks small but only in the photo, I promise. And I promise I WAS THERE and I caught it. It was as much of an accomplishment to take the photo as it was to land the fish... and both took almost as long to do.

After a few minutes of calming down I went back to fishing for "trout". Sometime later after no further hits on the nymph I changed to a black bead head wooly bugger with maroon legs. (I don't remember the size of the fly but generally it was in the #10 - #12 range). Funny thing about that wooly bugger it also produced a second salmon. Hook up and landing the second was much the same challenge as the first.

That ended my November day on the Shetucket with a great deal of satisfaction. But what struck me most was after all the years of employing "traditional" methods and larger equipment, it was the non-traditional that worked. Sitting on the back by the picnic tables I was also struck by how lucky we all are to live or have access to eastern Connecticut. We are privileged to have access to the Shetucket and to salmon fishing and to all the watersheds that Thames Valley TU helps to protect. Thank you to all the TU volunteers that stock and that become officers or board members and that DO things to keep and protect what we have. Joyful fishing experiences like this are NOT possible without TU. I know the CT DEEP is also a big factor. But many years ago, it was some of our own TVTU members that helped convince the DEP (at that time) that putting old brood stock Salmon into the Shetucket for recreational fishing would be of more benefit than disposing of them in other ways. Since then, the program has evolved. Thank you TVTU.



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*

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 or 860-861-9344 if you would like to help out the chapter and volunteer for these needed positions.

Meet Our New Board of Director Members

Ryan Pike Conservation Committee



I'm Ryan Pike. I began my Fly fishing journey at the age of 8 and haven't stopped since.

After High school I joined the military and served for 8 years. Once I got out I attended UCONN and received my bachelor's degree in Fish and Wildlife Management. Currently, I'm pursuing a master's degree in Natural Resources with emphasis on Fisheries Management from Oregon State University. A few years ago I attended Sweetwater Guide School in Montana earning my guide certificate. I also volunteer as a guide for Rivers Of

Recovery, a non-profit organization for disabled veterans and volunteer for the Connecticut chapter of the Mayfly Project, where foster children are mentored through fly fishing.

I am excited to join the Conservation Committee of TVTU and bring the skills and knowledge that I've learned to the table and help with conservation efforts on the rivers and streams we all love to fish.

Marc Caldwell Conservation Chair

My wife Bonnie and I live on an old farm in Hampton where we raise goats and make cheese. We moved there in 2016 to escape the crowds – and self-important lunacy - of Washington DC and to spend more time outdoors: Hiking, kayaking and fishing. We have three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way. I am semi-retired



and spent my career in the CIA. I lived in South America and the Middle East, and speak fluent Spanish. Most of my early fly fishing took place in Maryland and Pennsylvania and that led to a preference for small streams and bamboo fly rods. In addition to fishing, I hunt and have a black belt in Korean sword fighting. I am looking forward to learning more about fishing in eastern Connecticut, and to preserving and protecting the resource.

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. - SALE \$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!!

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

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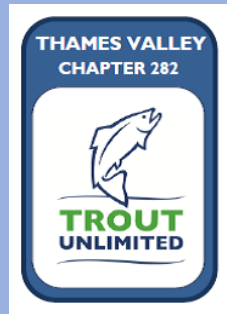
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About Us

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
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
Marc Caldwell - Conservation Chair		marcrc@att.net
Ryan Pike - Conservation Committee	860-428-6013	ryan.pike1984@gmail.com

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