

# Trout Unlimited

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

January 2023



## Presidents Message

*from Gary Lussier*

Happy New Year to everyone!

What's your New Year's Resolution? Just in case you're at a loss for ideas, here are a few suggestions. Get more active in volunteering your time to support our chapter. All four officer slots are open for this coming election. The Vice President and Secretary positions have been open for over a year. The Treasurer position is termed out at the end of the fiscal year (March 31). I will be 1 year beyond my own 4 year limit as President. Without new people coming forward to help and assume these key leadership roles, the future of the Thames Valley Chapter will soon be in serious jeopardy.

We have around 435 members of our chapter. Prior to Covid, we were consistently getting 40+ people coming to our meetings. That's merely 10% of our membership, which believe it or not, is actually pretty good compared to other chapters and other organizations around the country. There's nothing really wrong with having a big silent majority. There are a lot of good reasons why people can't make it to meetings or give more of their time. They are still important to the TU organization as a whole to be part of a strong voice in our conservation objectives.

But if we want to keep our local chapter viable, we do need a somewhat continuous flow of new people coming forward to help keep things running. We probably don't make this point often enough but any chapter member is welcome to attend a board meeting without making any future commitments. Volunteering for any of our activities is a good way to meet board members and start to get a feel for how we work together. The Board always welcomes new people. Help us keep the chapter moving forward.

## Chapter Events

### Upcoming Events

You may have noticed that many TVTU events now have a click function to "register". By Buying registering (it is free), it helps to plan on how many folks will be attending. You do not need to print the ticket

**Jan 17th** meeting 2023  
Presentation by Brian Eltz  
- *State Fisheries Biologist*  
*Brian Eltz - Latest Trout Sampling Data*  
click [here](#) to register

**Feb 4th** - CFFA Show -  
More info to follow

**Feb 21st** meeting 2023  
**"Annual Flies and Pies"**  
*Raffles, fly tying, displays and lots of pizza*  
click [here](#) to register

**March 21st**  
**Presentation by Darby Hittle**  
click [here](#) to register

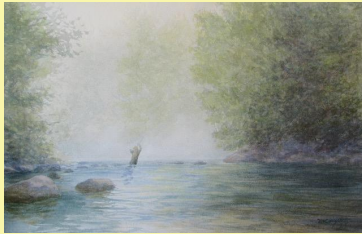
**March 24,25 & 26th**  
Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show at Mohegan Sun

**Event/Meeting Cancellations Due to**

We will be hosting a Family Day along with Joshua's Trust at the Gurleyville Grist Mill on May 27. We plan to have an information booth, fly casting lesson, fly tying, a macro-invertebrate sampling demo, a tour of our bank remediation project and possibly more. We are looking for volunteers to lead and participate in these activities. It's a good day to bring your kids and grandkids. Save the date – more info to follow.

A busy couple of months coming up with the fly fishing show, the CFFA show and the CT Fishing show at the Mohegan Sun. Hope to see you at some of these.

Tight Lines!!  
Gary



### 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**



## Thames Valley Trout Unlimited Monthly Meetings

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](#)

**We are always looking for fly tyers at our meetings.**

**If you would like to volunteer to tie flies, contact Ray Schaefer @ 860-617-9948 or [email](#).**

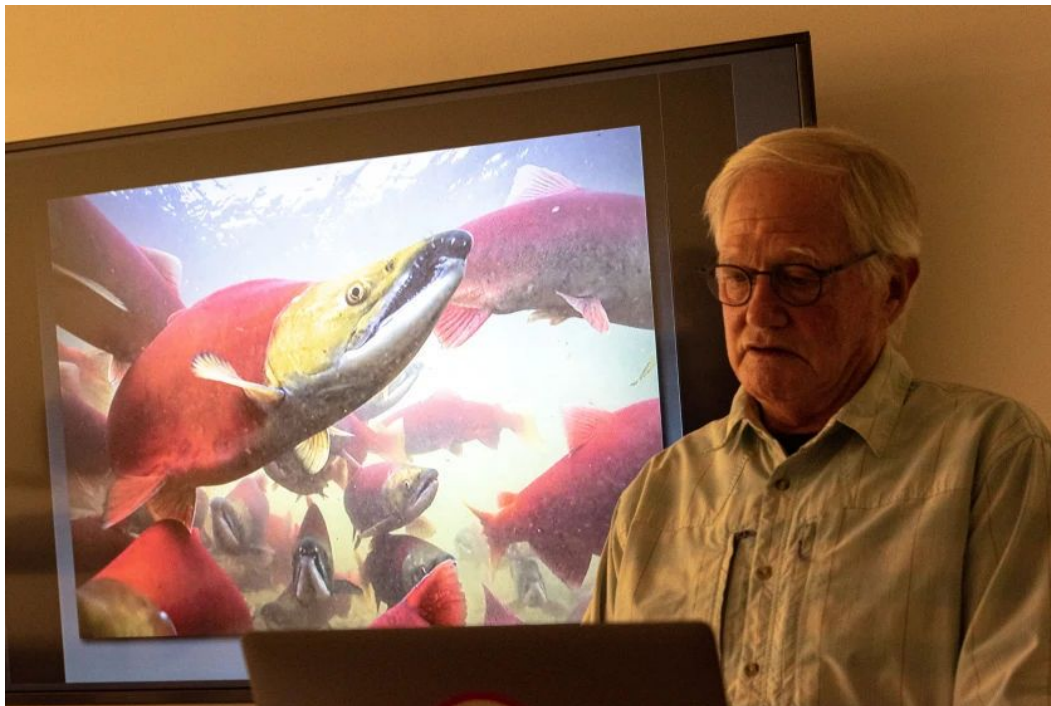
member Phil Sheffield



*Michael Melford is a summer resident of Mystic, CT. This is my good friend and retired National Geographic photographer. He is very active in his local TU membership in Rochester, MN.*

### **Rochester photographer lends hand for salmon battle**

**Michael Melford's work in Alaska has helped an environmental effort to preserve the headwaters of Bristol Bay in Alaska.**



Michael Melford of rural Rochester, speaks earlier this year at a meeting of the local chapter of Trout Unlimited. Melford photographed Bristol Bay, Alaska, and its fishery in 2009 for National Geographic in 2010. The fish he's showing are sockeye salmon that are thriving in that part of Alaska, but he fears a proposed mine in the bay's watershed would severely damage the fishery.

A decade-long effort to protect the massive sockeye salmon and trout fishery in Bristol Bay, Alaska, from the proposed giant copper-gold-molybdenum Pebble Mine leaped forward Dec. 1 when the US Environmental Protection Agency took the third of four major steps to stop it.

Michael Melford was thrilled.

Though the bay southwest of Anchorage, Alaska, is about 2,250 miles from his home in rural Rochester, it and all of Alaska, are dear to him because he has been there so often. More importantly, he can take some credit for his part in what conservation groups are calling a giant victory.

Melford was one of the people to bring the threat to the fishery to the nation's attention when he photographed a 2010 National Geographic story on the beauty of the bay and its fishery as well as the threat from the proposed mine.

"If something good happens, we always like to think we had some part in that," he said. "I'm just thrilled that it may finally happen, that we value a sustainable fishery and the

environment

Yet he cautioned that the EPA still needs to take the fourth step, probably within two months. "The final nail is not in the coffin yet and so, (while) I'm thrilled that we're heading in that direction, but I have the feeling we have been here before." The groups thought they had the Clean Water Act protection but the Trump Administration rejected it, Melford said.

## Mine vs. the sockeye

The proposed Pebble Mine would be in the watershed of several rivers leading into the bay southwest of Anchorage, he said. That bay is where mature sockeye salmon by the tens of millions (a record 78 million this year) come in from the ocean annually to go up rivers and creeks to spawn, then die. Other kinds of salmon as well as some trout also use the bay and its watershed. Native Americans, sport anglers and commercial fishermen rely heavily on the fish.

Trout Unlimited, the nation's largest cold-water fisheries conservation organization with about 300,000 members, also rejoiced because the decision determined "that dumping mine waste in Bristol Bay's headwaters would harm globally significant runs of sockeye salmon, setting the stage for the region to receive important Clean Water Act protections." Saving Bristol Bay "has been a major focus for Trout Unlimited for at least the past decade," said Kirk Deeter, editor-in-chief of TU's magazine.

"I think the media attention was key to keeping the issue front and center for the many different constituents, with different interests, engaged in the fight," he said. "The mine backers may have planned to outspend and outlast those who opposed Pebble. But we never stopped paying attention. And we won't. ... It was a David and Goliath story from the onset."

## Environmental win

Besides being an environmental victory for the bay, it also shows that the environment can win such disputes. "I think this is one of the benchmarks for protecting a wild fishery," he said.

In announcing its decision, the EPA stated it found potential discharges from the mine "would be likely to result in unacceptable adverse effects on salmon fishery areas in the South Fork Koktuli River, North Fork Koktuli River, and Upper Talarik Creek watersheds of Bristol Bay.

"This action would help protect salmon fishery areas that support world-class commercial and recreational fisheries and that have sustained Alaska Native communities for thousands of years, supporting a subsistence-based way of life for one of the last intact wild salmon-based cultures in the world," it further stated.

Not everyone was thrilled. Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy was upset and on his web page wrote: "If finalized, this action sets a dangerous precedent. It vetoes a permit that has not been issued and imposes a blanket prohibition on development over 309 square miles of Alaska-owned land. Alarming, it lays the foundation to stop any development project, mining or nonmining, in any area of Alaska with wetlands and fish-bearing streams."

"The State of Alaska has the duty, under our constitution, to develop its resources to the maximum in order to provide for itself and its people, so it's important that any and all opportunities be explored in furtherance of this idea," he wrote. "This sets a very troubling precedent for the State and the country. If this goes unchallenged, this issue will become precedent-setting, potentially for other states as well."

## Media presence



Melford, who has shot 18 assignments for National Geographic, said he at first proposed to do a landscape story about Bristol Bay in 2009 but his bosses said, “No, there is something more interesting going on.” He was told to go and see what’s happening. “Those were my marching orders,” he said.

What he saw was massive salmon runs well managed so the runs could continue. That made this assignment special. “From the first day I got emotionally involved,” he said. At first, he had mixed feelings about how he should regard the assignment. Journalists are supposed to try to show both sides of the story but he’s also a conservationist. Trying to be both “was very difficult for me,” he said.

But then Melford said he talked with members of the three groups — Native Americans, commercial fishing and sport fishing — relying on the salmon and, while they often disagreed on many issues, they agreed on Bristol Bay. “It was unusual that these three groups ... joined together (over) this mine,” he said. “For me to take a side was not difficult at all.”



Even his editor agreed the magazine had to take a stand, he said. “The editor said we only have one chance to stop this and we have to show what’s at stake,” he said. Besides the National Geographic photos, he said he has also spoken out across the nation about the threat. This fall, he spoke to the local chapter of Trout Unlimited.

*Ina Bouker kisses one of the fish caught in Bristol Bay, Alaska. The picture was shot in 2009 as part of a shoot for National Geographic. Native Americans have been catching the salmon and trout for millennia.*

Half the world’s salmon come from Bristol Bay, he said at the meeting. The fish come in with the tide in July, are netted or sometimes caught by sport anglers, he said. “They are all cookie cutters, they are almost all the same size,” Melford said, each around 10 to 12 pounds. They are netted in smaller ships, processed in bigger ones and quickly flash frozen, then taken around the world. Natives also net the fish as they have done for millennia, drying them as they have for millennia.

Being neutral doesn’t come naturally to him. “I have always had an opinion on my stories” that tend to focus on how beautiful the planet is, he said.

In his talks, Melford tries to show the fishery and how great it is, as well as where the threat would come from if the mine was allowed to be built. Besides the actual mining, there would be tailings pond that could leach sulfuric acid and arsenic into the porous rocks there. Those pollutants could do massive damage to salmon that come up from the ocean and somehow find the very waters where their lives began as eggs and repeat the process. A similar mine in Butte, Mont., left the area with the largest Superfund site in the country, he said.

## Bringing his bias

Melford said he grew up north of New York City with woods in his backyard. “I was always there looking for salamanders, for tadpoles,” he said. In college, he tried to get into the Syracuse Journalism School but his views on journalism neutrality came out. The professor asked him about it and, “I said I didn’t think anybody could be objective ... the professor said, sorry we can’t let you into the journalism school.”

He ended up at National Geographic where he traveled the world, documenting its beauty, including three books on Alaska. He ended up in Rochester after meeting his future wife, Dr. Lynn Cornell.

His newest passion is fishing and helping the trout streams in this region. Also, he and his wife are very active in the effort to save a great blue heron rookery near their home.

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# JANUARY DOOR PRIZE



1 - Orvis Tacky Dry Side Box 2PTZ0100



**SUPPORT THAMES VALLEY TU**

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**Winners of the 2022 TVTU  
Sweepstakes**



The winners are:

Grand Prize - Tim Pindell - Orvis Helios 3F 905-4

1st Prize - George Jacobi - Temple Fork Outfitter Spinning Rod

2nd Prize - Karen Sawyer - Charles McCaughtry Winter Brook Print

3rd Prize - Stephen Gerling - Selection of custom tied flies

4th Prize - Alton Blodgett - Orvis Chestpack

5th Prize - Michael Betten - Orvis-Brodin Landing Net

6th Prize - Eugene Cyr - Winston Trout Wall Clock

7th Prize - Daniel King - Trout Unlimited Dry Bags + baseball cap

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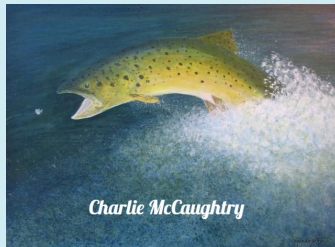


### ***From Grand Prize Winner Tim Pindell:***

I was surprised and thrilled that I won the Grand Prize. The Orvis Helios 5 wt. is a fine rod. Everyone that has one says it's one of the best they've ever used, and I hear that a lot!

Thanks so much to the Thames Valley chapter of T.U. and Orvis for sponsoring the Sweepstakes. I have a renewed spring in my step, and can't wait to hit my favorite fishing spots (top secret). - Tim Pindell, Canterbury CT

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## **Changes to Sport Fishing Regulations**

The following is a **simple summary** of the key changes to the regulations for sport fishing in the inland district. The full version of the regulations is available on the Secretary of State's web page

Questions may be sent to [mike.beauchene@ct.gov](mailto:mike.beauchene@ct.gov)

### **Seasons:**

Removes the closed season for fishing on all lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. (Legal access still required).

Establishes a statewide "Catch and Release season for trout and kokanee from March 1 to 6:00 am on the second Saturday of April (Opening Day of harvest).

Extends the season on trout management lakes from March 31 to 6:00 am on the second Saturday of April (Opening Day of harvest)

Retains the thermal refuge closures to protect trout seeking refuge in cold water tributaries as indicated by signs posted by CT DEEP.

### **Species:**

Revises the statewide daily creel limit for trout and kokanee to be 5 trout daily AND 5 kokanee daily (previously 5 of either, 8 in aggregate).

#### Waterbodies:

Establishes the following special trout regulations on East Twin Lake and Lake Wononskopomuc:

During the period from 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April through the last day of February the daily creel limit for trout shall be five, not more than one of which may be a brown trout, and the minimum length for brown trout shall be twenty two inches.

During the period from March first through 6:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in April, inclusive, the daily creel limit for trout shall be one and the minimum length limit shall be twenty two inches.

#### Adds

Long Pond (North Stonington) and Lake Wononskopomuc to the list of Trout Management Lakes

Prohibits ice fishing on Factory Pond (Salisbury), Lake Chamberlain (Bethany), Lake Saltonstall (Branford, East Haven), Maltby Lakes (Orange, West Haven), Lake McDonough (New Hartford, Barkhamsted) and Shenipsit Lake (Elington, Tolland, Vernon).

#### Gear:

Establishes a limit of two devices per person when ice fishing on East Twin Lake or Lake Wononskopomuc. This may be two (2) tip ups, two (2) jigging rods or one of each.

#### Definitions:

Establishes a definition for Cast Net, Inline Circle Hook and Culling.

Revises the definition of Closed Season to conform with the definition provided in state statute

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



many people to expect.

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!](#)

By **buying a ticket** for TVTU events (they are free), it helps the event planners know how





# 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:**

President – *The President shall serve as general executive officer of the Chapter and shall appoint the chairs of all Chapter committees. The President shall oversee all activities of the chapter, preside at all membership and board meetings, manage the business and affairs of the Chapter. The President may sign and execute in the name of the Chapter all contracts, agreements, and other obligations of the Chapter subject to approval of the Board. The President shall have general supervision of all the other officers of the Chapter and shall see that their duties are properly performed. The President shall report to the members of the Chapter and to the Board on matters which may be of interest or concern. The President shall receive and review all bank statements of Chapter accounts and shall pass them to the Treasurer after review.*

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

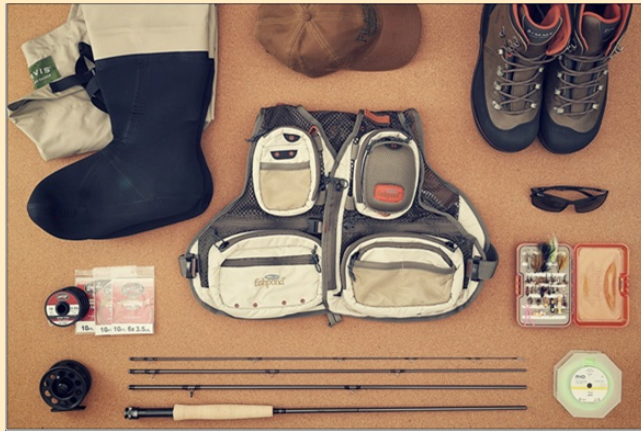
## A Call for Newsletter Content... Contribute to "Stream Lines"

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.

## 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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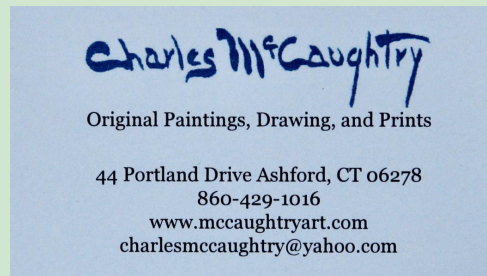
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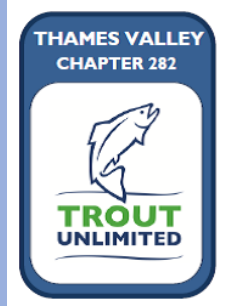
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860-429-1016  
[www.mccaughtryart.com](http://www.mccaughtryart.com)  
[charlesmccaughtry@yahoo.com](mailto:charlesmccaughtry@yahoo.com)



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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](#)**

[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
Vice President (vacant)		
Secretary - Vacant		
Daniel King - Treasurer	860-642-4870	dking4870@gmail.com
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 - Membership	860-429-1016	cmccaughtry@yahoo.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

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Trout Unlimited, Thames Valley CT Chapter | PO Box 2181, Columbia, CT 06237

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