



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

January 2022

January 18th meeting now a Zoom Meeting

We are moving the January meeting to Zoom. Please use the link below to join.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81065692322?pwd=VFc1R0JHSWI2Mkc5WWRHZWJna1F3QT09>

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

Zoom Meeting
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 9 - 11 am
The Fish Connection, 127 RT12
Preston
Fly Tying Classes

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 postponed**

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



President's Message....

Happy New Year all!

What will 2022 bring for you? Did you make your new year's resolutions? Do they include things like diets and exercise like mine always do but for some reason never seem to get followed for very long? (I'm already failing here but keep saying "I'll start next week for sure"). Not that I'll

give up on those, but I'm going to add a couple of "easy" ones. No. 1 is to fish some new and different waters. It's so easy to always fall back on the rivers you know well and can always find fish in, that I often don't make the extra effort to go find new ones. So this year I'll go out of my way to add some new spots to my list. No.2 is to try some new things. Over the last six or seven years, I've become a hard core nymph. Even when later in the day when the nymph action slows, everything I've read and heard says it's time to switch to soft hackles, I just can't seem to move away from what has worked best for me. So for this year, the plan is to force myself to put more time into swinging wets. So now I have resolutions that have a better chance of being accomplished. How are yours going?

Sadly, we lost one of our long time greats when Curt Nelson passed away last month. Curt was a founding member of the Thames Valley Chapter as well as a past president. Always quick with a smile and easy to engage, Curt had many friends in the chapter and will be missed by all that knew him. See the article below provided by his close friend, Jay Crowley.

You should have received the bulletin announcing our 2022 Sweepstakes. Here's a great opportunity to support your chapter while having a chance to win one of \$1,600 worth great prizes. This is likely the most significant fund raiser we'll have this year and hopefully bolsters our income that has been sagging mainly due to Covid, a year of Zoom meetings with no income and lower than average attendance this year when we resumed in person meetings.

And speaking of Covid, as you've undoubtedly seen, Covid numbers are going in a bad direction, in the low to mid 20% area for the last few weeks. At the Board of Directors meeting, we have decided to move the January meeting to Zoom. We've also decided to postpone the February Flies/Pies meeting to a future date. We certainly didn't want to resort to this but the safety of our membership is top priority and low attendance at our meetings so far leads us to believe a lot of people understandably already don't want to take unnecessary risk in these trying times. As of this time, we don't have definite plans yet for the remaining meetings this year. I am cautiously optimistic that things are going to improve quickly and soon as some indicators suggest. We will be monitoring closely, so stay tuned and we'll see you soon.

Tight Lines!

Gary



Remembrance

"Curt Nelson"



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Curt Nelson on December 14, 2021. Curt was a life member of Trout Unlimited and served as President of the Thames Valley Chapter. He was also a member of the TU State Council and the Fisheries Advisory Board. Curt was a founding member of the ConnRI Coastal Flyfishers, a member of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the past Fish & Game Chair of the Westbrook Fishing Club.

Curt made many trips to pursue trout, salmon,

steelhead, bonefish, and stripers in his long fly-fishing life. He made seventeen trips to New Zealand; annual trips to the Miramichi River in New Brunswick, Canada; and a frequent visitor to Belize and Spanish Wells, Bahamas.

There were few anglers that could read the water like Curt; he was an accomplished angler and particularly well-known for his ability to catch Atlantic salmon. He was also an expert fly tier and knew a good road kill when he saw one to add to his tying materials.



Curt will be missed by all his fellow anglers and the associations made during his many years of pursuing the sport. He was generous, engaging and had a great sense of humor.



<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/theday/name/curtis-nelson-obituary?id=32072161>

Submitted by Jay Crowley

This Months Presentation

Tuesday, January 18th

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

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Night Fishing

Featuring Tim Flagler - Tightline Productions

Tim's presentation will be on fishing after dark. At certain times of the year, fishing after the sun goes down can be spectacular and the chances of hooking into a monster are better than any other part of the day. Fishing in the dark does take some getting used to but with a few tricks, some basic equipment and minor modifications to technique, it can be an absolute blast. The presentation will include a wealth of video shot recently and over the last couple of years and yes, it includes plenty of big fish.



Tim Flagler is the owner of Tightline Productions, L.L.C., a video production company located in Califon, NJ. Although he produces video programs over a wide range of topics, his specialty is fly fishing. Tim is a well-known fly tying instructor. His YouTube videos are some of the best in the business and his YouTube channel, practicalpatterns.com currently has over 92,000 subscribers and almost 28 million views. Almost every week he produces a

new fly tying or "how to" video which appear not only on his YouTube channel but on Midcurrent and the Orvis fly fishing blog as well. They're also featured on Trout Unlimited's national website and in the Orvis Learning Center. In addition, he has a regular column "Beginner's Masterclass with Tim Flagler" in Fly Tyer magazine. Many of his tying videos take the viewer well beyond just the tying of the fly and show what it looks like underwater, what natural it represents and how it can be fished.

Tim's a fixture at the Fly Fishing Shows - giving presentations, teaching classes and often as a Featured Tier. He enjoys guiding year round for Shannon's Fly & Tackle in Califon, NJ. and hosts annual trips to Patagonia in the spring and to the Kootenai River in MT starting summer of 2020.

tightlineproductions@comcast.net

www.tightlinevideo.com

www.practicalpatterns.com

www.flyfishstories.com

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

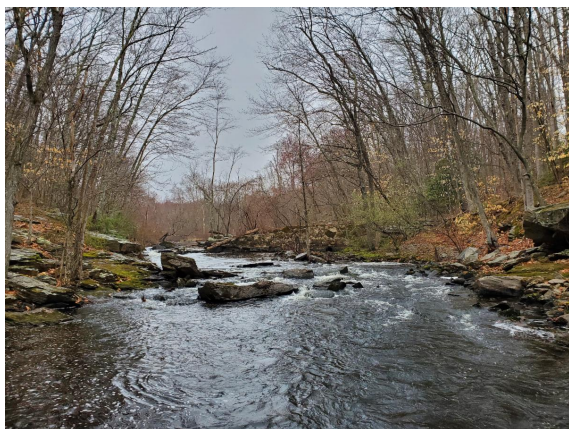


Connect with the TU community across the country at these local in-person and online events hosted by TU staff, state councils and local chapters. You'll find fun, engaging activities like tree plantings, trash cleanups, fishing trips, community science projects, youth education activities and veteran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



June 19th Shetucket River Memories with Jake, Jamie and Alex

by John Springer



So a week of plans was made to go fishing on a Saturday. Everyone was ready to go. Jake, who I am teaching to fly fish, made us his pot roast sandwiches, and Jamie, who I taught to tie flies at Norwich Fish & Game 30 years ago, went to the Colchester bakery to get me a Father's Day gift. And Alex, who I am also teaching to fly fish. I met Alex at the railroad museum where I run trains.

Life is good!

Jamie and Jake got there to fish first and caught nothing but were only fishing a short

time. We moved and the rain started. Not a big deal as it was very warm. Then the lightening came. So we took that time to eat and BS. As I am the old-timer I got to pick first what I wanted from Colchester Bakery for desert! Life is good in old age! We went back to fishing. Alex got some action as did Jake. Small fish for sure but they are learning to use fly rods. As

a side note, Alex got a nice trout after I left and when Jamie went to take the picture it shot out of his hand. But that's ok. I wish I was there to hear what he said. Most people would have blown off a day like that with the storm coming but life is short and I am glad we did not miss a fishing trip together.

More memories for sure.

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited Sweepstakes 2022

TVTU has launched our 2022 Sweepstakes. Here's an opportunity to show your support for the chapter and the work we do, while having a chance to win a great prize in the process. Please help the chapter out with your financial support and also share this link with your friends and on your social media pages.

<https://go.tulocalevents.org/tvtu-sweepstakes-2022/Campaign/Details>



Grand Prize: TFO Axiom rod and BVK reel (choice of size)

1st Prize: Guided Fishing Trip with TU National Director of Volunteer Operations, Jeff Yates

2nd Prize: Framed Lithograph by artist and TVTU board member Charley McCaughtry

3rd Prize: Over four dozen flies tied by local guide and TVTU board member Mike Carl

4th Prize: Orvis waterproof sling pack

5th Prize: Custom built fly tying bench from TVTU Vice President Ray Schaefer

6th Prize: Two liter and Ten liter dry bags with TU logo

Sweepstakes ends January 31, 2022 at 11:59 pm. Winners will be automatically selected at random and notified by the sweepstakes program.

Thank you for your support and good luck!!



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*

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.

TVTU Fly Tying Classes Start February

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, starting Saturdays, (9-11 am), February 12th to March 5th. Classes will be open to members (young & old) and to the public... novice to experienced fly tiers welcomed. Contact John Preston ([email](#)) or Jack Balint (860) 885-1739 at the Fish Connection to enroll, for questions or information.



Participants will learn about the basic tools and techniques needed to successfully tie flies. Patterns selected will be easier for beginners and cover the key fundamental skills for tying most flies. Each class will normally involve the students tying 2 - 3 different patterns and usually 4 or more flies per session depending on complexity and participant skills. No prior tying experience is needed and subsequent classes would build on skills learned in prior classes. Students are welcome to bring their own tying tools if they have them, but all required tools and materials will be provided for the classes free by Thames Valley Trout Unlimited.

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 another Beginners Fly Tying Class at the Ledyard Bill Library FEB 12 - March 5, Saturdays 1:30 - 3:30 pm: Please contact the Ledyard Parks & Recreation [website](#) and the Ledyard Bill Library [website](#) to enroll... number of spaces are limited.

Here are a few stories why some well know fly tyers tie... [Why I Tie - Umpqua Feather Merchants](#)

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!!

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

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Charles McCaughtry

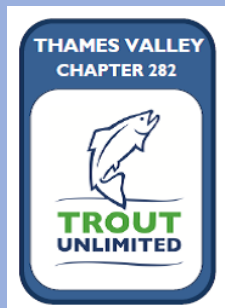
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About Us

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
Conservation - Vacant		

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