



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

March 2021

Invitation to Chapter Meeting Via Zoom

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited March 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....

Greetings all!

It was just last month that I wrote in this newsletter that winter was finally here and now I feel the need to say that spring is already around the corner. Was winter really that short? And I finally dragged myself out and did some fishing (probably the earliest ever for me). It was on a Sunday, relatively mild and overcast and I went out to the Salmon River. There was still plenty of snow on the ground but the shelf ice was gone and the banks pretty clear. I don't know why, but was surprised at how many people were out fishing that day. After a few hours without a bug in sight, I was sure I was going home with a good skunking. But just before packing it in, I finally caught a nice little rainbow of about 12 inches. I'm glad I didn't listen to all those excuses I had for not going out that day. While I normally think that only one fish in a day is not a very productive outing, it was great to get out for my first day of the year. Now to just make a habit out of it.

We have several potential conservation projects that are currently being investigated and discussed for possible implementation.

1. Rehab/improvements at the fishing pond at the Quinnebaug Hatchery. This

could involve some brush clearing, deepening of the pond and overall improvements to the fishing access around the pond. Scope and details are being discussed with DEEP.

2. Financial assistance to the Avalonia Land Conservancy to secure land around the Green Falls River in and around Voluntown. TVTU would likely apply for a grant from TU National and the Mianus chapter has pledged matching funds to assist if we can secure a grant.

3. Erosion abatement near the Gurleyville Grist Mill on the Fenton River. Representatives of the Joshua's Land Trust reached out to TVTU for assistance. Direction from DEEP will be sought for guidance on possible options.

Of course we have the Papermill Pond Project that is well under way and I have been reporting on that in previous newsletters. There is nothing new to report for this month so far.

Anyone that is interested in working on any of these projects should contact any board member or officer. See you at the meeting.

Tight Lines!!

Gary Lussier



Introduction to Fly Casting

WHEN: March 20, 2021, Saturday 1:30 pm

WHERE: Highland Lake Park
639 Shewville Road
Ledyard, CT

Rain/Snow date: April 3

Youth ages 10 and up and Adults can join the Introduction to Fly Casting outdoors with the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Participants will learn the basics of fly casting from great instructors.

Bill Keister a Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) certified Master Casting Instructor (MCI) will lead the class.

Participants are asked to sign up at the time of the event for COVID-19 Contact Tracing and wear a mask. All instruction and equipment are included. Sponsored by the Ledyard Public Library and Trout Unlimited. We will meet at Highland Lake Park.

Please register through the Ledyard Bill Library (See Library Events). [LINK](#) to Register There were 8 openings as of 2/26.

This Months Meeting Presentation

Rob Nicholas

*Angling in the Andes, LLC
Housatonic Anglers, LLC*

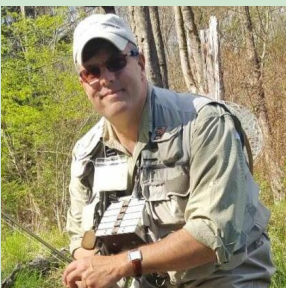


Rob is a full time guide on the Housatonic and Farmington rivers, located in the Northwest corner of Connecticut, and has been operating *Housatonic Anglers* since 1993. Rob's knowledge of the sport comes from 25 years of guiding but he also continues to learn more about angling for trout through extensive travel to Chile, Argentina, New Zealand, Labrador, the UK, and the American West. All the guides he has fished with in these areas have helped him grow as an angler, caster and fly tyer.

Rob conducts his guiding mostly from drift boats but wade trips are also offered. He likes to mix it up when guiding, switching between 10' nymphing rigs, streamers with sink tips, wet flies, and, of course, his favorite, dry fly fishing. All of these methods require different skill sets and Rob helps teach his clients how become more effective at catching trout on a consistent basis given current conditions.

In addition to guiding, Rob runs a booking agency called *Angling in the Andes, The Best of Patagonia* which focuses on the best outfitters & lodges in Argentina and Chile. The lodges and outfitters that he recommends he knows personally because he has fished with them many times over the past 20 years so there are no surprises. Unlike other booking agents and even the lodges themselves that promote and "dress up" the fishing in their respective area, Rob will give you the real skinny on what to expect if you travel to Chile or Argentina. By selecting lodges and outfitters in a variety of very different locations, Rob can assist you in finding the place that best fits your fishing preferences and budget. Some of these trips are hosted by Rob and he also offers group discounts to clubs that put their own group together.

Over the years Rob and his clients have taken thousands of photographs and video of Chile and Argentina. To see these images and videos posted on YouTube have a look at Rob's two websites. www.anglingintheandes.com



"The Wet Fly & Egg"

by Mike Carl

One of my favorite combinations and one that I



learned from my buddy, Joe Humphreys, is to nymph a wet fly and egg pattern over freshly stocked trout. I have used this pattern combo over wild fish with great success, too, at certain times of the year.

My favorite wet fly is the Royal Coachman. I use it as my dropper and typically tie it in a larger size, like a #10. My point fly is the egg.

Typically what I encounter is that the rainbows will go after the egg most of the time but, a nice attractor wet fly will produce as well.

Browns will hit the egg equally as often but, they are suckers for the Royal Coachman as a wet fly dropper. There is something about the color combinations of the Royal Coachman that drives them crazy! Perhaps that pattern in a size #10 or #12

looks like a little wild brookie or brown ? No one really knows what they see it as but it sure has been a time honored and effective pattern for ages. I am never without a few in my chest fly box. The Royal Coachman is even deadlier on brook trout !



This pattern combination is a good one for new fly fishers to try because your odds of catching newly stocked trout with this combination is very high. Proof is in the bent rod !

Even though you may be catching stocked fish in a TMA right now, or later on in a stream that is open for taking some fish home for the pan, please be respectful of them. They are a precious commodity whether you think it or not. They offer encouragement and a sense of accomplishment and success for the new fly fisher. They provide fishing opportunities for people who don't want to or can't drive far to fish for trout. And, even though I practice catch and



release 99.9% of the time, they provide a food source for other fisherman who do like to eat their catches regularly. Don't get me wrong, I eat fish often but I do not take from public waters and leave those fish for others to catch and enjoy.



As always, be a good steward of the waters you fish. Pick up after yourself. Pick up after others who are less respectful. Share your knowledge. If you have been successful in one spot, share with someone near you that hasn't. If you take fish home, don't take your limit each and every time you are out- save some fun for everyone else. Bring someone with you and

teach them fishing and conservation. Finally, join your local Trout Unlimited or local conservation group. There are too many people out there who do not share your love of fishing and the great outdoors and would be more than happy to end that for you if you are not mindful of your actions.

DEEP works tirelessly for our benefit and enjoyment. Thank them when you see them. Good luck this fishing season and I hope to see some of you out there this year.

Give this combination a try next time. I almost guarantee tight lines, big smiles, and happy faces!

Trout Season is Open!

Governor Ned Lamont
announced that effective



March 4, 2021 trout season is open (Executive Order 10B). The Fisheries Division has started stocking trout as would be expected for this time of year; however, as the season is now open, not every water has been stocked. Fisheries staff will be working daily between now and mid-May to stock all of the trout that have

been raised for the spring of 2021.

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:

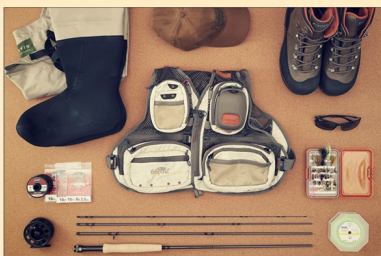
Coordinating who brings refreshments.

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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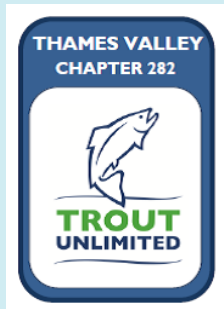
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About Us

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!

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Conservation - Vacant		

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