



# Trout Unlimited

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

March 2023



## ***Presidents Message***

*from Gary Lussier*

Greetings all!

It was great to see a big turnout for our Flies and Pies meeting last month. We had the best attendance since before Covid. It looked like a good majority of the attendees was very interested in getting up close with the fly tyers who came and shared their techniques and recipes with all who stopped by. There was a good mix of regulars, some we haven't seen in a while and some brand new faces as well. The pizza was a big hit as always and I doubt anybody went away hungry. Thank you to all the tyers who gave your time and did such a great job sharing your wealth of knowledge.

Thames Valley TU, along with members of other CT Chapters and the CT Council will be staffing an information booth at the CT Fishing Show at the Mohegan Sun on Friday through Sunday, March 24 through March 26. The objective is to inform the public about the existence and mission of Trout Unlimited and hopefully gain some new members or at least get some to join in any of our public conservation events. Perhaps we'll see you at the show.

## **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

**March 21st**

***Presentation by Darby Hittle***

***"Blue Ribbon Bonanza"***  
click [here](#) to register

**March 24,25 & 26th**

Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show at Mohegan Sun

**April 18th**

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

### **Event/Meeting**

**Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather**

In the event that we need to cancel a scheduled

Here is formal notification of our annual meeting to take place at the April membership. Board members will be providing various updates on programs and most important, we will be electing officers and board members. This is the best time of year to consider taking on a volunteer role either as an officer, board member or even a non-elected volunteer role to help with many tasks needed to keep the chapter running as smooth as possible. Due to the low attendance and lack of required quorum, we have yet to vote on the revised by-laws that we proposed October 2021. Please review the proposed by-laws on the web site and be ready to vote if we have quorum present. The by-laws can be found on the "About" tab.

See you at the meeting.

Tight Lines, Gary

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**



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## Notice of Annual Meeting - Update

We will be holding our Thames Valley TU Annual Meeting on April 18, 2023 during the monthly chapter membership meeting at the Franklin Firehouse. During this meeting, we will:

- Hear updates from the various committee chairs and officers
- Vote on board members and officers
- Vote on revised bylaws.

Slate of Board Positions up for vote:

President Open No Candidate Vice President Open No Candidate

Secretary Open No Candidate

Treasurer Open No Candidate

Board Bruce Danielson

Board Charley McCaughtry

Board Jim Valuckus

Board Mike Carl

Board Pat Gaynor

Board Ray Schaefer

Board Steve Gerling

We have a critical need to fill our officer positions immediately. Anyone interested in running for a board seat or an officer position should contact any board member for any information or questions.

The revised bylaws are posted on the web page for review. Click [here](#)

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## 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](#).**

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# MARCH DOOR PRIZE

## Tacky Day Pack Fly Fishing Fly Box

- Strong, latch less magnetic closure
- Holds up to 180 flies
- Fly Box is 5" x 3.125" x .75"
- Original patented silicone anchoring technology
- Durable and tested for long-lasting strength
- Withstands extreme temperature range



Sign in to get your free **Door Prize Ticket**

**SUPPORT THAMES VALLEY TROUT UNLIMITED**

Fund Raising Table - This month's raffle will feature a TFO 9' 4pc 6wt flyrod

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***"Presentation by  
Darby Hittle"***





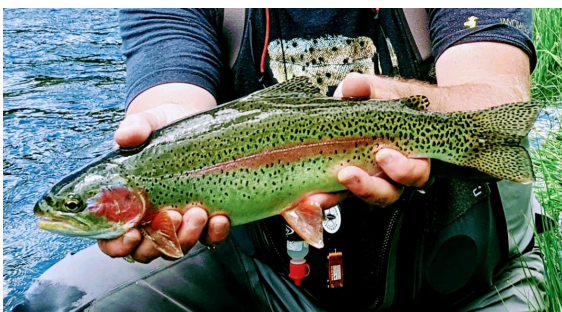
Darby Hittle, founder of Thunderbird's Environmental LLC in Clinton, CT is a Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) with more than 22 years experience providing environmental site assessment, remediation design and oversight, and regulatory compliance assistance to a wide range of private and federal clients throughout North America. Darby is a 1995 graduate of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a B.S. in Geology.

Darby is a veteran of the United States Air Force.

When he's not helping one of his many clients with environmental issues, Darby can likely be found on a cold water stream casting a trout fly, playing guitar, or planning the next western fishing or hunting adventure.

Growing up in the small farming community of Benton, PA. Darby developed an early understanding of the need for responsible use of our natural resources. Thunderbird Environmental is named after a neighbor's dairyfarm, where Darby spent much of his boyhood life exploring the local streams, fields, and forests and discovering the small wonders that exist within nature.

## "Blue Ribbon Bonanza"



This presentation highlights a few of the many blue ribbon trout fishing opportunities available throughout southwest Montana and the greater Yellowstone area. Rivers, flies, fly hops, places to stay and have dinner, and more.....

Click [here](#) to register

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Don't Forget the "Connecticut Fishing and

Outdoors Show" at the Mohegan Sun

March 24th, 25th & 26th

TVTU will have a Exhibit



This years ***"Flies and Pies"*** had a great turnout and lots of fly tying!



Pat's raffle/sale table keeps getting better!



Record number of fly tyers!



# "Spring Fling Thing"

Are you ready for spring? Cuz we sure are!  
As you may already know, March 20 is both the vernal equinox and World  
Storytelling Day  
but we're going to start our celebration a day early!

## SPRING FLING THING

HOSTED BY THE FRIENDS OF MACHIMOODUS & SUNRISE STATE PARKS

Many eco-conscious organizations will be joining us to  
share their knowledge. These are just a few:



Sharing the  
joys of nature  
for 125 years

## SO MUCH TO LEARN...

## SO MUCH TO DO...

A visit  
from the  
Gillette's



STORY  
TELLING



## MACHIMOODUS STATE PARK

### MARCH 19 NOON - 3PM

So many ways to educate and celebrate nature and the environment!

Just in time for the vernal equinox, World Storytelling Day, Global  
Recycling Day, International Read To Me Day, World Rewilding Day, World  
Frog Day, International Day of Happiness, Won't You Be My Neighbor Day,  
World Sparrow Day, and Taxonomist Appreciation Day!

Join us for this free and family-friendly event!

[MACHISUNFRIENDS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MACHISUNFRIENDS@GMAIL.COM)

On March 19th, the Friends of Machimoodus and Sunrise State Parks will host our second annual Spring Fling Thing to celebrate the season and our collective love of the outdoors. This event will take place at Machimoodus State Park from noon to 3 pm. Last year's inaugural event took place on March 20, which happened to be the Vernal Equinox and also

World Storytelling Day. This year's festivities we will be commemorating both of those occasions as well as: International Day of Happiness (3/20), World Sparrow Day (3/20), World Frog Day (3/20), World Rewilding Day (3/20), Won't You Be My Neighbor Day (3/20), Taxonomist Appreciation Day (3/19), International Read To Me Day (3/19) and Global Recycling Day (3/18).

The aim of this event is to have fun outside while educating people about ways to connect with nature responsibly and protect our environment. As you can see, the recurring themes here are the love of nature, the telling of tales and the sharing of information.

This year, there will be more environmentally conscious organizations on hand to represent the broad range of recreation and conservation activities in our region. There will be information available to educate people about all things trails/forest/nature related and lots of activities for park goers of all ages and interests including storytelling, a drum circle, acoustic music, a spring plant id walk, kindness rock painting, horses on display and much more!

Join us for this free and family-friendly event with so many ways to educate and celebrate nature and the environment!

Check Facebook/ Insta for details and updates -- @sunrisemachimoodus  
If you have questions or need additional information, please  
contact: [machsunfriends@gmail.com](mailto:machsunfriends@gmail.com)

[www.machsun.org](http://www.machsun.org)

@sunrisemachimoodus

*"You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed."*

*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Little Prince*

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## "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.

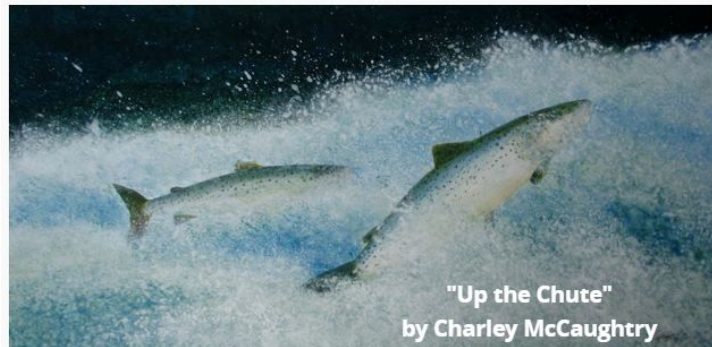
**Fly Tying Coordinator**- Board of Directors membership is optional. Maintain the chapter fly tying class material and schedule fly tying classes. Also coordinates fly tyers for monthly chapter meetings.

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.

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## 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](#)**

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## 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](mailto:Pat.Gaynor@thamesvalleytu.org) 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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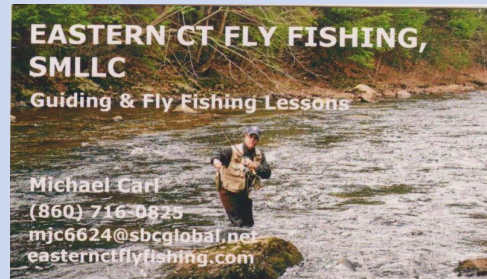
Joe Balint  
127 Rte. 12  
Preston, CT 06365

Capt. Jack Balint  
860-885-1739

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Michael Carl  
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mjc6624@sbcglobal.net  
easternctflyfishing.com



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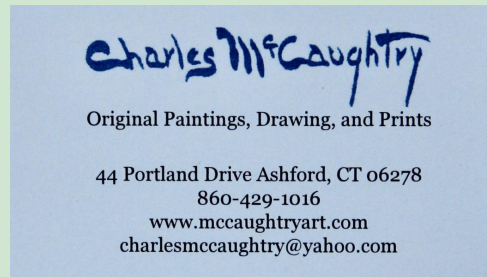
664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076  
860-684-1575  
jtsflyshop@yahoo.com



**Charles McCaughtry**

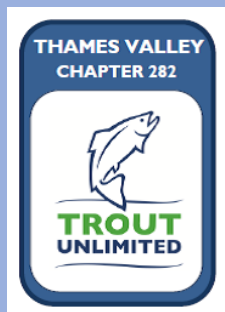
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**Stay Connected**

**Trout Unlimited | [Website](http://www.troutunlimited.org)**



**About Us**

**TVTU Chapter's Mission**

*To conserve, protect and restore Eastern Connecticut's trout and salmon and their watersheds.*



**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

### 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](#)**

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	dukea5599@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
Steve Gerling	860-429-4951	segerling@snet.net
Ray Schaefer	860-617-9948	rayschaefer9060@gmail.com
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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