



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

May 2021

Invitation to Chapter Meeting Via Zoom

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited May 18th 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

Meeting ID: 810 6569 2322

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Or, Join Zoom meeting by One tap mobile

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President's Message....

Hello all,

Well here we are at our last meeting and newsletter of the season. It has certainly been a unique year with all of our meetings being virtual. It was quite an interesting experience for all of us, but for the most part I'd say it was pretty successful.

For those that have been joining our Zoom meetings, I hope you have enjoyed the programs and speakers we had for you. For this past year, because of Covid and our Zoom based meetings, I focused on getting speakers from farther away than would have been practical to present in person. Barring any unforeseen negative developments in the Covid situation, I am planning on resuming in person meetings at the firehouse starting in September. I'm not sure where we'll be on masking requirements, but we'll figure that out when we get there.

We will not have a guest speaker for our last membership meeting. Instead, we will have some brief updates from some of the board members and open the floor for any discussions, opinions, ideas or questions you want to bring up. You can even share your fishing stories if you like.

We will not be having a campout or breakfast at Sandy Beach as we've done in past years. Instead, we will have a fishing day at there on Saturday, June 5. We will open the gate by 10:00 am and you are welcome to join us any time during the day. There is no schedule or planned events, just some socializing, hanging out and of course fishing. As an added bonus, Duke will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers sometime in the mid afternoon. We plan to be there all day and close up somewhere around dark. Most of us have been vaccinated and this will be outside, so masks won't be required, but you are still encouraged to keep some

distance and keep Covid precautions in mind.

Finally, I'll leave you with some thoughts for planning for next year. We need (and always welcome) new people to come forward and participate and take on leadership roles for the chapter. It is critical to get some continuous turnover of volunteers, board members and officers to keep things fresh and moving forward. At our next annual meeting, the treasurer is up for election and the vice president position is still open. In the next annual meeting after that, the president and secretary will have reached their term limits and new people will be needed to fill those roles. Please consider taking on a role with the chapter to help continue making it a success.

Also for next year, please consider being one of our guest speakers to share some of your fishing and travel experiences. Many of us, including me, really like hearing the experiences and adventures of our friends – they just seem that much more real and relevant. So don't be shy, we really want to hear from you. I need to start lining up the speaker schedule over the summer, so if you would like to share your story with us, please contact me over the next couple months and I'll be glad to put you in the schedule.

Hope to see many of you at the next meeting or on June 5 fishing day. And if not, see you at the firehouse in September. Have a great and safe summer.

Tight Lines!!

Gary Lussier



TVTU Fishing Day

The traditional annual campout/fishing weekend has been canceled this year due to the Covid debacle.

As a lower risk alternative, the BOD has decided to have an abbreviated event.

On June 5th, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, we will have a fishing party at the Konnow fish camp. Masks are not required but we will be practicing some common sense distancing.

Hot dog/ hamburger master Duke Preston will be providing the mid-afternoon meal.

To get an idea of the headcount, please RSVP to Bruce Danielson via this email link [email](#).

From the editor

This is our last newsletter of the season. September will be our next edition. Have a great summer!

Stocking Carts Refurbished

As many have noticed, the stocking carts have started showing signs of their age.

So one morning, Gary Lussier, Ray



Schaefer and Bruce Danielson got together to refresh the paint and replace the towing ropes and handles.

The result is some stocking carts that look almost new.

Now all we need is the opportunity to use them.



"Tank River"

by Nate Camp



There is a river not far from my front door. It is not deep. There are no swimming holes, unless you are a dog and I was about to round the bend to fish that spot. There is a heavy ceiling of branches and the massive trunks make it a narrow corridor along the banks. More often than not the best-looking water has the worst looking surroundings. The bow cast is a constant first move, on only few occasions there is space enough for full casts, follow ups, or even a smooth retrieve. The foot traffic is steady, and the path is very close to the water, some

days leaving me with little opportunity to focus solely on the kebari and the current. Even so, it has become one of my favorite spots.

I would say there is a certain balance to the area. Its enough of a hike to build the anticipation for trout on the way in. I can reach the best spots from most positions along the

bank and hit all the spots wet wading. Thick branches overhead mean that I fish in the shade on even the sunniest of days. There are plenty of overhangs, sheltered by those giants that form the corridor that the river flows through. The diversity of the structures and undergrowth make that perfect cast, and the tug of the take, all the more satisfying. The best part is the wild population of brown trout that lurk and linger in the depths. Any inconvenient structure on this trip may yield the headliner of the day on the next trip or even on the way back downriver.

This summer could be shaping up to be a good one for fishing if I can find the time to get out and stalk trout. Last September, I got away for a few hours just hoping for a few small trout. Instead, I was rewarded with twenty-eight browns in a period of three hours. Most of them were between 6 and 8, but three of them were over 12 and a few that were close. I caught these wild fish on a single fly, a kebariish version of the House & Lot. That day was a blessing and a curse. It was joyous to experience and a pleasure to remember, but now, whenever I fish less than a handful of trout out of the cold water, I am disappointed that my performance can be so poor on a river so rich.

This past Memorial Day I brought my wife and young daughter out for a family hike and decided to sneak in a few casts along the way; I wonder where we shall go.



of them just out of reach.

The weather was warm and pleasant, the smell of pine and damp earth was strong and comforting, the sun was bright, and that allowed a clear-sight picture of the quarry. Our first encounter with the river was the wide, lazily flowing mill pond whose dam creates a formidable fish barrier to the lower river. Typically, this silty body holds no sign of life, its barren shallow expanse is clear to see even on an overcast day. Not so on our hike; we could count at least four large brown trout actively feeding from the bottom and there were more that were smaller, doing the same thing, all

While I was happy to see them getting a meal to grow big and strong; disappointed would be the word to describe the inability to reach out and present a kebari to them. Later there was an opportunity to try for a fish I could reach, during my little one water break. I caught a small brown from the middle of a boisterous riffle after a couple short drifts with a lazy pulse in the rough water. My wife and daughter were fascinated with the tiny predator from the shallow river. Before long, it was time to head out, naptime was calling one of our company and we were briskly making our way towards the car.

On the way out though, dad needed to make a pit stop. There is one spot that bugs me. It's next to a large embankment; the top where the trail passes is around nine feet above the surface of the water. The pool is by my estimation six to eight feet deep and there aren't many ways to approach it unseen by any of its occupants. If you happened to hook up from the high bank here, the move to a shallow, flatter area to retrieve would require you to pass your rod around a couple of tree trunks while standing on a steep angle fighting a fish under branches. To hook up from the low bank you would need to be near prone in the stream or belly crawl through mud and vegetation. Are there even trout here in this swift moving bend in the river? Twice now I have crept to the edge and peered into the abyss, to find myself staring at the back of a very large trout. My first reaction the first time was pleasant surprise. It wasn't until I dropped a



beaded kebari in the clear water to tempt it and watched it go down, down, down and disappear against the bottom did I realize the potential size of this river bend's resident. That cold first day, everything I tried casting was shunned, until a black and gold wooly bugger was mouthed and summarily spit out before I could draw back to set.



But now, with a sleepy toddler clutched tight, the second sighting was a chance for me to stand back and marvel without the mental exercise of placement, current and an exit strategy. We were rewarded for our slow approach and cautious peek. Not one large trout, but a pair of them side by side and gliding in the current.

Then in my peripheral vision; more trout, all lined up large to small. I got my phone out and took a quick video for review later. Phone held against the lens of my polarized sunglasses, I recorded a short clip that I assure you has been reviewed many times to analyze what their movement tells me about the current, how the lineup was arranged and where they into the current to eat. Of course, the most reviewed, paused, re-winded and scrutinized portion is when the dappled sunlight shone through the cover above and outlined the largest in the pool.

That fish may have been the biggest I have seen in this river, otherwise, more hopeful than is good for me.



Program Coordinator Needed

We are looking to fill a board position of Program Coordinator.

Duties of this position include:

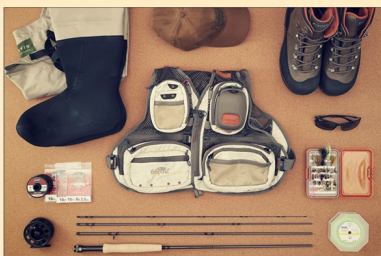
Coordinating who brings refreshments.

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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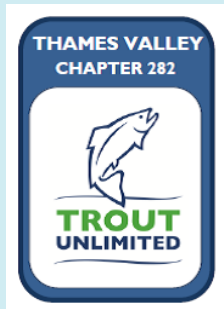
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About Us

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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