



# Trout Unlimited

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

May 2023



## **Presidents Message**

*from Gary Lussier*

Hello Everybody,

This will be the last newsletter and chapter meeting as we wind down for the summer. We'll be back again in September. We have one final chapter meeting and event planned for the season which is the annual fishing day and picnic at Nickerson's campground on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Details will be provided in this newsletter and/or a special bulletin.

We had a really good turnout for our Annual meeting – about 35 people showed to hear updates from the past year from the board members, vote on chapter business and enjoy the hot dogs compliments of Pat and Ray. I like to think this shows a new or renewed interest in the chapter – or could it be the free hot dogs? Either way, it was good to see so many people including some new faces, a few of which came as a result of the Mohegan Fishing show.

Congratulations to all of the board members whose terms had expired and were unanimously re-elected. No new members were nominated to the board. We finally had the minimum required quorum to pass the revised by-laws which were also unanimously

## **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

**May 16th - 6:00 PM - Meeting @ the Franklin Firehouse**  
**"Flicks & Dogs"**  
click [here](#) to register

**May 27th - TVTU Joshua's Trust Family Day**  
click [here](#) to register

**June 3rd - Annual Cookout & Fishing Day at Nickerson's Campground**  
click [here](#) to register

### **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

approved. Unfortunately, we had no nominations for any officer positions meaning that we have no currently elected officers for any position in place – President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary are all open. We are technically in violation of our charter and at risk for having it revoked by TU National. Dan and I have both agreed to continue to fill the roles of Treasurer and President respectively for another year. With that being two years beyond my max term limits, it will be my last year. It's time for someone new to take the reins.

So as far as Streamlines goes, we're singing off until September. Hope to see you at the chapter meeting and then at Nickerson's as we close out the year. Time to enjoy the rest of the trout season, so get out there and fish!

Tight Lines!  
Gary

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. April 18th Meeting is "Membershi

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## Editors Note

This is the last issue of Streamlines for the season. Next issue will be the September issue. Bulletins will still be published as needed.

Have a great summer!

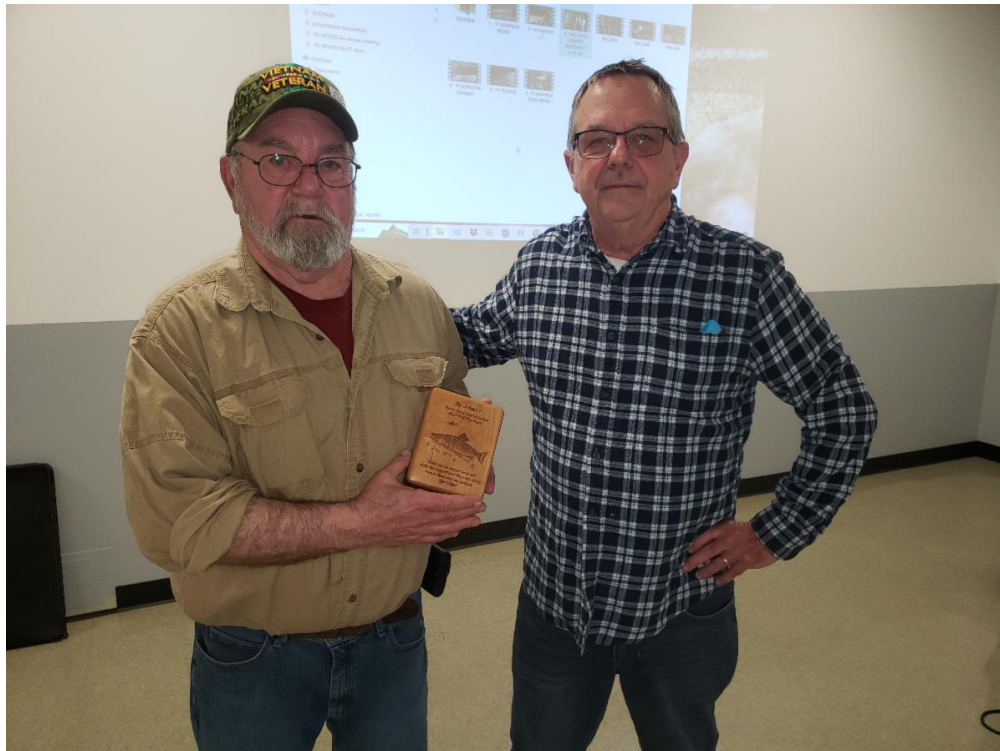
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# April 18th Meeting Recap

At the April 18th meeting, the Thames Valley TU Chapter 282 held their Membership Appreciation Night which is also our Annual Meeting where we disclose the chapter's financial report, conservation projects ( ongoing and completed), vote on by-laws as well as Board Membership and Officers.

Also tonight, Ray Schaefer who is our current VP was awarded the Ray Ellis Award for all of his longstanding dedication, commitment and hard work to the chapter for many many years. Congratulations Ray!

Current Thames Valley TU Chapter 282 has 450 members but only a fraction actually participate each month. If you are a current member, please consider returning to the in-person meetings held each month. Also if you are not a member and want to join, please go to Trout Unlimited's (<https://www.thamesvalleytu.org/>) website and join there. Be sure to select Thames Valley Chapter 282.





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## May 16th Meeting Featuring Pat Gaynor's Gourmet Dogs and Chili *"Flicks & Dogs"*



Gourmet Chef, Pat Gaynor, will be cooking his famous dogs. He is also hinting at some homemade chili. Plus a feature film!

Plus the usual raffle and door prize.

# MAY DOOR PRIZE

## TU Sling Pack



Free Door Prize Ticket

SUPPORT THAMES VALLEY TROUT UNLIMITED



## "IN SEARCH OF THE LOST HATCH"

by George Jacobi

It's almost noon when I pull off Route 7 in Cornwall Bridge. Like many parts of the local natural world, the Sand Hole looks much the same as it did 40 years ago, and like much else these days, that is deceiving. Today, April 16, is a cloudy and damp 66 degrees F, still and quiet. Sun peeks out off and on; mist appears and

disappears. It's a perfect afternoon for a mayfly to ride the Housatonic downstream and slowly dry off its wings. In fact, for most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Hendrickson hatch here would begin right about now. Somewhere between 1 and 2 PM, the flies would begin popping up on the surface until soon the river would be covered with them, literally hundreds of thousands of the little creatures. Seemingly at their leisure, they would take to the air, a spawning flight, if you will. Every fish in the river would be eating them as fast as possible.

"Hendricksons", named after a Catskill angler of a hundred years ago, are properly

“Ephemerella Subvaria”, the first significant mayfly of northeastern trout streams. I caught trout on them last week at the Natchaug, the Salmon, and the Willimantic rivers. Skipping the details, a size 12 or 14 dry fly, brownish gray to mahogany, works well. For an angler, they bring the joy that winter is truly gone. The season has begun; one insect hatch will follow another throughout the days (and nights) until November. There will be sport on the rivers whenever one can get there. In this river, in this century, that is becoming a memory.

Last year I called a dozen fly shops from Maine to Virginia, confirming that all was well in their rivers with this mayfly. A Berkshire Fly Fishing guide said the fly is present in the MA Housatonic, though not a major hatch. Cornwall, CT guide Rob Nicholas said that with natural flow (instituted in 2004) things became erratic, but the real downfall came between 2011 and 2013. Regular angler Jim Brown’s diary reveals fly activity in 2013 and 2015 (R. N. confirms 2015, as do others). While in Brown’s notes there is consistent heavy hatching every year before 2004, he found no E. Subvaria in 2006, 2010, 2014, and 2016. Yet in all these years, he states April water temps still remained below 60 F. Out of love and history with the Housatonic, I’ve wanted to investigate this mayfly absence myself for years, although I live almost 2 hours away and I’m usually fishing somewhere else now instead. I begin the search at the Carse Brook Pool. The happy white flowers of bloodroot line the trail to the river. Trout lilies are here too but not yet blooming. It even smells damp today. PERFECT. I caught my biggest Housatonic trout here, a long time ago. The Housy is rolling by at 1000 CFS, only moderately murky, and my thermometer says it is 63 F. There was a serious hot spell last week. It would ideally be in the mid-50s now. It’s already too warm for an E. Subvaria mayfly. When WAS it the right temp? Was it two weeks ago when the Housatonic was a brown flood at 3000 CFS? How would a mayfly manage the stages of its life cycle then? Was it still immature when the temperature was appropriate? Did it just get washed away? While the air suggests perfect conditions, the water disproves that optimism - if I had ever had any. I know this is the new 21<sup>st</sup> century normal.

The year 2010 had the most significant drought, followed in 2011 by the biggest flood, 9400 CFS. Nicholas views the 2016 drought as another killer year. It’s certainly a possibility that in a few of those years of concurrent hot spell and drought, the water temps topped 77 F, which according to studies will kill mayfly eggs. Supposedly, small nymphs can escape the heat by burrowing. One has to wonder, though, whether they could crawl deep enough in the streambed to escape that heat – and in particular, whether having two feet of water over them in the afternoon (as in pre-natural flow) as opposed to 8-10 inches of water (natural flow regimen as it is now) made a difference in heat and thus survival.

I scour the eddies and slow water, look on brushpiles, under branches and logs. I’d look under leaves but there are none yet. I investigate Carse Brook in a few accessible spots. Not a mayfly to be found. Which doesn’t prove anything, of course. No, this is anecdotal; and I’m not dredging for nymphs or waiting for a spinner fall. After a single stonefly flutters past, I return to the Sand Hole. Warblers call somewhere, the first I’ve heard this year. Even the water coming out of the spring pipe is at 58 F. Wow. The afternoon is passing by. Nothing happens here either. Third stop is the Corner Hole, where I investigate 100 yards of the river and the bank as much as I can. Three cheerful young fly guys pound the water. I see one fish rise. It’s still 63 F. No mayflies...although that doesn’t prove anything. The clock passes 3:45.

It’s on the way, so I stop at 3 places on Furnace Brook to look. Furnace is 60 F. Here there is a little activity, some #28 Baetis/Pseudocloens? and a few of what could be #20 Paraleptophlebia. But still not an Ephemerella Subvaria to be found. Though that still doesn’t prove anything. This is of course a one-day unscientific adventure. Life gets in the way, as much as I wish I had the time to find an answer myself.

Back on another stream nearer to home the following day. The Shetucket is also high, semi-clear, and 62 F. This afternoon I swing a streamer fly, which yields a 13” bass. This place too was once an E. Subvaria hot spot and hasn’t been for years. And the Shetucket is the only other large CT river that has been returned to natural flow. It usually has had even warmer water than the Housatonic. Within the context of 21<sup>st</sup> century erratic weather, there is no way to prove it, and perhaps nothing to be done - but there seems to be a smoking gun, something for these two rivers, that in combination with all else is a tipping point. Old A. E. Hendrickson would be a sad man today.

George Jacobi

# Kid's Fishing Derby



On May 6, members of TVTU took part in a kids fishing derby at the Bozrah Rod & Gun Club in Lebanon. Over 90 kids along with their parents and family showed up to test their skills and luck to compete for prizes for the biggest trout caught that day. The club has a beautiful large man-made pond that was perfectly manicured around the entire perimeter making it a perfect place for kids and families to fish. On top of that, it was a perfect day to be outside without a cloud in the sky and temperatures in the mid to upper 60's. The event is co-

sponsored every year by Bozrah, Sprague and Norwich Rod & Gun Clubs.

The pond had been stocked the previous day with 150 trout on top of the estimated 500 that were already in the pond. The kids really had a ball and you could hear the almost non-stop screams of delight as someone was almost always reeling in a fish.

We set up our pop-up with some pictures and information packets and talked to a number of people who stopped by interested in hearing about Trout Unlimited. We also set up a few fly rods for casting and fishing in case someone wanted to give that a try, but we had no takers there.

The best part for us was just walking around the pond, talking to the kids and helping out here and there with casting, removing hooks from the fish etc. Of all the public events we do, I certainly like the ones involving young kids the most. They're a lot of fun and they're the future of keeping our sport and conservation efforts alive.

Special thanks to Pat Gaynor, Alton Blodgett and Bill Matterazzo for coming out to support the event.

# Earth Day at River Park, Sprague

TVTU had a booth at the Sprague Earth Day Fair. We had a number of spectators visit the booth.



## A Fly Fisher's Retort

Submitted by John Springer

Someone recently asked me, "Now that you are retired, it seems all you do is fly fish." I am pretty sure I detected a bit of a critical "tone" in that inquiry. Frankly, I felt somewhat challenged and was completely unprepared with a solid comeback. It was a fair question and I felt it deserved a thoughtful response.

So in addition to fishing, I regularly make an effort to:

- Read books and subscribe to magazines (primarily focused on fly fishing)
- Shop and purchase stuff (mainly fly fishing equipment)
- Spend time tying my own flies
- Get out and socialize with active memberships in organizations such as Trout Unlimited, the Connecticut Fly Fishing Association and the Farmington River Anglers Association to meet and exchange ideas with folks who enjoy fly fishing
- Travel to at least two major trade shows per year focusing chiefly on... fly fishing
- Make regular visits to a fitness center to help stay in shape so I can continue to hike into the high altitude backcountry of southwestern Colorado to experience remote fly fishing sites
- Download and listen to podcasts from renowned authors and speakers on improving fly fishing strategies and techniques to help improve my experience while on the water
- Write and submit articles a couple of times a year regarding my fly fishing experiences and misadventures
- Maintain a YouTube channel where I post videos on my fly fishing adventures
- Continue to diligently maintain an old, but very reliable 2003 sport utility "Fish-Mobile" (with the license plate 5-WT). It happily travels on less than ideal dirt roads to get me to some "off the grid" fly fishing locations.

I am happily married and share life with a wonderful bride. I regularly bring her up to date on my fly fishing adventures. We recently moved to our downsized retirement home and it just happens to be minutes away from one of the finest trout streams in our state. How fortunate is that?



Interesting to note, our new home is equidistant from a great trout fishery and two of the region's largest casinos. I much prefer to take my chances and gambling with the trout versus the gaming tables and slot machines. I like my odds and feel I hit the jackpot every time a trout is fooled by one of my hand tied flies.

I trust this adequately answers the question and clears up any possible confusion on how I choose to allocate my time during fishing season.

"I fish...knowing every day on the river is a gift" – Anonymous

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## Yantic River Cleanup

On Saturday, April 15th, TVTU members conducted a river cleanup on the Lebanon section of the Yantic River.

The crew was made up by Gary Lussier, Bill Matterazzo, Jim Valuckas, Alton Blodgett, Steve Gerling, Pat Gaynor and photographer Charlie McCaughtry.



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## *Wednesday Evenings on the River*

TVTU Treasurer, Dan King, has organized a Wednesday Evening on the River get together.

This is a friendly and sociable get together for some good fishing and it is an opportunity for newcomers to get some tips on their casting.

The remaining times and locations:

17th of May, Farmington River at 4:00, meet at the Peoples State Park Recreation Area.

31st of May, Shetucket River at 5:00, meet at Salt Rock Campground.

**Questions can be directed to Dan King. [Dking4870@gmail.com](mailto:Dking4870@gmail.com)**

Hotdogs, chips and water will be provided.



## Interested in Tenkara Fishing?

from John Springer

Kevin Fuller and I are looking to see how many people would be interested in starting up a Tenkara club. We would meet only on zoom and swap ideas and other information we have learned from this type of fishing. No newsletter or anything like that. Just get together on zoom for this. We can pick an evening for doing this later on. If you are interested or know anyone that is contact me [sasjes@comcast.net](mailto:sasjes@comcast.net). If we have an interest, we will start this up.



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

many people to expect.



# 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.

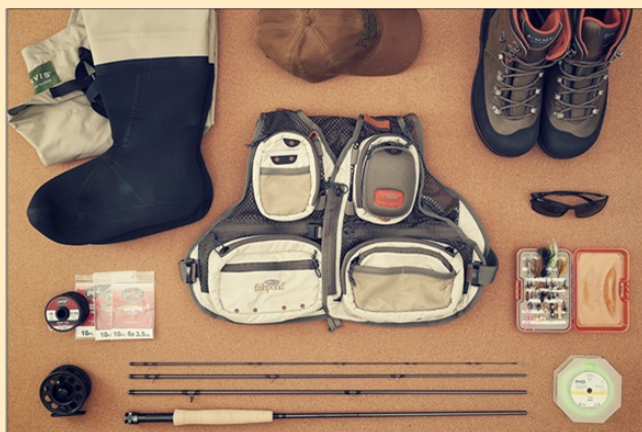
## A Call for Newsletter Content... Contribute to "Stream Lines"

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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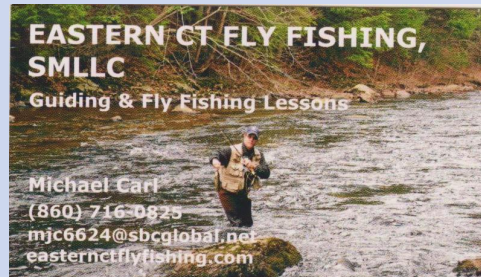
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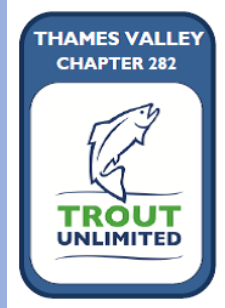
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## About Us

### 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
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
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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