



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

November 2021

Return to In-Person Meetings



Starting with the September 21, 2021 meeting, we will be holding in-person meetings again at the Franklin Firehouse.

Just to be safe, we are recommending that both vaccinated and un-vaccinated folks wear masks.

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](#)



President's Message....

Happy November!

Hope you're all getting some fall fishing in. Despite the high flows in a lot of the rivers, many of the smaller ones are still pretty fishable and there have been some decent fishing days. Of course now it's the season to start battling all the leaves floating down the river, but then again, it's hardly ever perfect.

Thanks to Mike Goodwin for a great presentation on lake and still water fishing last month. As someone who almost never fishes still water, I found the presentation both interesting and informative and surely others did as well. There's still time left to sign up for the TVTU Limestone outing with Mike on Nov 11. This month's presentation will be from Michael Brucato who will talk about tying and fishing wet fly patterns. This will be one that everybody should enjoy.

We had a great turnout at the River Fest 2021 event at Devil's Hopyard put on by the Eight Mile River organization. It was a beautiful day and we saw the biggest crowd I've ever seen at one of these events. Some great food and live music (all free) may have had something to do with that. People of all ages, including lots of young kids stopped by the booth to see the fly tying, ask questions and a few even tried their hand at fly casting. It was a great day all around. Thanks to Phil Sands, Pat Gaynor, Steve Gerling and Ray Schaefer for helping to make this day a big success for TVTU.

Last month was our annual meeting and unfortunately, we didn't have the required 30 members needed to vote on the revised bylaws. The board has decided that we will consider this an open issue that we will bring up at each of the next chapter meetings and will hold a vote on it at the first meeting where we have the required number of members. Meanwhile, we will be operating under these new bylaws where the most significant change is to align our fiscal year with TU national (April 1 through March 31).

Congratulations to Dan King who was elected for another term as Treasurer and thanks for your continued work supporting the chapter. Unfortunately, nobody had chosen to run for the Vice President or the Secretary positions. This leaves us with some very significant gaps in our ability to run the chapter as efficiently as we'd like. As we discussed at the meeting, my second term ends in April and our bylaws limit officers to two terms. If people don't step up to fill these roles, this chapter is looking at the very real possibility of coming to an end. I was reluctant to include a downbeat kind of message, but the runway is getting shorter and a wakeup call is needed. It's time for some new blood to come in and help lead the chapter.

Finally, have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving! See you all at the firehouse.

Tight Lines!

Gary



Water, Water Everywhere

by George Jacoby



Photo by Jim Brown

Water, Water, Everywhere
I would never have expected it, but this recent miserable overflowing no fishing no beach no barbecue muddy mosquito-infested sump pump Summer bestowed a bit of short-term optimism on me. Five or six years of Connecticut drought is truly over and our tiny, hidden, imperiled Brook Trout caught a break.

I was feeling seriously depressed. I just reread "The Trout Pool Paradox" by George Black. Published in 2004, it glowingly describes the stocking of Atlantic Salmon in rivers that once held those natives, and enthuses about the cleanup of the Naugatuck, a court order that Waterbury must leave some water in the Shepaug for trout, and the brand-new natural flow regime on the Housatonic. We know what happened to those efforts. The salmon are fun but are a brief artificial Fall entertainment only. There is still no stocking of trout in the Shepaug. The Housatonic, as well as our local Shetucket, run on natural flow — which usually leaves one week in June and some of autumn as the extent of feasible trout fishing. Maybe far less this year. Are we supposed to root for drought again? And don't get me started on the mayfly extinctions.

We all know and accept that trout fishing in Connecticut, indeed the whole Northeast, is generally a manufactured experience. The Farmington is an excellent holdover fishery, but it exists by virtue of a bottom-release dam, and no natural reproduction takes place in the river. The wild trout live in New York, Vermont, and Pennsylvania, and let's face it, those Browns

come from Germany and Scotland. Aye, laddie. Truth is, no river anywhere hereabouts has a self-sustaining population of trout large enough for the number of anglers that descend on it if trout are allowed to be taken.

OK, optimism. Ground water will now fill our aquifers for a while, seeping out at 60 degrees during next summer's heat into rocky little streams and brooks, just when native Brook Trout and some now-native Brown Trout need it the most. It should help for at least a few years. I don't chase these pretty little trout around; I suspect few of you do. It's just nice to know they are there. Higher water late this year even gives trout a chance to expand their territory during spawning season. Colder water will be seeping into all our larger streams as well, helping to keep stocked catchable-sized browns, brookies, and rainbows happier and healthier for longer. The mission of TU is to save native trout and their habitats; the angling part of the equation is the DEEP's bailiwick.



Photo by Jim Brown

We think of New England as supporting Brook Trout and Atlantic Salmon throughout geologic history, way back to the Ice Age 12,000 years ago. That's arguable. Europeans arrived during another cold spell, the Little Ice Age, which lasted from 1300 or so to 1850/1900. Plenty of CT salmonids during that stretch, but no real evidence that they were indigenous before then. Just as flora and fauna populations are shifting north now, fish populations probably always shifted north and south as well. As for the rest of our beat-up ecosystem:

Each frog, toad, and salamander also has a new lease on life, as do the snakes, birds, and mammals that depend on them for food. Late blooming flowers and shrubs probably produced a lot of seeds, good for the birds now and good for next year's new growth. Deer and turkeys may have a bit more to eat during the winter. I saw a lot of Milkweed – maybe Monarch butterflies got a boost too. And it looks like any remaining bats didn't have trouble finding mosquitoes to eat.

We may feel desperate to act, to do something to save our trout before it's too late. I'm as stressed as anyone. But Mother Nature always has the last word, and it takes patience to see and understand the long view. Teddy Roosevelt famously quoted a friend: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." Let's keep trying, and maybe we'll even get to fish again this year too.

George Jacobi

This Months Presentation

Tuesday, November 16th

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

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Michael Brucato – Commercial Fly Tier, Presenter & Soft-hackle Wet Fly Addict

While my family and I currently reside in Massachusetts, I grew up trout fishing with my father at a young age and had the good fortune to get out and fish with him from coast to coast. And thankfully, we



still do so together each season on a regular basis.

During my many fishing adventures in various locations nationwide and in Canada I have learned from experience and also from the insights of many noted experts on the topic just how productive and enjoyable soft-hackle wet flies are when trout fishing.

I must admit, that I never get tired of seeing the expression on people's faces or hearing the stories of how one of my hand tied soft-hackle flies helped a fisherman on some body

of water to fool a trout. Fish my soft-hackled wet flies with confidence and hold on as the strike is often vicious...

NOVEMBER

DOOR PRIZE



TU Water Bottle

Whether you're headed to the office or chasing trout in your favorite stream... this 24oz. BPA-free, stainless steel vacuum bottle will keep your drink cold for up to 20 hours without sweating. It features a one-touch AU-TOSEAL lid for easy single-hand use and has a clip-on handle that attaches to fishing packs and other gear.

Support THAMES VALLEY TU

November meeting door prize!

TROUT UNLIMITED

Embroidered Hats SALE



Navy Blue Hat w/cream TU Logo

The TU waxed cotton hat features rugged 100% waxed cotton six-panel construction and adjustable strap back. With the TU embroidery.



Brown Waxed Cotton Hat TU Logo

The TU waxed cotton hat features rugged 100% waxed cotton six-panel construction and adjustable strap on back. With TU embroidery.



Khaki Hat TU Logo

This rugged and breathable khaki hat features a classic curved bill, six panel construction, durable buckle strap back, and 100% brushed-cotton. With TU embroidery.

SUPPORT TVTU TODAY



Limestone Outing for Chapter Members

Mike Goodwin (former TVTU president & author of "Trout Streams of Eastern CT") was our guest speaker at our October meeting talking about tactics for fishing for trout in lakes. Mike is also a member of the Limestone Trout Club <https://limestonetroutclub.com/thames/> in Canaan and has offered to coordinate a day of fishing there for chapter members.

Cost is \$50 per person and includes lunch, a presentation about Limestone and of course a day of fishing their private waters for some big beautiful trout up to 24 inches plus. The event

TVTU Participates at 8 Mile Riverfest

TVTU participated at the 8 Mile Riverfest on October 16th. In nice fall weather, TVTU had a demonstration of fly tying which garnered quite a few spectators. A fly casting demonstration and some actual casting lessons were provided. The number of visitors to the chapter table was very encouraging and interest in membership was prevalent. See the slide show!



CT DEEP 2021 Fall Stocking Update

Summer is winding down and once water temperatures are adequate, we will begin stocking about 54,000 trout in waterbodies near you! We will stock 63 locations this fall including trout parks, trout management areas, community fishing waters, and other popular waters as well as Atlantic Salmon management areas. Follow us [here](#) (current Stocking Report) or check our [interactive trout stocking map](#) for stocking updates.



The following is the fall allocation:

- 20,000 Rainbow trout (10-12 inches)
- 10,000 Rainbow trout (> 12 inches)
- 10,000 Tiger trout (10-12 inches)
- 500 Tiger trout (> 12 inches)
- 1,000 Brook Trout (> 14 inches)
- 6,000 >12" Seeforellen brown trout
- 4,000 >12" Survivor brown trout
- 2,500 > 12" Cortland brown trout
- 1,200 2+ (about 14-18") Atlantic salmon
- 260 3+ (about 22-24") Atlantic salmon

Each spring and fall chapter volunteers assist the state DEEP to stock area streams. Many of our members volunteer. In the spring and fall we float stock streams using floating live carts to distribute the fish. This involves wading up to a mile downstream. This is a good way to get to know a stream in company with other members who know the waters well. See our stocking page on the [TVTU Website](#) for more details.



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.

Cabela's MTX 9' 6wt, 4pc Fly Rod w/ graphite tube - Mint condition - \$155 SALE (MSRP \$400)

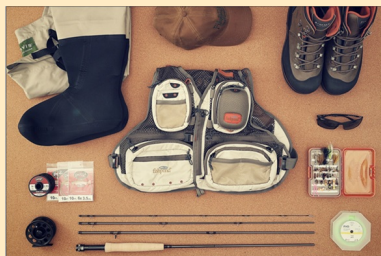


Sage Performance Taper II Fly Line: New in box, (1) WF 5 wt. and (1) WF 6 wt. - \$25 each (MSRP \$65). The Sage Performance Taper II (manufactured by Rio) floating fly fishing line is a smooth-handling, high-floating fly fishing line that provides enhanced line feel through your cast for greater distance, accuracy and consistency. Color Lt Yellow. These are great fly lines...

LL Bean Travel Fly Rod 9', 7wt, 6 pc. w/ tube & bag, excellent condition - \$65 SALE

For the above items or to place items for sale, contact [John Preston](mailto:John.Preston@tu282.org) 860-917-4485

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](mailto:John.Preston@tu282.org) 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

Thames Valley TU would like to thank the following advertisers for their support... Please patronize them

Fish Connection

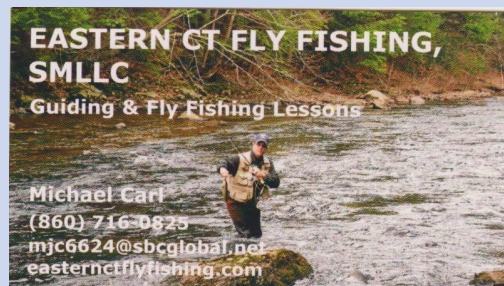
Quality Fishing Tackle
Freshwater * Saltwater
Inshore Charters

Joe Balint
127 Rte. 12
Preston, CT 06365

Capt. Jack Balint
860-885-1739

EASTERN CT FLY FISHING, SMLLC
Guiding & Fly Fishing Lessons

Michael Carl
(860) 716-0825
mjc6624@sbcglobal.net
easternctflyfishing.com



Bait • Tackle • Fly Tying Accessories • Licenses

JT's FLY SHOP



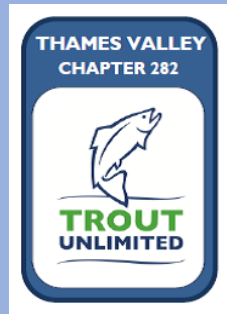
664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076
860-684-1575
jtsflyshop@yahoo.com

Charles McCaughtry

Original Paintings, Drawings, and Prints
By Appointment Only
44 Portland Drive Ashford, CT 06278
860-429-1016
www.mccaughtryart.com
cmccaughtry@aol.com

Stay Connected

Trout Unlimited | [Website](#)



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
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
Paul Rice, Fly Tying Coordinator	860-942-2701	phr117@Gmail.com
Charles McCaughtry	860-429-1016	cmccaughtry@aol.com
George DeGray	860-546-9872	georgedegray@gmail.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
Ron Bettez, Veterans	860-303-7358	rfb.c141@gmail.com
Pat Gaynor, Fund Raising Committee Chair	860-319-1690	patjgaynor@gmail.com
Conservation - Vacant		

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