



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

October 2022

Chapter Events

Upcoming Events

You may have noticed that many TVTU events now have a click function to "buy a ticket". By Buying a ticket (they are free), it helps to plan on how many folks will be attending. You do not need to print the ticket!

Click [here](#) to register.

Nov. 15th
- **Presentation by Tim Flagler** - Click [here](#) to register.

Dec 20th
Christmas Party - Refreshments will be provided by TVTU Board of Directors

click [here](#) to register

Jan 17th meeting 2023
Presentation by Brian Eltz - *State Fisheries Biologist Brian Eltz - Latest Trout Sampling Data*

click [here](#) to register

Feb 21st meeting 2023
"Annual Flies and Pies"
Raffles, fly tying, displays and lots of pizza

click [here](#) to register

March 21st



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](#).



President's Message....

Greetings all!

Hope you're all getting some fishing time in. Weather and water temperature has been about as close to perfect as it gets. I did manage to get out once since the last newsletter

(when I said the exact same thing). So doing the math, that's one day out per month. While better than not getting out at all, that's a pretty dismal track record. I believe the worst of my leaf cleaning is

behind me, the firewood is all split, stacked and covered there has to be more time to fish now. Let's see.

We are planning to have a booth at the CT Fishing Show this coming year on March 24 – 26. CT Council has again agreed to fund the majority of the costs and all CT Chapters will be invited to help staff the booth for the three days. We will be looking for volunteers who can work one of the half day shifts. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to March.

We will be running our annual Sweepstakes soon; in fact, we have a tentative planned start date of November 14 and a planned drawing date of December 24. This has become one of our most important sources of revenue to fund our chapter meetings, events and projects and a great opportunity for our entire membership to support the ongoing operations of the chapter. Please consider buying tickets from this event to win some great prizes. But even more important, buy them to show your support for all the great things this chapter does and to enable us to keep doing them both for you and the sport we all love.

Finally, for those of you who have not already seen this, here's a link to a great article in the New London Day interviewing Steve Gephardt about the history of Atlantic Salmon and restoration efforts in the Connecticut River that was just sent to me as I was wrapping this up. Enjoy.

<https://www.theday.com/news/20221023/retired-connecticut-official-wont-stop-fighting-for-the-endangered-atlantic-salmon/>

See you at meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Gary



November 15th Meeting

"Kootenai and Yaak Rivers"

**Presentation by
Darby Hittle**

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 PM on the day of the scheduled meeting or event. Additionally, it will be announced on WFSB (Channel 3) [WFSB](#)



Note: while we will be meeting at the Bozrah Firehouse, our speaker, Tim Flagler, will be joining us via Zoom. So if you can't join in person, you can also attend via Zoom for this month only with the link here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81065692322?pwd=VFc1R0JHSWI2Mkc5WWRHaWJna1F3QT09>

The Kootenai and Yaak rivers of northwestern Montana don't get the recognition that others in the state like the Madison and the Missouri do. This is actually a good thing. Imagine five days of fishing from a drift boat without seeing another one on the river or wading miles and miles of a crystal clear alpine stream and never seeing a soul. That's what fishing is like on the Kootenai River and the Yaak drainage with the Linehan Outfitting Company. Presentation is entirely video-based.

Tim Flagler is the owner of Tightline Productions, L.L.C., a video production company located in Califon, NJ. Although he produces video programs over a wide range of topics, his specialty is fly fishing. Tim is a well-known fly tying instructor. His YouTube videos are some of the best in the business and his YouTube channel, practicalpatterns.com currently has over 92,000 subscribers and almost 28 million views. Almost every week he produces a new fly tying or "how to" video which appear not only on his YouTube channel but on Midcurrent and the Orvis fly fishing blog as well. They're also featured on Trout Unlimited's national website and in the Orvis Learning Center. In addition, he has a regular column "Beginner's Masterclass with Tim Flagler" in Fly Tyer magazine. Many of his tying videos take the viewer well beyond just the tying of the fly and show what it looks like underwater, what natural it represents and how it can be fished.

Tim's a fixture at the Fly Fishing Shows - giving presentations, teaching classes and often as a Featured Tier. He enjoys guiding year round for Shannon's Fly & Tackle in Califon, NJ. and hosts annual trips to Patagonia in the spring and to the Kootenai River in MT starting summer of 2020.

Click [here](#) to register.

November Door Prize



JT's FLY SHOP

Gift Certificate



A Tribute to Dick Tremblay

by Greg Dunn

Some of you may know the gentleman I am going to tell you stories about, Dick Tremblay. He lived in Putnam his entire life except for a brief but important few years as a Marine fighting in Viet Nam in the early 70's, while I was in high school and college. He told me stories of getting on his bike as a kid and going to the local streams around Putnam to fish. Many spots he fished have since turned into strip malls and homes, etc. He became an electrician after his military service and owned *Tremblay Electric* in Putnam. If you live in that area, he may have wired your house. He was one of the chief



electricians at the Woodstock Fair for many, many years. I'm not sure if Dick was currently a member of Thames Valley TU, but he was a member off and on for decades.

Dick Tremblay passed away on Father's Day 2022. The photo is of Dick on Pachaug Pond a few days before his passing.



I met Dick Tremblay when he walked into a saltwater fishing club meeting 20+ years ago and wanted to be included in our email fishing report list which I monitored. He had seen someone at the Woodstock Fair with a club hat and decided he wanted to join. It was the best thing that ever happened to that club. Day 1 he told the President "I will do the worst job for you, the job no one else volunteers for, so you can take that off your to do list. BUT I will only do it for 1 year." That unwanted job was fly tying coordinator. Years later he was President.

He soon met Joe "Canz" Canzanella and the two became fast friends. They both had a real calling to develop fun outings and tournaments for the club. As things evolved the tournaments became more fun with team names and mottos. "Team Pheromone – We stink and you love it." Dick and Joe were "Team Cream Puff".

Team Cream Puff would put their skill up against Team Coho for several years straight in the Buzzards Bay Shoot Out. With prize money on the line Team Cream Puff would continually win. At Dick's wake was a plaque showing the prize money all signed by the participants with photos. He never spent the winnings. Dick was about the fun of fishing and the memories: Team Cream Puff 52 vs. Team Coho 31.

He coordinated 3 trips to Destin Florida, in the panhandle, for red fish. 4 friends joined on each trip. Trip #1 we got the high-rise condo, on the beach Dick had arranged, dropped our gear and Bob and I decided to take a look at the beach. Climbing up the dune to the beach we took one look and our jaws dropped. We did an immediate U-turn back up to the room for the fly rods. Dick and John asked what we were doing. We muttered "look out the window" and on the 5th floor you could see the beach clearly. Dick and John were 10 feet behind us as the 4 of us hit the beach. The photo Dick later edited says it all. That is John Crowe, past president of Thames Valley TU in the foreground and I'm the speck on the horizon.

We also would hire a guide on those Destin trips. The Second Picture is of Dick with a red fish and me with a False Albacore on the guide's boat.

On our second trip to Destin Dick got the same condo and we arrived just in time to greet a hurricane bearing down on our condo. During the downtime sitting out the storm the 4 of us found a restaurant near the condo called Louisiana Lagniappe. Excellent meals and I had a bread pudding for dessert that was outstanding. I told Dick, "You gotta try this." In return I got a 10-minute expose on how he HATED bread pudding. "no one knows how to make it, too soggy, too dry." Finally, once his mouth stopped resisting, he tried a bite and ordered one for himself. (More on this topic later).



A year or two later Dick wanted to try for red fish in the Mississippi delta region. He

coordinated a trip to Venice, Louisiana at the mouth of the Mississippi southeast of New Orleans. With guides we caught lots of red fish, I also caught a black drum (red fish are just red drums) and a large jack crevalle.

Just outside Venice we found a local restaurant for dinner. Chuck and I ordered a seafood stuffed baked potato which included a side salad of choice. The waitress came back and said the kitchen was out of lettuce, would we like potato salad or coleslaw. In my infinite wisdom I selected potato salad and Chuck agreed. Not realizing what we were in for. Potato salad to start then a stuffed potato larger than your head. We had no idea anyone grew potatoes that large. Photo is Chuck Savage and his Seafood Stuffed Potato. When seeing the potato Dick gave us his sage advice. "Never eat anything larger than your head".



On that trip the three of us hit every restaurant in New Orleans starting with Dookie Chase's and ending with Café Du Monde. We were looking for the best bread pudding. Nothing surpassed Louisiana Lagniappe in Destin Florida. Believe me WE SEARCHED.



Dick would winter down in Estero Florida, just outside Fort Meyers. The winter after my father passed, I was sad and full of stress. Dick invited me down for an Everglades fishing trip with guide Capt. Kevin Mihailoff, to fish for tarpon and snook. It was my first trip down to experience and fish the everglades. I remember the first 5 minutes in that flats boat, buzzing thru the Everglades, warm wind on my face, orange and blue dawn sky with the sun just rising over the mangroves, all the

sadness, stress just melted away. We didn't catch tarpon, spooked some, but found plenty of cooperating snook. Kevin's favorite fly for snook was a Krebs Popper weedless (look for it under Gary Krebs Popper on YouTube). It is a fantastic popper for fishing lilly pads for freshwater bass and a tiny version is my go-to fly for panfishing. You can cast it into the mangroves (or weeds or lilly pads) and it won't hang up, twitch it out onto the water and wait for the explosion. I should mention that Dick was also quite an accomplished photographer. These are two photos Dick took with my SLR camera, my "reaction" to a snook hitting the popper. I think these photos encompass everything that gets a fly fisherman's blood flowing, "THE MOMENT" the fly line gets tension and the hook gets set.

On our third trip to Destin, Dick and I paired up for a red fish trip with our guide down towards Panama City. It was about an hour drive down there with the guide trailering his flats boat. Fishing was slow and quite cool for a Florida morning. Dick's time came to step up on the small platform on the bow of the flats boat to sight fish for the reds. (Dick had a major heart attack when he was in his 40s and at about 70 or so his friends kind of watched out for him.) I took my position up behind Dick to help stabilize him on the platform. It took me about a half a second to realize his second foot wasn't going to make it onto the platform and there was no way in hell I was going to stop what was about to happen. Next thing I know the guide is yelling "get the rod before it sinks". Spitting salt water out of my mouth and standing in about 3 ½ feet of marsh I got the rod and got Dick. We BOTH went head over heels off the flats boat into the water. Pat, our guide, said "Well that's never happened before. I never lost one client, let alone two." Dick and I got back into the

boat... I have no idea how... sat... decided our course of action. Dry off and continue fishing. Photo is of one of Dick's red fish later that day.

Dick was a talker (an understatement) and on our drive back to the condo with the guide I am saying to myself "we gotta come up with a story or excuse or alibi for falling out of the boat". But Dick and the guide talked the entire drive back. So as the three of us entered the condo, Dick and I head in, mouths shut, tails between our legs, made a bee line to our rooms to get our cash to pay the guide. Chuck and John said "SO HOW DID YOU DO?" Pat our trusty guide rattled us out without missing a beat "Well AT LEAST I DIDN'T FALL OUT OF THE BOAT". BUSTED. (At Dick's wake we shared fishing stories with Dick's family. I asked his daughter "did you hear about the time Dick fell out of the boat". Without blinking she replied "WHICH ONE?". Apparently he had "experience".)



TVTU Fly Tying Classes Start Saturday, October 29th to December 3rd, 2022

Thames Valley TU will be conducting Fly Tying classes this Fall. Bob Walsh, John Preston, and Jack Balint will be teaching the classes. The classes will be held 11 am – 1 pm Saturdays at the Fish Connection, 127 RT12, Preston, CT. Tentative class dates are October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 26 and December 3rd.



Classes are open to members (young & old) and to the public... beginner to experienced fly tiers welcomed. Tools and materials will be available if you don't have any. There are no fees for the classes and materials. Classes will be limited to 10 participants.

As in the past we will cover old/new, dry/wet, fresh and saltwater patterns. Every fly guaranteed to fool and catch fish! We will also entertain patterns that our students want to learn... anything from #2/0

streamers, #8 foam hopper, #24 Trico spinner, or whatever is hot!

Why learn to tie flies?

Fly tying is great way to learn some of the finer points of fly fishing; something to do off-season and keep focused on fishing; because you like being creative & working with your hands; and you want to spend many hours alone or with friends doing a fun hobby. Also, there is great satisfaction catching a fish on your own fly. Another reason people tie is to save money. How many \$3 plus flies have you lost in the trees or snagged on the bottom of a stream or the hundreds of flies in your many fly boxes? But I would say, the jury is still out on that.

But one sure way to save money for sure is to take a fly tying class. This way you can determine if this hobby is for you before you shell out to buy the necessary equipment and materials to get started. There is nothing better than learning by personal instruction. Learning from a book can be hard but not impossible. Nowadays, I would suggest using online videos might be a good alternative.

So, if you think you would like to give it a try. Enroll in our fly tying class. It's fun and you will meet some great people and future friends... and have something that gives you pleasure for a lifetime!

Contact [John Preston](#) or Jack Balint (860) 885-1739 at Fish Connection to enroll, for questions or information.

click [here](#) to register.

"What's Going On" in the World of Trout Unlimited



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 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

To submit content, please contact Bruce Danielson (Editor) [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 [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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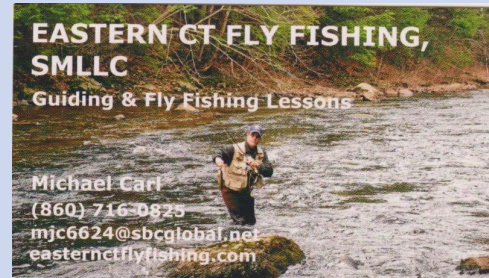
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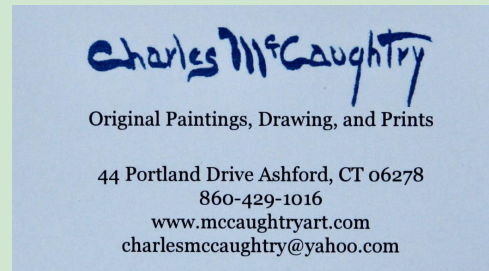
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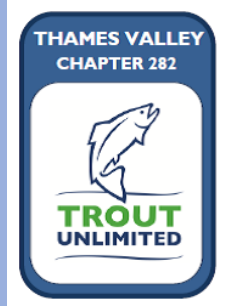
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About Us

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
Zach Novosad - Social Media	860-917-6751	znovosad555@gmail.com-
Steve Gerling	860-429-4951	segerling@snet.net
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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