



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

October 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....

Greetings all!

It was good to see everyone at last month's meeting after such a long hiatus. Thanks to Bill Keister for a great presentation on his Alaska fishing experience. This month we get to hear from another one of our own members when Mike Goodwin takes the floor to talk about lake and still water fishing for trout. Hopefully this gets the juices flowing and some you take advantage of the TVTU outing at Limestone Trout club that Mike has offered us.

Turnout was a little lighter than I expected and I can't help wondering why. Maybe people are just out of the routine? Ongoing concerns about Covid? People don't want to wear a mask? Didn't like my new haircut? Feel free to drop me an email or give me a call if you have any concerns or suggestions you want to share. I'm interested in doing what we can to make the meetings better for everyone.

I did speak with DEEP last week and they are beginning to stock some trout and are ready to stock salmon pending favorable water conditions. They are planning to use our help so keep your fingers crossed and we may be stocking soon. One variable on the Shetucket is that they're just about done with work on the dam and will begin filling the pond soon which will have an impact on flows. DEEP is working with First Light to keep as close to run of the river as possible so there's enough water for stocking.

Don't forget that October is our annual meeting that will include election of officers and a vote

on a revised version of the bylaws. We also need people to fill the roles of Vice President and Treasurer. Failing to fill these positions will put the ability to keep the chapter going at risk.

See you all at the firehouse.

Tight Lines!

In Memory of Don Exley - TVTU Member and Former TVTU President

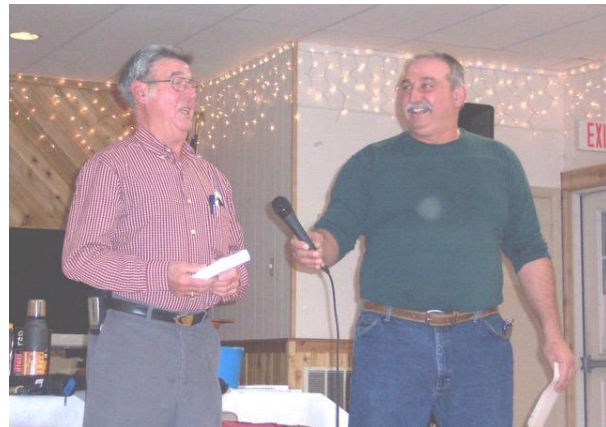


Donald Exley, past president of Thames Valley Trout Unlimited passed away September 17, 2021. Don worked for Pfizer for 33 years. He served for many years on the board of directors for Thames Valley Trout Unlimited and also as Vice President and President.

Don was a recipient of the Chapter Rick Ellis award for service. (see photo)

He gave many hours to the establishment of the Chapters Trout in The Classroom program, construction of the walking bridge at Hewitt Pond, the repair of the Latimer Brook fish ladder, and as the Chapter's stocking coordinator. We at Thames Valley Trout Unlimited will miss Don's friendly manner and hard work for clean water and the fisheries of Eastern Connecticut.

See full obituary at [link](#)



This Months Presentation

Mike Goodwin - Still Water Fishing

Mike is a past president of Thames Valley TU and served in a number of chapter roles before that. He grew up in Montana and took up fly fishing around 1957 on the same streams mentioned in the movie "A River Runs Through It." He has fished many of the local streams in Eastern Connecticut and is the principal author of the chapter's book-"Trout Streams of Eastern Connecticut." During the last couple of years he has been a member of the Limestone Trout Club in Canaan, CT, and has concentrating on pond and lake fishing, for trout when he can and popper fishing for



bass other times. He will be talking tonight about how fishing in ponds and lakes differs from stream fishing and what it takes to be successful. He will also talk about an opportunity to spend a day fishing at Limestone Trout Club'

TONIGHT DOOR PRIZE

JT'S FLY SHOP

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October meeting door prize!

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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

"About Barbless Hooks"

by John Springer

Got to fish with my friend Joey yesterday on the Salmon river. Because he works so much we don't have as much time as we would like to get together so I was hoping for a great day. The water level was good, weather was perfect and water temp was very good also.

There was a road race going on near Salmon river park and the runners were going to be fed



at the Firemen's pavilion. We were fishing right behind it and for several hours all we could smell was hot dogs on the grill as the smoke from them carried over the river. To my friend Mr. Esq. even you would have let down your guard for this. I had a plan that instead of eating my banana and Cliff bar it was going to be a hot dog lunch. I could not BS them and say we were in the race from the way we were dressed although if I had hung a number on our chest we might have gotten away with it :-). Instead I was just going to give them a donation. Oh and they had a guitar player with an amp and he was playing very well and we could hear him from the river.

I used mops and a Mr. Eddie O's black leach and did very well. Because I crimp the barb down I lost several fish but landed some also. Joey was casting lures and got fish also. It was the perfect day. Joey was above me and I knew there were more fish in the spot I was in and a good place to cast a lure so I called him down. Right after that the guitarist finished playing Taxi by Harry Chapin and I was singing along. Suddenly I hear Joey yell SHIT. I looked up and he had lost his footing and fell in. Not a big deal as I have a fall in bag in my car with dry clothing.

But when I went over to help him he held up his hand. One of the hooks on his lure went into his finger, very deep! Our hot dog lunch went out the window.

There were medic's on duty in case a runner had a problem and one of them was going to take the hook out and had her gloves on when she popped the question to Joey, and it was not are you married. She asked him when he had his last tetanus shot? Since it was a while ago she said you need to get a booster and since we had to go to the hospital anyway they could take the hook out and so we drove to the emergency hospital and Joe was taken care of.

The needle to numb his finger was shoved in the length of the digit and by the look on Joeys face and the words coming out of his mouth, it was not a fun experience.

Well pinching the barbs down is the way to go even if you lose fish.

Several years ago I missed a barb and got a hook in my hand and my friend Linda had to take me to a doctor to have this done.

So my advice? Lose a few fish, pinch the barb down. This all took 2 1/2 hours from our day. The music was over when we got back and the fire was out so no more smell of hot dogs in the air or music. My banana and cliff bar and tea were just not the same.



Limestone Outing for Chapter Members

Mike Goodwin (former TVTU president & author of "Trout Streams of Eastern CT") will be our guest speaker in October 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 will be on November 11 and is limited to 15 people. Please contact Gary Lussier to sign up or use the link here to register.

Riverfest 2021

TVTU will be participating in Riverfest 2021 sponsored by the Eight Mile River organization.

We will have a table with fly tying demonstration, chapter information & pictures, as well as fly casting demonstration and instruction. There will be other conservation groups including land trusts participating along with a band and food. Here's a great family oriented day for free held at Devils Hopyard on 10/16 from 1-4 pm. If you're interested in helping out at our table, contact Gary Lussier – or just bring the family and enjoy the day.



Bluegrass Music- Eight Mile River Band (of course)
Great Food- chowder, chili, apples, cider, and other sweet treats.
Great Fun- Birds of Prey, Native Reptiles, and more family activities.
Great Information-Displays sponsored by local and state organizations including the Lyme Land Conservation Trust.

Date: Sat October 16, 2021

Time: 1- 4pm

Place: Devil's Hopyard State Park--Pavilion Area

<https://www.lymelandtrust.org/event/eightmile-riverfest-2016-2-2/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/devils-hopyard-state-park/eight-mile-river-fest/388584597876294/>

Ledyard Library/TVTU October 2nd Fly Casting Class



was provided. Basic elements of fly casting provided were: the roll cast, back cast, forward cast, false casting, shooting/extending a cast and safety. And a bit of fun exercise putting it all together by catching a "trout" at the end of the class.

It was a gorgeous day for Thames Valley TU Chapter 282 to hold a casting clinic for the Ledyard Bill Library. We had a good turnout of 13 students and it was nice to see women and children among the group.

This was a free and fun outside workshop, and all equipment and refreshment

There were many volunteers on hand to help participants the basics of fly casting. They



were Mike Carl, Bob Davis, Bob Walsh, Charley McCaughtry, Jim Valuckus, Gary Lussier, Pat Gaynor (photographer) and John Preston (instructor).

Notice of Annual Meeting

Thames Valley TU will hold its Annual Meeting on October 19, 2021 at our 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.

The revised bylaws and slate of officers and board members will be posted soon in advance of the meeting. Anyone interested in running for a board seat or an officer should contact any board member for any information or questions.

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.

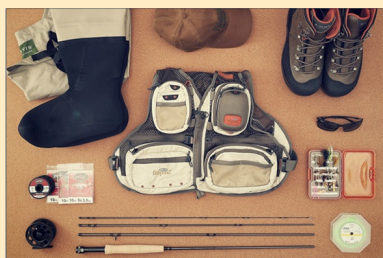


The following is the fall allocation:

- 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

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

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

Fish Connection

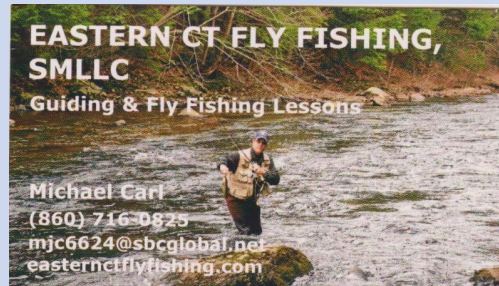
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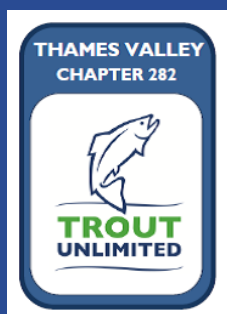
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Stay Connected

Trout Unlimited | [Website](#)



TVTU Chapter's Mission



Looking to reach a new and diverse

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

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

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	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
Paul Rice, Fly Tying Coordinator	860-942-2701	phr117@Gmail.com
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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
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Visit Our [Thames Valley TU Chapter 282Website](#)