



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!

I did manage to get on the water recently, even if it was only for a couple hours. One of those last minute "get it while you can" decisions on a nice seventy degree

afternoon that was too sunny for fishing but perfect weather for being outside. It was so last minute that I left my net and wading staff behind. Unfortunately, the net wasn't needed that day. The leaf hatch

was most definitely here in force. Only a few fall fish to show for the trip. Admittedly, I didn't try too hard and only fished a few of my favorite flies that I know don't always do the best this time of year, but I was just being stubborn (and lazy). In spite of all that, it was great to just get out in the water and enjoy the colors and the outdoors.

The board has procured a 10 X 10 pop-up for use in TU public events. The canopy has a really nice TU logo on all 4 panels with the words "Trout Unlimited" and "Thames Valley" on the side panels (see the Fenton River article"). The board had long ago approved the purchase of a generic pop-up as we have always used pop-ups owned by members for years. After seeing one of these at the Mohegan fishing show in March, it was unanimously agreed this was a much better option that draws attention – especially at public facing events.

We had a good turnout from UConn to help with the Fenton Erosion project. We completed the backfill of the tree we placed last month. Our next step will be to plan for the collection of discarded Christmas trees to be anchored around the big tree we just placed.

We made the final payment to EA Engineering for the Papermill Fish Passage Design project. The only thing left is to have a debrief conversation with the First Selectwoman of Sprague to summarize the accomplishments, discuss status of the dam and plans for future.

At the last meeting, we announced that we'll be going through our remaining inventory of fly tying material that we have amassed over the years. Most of this has been offered up for sale and picked over in previous meetings and events. At this point, interest in buying it seems low and we just don't have room to store it, so we will be putting some of this out for free each month until it is gone. This will be the last chance at these materials. There's still a lot of decent stuff if you happen to need it, so come on out to the meeting and help yourself.

See you at the meeting.
Happy Halloween!

Gary

**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](#)



October 18th Meeting

Long-time TVTU member, author, and artist George Jacobi will read some of his fishing stories and essays from past newsletters, and his Joshua's Trust blog posts, along with an appropriate 'slide' presentation.

OCTOBER DOOR PRIZE

The Fish Connection

127 Rte 12, Preston, CT 06365

Gift Certificate



GET YOUR **FREE TICKET** HERE

SUPPORT YOUR TVTU



2022 Wierdness

by Mike Carl

I can't seem to shake a weird feeling I have regarding how 2022's fishing season is progressing. Granted, since COVID, there hasn't been a "closed" period but, now that

it is in law permanently, it makes it feel even weirder.

DEEP is doing what it can to adjust to the new legislation but, I can't help but feel awkward about it. Add to the fact that practically every river and stream has been changed from last year's historic flooding to some degree or another, it just adds to the strangeness.



I guess we all are going to have to adjust and relearn our river systems, adjust to the new legislation, as well as the craziness of social media and its adverse effects on fishing pressure, poaching, etc.

Change is always a tough thing to swallow. I admit, I don't do well with it but I think most people fall in that category as well. I am going to do my best to embrace the new challenges but I can say I don't feel really good about it. Time will tell and I hope that my attitude will change as the season unfolds and be able to post a happier thoughts- oh wait- there is no more "seasons" – my bad !

Erosion Remediation Project on the Fenton River

February 2021 – August 2022



**First Pictures of
erosion problem
March 2021**

February 2021

August 2022 Somewhere around February in 2021, Mike Hveem (Director of Joshua's Trust) reached out to TVTU through mutual member, Charley McCaughtry requesting help or input on an issue on the Fenton River. This led to a series of meetings with Mike, Charley and Gary Lussier at the Gurleyville Grist Mill.

Mike pointed out some significant bank erosion a couple hundred feet upstream from the mill. He was concerned that the erosion could

continue downstream and eventually jeopardize the mill. In the previous year, he had engaged UConn students from the Civil Engineering Department who conducted an analysis and developed a detailed project plan to solve the problem with an approach that would entail heavy equipment and large boulders brought in and placed in the stream. We discussed how TU could help manage the project and possibly help with obtaining grants from various sources including TU Embrace a Stream

Next we brought in Matt Goclowski from DEEP and discussed what he thought of the plan and what permits would be required.

Next we contacted Tracy Brown from TU National who we had worked with on previous projects. Tracy reviewed the



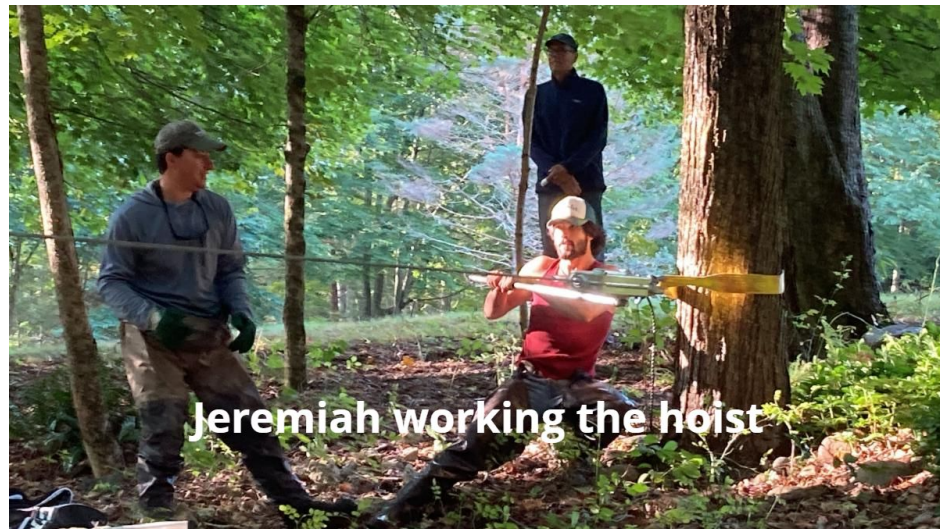
(l-r) Jeff Yates, Mike Hveem,,Gerald Berrafati, Jeremiah Stone on 9/16

plans in detail and then provided some feedback and suggestions. While she thought that the plans were thorough and well done, she explained that TU was leaning away from using rip-rap and large boulder infrastructures being introduced into rivers as they often created other side effects. Instead she introduced us to the brush matt solution which was basically anchoring old pine trees into the bank and letting high waters to wash in silt and gravel to naturally rebuild the bank.

We had a Zoom meeting with Mike and Tracy where she explained her proposal and shared pictures of previous brush matt projects. We were all sold on the concept and Tracy then came out to a site meeting to confirm what she'd seen in pictures and the project plan was solidified

September 16, 2022

Work began on the Fenton River Erosion Project. Jeff Yates and Jeremiah Stone (TU National) and Gerald Berrafati (Mianus Chapter) arrived early to provide oversight and



Jeremiah working the hoist

guidance to the project. (Actually, they also provided almost all of the actual labor.) The goal was to anchor a large tree parallel to the river bank. A large (40 to 50 foot) tree that had fallen perpendicular to the bank was selected as perfect for the job. First a chain saw was used to trim all the extraneous limbs. Next a grip hoist was anchored to a tree on the opposite side of the river and with about 20 – 30 minutes of some strenuous pumping with people taking turns, the tree was off the bank and lying across the river. The hoist was then taken to the opposite side of the river, and after a few re-positionings with lots more pumping in each position, the tree was finally in the desired location against the bank.



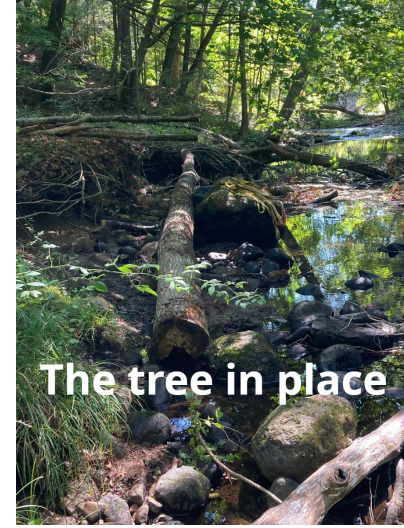
The anchor tree

Next the hoist went to work on a large boulder (~3-4 foot diameter) which was dragged from the middle of the river and up against the tree to lock it into place. Next a couple of smaller boulders were similarly dragged into place firmly anchoring the tree to the bank. Jeff then gave us directions on how to perform the next step to backfill the other side of the tree with cobble dug up from the stream channel. He showed us how

enhance the main channel, build up a couple areas with rock for channel direction and provide some flood plain enhancement.

And as if we didn't have enough to do, upon arrival we had found that a huge tree had recently been uprooted and fell across the river. After finishing the planned work for the day, Jeff grabbed the saw and went to work cutting up most of the tree so that the major obstruction was removed while leaving some jutting into the river for some new fish cover.

Special thanks to Jeff, Gerald and Jeremiah for coming out from western CT and New York to provide this critical support. Thanks to Ray Schaeffer, Charley McCaughtry, George Jacobi, Marc Cardwell and Gary Lussier for their support from TVTU.



October 8, 2022

We went to work on the 2nd step of a bank erosion remediation project on the Fenton River. Eight students from UConn volunteered their time and came out pull up stones from the river bed and place them behind the tree to secure it in place from the bank side. They all quickly got to work tossing stones big and small into place.

It was fun to watch how they kind of made a game and a completion for how big and how many rocks they could toss into place. The work that day actually accomplished 2 goals. We anchored the tree and also slightly deepened the natural channel that runs through the stream. While they filled in the tree, Steve and Gary were tossing their own rocks upstream to build up a gravel bar that is intended to help direct the main channel in low water while providing a flood plain when the water levels get high.



Even though we stuffed them with donuts to get the day started, after a couple hours of rock tossing, we treated the volunteers to lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers thanks to chefs Pat and Ray. As you might expect, a bunch of college boys can sure pack it away.

During lunch, we had some great conversations with the guys. Most of them had reservations not knowing what they were getting into, but then said they all had a great time and hoped they had an opportunity to work with us again. They also had lots of questions about TU, assuming we were a fishing club, but very interested in the conservation aspect of the



Pat and Ray trying to keep up with the college kids!

organization.

Finally, we got to take our new pop-up out for a spin and it definitely drew some attention as we had hoped. At least a half dozen people going by stopped by to ask what was going on when they saw the TU logo prominently on display. It gave us a chance to talk up TU and all of our conservation work. All were interested and thanked us for the work we were doing. All in all, it was a great day.



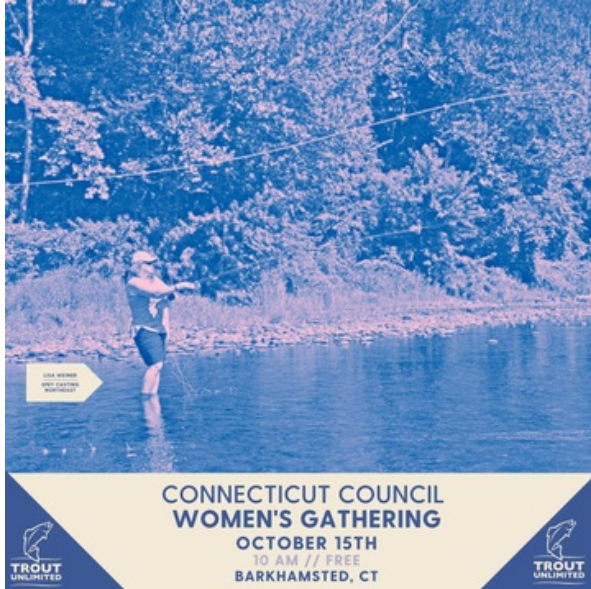
Thanks to Steve Gerling, Ray Schaeffer, Pat Gaynor, George Jacobi, Mike Carl and Gary Lussier for all their support. All showed up and/or loaned waders and hip boots to outfit the volunteer

Connecticut Council Women's Gathering

Join the Connecticut Council of TU in gathering and welcoming women to our organization.

Join us for a fun, free, family-friendly and information-filled day on the banks of the beautiful Farmington River in Barkhamsted on Saturday, Oct. 15, starting at 10 a.m. We are looking forward to gathering women and girls from around the state to celebrate, network and share the many faces and goals of the organization. (Dads and grand-dads are more than welcome to bring their daughters and grand-daughters!)

Join us for the day, or just swing by for an hour to enjoy opportunities to connect with local women run, owned and supported



outdoor and angling businesses and time to just sit, relax and connect with like minded ladies throughout the area in a beautiful area in the height of fall foliage season!

There is no fee for the event, so please feel free to come, bring friends, family, make it a girls day! We welcome people of all ages and skill levels, so plan on making a day of it!

Starting at 10 a.m., events will include:

- Fly casting learning station - great for beginners with skill building for more experienced anglers
- On the water spey casting demonstration

with Lisa Weiner from Northeast Spey

- Fly tying station with TU volunteers
- Knot tying learning station with TU volunteers
- Macroinvertebrate (river bugs!) sampling and identification station
- Conversations about conservation and outdoor engagement with CT DEEP Trails and Greenway Coordinator Kim Bradley

The pavilion at Peoples State Forest is reserved for the event and has plenty of room - and even a covered fireplace! - so this event will happen rain or shine .

We are excited to host this event and look forward to seeing you there! Registration is requested to help with headcount.

If you have any questions, requests, would like to demonstrate or share your skills, talent or fishing/conservation related business, please reach out to Beth Peterson, Connecticut Council Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator at (860) 605-8165 or email EAPeterson92@gmail.com.

Questions? [Contact Event Organizer](#)

[Map to :](#)

People's State Forest Picnic Shelter
106 East River Road,
Barkhamsted, CT 06063

[Click for map:](#)

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.

"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*

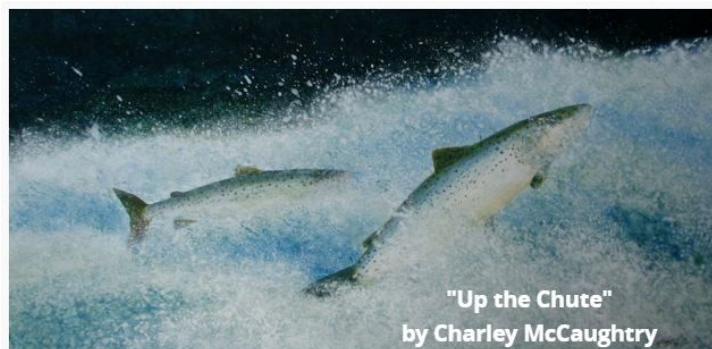
Program Director - *Coordinates monthly meetings including meeting speakers and other chapter activities.*

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 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

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

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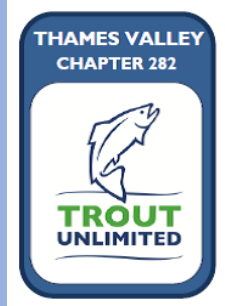
cmccaughtry@aol.com



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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

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



Trout Unlimited, Thames Valley CT Chapter | PO Box 2181, Columbia, CT 06237

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