



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

Invitation to Chapter Meeting Via Zoom

Topic: Thames Valley Trout Unlimited September Meeting
Time: Sep 15, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
click here for [Zoom Link](#)
Meeting ID: 810 6569 2322
Passcode: 486499



This Month's Speaker

The Eddie Hutton Story

Fishing has been a passion for me since I was ten years old.

I took my younger brother Tony, age 7 at the time, to a place called P.N.A. Park. We caught Sunfish, Johnny roach and very small Largemouth Bass. We graduated to the "Secret Hole" where there were some real nice fish, big Largemouth and Pickerel. It was those early days that got me hooked on fishing. I remember my father took my brother and me to The Reservoir, in Wallingford, Conn. He left us there with a lunch box, some tackle, and a desire to catch some fish and please him. We caught seven perch that day and had them on a stringer. Couldn't wait for dad to come pick us up to show him the fish. As he approached the fishing site, I went to get the fish, but they were swimming up stream. Apparently, we didn't tie them to the bank so well.

I joined the local Rod & Gun Club. It was there that I "tried" fly fishing. I had bought a cheap model, put the rod and reel together, tied on a wooly bugger and started to fish. Night after night I came home without catching a trout. I was determined. One night I fished until dark and said I was not going home until I caught a trout. It was very dark, but I kept at it until BANG, I hooked into a nice rainbow. I have not been spin cast fishing since.

My business career started out working for Wonder Bread, Hostess Cake, and Drakes Cakes. Moved to Florida and worked at a local potato chip distributorship. From there I opened up my own food brokerage business. Took on a partner 17 years ago, and have finally retired. During the 17 years, we planned many business-fishing trips with our friends and clients. We went to the same place for

President's Message....



Hi everyone!

We're back for the 2020/2021 season. Well at least virtually for now. Honestly, I fear the worst and that the entire season could require virtual meetings, but hoping for the best and that this all comes to an end sooner so that we'll be able to get together again in person. In the meantime, if you have not used Zoom before, don't wait until the last minute and try to log in just before the meeting. You will need to load the Zoom application which could take a little extra time depending on your device, network and computer skills. Check out the invitation in this newsletter. You should click on it and be sure you can get through the installation and into the Zoom session before the meeting.

After what seemed like endless delays and unexpected changes, we finally signed our contract with NFWF in April for the Papermill Pond Fish Passage Design Project grant that we received in November. That enabled us to enter into a contract with EA Engineering in May to perform the work. The project finally got underway in June with a site visit and wetlands delineation survey. Because most of the delay was due to changing requirements from NFWF, they granted us an additional four months to complete the project. We plan to have regular status meetings with EA while the project is in process and plan to complete it in March.

As mentioned in a Bulletin last month, our annual meeting and elections are due to be held at the October chapter meeting. We are currently planning to have that vote in our Zoom meeting. The list of candidates planning to run for office was provided and is also listed on our web page. Again I want to

most of those years, a 5-star Trout Heaven in Almont, Colorado. I learned the local waters pretty good, and most of the time, I guided the boys. I thought I would take all this experience and passion for fishing and begin my new career, FLY FISHING GUIDE. Dottie and I bought a cabin in Bryson City, North Carolina 11 years ago. I have fished the local waters there during that time. I want to share my experiences on the water with you. Fishing has kept me and my brother very close all these years. I have made many friends while fishing in NY, PA, VT, MA, CO, GA, TN and NC. What a way to spend the next 10-15 years. Teach, make friends, and continue to enjoy my passion.

Learning How To Cast: An Outdoor Fly-Fishing Program

Bring yourself and your mask to an outdoor Fly Casting program at the Highland Lake in Ledyard. The Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be instructing participants on the fundamentals and techniques of fly fishing casting. Jeff Perry, a R.I. TU Chapter 225 member and Fly Fishers International (FFI) Certified Fly Casting Instructor (CCI), will lead the casting program.



All equipment and supplies are provided. All participants must comply with COVID-19 Contact Tracing requirements. Class is limited to 10 participants. Please register through the [Ledyard Bill Library](#) (See Library Events).

DATE/TIME: September 26, 2020, Saturday, 1:30 - 3 pm

LOCATION: Highland Lake Park, 639 Shewville Road, Ledyard, CT 06339

My affliction...

by George Jacobi



I don't know about you; sometimes fish control my brain. It's not a bad affliction. When it takes me over, it can be the happiest times of my life. Then again, it can cause trouble and stress. You can't always be at a climate-controlled, heavily stocked trout stream like the Farmington River. You'd think the stress comes over me in spring when conditions are ideal and I'm busy, but no...it's worse in mid-summer. Around here, the trout streams are on life support, and school stripers and hickory shad are nowhere to be found either, unless you are standing in the ocean an hour before dawn. I used to do that, but deep sleep is rarer now. Once in the dark of night, despite knowing the route well, I took the wrong exit

encourage anybody interested in running for any of these positions to do so – even if someone is already running for a position that you are interested in. You can contact me or any of the board members to find out more information about any of the positions. And I will also emphasize here that it is critical to fill two important roles – the Vice President and the Conservation Chair as quickly as possible. If you have ever considered a leadership role in the chapter, we need your help now.

Another reminder for our annual meeting is that we need to vote on a revised version of our bylaws. You can find the existing and proposed versions of the bylaws on our web page on the "About" tab.

Some great news, I am happy to announce that Paul Liberty has volunteered to take on the important role of Stocking Coordinator. Paul lives in Old Saybrook and is a member of TU but not the Thames Valley Chapter – yet. We are in the process of making that switch. Please join me in welcoming Paul to the team and be sure to say hello whenever you get the opportunity. I really enjoyed my time as stocking coordinator. It was a lot of fun and a great way to make some good friends with those that come to help out – especially those that I could always count on to be there. I plan to coordinate the next stocking event with Paul and we'll work out transition plans from there.

See you at the meeting (at least on my screen).

Tight Lines! [Gary Lussier](#)
[Email](#)

TVTU 282 Board Of Directors 2020 Nominees

Position	Name
President	Gary Lussier
Secretary	Glenn Levasseur
Communications Chair	Bruce Danielson
TIC/Education Chair	Dave Parry
River Cleanup Coordinator	Jim Valuckas
Veterans Outreach Chair	Ron Bettez
Membership Chair	Michael Carl
Membership Co-Chair	Charles McCaughtry
Fundraising Chair	Pat Gaynor
Social Media	Zach Novosad

Board Member	George DeGray
Board Member	Steve Gerling

Vice President	Open
Conservation Chair	Open

How to Attend a Zoom Meeting

As announced in the August newsletter, we will be holding our chapter meetings in virtual mode via Zoom until further notice. We will be keeping to the standard format as much as possible including having a guest speaker each month.

off 395 at 3:30 AM; it made me realize that I was running on fumes. Black coffee can only do so much.

So I desperately search for interesting things to hook. This August that effort turned out badly. Well, almost. Catching 5 inch smallmouth in the Shetucket, in the same runs where I caught trout in May, had gotten old. It gets old fast, doesn't it? "I know what I'll do" I said, "I'll scope out Mansfield Hollow Reservoir in preparation for the fall and spring when those Pike come into shallow water to get warm." Always wanted to catch one of these huge Pike, never got around to trying. I hear stories...

It was so dry this summer in eastern Connecticut that the bathtub warm reservoir was full of terrible weeds. Not conducive to effective fly fishing. After walking the bank and wading out in a few places, I had gotten only one bump on the fly. It looked so dry, though, that I thought I could get to the channel where the Fenton River comes out under Route 89 by walking about forty feet through 2 inches of water, wet weeds and grass. I did, and ended up on a "dry" delta in a good casting location. "Uh-oh", you say.

It didn't take more than a few casts when I realized that was a waste of time too. I reeled in and took the first sideways step to turn around. That's when I sunk in to my knee. Wobbling, I got my leg out, barely, and then my other leg went down. I came *this close* to falling right over. Would my leg have broken? Would the headline have read "Stupid fly fisher drowns in 2 inches of water"? It took me a long time to get myself out of there safely. The word "hairy" now has new meaning. My socks will never be the same, and I have a new appreciation for slick rock streambeds like the Shetucket. May this fall bring you safe fishing as well as safe everything else, fellow TVTU members.

For those of you that are new to Zoom, it is actually very simple. You will get an email invitation to a meeting with a link to the Zoom session. All you need to do is click on the link. Zoom will prompt you to install their application and you just follow the prompts to complete the installation and enter the meeting. Once installed, the installation step is skipped for subsequent meetings and you'll be taken directly to the meeting. You will need a laptop, computer, smart phone or tablet with a camera and microphone along with a connection to the internet. Invitations will be sent out a few days in advance of each meeting.

It will take a few minutes to download and get set up with Zoom for the first time so I would suggest clicking the link and get started fifteen minutes before the meeting starts. Another alternative is that you can go to Zoom.com and at the bottom of the page, click download to install Zoom on your device(s). The Zoom client is free and very secure. It has been widely used by many companies, schools and organizations, especially since the pandemic, with great success.



by John Preston

Fly Of the Month

"Ausable Bomber"

The Wuhan/Covid-19 shutdown was a "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade" moment. There were number of organizations like Orvis, Farmington Valley TU, the American Museum of Fly Fishing and more that held online fly tying events that provided some great instruction and entertaining insight on tying various fly patterns. When known they are posted on our Facebook page for your information. We all can learn some good tips and patterns to try.

The shutdown motivated me to tie about 28 dozen flies in preparation for my annual trek to the Yellowstone National Park area fishing the Firehole, Madison, Gibbon, Gardner, Yellowstone and Henry's Fork to name just a few of the waters available. Of course, I wasn't sure I would be going until YNP decided to open and Montana & Idaho dropped their 14 day self-quarantine requirement. I will be featuring each month in the newsletter some of the new patterns I tied/ tried.

This month's fly
was rediscovered
while organizing a
bunch of my old fly
boxes during the



shutdown. I found a few flies tied by Fran Betters that I bought years ago while visiting the Adirondacks and stopped at his fly shop but... completely forgot about them. I didn't

recognize one pattern so I googled Fran Betters and discovered it was an Ausable Bomber. Well, if only I had tried it back then... it is a **great attractor dry fly!!!** It floats like a cork, easy to tie & see and it catches trout! A wonderful buggy looking small stream/searching pattern. Also it's easy to twitch and skate. On one outing in the park this year it produced seven Rainbows from 16 to 19 inches on Cesspool Creek. I now think of it as a Northeastern Stimulator.

At first, I tied them on a Stimulator type curved hopper 3XL hook which works fine but I happen to have a stash of the original hook used... a Mustad 9671 (2XL) which is no longer made but the proportions just seem to look better with it. I've since have found a TMC 5212 has the same look and uses a lighter wire.

You need to try this pattern! Tie them in other colors (yellow, green, olive, gray, etc.) and sizes. One time I was using the original color (orange rusty color), struck too soon and pulled it out of the fish's mouth but didn't nip it. Made a couple of casts over the missed fish only to turn away when it got a better look at the trout with success. Went back down to the fish I spooked, changed to a yellow bodied Bomber and on the second cast landed the biggest of the day... a 19 inch Bow!



The Bomber Strikes Again!



You Tube Video by Mark Wittman - visit his website <http://fishingsmallstreams.blogspot.com/>

Recipe: Ausable Bomber

Hook: Mustad 9671 (2XL) or equivalent dry fly hook, size #10-16

Thread: Orange/Hot Orange 6/0 Danville or 8/0 Uni or you favorite brand of thread

Tail: Woodchuck guard hair tied short

Body: Rusty orange Australian Possum, Red Squirrel belly fur, or synthetic dubbing

Wing: White Kip (calves) tail unstacked, tied leaning forward over the eye slightly

Hackle: Brown and Grizzly palmered 3 or 4 times over the body and 2 - 3 times in front of the wing. Finished with a small head whip finish behind the eye.

"The man who coined the phrase "Money can't buy happiness", never bought himself a good fly rod!

~Reg Baird

Items for Sale

HMH Spartan Vise w/ Omni and Micro jaws -Mint condition - **\$199 SALE** (MSRP \$299)

Cabela's MTX 9' 6wt 4pc Fly Rodw/ graphite tube- Mint condition - ~~\$165~~ **SALE \$150** (MSRP \$400)

LL Bean Travel Fly Rod - 9', 7wt, 6pcw/ tube & bag, near excellent condition - ~~\$75~~ **SALE \$60**

Duke's Ultimate Dubbing Brush (new) Dual purpose dubbing brush - **SALE \$3** (MSRP \$4)

Orvis Tacky Dry Side Fly Box (new)holds 367 flies 7"L x 3¾"W x 1¼"D - **SALE \$20** (MSRP \$45)

Korkers Wading Boot -New Old Stock, Size11 w/ walking/hiking sole only - ~~\$35~~ **SALE \$20**

Bamboo Rod Oven (homemade) -The heat gun (not included) oven is **FREE** for the cane rod maker who will pass it on **FREE** to the next rod maker.

For the above items or to place items for sale, contact [John Preston](#)



"Volunteers Wanted"



Program Coordinator Needed

We are looking to fill a board position of Program Coordinator.

Duties of this position include:

- * Coordinating who brings refreshments.
- * Finding and arranging speakers.
- * Bringing coffee supplies & replenishing as needed.

If you are interested in helping the chapter by filling this position, please contact Gary Lussier [email](#)



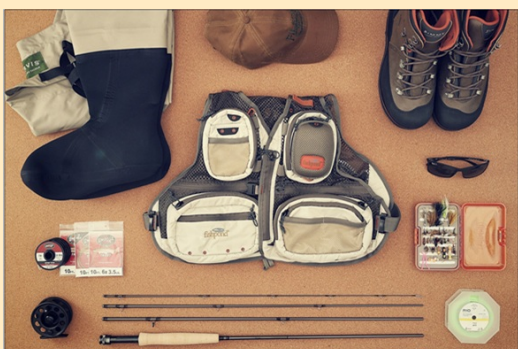
Fly Tying Coordinator Needed

We are looking for a Fly Tying coordinator to support chapter events. It is not a requirement to become a board member, but the coordinator is welcome to join the board.

Duties include:

1. Contacting and arranging for volunteer tyers at our chapter meetings
2. Coordinating tyers for our fly tying classes (usually one six week class at the Fish Connection).
3. Coordinating tyers for our outreach events.
4. Replenishing tying supplies as required.
5. Communicate with board to coordinate requirements. Please contact Gary Lussier or Ray Schaeffer for additional information

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

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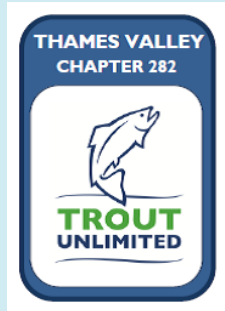


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About Us

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

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Ray Schaefer, Vice President	860-546-9775	rayschaefer9060@gmail.com
Glenn Levasseur, Secretary	860-204-1201	glenn.levasseur@gmail.com
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