

# Trout Unlimited

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

September 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, although not mandatory, we are recommending that both vaccinated and un-vaccinated folks wear masks.

### **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!

Welcome back to a new season. Do you realize it has been 16 months since we last met in person at the firehouse? I'm happy to say that beginning in September, we will be resuming our meetings in person and I am looking forward to seeing all of you again. While I think that our chapter meetings via Zoom went very well last year, it's just not quite the same as being there.

With that said, our decision to resume in person meetings was made before it became clear that the Delta variant was causing infections and hospitalizations to rebound and begin trending again in the wrong direction. We will be monitoring new developments and making adjustments accordingly. We are also recommending that everyone wear face masks, maintain social distancing and follow CDC guidelines at our chapter meetings. I have spoken to members who are concerned enough that they would not attend if guidelines aren't followed, so let's all do our part and keep each other safe so we can continue meeting in person.

Just an early heads up that we will be having our annual meeting in October where we will vote on revised bylaws, board members and officers. I am appealing to the membership for someone to step up to fill the vacancy of Vice-President which has been open for a year. We really need to get this position filled. Also this is a good time for anyone interested in joining the board of directors to join now. It's always helpful to get fresh ideas and perspectives and the board always welcomes new members. It's worth mentioning here that the board decided that because it has worked so well, we will continue having our board meetings via Zoom, so it's easier than ever to participate. And if you really don't want to commit to a board position,

there's still plenty of opportunity to volunteer to help out in any of our activities. Our committee chairs often have committees of 1 (themselves) to plan and execute their tasks. Whatever you're most interested in – conservation, fund raising, communications & social media, event planning etc., any help is always welcome. So please consider joining in and helping out this year. TVTU wants YOU!

See you all at the firehouse.

Tight Lines

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## This Months Presentation

### Bill Keister - Alaska's Kanektok River

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Bill Keister's first trout was caught when he was 12 on a dry fly. He fished through high school and college years but stopped when he got out of the Navy in 1968. Contemplating retirement in 1999 he made an academic decision to come back to fly fishing. In four months he had built four fly rods, updated his 1966 fly tying materials used his own flies to catch nine trout on the first day of fishing on the Rush river during Wisconsin early March trout season. He is an FFF Certified Master Casting Instructor. He ties his own flies, has

put together over seventy fly rods and keeps records of each fish he has caught since May 6, 2002. Trout and salmon have been caught in Labrador, Newfoundland, Alaska, Kamchatka, the Kola Peninsula, three additional Canadian provinces and fifteen states. Bill has made eight trips to Chile, six to Argentina and five to the Kanektok River in Quinhagak Alaska.

### Alaska's Kanektok River

There are Silver Salmon and Silver Salmon and Silver Salmon. The river also has runs of Dolly Vardon, Sockeye, Chum, Pink, Chinook, Rainbow trout, Grayling. But at the time we generally go Silvers and Dolly's are what we are there for. At the right time during the run it ceases to be fishing and truly just becomes catching. You can catch silvers until you get too tired, plain bored or the sun goes down. Paul Jacobs runs the operation. He is a fanatic. The accommodations are adequate but sparse and it is a tent camp. The guides are good. If you want to catch Silver Salmon one after another this is probably your best bet.

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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.

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## "Noll Fly Tying Kit Memories"

**By Edward Ostapczuk**

A previous version of this was run/published in the Nov. 2020 issue of the *Gazette*, newsletter of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild

A master fly tyer and member of





the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, Ed has written numerous articles, essays, columns, and even a few books. In 1991, *Trophy Trout Streams of the Northeast* was published and included a chapter on the Esopus written by Ed Ostapczuk. In 2012 he wrote *Ramblings of a Charmed Circle Flyfisher*, recounting his fly-fishing adventures.



With winter holidays only weeks away, it's time for my second season, that time of year I while away cold days tying flies close to our woodstove. This all started with a humble enough beginning. The Good Lord willing, in a few short weeks I'll hit the seventy-third mile-marker on this life's highway. Thus, it was sixty years ago this coming Christmas I asked my parents for a Noll Fly Tying Kit, No. 20 Special. If memory serves me correctly, it sold for \$4.95 back then, which has since led to thousands of dollars being "invested" on this feathery pastime bolstering that initial meager outlay.

That kit contained everything a wet-behind-the-ears thirteen-year-old wannabe fly tyer could ever want: one cheap stamped vise, heavy oversized wet-fly and bass hooks, various cellophane packets of pronounced bright chenille, floss, and yarn, not to forget vividly colored feathers with thick stems and soft barbs. I was in my glory, but was also a student of the school of hard knocks. Back then there was no Internet nor DVD's or YouTube videos to learn from. J. Edson Leonard's *Flies* was one of the first books I

purchased. However, this fine reference was mostly comprised of words with few visual references. In some way it was akin to reading a math text, complicated and hard to understand at times. For color visuals I treasured *Family Circle's Guide to Trout Flies*. I thought that slim reference contained the recipe for every trout pattern I would ever need to tie. Imagine that!

I remember a few of my first creations, wet flies tied with thick chenille bodies and fat heads. The finished flies could rotate about the hook shank, as I had no concept of anchoring the tying thread creating a foundation to build upon. Seeking additional help on this matter, I went to the Union Public Library and its limited stack of fishing books, containing the works of Blades, DuBois, and Wetzel. There I sought to expand my knowledge base as there wasn't anyone I could learn from firsthand. Sadly, sometimes these visits also affected the development of my moral fiber as not far from those fishing books was a stack of black-and-white photography books, a few containing nudes. While slightly off the subject, this caused me to spend a number of Saturday afternoons going to confession. Confession lines were much longer than, perhaps there were more sinners roaming about, but I recall one parish priest who would yell at penitents in his booth and I avoided him like the plague.

With time my flies looked better, good enough that even fish might like them. Thus, I began fishing them instead of purchasing the flies I used. And I started the ongoing process of acquiring tools and better materials. Initially I borrowed a sharp pair of scissors from my

mother that I still use to this day. Additionally, I quickly purchased a Chase bobbin and pair of hackle pliers that didn't have heavy rubber tips. I guess my biggest purchases included a Thompson Model B vise, and before too many years went by I upgraded to a Thompson A.

In those early days I supplemented materials at Huff's Sporting Goods on Stuyvesant Avenue. For a quarter one could purchase a cellophane pack of a dozen decent dry-fly feathers. And, for five dollars each a thick-stemmed Indian or Chinese neck was had, as I knew of no other hackle sources back then. I still have piles of these features, which were last utilized when I instructed fly tying classes at the middle school I taught at. Plus, while still living in New Jersey and just old enough to drive, my buddies and I would venture forth to Reed Tackle on U.S. 46 in Caldwell for major tying purchases. Those were really the days.

I wonder how many Guild members started their own tying journey with Noll? We all had our fly-tying beginnings; mine started humbly with a Noll Fly Tying Kit. However, one common thread shared by most tyers I know, we never seem to get rid of anything. I still have all this stuff, and many more items purchased that were never used, like a large magnifying lens and bobbin cradle for my vise, assorted modern miracle materials, an expensive dubbing spinner, and whip finisher I never mastered. These days I tie on a HMM Standard vise, have a good supply of Charlie Collins necks, proud to be a member of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, prefer using natural materials/furs over synthetics, and still tie most of my flies on Mustad hooks. Somethings just never change for us Noll Kit kids.

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## 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/> 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 date to be announced will be sometime shortly after the October meeting and the number of participants will be limited but a dozen members is ideal. Please contact Gary Lussier to sign up.

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## 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.

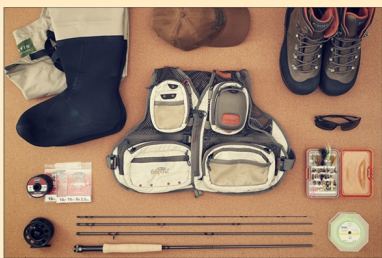
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## Labor Day Weekend Stocking - POSTPONED

The annual Labor Day weekend stocking of the Farmington River was postponed due to higher than normal water temperatures within the river. The watershed received near record amount of rain during the early part of July and August. As such, there was just too much water in the system to allow stratification within the West Branch Reservoir. This stratification is critical to supply very cold water for the West Branch Farmington River. Without this cold water, the river is subject to warm temperatures in the late summer and early fall.

The Fisheries Division continues to monitor the water temperatures and will stock the river as soon as conditions are more suitable.

## 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@cttu.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

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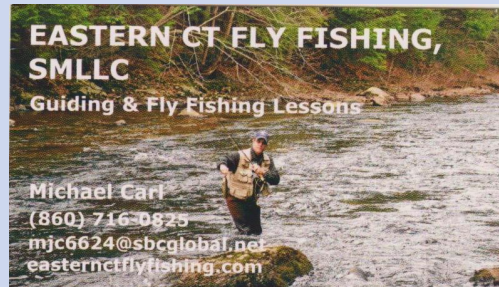
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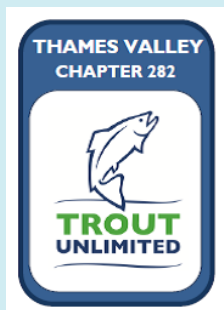
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Trout Unlimited | [Website](http://www.troutunlimited.org)



### About Us

#### TVTU Chapter's Mission

To conserve, protect and restore Eastern Connecticut's trout and salmon and their watersheds.



### 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



### 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](#)

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 (acting)	860-617-9948	rayschaefer9060@gmail.com
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