



# Trout Unlimited

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

September 2023



## **Presidents Message**

*from Gary Lussier*

Hello Everybody,

Welcome back to a new season of chapter meetings of the Thames Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited. Hopefully you all had a great summer and bring back some good fishing stories to share in the upcoming meetings. I found the season to be pretty good albeit too short yet again. Looking back at my log, water was low and too hot by mid June and my last entry was for June 13 when the Shetucket hit 70 degrees. I remember hoping that a recent rain might have cooled the water a bit that day, but by 11:00 am, the water hit 70 and I was done for the summer – never finding time to get back to the Farmington after that.

We've had a recent resignation from our Board of Directors. Unfortunately, Bruce Danielson resigned to deal with some family issues. Most of you know that Bruce has been the editor of this newsletter and handled all of our bulletins and communications for at least the last five years and probably then some. On behalf of the Board and the chapter, I'd like to thank Bruce for his years and dedication as the Communications Chair as well as his many other contributions to chapter activities.

## **Chapter Events**

### **Upcoming Events**

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

### **Sept 19 Chapter Meeting**

George Jacobi

Select Readings

click [here](#) to register

### **Oct 14 Eight Mile River Fest**

Devils Hopyard 1-4 PM

### **Oct 17 Chapter Meeting**

Jay Crowley

"Fishing The Driftless"

### **Oct 17 Fly Tying**

Ledyard Library

6 PM - 7:30 PM

### **Oct 24 Fly Tying**

Ledyard Library

6 PM - 7:30 PM

### **Oct 31 Fly Tying**

Ledyard Library

6 PM - 7:30 PM

### **Nov 7 Fly Tying**

Ledyard Library

6 PM - 7:30 PM

### **Nov 14 Fly Tying**

Ledyard Library

This obviously leaves a big hole and opportunity for someone to step forward and fill. For now, I've put this month's newsletter together and plan to do my best to get it out each month, but you're not likely to see as nice a job as it has been in the past. Luckily, Bruce left a good template behind making it relatively easy to follow and carry forward.

We've got a few activities going for the fall. We have the Eight Mile River Fest at Devils Hopyard on Oct 14 and Bob & John's Fly Tying classes at Ledyard Library starting in October – both of which could use some help from anyone willing to participate. We also plan to finish the Fenton River bank restoration project in the next couple months – river levels and weather permitting.

We're looking forward to a good year. Also looking for people to come forward to join the board and take on some critical roles that need to be filled. Take a look at our "help wanted" section toward the bottom of this page which clearly shows how much we need your help and participation. It may look daunting, but the chapter is actually fairly easy to run when enough people pitch in to do a part. Now is the time to join when you have a full season to get a good feel for how the board works and transition gradually into whatever role you may be interested in helping out with.

See you all at the firehouse on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Tight Lines!

Gary

6 PM - 7:30 PM

**Nov 21 Chapter Meeting**  
TBD

**Nov 21 Fly Tying**  
Ledyard Library  
6 PM - 7:30 PM

**Dec 19 Chapter Meeting**  
Tim Flagler  
Topic TBD

**Jan 16 Chapter Meeting**  
TBD

**Feb 20 Chapter Meeting**  
TBD

**Mar 19 Chapter Meeting**  
Bob Lindquist  
"Seasons on the Delaware"

**Apr 16 Chapter Meeting**  
Annual Meeting &  
Elections

**May 21 Chapter Meeting**  
TBD

**Cancellations:**

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**



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 him @ rayschaefer9060@gmail.com.

## September Door Prize

*JT's Gift  
Certificate*



**Welcome Back!**



## September Speaker: George Jacobi



Longtime TVTU member George Jacobi will read a selection of his fishing and nature stories and essays from past TVTU newsletters, and from Joshua's Trust, along with an appropriate 'slide' show. George grew up on the Housatonic and spent much of his career as a tackle sales rep, enabling a lot of time on New England rivers and the shore.

## Great Expectations & Angling Misadventures

– Vol. #1

By Carl Ochnio

*Submitted by John Springer*

The recipe for a fishing trip starts with mixing three parts of excitement, two parts expectation and don't forget to add a dash of anxiety. Whether it's a day outing to a local river, or an extended out of state adventure, anglers try to confidently plot out every detail of a trip. When the time finally arrives to pack a suitcase or load up the fish mobile, expectations are high. Hopefully the most current fishing report indicates the river flow is perfect, the weather pattern is favorable, and the hatches are happening right on schedule. Everything is lined up, just as planned.

As an angler sets off to their destination, they may envision a massive fish taking a dry fly off the surface. The trophy forcefully takes off downstream. While holding onto the rod tightly, the drag is spinning like a Kansas windmill in a F5

tornado. Yow!

These thoughts are exciting and most anglers have them. They are typically known for their optimism. Just take a look inside a fly box. A non-angler can view it as just a bunch of flies. The angler sees rows of hopeful moments patiently waiting for their day. For the most part, these aspirations will most likely fall short of how things are going to pan out. Just like hidden obstructions on a river bottom, challenges will often emerge to trip you up. There will be more on this matter later.

I certainly hope your next adventure proceeds exactly as planned or even surpasses your expectations. But here is some advice. On any excursion, things can and will undoubtedly go sideways. Often, when least expected. Through the years, I've had my share of those, "I can't believe that just happened moments." Many could be prominently listed in The Bible of Fishing Trip Mishaps.

There are a wide variety of challenges that can be encountered on a fishing adventure. Hopefully most will be minor and nothing more than simple annoyances. I've had many incidents I can easily look back on and laugh about.

It's said that confession is good for the soul. I am now going to bare mine. This unburdening may assist readers in avoiding similar blunders, or simply provide a laugh or two at my expense.

I have carefully curated some of my numerous angling misadventures. They are loosely placed in chronological order and clearly demonstrate that I have not become any wiser over the years. I envision misadventures such as these being freely shared around a fishing lodge fireplace or a campfire. If you don't have your own misadventures, or are reluctant to divulge them, feel free to share some of the following. Just begin the conversation with, "I once read about this guy who."

My first major mishap occurred when I was sixteen. At that time, the opening day of trout season was a huge deal. Trout season always started on the third Saturday in April. My countdown officially started on the first day of January. I had a calendar posted in my bedroom, and each morning prior to trudging off to school, I would faithfully cross off another day. There were months of anticipation. Now, move forward to just a few days before I could cast my first line into the new season. My trusty 1962 VW Beetle decided to quit running and it appeared my plans for opening day were doomed. Thankfully my Mom came to the rescue and offered the use of her brand new, 1969 Ford LTD. Compared to my Beetle, it was a boat, a regular land yacht. As my cousin Ed and I eagerly traveled down a narrow dirt road at about five a.m. on opening day, a large vehicle approached from the opposite direction. I pulled to the side to let it pass resulting in the car bottoming out on an unseen rock. The passenger side wheels, seemed just a short distance from a drop off to the river below. On a previous trip, I remembered catching sight of a rather dilapidated looking tow truck parked in a backyard only a few miles away.

I left Ed to fish and walked to the main road, put out my thumb and was lucky enough to have someone give me lift. In the early morning light, I walked back to the "tow truck house" and peeked through the window. At the kitchen table, sat an older gent having breakfast. I knocked on the door, explained my dilemma and asked if the tow truck was operable. He said that it had not been used in a

while, but responded with a supportive, "Let's give her a try." Thankfully it turned over and within minutes, we were cruising down the road. Once we arrived at the scene of my misfortune, he quickly hooked the Ford up and pulled it off the rock. He saved the day and helped me avoid a very uncomfortable conversation with my Mom. I emptied my pockets of all the cash and coins that I had and thanked him profusely. Other than my cousin, it was years before I shared that tale with anyone. An incident such as this is best kept on the down-low for a very long period of time.

Here's a beauty. The excitement of a trip to the river can lead to some mental lapses. One morning, in my rush to get to the river, I didn't bother to check my packing. Imagine how I felt when I arrived riverside, pulled on my stockingfoot waders, to then realize, I had two left footed wading boots. At that point, a decision had to be made. Does one drive back home to correct the mistake and miss the morning hatch or choose to forge ahead? I'm happy to report it is possible to wade with two left boots. If one has a sense of humor, you can look down at your feet throughout the morning and have a laugh. What you want to avoid is spending time chatting with other anglers. You certainly don't want to provide any confirmation that you are some type of buffoon.

Once, early in the season, I decided to walk a favorite river to test out a new fly rod and scout for rising fish. I was not optimistic about any surface action. At the very least, it would be a pleasant stroll and I would get a chance to see how the high flows of the spring could have impacted some of the pools. I ventured about a mile downstream when to my surprise, I spotted a fish feeding on the surface. I attempted to string up my four piece rod. It was only then that I noticed it was now a three piece. At one point, I recalled the rod tip getting snagged on some brush. Without much thought, I gave it a tug and kept on walking without glancing back. I spent the remainder of that morning retracing my steps and searching for the missing tip. It was complicated by the fact that the color of the missing section was perfectly camouflaged to blend into the surroundings. It wasn't easy, but I eventually found it. The recommendation is to always string up your rod before you head into the woods.

There was that one time I was sitting on the bank rebuilding my leader. I had my sun hat on and my much needed magnifier attached to its brim. It was a stroke of luck that I just happened to notice the powerful mid-day New Mexico sun was passing through my magnifier and about to burn a hole in my waders. I sidestepped another mishap and considered myself very fortunate.

How about the day I was prospecting for fish on a river in the southern Rockies. I had been on the water since early morning and it was now mid-day and the hatches had petered out. Instead of heading back to the cabin for lunch and a nap, I decided to make it a day and wait till the fish returned to the surface later in the afternoon. As a result of either rushing or laziness, I neglected to pinch the barb on my #14 Parachute Ant. I netted a fish and as I unhooked and released it, I felt a prick. I looked down at the palm of my left hand and there was the fly, embedded, and quite deep. It was my first experience impaling myself. I was amazed on how painlessly the hook penetrated my skin. I stood in the middle of the river and began to review my options. I chose to head back to the bank and then onward to my SUV. During this trek, per usual, a few anglers stopped me to ask how things were going and what was working. As we spoke, I remember deftly closing the palm of my left hand. I was too embarrassed and again, unwilling to supply anyone with visual confirmation that I was some kind

of bozo. My choice was to suffer in silence. When I arrived back at the parking area, I found a picnic table and began to review all the hook removal tactics I had read about. None of these options really appealed to me. So, I laid down on a picnic table with my forceps, gave the hook a quick pull and waited for the moment of pain to arrive. Luckily, the hook popped out as painlessly as it went in. Another very fortunate ending. Now, I am firmly committed to taking the time to de-barb all my flies.

If you ever choose to travel to a back country destination, on a single track dirt road, in a rented SUV, plan accordingly. A companion and I were once about thirty miles from an asphalt road. A storm was brewing, and before the road became too muddy, we chose to head back to our cabin and ended up puncturing a tire. Out came the spare and jack. We loosened the lug nuts, placed the jack stand on the road and then attempted to lift the car. Ideally the jack stand supplied by the manufacturer, is best suited for use on a smooth, hard surface. So as we tried to lift the chassis, the jack stand disappeared into the mud. The scavenger hunt began and it actually took a while to find just the ideal rock to place underneath the jack stand. If you plan to head into a remote location, bring along a thick, square piece of metal plate to serve as a jack stand base. An additional safety tip, check to see if the rental actually has a full sized spare. Many models now come only equipped with a down-sized or donut type spare. While you are at it, consider bringing along a tire plug kit and a compact tire pump. You can thank me next time you see me.

I feel duty bound to bring up a topic that will effect most every angler, sooner or later. Falling in is another fishing trip, "slip up." It's most likely to happen the exact day one fails to pack an emergency "fall in" bag. This bag should have a complete set of dry clothes. Face it, you are going to take a swim. When you do, hopefully it won't be serious. It will start with a stumble, followed by 5-10 feet of slow motion staggering and wind millings of your arms in a vain attempt to regain your balance. This water rumba will reach a point where gravity decisively takes over, the cursing begins, and you slide in. You will then pop back up, curse some more, then check your physical condition. Once that checks out, the next step is to examine your rod. If that looks fine, then you will immediately glance around to see if anyone has watched your baptism. Falling into the water is just bad luck and it's even worse when you have an audience. If you planned ahead, just take a quick break, switch into those nice, dry clothes and get back to it. Didn't pack a "fall in" bag? Well, your bad day, just got worse. To wrap up, consider purchasing a wading staff. Whoever noted that a tripod is much more stable than a bipod, got it spot on.

## **Fly Tying Class at The Ledyard Bill Library with Bob Walsh and John Preston Tuesday evenings Oct 17 - NOV 21, 6 PM - 7:30 PM**

Have you ever wanted to make your own flies for fishing or for fun? Come to the Ledyard Bill Library for this six-week class where Bob Walsh and John Preston of the Thames Valley Trout Unlimited chapter will provide instructions, tools, and supplies so you can make a variety of different flies.





Participants will learn about the basic tools and techniques needed to successfully tie flies. Patterns will be selected that will be easier for beginners and cover key fundamental skills for tying most flies. Each class will usually involve the students tying a couple of different patterns depending on complexity and participant skills. No prior tying experience is required, and subsequent classes would build on skills learned in prior classes. Students are welcome to bring their own tying tools if they have them, but all required tools and materials will be provided by Thames Valley Trout Unlimited.

**Registration is required** and there is a single registration form for all of the classes. Register online [Calendar of Events \(eventkeeper.com\)](#) or

CONTACT: Matt Novosad 860-464-9912 [mnovosad@ledyardlibrary.org](mailto:mnovosad@ledyardlibrary.org)

LOCATION: Bill Library, 718 Colonel Ledyard Hwy, Ledyard, CT 06339  
There are 12 spaces available.

Bob and John could use an extra person or two to provide some hands on assistance with the students. This is always a fun event helping people get started learning the art of tying. If you want to participate please contact [John](#) for more info.

## ***Eight Mile Riverfest***

**What is RiverFest?** RiverFest is a free public event that the Eightmile River Watershed Committee hosts every other year to celebrate our Wild & Scenic Watershed.

**Who is invited?** We invite the public and extend an invitation to our local conservation/community partners to have a display or activity at the event. Upon the retirement of the Eight Mile River Band, we will be welcoming the Hosmer Mountain Boys and their bluegrass music, the Moodus Sportsmen's Club provides the chili, chowder and cider and Eightmile board members provide the cookies....LOTS of COOKIES! And it is all FREE!

**Thames Valley TU** will have a display at Eightmile RiverFest 2023! The event is Saturday, October 14, 1-4pm at Devil's Hopyard State Park in East Haddam. We will be promoting TU and our chapter to the public with discussion displays and pictures. We also plan to do some fly tying demos and fly casting demos and lessons for anyone who is interested.

We can always use some extra help to set up, take down the display and join us staffing the



booth or helping with the casting. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Gary Lussier or Ray Schaefer.



## Interested in Tenkara Fishing?

from John Springer

Kevin Fuller and I are looking to see how many people would be interested in starting up a Tenkara club. We would meet only on zoom and swap ideas and other information we have learned from this type of fishing. No newsletter or anything like that. Just get together on zoom for this. We can pick an evening for doing this later on. If you are interested or know anyone that is contact me [sasjes@comcast.net](mailto:sasjes@comcast.net). If we have an interest, we will start this up.



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 serves as general executive officer of the Chapter and appoints the chairs of all Chapter committees. The President oversees all activities of the chapter, presides at all membership and board meetings, and manages the business and affairs of the Chapter. The President has general supervision of all the other officers of the Chapter and sees that their duties are properly performed. The President reports to the members of the Chapter and to the Board on matters which may be of interest or concern.*

**Vice-President** - *The Vice President assumes the duties of the President if the President is absent or unable to perform the President's duties and performs 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.

**Treasurer** – The Treasure is responsible for managing and controlling the financials and bank accounts for the chapter. The treasure provides monthly reports to the Board of Directors and to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

**Communications Chair**– Coordinates all aspects of Chapter communications including publishing of the monthly newsletter, sending communications bulletins, maintaining the chapter website, as well as any chapter social media sites.

**Program Director** - Coordinates and plans monthly meetings including arranging for meeting speakers and coordination other chapter activities.

**Fly Tying Coordinator**- Maintains the chapter fly tying class material and schedule fly tying classes. Also coordinates fly tyers for monthly chapter meetings. Board of Directors membership is optional.

If you would like to help out the chapter and volunteer for any of these needed positions or learn more about them, please contact Gary Lussier at [gelconn@yahoo.com](mailto:gelconn@yahoo.com) or 860-861-9344

## 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.

**To submit content, please contact Gary Lussier at [gelconn@yahoo.com](mailto:gelconn@yahoo.com)**

## 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



Quality Fishing Tackle  
Freshwater \* Saltwater  
Inshore Charters

Joe Balint  
127 Rte. 12  
Preston, CT 06365

Capt. Jack Balint  
860-885-1739



**EASTERN CT FLY FISHING, SMLLC**  
Guiding & Fly Fishing Lessons

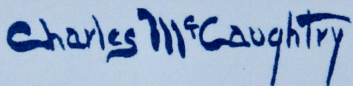
Michael Carl  
(860) 716-0820  
mjc6624@sbcglobal.net  
easternctflyfishing.com

Bait • Tackle • Fly Tying Accessories • Licenses



**JT'S FLY SHOP**

664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076  
860-684-1575  
jtsflyshop@yahoo.com

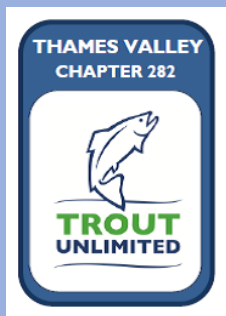


Original Paintings, Drawing, and Prints

44 Portland Drive Ashford, CT 06278  
860-429-1016  
www.mccaughtryart.com  
charlesmccaughtry@yahoo.com

**Stay Connected**

Trout Unlimited | [Website](#)



**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 issues). If you have a service or product and would like to reach out to our



### 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](#)

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
Steve Gerling	860-429-4951	segerling@snet.net
Ray Schaefer	860-617-9948	rayschaefer9060@gmail.com
Pat Gaynor - Fund Raising Committee Chair	860-319-1690	patjgaynor@gmail.com
Marc Caldwell - Conservation Chair	703-298-8287	marcrc@att.net

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



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

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

[Unsubscribe dking4870@gmail.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data](#)



Notice

Sent bygelconn@yahoo.compowered by



Try email marketing for free today!