

Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

April 2020



President's Message....

Greetings everyone!!

What a difference a month makes. I sincerely hope that you and all of your families are doing ok during these trying times with the Covid-19 pandemic. With nothing else in the news these days, my first thoughts for this letter was to try to avoid writing about it but being the elephant in the room, it was impossible to avoid.

Following the state guidance, we have cancelled all planned activities for the month of April, including the membership meeting. DEEP will likely not be asking for our help stocking and I would not request any volunteers as long as the situation remains the same. Maybe its optimism or just wishful thinking, but we have not cancelled any of our May activities yet. We'll make those decisions as events get closer, but the health and well being of all will always be the primary concern.

On the brighter side, the rivers and weather have both been extremely cooperative making for some great fishing conditions. That coupled with the early opening of fishing season and many people unfortunately out of work, I can't remember seeing so many people on the rivers consistently and during the week at that. The selfish side of me says I don't like all this extra competition, while the other side of me says we have long been advocating creating more interest in people taking up fishing with the hope that it leads them into more conservation awareness and hopefully activism. So I've decided to focus on the positive view of additional people out on the water and use that as an incentive to explore some areas new to me.

So while we ride out these trying times, fishing for me as I'm sure it is for most of you, is one of the best forms of stress relief. And while I enjoy the quiet of solitary fishing, a lot of people don't like fishing alone. For those I'd suggest taking separate cars, meet at your destination and keep your six foot distance. Have fun – be safe.

Tight Lines!
Gary Lussier
[email](#)



"Keeping one's Eye on the Ball "

by George Jacobi

Whether we like it or not, current events control our lives. We react instinctively to a dangerous object thrown at our faces. Thus the immediate alarm of this Covid19 era. But we also live in what may someday be called the Climate Change Century, so here's a timely referral, appropriate for trout fishers, from our late friend Henry David Thoreau:

Chapter Events

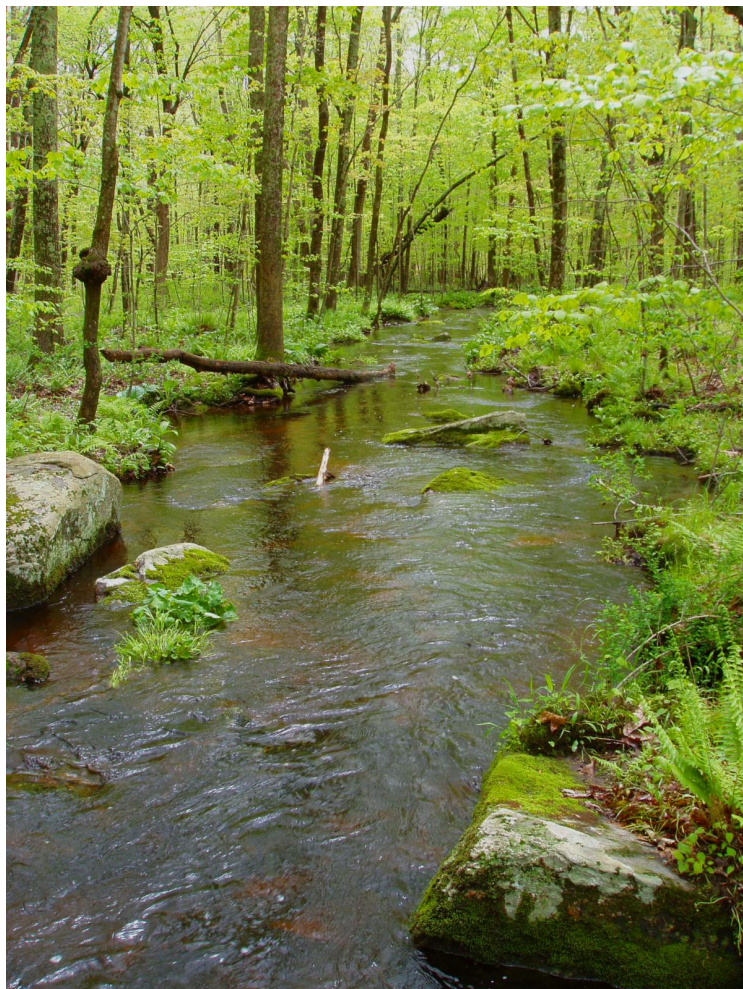
May 19th, 6-9 PM
Chapter Meeting
Franklin Firehouse

"He who hears the rippling of rivers in these degenerate days will not utterly despair."

Trouble is not new. My local land conservation organization, Joshua's Trust, ran a series of three presentations at UConn this winter on the understanding, mitigation, and adaptation to global warming, using science, politics, and education. Let's stick to science. Dr. Anji Seth of UConn used graphs from the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation to discuss changes likely in southern New England, and they have serious consequences for coldwater ecosystems. First, the bad news. In their projections, estimated changes to our "rippling rivers" that happen over the next thirty years (to 2050) have **already been set in motion**. It is the 50 years after that, the last half of the 21st century, that today's actions will positively affect. That's why we must act now, for our children's children.

Sadly (and ironically) predictions are of both increased violent storms and drought, along with the obvious higher air temperatures. It's the higher temps at night that hurt, not allowing for as much cooling of air and water. My friend Jim Brown is a trout angler of prodigious obsession. He began his detailed and accurate logbook in the 1970s, and if you do the math, it appears that our average local stream temperatures have increased by a degree and a half since then.

This wet winter may turn into an example of how precipitation in the form of heavy rainfall blows away insect life, cover, and perhaps even O₂ production in a stream, while running off too rapidly to increase ground water. The same amount of snow would gradually fill our aquifers while it gently drained away. Benthic organisms in a stream would have a winter reprieve from violent changes. That reserve water in an aquifer then seeps back into the brooks in summer, keeping parts of them cold enough to support trout. As you know, in many rivers around here, those springs are already the only places trout survive during summers. The fishable southern New England we know depends on full aquifers.



Although some of this warming is now inevitable, let's turn with Thoreau to some optimism. Your vote will matter like never before. The whole scientific world is actively working on ways to combat the situation. Insurance companies, the Pentagon, and other huge economic forces are turning away from fossil fuels. Political and cultural groups have begun vigorously forcing governments to make

5 Tyler Drive
Franklin, CT
**Brian Eltz - State
Fisheries Biologist**

**May 26 & 27, 11:00
AM**

Fly tying class at
Eastford School
**Contact Charley
McCaughtry email if
you would like to help**

May 30th, 9am - 2pm
Joshua's Trust/TVTU
Family Fun Day on the
Fenton River

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 by 4:00 PM on WFSB Channel #3 and our website the day of the meeting or event. In addition an email will be sent to all members on our mailing list.



Thames Valley TU Meeting Location - Franklin Firehouse

Our meetings are held at the Franklin Firehouse on 5 Tyler Drive (just off Rt 32) in Franklin.

The facility houses the library, town garage and the firehouse. The meeting entrance is on the left as you enter the facility.

Directions:

The Franklin Firehouse is located just north of Route 2, exit 27. Go 6 miles north on Rt 32 and

changes that will positively affect the way we use resources. As individuals, we can join them; as an organization, we can work with them where appropriate. Co-operative conservation is the mission of this club. Trout Unlimited exists to **protect intact habitat, especially in headwaters, and to *sustain conservation gains from the impacts of climate change.* Thames Valley TU may consider lobbying against new housing and the new wells that come with it at some point. TVTU may consider helping property owners plant shade trees alongside their rivers and streams. We should have already had a position on the new natural gas power plants planned for Killingly (drawing up to a million gallons of water a day from the aquifer) and UConn. Protests have both of these on hold for now. This virus will pass. Let us keep our eye on the ball.

Tyler Drive is on your right. [Google Map](#)

The "Solar Dominance Hypothesis", as explained by Dr. Seth, argues that movement toward solar and renewable energy is economically inevitable. I think that's true, despite the issues solar power is currently guilty of (see TVTU October 2019 newsletter). My concern is for how fast it will take place. Therefore, we (Thames Valley Chapter and Trout Unlimited as a whole) and other conservation groups are on the front line. Can we agree on enough to be a potent lobbying force here in Connecticut, leveraging our total membership politically? Can we **sustain water quality and quantity through improvement of the interconnected relationship of groundwater and surface water?* The little trout stream that haunts your dreams, the one you grew up on, may depend on it. Do not despair. "If you know the world could end at any minute, you know there's no need to hurry. You take your time and do the best work you possibly can": Thomas Merton. This month, April 2020, is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Where would we be today without that initiative? If we love our cold water trout streams, we will save them.

(*Quotes in *italics* are from Trout Unlimited's website mission statement.)

Disclaimer: These opinions are my own and do not represent those of Trout Unlimited Thames Valley or its national organization.

Return of the Tiger Trout



The Tiger Trout is a sterile hybrid that is produced when the eggs of a brown trout are fertilized by the milt (sperm) of a brook trout.

Tiger Trout can occur naturally in the wild where there is good spawning habitat and reproducing populations of both brook and brown trout. Natural "Tigers" rarely grow above eight inches. The CT DEEP produces a limited number of Tiger Trout at our State Fish Hatcheries. The typical size of stocked "tigers" is between 10-12 inches.



Fly Of the Month "Sunken/Drowned Spinners"

by John Preston

COVID-19 Stay at Home getting you down? No live sports on TV and you are bored? Is the weather stopping you from going fishing? Concerned the parks will be closed or maybe too congested? It is the great time to do a little maintenance on the old fishing gear OR.... How about cranking out a bunch of flies to replace the ones you left in the trees or at

Give them a try even when the trout are feeding on the surface... a sunken/drowned spinner is an easy irresistible meal... I guarantee it!?!

the bottom of your favorite fishin' hole? Fly tying can be the perfect time to practice your social distancing and keep yourself busy, learning new patterns and being productive....

I became interested in sunken spinners after reading Ed Engle's book "Tying Small Flies" and his pattern for a Drowned Trico a couple of years or so ago. It opened my mind and eyes to the importance of subsurface spinner fly fishing. **Note: To learn how to tie the Drowned Trico visit our TVTU website Fly Tying page.**

It also reminded me when I was fishing with George Jacobi during Green Drake spinner fall a several years ago out. The spinner fall came off as expected and the fish started coming up for a regular floating Green Drake spinner but we kept missing or breaking off our flies. Now usually this particular spinner fall last for hours and the trout feed without much hesitation... but on this occasion the feed subsided after about a half hour or so even though there were still some spinners on the water. The trout continued to surface sporadically but we could never figure out what they were taking. I took out my trusty seine to identified a multitude of flies and nymphs but no matter what we threw at them... No takers! I felt bad because I had guaranteed George he would get a big one on that one day trip... but who knew that cutthroats get that selective.

Well, I now believe they were taking drowned spinners. My seine also turned up some spinners but I didn't pay much attention to them since the trout weren't taking the spinners we could see on the surface. So, I now carry a few sunken spinner patterns just in for such occasions.

This Sunken Spinner pattern was originally developed by Kelly Galloup's "Cripples and Spinners" book and I discovered it from his "Tying Cripples & Spinners" DVD that I picked up on eBay recently. *Note: If anyone out there has the book I would love to borrow or buy it to read and learn more details about his spinners and cripples.*

Mayfly's during their last stage of life are called spinners and trout key on them as an easy meal as they land on the water. Most of us use a floating rusty spinner during a spinner fall, but Kelly developed the Sunken Spinner to be fished subsurface to imitate a drowned mayfly spinner. He reasoned that the trout continue to feed (unseen) on spinners as the drift down and through the water column

The original fly pattern in the DVD shows wings splayed in the traditional spent position with a slight angle back towards the bend on the hook, but he now likes to tie them with vertical wings (90 degrees from the normal spent position). Also the original Sunken Spinner fly used a dubbed body and hen hackle to tie the fly, but now prefers to use a biot body and Hungarian Partridge. I like to tie them both ways but prefer to wrap the hackle one turn in the back and front of the wing like the original. The new way looks too bushy... there suppose to be legs!

He explains in the following fly tying video about the different wing positions as they sink and the how their translucent wings tend to become invisible (only seeing the leading edges of the wings and legs when underwater and they fold closer to their body).



Video by Kelly Galloup (Slide Inn Shop)

Recipe: Sunken Rusty Spinner

Hook: Daiichi 1180 or favorite dry fly hook
Thread: Danville 6/0, color to match body
Tail: Brown or natural Hungarian Partridge
Body: Turkey Biot rusty brown or dubbing
Wing: Dun MFC Z-Yarn or zelon
Thorax: Adams Gray super fine dubbing
Hackle: Brown or natural Hungarian Partridge or hen hackle

Use other colors to match the naturals: i.e., olive, pale yellow, sulphur orange, BWO, etc

Instructions:

- 1.Begin thread on hook and wind back to hook barb.
- 2.Select 4 to 5 fibers for tail and tie in, about body length. Wrap thread forward over butt ends to create a slight taper.
- 3.Wind thread back to barb and tie in biot by tip. Wrap biot forward with furl exposed.
- 4.Tie in sparse wing at 2/3 position using figure 8 and position vertical (or horizontal).
- 5.Dub thorax.
- 6.Trim wings equal to back of body.
- 7.Tie in hackle by the tip and take a couple of turns. Tie off, trim and whip finish.



"The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning."

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 - ~~\$465~~ **SALE \$150** (MSRP \$400)
LL Bean Travel Fly Roc - 9', 7wt, 6pc w/ 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)
Various Wading Boots (Used) mostly sizes 10/11's - **Blowout SALE up to 2/3 OFF our low prices**
Korkers Wading Boot -New Old Stock, Size11 w/ walking/hiking sole only -~~\$35~~ **SALE \$20**
Umpqua Toketee Vest - New, never used, gray, one size fits all -~~\$65~~ **SALE \$50** (MSRP \$159)
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"



Stocking Coordinator

The chapter still needs a volunteer for this position. The position entails working with the hatchery management to schedule the stocking times, locations and sending an email to the stocking volunteers to establish a rendezvous for the stocking.

We will be starting a new stocking season this spring and we could use the help. If you are interested, please contact Gary Lussier [Email](#)



Fund Raising Committee Assistants

Duke & John Preston will be stepping down as Fund Raising assistants soon. Therefore, we will need at least two volunteers for this critical position and program to help our new Fund Raising Chair Patrick Gaynor at chapter meetings and other fund raising events through out the year

If interested, please contact Patrick Gaynor [Email](#)



Program Coordinator Needed

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

Duties of this position include:



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.

- * 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](#)

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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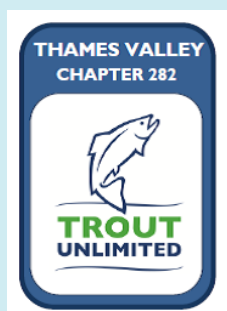
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About Us

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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