

# Trout Unlimited

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

December 2018



## President's Message...

Hello everyone,

At this month's meeting, we will be drawing the winner for our special raffle – the Cabela's Theorem Fly Rod (9ft, 4pc, 5wt) and Ross Evolution LT Fly Reel. If you haven't gotten your ticket yet, or maybe want to increase your chances of winning, see one of the board members before the meeting starts for your last chance to buy

your raffle ticket.

Also this month, we'll be having some great snacks for you, compliments of your board of directors.

On Tuesday (12/11), we stocked the Shetucket river with eighty 3 year old salmon. We put in some really nice fish, some going easily over 10 pounds. The river finally dropped down to below 600 CFS allowing us to finally safely get in the water. Water's a bit cold but very wadeable so get out there and get fishing!

This completes our stocking for 2018 and I would like to thank all of the members who have given their time and made this program such a success. We helped DEEP stock 8 times this year, putting 2500 trout and 330 salmon into our local rivers. We likely would have done a few more but couldn't due to high waters. This is a great, dedicated team that has been a blast to work with, and I can't thank you enough for your responsiveness and dedication.

While on the topic of stocking, I am looking to find someone to replace me in my role as stocking coordinator. I plan to be available to work with my replacement and help with stocking for the upcoming season, but honestly it's pretty simple and straightforward. If you've been thinking of ways to help out and make a contribution to the organization, this is a good way to do it and have fun working with some great people.

We will be offering free fly tying classes again. They will be held on Saturdays at the Fish connection with exact dates to be finalized soon. John Preston and Bob Walsh have graciously offered their time to teach the class again. I took their class (twice!) a few years back. This is a great way to get started tying or improve your skills if you already do by spending time with these guys loaded with knowledge and skill s they are so willing to share.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and all of your families.

Gary Lussier  
President TVTU  
[Gelconn@yahoo.com](mailto:Gelconn@yahoo.com)

---

TVTU **Holiday** Meeting - Tuesday, December 18th, 6-9 pm  
Featured Presentation:  
George Jacobi - "A Season in the Grand Canyon"



Long-time Thames Valley TU member George Jacobi is an artist and writer who contributes often to this newsletter. He is also a member of Joshua's Trust, CT Audubon, and CTRL. George wrote the first article on Connecticut's

Willimantic River No-Kill Area for Fly Fisherman in 1976, and his last published essay, "The Persistence of Memory" is now on the blog of the American Museum of Fly Fishing. You saw it here in the October issue of Streamlines. His song "Time to Dream", which some of you have heard on a Thames Valley Chapter Housatonic camp-out, appears as a poem in the Fall 2018 issue of The American Fly Fisher.

Born in sight of the Housatonic River, he's fished from Labrador to the west coast. George was a tackle sales rep for most of his career.

In 2016 George and his wife were Volunteers at Grand Canyon National Park from July to October. His job was to write a blog to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Park Service, which detailed his joyful immersion in the canyon/desert ecosystem.

At the December meeting he will read essays and stories from the blog that focus on nature and wildlife, illustrated with a 'slide show' of mostly his own photographs from the 3 ½ month experience. A change of pace for Thames Valley TU, this program should be interesting for us outdoors folks.

#### **Door opens at 6pm.**

Social time, fly tying demonstrations, refreshments, raffle, door prize & more... Please note the featured presentation starts shortly after short chapter business meeting at 7 pm

### **Join Us for a "Special Holiday" Meeting**

The holiday meeting is a great way to celebrate, connect with friends old and new, and meet other anglers like you who are committed to our mission and making our local watersheds better and healthier!



A free event for chapter members, their family, friends and fishing buddies... the holiday celebration will feature assorted appetizers, coffee, tea and sweets. In addition, we will have many fly fishing "stocking stuffers" available at unbelievably low prices, several "holiday" door prizes and, of course, our well-known Raffle table... All to help you be the Santa of the year!

## **Chapter Events**

**Jan 15th, Tue, 6pm**

### **Chapter Meeting**

Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT

**John Shaner - "Spiders & Soft Hackles"**

**Jan 18th, 19th & 20th**

Fly Fishing International Show

Marlboro, Mass.

**Feb 2nd, Sat, 9am -3pm**

### **CFFA Fly Fishing Expo**

Maneeley's  
65 Rye St  
South Windsor, CTCFFA  
Fly Fishing Expo

**Feb 5th, Tue, 6-8pm**

### **Fly Tying Intro Class**

Preston Library  
389 RT-2  
Preston, CT

**Feb 19th, Tue, 6pm**

### **Annual Event**

Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT

**Flies & Pies...**

**March 19th, Tue, 6pm**

### **Chapter Meeting**

Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT

**Neal Hagstrom**

**April 16th, Tue, 6pm**

### **Chapter Meeting**

Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT

**Abbie Schuster - Striper Fishing Martha's Vineyard**

**May 21st, Tue, 6pm**

### **Chapter Meeting**

Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT

**TBD**

**TVTU Annual Camp Out**

**TBD**



## **"Recovery?"**

by George Jacobi

It's past time for me to come clean, so here goes. I'm a recovering bait fisherman. Yes, it's true; I used to drift eels and catch great Striped Bass. We would impale 15" eels on 6/0 hooks (with great difficulty, I

might add) and freespool them to the bottom, near the Connecticut River mouth. Eels are so slimy you can only grab them with a piece of burlap, and when one ties itself in a knot...well, it comes as a surprise the level of hatred you can have for one of God's "creatures great and small". But the payoff was worth it. The tide would carry us over a secret drop-off. With your educated thumb, you dropped the writhing critter down into the hole. Tap—tap—tap bounced the eel on the bottom, while you anticipated the attack. When a freight train hit the eel, you waited a few beats and then struck hard. I mean really hard. Forty pound line doesn't stretch much, so it was clear and thrilling right away when you hooked a striper, and they would usually average three feet long. That kind of angling excitement is addictive. But I'm over that now.

And I used to catch big Bluefish. They would send you to the hospital if you were careless. Take the same eel; freeze it until it's good and dead (After live eel fishing, this is a richly satisfying task in itself). Wade far out on a Long Island Sound flat in pitch darkness. Cast the bait out into the night with a large spinning rod and wait until the line seems to have moved to the left or right. Reel in the slack and then slam that bad boy. Wrestle with the 15 lb. bluefish while you walk backwards all the way to the shore and the Coleman lantern, then attempt to remove the hook while the angry bluefish attempts to remove your hand. Stepping on the fish's head is imperative. Long handled pliers even more so. It's coming back to me now—the danger was captivating. Good thing I'm over that now.

More truth—I'm a recovering freshwater spin fisher too. I used to catch 5-6 lb. Largemouths with jointed treble-hooked contraptions. I would paddle my canoe into places the metal-flake boat pros couldn't reach no matter how many patches their shirts had. Big ol' bucketmouths would shake their heads as they leapt among the lily pads (yeah, I know the terminology still) but couldn't free themselves from 17 lb. test. They'd splash my face with their tails as they were released. Great fun. Sometimes now I accidentally hook 6 inch smallies when my trout stream gets too warm. It's not at all the same.

I'm a recovering streamer fisherman. I used to frequent the Matapedia and the Mirimichi for Atlantic Salmon. I used to drive to Pulaski in terrible winter weather just to get the feel of a wild Steelhead screaming around the pool, throwing a bow wake. Albies, too. That particular craving made me get up at 2:30 AM and drive for an hour and a half to be on a jetty at first light. Soaked by waves, sore from casting, bloody fingers. I was a habitual user. There's nothing like the sensation of a False Albacore's first run, the inability to do anything but hang on and helplessly watch the backing melt off the reel spool. Oh man. But I'm over it.

I've left it all behind. I saw the light. Great God almighty, I saw the light. Now? Now I stick to local insignificant trout and microscopic dry flies. I stand over a pod of avidly feeding hatchery-bred trout, holding just 6 inches down in crystal clear water. Yeah, those 11 inch rubber Browns that stupidly don't fear your silhouette. Pellets, please. Then I repeatedly cast a dry fly the size of a gnat. It's a little like skeet shooting; you have to lead 'em a bit. Drop the fly a foot or two past the trout's position, then pull it back to the place where the current will drift it right over the fish. Flies that small won't sink even when they're dragged. They have other issues, though, and we'll get to those shortly. Leave just a bit of slack. It's a little like putting a golf ball over and over. It's a little like answering the question "Does this dress make me look fat?" Your chances of getting it right are slim, is what I mean.

I start with a two-weight outfit and a 12 or 13 foot leader. To tie a #28 Blue-winged Olive imitation on a 7X or 8X tippet, I sit down and use my reading glasses. If you don't tie the knot perfectly, wet it and pull gently on the leader end, not the tag end, the last bit of monofilament will have a curlicue in it. That's just enough to tip the fly on its side. Then when your chosen fish tilts up to investigate it, nose just an inch away, it sneers plainly as it drops back to its lie. What, you didn't know trout have expressions? Trout share their opinion of your mediocre skills freely. But that's better than when the fly lands on its own nose, and none of the fish even acknowledge it as it floats over them. Sometimes trout investigate twigs; sometimes they eat cigar butts and even Arbogast Jitterbugs, so this behavior can be disheartening. Hours and days can go by during this activity while you strive for that one satisfying take.

Some of this may sound familiar to you; I can only hope it doesn't. I started this activity for fun. Now I admit I have a problem. When do you think the hatch will start?

Hi, my name is George and.....

---

## Inland Fisheries Program Notes & Updates

### FALL SALMON STOCKING UPDATE

(12/11): The Shetucket River (Sprague) was stocked today with 80 large Broodstock Atlantic Salmon (average weight was 10 lbs. with the largest fish being around 15 lbs.); this was the last salmon stocking of the year. Thank You, TVTU volunteers and DEEP for stocking on a cold & icy day. Visit our website for more information and slideshow.





(12/7): The lower Naugatuck River (Naugatuck – Beacon Falls area) was stocked today with large Broodstock Atlantic Salmon (average weight was 10 lbs. with the largest fish being around 15 lbs.); this was the last of two stockings in this river section

(12/5): The Naugatuck River TMA (Litchfield/Campville/Harwinton area) was stocked today with 73 large Broodstock Atlantic Salmon (average weight was 7-10 lbs. with the largest fish being around 15 lbs.); this was the last of two stockings in this river section. The daily creel limit is One (1) salmon per day. Salmon will be stocked into the lower Naugatuck River and Shetucket River as flows come down – stay tuned.

Please note this area has specific regulations for this fishery. Most notably, fishing is limited to the use of a single fly or artificial lure with a single free swinging hook (no treble hooks). Details on page 28 of the 2018 Angler's Guide. Also, a Trout and Salmon Stamp is required to Fish in this area. Good Luck!

Finally, please report any illegal fishing activity to our law enforcement immediately at 860-424-3333.

## TVTU Chapter Fund-raising Raffle 2018

Last chance! Drawing to be held at the December 18th meeting  
\$15 ticket

Cabela's Theorem Fly Rod & Ross Evolution LT Fly Reel Outfit -\$655 value



**Cabela's Theorem Fly Rod (9ft, 4pc, 5wt)** - With Generation-II nano-silica resin and a high modulus graphite blank, Burl wood reel seat with high-polish aluminum hardware and a modified western cork handle. Rod case & Lifetime Guarantee

**Ross Evolution LT® Fly Reel #2 (4-6 wt/4.2oz)** - Conical drag; Heat-dissipating drag material; Triple redundant radial pawl engagement; Aluminum alloy construction; Quick release locking spool; Oil impregnated bronze bushing; Stainless steel spindle; Easily converts for right or left hand retrieves; Quick release locking spool. Rated for freshwater or saltwater duty. Lifetime warranty. Made in USA.  
\*\* Includes: **Cortland Precision Finesse WF5F Fly Line**

Thames Valley TU is continually working on our Mission of conserving, protecting and restoring our cold water fisheries in the Eastern CT. This takes a lot of resources... man-hours and money. Please help us raise funds for current and future projects

**Raffle tickets are only \$15 each.** The drawing will be held once we have sold 50 tickets. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are available at our monthly meetings and through the Chapter's Board of Directors members. Or, send a check payable (with name, address & phone#) to: Thames Valley TU Chapter 282, P.O. Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350. A ticket will be mailed back to you and recorded.

Thank You for Your Support



## November Presentation Recap "Fly Fishing the Cape" with Paul Dinice

by Bruce Danielson



Novembers meeting featured Paul Dinice and his well known program "Fly Fishing the Cape". Just as fly fishing is a passion for Paul, so is Cape Cod. Paul has been visiting and fishing Cape Cod for the past 30 years, from Sandwich to Race Point in P Town.

Paul's presentation took us on a visual tour of Cape Cod featuring various towns such as Falmouth, Hyannis, Yarmouth, Chatham, Orleans and Provincetown on the seaward side and Brewster and Dennis on the bayside to name a few.

Many have called Cape Cod one of the best Striped Bass fishing spots in the world. But as Paul emphasized, it's more than that. Beautiful beaches and sites abound. Paul described, in detail, fly fishing locations, fly patterns, tourist "must see", restaurants, and places and towns to stay and for those of us with short memories, Paul provided a very comprehensive handout with all the info one would need for a successful fishing trip to the cape.

A good portion of the presentation included photos and stories of the "after fishing" experiences that Paul and his wife had with their friends emphasizing that each trip each trip contained a portion of good friends, good times, and great fishing.

To quote Paul on his Cape Cod fishing experiences: "It's about friends and memories".

For more pictures, go to our [website](#)

## Items for For Sale

**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.  
**Teton 8/10 Fly Reel** - Early LA model in good cond. with clear fly line (8-9wt?) and reel bag. - \$90 **SOLD**  
**Orvis Trident XL Fly Rod** - 9' 8wt, 4 3/4 oz, 2 pc with case - \$90 **SOLD**  
**Sage Graphite II Fly Rod** - 9', 10wt 2 pc with case, fighting butt needs TLC - \$50 **SOLD**  
**St Croix Pro Graphite Fly Rod** - 9', 8/9 wt, 2 pc, no case - \$50 **SOLD**  
**LL Bean Travel Fly Rod** - 9' -7wt, 6pc w/ tube & bag, near mint condition - \$75  
**Cortland CL Fly Rod** - 9' - 8/9 wt, 6 pc w/bag & tube, excellent condition - \$65  
**Umpqua Toketee Vest** - New, never used, gray, one size fits all - \$65 (MSRP \$159)

## Wanted

George Jacobi is looking for spare copies of "Trout" magazine, Fall 2016, and "Fly Fisherman", Aug/Sept 2018. If you still have one and can part with it, bring to me or John Preston at a meeting this fall. Thanks

For the above items or to place items for sale, contact [John Preston](#) 860-917-4485



## "Fly Tyers Dungeon" Review

by John Preston

I recently discovered a very interesting and inexpensive place for fly tying materials called the Fly Tyers Dungeon via the [Doug Swisher.com](#) website (which unfortunately is going out of business). After a little googling I discovered that many of the fly tying materials Doug Swisher sells originated from the "mad scientist" Doug

I use a lot of zelon for shucks and wings and it is not cheap (for the amount you get) so I had to try the Dungeon's Shuck Yarn. It's not as shiny as Zelon but very similar in texture, feel of Z-Yarn and you get more of it. I'll let you know how it performs

The stuff called Hi Float Fibers is the reason why

I became interested in FTD... especially, once I viewed a [video](#) on how to use it. Once combed and brushed out with a dog grooming brush the extremely fine fibers are exposed and it becomes like a synthetic CDC! Supposedly it floats like a cork and sheds any water accumulating during a false cast. I have got to try it on emergers and dries!

But one of the best things about Fly Tyers Dungeon is their prices. You would be hard pressed to find this kind of quality and quantity of material cheaper anywhere. Dubbing ranges from 85 cents to \$1.15. The Shuck Yarn cost \$1.15 vice \$5 or more. The Fisch eyes are only 85 cents for 20 eyes...normally \$3 or more for fewer eyes. The most I spent on a single item was \$2 for Crinkle Hair "a high floating synthetic dry fly wing material for all size of dry flies"... I can see a lot of spinners being made this winter.

The Fly Tyers Dungeon is a great place to check out some unique quality fly tying materials at tremendous prices and good quantity. When I placed an order for 38 items it only came to a bit over \$41 (\$46 with shipping), and it arrived in just a few days. I recommend for all fly tiers to check out the [Fly Tyers Dungeon](#) and see if you agree.

Although the Doug Swisher is going out of business, you might want to check them out. It has some interesting info on tying flies, and on YouTube Swisher has videos of some of his fly tying creations and making brushes (more to come on this subject). Currently, they are offering 60% off remaining stock and flies just 50 cents. I was able to get some great buys when it was at 40-50% off.

The image displays a variety of fishing lures from the brand '30 Tons Shrimp'. The lures are packaged in small, clear plastic bags, each with a white label. The labels list the lure's name and the brand. The lures themselves are in various shapes and colors, including natural tones like white, yellow, and brown, as well as bright synthetic colors like orange, green, and blue. The lures are arranged in a grid, showing a wide selection of options for anglers.

How much would this much material cost at a big box store? \$125+??

## Fly of the Month

### "Stewart's Black Spider"





by John Preston

In anticipation of next month's featured guest John Shaner, here is a classic North Country Spider (soft hackle) Stewart's Black Spider. From what I can tell this fly was actually created by James Baillie who guided Stewart and showed him how to dress the fly. The Oliver Edwards video chosen contains some very interesting history on silk gut and the W.C. Stewart fly that is over 150 years old and still fooling fish today.

Use this [Link](#) for step by step instruction and info on two other Stewart Spiders. Also a good source for other patterns besides soft hackles.

Recommend you come early to January's chapter meeting. John Shaner will demonstrate tying these classic flies prior to his presentation on Spiders.



### Stewart's Black Spider

**Hook:** Partridge Spider sizes 14-20

**Thread:** Pearsall's silk no.17 brown

**Body:** Thread

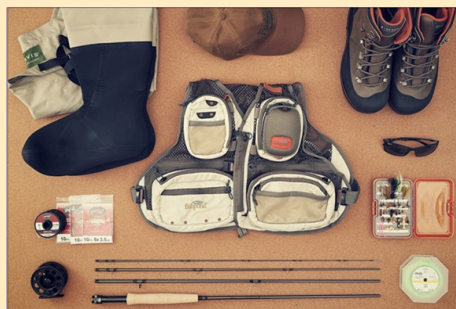
**Hackle:** Starling wrapped around silk and palmered down the hook shank.

---

*"The great error of fly-fishing, as usually practised, and as recommended to be practised by books, is that the angler fishes down stream whereas he should fish up ...."*  
**W.C. Stewart** (*The Practical Angler* 1857)

---

## 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.

# Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association Inc.

Presents the 49th Annual

## FLY FISHING EXPO & BANQUET SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019

featuring **Rich Strolis**

- Connecticut native, popular speaker on fly fishing and fly tying across the Northeast and Eastern seaboard
- Signature fly designer for the Montana Fly Company
- Passionate in chasing trophy trout and various other apex predators on streamers
- Visit: [www.catchingshadows.com](http://www.catchingshadows.com)



For online reservations &  
more info: [CTFlyFish.org](http://CTFlyFish.org)

Maneely's Banquet & Catering, 65 Rye Street, South Windsor

### EXPO

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

\$3 admission

Children under 16 FREE

- Presentations
- Fly Tyers Row
- Kids' Fly Tying Table
- Vendor tables
- Demonstrations

### BANQUET

Bucket Raffle & Presentation

\$45 per person

5:30 p.m. Cocktails & Raffle viewing

6:30 p.m. Dinner, Presentation, & Drawings

*Fishing Alaska on a Budget*

Reservations: [CTFlyFish.org](http://CTFlyFish.org) or

Phil Apruzzese: (860) 489-4319 - [pjapruz@aol.com](mailto:pjapruz@aol.com)

RSVP by January 26

Open seating or reserved tables of 10



Thank You... for your generosity and support.

Thames Valley TU Chapter 282 - PO Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350

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

Bait • Tackle • Fly Tying Accessories • Licenses

## JT'S FLY SHOP

664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076  
860-684-1575  
[jtsflyshop@yahoo.com](mailto:jtsflyshop@yahoo.com)

### EASTERN CT FLY FISHING, SMLLC

Guiding & Fly Fishing Lessons

Michael Carl  
(860) 716-0825  
[mjc6624@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjc6624@sbcglobal.net)  
[easternctflyfishing.com](http://easternctflyfishing.com)

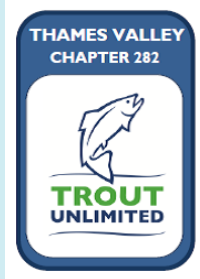
## Charles McCaughtry

Original Paintings, Drawings, and Prints  
By Appointment Only  
44 Portland Drive Ashford, CT 06278  
860-429-1016  
[www.mccaughtryart.com](http://www.mccaughtryart.com)  
[cmccaughtry@aol.com](mailto:cmccaughtry@aol.com)

STAY CONNECTED







## 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!**

**Visit our Website**

## Board of Directors

Gary Lussier, President, Stocking	860-861-9344	gelconn@yahoo.com
Ray Schaefer, Vice President	860-546-9775	rayschaefer9060@gmail.com
Secretary (Vacant)		
Daniel King, Treasurer	860-642-4870	dking4870@gmail.com
Duke Preston, Ex-Officio, Fund Chair	860-546-6690	dukeoa5599@yahoo.com
Michael Carl, Membership Chair	860-716-0875	mjc6624@sbcglobal.net
Jim Valuckas, River Cleanup Coord.	215-208-3873	jfvret@gmail.com
Morgan McGinley	860-447-2224	morganmcginley@aol.com
George DeGray, Fund Raising	860-546-9872	georgedegray@gmail.com
Bruce Danielson, Communications	860-237-2686	bdanielson62@comcast.net
Dave Parry, TIC/Education	860-617-8270	dfparry01@gmail.com
Steve Gerling, Conservation Chair		segerling@snet.net