

Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

February 2020



President's Message....

Greetings all!

At the January meeting, I spoke about the resurrection of the Oil Mill Road solar panel project and the recent discovery of two additional projects, one in Canterbury and one in Plainfield. My understanding is that there is a much larger number of these installations in the pipeline. You should be aware that we are strongly opposed to these projects when they involve large scale clear cutting of forested areas and a negative impact to waterways, particularly those supporting trout habitats. See the October newsletter for the impacts of a recent installation in East Lyme. While I'm still a big supporter of solar energy, any installation must take into account a multitude of considerations to ensure that they don't cause other detrimental environmental impacts.

Unfortunately, we face an uphill battle right now as current rules and regulations do not provide for sufficient review and controls to adequately protect sensitive environments. The CT Siting Council and DEEP are working on changes to correct some of those shortcomings but it will likely take until October 1 for any changes to take effect.

We have written a letter to the Siting Council requesting a public meeting in East Lyme for residents to hear details and have an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the Oil Mill Road project. If that is scheduled, we'll get the word out and encourage you to attend and support our position. The state council is working to develop a strategy and talking points to be shared with the other CT chapters. As things develop, we'll continue to advise how you can help out. In the meantime, you can look at the CT Siting Council website to watch for news and updates.

Tight Lines!
Gary Lussier
[email](#)

Thames Valley TU
"Annual Flies, Pies & More"
Tues. February 18th, 6 to 9pm

This year we'll be featuring demonstrations by chapter members with different skills including fly tying, rod making, artwork, woodworking and an "Iron Fly" Tying Contest!

As in the past, the chapter will be providing pizza and a variety of food for the night. Because a number of

Chapter Events

Feb 18th, 6-9 pm
Chapter Meeting
Franklin Firehouse
5 Tyler Drive
Franklin, CT
Annual "Flies and Pies" night

March 17th, 6-9PM
Chapter Meeting
Franklin Firehouse



members have asked, we invite anyone who would like to contribute to the food to bring a dish, snack or dessert of their choice. We will be having our normal table raffle, door prizes, expanded special sales and silent auction.

As always, all our meetings and this annual event is open to the public... It should be another fun & terrific

night!!

Doors Open at 6PM

Sign Up for the "Iron Fly" Tying Contest - "Iron Fly" Starts 7:30 pm (?)

The TVTU Flies & Pie "Iron Fly" contest is a really fun and fast paced event. The fly tiers will be pitted against a grab bag of materials from nuts and bolts to tiny feathers and anything outrageous enough to make a tier scratch their head. Can you tie from a mystery bag of goodies chosen by the judges? How about blindfolded? You get the idea, big fun for a good cause! Join us as you tie or just watch and cheer as the tiers try to tie the "best" fly for prizes and bragging rights.

No contest is complete without a reward for the competitors; TVTU BOD is ready to hand out some great prizes. (Note: There are no fees for competing).

Visit the TVTU website for Iron Fly Contest Rules.

Please contact Bruce Danielson [email](#) to register (so we will have enough material available) for the contest and for questions or information. Walk-on's are allowed.

Demonstrations Scheduled:

- 3 Brothers Fly Tying (McMahon brothers) - Fly Tying
- Bob Walsh - Fly Tying
- Steve Gerling - Wood Carving
- Phil Sands - Fly Tying
- "Doc" Katz - Fly Tying



How About You?

Do you have some skill or technique that you could share with the chapter? If so, please contact Ray Schaefer (860-546-9775) or [email](#) so we can reserve a spot for you.

Annual February Fund Raising Drive

Help support your Trout Unlimited Thames Valley Chapter! It takes a great deal of volunteer manhours and funds for a chapter to perform its Mission... hold events & meetings, run programs, educate, promote, protect and other conservation efforts for cold-water fisheries we all love. Without your direct involvement and contributions it would impossible to exist. So contribute the best way you can... donations, volunteer, recruit new members, etc.. And, of course, have some fun along the way! **Thank You for Your Continued Support!**

Raffle Table

This month's raffle will feature fresh & saltwater flies, books, TVTU Fly box w/ flies, other outdoor and fishing items.

Door Prize

TU Travel Mug and 60 Spool Thread Rack

Last Call! Inventory "Clearance" Sale

on TVTU merchandise... hats, fly boxes, leaders & more

5 Tyler Drive
Franklin, CT
Jeff White - "Delaware River Club "

April 21st, 6-9PM

Chapter Meeting
Franklin Firehouse
5 Tyler Drive
Franklin, CT

Tommy Barnowski - "Bonefishing in the Bahamas"

April 25th tentative

Last Green Valley/TVTU Family Fun Day @ Quinebaug Hatchery

May 19th, 6-9 PM

Chapter Meeting
Franklin Firehouse
5 Tyler Drive
Franklin, CT
Brian Eitz - State Fisheries Biologist

May 26th & 27th 11:00 AM

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

May 30th, 9-2

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

BOGO Fly Tying Material Sale... See Below

"Special" Silent Auction... See Below

TFO BVK Rod & Reel Outfit; Paul Morrissey Framed Salmon Fly; Charles McCaughtry Lithograph; Don Avery Net; and, DryFly Wheat Vodka.



Flies & Pies "BOGO" Fly Tying Material Sale

**Buy One, Get One
*FREE!**

We have a vast collection of fly tying material for fresh and saltwater at

bargain prices. Feathers, dry & wet fly capes, dubbing, synthetics, natural fur, deer hair, bucktails, and much more. **Free item of equal or lower value.*

Fly Tiers... Stock Up! Don't miss this Sale!

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 Tyler Drive is on your right.

[Google Map](#)

"Special" Silent Auction

Bid High to Win!... for a Great Cause



TFO BVK 10' 7wt 4pc Rod & Reel Outfit- Retail \$550



Charles McCaughtry Artwork.

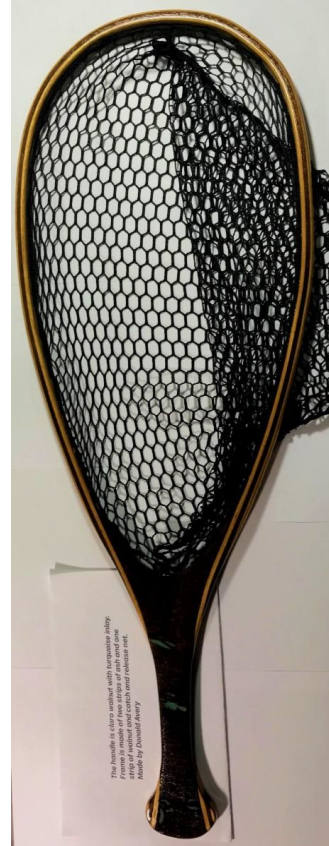


Charley has donated a lithograph to the special auction. The Lithograph will be framed, image - 12x18 inches, frame - 20x26 inches. Retail \$180.

**Framed Salmon Fly
by Paul Morrissey**



DryFly Wheat Vodka



Don Avery Inlaid Landing Net

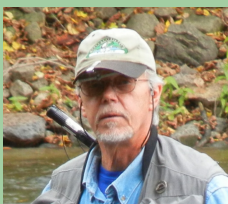
Neil Hagstrom Retires

After 30 years as a Connecticut State Fisheries Biologist, Neal has moved to the ranks of retirement.

As many of you know, Neal has been instrumental in the states fisheries program as well as a supporter of TVTU.

Gary Lussier, Steve Gerling and Charlie McCaughy hosted a lunch for Neal at the Willimantic Brewing Company and presented Neal with a Steve Gerling original hand carved tackle box and a fly rod.

Neal, enjoy your well deserved retirement!



"Water Colors"

by George Jacobi

Right now in the long dark of short February, a river is black as obsidian. Yet in the serene sky of midsummer, the same surface will be as transparent as glass. We fly fishers like to call streams crystal, chrome, silvery, golden, gleaming, gin-clear. More than one famous book title invokes "Bright." All good efforts, but we really have no word for the color of moving, flowing water. Homer called them "wine-dark seas"

but that was a long time ago, and nobody to this day knows what he was talking about. Maybe, along with “gin-clear,” that tells us more about people than water. But you all know what I mean if I say “a glorious reflection, a rippling rainbow of autumn leaves.”



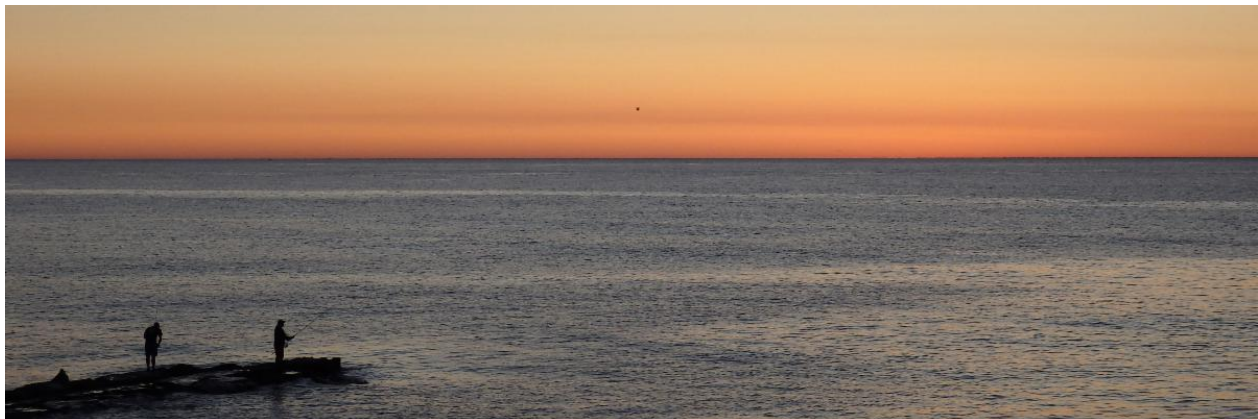
Aquamarine, azul, azur, Celadon, cerulean, sapphire, slate, sage, emerald, moss, fern, pine, olive, indigo, Teal, violet, verde. Water reflects the sky while also swallowing (absorbing) all the colors but blue and violet, thus provoking our poetic synonyms. Light is the key. Funny; there are more synonyms for “clear” than almost anything else. What color is “pellucid”? How about “limpid”? Bubbling brooks release energy as water vapor, which carries negative ions for us to inhale while nearby. Yes, they really boost endorphins and relieve depression. It’s hard to be unhappy while you ‘go a-fishing’, isn’t it?



Perhaps there is a better word in some other language? Nine or ten state names come from American Indian words for water in some form. Mississippi, Missouri, Minnesota, Michigan. Dakota, Nebraska, and Ohio too. And I haven’t forgotten “Quinnectucket,” our own state and long tidal river, and its smaller neighbors, the Quinebaug and the Quinnipiac.

Natchaug, Pachaug, Pomperaug. Pootatuck, Aspetuck, Shetucket.

Something besides rhyme going on here, no? (By the way, even “Yankee” is an Indian word.) “Mni Wiconi” is Lakota for “water is life”. The next time you see a joyfully singing riffle, a sweeping run, a surging breaker, remember – it’s the color of life.



And like life, water remains a mystery. It’s a living mirror that resists definition. It conveys every color, but it’s

the absence of color. Black as deep space, glaring as the sun itself. Loren Eiseley rightly suggested: "If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water". It is hot, cold, hard, soft, invisible. That those trout too can be invisible in plain sight is thus fitting. Though incapable of movement, water is always in motion. Its color, like the rest of its nature, is too elusive for the human brain – my brain anyway. This brief and fallible "reflection" of mine is over. For now, the dream of a spring creek on a balmy June evening will have to do.



"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



Fly Tying 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](#)

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 series 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



Fly Of the Month "Double Wing Rusty Spinner"

by John Preston



No fly-fisher should be without a Rusty Spinner. I have had many great days using a rusty spinner during all times of the day, but the

evening is usually the best time for spinners. Spinners are difficult to see since they lie flush in the surface in evening low light, especially, if you stay out way after sunset. Just keep your cast short and target a particular feeding trout. Even if you can't see your fly using a short line, keeping the rhythm and casting stroke consistent you get a feel for where your fly has landed. If there is rise and you think it was for your spinner just slowly raise your rod and you might be rewarded with TUG... but usually the fish will set the hook for you.

Last summer I had very good results experimenting with some store-bought triple wing rusty spinners during a PMD spinner fall. I liked the fullness of the extra wings to better imitate a spinner's wing. If you ever observed spinners floating by in the current... the wings are a prominent feature. Many believe the wings are a "trigger" for trout when they are determining if your offering is a natural, easy meal to inhale.

I don't have any scientific analysis to prove if this is true, but I can say they seem to out perform a regular single wing spinner. One evening my friends Steve, Chuck and I were fishing the Soda and they being a bit younger were able to get to a section before me. Of course, I got a little razzing from Chuck (the youngest, who likes to point out he's not eligible for a "Golden Age" discount where we camp) poking along while crossing the stream. I retorted we'll see how you are when you're 75+!@# My excuse for being a bit slower last year is the NO FELT rule YNP has instituted... I hate rubber soled



The video is by **George Bouvoïn** who demonstrates tying a Double Wing Spinner Fly. This video is presented by **Mission Peak Fly Anglers, Fremont, CA.**

Recipe: Double Wing Rusty Spinner

Hook: Size 10-22 dry fly hook
Thread: Olive, rusty or color to match natural
Tail: Split dun spade hackle or Mico-Fibbets
Body: Fine dubbing rusty color or color to match natural
Thorax: Fine dubbing rusty color or color to match natural
Wings: Clear/white Zelon, HI-Viz , FTD Dry Fly Crinkle Hair, or Poly (I am experimenting w/ wing material)

Keep the body thin with a pronounced thorax. For small flies just use thread for the body. Don't overdress the wings but not too sparse (for better floatation and visibility). In fact, there are times a heavily dress wing can be a good thing... especially in riffled currents. I like Zelon's sparkle & floatability. Tails can be split or not split (doesn't seem to matter) ... but split tails look so fine!

wading shoes (even with the studs). Someone is going to have a bad mishap some day!

Since they were occupying the pool, I whet around the bend doing a little RECON with an Iris Caddis with limited success... nice looking pool though, I'll have to try the next time. So, I joined the two young whippersnappers and took a spot at the very end of the pool. I noticed that spinners were forming above us and put on a #16 rusty triple wing spinner. After a while the spinners started to fall on the surface the feed was on... Now for the next 45 minutes or more we proceeded to haul in 40 or more Cutthroats. Without breaking my arm, I have to pat myself on the back that the triple wing out performed (by a good margin) the regular spinners. Chuck (who is a very good angler) happen to be right next to me and occasionally cast into my area... especially, when I was hammering them. More times than not the trout would take my fly over his single wing fly.



Well that experience convinced me more prominent wings are the way to go... besides the wings look more realistic. When I got back home, I tied up a few triple wingers but they are a pain to tie so, I went to just two wings to cutdown the aggravation. The double wing spinner look just as good!

Give a double wing spinner a try... you'll too can out do those all those young whippersnappers casting around you!@#!



For step by step instructions for tying a triple wing spinner see [Charlie Craven's FlyBox](#).

Recipe: Triple Wing Rusty Spinner

Hook: TMC 101 #14-24

Thread: 8/0 UNI, to match Dubbing, in this case, Camel

Tail: White Tailing Fibers

Body: Superfine Dubbing, Rusty Brown or to match natural

Wing: Dun Polypropylene Yarn

"To go fishing is the chance to wash one's soul with pure air, with the rush of the brook, or with the shimmer of sun on blue water. It brings meekness and inspiration from the decency of nature, charity toward tackle-makers, patience toward fish, a mockery of profits and egos, a quieting of hate, a rejoicing that you do not have to decide a darned thing until next week. And it is discipline in the equality of men - for all men are equal before fish."

~Herbert Hoover

Items for Sale

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**
Cabela's MTX 9' 5wt 4pc Fly Rod w/ graphite tube - condition - ~~\$165~~ **SALE \$150** (MSRP \$400)
Cabela's MTX 9' 6wt 4pc Fly Rod w/ graphite tube - Mint condition - ~~\$165~~ **SALE \$150** (MSRP \$400)
Korkers Wading Boot -New Old Stock, Size11 w/ walking/hiking sole only -~~\$35~~ **SALE \$20**
LL Bean Travel Fly Rod - 9', 7wt, 6pcw/ tube & bag, near mint condition -~~\$75~~ **SALE \$65**
Umpqua Toketee Vest - New, never used, gray, one size fits all -~~\$65~~ **SALE \$55** (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](#) 860-917-4485

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@troutunlimited.com) 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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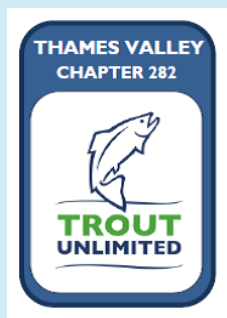
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About Us

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



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](mailto:Daniel.King@troutunlimited.com).

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