

Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

January 2019



President's Message...

Happy New Year everyone!

Hope that you all had great holidays. The rivers are still raging, the water temps in the 30's, the outside temps generally miserable and all of us but the most die hards (not me) have pretty much retired our gear until some more spring like conditions return. Let's all hope those come quickly and it's not too long before we can get back out

there and into our favorite spots and into some good fishing.

Well, it's that time of year that many of us make those New Year resolutions probably because there's nothing better to do while we can't go fishing. There are those well worn cliché resolutions: eat better, lose weight, exercise more, get organized etc., etc. Some that I think would be far more practical would include: fish more often, explore new rivers, improve my casting, or buy that new fly rod.

Just in case you can't decide, let me offer a few suggestions. Get more involved with your TU chapter. Participate in some of the fun activities like cookouts, campouts and fishing events. Volunteer for some of our initiatives like river cleanups, Trout In the Classroom, conservation projects. All of these activities are great opportunities to enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow TU members while supporting our mission.

Watch the newsletter for upcoming events and activities. Talk to your board members or other chapter members for ways to get involved or suggest activities you'd like to see us do. The more you get involved, the richer your overall experience with TU will be. I'm looking forward to seeing more of you getting the most out of your TU membership. On to the New Year!!

Gary Lussier
President TVTU
Gelconn@yahoo.com

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 on the website ([click here](#)) by 4:00 PM on the day of the scheduled meeting.

Chapter Meeting - Tuesday, January 15th, 6-9 pm
Featured Presentation:
John Shaner - "Spiders and Soft Hackles"

John Shaner will talk about the

history, flies, and techniques associated with this classic style of fly fishing and his presentation includes so much information you might want to bring along something to take notes on!

In addition, prior to his presentation, John will demonstrate some of his fly tying techniques for creating classic "Spiders".



John has been fly fishing for as long as he can remember. He caught his first trout on a fly he tied himself in 1965. He grew up in the Finger Lakes region of New York and was fishing the Catskill Rivers as soon as he could drive. Over the years John have fished for trout extensively across the U.S. and has made several trips to England to fish the famous Chalk Streams and other rivers. A list of the rivers he has had the good fortune to fish would be fairly long! He has a special love for Montana and Wyoming and lived in West Yellowstone, MT for a number of years. His favorite rivers are; The Beaverkill and West Branch of the Delaware in New York, the Firehole and Madison system in Yellowstone National Park, and in England, the Abbots Worthy beat Itchen in Hampshire, and the River Eamont in Cumbria. He has also fished the Bahamas, Belize, and Florida for saltwater species.

John has been in the fly fishing business since 1985 and has managed fly shops, guided, and worked as a sales representative for Orvis, Cortland Line, and since 2008 with Hardy. Currently, he holds the position of Eastern Regional Fly Fishing Manager for Pure Fishing, the parent company of Hardy, Fenwick, and Hodgman.

The gift of a fly tying kit when he was 8 set him on the road to becoming a fly tier. While primarily self-taught, he has studied many different fly dressing techniques and has been privileged to have sat at the elbow of a number of famous fly tiers. John especially enjoys reproducing, and fishing, traditional trout patterns. The Catskill style of dry flies was his first love, but in the past 20 years his focus has been on British wet flies. He also like to experiment with new patterns, but is a bit of a traditionalist in his use of materials and seldom incorporate synthetics into his flies, preferring natural silk, fur, and feathers. John has a special fascination for "Spiders" (Americans call them "Soft Hackles"), and enjoys tying and fishing these simple, elegant, and deadly flies.

His other passion is collecting tackle and angling books. His "library" is primarily devoted to books detailing the development of flies and tying techniques.

John is a member of The Anglers' Club of New York, The Flyfishers' Club of London, The Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers, and The DeBruce Fly Fishing Club. Currently, he lives in southern New York State, just a few minutes from the Beaverkill and West Branch of the Delaware.

Door opens at 6pm.

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

Congratulations Ron Bettez!

Winner of the TVTU Chapter Raffle 2018

Ron Bettez is now the proud owner of a Cabela's Theorem Fly Rod and Ross Evolution LT Fly Reel Outfit. More importantly Ron and all the other ticket holders helped Thames Valley TU

Chapter Events

**Jan 12 - Feb 9th, Sat
9:30-11:30am
Fly Tying Classes**
Fish Connection
RT12, Preston, CT

**Jan 15th, Tue, 6pm
Chapter Meeting**
Moose Lodge
115 Fitchville Rd
Bozrah, CT
**John Shaner -
"Spiders & Soft
Hackles"**

**Jan 18th, 19th & 20th
Marlboro Fly Fishing
Show**
Marlboro, MA

**Feb 2, Sat 9am -3pm
CFFA Fly Fishing Expo**
Maneeley's
65 Rye St
South Windsor, CT

**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 & More...

**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"**

**April 20th Sat. TBD
Natchaug River
Clean-up**

**May 11th Sat. TBD
Quinebaug River
Clean-up**
Putnam, CT

**May 17-18, TBD
Annual Breakfast &
Camp-out**
Shetucket River



fund raising effort to so that we can continue:

To Conserve, Protect and Restore Eastern CT's trout and salmon and their watersheds.

**May 21st Tue. 6-9pm
Chapter Meeting
Moose Lodge
115 Fitchville Rd
Bozrah, CT
TBD**

**Thank You All for
Your Support**

**June 8th Sat. TBD
Yantic or Moosup
River Clean-up**



"Are They Wild Trout?"

by Mike Carl



I was asked awhile back by a Thames Valley member if I could write something about distinguishing wild trout from stocked trout. I said sure but then life got in the way. I hope that many of you can relate. I thought about it some more afterwards and it dawned on me that there are quite a few factors that go into determining whether or not a trout from one of our local Connecticut streams is wild or not.

Rather than get bogged down in graphs, statics, and all the other stuff that you might have to factor in, I thought I would just hit the highlights and speak of generalities.

For the most part when you look at a wild trout vs stocked trout, you will see striking physical differences. However, they may be deceiving if you have a river system like the Farmington River which has stocked, multi-year holdover, and truly wild trout all mixed in. That being said, there are some common physical features that stand out with wild trout that you won't see in other trout-even holdovers (at least in this state).

Here's how I break it down. First, and probably the most important feature, is to look closely at the fins of the fish. All wild trout will have big beautiful and flawless fins. Stocked trout will have thick and stubby fins, worn out fins and sometimes one of the fins will actually be clipped like the picture on above. That trout is a holdover brown from a club that I belong to. It is darkly colored, has colorful spots, but if you look at its



Back to fins for a moment...wild trout will also have huge caudal fins (tails). If you look at the trout above, it has a very large caudal fin.



Another feature that I look for are parr markings. Most likely if you see a young-of-year fish with parr marks on them in a trout stream, it is most likely wild. This alone can be deceiving though since our state can stock supplemental fingerlings and/or small stockies. I have caught stocked rainbows with their parr marks still on them. The brookie you see above is from a "blue line" in Pennsylvania and is certainly wild.

right pectoral fin, it has a clip in it...not a wild brown. Sometimes though, a wild fish will have temporary scarring or damage to a fin if it had been digging out a red or trying to stuff itself under structure repeatedly during the day to hide. However for the most part, if you see that a trout from a stream has flawless fins, I personally would lean towards it being a wild trout.



A second feature that I would look at is the adipose fin. Many stocked trout have this fin clipped off. Almost all of the wild trout that I have seen in this state have a colored adipose fin that is either red or orangish. Again, however, a multi-year holdover may have a darkened adipose fin but not necessarily a vibrant colorful one. This brown was caught in a Class 1 WTMA.



Next I would look for colorful spots on its side with or without halos around them as well as halos around their brown spots. Most wild trout from this state will have either orange or red spots. But, you can't go by that distinction alone. If you look at this picture, you will see the trout has colorful spots with halos but what you can't see is that it does not have a colorful adipose and its right fin is clipped. Plus, it is of a size that we stock at our club so it is most likely a holdover.

Another common physical feature that you see is a blue dot around the gill plate and/or a blue hue. I have never seen a stocked trout with these particular features. I do know that various strains throughout the United States and around the world differ in appearances but in terms this state, you can probably assume that it is wild.

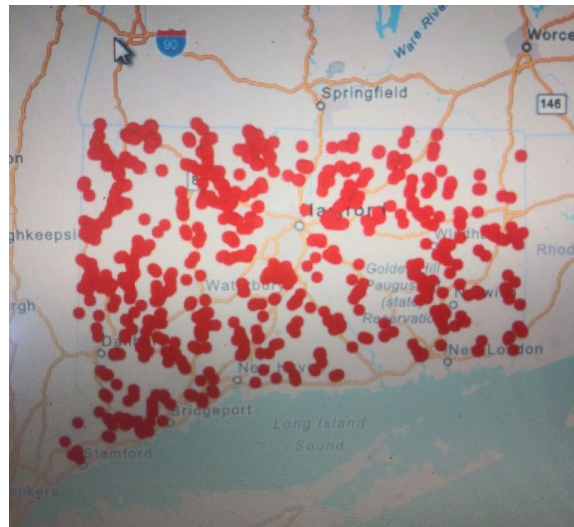
Also, wild trout will have darker colors and look more vibrant than stocked fish. Stockies will most likely have a "washed out" look. My fishing club uses a hatchery from Pennsylvania that delivers very beautiful looking trout but they still have a dullish appearance compared to the streams wild inhabitants.



Back to the fins again...a wild trout will have nice translucent fins. As you can see this wild brown has a very translucent anal fin. It's pelvic is less visible but also very translucent. A stocked trout would not have this feature. This particular brown was caught on a Class 1 WTMA.

Finally, I would look at the size of the trout. For instance, my club does not stock any trout below 12 inches so when I catch a small brown, brookie, or rainbow below that size, then I can assume that it is wild. When I take in the account all of the other feature(s), then I can certainly deduce whether or not a trout is wild.

Connecticut has a vast amount of water that supports wild brown trout...and brook trout to a lesser degree. You can be in any part of this state and have the potential to catch a wild trout. If you find yourself with a trout that looks wild to you and it has some or all of the distinguishing features that I mentioned then chances are that it is wild.



My buddy Joe always says: "You can delete always and never from your vocabulary." This is true in many ways. Any Ichthyologist could probably find some fault in the methods I described but, if you research the fishing data of your local waters and then apply some of it to your own fishing, I think you will start to find it easier to identify a wild trout if you key in on some of the common physical features of wild trout in our state.

As always, be a good steward of your local environment and become active with your local TU chapter or conservation group. As the newly elected Membership Chair for Thames Valley TU (chapter 282), we will always welcome



"It was a Dark and Stormy Day..."

by J. "Snoopy" Preston

The following synopsis/information is taken from the Connecticut Wildlife (May/June 2018) magazine article "Bringing Back the Natives" by Michael Humphreys, DEEP Fisheries Division.

During one of our many dark, stormy, rainy days this year, instead watching all the nonsense on cable I happen to peruse some of the publications on the CT DEEP website. It is always amazing the amount of information it has that can be helpful to an angler. One article dealt with the Brook Trout restoration efforts in CT caught my attention.

The article started with a historical perspective (from the first settlers to the Industrial Revolution) of the habitat degradation that caused most of the elimination of native Brook Trout in CT waters. But as the country modernized and electricity became common place the need for wood as fuel, decline of farming and water power, coupled with an interest in protecting the environment the Brook trout population started to rebound. And with a little help from wild trout caught and raised in hatcheries or moved to waters that were now devoid of fish there was an even more dramatic turn around.

But through assessment data there are still some waters that can support wild trout but don't have trout due to barriers (like culverts which this chapter helped survey a few years ago) and environmental spills/changes. In addition, the introduction of domestic hatchery strains of trout for angling purposes and resulting hybridization with wild populations have weakened the gene pool so that they don't survive as well as wild fish... a major position of TU ([See: TU position](#))

The article went on to describe some recent efforts to restore wild Brook trout in the Mill River in Easton and Fairfield. It has been so successful that in 2018 this Wild Trout Management Area (WTMA) has become one of the most popular wild trout destinations in CT.

In 2016 with the help of the local TU Chapter volunteers they captured 266 wild trout and



Native brook trout are collected from a healthy donor stream by backpack electrofishing for relocation to Deep Brook WTMA. Photo by Michael Humphreys

relocated them into Deep Brook (Newtown, CT) where oil and chemical spills decimated the wild trout population. A survey in 2017 showed the transplanted fish had survived and reproduced a new year class of native fry!

And, in the fall of 2017, 69 native brook trout were moved from a nearby stream to an unnamed tributary of Globe Hollow Reservoir in Manchester. An assessment was scheduled for last summer.

It appears all is not lost in having wild population of Brook trout in CT and we should take the opportunity to see how we can assist the Fisheries Division or work with other chapters, organizations in assessments, restoration efforts, and recolonization of "one of our most beautiful and recreationally important native stream fish species"... our native Brook Trout.

I encourage you to read the complete article and explore some of the other back issues and publications within the [DEEP website](#).

Note (according to the article): Anglers and other members of the public with suggestions for potential locations for brook trout re-introductions may contact Michael Humphreys at 860-567-8998.

TVTU Fly Tying Classes Start January 12th to February 9th, 2019

Thames Valley TU will be conducting Fly Tying classes again this winter. Bob Walsh, John Preston, and Jack Balint will be teaching the classes. The classes will be



held 9:30 - 11:30 am Saturdays at the Fish Connection, 127 RT12, Preston, CT.

Tentative class dates are January 12, 19, 26, February 2 & 9th. Classes are open to members (young & old) and to the public... beginner to experienced fly tiers welcomed. Tools and materials will be available if you don't have any. There are no fees for the classes and materials.

Why learn to tie flies?

Fly tying is great way to learn some of the finer points of fly fishing; something to do off-season and keep focused on fishing; because you like being creative & working with your hands; and, you want to spend many hours alone or with friends doing a fun hobby. Also, there is great satisfaction catching a fish on your own fly. Another reason people tie is to save money. How many \$2 plus flies have you lost in the trees or snagged on the bottom of a stream or the hundreds of flies in your many fly boxes? But I would say, the jury is still out on that.

But one sure way to save money for sure is to take a fly tying class. This way you can determine if this hobby is for you before you shell out to buy the necessary equipment and materials to get started. There is nothing better than learning by personal instruction. Learning from a book can be hard but not impossible. Nowadays, I would suggest using online videos might be a good alternative.

So, if you think you would like to give it a try. Enroll in our fly tying class. It's fun and you will meet some great people and future friends... and have something that gives you pleasure for a lifetime!

Contact [John Preston](#) or Jack Balint (860) 885-1739 at Fish Connection to enroll, for questions or information.



by John Preston

Fly of the Month "Dark Watchet"

In anticipation of this month's featured guest John Shaner, here is another elegant classic North Country Spider (soft hackle) to try... the Dark Watchet.

The video is by Hans Weilenmann. Hans uses the dressing from Edmonds & Lee 1916 book "Brook and River Trouting"... fly 13A the Dark Watchet or Iron Blue Dun. If interested in reading this book, I found it online for viewing at <http://archive.org/stream/brookrivertrouti00edmorich#mode/2up>

In his video Hans uses the split thread method when dubbing the fly. You may also use the touch dubbing method and get the similar results... very, very sparse so that the thread colors bleed through... a very elegant fly.

Recommend you come early to January's meeting. John Shaner will demonstrate tying these classic flies prior to his presentation on Spiders. I know first hand that his presentation is excellent and contains a wealth of knowledge and information about Spiders & Soft Hackles.



Dark Watchet dressing:

Hook: Kamasan B405 #12 (here)
Thread: Pearsall's Gossamer, orange
Hackle: Jackdaw throat hackle
Body: Pearsall's Gossamer, orange (the tying thread) and purple - mole inserted into the orange thread - wrapped side by side

Pattern: originator unknown, Video by: Hans Weilenmann



"It is impossible to grow weary of a sport that is never the same on any two days of the year."
- Theodore Gordon

Items for For Sale

Cortland 444 Sink Tip Fly Line NOS 4WT - \$20

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)

Cabela's Bootfoot Neoprene Waders - Perfect for broodstocks, no leaks, only used a few times - \$30

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.

Wanted

George Jacobi is looking for a copy 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. Thanks

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

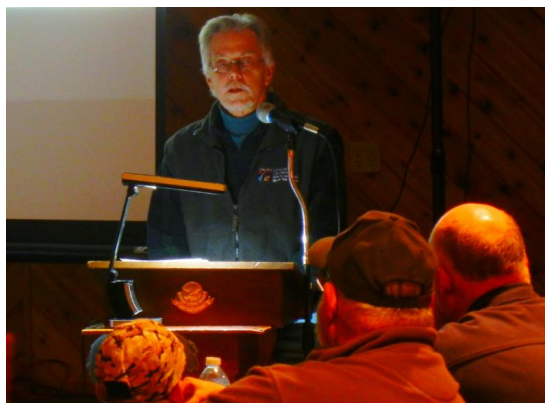


"December Meeting Recap"

by John Preston

Long-time Thames Valley TU member George Jacobi is an artist and writer who contributes often to this newsletter was presented with a gift of appreciation (a 2 wt. fly line & backing for George's trusty 2wt) from the chapter for all the fine literary insights he has provided us over the last 6 years. Several of his writings that have graced our newsletter first have been picked up by Trout Unlimited's "TROUT" magazine and other well know blogs and publications.

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 read just a sample of his essays and stories from the blog that focused 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 was entertaining, thought provoking and insightful. For the complete collection of George's "Inspiration Point" Grand Canyon blog visit <https://www.nps.gov/grca/blogs/inspiration.htm>. I also suggest you revisit the April 2018 Stream Lines newsletter and reread his "Excerpts from A Season at the Grand Canyon" that will bring a little humor and smile on your faces.

Thank you!... to the members of the Board of Directors who personally provided all who attended with a fine array of food, fixn's, desserts and beverages to enjoy before the meeting and featured presentation. Also a BZ to the Fund-Raising Committee for a great "Holiday" raffles and door prizes.

New Secretary Elected: Also at the meeting Glenn Levassuer was overwhelmingly elected as our new

Secretary. Glenn said that he thought it was time that he contributed back to the chapter after being a member for a number of years. Thank you Glenn for stepping up and fulfilling a important position that the chapter needed... it is much appreciated by all!

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

For online reservations & more info: 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 or

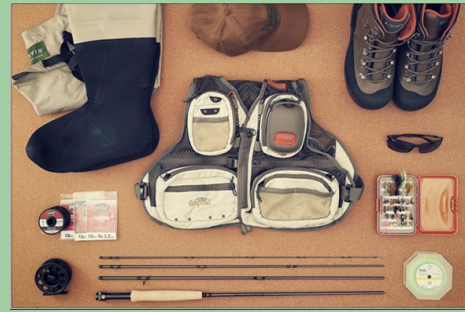
Phil Apruzzese: (860) 489-4319 - pjapruez@aol.com

RSVP by January 26

Open seating or reserved tables of 10



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@ctflyfish.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 211, Hanover, CT 06350

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

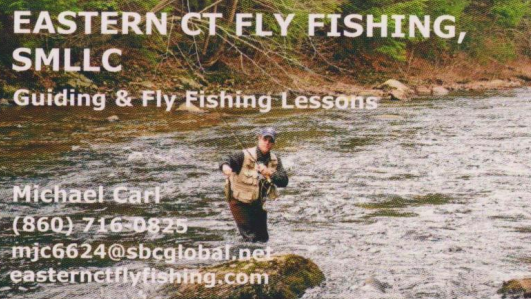
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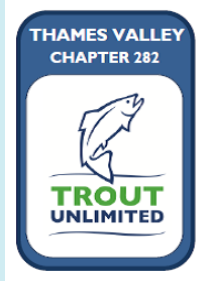
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STAY CONNECTED





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

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