

# Trout Unlimited

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

January 2020



### ***President's Message....***

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope that Santa was good to you and brought you that special fishing toy that you just had to have this year. If not, all is not lost with the annual Fly Fishing Show and the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association Expo & Banquet coming up in the next few weeks. While most of you are well aware of both, for those few

(yeah, there might be 1 or 2 who are not), these are two great shows where you can find just about anything there is to fly fishing. Check the newsletter, bulletins or website for dates and locations.

On December 20, we assisted DEEP with the final salmon stocking in the Shetucket for the season. These were the big boys (and girls) and we put 42 brood stock into the river. Unfortunately we didn't get a chance to get some good fish pictures, but the DEEP Facebook page has a couple. Thanks to Tim Pindell and Rick Romagna for braving the cold, snow and high water that day – I'm sure they'll agree it was worth it.

And speaking of a final stocking, I am stepping down as stocking coordinator so I can be more focused on my current role. We really need someone to step in and take up this role for the spring stockings. Actually, I'd like to have at least two people in this role – a primary and a secondary so that we have a built in succession plan and if the primary is unavailable he has a backup person that can step in to cover at a moment's notice. I will commit to helping the new coordinator transition into the role – which by the way is really very simple and does not take too much time. If anyone is interested, please talk to me at a meeting, or call or send me an email.

And on that note, let me call your attention to the Help Wanted section of our newsletter. We've been posting a couple of these "job openings" for at least a couple months and I have plans to add a couple more in the near future. We're also in the early planning stages of possibly doing more with our TIC schools in the next few months. Our board of directors and a handful of reliable volunteers all do a great job keeping our meetings interesting, supporting outside initiatives, TIC, conservation initiatives and all the miscellaneous things that go with running the chapter. But we need help from you to keep this going and growing. We welcome new blood, new ideas and extra help. Please consider giving back to your chapter and help us keep it going strong. Without you, we risk getting stagnant and not being able to take on some new and exciting opportunities.

Tight Lines!  
**Gary Lussier**  
[email](#)

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Chapter Meeting Tues., January 21st, 6 to 9pm  
Featured Presentation by: Darby Hittle  
"Eastern Lake Ontario Steelhead Fishing"



This presentation chronicles the past 25 years of Darby's personal experience of fishing for steelhead in the tributaries of eastern Lake Ontario, including helpful information about places to eat, fish and sleep while chasing the legendary Silver Bullets of upstate New York.

Darby Hittle founder of Thunderbird's Environmental LLC in Clinton, CT is a Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) with more than 22 years experience providing environmental site assessment, remediation design and oversight, and regulatory compliance assistance to a wide range of private and federal clients

throughout North America. Darby is a 1995 graduate of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a B.S. in Geology.

Darby is a veteran of the United States Air Force. When he's not helping one of his many clients with environmental issues, Darby can likely be found on a cold water stream casting a trout fly, playing guitar, or planning the next western fishing or hunting adventure. Growing up in the small farming community of Benton, PA. Darby developed an early understanding of the need for responsible use of our natural resources. Thunderbird Environmental is named after a neighbor's dairy farm, where Darby spent much of his boyhood life exploring the local streams, fields, and forests and discovering the small wonders that exist within nature.

**Fund Raising Table** - This month's raffle will feature a TFO 9' 4pc 6wt fly rod, Cabela's fly reel w/ spare spool & double case, fresh & saltwater flies, books, TVTU Fly box w/ flies and other outdoor and fishing items.



**Door Prize:** Hillshire Farm Gift Box!

**Fly Tying Material Sale... See Below**

**Inventory "Clearance" Sale** on TVTU merchandise... hats, fly boxes, leaders & more

**"Special" Bucket Raffle:** Cabela's Fisherman Series Tackle Bag

## Doors Open at 6PM

Our meetings are free and open to members, guests and the general public. Social time, fly tying demonstrations, refreshments, raffle, door prize & more... Featured presentation starts shortly after short chapter business meeting at 7pm.



**New Thames Valley TU Key Chain** is now available and on **Sale for \$4.00** (Reg \$5.00) Three colors available.

**See You at the Firehouse!**

## Fly Tying Material Sale

We have a vast collection of fly tying material for fresh

## Chapter Events

**Jan 21st, 6-9pm**  
**Chapter Meeting**  
Franklin Firehouse  
5 Tyler Drive  
Franklin, CT  
**Darby Hittle- "Eastern Lake Ontario Steelhead Fishing"**

**Feb 1st, 9am - 3pm**  
**CFFA EXPO**  
Maneeley's  
65 Rye St  
South Windsor, CT

**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  
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"**

**May 19th, 6-9 PM**  
**Chapter Meeting**  
Franklin Firehouse  
5 Tyler Drive  
Franklin, CT  
**Brian Eltz - State Fisheries Biologist**

## 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.

and saltwater at bargain prices. Feathers, dry & wet fly capes, dubbing, synthetics, natural fur, deer hair, and much more. Prior to the FEB 1st CFFA Expo were we will be selling this material we are giving our members & guests first "dibs" at our JAN 21 chapter meeting starting at 6pm... [Don't miss this sale!](#)



## 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 Tyler Drive is on your right.

[Google Map](#)

*"If I fished only to capture fish, my fishing trips would have ended long ago."*

*~Zane Grey*



If you can't make the January meeting come visit us at the CFFA Expo... it is a great event!

Any remaining material will be available at Our Annual "Flies & Pies" event FEB 18th.

## Come Visit TVTU at the CFFA Expo FEB 1, 2020

Come Visit TVTU at the CFFA Expo... We will be attending the 2020 CFFA Expo Feb 1st, 9am-3pm, at Maneeley's, 65 Rye St., South Windsor, CT.

Come learn... Who We Are, What We Do and How You Can Join us to make CT watersheds better.

In addition, we will offering fly tying materials & other items for sale at bargain prices. Join us at the Best Fly Fishing show in CT.



**Connecticut  
Fly Fisherman's Association Inc.**  
*Presents the 50th Annual*

**FLY FISHING EXPO & BANQUET**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020**

**featuring Bob Lindquist**

For online reservations & more info:  
[CTFlyFish.org](http://CTFlyFish.org)  
Maneeley's Banquet & Catering,  
65 Rye Street, South Windsor

Bob Lindquist is a self-confessed fly fishing fool. He has waded the waters of Long Island with feathered friends in search of finned friends for over forty years. Bob has fished the Delaware River system and the waters around Albany for another three decades and has built his retirement home on the banks of the Main Stem of the Delaware. In addition, Bob has a blossoming passion for both Atlantic Salmon and Steelhead. Bob is a member of the Whiting Feathers Pro Staff and has worked with numerous other companies.

**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  
*"Fly We Fly Fish"*  
Reservations: [CTFlyFish.org](mailto:CTFlyFish.org) OR  
Phil Apuzzese: (860) 489-4319 • [papuzz@aol.com](mailto:papuzz@aol.com)  
RSVP by January 24  
*Open seating or reserved tables of 10*








## Trout in the Classroom (TIC) News

by John Preston

TVTU volunteers delivered the eggs and supplies to our Trout in the Classroom schools Tuesday, January 7th. Thank you to CT DEEP, Dave Parry, Charlie McCaughtry, John Preston and Gary Lussier for stepping up to make the deliveries. Our volunteers deliver to 13 schools from Griswold, Franklin, Lisbon, East Lyme, North Stonington, Windham, Lebanon, Eastford, Mansfield, Chaplin, and Willington.





The photos show the delivery to at Lisbon Central Elementary school science teacher Stephen Brown who has been longtime support and advocate for the TIC program there. His eager students will be monitoring lifecycle of trout while learning about habitat and ecosystems. Also, a special "Thank You" to Stephen Brown and his classes (he teaches to several grades) for taking on an extra portion of 200 eggs (for a total of approximately 4000 eggs) due to an administrative glitch.

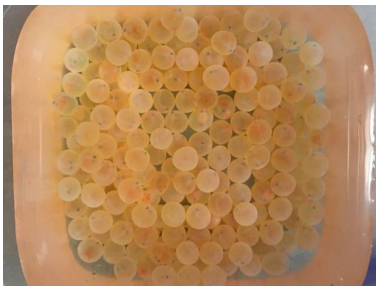
I was amazed at the questions and answers from his student's during half hour classroom discussion... quite advanced for I believe was a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class..

Good luck to all our TIC program schools. We look forward to a successful release of your fish into our rivers in the spring!

It was noted that some schools have expressed interest in taking us up on our offer for some other activities like including us in their trout release, fly casting demo/lessons, or a family fishing day.

I have had the pleasure of participating in such activities for schools in the past. Therefore, I encourage all our members to volunteer, enjoy a day interacting and passing on our concern & love for cold water fisheries/habitat to our future citizens...

**Want to help? Want to participate in the program next year? Contact our TIC Coordinator [Dave Parry](#) to learn more.**



Visit our website "[Education](#)" page for more photos and information



## "Volunteers Wanted"



### **Stocking Coordinator**

The chapter still needs a volunteer for this position .

The position entails working with



### **Fund Raising Committee Assistants**

Duke & John Preston will be stepping down as Fund Raising assistants soon. Therefore, we



### **Program Coordinator Needed**

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

Duties of this position include:

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](#)

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](#)

- \* 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](#)

## "TVTU Fly Tying Classes Start January"

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.

Class dates are January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8 & 15th. Classes are open to members (young & old) and to the public... novice 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.



In addition, we will be conducting a **Beginners Fly Tying Class** through JAN 18, 25, FEB 1 & 8th at the Ledyard Bill Library, 718 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, CT on Saturday afternoons 1:30 to 3:30pm. The class is limited to 12 students with a minimum age of 8 years old. **Please contact the library to enroll in this class at (860) 464-9912.**

### Why Learn Fly Tying?

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 and the hundreds of store bought flies in your many fly boxes? But the jury is still out on that.

But one sure way to save money for sure is to take our 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, we 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 classes. 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 the Fish Connection to enroll, for questions or information.

## "Wanted" - Fly Tying Tools

In addition to providing fly tying classes to a number of local schools TVTU will also be conducting beginner & intermediate fly tying classes this





winter and Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing/Fly Tying classes for veterans in the near future. Therefore, we need additional fly tying tools (scissors, bodkins, hackle pliers, whip finishers, hair stackers, bobbins and vises). If members have any spare tools and vises in working condition we would appreciate your donation of them.

Please contact Charley McCaughy [cmccaughtry@aol.com](mailto:cmccaughtry@aol.com) or John Preston [jpreston44@yahoo.com](mailto:jpreston44@yahoo.com) or bring them to the next monthly

chapter meeting. In addition, any member who would like help assist when the classes are scheduled please contact Dave Parry (TIC/Education) [dfparry01@gmail.com](mailto:dfparry01@gmail.com) or Ron Bettez (Veterans Program) [rfb.c141@gmail.com](mailto:rfb.c141@gmail.com).

## Thank You For Your Support

A very special "Thank You" to All who have donated fly tying equipment and especially, John Springer for the recent large collection of tools & materials. We have almost reached our goal...



## Fly Of the Month "X2 Caddis (Improved X Caddis)"

by John Preston

So after three days of killing time arranging fly boxes, prepping my gear and trying to stay warm... the snow and cold last June out west finally subsided... I was inching to see what was happening in the Park. I drove around sight seeing, taking photos, scoping out different areas and spots throughout the Park to see where I should start the next day. I ended up at the Firehole by the Biscuit Basin late afternoon and noticed a few caddis emerging and a few fish started rising. Now I wasn't planning/prepared to fish but after three plus days of driving cross-country and camper bound for another three days I couldn't resist the temptation any longer. I rigged up rod & reel that I had used last Fall for tiny BWO's that still had 6X tippet on and tied a #16 (the X2 Caddis and Iris Caddis are my two "Go To" caddis patterns) to it. I didn't put on a vest, waders or bring a net since I just want to see if I could catch a couple Firehole trout which are normally 9-11 inches before I headed back to camp.

I started in the riffles just above the Biscuit bridge and after a couple of casts I caught a plumb, feisty 9-10" Rainbow and dragged it to the shore's edge and quickly released it. Slid down a bit further and caught a slightly bigger leaping Bow a few cast later. Again dragged in the shore's edge and release it. The X2 was doing it's usual job... foolin' trout!

While dusting the X2 dry a fish rose right in



I figure that Brown trout was at least 18" and most likely a bit bigger... for the Firehole that is monster. FYI, I understand the last couple of years larger than normal trout have been taken in good numbers. And I can tell you I was able to catch a couple 15-16 inches later on during my outings on the Firehole in June/early July... but nothing close to that Brown

After release both fish I was able to reflect on what had transpired and I began to smile, chuckle and laugh to myself for the next 15 minutes or so as I sat there gazing at the river and thermal feature in the background. Then throw the rod in the truck

front of me. I then placed the X2 just above the fish, let it drift and do its thing. The fish rose sipped it in and rolled back down into the water, set the hook and I had another one. But this time there was no jump, prolonged tug or head shaking... just dead weight. So I figured it went down to the bottom of the river and wrapped itself around the weeds. Since I had no waders on and last year's 6X I slowly lifted my rod and hope it would free itself. As it came up I could see a few weeds and the tail of the fish emerge above the surface. As I gingerly lifted the rod higher and towards me to hopefully land it and not break the tippet my eyes bugged out and noticed the rest of the fish was in the mouth of a very large brown trout!! At this point my mind was racing through the options I might have to land them without a net, getting wet and breaking off.

First I decided I wanted a photo of this before they broke off... panicking I fumbled around my left jacket pocket for my camera, NOT THERE! Checked my left-side pant pocket and found my flip phone (yes, I don't have one of those "brainless" phones) and proceeded to fire off a few shots of the chaos.



Next I decided to keep the fish in the water so not to put too much strain on the tippet... did I mention it was OLD 6X and NO NET?!? The large Brown couldn't dislodge the lifeless Rainbow stuck in its mouth & teeth so I loosen the tension on the line by letting the fish float just above the surface in the quiet water and moving them around in a circular motion with my rod tip. After few revolutions the Brown was able free itself and swim slowly away disappearing into the dark depths of the river. I think the Brown was choking on the fish it tried eat, couldn't breathe and in total shock... if it had been able it would have surely snapped the tippet.

Still attached to the X2 was a fat, motionless 9" inch Rainbow still alive. I resuscitated the little Bow for several minutes. It came back to life and release it back into the river to live again... maybe a little wiser and for certain lucky to be alive. Maybe the next Firehole trip he will thank me by hiiting my fly & saying hello...

and smile all the way back to the camp along the Hebgen Lake.

PS: Oh, on the way back I found my camera in the other jacket pocket. If I wasn't in the panic/shock mode I would have a much better photos for proof...



**Video: Tying the Olive X2 Caddis with Arrick's Fly Shop**



Craig Mathews credits Doug and Dan Daufel with developing some improvements to the original X Caddis pattern. When tying the X2 under wing, it should not extent past the end of the abdomen. The over wing extends to the end of the hook. The tail represents a trailing shuck and should be ½ to 1 times the body length. Green/olive and tan are the most popular body colors but you can use any color to match your local hatches.

**Hook:** #12–16 Dry Fly

**Thread:** 8/0 Olive

**Shuck:** Amber or Lt Dun Zelon

**Rib:** Pearl Krystal Flash

**Body:** Olive Hare's Mask or Zelon Dubbing

**Underwing:** Clear or Lt Dun Zelon

**Wing:** X Caddis or Coastal Deer hair

**Head:** Gray squirrel or Hare's Ear

*"A trout is a moment of beauty known only to those who seek it."*

*-Arnold Gingrich*

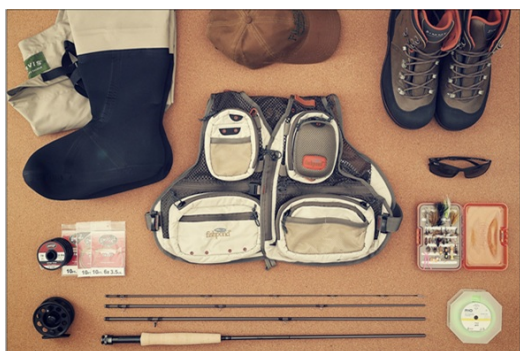


## Items for Sale

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, Size 11 w/ walking/hiking sole only - ~~\$35~~ **SALE \$20**  
LL Bean Travel Fly Rod - 9', 7wt, 6pc w/ 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

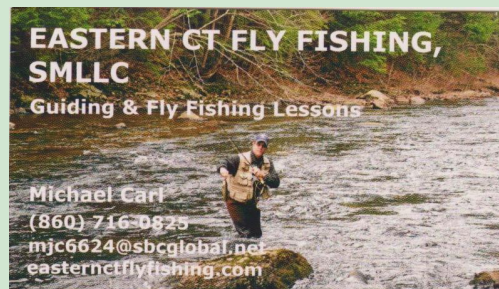


You can help our TU chapter by donating your unused fly fishing and fishing equipment including rods, reels, flies, books, fly tying and other reusable items. We will auction or raffle the items off and use the money raised to support our chapter's programs including conservation projects, stream clean 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

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



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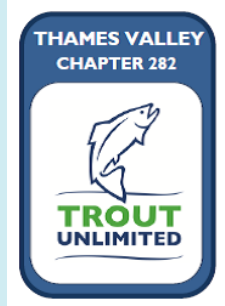
[cmccaughtry@aol.com](mailto:cmccaughtry@aol.com)

## 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.*

### 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

|  |              |                           |
|--|--------------|---------------------------|
| Gary Lussier, President, Stocking        | 860-861-9344 | gelconn@yahoo.com         |
| Ray Schaefer, Vice President             | 860-546-9775 | rayschaefer9060@gmail.com |
| Glenn Levasseur, Secretary               | 860-204-1201 | glenn.levasseur@gmail.com |
| 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 Coord        | 215-208-3873 | jfvret@gmail.com          |
| Charles McCaughtry                       | 860-429-1016 | cmccaughtry@aol.com       |
| George DeGray, Fund Raising              | 860-546-9872 | georgedegray@gmail.com    |
| Bruce Danielson, Communications Chair    | 860-237-2686 | bdanielson62@comcast.net  |
| Dave Parry, TIC, Education Chair         | 860-617-8270 | dfparry01@gmail.com       |
| Steve Gerling, Conservation              | 860-429-4951 | segerling@snet.com        |
| Ron Bettez, Veterans                     | 860-303-7358 | rfb.c141@gmail.com        |
| Pat Gaynor, Fund Raising Committee Chair | 860-319-1690 | patjgaynor@gmail.com      |

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