

Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

March 2019



President's Message...

What a great turnout we had for our annual Flies, Pies and More meeting. These meetings seem to be getting better each year and everyone seemed to be enjoying the evening. A lot of people got to take advantage of the many bargains at the fly tying material table all compliments of the generous donations from the widow of TU member Steve Misovich. I heard lots of comments about how impressive the extent and organization of his collection of material

was – I think Steve would have been pleased. John's Iron Fly contest was a big hit and a lot of fun for both participants and the audience. All of the demonstrators had some great stuff to show and share and hopefully everybody got a chance to chat with them at their tables. Finally the food was a hit as always with lots of variety and I doubt anyone left hungry. I want to thank all of those who worked so hard, donated their time, skills and items for sale or raffle to make this such a big success.

The Thames River Basin Partnership will be holding their annual "Floating Workshop" at the Yantic River Park on Stockhouse Road on Friday, June 14. TVTU will be participating and we'd like to get volunteers from the chapter to help us out. We'll be demonstrating fly tying, fly casting and plan to actually do some fishing and assisting anyone that might want to give it a try. This should be a good opportunity introduce new people to TVTU who already have some interest in water conservation issues.

[Thames River Basin Website](#)

The comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Pebble Mine is currently open. As it stands now, the Army Corps of Engineers has modified its assumptions and the report significantly downplays the risks associated with this potentially disastrous project. As you must already know, TU is 100% against this mine and needs your full support. If you haven't done it already, voicing your opposition couldn't be easier. They've already composed a letter for you that can be sent to your appropriate representatives with just a few clicks. If choose to take a few minutes to personalize the letter, that makes it even better. So please take a moment and be sure to let your voices be heard on this critical matter. Wrong mine, Wrong place. [Bristol Bay Website](#)

Last month, Mike Carl, Bruce Danielson, Irv Stanley, Charley McCaughtry and I attended a wetlands hearing at Willington Town Hall. The proponents of the Loves Truck Stop have requested a change to their plan for sewage treatment that required a hearing. Our hope was that if enough people showed interest, they would hold a public hearing on the matter. The room was jam packed and it was quickly decided that a public meeting was warranted which has been scheduled for March 25 at 7:30 pm in the town hall. If you can make the time, please consider attending this meeting to help make a show of force standing against this.

See you at our next meeting!

Gary Lussier
President TVTU
Gelconn@yahoo.com

Chapter Meeting March 19th, Tues., 6 to 9pm

Featured Presentation by: Neal Hagstrom

"Changes In Managing Wild Trout Habitat - Does More Wood Mean More Fish?"



Our March 19th meeting will feature Neal Hagstrom, CT DEP Fisheries Biologist, who will be discussing some new information out of Vermont and New Hampshire showing that adding more wood structure to streams can actually increase the number of fish in a brook. What does this mean for Connecticut and how can you help ?

Neal has been a stream biologist with DEEP's Fisheries Division for over 30 years. He started learning his trade from Dr. Whitworth, the UCONN professor of fisheries, in Storrs during the 70's and studied in Grand Forks, North Dakota and Auburn, Alabama with some of the best fisheries folks around. He worked in California's Sonora Deserts for his first five years as a professional biologist before returning to New England to lead Connecticut's Stream Survey project in 1988. You can find Neal at DEEP's Eastern District Headquarters in Marlborough, Connecticut.

Neal has also been the focal point of our Embrace a Stream Merrick Brook study. Neal has compiled all the data and provided a comprehensive picture of the varying trout conditions of the Merrick Brook and Beaver Brook basins.

Door Opens at 6 pm

Last Call for our Fly Tying Material SALE! Our Fund Raising Committee has even more fly tying material to offer than the last meeting for fresh and saltwater. Feathers, dry & wet fly capes, dubbing, synthetics, natural fur/hair, and more. Last chance for bargains... **Fly Tiers don't miss this sale!**

6:15 pm - Dubbing Brush Making Demonstration - Learn how to make dubbing brushes for fresh & saltwater flies. Information on how to build your own dubbing brush machine will be available..

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.

See You at the Moose!

"What a tourist terms a plague of insects, the fly fisher calls a great hatch." - Patrick F. McManus -

Chapter Events

March 19th, Tue 6pm

Chapter Meeting

Moose Lodge
115 Fitchville Rd
Bozrah, CT
Neal Hagstrom

March 23, Sat. 6-9pm

Farmington Valley TU
Banquet -USS
Chowder Pot IV
Hartford, CT

April 16th, Tue, 6pm

Chapter Meeting

Moose Lodge
115 Fitchville Rd
Bozrah, CT
Abbie Schuster -
"Striper Fishing
Martha's Vineyard"

April 16th, Tue, 11

am to 2 pm, Earth
Day Spring Fling at
the UCONN Storrs
campus

April 20th Sat. TBD

Natchaug River
Clean-up

April 28th, Sat & Sun,

JT's Fly Shop Annual
Spring Fling Open
House

May 11th Sat. TBD

Quinebaug River
Clean-up
Putnam, CT

May 17-18, TBD

Annual Breakfast &
Camp-out
Shetucket River

May 21st Tue. 6-9pm

Chapter Meeting

Moose Lodge
115 Fitchville Rd
Bozrah, CT
TBD

June 8th Sat. TBD

Yantic or Moosup
River Clean-up

June 14th, Fri The

Last Green Valley
Floating Lab, Yantic
River, Bozrah

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

Stocking Coordinator Volunteer Needed

The chapter still needs a volunteer for the position of Stocking Coordinator. The position entails working with the hatchery management to schedule the stocking times and locations and sending an email to the stocking volunteers to establish a rendezvous for the stocking. We are getting close to stocking season and we could use the help. If you are interested, please contact Gary Lussier [email](#)



"Thumbs Up for This Year's Flies and Pies Event"

by Bruce Danielson



Phil Sheffield, Steve Babbitt, John Jascot and Merrill "Doc" Katz.

This year's Flies & Pies event had it all! From a great turnout, a real smorgasbord type selection of food, great raffle and auction items and a variety of different activities and demonstrations. Let's start with the food: chili, tortilla stew, franks and beans, buffalo chicken casserole, chicken legs and a variety of sweets. This was all nicely rounded out with several sheet pizzas. No one left hungry. I think next year we should get a culinary columnist to review our meeting in the newspaper.

Fly tiers were in abundance. As usual, the McMahon boys were there to provide some pointers to old timers Jack Balint, Ron Dunleavy,

Other demonstrations included Don Avery and his handcrafted cabinets, paddles and nets, Bob Walsh displayed bamboo rods and cases, and Steve Gerling was demonstrating his woodcarving skills. And last but not least was the art of Charley McCaughtry. Charlie also donated two framed lithographs towards our silent auction.

The Preston clan was not to be out done with Duke showing us how to make furred leaders and John displayed his homemade fixture to make dubbing brushes.

The fly tying material table, manned by Jackie Preston, drew a lot of attention with its vast selection of fly tying materials at great prices.



The Iron Fly Tying Contest was a new event this year and proved to be a fun filled event. Thanks to John Preston for this idea. See a full description of the contest below.

The event was a great success with everyone having a great time.

Check out our [website](#) for the full photo slideshow.



Jack & Steve demonstrating the Angler's Art



Phil & Ron holding court



Ray, Irv & Bruce manning the Raffle tables

February General Meeting Recap



George DeGray was the recipient of the Rick Ellis Award for his distinguished service to our chapter. He received an engraved fly box in appreciation for his many years of volunteering from TVTU President Gary Lussier.



John "Duke" Preston received an engraved fly box for his service as TVTU President from 2015 to 2018 from current President Gary Lussier. Duke continues to serve on the Board of Directors as the Ex-Officio and Fund Raising Chair.



"TVTU Iron Fly Contest"

by John Preston



During the Flies, Pies & More event Thames Valley held an Iron Fly Contest. At first we thought the contest wouldn't be held since no one had registered before the evening of the contest. But after a little coaxing, the host was able to induce seven brave members to participate. What followed leads us to believe that we will be having another "Iron Fly" again... in short; it is fun for both the participants and audience!

The winning fly tiers were judged on originality, neatness & best use of materials. You can count on the next Iron Fly having a shorter time limit... 25 min is much too long! All competitors completed the challenge with only one tier using one of the optional materials.



It was a very close and difficult decision but judges Charley

The first round the participants had to tie a Mop Fly blindfolded! The hardest part of this challenge was no one knew what a Mop fly was!

Obviously, they don't follow our Fly of the month on our website. Fortunately, someone in the audience had one for them to see. The first one to finish an acceptable Mop Fly was declared the winner... "Doc" Katz. Doc graciously offered his two part prize to the runner-up but when he was officially crowned with an authentic raccoon skin cap... he had to have it. The audience commented he could tie a lot of flies from that cap... runner-up Patrick McMahon was rewarded with an Orvis ceramic nipper.



McCaughtry and John Preston awarded First Prize (\$25 Cabela's Gift Certificate) to Patrick McMahon (he completed

his creation in just over 15 minutes); Second Prize (Orvis Nippers) to Jerry Gourd who took 23+ minutes due to several reiterations; and Third Prize (a complete mayfly wing burner set & Renzetti bodkin) to Jeremiah McMahon who finished his fly in 16 minutes. Brendan McMahon, Paul Rice (handicapped with a cast on his left hand and the only one to make his fly barbless), Doc Katz and Steve Gerling all received prizes for competing in the first but not the last TVTU Iron Man competition.



The second and main challenge was to create a size 8 streamer with the nine mandatory materials which included one non-traditional item (a plastic straw) and three

optional materials within 25 minutes. It was hoped that the competitors would create a fish catching, must have, popular fly that could find a good use for the now much maligned plastic straw.

The competition revealed some interesting observations and fly interpretations based on youth vs mature; limited



experience vs very experience tiers and individual creativity. The judges, in particular, were amazed at the creativity and ability of the McMahon brothers to compete against some very experienced adult competitors. Also, you had to "hand it" (pun intended) to Paul Rice for his gritty performance...



Visit our [website](#) for additional photos and slideshow.



First Prize by Patrick McMahon



Second Prize by Jerry Gourd



Third Prize by Jeremiah McMahon

Love Truck Stop Update

As many of our members know, the Love's Travel Center (truck stop) has become an issue of importance to the the environmental community including Trout Unlimited chapters in Connecticut.

The Willington Inland and Wetlands Watercourses Commission (IWWC) will be addressing this issue during their Monday, March 25th meeting at 7:30 at the Willington Town Offices.

Love's is coming back to IWWC to request a modification to their original permit. The modification is required due to the changes they made to the location and size of their wastewater treatment system, which placed them closer to wetlands. The DEEP hearing process last year was mostly focused on how well the system would renovate effluent and protect ground water. Now that it's back in IWWC's court, we can focus on how the construction and maintenance of the system could affect surface waters in wetlands and Roaring Brook.

The IWWC's February 25th meeting's attendance was large enough that the panel declared that a public hearing was warranted. It is important to get as many people possible to the March 25th meeting to show IWWC that there is significant public concern about this development..

The public hearing would allow us to raise concerns and submit new information that IWWC never had previous access to, such as Brian Murphy's newest fishery report, showing that one of the wetland drainages functions as a spawning ground.

It is unlikely that any TVTU members will be allowed to speak at this meeting, but the numbers of attendees has an impact on the outcome of this meeting.

The Willington Town Offices are located at 40 Old Farms Road - enter building through the lower level in back of building).

Issues such as this are at the heart of what Trout Unlimited is about.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, contact Mike Carl [email](#) or Charlie McCaughtry [email](#) for more info.

Hope to see you there!

CT Fish & Wildlife Survey Says...

Broodstock Atlantic Salmon Survey Results:

Thank you to the 2,862 people who responded to our request for your feedback to our question, "Should the CT DEEP Fisheries Division extend the catch and release period on the Naugatuck River and Shetucket River for broodstock Atlantic salmon past the current date of November 30?"

Based on the results and review of the comments, we have decided to extend the Catch and Release period for an additional 15 days. This year the Catch and Release period will end on December 15, 2019.



For more information and details should you desire visit or the Connecticut Fish and Wildlife Facebook page (February 26 at 9:30 AM) or our [Thames Valley TU Facebook](#) page



Fly of the Month

"Darbee Two Feather Mayfly Updated"

by John Preston

Here is an interesting updated version of the Harry Darbee Two Feather Mayfly (aka the Hatchmatcher mayfly) that I remember from the 70's. Though a bit fragile (it can be strengthened with Flexament) I always loved the look and inventiveness of Darbee's creation. This style fly is especially effective for large mayflies such as Drakes (green, brown, etc.) and Hexagenia mayflies. But can be used to tie small stuff too.



Darbee Two Feather Mayfly

Here are two links for Harry Darbee's version: [LINK-1](#) (video) and [LINK-2](#)

In the updated version by Matt Grobert uses Snowshoe rabbit's foot instead of hackle and duck flank feather for the wing. Appears this fly would sit very low in the film. The Darbee version floated quite well on the film when fully hackled.

Extended Body Light Cahill Recipe:

Hook: Standard dry-fly hook, size 12-14.

Thread: Olive, 6/0.

Tails and abdomen: Wood-duck flank feather.

Wing: Snowshoe-rabbit's foot.

Body/Thorax: Cream rabbit dubbing.

Head: Tying thread



Video by Tightline Productions. Tim Flagler

"Fussing over a fly to get lifelike effects or because you want some kind of perfect example of the tier's art has never appealed to me..."
--- Harry Darbee ---

TVTU 2019 Fund Raiser Drive

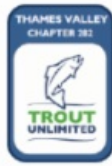
Its that time again... Help Thames Valley TU raise funds for our Education and Conservation efforts.

Not only does it take volunteers to execute our educational and conservation programs but it takes some financial resources too. We hope to expand our Trout in the Classroom program to other local schools; We have recently lent a hand to starting the Nathan Hale MS (Coventry) Fishing Club this winter; and expanding Fly Tying and Fly Casting to some of our local schools for example. In the conservation arena we continue to conduct stream cleanups; in the planning stages of conducting stream bio-assessments, obtaining grants and other conservation efforts with area schools and organizations.

So consider making a donation via our 2019 Fundraiser Raffle (see below) to make these efforts possible and win a guided trip for two and a complete Fly Fishing outfit too. And enjoy some time on one of our beautiful Eastern CT cold-water fisheries we all care about.

Tickets are only \$15 each and 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 2181 Columbia, CT 06237. A ticket will be mailed back to you and recorded.

Thank You for your support....



Thames Valley TU 2019 Fundraiser Raffle

TU "Embrace-A-Stream" Fly Rod & Orvis Reel Outfit plus an Eastern CT Guided Half Day Trip (1- 2 Anglers) w/ Steve Babbitt



Package Value \$764- Only 60 tickets are to be sold.

Donation: Only \$15 per ticket

(All proceeds will be earmarked for our [Education and Conservation efforts only](#))

TU "Embrace-A-Stream" (St Croix Legend Ultra 8'6") Fly Rod 5 wt, 4 pc, 3.4oz: This rod includes the following features: High-modulus / high-strain SCIV graphite, slim profile ferrules, Fuji Alconite stripper guides with chrome frames, REC nickel silver reel seat with a stabilized bird's eye maple insert, Super-grade cork handle, includes a rugged rod case with a handle strap and a divided polypropylene liner. Made in the USA. Original MSRP \$330.00

Orvis Battenkill Disc III for line weights 5-7, 4.9 oz., 3 1/4" dia: Underneath that mid arbor is the same sealed drag system found in the Hydros SL incorporating six interacting carbon and stainless drag surfaces. Positive click drag is simple and easy to adjust. The reel is built of 6061-T6 aircraft aluminum with an ergonomic Delrin handle and changing from left to right hand retrieve is simple. Finish is black nickel. MSRP \$169.00

Sage Performance Taper II WF5F: Sage's Balanced Loading System to create a smooth-handling, high-floating line that provides enhanced line feel through your cast for greater distance, accuracy and consistency. Original MSRP \$65.00

Guided Half Day Trip for 1 or 2 Anglers (Eastern CT Waters) with Steve Babbitt: Please schedule trip ahead of time with Steve any time from April to June- September to December 1st. Value \$200.



Steve Babbitt is JT's Fly Shop in Union, CT resident guide and available for individual or group fly fishing trips and instruction. Steve has over 35 years of fly fishing experience and started guiding in the 90's and hasn't stopped. Steve has been tying for 30 years and many of those years were spent as a commercial tier.

If you are looking to get started or already have experience and looking to learn new techniques, Steve, will have the experience and knowledge necessary to make the most out of your time on the water.

Items for For Sale

Renzetti Traveler Pedestal Vise (non-cam) - missing bobbin cradle arm V/G cond. - \$80

Thompson "A" Vise - With original box & paperwork good cond. - \$18

Integra Vise - clamp type, good cond. - \$10

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

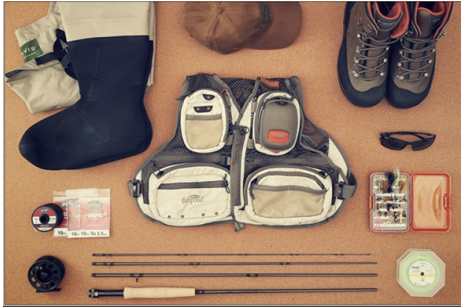
Umpqua Toketee Vest - New, never used, gray, one size fits all - \$65 (MSRP \$159)

Cabela's Bootfoot Neoprene Wader - No leaks, felt sole, size 11, mint cond. - **\$40 Special Price** (retail price over \$150)

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](#) 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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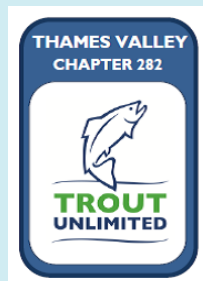


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About Us

TVTU Chapter's Mission

To conserve, protect and restore Eastern Connecticut's trout and salmon and their



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

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](#)

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

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