



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

March 2020



President's Message....

Greetings everyone!!

Spring is right around the corner and you know what that means – it's time to get fishing! While unfortunately I can't speak from experience, I'm hearing that fishing has been pretty good in at least some of the TMA's. Conditions couldn't be much better, so if you haven't already, it's time to dust off that gear and hit the water. Hopefully by the time you're reading this, I'll have taken my own advice and take advantage

of this unusually nice weather.

We have a couple of exciting events coming up in the next couple of months. On April 25th we'll be hosting an event with the Last Green Valley at the Quinnebaug Hatchery and on May 30th with Joshua's Trust at the Gurleyville Grist Mill. For each of these events we plan to have fly tying presentations, fly casting lessons possibly some fishing and more. On June 13th the CFFA is holding a "Women on the Water" fly fishing clinic on the Farmington River all CT chapters will be helping out. We are looking for volunteers to sign up early for all of these events so that we can plan early and ensure success. These events are always fun and rewarding so please jump in and join the fun. To sign up, contact Ray Schaefer, Charley McCaughtrey or me.

The Papermill Pond project fell a little behind schedule. We had planned to sign a contract by end of January but a couple changes and extra gates to get through have delayed that a bit. I'm expecting that we will get through that and be able to sign by the end of the month and get that work underway.

Tight Lines!
Gary Lussier
[email](#)

Thames Valley TU Chapter Meeting

Featuring Samantha Dennis

"Strategies for the Upper Delaware"

Tues. March 17th, 6 to 9pm

Samantha learned to fly fish on the freestone mountain streams of Vermont and the small rivers of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. While brook trout will always be her first love, the lure of big browns has drawn her to many locations, including a 23-day trip to Chilean Patagonia and a decade in the challenging spring creeks of the Midwest. However, it took just one epic day on the Upper Delaware to

Chapter Events

April 18th, 9:00 AM,
Yantic River Cleanup

April 21st, 6-9PM
Chapter Meeting
Franklin Firehouse
5 Tyler Drive
Franklin, CT
Tommy Barnowski -
"Bonefishing in the Bahamas"



hatch an obsession with the river and make it her specialty. While trout on a dry are her favorite, she loves stalking smallmouth and anything that will devour a streamer.

April 25th
Last Green Valley/TVTU
Family Fun Day @
Quinebaug Hatchery

May 16th, 9:00 AM
Fenton River Cleanup

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

May 26 & 27, 11:00 AM
Fly tying class at Eastford
School
**Contact Charley
McCaughtry email if you
would like to help**

May 30th, 9am - 2pm
Joshua's Trust/TVTU Family
Fun Day on the Fenton River

June 13th 8:30 am to 4 pm
Women on the Water
Matthies Grove - People's
State Forest, 106 East River
Road, Barkhamsted, CT

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 brief chapter business meeting at 7pm.

Fund Raising Table

This month's raffle will feature vintage fiberglass Phillipson Royal Rod 3 1/2 oz. 6wt, 7'6", Tackle Box, Cabela's Reel with a extra spool, fresh & saltwater flies, books, and other outdoor and fishing items.

Fly Tying Material

Sale: By request there will be a limited selection of fly tying material available for sale at the March meeting.

MARCH DOOR PRIZE

60 Spools Wooden Thread

Rack by June Tailor



SUPPORT TVTU CHAPTER TODAY



I was fishing the river just below the bridge with a buddy. We were catching fish on almost every other cast and having a great time. I noticed a funeral procession passing over the bridge. As the hearse passed, my friend stopped fishing, held his rod at attention, faced the highway, and held his hat over his heart. I felt obligated to do the same.

After the procession passed, my friend continued to cast and I commented that it was a very kind gesture of him to stop fishing and give respect to the dead.

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 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,

"Yeah, it's the least I could do," he said in the middle of a back cast. "After all, I was married to her for 47 years..."

exit 27. Go 6 miles north on Rt 32 and Tyler Drive is on your right. [Google Map](#)

*Cook a man a fish and you feed him for a day.
But teach a man to fish and you get rid of him
for the whole weekend.*

Fishing Spot of the Month



Note: The following article is from the DEEP's **CT Fishin' Tip** (NOV 2019) newsletter. Check out their archives or subscribe [LINK](#)

The **Naugatuck River "Campville Section"** is a hidden gem for those looking to get away from the crowds of the most popular fishing locations. The "Campville" section of the river begins at the Route 118 crossing in Harwinton and extends approximately 2.5 miles downstream into the Army Corps of Engineer's Thomaston Dam area. Continuous access is best upstream of Campville Road with a well established dirt path on either bank. The best way to fish this section is to walk 5-10 minutes upstream on the road and then fish

your way back down. The length of river has a series of deep pools, lengthy runs, and swift flowing riffles. A great way to spend an afternoon. To get to the Campville Bridge - take exit 41 off of Route 8. Head downhill from the exit ramp. The bridge over the river is about 3/4 of a mile from the exit ramp.



TVTU Fly Tying Class 2020 "Fish Connection"

by John Preston

Our fly tying course at The Fish Connection this year started January 11th and met for seven sessions on Saturday mornings (9:30 -11:30 am). Bob Walsh, John Preston, Patrick McMahon and Jack Balint all contributed and shared their talents to instruct about 8 to 12 students per session on the Anglers Art... fly tying. A special shoutout for Phil "Lefty" Sands who came in from the bullpen one session to help our left-handed novice student. Our classes are open to the public and members in which all materials and tools (if needed) are supplied at no cost.



First a couple of true novices needed to get up to speed by covering the following flies and subjects: three primary fly tying methods (jam knot, pinch



This year we incorporated a webcam, laptop, videos and a 32" flat screen so that students could better see and follow the instructors as they tied.

In addition, we now have 20 complete fly tying tool kits (bobbin, thread, bodkin/half hitch tool, whip finisher, scissor, hair stacker, hackle plier & threader) and many more vises available for those who don't have equipment. This is all due to the many generous donations of new and used equipment and materials from our chapter members.



method & whip finish), essential tools, Woolley Worm and Woolley Bugger.

Over the next 6 sessions we covered the following flies: Black Nosed Dace, Zebra Nymph, Three Dollar Dip, Double Wing Rusty Spinner, Sunken Ant, Ant (dry fly), Chernobyl Ant, Klinkhamer Special, Prince nymph, Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle, Pheasant Tail Bead-head Nymph, McFly Foam Egg, PMD Foam Emerger, Catskill Hendrickson dry fly, Flick Red Quill dry fly, X2 Caddis, Cased Caddis, Frenchie Hot Spot nymph, Spent Caddis, Clouser Minnow and Lefty's Deceiver. Many of the flies (type or patterns) taught were chosen by the students.

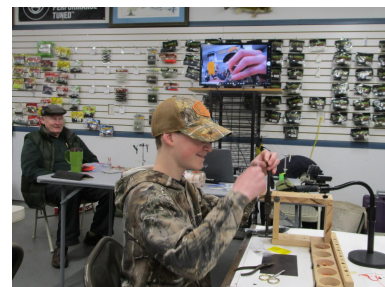


In advance of each class, students were provided various videos and/or step by step instructions and supporting information to help prepare them for the following week's class. In addition, the students were given an information sheet and online resources to help them learn/practice on their own pace.



A special **"Thank You"** to Jack Balint of The Fish Connection for providing an area to conduct the classes and the use of his tools & materials when we needed.

Visit our [website](#) for more photos...



TVTU Fly Tying Class 2020 "Ledyard Bill Library"

by John Preston

Bob Walsh and John Preston conducted a "Fly Tying for Everyone" course at the Ledyard Bill

Library. The class met four Saturdays 1:30 - 3:30pm starting January 18th. The class was limited to 12 students but we opened up two extra seats because the demand was remarkable. In fact, TVTU is scheduled to hold another class at the Bill Library in the fall (OCT/NOV). We were able to handle the larger class because of the following volunteers who assisted the students who needed individual help: Gary Lussier, Ray Schaefer, Charley McCaughtry, Ken Boroughs, John Pallof and Gordon Gruetzmacher.



Participants learned about the basic tools and techniques needed to successfully tie flies. Patterns were selected that would be easier for beginners and that covered key fundamental skills for tying most flies in the future. For each class the students usually tied 2 different patterns depending on complexity and participant skills. No prior tying experience was required and subsequent classes would build on skills learned in prior classes. Students were welcome to bring their own tying tools if they have them, but all required tools and materials will be provided by Thames Valley Trout Unlimited.



Flies covered were the: Wooley Worm, Wooley Bugger, Peacock & Partridge spider, Bead Head Pheasant Tail Nymph, Black Nosed Dace, McFoam Egg and Hares Ear nymph.



The class was very attentive and enjoyable group. As you can see from the photos, we had an enthusiastic turnout. In fact, a few of the students attended our February Flies & Pies chapter meeting and our last two tying sessions at the Fish Connection.



A special "Thank You" to Librarian Lisa Murno and the entire [Bill Library](#) staff for their support and for the TVTU, fly tying and fly fishing book promotion display. For more photos visit our [website](#).



Fly Of the Month "Improved Sparkle Dun"

by John Preston

The Sparkle Dun is an outstandingly simple adult mayfly pattern developed by Craig Mathews of Blue Ribbon Fly Shop. A Sparkle Dun is a very effective fly and like all sparkle duns it imitates an emerging or

crippled mayfly. The "Improved" version eliminates a dubbed body to better imitate an emerging/crippled mayfly and adds a zelon back wing that provides more visibility and flotation. This fly can be the difference for success or frustration when trout are highly selective.

By changing the size and color of the pattern, it is easy to imitate many kinds of mayflies. A regular dry fly hook can be used vice a curved emerger hook.

The Baetis (BWO) and PMD versions are always on standby in the fly box when trout are keying in on the emerger during a hatch. Tie one on...



Recipe: Baetis (BWO) Improved Sparkle Dun

Hook: Emerger hook size 18 -22

Thread: Olive 6/0 Danville; 8/0 Uni

Wing: Dun-colored deer hair

Shuck/Back Wing: Medium Gray Straight or Crinkled Zelon

Abdomen: Tying thread

Thorax: Gray-olive dubbing



Video by Craig Matthews (Blue Ribbon Fly Shop)



Recipe: PMD Improved Sparkle Dun

Hook: Dry Fly hook size 14 -18

Thread: Brown or Olive 6/0 Danville; 8/0 Uni

Wing: Light Tan or Lt. Gray deer hair

Shuck/Back Wing: Brown Straight or Crinkled Zelon

Abdomen: Tying thread (open spaced)

Thorax: Yellow-Olive or Yellow-Orange dubbing

Instructions: Keep the abdomen thin with a pronounced thorax. The thread for the abdomen can be wrapped with touching turns or open spaces (to reveal some of the color of the shuck). The shuck is optional on size 20 or smaller. **Important Tip:** To stabilize and stand up the wing tie it back in thirds (see video).

Testament of a Fisherman

"I fish because I love to; because I love the environs that trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly; because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties and assorted social posturing I thus escape; because, in a world where most men spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is at once an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion; because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and humility and endless patience; because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip; because mercifully there are no telephones on fishing waters; because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness; because bourbon out of an old tin cup tastes better out there; because maybe someday I will catch a mermaid; and, finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many other concerns of men are equally unimportant -

- and not nearly so much fun"

~Robert Traver. 1964



SAVE THE DATE: Women on the Water SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Matthies Grove - People's State Forest, 106 East River Road, Barkhamsted, CT

A ONE DAY FLY FISHING CLINIC FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS AGE 12 AND UP

Workshops – For Novice and Advanced Anglers

Fly Fishing — from equipment to conservation and entomology, to casting and fly tying to knots safety and more.

\$20 for women, \$10 for ages 12 to 18 (Note: Girls 12 to 17 must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian)

- Includes Box Lunch and Refreshments
- Learn the Ins and Outs of Fly Fishing from experienced instructors representing a cross section of Connecticut's fly fishing and conservation organizations.
- Proceeds will be donated to Casting for Recovery, a nonprofit that helps women recover physically and emotionally from breast cancer through fly fishing.

Participating Organizations:

Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association, Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited, Connecticut Trout Unlimited Council, Housatonic Fly Fisherman's Association, Casting for Recovery, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Fisheries Division, Sisters on the Fly

Contact: 2020womenfishing@gmail.com for more info

Items for Sale

HMH Spartan Vise w/ Omni and Micro jaws -Mint condition - \$199 SALE (MSRP \$299)

Cabela's MTX 9' 6wt 4pc Fly Rod w/ graphite tube - Mint condition - \$165 SALE \$150 (MSRP \$400)

LL Bean Travel Fly Rod - 9', 7wt, 6pcw/ tube & bag, near excellent condition - \$75 SALE \$60

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

Korkers Wading Boot -New Old Stock, Size11 w/ walking/hiking sole only - \$35 SALE \$20

Umpqua Toketee Vest - New, never used, gray, one size fits all - \$65 SALE \$50 (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](mailto:John.Preston@connecticutflyfishing.org)



"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

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](#)



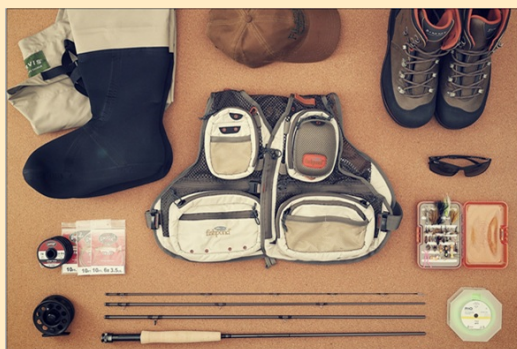
Fly Tying Coordinator Needed

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 class 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

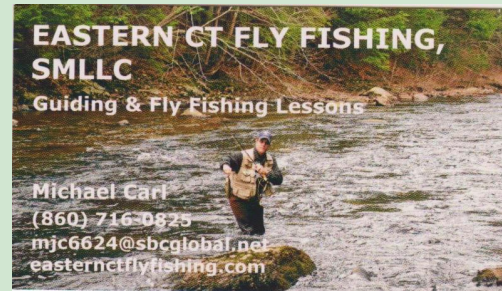
Donations Wanted



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



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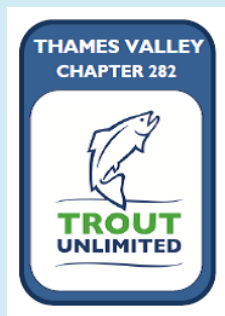
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About Us

TVTU Chapter's Mission

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

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Visit Our [Thames Valley TU Chapter 282 Website](#)