



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

November 2019



Presidents Message....

This month, we have some great news to report. Thames Valley TU has been awarded a grant for the design of a fish passage at the Papermill Pond Dam in Sprague. This will be the first phase of a multi-phase/multi-year project that when complete will reconnect 2.75 miles of river migratory habitat and 60 acres of spawning habitat for diadromous fish species which has been inaccessible for over 150 years.

This initial phase of the project will include an engineering alternatives analysis, fish way design to 65%, and the development of drawings required for permitting. Once all phases are complete, this project will restore aquatic connectivity to spawning and nursery habitat for alewife, blue-black herring, American shad, and sea-run brown trout. Secondary species which may also benefit from this project include brook trout and American eel. Neal Hagstrom has identified wild brook trout downstream of the dam.

This project has been made possible by the crucial support of our partners: US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Town of Sprague.

Phase I (2019-2020)

1. Engineering alternatives analysis
2. Fish way design to 65 %
3. Development of drawings required for permitting

Phase II (2021 – 2022 anticipated)

1. Obtain all required permits
2. Detailed site construction analysis
3. Development of final construction drawings

Phase III (TBD)

1. Construction (performed by independent entity e.g. Town of Sprague)

Phase IV

1. Ongoing Support and Maintenance

This will be a great achievement for our chapter and we look forward to seeing this through to the completion of the passage. I'd like to recognize and thank Sal DeCarli for all of his time and work to get us to this significant milestone.

Tight Lines!

Gary Lussier

[email](#)

Don't Forget We Have a new Meeting Place



Starting with the September 17th chapter meeting, our meeting location will be at the Franklin Firehouse on 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.

The Franklin Firehouse in Franklin is located just north of Route 2, exit 27.

Go 6 miles north on Rt 32 and Tyler Drive is on your right

Write a message that is brief, friendly, and to the point. If readers need to know more than you can fit here, add a link to an outside resource that covers the rest. Lastly, make sure the accompanying image matches the topic.

[Google Map to Franklin Firehouse](#)

Chapter Meeting Tues., November 19th, 6 to 9pm Featured Presentation by: Gary Bogli "Fishing the Kanektok River"



Gary Bogli is a retired middle school teacher. He has been an avid fly fisherman for 60 years and former president of CFFA. Gary has had the good fortune to fish in Labrador twice, parts of Canada, Argentina and parts of the United

States. He still enjoys the wonderful fishing in Connecticut.

In August 2017 Irv Stanley invited me to join him in Alaska at Reel Action Lodge on the Kanaktok River. Twelve to fifteen pound silver salmon were abundant along with rainbows, Dolly Vardens, sockeye and chum. Come along and vicariously take a trip of a lifetime.

Raffle Table

Our Raffle will feature a rod rack, flies and much more.

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 a short chapter business meeting at 7pm.

Chapter Events

**Nov 19th, 6-9pm
Chapter Meeting**
Franklin Firehouse
5 Tyler Drive, Franklin, CT
Gary Bogli - "Fishing the Kanektok River in Alaska"

**Dec 17th, 6-9pm
Chapter Meeting**
Franklin Firehouse
5 Tyler Drive, Franklin, CT
Neal Hagstrom

**Jan 21st, 6-9pm
Chapter Meeting**
Franklin Firehouse
5 Tyler Drive, Franklin, CT
Michael Brucato - "Tying and Fishing Wet Flies"

**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"

October Meeting Wrap-up



The keynote speaker, Steve Culton, presented a “soups to nuts” perspective of fishing the Farmington River.

Steve is a Connecticut fly fishing guide and instructor, fly tyer, and freelance writer. His work has appeared in Field & Stream, American Angler, The Flyfish Journal, The Drake, Flyfishing & Tying Journal, Eastern Fly Fishing, Fly Rod & Reel Online, and the Mid Atlantic FlyFishing Guide. He also maintains a blog on his webbsite currentseams.com

Steve’s presentation started with the physical aspects of the river starting at the Goodwin Dam and down to the MDC area and the two large TMA’s and their particular regulations.

Various seasonal fishing techniques and the river’s ability to provide quality water conditions for sustaining trout population were key topics.

In summary, Steve’s message is ‘the river is full of fish, but you have to go find them!’

Thank you Thames Valley TU! Individual members awarded Legion of Cheeseburger Merit with Double IPA Clusters and the Croix d’Cigar, plus the question of the night

From Steve Culton

Many thanks to the Thames Valley TU Chapter for hosting me last night. The meeting was very well attended, and I was pleased to see so many familiar faces (I even remembered some of the names!) I opened with a reading from my recent EFF article on the Farmington River, then it was on to the new and improved presentation. Good stuff.

Special mention to TVTU member and long-time <https://currentseams.com/> follower Alton Blodgett who treated me to a great burger and beer at the Willimantic Brewing Company. A fed presenter is a happy presenter! Thanks also to the kind gentleman (rats, I forgot your name, good sir) who gifted me the lovely Casa Fernandez toro.



The question of the evening centered around proper catch and release technique. Here's the gist of my long-form answer: it starts with barbless hooks and a net made of fish-friendly material (not that old knotted nylon garbage). The less you handle the fish, the better. The less you expose the fish to air, the better. If you're going to take a photo, make it fish friendly. Either keep the trout in the water, as I'm doing here...

...or make your hero shot photo op brief. Get your camera ready, and if you're flying solo, program it to take multiple shots automatically. Here's a good example of not keeping the fish out of the river for too long. Note the water droplets cascading off the fish -- it's literally been out of the water for less than 5 seconds. I shot it with a GoPro attached to my landing net.

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,



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](#)

Do You Have an Extra Fly Tying Vise?

The fly tying classes have been very popular lately. If you have any spare vises or tools, please contact Charley McCaughtry [email](#). Also contact Charley if you would like to help with some of the classes. There are a couple coming up soon.



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



"Fishing with Old Friends Watching Over You"

by John Springer

In September my friend Kevin Fuller AKA: Panther Martin fished the Connecticut River in Pittsfield New Hampshire for 4 days. I knew it was going to be a good trip when

We then drove to another spot hiked in and he told me to fish my streamer much different than I am use to. And on the first cast I got and landed the fish of the trip. He said it was the biggest one



to surprise him I stopped in New Hampshire where booze is cheaper and got us a bottle of Vodka and snacks and when we met at Tall Timber, He had the same to surprise me! We could have sat out in the deck chairs and looked at the lake for 4 days and just drank and saved on a guide and licenses. We had a few hours of daylight so we went to Panther's favorite pool and fished.



he has seen caught this season! Then I said yeah this is the kinda fish I got with Angus, I thought he would hit me. But seriously it was a great moment I never got one this size. As an aside 2 days later on a nymph I caught one just like it and while Panther was taking pictures of me and I stuck out the net, I lost it. But I still give credit to my guide as we were using his flies as well as places he showed us. As I said the day was 9 hours of kidding around, good fishing, and learning new things from a wonderful guide.



Years ago one of Connecticut Fly Fishermen's past presidents gave me some flies to copy that he had success with at Grand Lake Stream for Landlocked Salmon.

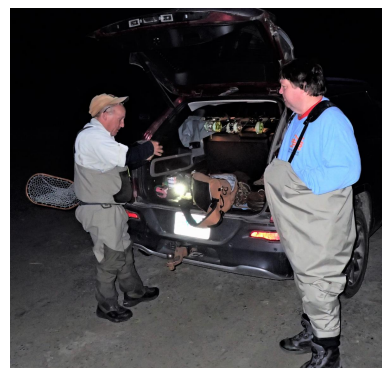
Charlie Place was that kinda guy, shared what he knew just because he liked you. Those of you that knew him know what I mean. So I had my box of flies for landlocked fishing and took out one of Charlies favorite patterns it's a simple tie really and to be honest I did not have much faith in it. Everyone uses streamers and perhaps the Maple Syrup this was a nymph. Who knew but the next day with our guide Chuck when I requested I wanted to learn nymph fishing for these fish he showed us even more of them. I put Charlies fly on wham, fish on! I got salmon! Now one fish does not make a proven pattern as we all know, so when I caught another fish I knew Charlie was watching behind me and I called Panther over and gave him one. And once again, Charlies fly worked. When we packed it in after that as it was getting late I told Panther about Charlie. Next day we met our guide at 6 AM, it's still dark and you must get up at 5 to do this but it's worth it.



Chuck was right on time and worked on our rods and we explained what we wanted to do again so as to not have any misunderstandings. You see



The day before when we met Chuck in the Parking lot I mentioned we had vodka and cranberry could he bring some ice as we had no way to carry it. When we

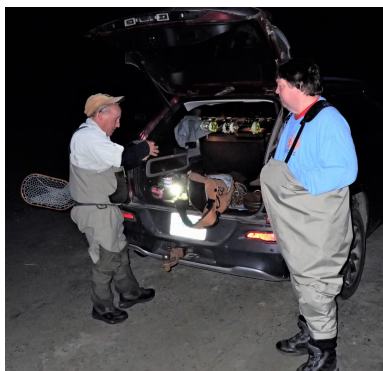


were all done for the day out came 2 glasses and ice for our drinks, Chuck did not have any vodka with us but he made sure we could have a cold drink when we were done. We fished 2 more days caught fish but not as many as with Chuck but then I have learned that in my case that happens. But we did learn and will carry this with us on future trips. On my last day we got up early fished a few hours I caught a Brown something I have not caught up there. Panther noticed hoppers on his legs when we were suiting up and jokingly said we should fish hoppers. To be honest I have never caught a fish on a hopper here in the east only in Montana. While fishing I remembered Chuck saying he had Panther use a dry dropper he even gave me one that I lost before I used it. So I tied on a hopper with a nymph dropper and caught 3 fish 2 were on the hopper, one on the nymph. Panther was swinging wets below me caught some fish and we walked back to the cars said good byes and went our separate ways.

When you give some thought to your fishing if you're as lucky as me several big factors come into play as to

Panther has been fishing many years with another guide Angus Bozeman who is great and much fun, but we wanted to learn new spots as well as new techniques. Before we headed into the woods and when you fish up there you are always heading into the woods I asked him if we would be bothered by mosquitos and he said no. I was in the water 5 minutes and I got bit on my hand, I let him know

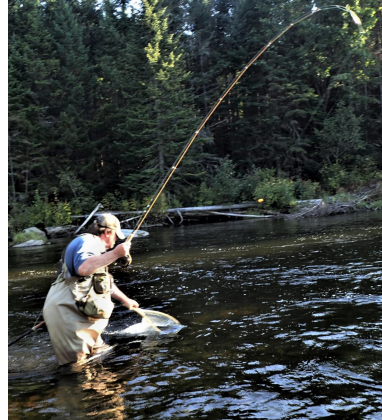
he was wrong, you always want to get off on the right foot with you guide at 6:20 AM. I caught my first fish about 10 minutes later and the day went into high gear. Lots of laughing and ball busting nonstop is how I would describe it.



Chuck took us to several places then it was time to eat. He put out a big spread on the tailgate, I whined a bit when I had to make my own sandwich just to let him know I noticed everything. But then he pulled out the home made brownies to shut me up.

why you might be enjoying yourself. In this case it was a good friend Terp who passed away many years ago, Charlie Place who I met in CFFA, a good fishing guide and my friend Kevin who I enjoy fishing

with. My old friend Terp use to tell me when I was all excited and ready to fish 4 minutes after we shut the car off at the river and he saw me all antsy because he being much older use to take his time. Johnny he would say I've already caught all the fish when I go fishing it's to meet some people have a few laughs perhaps a nice meal and a drink and catch a few fish you go and fish I'll get there. I did not want him to think I was trying to get to the river first but he assured me it was fine. You see most of the time he knew the best spot to fish and I was just learning so it made no difference anyway. I learned a great deal from him. He would be proud and smiling at me about now.



"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 or John Preston 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 or Ron Bettez (Veterans Program) rfb.c141@gmail.com .

Thank You For Your Support



Fly Of the Month "(Western) Green Drake Foam Emerger"

by John Preston

The inspiration for this month's fly comes from my trip this summer to the Harriman's Ranch section of the Henry's Fork. I went early mid-June (17th) in hopes of hitting the PMD and Green Drake hatch but the weather was cool, wet & windy most of the first (and planned) 6 days there. I heard the Green Drake hatch was going gangbusters in the lower sections of Henry's Fork but not at the Ranch (I'll plan to learn more about the lower section for the next year). The PMD's were sporadic and they didn't last very long. One time the PMD hatch lasted less than an hour... they usually last HOURS. And when the wind is blowing your fly line out like a flag it is tough but even tougher when it's cold & wet. Caught some rainbows with PMDs and caddis but nothing write about.

But I didn't drive that far not to experience the Green Drake hatch and go away with nothing. So I stayed 5 more days in hopes the weather would change.... and it did! The skies turned sunny, the temps rose about 10-15 degrees, the wind was much more manageable, AND the Green Drakes arrived on June 24th!

My usual experience with Green Drakes is with the spinner fall on the Yellowstone River in the park late July/early August (which was good this year). Stalking 20 inch cutts sipping on #12 spinners is a hoot. But I actually never experienced a full blown Green Drake hatch on the Yellowstone. I always wonder where & when do they hatch there and I have been going there for many years.



In preparation for this trip to Idaho I read a couple books... **"Spring Creeks" by Mike Lawson** and **"Fly Fishing the Harriman Ranch" by John McDaniel**. What caught my attention was both books (good reads by the way) mentioned that the emerger pattern was very effective, especially during beginning days of the Green Drake hatch... and they were spot on!

The week before going to the Henry's Fork I stopped my favorite fly shop Blue Ribbon Flies and armed myself with a few more Green Drake foam emergers to supplement my stash of flies that I had tied.

Seeing all those big struggling duns tempted me... so being a dry fly guy I had to try some Green Drake sparkle duns but the bows had no interest in them. Well, long story short, during the next few days the emergers were the bomb... I love this hatch because you don't need magnifiers to attach the tippet through the hook eye and you don't need binoculars to find the fly on the stream after a cast.

The YouTube video below by **Blue Ribbon Flies' Aaron Freed** is for the Drake Mackerel which is tannish but change the color to match the Green Drake. In fact, use smaller hooks, it is a killer PMD and Baetis (BWO) emerger pattern too.

The Drake Mackerel is also known as Green Drakes in the Lamar Valley waters (Slough, Lamar & Soda Butte). They are related but a separate species and hatches mid-AUG to OCT. See pattern material list at end of video.



Green Drake Foam Emerger Recipe

Shuck: Mayfly Brown Zelon

Hook: Size 10-12 dry fly

Thread: Olive or brown

Body: Olive or Olive Green dubbing

Rib: Yellow floss or Yellow rod winding thread

Wing Case: Evazote Grey Foam

Hackle: Grizzly dyed olive saddle hackle



"Never leave fish to find fish."

~Moses 1200BC



Bonus: Green Drake Flymph - Here is a soft hackle fly that also imitates an emerging Green Drake that you might want try when the fish are taking just under the surface.

Green Drake Flymph Recipe:

Hook: #8-10 dry fly or a wet fly hook to fish a bit deeper

Thread: Olive thread of your choice

Hackle: Golden olive grizzly

Tail: Lemon Wood Duck flank feather

Rib: Yellow floss, doubled & twisted

Body and Thorax: Dark olive hares mask. Thorax dubbed over the floss rib; and, (optional) a bit of light olive dubbing behind the hackle collar.

Items for Sale

Cabela's MTX 9' 5wt 4pc Fly Rod w/ graphite tube - Mint condition - \$165 (MSRP \$400)

Cabela's MTX 9' 6wt 4pc Fly Rod w/ graphite tube - Mint condition - \$160 Dry (MSRP \$400)

Korkers Wading Boot - New Old Stock, Size 11 w/ walking/hiking sole only - ~~\$35~~ **SALE \$25**

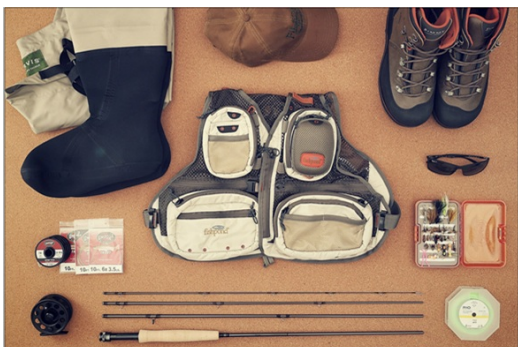
LL Bean Travel Fly Rod - 9', 7wt, 6pc w/ tube & bag, near mint condition - ~~\$75~~ **SALE \$70**

Umpqua Toketee Vest - New, never used, gray, one size fits all - ~~\$65~~ **SALE \$55** (MSRP \$159)

Bamboo Rod Oven (homemade) - The heat gun (not included) oven is **FREE** for the cane rod maker who will pass it on **FREE** to the next rod maker.

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

Donations Wanted



You can help our TU chapter by donating your unused fly fishing and fishing equipment including rods, reels, flies, books, fly tying and other reusable items. We will auction or raffle the items off and used the money raised to support our chapter's programs including conservation projects, stream clean up, stocking, TIC, speaker fees, and other operating expenses. Email [John Preston](#) or call 860-546-6690 if you have something to donate or bring the item(s) to the next chapter meeting.

Thank You... for your generosity and support.

Thames Valley TU Chapter 282 - PO Box 2181, Columbia, CT 06237

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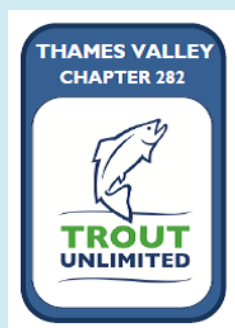
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About Us

TVTU Chapter's Mission

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

Our Vision

By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild cold-water fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.

Questions or comments on the Newsletter
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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