



Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

October 2019



Presidents Message....

Fall is here. The rivers have definitely cooled down nicely although the water levels are still pretty low. DEEP has been out stocking the rivers and the fishing should be pretty good. You'll need to find the deeper pools where the fish most likely be holding. Even if they are in skinny water, they'll be easily spooked. Hopefully, rains forecast this week will bring water levels up and fishing might get better. DEEP has stocked the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers with brood stock

salmon. Make sure you're aware of the special regulations for fishing these areas.

Last weekend we had our fishing/camping trip at the Housatonic Meadows Campground. While the turnout was a little smaller than we had hoped for, I think all those that did make it had a great time. The weather was perfect even if a bit cool and the fishing were pretty good. As always, Duke put on a great meal featuring grilled chicken and potato salad. The only problem I had was pushing away from the table and getting back on the water and resisting the urge to take a nice nap. Not to be outdone, Jim treated us to sirloin roast cooked on his campfire rotisserie, complete with fresh made coleslaw and sourdough bread. And finally with Dan's chili to round out the meals, nobody went hungry this weekend.

Be sure to read the article in this newsletter about the issues with solar farm installations in the area. It was co-authored by one of our own members, John Jasper who has been following this issue for a while and has a passion to do something to address this. John plans to be at our next meeting and will give a little more first-hand insight into this environmental threat.

We put out a bulletin last week about the information sessions being put on by the DEEP to get input on the trout and salmon programs in the state. This is a great opportunity to learn more of their programs and challenges as well voice your concerns and offer your input. There are multiple dates and I would suggest you take advantage of the opportunity.

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](#)



Did You Miss the September Meeting?

Bill Keister Described the Ins and Outs of Fishing in Chile



Have you ever wanted to fish Chile?

Bill has been to Coyhaique Chile 7 times. Bill described the area, the rivers, self-guiding, local guides, river access, language, local transportation, getting to Patagonia, lodging and high end lodge combinations.

By the time Bill concluded his presentation, all the attendees felt they could make a trip to Chile as easily as going out to Merrick Brook.

Also, we should never fail to mention the great turnout of fly tyers and the top drawer raffle.



Question.

What is the difference between a hunter and a

fisherman?

Answer. A hunter lies in wait, and a fisherman waits and lies.



Chapter Meeting Tues., October 15th, 6 to 9pm

Featured Presentation by: Steve Colton

"West Branch of the Farmington"



Please join us at the Oct 15 membership meeting for a presentation by Steve Colton on the "WEST BRANCH OF THE FARMINGTON RIVER".

We are truly fortunate to have one of the finest trout streams in the northeast here in Connecticut. There's something for everyone on the Farmington: classic dry fly pools. Mysterious pockets for nymphing. Spirited runs to swing wets and streamers. A classic tailwater, the Farmington fishes well year round, and offers anglers an opportunity to catch stocked as well as holdover and stream-born wild trout.

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 Fly Fishing Guide*. He also maintains a blog on his website "Currentseams".

Special Annual Meeting Sale!

Our Fund Raising Committee will be conducting a Special "Annual Meeting" SALE. Up to 25% Off items that we sell at our OCT 15 Annual Meeting.... Items included TU hats, TVTU fly boxes, TVTU hand tied leaders, books, fishing accessories and more. See some examples in the "Items for Sale" section below.

In addition our Raffle will feature a Cortland CL Fly Rod 9' 8/9 wt, 6 pc w/bag & tube, Fly Shack Premium Fly Line 4wt, TU "Trout Tips" book, 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.

Solar Installations Threaten Trout Streams

The following article is an op-ed that was published in *The New London Day* on 9/22 and co-authored by chapter member – John Jasper and Save-the-River/Save-the-Hills VP, Deb Moshier-Dunn. It raises serious concerns about solar farm installations in our river valleys and their adverse impact to the environment and to our waterways in particular.

Note: When the editorial was published, The Day chose to make two changes to what is published here without consulting the authors:

The title was changed to: “Revival of Waterford solar plan reason for concern” from “Solar Array Construction in the Niantic River Watershed – Turning Native Trout Streams into Drainage Ditches..”

The severe erosion pictures were replaced with a much less ominous picture of a solar panels installation.



The current proposal is to install 55,000 solar panels on approximately 90 acres of hilly terrain off Oil Mill Road in Waterford, Connecticut. Installing a solar array of this size on the hilly terrain between two streams that currently support native brown and brook trout is irresponsible development. The developer already has a record of destroying a tributary to the Niantic River in East Lyme (see photo of East Lyme watershed above) resulting in a lawsuit against the developer by downstream landowners. Looking at the photographs of the devastation after sequential two-inch rain events on the Walnut Hill Road solar installation gives a daunting forecast for the proposed Waterford site which is three times the size (*viz.*, approximately 90 acres). The CSC wisely denied the developer's petition to develop the Waterford site because it felt the project would adversely affect the environment. The hardscape of such a large array would very likely cause huge amounts of runoff on both sides of the property and the runoff needs to be treated like it would for any other large building. These are not "solar fields", they are industrial structures made of glass, metal and concrete which are installed on

soil that has been physically compacted during the installation process. As seen in at the East Lyme site, these ground-mounted solar arrays have a record of destroying water quality around them. The stormwater systems in the solar installations in East Lyme were inadequate to handle the actual volume of runoff generated. The proposed site in Waterford uses the same faulty engineering and will likely cause similar issues – on a scale three times larger than the one in East Lyme, adversely affecting two different native-trout-stream tributaries to the Niantic River. The Waterford site is a mere 4,000 feet from the Niantic River. There is no margin for error for proper stormwater mitigation. The river will suffer if this project goes forward

In 2014, the design of the solar array installation in East Lyme involved marked earth disturbance over an approximately 30-acre area. Topsoil was stripped and removed from the site and does not appear to have been replaced after mass grading was performed. Site disturbance compacted the native soils to such a degree that rainfall even from the grassed areas runs off and does not infiltrate into the soil. The engineering design incorrectly considered the solar panels in the array to be “pervious” and thus grossly underestimated the volume of runoff generated from the site. Even after completion, increased runoff volumes continue to cause adverse impacts to the stream channel morphology on the unnamed brook which runs into Cranberry Meadow Brook and ultimately the Niantic River. These same issues existed in a ground-mounted solar installation in Pomfret which has resulted in the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) fining the developer \$575,000 for non-compliance with the DEEP General Permit and the resulting destruction to wetlands by “sediments from the Site going off-site and blanketing thousands of square feet of adjoining wetlands...” (*viz.*, CSC Consent Order COWRSW18003). A much smaller proposed solar installation in Killingworth was totally denied approval this past May with the CSC citing water quality issues as the main reason for denial. Current engineering standards used for ground-mounted solar are inadequate here because they are based on the incorrect assumption that the solar arrays are on liquid pervious sites. In most cases, however, they are not. The construction of ground-mounted solar arrays creates an *impervious* site and should be required to have Low Impact Development (LID) engineering to protect the surrounding wetlands and water courses. And it should not be allowed at all in a core forest surrounded by trout streams.



Also, cutting 90 acres of core forest to install 55,000 solar panels - thus replacing nature's free carbon recycling and storage with hardscape, metal and glass - does NOT result in a net decrease in carbon emissions in New England. The conversion of active cropland, farm meadow, and forests to a solar array is environmentally irresponsible as these green areas are very effective carbon sinks. The vegetation takes in carbon dioxide to grow and release oxygen to the air. Carbon is sequestered in the woody material and in the soil in these areas and remain there unless disturbed for decades to millennia. In 2017 the Connecticut State

Legislature passed a law that effectively bans cutting core forest to put in solar arrays. PA 17-218—SB 943 states: “The act requires the DEEP commissioner, when considering proposals received after July 1, 2017 in response to certain energy-related solicitations, to consider (1) their environmental impact, including the impact on prime farmland and core forests, and (2) the reuse of sites with limited development opportunities, such as brownfields and landfills.” Unfortunately for the Waterford forest, the developer

petitioned the CSC on a request for proposal that was applied for prior to the new law. That is the only reason this proposal to cut down a core forest has been allowed to continue. We recommend that it be stopped.

While the installation of solar arrays has a seemingly appealing environmental and certainly federal-tax abatement appeal, each solar panel only converts only about 26% of the sun's energy into power every year, with this efficiency decreasing by roughly 0.5% per year. Additionally, when the lack of sunny days in Connecticut is accounted for on a yearly basis, the power generated by one of these large arrays is only 22% of the stated power output. Finally, there is currently no present method for the recycling of solar panels. Panels, with all their toxic materials, simply end up in landfills.

Brook and brown trout populations are on the decline in Connecticut because of habitat destruction such as siltation caused by solar field installation. Let's protect those we have left and not turn them into drainage ditches. Let's be Smart about Solar and put solar panels where they belong - on already developed property like a large warehouse rooftop or even a landfill that's been properly capped. Let's keep the forests surrounding our rivers thriving so we can keep our rivers clean. #SmartSolar

Deb Moshier-Dunn is the Vice President of Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc. John P. Jasper is a Board Member of the Niantic River Watershed Committee, and a member of both the Nitrogen Work Group and Thames Valley Trout Unlimited. Neither John Jasper nor DMD has any conflict with the solar industry.



Veterans Service Partnership

by Ron Bettez

I have been working with the **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing** (PHWFF) organization to have TVTU 282 become a participating member. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

If you attended the September meeting, you know I asked for a show of hands of members who would be willing to volunteer about 2 hours a month to help veterans with fly tying and fishing. The number of hands that went up was heartwarming.

PHWFF is unique in that our volunteers are teaching classes on an on-going, long term basis. It is much more than a one day fishing trip. For many participants, the socialization and camaraderie of the classes are just as important as the fishing outings.

I hope to have a more comprehensive update on this by our next meeting.

Also, I would like to develop a list of veterans in our chapter. If you are a veteran, please [email](#) me the years you served and what branch in which you served.

Fishing the Housatonic #1 - The Sand Hole

by George Jacobi



It's a long ride from eastern Connecticut to the northwestern corner of the state. Most members of Thames Valley TU will do it rarely, but if you go, check out this pool. Next fall when our Chapter camps there again, you'll be a little more prepared. Only a half mile upstream from the Cornwall Rt. 4 bridge, Rt. 7 swings around a bend, hard by the river. Yes, if you fish here, you may find yourself in a leaf peeper photograph. My old friend Pete actually appears on a postcard.

I'll hit a few more Housatonic pools in newsletters through this winter. Come along and camp next year. This can be the best trout fishing Connecticut has to offer. (And don't tell those northwestern CT guys that I'm sharing this.) Now on natural flow, the Housatonic can be a handful. It usually doesn't drop to a fishable level until June, and thermal refuges go into effect on June 15th. One spring runs under the road here at the Sand Hole. Don't make that long ride for naught unless

you want to catch smallmouth. That's why I concentrate on the autumn.



John Preston lands one!



George DeGray at the Sand Hole

September brings caddis in the mornings and evenings, #28 Blue-winged Olives in the afternoon, and a selection of greenish or orange "Sulphurs" in the evenings (#16-#20). In the gradually cooler evenings in October activity shuts down, but occasional "October Caddis" can hatch off and on all day, a reasonably sized #12 orange insect. So: In the morning swing a Pheasant Tail Nymph or wet fly, maybe something with peacock herl; although you see rises, the trout are nailing the caddis nymphs below the surface and the rise is from momentum, not surface feeding. By 12 or 1, there are enough BWOs for the trout to key on. Caddis and wet fly fishing is mostly done. Switch to a BWO emerger, as tiny as you can stand to fish, quartering downstream if possible. (see George DeGray photo) Pound on the fish from close by, switching from one riser to another often. They don't spook easy. This hatch can be a blanket for 6 hours, and trout relentlessly rise without fear. (If that's out of your comfort zone, prospect the bottom with a streamer or stonefly nymph.)

Much of the Sand Hole actually is sand, so it's one of the easiest places on the Housy to wade; you usually begin upstream from the deep channel, cross to the middle, drop down and fish back toward the road. You can also climb down the rip-rap bank and fish out into the slot, what we used to call "The Well" (see "Trout" magazine, Fall 2016.) That wading, even the little of it you need to do, is more challenging. Don't try the Housy without a wading staff, and the comfort level for anybody but tall gymnasts is 400 CFS or less. In the fall, it runs at 150-200 CFS and crystal clear. Perfect.

There is room for 5-6 anglers to work the run near the road from either side. When the hatch is on, expect to see several large pods of visibly rising fish, including some 16 inches or longer. Exciting.



The rest of the pool holds fewer fish, more in the lower end. Good dry fly fishing continues into November on still days in the 50s. The local eagles and ospreys find the Sand Hole a good spot as well.

**See you there,
George**

Stocking Coordinator Volunteer Needed

The chapter still needs a volunteer for the position of Stocking Coordinator.

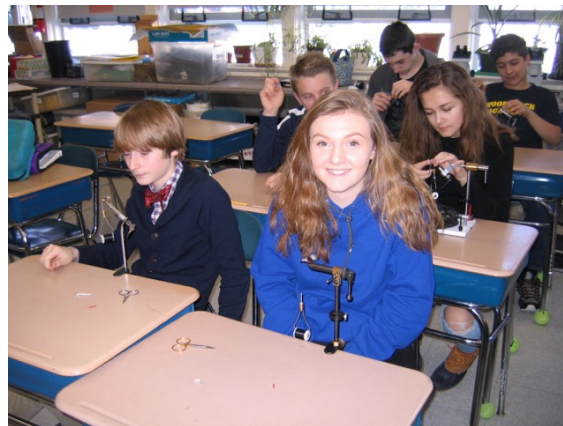


The position entails working with the hatchery management to schedule the stocking times, locations and sending an email to the stocking volunteers to establish a rendezvous for the stocking.

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.



Fly Of the Month "Barr's Emerger"

by John Preston

This summer I spent several weeks fishing in the Yellowstone area. The main goal was to fish the Firehole River in June and try out the soft hackles I been tying all winter. I'm usually there in July/August timeframe when the Firehole is normally too warm to fish. But there have been times when it is fishable early July or late August. About 10 years ago my son Duke and I were camping at the Madison CG late August and we decided not to cook dinner and headed to the "Hamilton" General store in the Old Faithful complex for

John Barr, designed his Barr's Emerger series in 1975, after spending a day fishing a Pale Morning Dun hatch on Nelson's Spring Creek in Montana's Paradise Valley. Barr described how he came up with the concept:

"There were fish rising everywhere, but none were taking the duns. They were taking little yellow specks. At the time I had never heard of emergers, and only carried dun imitations. I finally tied on a nymph and caught a male

a bacon burger basket dinner which we always get when we are in Yellowstone NP. We stopped along the way to check out the Firehole... it is such a beautiful and unique river filled with plump & fiesty 9-12 inch Rainbows and Browns. There was a massive "White Miler" caddis hatch going on that looked like snow falling in reverse and the trout were in a feeding frenzy. We couldn't resist and rigged up our rods and put on a tan Iris caddis (at the time we never heard of White Millers) which was close enough to fool them. Needless to say we never got to eat those burgers that night... we ended "eating at the Ritz" (peanut butter and Ritz crackers) back at the campground

It was very cool this June (it snowed 2-5 inches throughout the area the first night I camped at Hebgen Lake) and water was higher than normal. So I waited a few days getting all my stuff ready, went to my two favorite fly shops for the latest info and had my new rubber sole wading boots studded. Felt soles are no longer allowed in the park. I'm not a fan of rubber soles especially since I am getting on in years but I survived... wading slow and deliberate.

By now you are saying what does this all have to do with the Fly of the Month?

Well, I'm getting there.... One day I headed to one of my favorite "holes" along the Fountain Flats section of the Firehole and suited up. As I walked from my camper I notice another camper where I parked with Wyoming plates and a woman who looked familiar. I met Meredith at the Housatonic about 13 years ago when she was in the market for a truck camper because she and her husband Bob were thinking of moving out (something I should have done) of "blue" Tax-A-CT to Wyoming. I have run into them a couple of times at Pebble Creek CG since then but it had been awhile. Well to make a long story short we fished the next few days with limited (no double figure) success... the hatches were weak and sporadic. Hatches were off 10-14 days off the 9 weeks I was there. I was doing okay with PMD soft hackles and Bob was fishing a PMD emerger or dry fly with limited success too. They live in Cody, WY and were heading back after a couple of days but would be back after the weekend. Bob and I exchanged some flies. I gave him a few soft hackles and he gave me one of his emergers.

The next few days the hatches picked up and the fishing too. I had a couple double figure days in a row with the last and best day of 28 trout. But on the next day I couldn't buy a fish if I could. None of my flies that I had great success with worked. As I looked into my fly boxes, scratching my head, my eyes were drawn to the emerger that Bob gave me. What the heck, I'll got nothing to lose and tied it in on.... First cast, BAM! A nice fat 13 inch Rainbow. Next cast, BAM! A beautiful 14 inch Brown. A few casts later, BAM-BAM! Another Rainbow and another Rainbow

rainbow with a big mouth that I could easily look down inside of. On the tongue rakers at the base of the tongue were dozens of partially emerged PMD, just a small part of their body protruding from the shuck. In my motel room that night, the Barr's Emerger was created, and the basic pattern has not changed to this day. The first patterns were on a dry fly hook and fished in the film. I then added a wet version to be fished as a subsurface pattern. In subsequent years I added a bead and flashback version."

Here are few recipes of the Barr Emerger that you might want to try. The dry version is for fishing on/in or just below the film and the wet version for below the film. Add a bead to go lower in the water column. All the film versions are hard to see.

They are often used as a dropper or you can grease your leader for more visibility. I didn't have to worry much about seeing them because I was always was fishing in smooth clear water to working fish... just cast (short distance) above a feeding trout and let it drift to the hungry fish and BAM! Also, the CDC version seem to hang higher in/on the film.



The above video by Charlie Craven demonstrates tying a BWO wet version that should come in handy for the Fall BWO hatches on the Housatonic or Farmington.

For step by step instructions see:

<https://charliesflyboxinc.com/portfolio-items/fly-box-template-28/>

PMD Barr Emerger (Dry)

Hook: TMC 101 #12-22

Thread: Uni-thread LT Cahill or Olive 8/0

Abdomen: Olive Brown Superfine

Thorax: PMD Superfine

Tail: Brown Spade Hackle Fibers

Legs: Light Dun Spade Hackle Fibers

Wingcase: Light Dun Spade Hackle Fibers

BWO Barr Emerger (Wet)

Hook: TMC 2487 or 2488 (H) #16-24

Thread: 8/0 Iron Dun

Tail: Brown Spade Hackle Fibers

Abdomen: Olive Brown SuperFine Dubbing

Wingcase: Dark Dun Spade Hackle Fibers

Thorax: Grey Muskrat or Beaver Dubbing

Legs: Leftover tips of wingcase fibers

PMD Barr Emerger (Variation)

(both in the 12 inch range). Casted again and BAM! Another 13 incher. The next cast, BAM! The "one" that got away... a biggie. It looked like big Brown when it rolled. After that nothing for the rest of day... By the way, I have learned that the last couple of years the Firehole has been giving up 14 to 18 inch fish. That's another story for you for a later time...

I should have taken a photo of that fly because I couldn't remember accurately what it actually looked like. I thought it had a tannish body with copper ribbing and some yellow CDC in the thorax. I looked in the fly shops but none look like I remembered. I picked up a few that were similar and hoped they would do. But I never did find out if they did because the next time out my softies were killing them.

A few days later Bob & Meredith returned and I told them what happen and asked what was the emerger pattern he gave me. He said it was a variation of a PMD Barr's Emerger. Unfortunately, he didn't have another one for me to copy.

Hook: TMC 2487 or 2488 (H) #16-24
Thread: 8/0 Iron Dun
Tail: Brown Spade Hackle Fibers
Abdomen: Olive Brown or Dark Tan
SuperFine Dubbing
Ribbing: Fine copper wire
Wingcase: Pale Yellow CDC
Thorax: PMD Super Fine dubbing or yellow CDC
Legs: Leftover tips of wingcase CDC fibers



Harrop Barr Dry Emerger

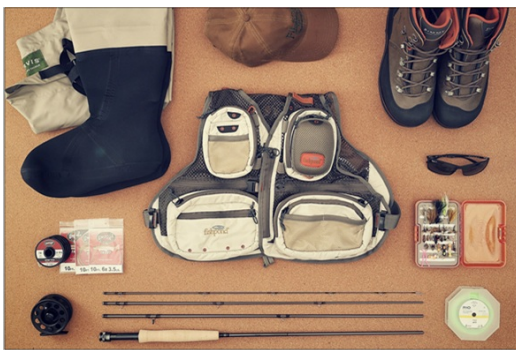
*"The trout do not rise in the cemetery, so you better do your fishing while you are still able."
-Sparse Grey Hackle*

Items for Sale

Cabela's MTX 9' 5wt 4pc Fly Rod w/ graphite tube - Mint condition - ~~\$165~~ **SALE \$155** (MSRP \$400)
Cabela's MTX 9' 6wt 4pc Fly Rod w/ graphite tube - Mint condition - ~~\$160~~ **SALE \$150** (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 \$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](mailto:John.Preston@thamesvalleytu.org) 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](mailto:John.Preston@thamesvalleytu.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 2181, Columbia, CT 06237

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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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