

# Trout Unlimited

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

October 2018



## President's Message...

Hello everyone,

This is my last presidential message to the chapter. As I have said before the Vice President (Jenn) and I thank all the volunteers who help at TVTU events, meetings, outings, clean ups, and stocking. We will still be active in the chapter and will help when we can and yes, that includes the camp-out and breakfast!

In particular, we want to thank all the Board of Directors members because without their commitment and support our chapter wouldn't function as well as we have over the last three years. For example, this year the Board and I have been hard at work getting new guest speakers for the meetings and new variety in the raffle that we hope you will enjoy.

But that still means we need volunteers to help out. We are still looking for a Chapter Secretary, Conservation Chair and Membership Chair... all critical for the operation and Mission of the Thames Valley Chapter. Please consider taking on one of these key positions at our October 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting nominations.

I am confident the chapter will be in good hands with the incoming President and Vice President.

This is Duke Preston signing off and to quote John Cameron Swayze, "That's the story, folks—glad we could get together."

"Duke" Preston  
President TVTU  
[Email Address](#)

TVTU Chapter Meeting  
Tuesday, October 16th, 6-9 pm  
Featured Presentation:  
Tim Wildman - "Sea Run Trout in Connecticut"



also explain the origin of the Sea Trout strain being evaluated and divulge the streams currently being stocked.

Tim Wildman, senior fisheries biologist for CT DEEP will focus on the rich history of Sea Trout in Connecticut, as well as some of the issues, lessons learned, and yet-to-be answered questions surrounding the Sea-Run Brown Trout Project. Tim will

## Chapter Events

**Oct 13th, Sat., 1 to 4pm**  
**Eight Mile River River Fest**  
Devil's Hopyard State Park

**Oct 16th, Tue., 6pm**  
**Chapter Meeting**  
Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd.

Tim Wildman, Senior Fisheries Biologist, DEEP Fisheries Division has been involved with the Diadromous Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program for 18 years. He is the Job leader for American Eel and Sea-Run Brown Trout; Connecticut's Representative on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's American Eel Technical Committee (former Chair of the Committee); and the Chair of The Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission's American Eel Sub-Committee. Tim earned his MS Fisheries Management and BS Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCONN.

#### **Door opens 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...

**Please note the featured presentation starts shortly after short chapter business meeting and Annual (Election) Meeting at 6:45 pm**

Positions still open are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Membership Chair, and Conservation Chair.

If you are interested in one of the above opportunities, and feel you have the time and talent to dedicate to the chapter, please contact Duke Preston - [dukeoa5599@yahoo.com](mailto:dukeoa5599@yahoo.com)

Bozrah, CT  
**Timothy Wildman, DEEP - "CT Sea-Run Trout"**

**Nov 15th, Thursday  
TIC Egg Delivery**

**Nov 20th, Tue., 6pm  
Chapter Meeting**  
Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT  
**Paul Dinice - "Fly Fishing Cape Cod"**

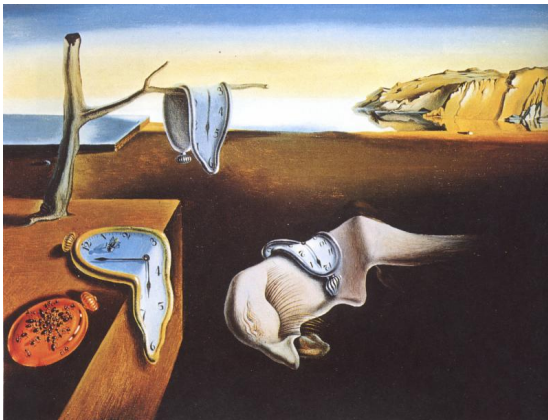
**Dec 18th, Tue., 6pm  
Chapter Meeting**  
Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT  
**George Jacobi - "A Season at the Grand Canyon"**

**Jan 15th, Tue., 6pm  
Chapter Meeting**  
Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT  
**TBD**



## **The Persistence of Memory**

by George Jacobi



More than forty years ago, full of the confidence and ignorance of our late twenties, we descended on the Batten Kill valley like a sixpack of locusts. Having conquered the hatchery-stocked trout of eastern Connecticut just a year or two into our fly-fishing careers, we felt like true artists with a rich palette of stream skills, so when the opportunity came to fish the legendary Vermont river, off we went. It turned out we were mere kids with crayons. I've written about those repeated misadventures before, but I hadn't actually returned to the canvas where that doodling took place for many decades.

That finally happened.

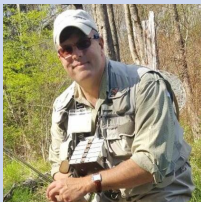
We began at the American Museum of Fly Fishing. All of my cumulative fishing memories seem to fit in there, probably yours too, resting comfortably among those of Lee Wulff and John Atherton, both Batten Kill guys. Maybe they're not as impeccably smooth as a Bogdan reel, maybe not tied together as neatly as a Harry Darbee dry fly, but at home there nonetheless.

Then we drove all around, looking for the past. I didn't quite get lost; looming Mt. Equinox was almost always visible to tell me where west was. The Batten Kill seemed even more enigmatic than before. Thick alders and scrub hid much of the river, confusing the eye and making it impossible to walk the bank almost everywhere. Thus the water views grudgingly offered to John and I were severely limited. This year's brutally steady rain gave the 'Kill some color and disguised most of the rocks and logs, too. The charm painted by Ogden Pleissner and others was mostly missing. As I recall, the place was always charming, even with a hangover, rain leaking into the corners of my tent. Romanticizing those experiences is easy now. The stillness of the Genesee Pool I remembered. No, it's not a real pool, we just named it after the bottles of ale that always came along. Yesterday that thick brush made us find a longer way to get there, across a field buzzing with hoppers, but the place felt the same. The smooth surface of the upper Battenkill tells you nothing; it merely reflects your own desires, along with that big green mountain. One night long ago I wandered down to a log jam at the bend, hooked a big brown,

and lost it. Back at the head of the pool, I found Quist had had the same experience. The next night we switched places – and astonishingly lost each other's big trout again. After forty years I still say those fish were 18" plus, but to be honest, I'm no longer sure. In my mind's eye they were. The truth is now far downstream, around the bend and out of sight.

Another painting expresses the reality of remembering differently. Everybody knows Salvador Dali's work, "The Persistence of Memory" – it's the one with the melted clocks hanging off a table in an empty desert. Dali might be trying to remind us we have no control over time – what we think of as valid memories are in truth made-up fantasies, dreams we use to cushion ourselves from fear and loneliness. I grew up in Sandy Hook. My first fishing recollections are of hanging off a marina dock in Lake Zoar, the impounded Housatonic River, trying to catch sunnies and pumpkinseeds with nightcrawlers. Up the hill sat my little house, and a ten minute bike ride past that was the elementary school where I spent first to fifth grade. You know that elementary school now, everybody does, but you don't know it like I do. Small potatoes, but my idyllic childhood reminiscences, my precious August afternoons, were tarnished by that event. It took a while before I decided to reclaim them. I had to make a conscious decision; they had drifted around the bend, out of sight. Now they're back, and I don't care if they are even accurate; I'm happy to have them. Dali, great as he was, illustrated only part of our dream world.

We drove down past Benedict's Crossing as far as the covered bridge and on the way back I found a rich relic of the past. Pleissner painted "The Battenkill at Benedict's Crossing" in 1978, and we were probably somewhere in Arlington at the same time. Maybe fruitlessly pounding the water, maybe stocking up on supplies from Helen at the Wayside Country Store. In the painting it's a brilliant sunny day in early summer; the bridge on the right, and the barn and farmyard on the left, focus your visual interest. The guy has a trout on, his rod bent over. It's a fine trout, bigger than any we caught that day, I'm sure. Behind him in the middle of the painting the river disappears around a bend, from sight and from time, leaving us frozen in 1978. We see 1978, but can't return. I hear something no one else hears, though, when they admire this artwork. It's the farm woman calling from inside the door of her house. She's yelling to her son to come in for lunch. She yells "Tadpole! Taaadpole!" apparently his nickname. We heard her calling him everytime we were there. The kid was never where he should be, never doing his farm chores on time. "Taaadpole!" Neither mother or child are visible in the painting, but I'll bet if Pleissner was still around, he'd confirm my recollection. I guess my memory is not so bad. It is a rare painting that you can hear as well as see.



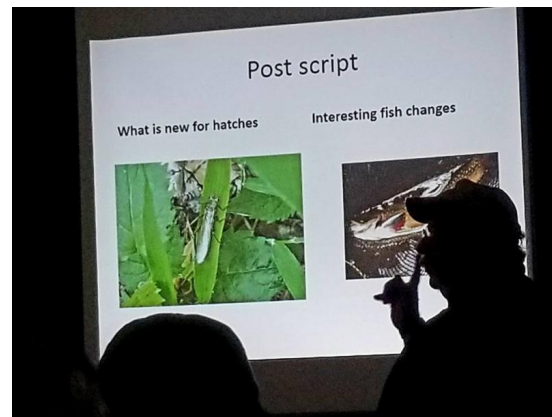
## "September TVTU Meeting Wrap Up"

by Mike Carl

The evening of September 18th was the start up of our monthly TVTU meetings after a summer hiatus. In attendance was approximately 47 people which is a pretty good turnout.



The feature presentation was by Steve Babbitt on the Willimantic River Trout Management Area. It



identified a new stone fly species previously not seen on this particular system....all good news because certain stone fly species as well as mayflies like the Quill Gordon require clean water!



was well put together and he discussed everything from hatches, equipment, changes throughout the season, and even historical changes over a 20 year period. I definitely learned a few things, too, and I fish it a lot!

One of the most interesting discussions for me was the entomology part and how ecological changes for the better have improved water qualities enough that he has noticed some pollution intolerant insects return! And, he even

So, there you have it, proof that environmental conservation works and organizations like TU can make a difference.

There are some interesting future presentations, events, and tours lined up this year so stop watching TV on our meeting nights and come join us. You might even learn something! Oh, you could win some gear and other cool stuff as well.

---

## Inland Fisheries Program Notes & Updates

*The following was taken from Inland Fisheries Program Notes & Updates 2018 (Summer). For the complete report see the following [REPORT](#). It contains a wealth of information on the CT Fisheries Program.*

**WATER TEMPERATURE MONITORING.** - Water temperature data loggers (HOBO onset) were again placed in a number of Connecticut streams this spring/summer. The focus was on long - term reference streams. Fish data were collected from five of these temperature sites and will be used in development of regional water temperature/fish population models.

**STREAM FLOW** - In cooperation with the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, flow monitoring was completed at the five stream flow gages on Merrick and Beaver Brook. Merrick Brook is one of the best cold water resources in eastern Connecticut. The intent of this project is to help determine sources of ground water in the system, key information to protect this important resource. The most downstream gage (Station Road) allowed us to document sudden changes in the flows in the Shetucket River (because high Shetucket flows backup into lower Merrick Brook). This has been important with the changes in the hydro operations at Scotland Dam.



*Flow logger at Gager Hill Road on Beaver Brook.*



*Taking spot measurements to create a ratings curve for the logger station.*

---

## TVTU Chapter Fund-raising Raffle 2018

**Only 50 tickets to be sold... \$15 ticket**

**Cabela's Theorem Fly Rod & Ross Evolution LT Fly Reel Outfit  
(Value \$655)**



**Cabela's Theorem Fly Rod (9ft, 4pc, 5wt)** - With Generation-II nano-silica resin and a high modulus graphite blank, Burl wood reel seat with high-polish aluminum hardware and a modified western cork handle. Rod case & Lifetime Guarantee

**Ross Evolution LT® Fly Reel #2 (4-6 wt/4.2oz)** - Conical drag; Heat-dissipating drag material; Triple redundant radial pawl engagement; Aluminum alloy construction; Quick release locking spool; Oil impregnated bronze bushing; Stainless steel spindle; Easily converts for right or left hand retrieves; Quick release locking spool. Rated for freshwater or saltwater duty. Lifetime warranty. Made in USA.  
**\*\* Includes: Cortland Precision Finesse WF5F Fly Line**

Thames Valley TU is continually working on our Mission of conserving, protecting and restoring our cold water fisheries in the Eastern CT. This takes a lot of resources... man-hours and money. Please help us raise funds for current and future projects

**Raffle tickets are only \$15 each.** The drawing will be held once we have sold 50 tickets. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are 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 211, Hanover, CT 06350. A ticket will be mailed back to you and recorded.

**Thank You for Your Support**



## "Angler's Pantry" - Jalapeno Poppers

by Jenn & Duke Preston

### Ingredients:

30 Jalapeno peppers	1 cup milk
2 oz shredded cheddar cheese	1 cup flour
2-8oz packages cream cheese room temp	1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp black pepper	1/8 tsp paprika
1/8 tsp chili powder	1/8 tsp garlic powder
1 cup seasoned bread crumbs	1 qt frying oil



- Slice peppers in half and seed them dry off (**wear gloves**)
- Combine cream cheese, cheddar cheese, stir until blended
- Spoon mixture into pepper halves.
- Combine flour, salt, pepper, paprika, chili powder and garlic powder.
- Place milk in separate bowl
- Dip stuffed jalapeno into the seasoned flour then back into milk set onto a rack on a cookie sheet to dry for 10 minutes
- Put breadcrumbs in separate bowl
- Dip jalapeno peppers into the milk then into the crumbs place back on the rack to dry 10 minutes
- Fry until golden brown

**To Freeze:** After breadcrumb dip place on rack and freeze for a couple hours and place in container to store (air tight)



Can cook from frozen state; oil needs to always be at 350 degrees

Share one of your favorite recipes with us! Please contact [Duke Preston](#).



by John Preston

## Day Trippin'

This summer was extremely wet (good for the fish) but very hot and humid (not good for the fish nor the angler). After a couple of months of this, George Jacobi and I needed a break from it all. We had hope to make a day trip to VT and attend the American Fly Fishing Museum (AMFF) 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fly Fishing Festival & 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on August 11<sup>th</sup> but since the forecast was rain again we decide to go the following week.

The trip had a dual purpose... to visit the museum which we hadn't been to in some time and a chance for George to gather his thoughts on a piece he was preparing for the Stream Lines newsletter (see George's article, Persistence of Memory). It was fun visiting places and reliving some memories of George's trips to the Battenkill with his buddies in the 70's. It is always interesting how we remember our past through the prism of a much wiser and mature mind. As aptly quoted... "Youth is wasted on the young"... but then again, "Only to be young again". In short, we all need to go through the progression and learning process of living and life no matter how smart we thought we were.

Arriving mid-morning we stopped by Helen's for quick trip down memory lane, a pit stop because we are aging men, and I needed to buy reading glasses for the museum visit since I forgot mine... Did I mention the aging process?



Next stop some picture taking at the covered bridge and more fishing and past stories of learning how to fly fish and youthful discretion's... good thing we aren't trying to get a Supreme Court appointment today!

We then drove by where Norman Rockwell lived and followed the river along a gravel road and stopped when we saw a couple of fly fisherman working a pool. After talking with them for a while about fishing and the Battenkill, a couple fish



The museum had three exhibits going on when we were there: The Wonders of Fly Fishing – Who, What, When Where; On Fly in the Salt;

American Saltwater Fly Fishing from the Surf to the Flats; and, Trout Magazine covers dating from 1959 through 2017.

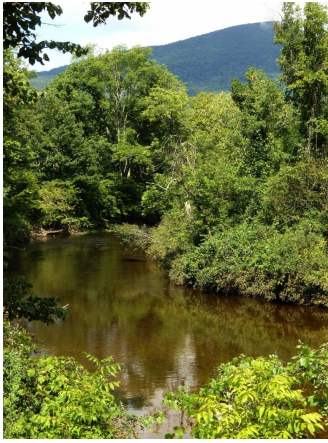


AMFF has an extensive collection of reel, rods, flies and art and media. They have a new wonderful Library with hundreds of books/periodicals that made this fly fishing book-a-holic drool. Their Fly Collection contains more than 22,000 flies from "some of the most notable names in the history of fly tying, including Theodore Gordon, Preston Jennings, George LaBranche, Edward Hewitt, Megan Boyd, Lee Wulff, and Helen Shaw".

The rod and reel collection is overwhelming. In particular, I took many photos of Bogdan reels, E. W. Edwards & Sons and Jim Payne bamboo fly rods. Payne rod tapers and casting actions are among the best ever made. Yet they are understated and utilitarian cosmetically... but beautifully finished.



started rising and we left them to pursue them in peace.



Our last stop was the infamous Genesee pool. We walked along the railroad tracks and then across a field to the pool. We didn't see any trout but you know they were there hiding along the undercut banks.

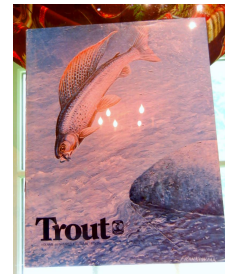
I suggest you read George's article in the AMFF Blog named "Battenkiller: A Look Back to the Battenkill in the '70s" in their [website](#) for a better look at George's "Memory Lane" exploits. Trust me it is a good read...

Before going into the museum we ate our packed lunches and talked about how much the Orvis store next door had changed since the 70's (consensus was not for the better) and that in the past we had both applied for jobs there. I think it all worked out for the better for the both of us.



Of course, then there is the art collection. You could spend the entire day just reflecting on what the artist captured. There is something about the watercolor angling art that gives one great pleasure...

The AMFF in Manchester, VT is only a few hours away and well worth the scenic trip. If you have more time there is much to see and do in the area. With the weather finally changing the famous VT Green Mountains will be displaying all their autumn colors... Now is a great time to visit.



Bogdan Reel Display



Carrie Stevens - Grey Ghost



Herbert Hoover Collection

## Items for For Sale

**Orvis Trident XL Fly Rod** - 9' 8wt, 4 3/4 oz, 2 pc with case - \$90

**Sage Graphite II Fly Rod** - 9', 10wt 2 pc with case, fighting butt needs TLC - \$50

**St Croix Pro Graphite Fly Rod** - 9', 8/9 wt, 2pc, no case - \$50

**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.

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

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

## Wanted

George Jacobi is looking for spare copies of "Trout" magazine, Fall 2016, and "Fly Fisherman", Aug/Sept 2018. If you still have one and can part with it, bring to me or John Preston at a meeting this fall. Thanks

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

## Fly of the Month - "Anchovy Fly"





by John Preston



With our rivers and streams raging what's an angler to do? Since it is autumn head for the CT/RI shoreline and chase migrating Stripers, Blues and Albies from the shore or boat.

A False Albacore "blitz" is a 'Fast and Furious' experience! It is so visual and exciting that you will relive the event over and over until the next time you get another fleeting shot at them.

Here is a straight forward anchovy pattern that might just entice an Albie to the end of your 8/9 weight fly rod.... Then hang on, listen to your reel scream and be prepared for a long battle!

Suggest you might want read Fly Tyer website article ["Autumn Is For Albies"](#). It has information and additional fly patterns for Albies.

#### **Capt. Colt Harrison's Anchovy Fly Recipe:**

**Hook:** #2 Saltwater hook of your choice.

**Thread:** Tan 3/0 Monocord or fine monofilament

**Body:** Silver Flashabou over Lead wire

**Wing:** Tan Craft Fur

**Head:** Tan UV Ice Dub

**Eyes:** 3/16th Adhesive Eyes

**Adhesive:** Softex epoxy or your favorite epoxy

**Video by The Charlestown Angler:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bminUqTimq0>

## 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 211, Hanover, CT 06350

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

Bait • Tackle • Fly Tying Accessories • Licenses

# JT'S FLY SHOP



664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076  
860-684-1575  
jtsflyshop@yahoo.com

Charles McCaughtry

Original Paintings, Drawings, and Prints  
By Appointment Only

44 Portland Drive Ashford, CT 06278

860-429-1016

www.mccaughtryart.com

cmccaughtry@aol.com

## EASTERN CT FLY FISHING, SMLLC

Guiding & Fly Fishing Lessons



Michael Carl  
(860) 716-0825  
mjc6624@sbcglobal.net  
easternctflyfishing.com

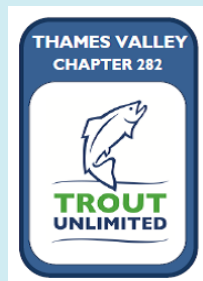
# SHU FLY

TACKLE & FLY SHOP

Skip Storch  
President

161 Main St., Suite 2-3, Nanuet, NY 10954  
Phone: (845) 215-5470 • Fax: (845) 215-5582  
shu-fly.com • email: skip@shu-fly.com  
Cell: (914) 671-0636

STAY CONNECTED



## 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*



## 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

*enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.*

Questions or comments on the Newsletter  
contact Editor [Bruce Danielson](#)

Lines" and [website](#). The cost is only  
\$50 for the entire year (9 Issues).

For more information and to place an  
ad, contact [Daniel King](#).

**Thanks for your support!**

### **Board of Directors**

Duke Preston, President	860-546-6690	dukeoa5599@yahoo.com
Jennifer Miner, Vice President	860-514-7956	jennifer_miner@ymail.com
Paul Rice, Secretary	860-942-2701	phr117@gmail.com
Daniel King, Treasurer		dking4870@gmail.com
Charley McCaughtry, Membership	860-429-1016	cmccaughtry@aol.com
Jackie Preston, Fund Raising Chair	860-546-6690	jpreston01@charter.net
Jim Valuckas, River Cleanup Coord.		jfvret@gmail.com
Morgan McGinley	860-447-2224	morganmcginley@aol.com
Gary Lussier, Stocking Coordinator	860-861-9344	gelconn@yahoo.com
George DeGray, Fund Raising	860-546-9872	georgedegray@gmail.com
Ray Schaefer, Fund Raising	860-546-9775	rayschaefer9060@gmail.com
Bruce Danielson, Communications	860-237-2686	bdanielson62@comcast.net
Dave Parry, TIC/Education	860-617-8270	dfparry01@gmail.com
Conservation Committee (VACANT)		

**Visit our Website**