

TROUT UNLIMITED

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter *Stream Lines*

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

April 2017

Dear John,

Spring and some much need rain (although it didn't have to come all at once) is finally here. I understand Eastern CT is now out of the drought deficit. Stocking is full swing... thanks to the DEEP crews and our volunteers. Visit our website for a couple of great stocking slideshow. Spring is our busiest time of our "season". One look at our calendar will substantiate that statement.

Speaking of our Spring schedule we had to reschedule the Natchaug River cleanup to 23 April because we wanted maximize the participation of Boy Scout Troop 76 which is more convenient for them. This river clean-up will combined a clean-up, lunch and a fishing trip outing on the Natchaug River for Sunday, 23 April. Anyone interested in cleaning (during the morning) just meet at Diana's Pool at 9 AM (see the newsletter or announcement Bulletin for more information/directions). Lunch (hotdogs/chips/drinks) will be served around noon at the Natchaug State Park (Trout Park) to all who participate. Look for the TVTU banner and canopy. After lunch, hopefully, we can all have a great day of fishing! The Forsythia should be blooming soon... maybe the Hendrickson will on the water by then. If you've never fished the Natchaug come join us and I'm sure there will be a stream "master" willing to give you a few pointers. Or, if you are familiar with the Natchaug, join us any way and we can all swap stories about the one that got away!

So, I hope to see you all soon at the clean-up and/or at John Springer's presentation on Vermont's Trophy Trout Fishery at the April Membership meeting. Wade safely and tight lines.... and leave a few trout for the next gal or guy (me).



"Duke" Preston
President TVTU

[Email Address](#)

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Calendar

April 15 - Saturday, 2 PM

CT DEEP Fly Fishing Seminar

"Fly Fishing - How and Why"

James L. Goodwin Conservation Center
Goodwin State Forest, Hampton, CT

April 18 - Tuesday, 6pm

John Springer - "Vermont Trophy Trout Fishing"

Chapter Membership Meeting
Bozrah Firehouse
239 Fitchville Rd, Bozrah, CT

April 23 - Sunday, 9am

Natchaug River Clean-up & Lunch

Diana's Pool
Route 198 Chaplin, CT

May 7- Sunday, 9am

Fly Casting with Scout Troop 76

Sandy Beach, Shetucket River

May 13 - Saturday, 9am

Moosup River Clean-up

Quinebaug Hatchery

May 16 - Tuesday, 6pm

Jesse Filingo - PA/NY Fishing Guide

Thames Valley Chapter Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 6pm



John Springer - "Vermont Trophy Trout Fishing"

Join us for a presentation by longtime TU & CFFA member and angler John Springer as he talks in-depth about some of Vermont's best trophy trout fishing, with a focus on the Black

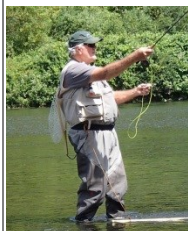
River and the Walloomsac River. These are both specially designated rivers with regulations focusing on providing expanded fishing opportunities and the possibility of targeting larger trout. John will walk us through the locations he likes to fish, the best times to be on the rivers, and the flies that he finds successful on these beautiful fisheries.

Door opens at 6pm.

Our meeting is free and open to members, guests and the general public. Social time, refreshments, fly tying demonstrations, door prize & more. Presentation starts shortly after 7pm.

Versailles Fishway Restoration "A Collaboration That Works"

By Ed Walsh



In early 2015 TVTU Conservation Committee Chairman, Sal De Carli, met with CT. DEEP Fishery Biologist Steve Gephard to examine projects where our chapter might provide assistance. When options were presented it didn't take both long to see that the restoration of the Versailles Fishway on the Little River, a tributary of the Shetucket River, would be the perfect match.

The DEEP had identified a number of fishways / fish ladders that were in disrepair and needed replacement but under present budget restrictions few were on the short list for upgrading. The Versailles Fishway, built in 1998, is a Denil style fishway with wooden baffles that have an expected 10 year lifespan. Those baffles had rotted to the extent that the DEEP, which operates the privately-owned fishway, was forced to close it during the 2016 season. Its purpose was to allow anadromous species (American Shad, Alewife, Herring, Sea-Run Brown Trout, Eel) access to important spawning and juvenile rearing habitat on two miles of the Little River and the 65 acres Versailles Pond. These species spend most of their lives in the ocean but all must spawn in fresh water.



The plan for the rehabilitation project included the replacement of fifty five deteriorated 4' x 8' framed wooden baffles, and related hardware, from inside the concrete fishway. The replacement specifications called for 3/8" aluminum baffles and guides and stainless steel

hardware, all having a 50 year plus life span.

First Sal, with assistance from VP Jim Smith, bought the idea to the Board of Directors for approval. With their unanimous support the next step was

Chapter Membership Meeting
Bozrah Firehouse
239 Fitchville Rd, Bozrah, CT

**May 19 & 20 - Friday/Saturday
Annual Camp-out & Breakfast**
Sandy Beach, Shetucket River

CORRECTION

In the March issue we provided an incorrect contact number for Gary Lussier our Stocking Coordinator. The correct number is (860) 861-9344. Sorry for any inconvenience.

We are now on Facebook!

When you visit our website there is now a link to our Facebook page. Also see our Quick Links below. Jenn Miner is our administrator and we are looking for an additional person assist her. Please contact

[Duke Preston.](#)

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CT. DEEP Fly Fishing Seminar

"Fly Fishing - How and Why"

**James L. Goodwin Conservation Center,
Goodwin State Forest, Hampton, CT
Saturday, April 15th - 2 PM**

Thames Valley TU members George Jacobi and John Preston will explain the anatomy of a Connecticut trout stream - why fly fishing knowledge helps understand it, whether you're fishing (with any technique) or just admiring the beauty. Basic strategy and timing, insect identification basics, fly skills, casting, reading the water will be covered.

All are welcome regardless of skill and experience, as is anyone else who may be interested in learning about fly fishing.

developing a budget and locating partners to assist with the financial obligation. A detailed grant proposal was developed and submitted to, and accepted by, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Long Island Sound Futures Fund (NFWF) for more than \$22,000 to cover all material costs. Such NFWF grants require a non-federal match and while TVTU labor provided much of that, the chapter also secured a \$5,000 grant from International Paper, which owns property along the upstream portion of the river.

Between October 2015 and November 2016 materials were located, ordered and delivered. Before work could begin the baffles were fabricated by students in the Advance Manufacturing Technology Center at Asnuntuck



Community College and from March through November 2016 the new baffles were installed but not without a few detours. The existing concrete structure has shifted over the years and many of the pre-cut baffles had to be re-cut on site. These changes did nothing to deter the enthusiasm of our participating members. A fabrication table was constructed and the

necessary alterations made without missing a beat.

An important side benefit realized from this project was all the cut outs from baffle fabrication operation will be reused by the DEEP to repair two smaller fishway in our area. I think most would call that a positive extension of our grant.

An undertaking like this requires a tremendous amount of planning and commitment. Our chapter donated more than 750 man hours to complete this task and I am guessing much of the off-site planning isn't in that total. We are so very fortunate to have a membership willing to tackle projects that make our great sport, and our environment, a better place. We all need to applaud their effort and never take their commitment for granted.



Participating members: Sal and Katey De Carli, Jim Smith, Don Avery, Alton Blodgett, Jim Clark, Gene Cyr, George DeGray, Jerry Gould, Rob Heitman, Gary Lussier, Charley McCaughtry, Dave Parry, John Preston, Duke Preston, Paul Rice, Ray Schaefer, Peter Sorensen, Mike Arndt, Shawn Perkins and Mark Ucasz. A special thanks to Bruce Williams and Steve Gephard from the DEEP for their support and involvement and state representative Joe Courtney who took time out of his busy schedule to stop by wish us well.

Our Partners: CT.DEAP, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Wheelabrator (old baffle disposal), Asnuntuck Community College and International Paper.

Being a "Pain in the Ass"

By John Springer



Several years ago the state of Connecticut was involved with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and re-licensing of the dam at Scotland Ct. First Light Power owns this dam on the Shetucket River. Somehow someone at DEEP

"If fishing is interfering with your business, give up your business."

Sparse Grey Hackle

Trout in the Classroom

Our chapter will be active again in the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program on the following dates:

May 12 at Devils Hopyard with Westside MS

May 24 at Mashomocket Brook State Park with Barrows STEM 7th grade.

Times to be determined.

Please contact Dave Perry for more info at: (860) 617-8270 or dfparry01@gmail.com

March Membership Meeting Recap: "The Final Hurdle: Riverbanks, Rip-rap & Dragonflies."

By John Preston



Last's month's presentation with Dr. Kirsten Martin, PhD. was just excellent and very interesting. Her presentation provided us with an overview of a dragonfly life cycle, and highlighted how two local dragonfly species the Arrow Clubtail and the Cobra Clubtail, are impacted by riverbank features of the Connecticut River near Turner Falls, MA.

Dragonflies are well known for their amazing aerial acrobatics as adults, and their long life spans (2 to 5 years) as aquatic macro-vertebrates, but little is known about a short period in their lives known as the emergence stage. Emergence can vary from 20 minutes to 2 hours. During this stage, dragonfly nymphs must crawl out of their water, and travel up the riverbank to a suitable location where they will make their final transformation into adults. At the end of its larval stage, the dragonfly crawls out of the water, then its exoskeleton cracks open and releases the insect's abdomen, which had been packed in like a telescope. Its four wings come out, and they dry and harden over the next several hours to days. Dr. Martin provided many excellent photos of an emergence she observed for about two hours. One interesting observation factoid was at one point the larva and the emerging adult are both alive!



signed off on an agreement with the power company that would allow them to have a several inches of water to hold back at the Scotland Dam. The reason for this several inches was explained to me this way. Should the wind be blowing down river it would be possible that the water could be going over the dam faster than what was coming into the impoundment above the dam so it would not be "run of the river". The power company took the position that this meant they could hold back this water and each time the impoundment grew to the top, they would turn on the generator and let the water come through and raise the river back up until the water behind the impoundment dropped down this several inches. If you fished the river during this 2 year period you know that the water was coming up and going back down many times a day. This made fishing very difficult. At the start when this was going on people told me the reasons for it were to blow out leaves from the dam in the fall, they were working on the new generator that would make power at a very low flow, or trees were stuck in the dam.



I spoke to John Preston at Thames Valley TU and asked him if I could look into this for his chapter and John said ok. I got the number for the fellow in charge of the project Gary Smolen and called him. Long story short he informed me that the power company had the right to make money; the agreement on the Shetucket was not the same as on the Housatonic, that agreement was "natural flow". I explained to him what happens when the water goes up and down so many times a day; again he told me they had the right to make money. I thanked him for his time and the battle started.

Bill Hyatt who runs DEEP now is someone I had known for almost 30 years so I called him about this. I explained what was going on he did not know about it and so the process started. Nothing in state government moves fast as we all know and meetings between the DEEP and Power Company started. At first the power company was not going to give in but in time they caved in as I GUESS they learned the state had the upper hand. Bottom line is someone at state allowed that several inches for a reason and it was not for pond and release. It took many calls and my time to stay on top of what was going on but in the end we won. As I explained to Bill, fish have high water lies and low water lies and that water going up and down so many times a day simply drove the fish crazy.

I also called First Light several times, sad to say my friend Gary retired and so I never got to tell him that yes you have the right to make money, but we have a right to fish. A fellow named Stewart took over his job he was not so cocky when we spoke. I never found out who at DEEP let the power company pull a fast one on us, but I do know one thing. One person becoming a pain in the ass can make a difference. Think about this next time you're asked to write a letter or make a call when something to do with our fishing comes up on the chopping block in Hartford.

DEEP/TVTU Stocking Local Streams for Opening Day

By Gary Lussier



We have begun our seasonal trout stocking activities. A number of volunteers have been assisting the DEEP in stocking some of our favorite local rivers. In the last week of March, we float stocked the Eight Mile and Little River. On our third consecutive day, we arrived at the Moosup, but heavy



The features of this "emergence zone" can mean life or death for these nymphs. The presence of rocks, steeply eroded banks, or other barriers may shorten their travel distances, forcing them to remain within the splash zone. The water

levels can fluctuate up to two feet and the wakes of power boats also have an impact in this area of the CT River. Therefore, the length of travel along the shore and the time it takes to emerge and be able to fly off has a bearing on whether they survive. Her study revealed that the Arrow Clubtail averaged only .19 meters while the Cobra Clubtail averaged 2.72 meters. Which one do you think has the advantage in changing water levels?

The presentation was jam packed with extremely interesting information for me to recap. But I will leave you with one that we should all remember when we feel the urge to swat a dragonfly down: Is that adult



Dragonflies (which live 3 to 5 months) are a great control on the mosquito population. A single dragonfly can eat hundreds of mosquitoes per day.... West Nile and Zika virus carrying mosquitoes beware!

Fly Tying Tips

By John Preston

"Making Mono & Glass Eyes"



Jack Balint demonstrated how to make mono eyes during one of our fly tying classes held at his "Fish Connection" shop and I thought I would pass it along after finding a video online. Mono and glass eyes are great on mysis shrimp, scuds, damsel flies; saltwater shrimp and crabs; and other bait. Simply heat the ends of a piece of mono and color for more realism. Easy and inexpensive!

Link to Video: [Making Mono & Glass Eyes by Hammer Creek Fly Fishing](#)

Old Fly Lines Wanted

A company called "Flyvines" located in Missoula, MT. recycles fly line and makes them in to a number of accessory products that are carried in Orvis retail stores,

rains from the previous two days brought the river up too high to safely wade the rivers with the fish carts. We did help them net stock in various spots along the TMA.

The following week we had plans to stock the Shetucket and Natchaug rivers. Waters were still rising and we already knew float stocking would be impossible. DEEP had plenty of staff on hand for the Natchaug and chose to not utilize us for that river. We did help net stock the Shetucket where the extra hands



made it easier for the longer walks from the truck to the river.

Thanks to the efforts of Ray Schaefer, Paul Rice, Mike Carl, John Jascot, Rick Romagna, Sam Orr, Phil Scheffield, Ron Betterz, John Preston, Irv Stanley, Gene Cyr and Charley McCaughtry, we have stocked these four rivers with approximately 3,650 trout. At this

point, we're waiting to hear from DEEP once the rivers drop to a level where we can resume float stocking, hopefully in another week or so.



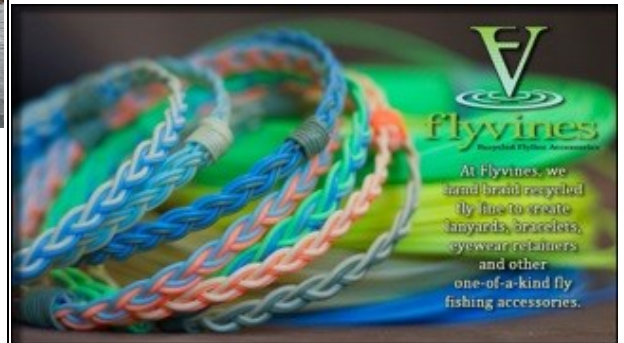
If you have the time and interest, consider joining our team and coming out to help with stocking. It's a great opportunity to see some good stretches of your favorite river or to explore one you've always wanted to fish. It's also a great way to get to know some of your fellow TU members and we always have a good time at it. If interested, come talk to me at a meeting, call me at 860-861-9344, or email me at gelconn@yahoo.com.



For more photos of the above stocking and other stockings visit our [Website](#).



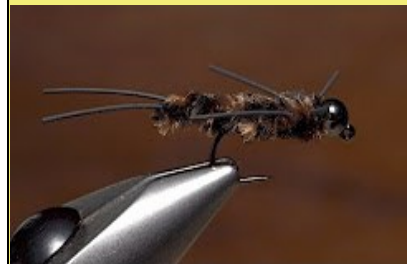
and fly shops across the country. They asked our chapter if we would be interested in recycling any of our old fly lines. If you are interested in participating we plan to collect donated lines at our meetings and bulk send the collected fly line to them. You can check out their website at www.flyvines.com for more information about what they do! Thank you...



Fly of the Month:

"Get it Down Pat's" Stonefly

By John Preston



by Tightline Videos

Here a really nice looking stone fly imitation that I got from the TU.org website that you may want to try and keep a few in your fly box when you want to "get down & jiggy with it" (pun intended). It has an interesting extended body made from the round rubber and chenille. Looks like a winner to me...

Fly Tying Recipe: Get it Down Pat's Stonefly

Hook: Jig hook #8
Head: Slotted tungsten bead - black
Weight: .020 Lead free wire
Thread: UTC 140 black
Body: Variegated medium - chenille-coffee
Legs: Small round rubber legs - black

[Link to video - tied by Tim Flagler](#)

Win a Cabela's/Orvis Fly Fishing Outfit!

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

"A Special Thank You"

Thanks to the following providers for supporting the TVTU Boy Scouts Fly Fishing Program: Bass Pro Shop - fly tying kits, Ray Schaefer - two rods/reels, Mike Carl - rod/reel, Bill Keister - rod/reel, Christopher Fave Fly Fishing - leaders.

Editors Note: For those who are interested in learning more about Christopher Fave Fly Fishing go to their [website](#).



Donations Wanted

As always we welcome your donation of any Fly Fishing items such as rods, reels, fly's, books, etc. We will put your donated items on the raffle table along with our assortment of items to be raffled off.

Donated Fly Fishing items are extremely important to us as a way for us to keep our raffle table expenses down enabling us to use those items to raise funds for our TU chapter. It is one way you can contribute to our fund raising effort.

For your donation we can, if you wish, give you a letter you can use to get a monitory credit with the filing of your federal tax return. If you have an item or items to donate bring them to one of our monthly membership meetings and give them to George, Jim, or Ray who are the guys manning the raffle table. If you can't make a meeting and have something to donate call Jim Clark at 860-546-6924. Thanks.

The Cabela's/Orvis outfit consist of a highly rated 7' 4/5 wt., 3 pc. Cabela's CGR Fiberglass Fly Rod (MSRP \$130); an Orvis Battenkill II Fly Reel (MSRP \$109); and an Orvis Access WF4 Fly Line (MSRP \$59). This is a terrific small stream trout outfit that you will enjoy time after time on your favorite trout stream.

Raffle tickets are only \$10 each. The drawing will be held once we meet our goal of \$600. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are available at our monthly meetings and through the Chapter's Board of Directors. 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

Thames Valley TU would like to thank the following advertisers for their support



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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 [Jackie Preston](#).


Thanks for your support!

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