



TROUT UNLIMITED

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

January 2017

Dear John,

Hello Everyone!

I want to spotlight two of the items the Board of Director's are busy working on, such as; fund raising, membership, reviewing our By-laws and reviewing our Strategic Plan to identify projects to undertake this year and the near future.

First is membership. I noticed that our membership participation and total membership numbers has taken a slight dip. To address part of this, we did a survey on what the members who attend our meetings wanted and with the survey results we believe you will like what is being scheduled. We are kicking off another "new year" with what should be a great presentation from Steve Culton on the "The Little Things". Steve is a very enthusiastic, creative speaker who makes learning fun and I'm looking forward to hearing what little things I can do to improve my chances of being successful on the stream. We are still nailing down the rest of the season's schedule but it should be completed very soon. Keep an eye on our calendar for the latest information. As for the total membership number, Charlie McCaughtry and the Board members will be trying to contact members (about 20%) for whatever reason we cannot reach due to an incomplete contact list (bad, missing, or inaccurate addresses, email, and/or phone numbers). In addition, I want to set a goal to increase our membership to 500 members by the end of my term. You can assist us with this by inviting friends or relatives to attend some of our events and hopefully, they will also want be part the TU family, or if you know of any member that isn't getting our newsletter... please forward one and they can subscribe if they want. Again, there will be more to come soon.

Second is Fund Raising. I wish it wasn't true but raising funds (not our favorite undertaking) is something we have to do because without funds we could not continue to exist. Contrary to common thought, your annual TU membership subscription doesn't come to the chapter directly. Therefore, we have to raise money to accomplish our mission and hold events. My main focus this year is (1) to resurrect the annual banquet; (2) increase the use of EBay to sell donated items that doesn't move in our sales; and (3) raise money through chapter events and raffles.

(1) Holding a banquet is a lot of work and isn't always a money maker when you consider all the effort that is required. It really is dependent on the number of people willing to pound the pavement. Again, this is where you can help us by volunteering for the Banquet Committee and chipping in your talents to make it successful.

(2) Last year we raised about \$500 from EBay sales but have not done any since last FEB. This is an easy fix and I will be heading this up again and working with Jim Clark identifying donated items for EBay sales.

(3) For raising funds locally, we are kicking off a special raffle for a

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Calendar

Tuesday, January 17th - 6pm
Steve Culton: "The Little Things"

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

January 20-22, 2017
Marlborough Fly Fishing Show
Royal Plaza
Marlborough, MA

Saturday, FEB 4th
CFFA EXPO & Banquet
Maneely's
South Windsor, CT

Tuesday, February 21st - 6pm
"Flies & Pies"
Chapter Membership Meeting,
Bozrah Firehouse
239 Fitchville Rd
Bozrah, CT

Tuesday, March 21st - 6pm
Chapter Membership Meeting,
Bozrah Firehouse
239 Fitchville Rd
Bozrah, CT
TBD

Cabela's/Orvis fly fishing outfit and hope to raise at least \$600 for the chapter's operating expenses and projects. It is a terrific small stream "retro" outfit consisting of very highly rated fiberglass rod with a wonderfully matched fly reel & fly line. So as they say... you can't win unless you play! Not only will you help the chapter fulfill its mission, you will get years of enjoyment fishing your favorite stream in style.

In closing, I ask you to volunteer, actively participate, or contribute whenever possible because without an involved and committed membership it would be impossible to accomplish our Mission.



Duke Preston
President TVTU
[Email Address](#)

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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Thames Valley Chapter Monthly Meeting Tuesday, January 17th

Feature Presentation:

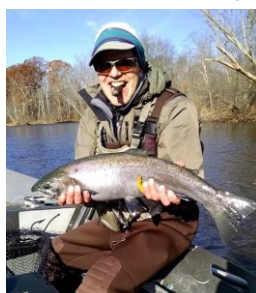
Steve Culton: "The Little Things"



Join us on January 17th for a presentation by local guide and author Steve Culton on the importance of "the little things" in fly fishing. If you want to catch more fish, pay attention to the little things...

"They say that 10% of the anglers catch 90% of the fish. If that's true, it's not because those 10% are supernaturally gifted angling demigods. It's not because they are lucky. It's because they do a lot of little things that other anglers don't. As a guide, I have the opportunity to observe how people fish. I see their mistakes as well as their triumphs. When I'm fishing, I am constantly making adjustments and trying new approaches. That's what The Little Things is all about - seemingly insignificant practices that can make a big difference in your fishing." (From Steve's website - [Currentseams](#))

Steve is a Connecticut-based fly fishing guide, instructor, fly tier, and freelance writer whose 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 is



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- 6914. Thanks...

Walking the Banks - Part1

@George Jacobi 2016

By George Jacobi



A spring seems like a miracle every time. In the middle of the woods, no place in particular, clear clean water bubbles gently from the ground. A magic trick. A birth. At once, from nothing, a watercourse exists, one that will not quit until it reaches the sea. Six inches wide and one inch deep, it follows the path of least resistance, flowing north down a gradual slope and across an acre of meadow. Like all springs, it has only one direction - down - and one mission -keep going. A fine philosophy. Let's adopt it and follow along.

scheduled to speak at the Marlborough Fly Show Jan 21st, and tying at The CFFA Expo Feb 4th.

Here are a couple of Vimeo videos from Steve Culton that might interest you: ["Squirrel and Ginger Caddis Emerger"](#) and ["Adding Weight to Striper Flies - Or Not"](#)

Door opens at 6pm.

Our meeting is free and open to members, guests and the general public. Social time, refreshments, fly tying demonstrations and fly fishing video. The featured presentation will start 7:30 pm after a short chapter "business" meeting at 7 pm.

Raffle Table:

This month we have a new 11'-6wt.-4 pc. fly rod with carrying case, a new 5/6 wt. fly reel, a half dozen separate containers of fly's, tying fur, feathers, fly boxes, hook packages, a new Browning pocket knife, and four different fishing books along with several more items to choose from.

Choices...

By Ed Walsh



I am asking members a few questions about their fly fishing experiences and will share their responses in this, and upcoming issues of Stream Lines. I have found their responses to be very interesting. Don't hesitate to ask them to elaborate when you see them at a meeting or on a stream somewhere. The questions are:

1. **What's your favorite fly?**
2. **What's your favorite hatch to fish?**
3. **What's your favorite river to fish?**

Charlie McCaughtry



- 1.) Hornberg
- 2.) Caddis hatch
- 3.) Big Bushkill Creek, Pa.

Mike Carl



1.) My favorite fly is the Royal Coachman wet in various sizes. In the small sizes like # 14 it is a classic wet fly attractor. In a larger size like #10, it can mimic a small minnow. It is a classic steeped in tradition and still is effective even today. I've caught more brookies and small wild browns with this fly than any other. Also, I've even caught some wise old Pennsylvania browns too, on creeks like Spring, Kinzua, and Spruce. Plus, historical icons like Ray Bergman, George Harvey, and Joe Humphreys all have praised its ability to catch fish.

2.) I don't really have a favorite river to fish. I like to get out and constantly explore new water. I do hold the

It is midmorning after a cool August night and the meadow has belatedly come alive. Monarchs, Tiger Swallowtails, Admirals, Fritillaries and Sulphurs choose among the Goldenrod, Joe-Pye Weed, and Queen Anne's Lace. Hundreds of bright butterflies dance, half of them Monarchs, perhaps the third generation of the year, now with tickets to Mexico for the winter. There is a constant hum from energetic bees and bugs, the song of the meadow. Grasshoppers bounce away with your old sneakers with every step through the waist high grasses. As if uncertain, the little rill slows crossing the colorful field, triples in size, and as it passes again into the trees, it widens enough to include a bunch of cattails thriving in the sun.

Just past the open space is a pond, partly shaded. This young waterway will discover patience here. A housing development abuts the area, although it is mostly out of sight, and a dirt road once went across this brook into a sandpit, perhaps a place to get extra fill. Though any kind of bridge is now gone, the road has slowed our streamlet even more, thus the shallow pond. Only a third of an acre, it is full of fallen trees. What kid can resist these walkways out into the middle? Here the marsh is maybe a foot deep. Shade keeps it from being overwhelmed with sun-loving aquatic weeds and turning into a genuine swamp. The horizontal trees host painted and spotted turtles. Saucer-sized bullfrogs hang in the film, as does one snapper, who rules. Small bass and assorted bream are his hors d'oeuvres. Young frogs join the turtles and dive and dart to safety before you even see them, leaving you with only widening circles. The snapper's head sinks slowly from sight.

The sandlot, which doesn't host a baseball game today, has a steep uphill bank on the far side. The near side, even with the brook, is hidden in a tangle of brush. Home run balls to left field are usually gone for good. This edge, sun to one side, shade and water to the other, is warbler heaven. Insects abound. Gone now in late summer, the migratory birds have left the repast to the Box Turtles and Wood Turtles. A Worm Snake hides, a whole life spent below the bark of a fallen tree. Ring-necked Snake, so large that it is pale grey, slips out of sight so fast it seems a ghost. Walking out of the sandpit, you enter a hemlock dominated ravine along the spring-fed brook, and the temperature falls a few degrees.

Not just darker and cooler, it is much quieter in here under the conifers; the gentle gurgle seems louder than it is. Lively now, the stream averages two feet wide and has holes a foot deep. Cool ground water seeps from the hillsides have added to it. Increased gradient means a faster flow. Rocks break up the downhill progress and undercut banks hide brook trout. Adult trout are four or five inches long, their primary colors invisible in the shade. Ripples on the surface, gone at once in the quick water, are all that give away their presence. You can lie on the moss and reach ever so slowly into the brook, under the bank, and move your hand upstream until it touches one, finning alertly there, a miraculous lifeform in another world. I bet you can do it if you try. Be a kid. After a mere hundred yards of this, our equally adolescent creek runs under a road and hesitates momentarily.

Farmington River as my "home waters" since I grew up on it. I like to fish the Fenton, locally, when the conditions are right. If I were to travel to one place to fish and that was the only place I could ever go, it would be Spring Creek in Pennsylvania.

3.) My favorite hatch to fish is the early brown stone. It comes off in numbers that will get the fish working on top and it starts when winter is losing its hold and river and streams are starting to get active again. It often is the first hatch in Eastern CT that is of any size and it comes before the Hendrickson crowds show up. You can fish it on top with a skating pattern or you can use wets. I often have more success with wets. The green caddis would be second (locally) because it gets heavy and is of long duration. If I were to travel, then I would have to hit either the Sulphur hatch on Spring Creek, white fly on the Yellow Breeches, or Green Drake on the Penns.

Bob Walsh



- 1.) Hex flies
- 2.) Hex hatch
- 3.) Moraine Creek, Alaska



Editor's Desk

If you're reading this column then I suspect you have an interest in TVTU. That's the good news. The bad news is we send this publication, along with meeting announcements, to 368 of our 419 members. Of the 51 without email access there are a half-dozen who have requested, and receive, a mailed copy of our sends. Of even more interest is that only 1/3 of the sends are ever opened. Yup, that means there are 275 plus members who, for whatever reason, haven't taken advantage of what TVTU has to offer. And we are not alone with these figures. The majority of TU chapters face this same dilemma.

I am certain it's fair to say that many of those 275 members we don't see have responsibilities that are far more important than a meeting or chapter activity. Young families and careers are a few things that push involvement with their TU chapter far down their To-Do list.

So how does a chapter attract more of those members who we don't see or hear from? I wish I knew that answer but maybe you can help. If you have an idea, any idea that might encourage more membership participation in our chapter let us know.

Remember there are 15 members of the TVTU Board of Directors. We represent only 3.5% of the membership. Couple that with 40 members who attend meeting on a regular basis and that group still means less than 10% of the membership participates in chapter activities.

I know I speak for every Board member when I say give us your ideas. We'll be waiting to hear from you.

Ed Walsh

Fly Tying Tips

By John Preston

What are your favorite fly tying websites?



Most of us (seniors) learned how to tie flies from a book or if you were lucky to know someone who tied, they would guide you. I didn't know anyone who fly fished, so after buying a cheap (and worthless) fly tying kit

with terrible instructions I just about gave up. But an Orvis shop opened in Bozrah in the early 70's and I signed up for a class. It was terrific; learn a lot and I loved it. Once you get a grasp on the basics fly tying is not that difficult and it is easier to understand how to tie more complicated patterns and techniques. And, of course, invent your own "killer" fly...

Today there are still books and people to learn from but with DVD's (on its way out), the internet and streaming videos, the ability to learn how to tie is ten-fold. There are so much information and YouTube videos available it is mind-blowing. Heck, Betamax and VHS weren't even released yet when I learned.

I recently posed the following question on the TVTU Facebook: **Wondering what are your favorite fly tying websites?** Unfortunately, as of this writing, no one has posted their favorite sites. I posted some of mine but what I would like to know some of yours and also get a little more traffic on our Facebook page. So please visit our Facebook site and let me and others learn from you.

Again, here are "some" of my favorite sites:

<http://www.blue-ribbon-flies.com/how-to/>

<http://www.charliesflyboxinc.com/flybox/index.cfm>

<http://softhacklepatternbook.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.flytierspage.com/>

One more plea (from me) out to our fly tying members... We are asking you to tie 6 flies of your favorite pattern(s) and donate them to the chapter to be used for fund-raising at our annual "Flies & Pies" event February 21st.

Thank you in advance for your donated flies...

Fly of the Month-

"Two Generic Flymphs"

CFFA Expo is coming soon...

Come visit us at the CFFA Expo. This is a terrific event by fly fishermen geared for fly fisherman. Thames Valley TU will be there for public relations, fund raising and membership drive. We will be offering books, fly tying materials, fishing equipment, raffle tickets for a Cabela's/Orvis rod & reel outfit and more...

Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association Inc.

presents
47TH ANNUAL

FLY FISHING EXPO & BANQUET

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of CFFA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017



featuring

Greg Hoover

- Veteran fly tyer & fly fisherman
- Entomology Professor, Penn State University
- Co-Author, "Great River, Great Hatches"

For more info: CTFlyFish.org

Maneely's Banquets

65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT

EXPO

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

\$3 admission

Children under 16 FREE

- Presentations
- Fly Tyers Row
- Kids' Fly Tying Table
- Vendor tables
- Demonstrations



Like us:
[Facebook.com/CTFlyFish](https://www.facebook.com/CTFlyFish)

BANQUET

Bucket Raffle & Presentation

\$45 per person

6 p.m. Cocktails & Raffle viewing

7 p.m. Dinner, Awards,

Presentation, & Drawings

*Some Personalities of Great
Rivers of the United States*

Reservations:

Phil Apruzzese (860)-489-4319 or
pjapruz@aol.com or CTFlyFish.org

RSVP by January 28

Open seating or reserve tables of 10.

By John Preston



Video and tying by
Hans Weilenmann

Here are two ways to tie a generic Flymph pattern. Flymph is a term coined by V.S. "Pete" Hidy in the updated and expanded version of "The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph". The term "flymph" describes an impressionistic, transitional (the stage between a nymph to an adult fly), wingless wet fly pattern... or, in the current vernacular, an emerger. No matter what you call them they catch fish. I prefer the second version with the extra turns of hackle and without tails, especially, in caddis green for the Shetucket Green Caddis hatch. Also try them in tan, olive and gray. Fish them down & across and tightly hold on to your rod...

Fly Tying Recipe: Generic Flymph

Hook: Tiemco 102Y #15

Thread: Pearsall's Gossamer silk, black

Hackle: Hen, badger

Rib (optional): Wire, gold

Tail (optional): Feather barbs

Body: Argentinean hare, dyed olive - in split thread

[Link to video - by Hans Weilenmann](#)

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thank the following paid
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TVTU 2017 Board of Directors



Back Row: Ed Walsh, Gary Lussier, Gene Cyr, Jim Clark, Ray Schaefer, George DeGray, Jim Smith, Sal DeCarli and Dave Parry.

Front Row: Paul Rice, Jackie Preston, Duke Preston and Jennifer Miner.


Missing from this picture: Morgan McGinley, Phil Sands, Charley McCaughtry.

About Us

To join Thames Valley TU or for information please visit our website www.thamesvalleytu.org.

Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact:
walsh4613@cox.net | PO Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350 | Thames Valley Trout Unlimited | (401) 742-6536 |.

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Jacqueline P. Preston
Owner



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 [Jackie Preston](#).

Thanks for your support!