

TROUT UNLIMITED

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter *Stream Lines*

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

May 2017

Dear Member,

Due to all the rain and cool weather, fishing this spring has been challenging. Normally, I would be getting some "quality time" on the Shetucket but it has been running high most of the time. I only get to fish on weekends and I have been looking forward to the May Green Caddis hatch. I suspect that with higher than normal flows the trout aren't in their usual spots. I went to check the river the other weekend at Salt Rock... five cars and no anglers in sight. No rising fish at any of my favorite holes and the high water was moving at a good clip. So, I look at areas I don't normally go. Sure enough, there was a couple of fish working sporadically close to the bank in a section that is normally devoid of trout. This made me wonder how others were doing since the "run-of-the-river" has been in effect. Let us know via our Facebook page what your experience has been with Shetucket this year.... this way we can all benefit from our collective knowledge.

Finally, you will notice we have a new section in the newsletter called... "Angler's Pantry"... which was developed due to some nice comments on the relish I made for the Natchaug River clean-up & lunch. A volunteer, Celeste Estevez, mention we ought to put the recipes (given to me by Phyllis Holmes) in our newsletter and we ran with it. I am hoping that others will contribute and share their favorite recipes in our Stream Line newsletter. So, I expect to hear from some of you frustrated chefs out there!

Hope to see you at the meeting and/or the following week at camp-out & breakfast....



Duke" Preston
President TVTU

[Email Address](#)

May 16th Membership Meeting - Jesse Filingo - PA/NY Fishing Guide - "How to Read Big Water (Delaware River)".

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Calendar

May 13 - Saturday, 9am

Moosup River Clean-up

Quinebaug Hatchery

May 16 - Tuesday, 6pm

Jesse Filingo - PA/NY Fishing Guide

Chapter Membership Meeting

Bozrah Firehouse

239 Fitchville Rd, Bozrah, CT

May 19 & 20 - 3pm Friday to Noon, Saturday

Annual Camp-out & Breakfast

Sandy Beach, Shetucket River

June 4 - Sunday, 9am

Fly Casting with Scout Troop 73

Sandy Beach, Shetucket River

We are now on Facebook!

When you visit our website there is now a link to our Facebook



Jesse is a certified fishing guide in the states of PA and NY. Jesse explored many tail water and freestone streams submerged throughout eastern Tennessee and the surrounding states. His free time was spent on trips to the northeast, where he further explored his love for wild brook and brown trout fishing in freestone rivers. Jesse gained more knowledge during his time spent out west. Also gained in the west was his first competitive fly fishing

opportunity when he competed in the first ever collegiate level world fly fishing tournament in Cong, Ireland. Jesse's passion and commitment towards fly fishing continues to grow.

Not only is Jesse an experienced fly fishing guide and teacher, but has publications for several fly fishing magazines. Here, his knowledge is shown through many angles - from tactic pieces to specific destination pieces. (From Jesse's unique and interesting [website](#))

Read an excerpt from the Eastern Fly Fishing magazine article by Jesse on the East Branch Delaware River -

[Link](#)

Door opens at 6pm. Our meeting is free and open to members, guests and the general public. Social time, fly tying demonstrations, refreshments, door prize & more... Presentation starts shortly after 7pm.

Join us at the Bozrah Firehouse!



Editor's Desk

By Ed Walsh



One of the most important things a TU chapter can, and should, do is grow our sport. We must understand how critical it is to encourage new people who have even a passing interest in fly fishing and conservation to become a Trout Unlimited member. No better example of this effort at TVTU is the time spent with local Boy Scout Troops teaching fly tying, casting and fishing etiquette and in schools with the Trout in the Classroom Program (TIC).

Kids today have a lot more on their plates than most of us did at their age. More sports programs are offered, technology presents options that consume a lot of free time and parents are busier than ever with family and career responsibilities.

So let's make sure we, individually and as a chapter, take advantage of the opportunities we have to expose young folks to this wonderful outdoor activity. I don't know about you but every time I see a kid with a fly rod I think that might be a future

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.](#)

Quick Links

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"Angler's Pantry"

By Duke Preston

CARROT & CUCUMBER RELISH

3 1/2 cup cucumbers (ground course) grind all the vegetables.

1 1/2 cups carrots

1 cup onions

2 tbsps. salt

Let set for three hours and drain well

In another kettle-----add:

2 1/2 cups sugar

1 1/2 cups vinegar

1 1/2 tsp. celery seed

1 1/2 mustard seed



Bring this to a boil and pour over vegetables---bring to a boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Seal while hot in jars. Yield about 2.5 pints.

NOTE: When this has simmered for the 20 minutes-- I have my lids in a pan of hot water and the jars in a dishpan of hot water. As I fill the jars and put the lids on I set them on a towel. When I am done I cover them all over with towels to keep them hot so they will seal.

You will probably want to at least double this recipe to get any appreciable amount. Five times the recipe will yield about 19 pints and, 8 times this recipe you get 32 pints.

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

"The best fisherman I know try not to make the same mistakes over and over again; instead they strive to make new and interesting mistakes and to remember what they learned from them."

-John Gierach "Fly Fishing the High Country"

conservationist and maybe even a TU Chapter leader.

Let me close this column by saying thank you to Ray Schaefer and Dave Parry for their efforts in organizing the chapter's activities with the Boy Scouts and TIC. I encourage you to say thank you yourselves when you see Ray and Dave at an upcoming meeting or chapter event or even better offer your time to help. They are always looking for folks with a few hours to spare.

"Fish and Fiction"

©George Jacobi 2017

By George Jacobi



The program that John Preston and I did at the Goodwin State Forest in April, "Fly Fishing - How and Why" was conceived as a primer for beginners. It wasn't until outside while casting, the give-and-take conversation part, that it sunk in to me that beginners at our sport could be any age,

and that maybe not beginners but only moderately knowledgeable people might look as ancient as myself. The old fashioned respect I have for most people, especially those of my somewhat advanced years, allowed me to assume - mistakenly - that almost everyone in our chapter was reasonably close to us in skill and experience.

So I thought I would skip the stories for a while, though they contain these lessons too, and directly share more of my experience than I have in the past, thoughts about fly fishing, streamcraft, gear, and river hydrology. If you ARE an old hand on the trout stream, you may take it all with a grain of salt, of course.

Let's start with this:



As a stream flows downhill it appears consistent to our eyes - the surface speed seems to change only when it drops quickly through a rapid or riffle or slows into a pool. That's a mirage. EVERYWHERE flowing water nears an object its speed is reduced by friction; the closer it is to that object, the slower it is forced to go. This physics (try to pretend I didn't use that word) refers to the banks, the streambed, every rock or tree stump or sand bar - or your legs - even every trout itself. What this means is that there are places, if a trout can find them, where it can face up-stream waiting for dinner to float by without using any precious energy to stay in one of those spots. The fish, able to use its hydrodynamically efficient body, will not get pushed downstream by the current. We call this a "PRIME LIE". This trout is able to be sheltered from predators and feed in the same place. Location, location, location.

A simple example is the rock illustrated above. Assume this is one rock alone in a pool. The lines with arrows (left of rock) going from

April Membership Meeting Recap: "Vermont Trophy Trout Fishing" with John Springer

By John Preston



John Springer gave a rousing in-depth presentation about Vermont's 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.

These rivers are stocked with large 2 year old Brookies, Browns and Rainbows... with the Rainbows into the 18+ inch range.

John walked us through the locations he likes to fish, the best times to be on the river, and the flies (ask John about his infamous Black Leech pattern) that he finds successful on these beautiful fisheries. He recommends starting at the obvious pullouts where they stock but to be sure to explore other areas off the beaten path. He assured us that there are places full of fish where you hardly see another angler. There are a number of trophy trout streams and lakes throughout VT so consult the VT Fish and Game for details. License fees run \$23 for a 3 day and \$31 for a 7 day non-resident.



For us who know John, his presentation wouldn't be complete without a rundown of his culinary explorations and where to get a great meal & beverage... I could almost taste that burger & onion rings he projected on the screen....yummy!

Fly Fishing Tips

By John Preston

"DYI New Zealand Indicator"



You can make your own New Zealand style strike indicators for less than half the cost with a quick trip to your local hobby/craft store. A NZ Indicator tool cost about \$16.

the surface to the streambed become shorter to show that the water slows as you move toward the bottom. At a certain point it slows enough to begin flowing both sideways around the rock and actually UPSTREAM along the riverbed. This bottom layer of water begins to carry some sand and gravel with it, sending it around and out - and digging a trench in front of that rock, which increases the area in which normal downstream flow is negated. How nice for a lazy trout. Note that sometimes a sand or gravel bar forms down from the rock - that's the sediment that the river moved from above the rock.

It's natural to assume that a fish can find a rest spot downstream from a rock, and they do, but it is counter-intuitive to look ABOVE that same rock. Yet it is a better place to be than below - you get first shot at the drifting snacks. To attract this fish your fly must hit the surface far above the rock and have a perfect float. This trout has a good long look at it. On the bright side, good drifts are not hard, which allows you to try several flies if need be without spooking your quarry.

Trout that hold DOWNSTREAM from a rock park themselves a distance behind it, otherwise they wouldn't see drifting flies until it is too late to grab them. You will see the riseform in the current line as a fish feeds, even if his lie is to the inside of that current. A fly presented to that trout has to come around the rock from above and float drag-free until it reaches the fish's position; an upstream mend of the fly line is many times the proper action. That's because the flow going around the rock is a bit slower (friction again) than the rest of the current between you and the rock.

In the middle of a pool a rock that functions like this is easy to see and cover with a few casts. This is a relatively easy fish to fool - it needs to decide fast and doesn't see the fly too well because the surface is usually disturbed. The flow by the rock has been squeezed laterally, making it rise into ripples, the easiest way it can go.

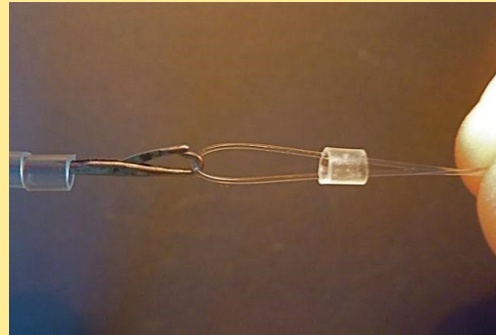
At the tail of a pool you'll usually see the water begin to pick up speed before the next riffle. Any visible rock here, whether above or below the surface, is a premier spot to try. This can be the home of a very good fish, and he got that size by being cautious. Don't get too close; ripples spread downstream fast in this flat water. This trout can roll to his rear and disappear among the riffle rocks; you'll then be casting to an empty lie. It's best to consider a lengthy downstream quartering cast, letting out line to get a long perfect float, if conditions are favorable for this approach. Standing below the riffle and casting UP might seem like a good idea, but the increasing velocity of the water as it nears the tailout is usually a recipe for terrible drag. Believe me, you will only try this once.

Lifting the line for the next cast scares this fish easily, even if you let it swing directly downstream from you near the shore. Make the first cast count. I can tell you from experience, this can be a trout you visit over and over before you have a successful day.

A riffle disguises trout lies from our eyes by the light dancing on the surface as well as the mixed-up currents. As you can expect when you understand friction, there are many good places here for fish to hold. You probably can't see them through the busy surface. These trout, though, will have to leave their effortless spots and swim through fast water to eat something.

A long drag-free float is usually difficult in these conditions, but it is also unnecessary. A trout's lateral vision is compromised by all the rocks too - short drifts over each pocket will do the trick. Start at the lower end and work your way first across, then up, so that lifting the fly out of the water for the next cast doesn't alarm a trout

Items needed you need to purchase: a Knit-Picker (\$2) from the sewing department; a roll of clear or colored (there is even glow in the dark colors) Pony Bead Lacing (\$2-\$4 for up to 60 ft.); and, any water repellent yarn of suitable size/color or some commercial fly fishing Indicator Yarn (<\$3). Use those 50% off coupons and save more... and you will have enough to supply you and the entire chapter for life.

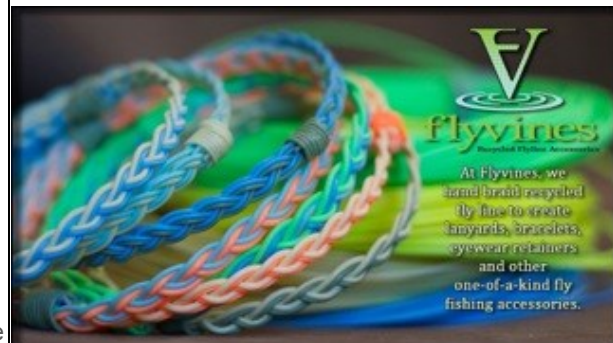


A NZ Indicator is easy to use. You can preload it ahead of time by cutting a few pieces of the tubing about 1/8" to 1/4" long and threading onto the Knit Picker. Then, when on the stream, hook your leader/tippet with the Knit Picker at the spot you want your indicator and slide one of the tubing collars over the tippet making a loop. Remove the Knit Picker and place a few strands of the unraveled yarn centered lengthwise inside the loop then slide the collar up to secure the yarn in place.

Here is a [VIDEO](#) showing how to use a NZ Indicator.

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, 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: "Craven's Parachute Adams"

By John Preston

in a pocket just below the one you have cast to. Repeated casts don't hurt - you are trying to convince a trout to use some energy to feed.

The places where two or more currents come together again after going around obstructions, are the key spots. Watch the bubble lines - they will show you the paths of the strongest currents. See the bubbles. Read the water.

DEEP/TVTU Keep-On-Stocking



Although the weather hasn't always been cooperative Gary Lussier and his band-of-stocking-brothers have been very active assisting the DEEP put fish in our local waters.



And next week will be even busier as the "Band" will be float stocking the Natchaug on Monday and the Salmon on Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday will find the guys putting fish in the Shetucket with many in the river near Sandy Beach which will make the weekend for the Annual Camp-out & Breakfast even more fun.

Thank you guys for all you do for our chapter.

For additional photos of the above Yantic stocking and other stockings visit our [Website Stocking page](#).

"I never graduated from Iowa. But I was only there for two terms - Truman's and Eisenhower's."

Alex Karras / Iowa

Trout in the Classroom

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



Tied by Charlie Craven

Here is great detailed video by Charlie Craven tying a Parachute Adams. Note his method for wrapping on the hackle and biots. If desired, you can forgo the biot and just use fur or synthetic dubbing. Many believe parachute flies are more effective than a traditional Adams because they lay flush in the water, and thus mimic an emerging mayfly or caddis. As they say: "When in doubt.... Try an Adams". A must fly for all our fly boxes

Fly Tying Recipe: Charlie Craven's Parachute Adams

Hook: TMC 100SPBL #12-22

Thread: Iron Grey 8/0

Tail: Brown and Grizzly Spade Hackle Fibers

Wing: White Float Viz

Hackle: Brown and Grizzly Rooster Neck

Body: Grey Superfine and Turkey biot; or, just Grey Beaver or Muskrat Dubbing

[Link to Charlie Craven Video](#)

The Cabela's/Orvis Fly Fishing Outfit Winner will be Chosen at Tuesday's Meeting.



Although we fell a bit short of our goal to sell 60 tickets for the above Cabela's / Orvis outfit the drawing will take place at next weeks (5/16) meeting.

Hope to see you all there but remember if you can't attend and your name is pulled as the winner a committee member will contact you and make arrangements to get the outfit to you as soon as possible.

Thank You for your Support

May 19 at Devils Hopyard with Westside MS @ 9:00 AM

May 24 at Mashomocket Brook State Park with Barrows
STEM 7th grade & 9:00 AM

Please contact Dave Perry for more info or to volunteer at:
(860) 617-8270 or dfperry01@gmail.com

Donations Wanted

You can help our TU chapter by donating your unused fly fishing/fishing equipment including rods, reels, flies, books and other reusable items. We will auction or raffle the items off and used the money raised to support our chapter's programs including 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 membership meeting.

Thank You for your generosity and support...

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 |.



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](mailto:Jackie.Preston@thamesvalleytu.org).

Thanks for your support!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Jim Clark Memorial

The family of long time TVTU member Jim Clark is inviting all chapter members to a celebration of his life at 4:00 PM, on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the Noank Baptist Church, 18 Cathedral Heights, Groton, CT.

For further information please call: (860) 536-7129


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