

# TROUT UNLIMITED

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter *Stream Lines*

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

October 2017

Dear Member,

Last membership meeting had a great turnout and we on the Board of Directors... thank you! We had new members, new faces, and a new sale table featuring Trout Unlimited hats, nets, fly boxes, and canteen bottles. A table of free stuff ranging from lures, fly boxes and plenty of trinkets and the main event was Rick Little's presentation of "Fly Fishing in Maine is Wicked Good".

This month's meeting is our election night, and be sure to cast your vote. We have our treasurer nominee who is Daniel King. We have open seats on the board as well; we are in need of a Communications Chair, a River Clean-up Co-coordinator, and a Programs Chair. It's a great way to get active in the behind the scenes making of our club, also the right path to become president (wink wink... this is my last year).

In addition, we will have someone speaking on behalf of the town of Sprague about purchasing property along the Shetucket river which would be turned into fishing access and other public uses.

See you at the firehouse!



"Duke" Preston  
President TVTU

[Email Address](#)

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### Calendar

**October 17 - Tuesday, 6pm**  
**Annual Meeting Election**

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

**Andre Trudelle - Shetucket Open Space**

**Nov 4/5, Sat 9am-5pm & Sun 9am-3pm**

**Arts of the Angler Show**

Ethan Allen Inn  
Danbury, CT

**November 21 - Tuesday, 6pm**

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

**Presentation TBD**

### Visit/Contribute to Our Facebook page!

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.](#)

### "The Vest" Part 2(Fly Boxes) ©George Jacobi2017

By George Jacobi

How many fly boxes do YOU have, and how are they organized? A personal question for sure - it shows how you like to fish. In my case, the ragged old vest I told you about in the last newsletter has 9 outside pockets stuffed with boxes that are stuffed with flies. My fly vest 'organization' reflects my decision to carry everything I might need for successful trout fishing in the Northeast at one time, and not have to bring another bag or box along in my car - just grab the vest and go. I guess it also reflects my opinion that I know enough about the hatches and the fishing to pull this off.

This means that I carry far more flies than I'll ever use on a given day. In one



opinion, that might mean I'm crazy to drag so much around; for another, this is too few options or too few backups of the ones that might work. Those are the guys that have the extra duffel bag in the trunk.

Be aware that the following descriptions leave out all sorts of odds and ends, too - flies that I have one of. Gifts, rarities, Royal Coachmen, other weird stuff. And be aware as well that none of this involves western trips, hatchery salmon in the fall, Maine landlocked salmon trips, and so forth - it's just my local

selection. I'm not obsessive about organization so things don't always make it back into their previous home right away.

TOP POCKET ONE has a large foam Dry Fly box. I sometimes do switch it out, from an early season selection to a middle/late season selection. In April it contains Hendricksons, Quill Gordons, Paraleptophlebias, and Adamases; in other words, dark mahogany and rusty Mayflies mostly in #18 to #12. Comparaduns, Catskill patterns, and Parachutes predominate on the dun side. Emergers of various kinds and spinners (i.e. patterns with no hackle to be crushed) fill the flat side, following the same selection of early Mayflies. There is room for this box in a bottom pocket if I choose to keep bringing it the rest of the year. I rarely do. That spot has become the extra spool with a sink-tip line for streamer fishing.

As soon as the mid-May Mayflies begin, I switch it to a 'Sulphur/Cream' box, which has a few of the early flies stashed in it too. Those mahogany patterns substitute for Isonychias, which will hatch off and on all the way into October. Various smaller (#20) pale yellow Mayflies (on the Housatonic at least) last deep into September. This box contains a couple of March Browns, Cahills, and a couple of Coffin Flies in case I run into Green Drakes. I never do, though, and those classic Stenonemas have proven themselves mostly unnecessary too. There are always some Caddis or Sulphurs hatching at the same time of day that will take fish. These are #18 to #12s as well, except of course the Green Drakes at #8. I carry a LOT of Sulphur patterns - it's a heavy hatch and I do well fishing it, go through flies fast in the process. The same hackle side and no-hackle side of the box continues. Someday I'll get a Wheatley box that will function the same way, its compartments caring for the hackled duns even better than the foam box.

TOP POCKET TWO has a large four-sided box. It is full of nymphs (beadhead and otherwise), wet flies and soft hackle flies, and my Caddis fly patterns. I would love to have another of these on the previous side, but there isn't enough vertical space for hackled Mayflies - they would get crushed. There are a few standard hackled Caddis - Henryville Specials and Bivisibles (no white, just a palmered dry fly in Ginger, Brown, or Grizzly is a simple to tie killer). There is just enough room for the hackles of a #16 fly, but not a #14. There are also a lot of X Caddis, Iris Caddis, and Elk-hair patterns. Caddis take up one side. Go-to nymphs include Pheasant Tails, Princes, and Leadwing Coachmen, and assorted green-bodied Caddis. Anything with peacock herl is worth having! Brassies are in here too, all of the above #18 to #12 with bigger stonefly nymphs included. Swinging a soft hackle fly is more fun for me than nymph fishing; there are plenty of soft hackles.

The smaller TOP POCKET THREE is reserved for extras of whatever I am keyed in on, or hoping for. This is sometimes the extra batch that I just bought at the shop for this particular day or night. This contains quality hackled dries in #14 or #12 that I fussily protect from crushing. A way to be prepared, perhaps including surprise news from friends who might tell you the real conditions on the river.

BIG BOTTOM POCKET ONE has a large streamer box. I like weighted (bead-head) Woolly Buggers in black, black and brown, and olive. I like smaller short shank white, yellow, or olive marabous, and I always tie long shank white

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## "Angler's Pantry"

By Jennifer & Duke Preston



### Buffalo Chicken and Tater Tot Casserole.

#### Ingredients:

One 32 oz. bag of frozen tater tots  
3 lb. chicken tender loins  
8 slices of cooked crispy bacon (crumbled up)  
1 package of shredded cheddar cheese  
3/4 cup milk  
1 1/2 cup ranch dressing  
1 1/4 cup hot sauce  
Salt/pepper to taste

#### Directions:

In a Crock-Pot layer tots, then chicken, bacon, cheese. Then mix and add remaining chicken, tots, cheese, and bacon. Combine liquids together then pour on top. Cook on low or 6 hours or high for 4 hours.

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

## Wicked Good Fun!

To quote the president... "We had new members, new faces, and a new sale table featuring Trout Unlimited hats, nets, fly boxes, and canteen bottles. A table of free stuff ranging from lures, fly boxes and plenty of trinkets and the main event was Rick Little's presentation of "Fly Fishing in Maine is Wicked Good"





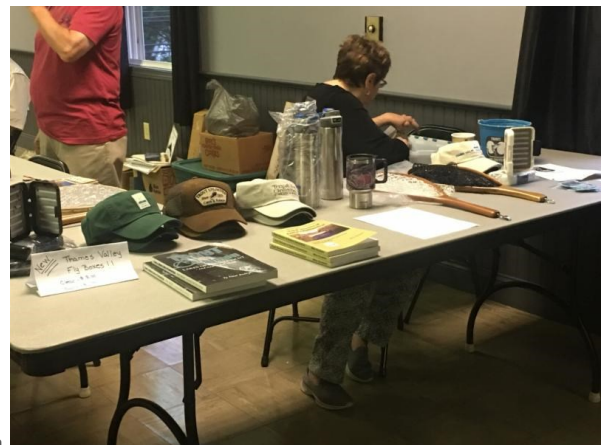
marabou and peacock herl streamers (Black Ghosts and the like) using red thread. The extra spool fits here too if necessary.

BIG BOTTOM POCKET TWO has a large plastic compartment box with micro-midges. Mostly tiny Blue-winged Olives, duns and spinners, down to #28s, along with genuine midge flies like Griffith's Gnats, also tiny. This is where little nymphs like Brassies reside too. It also has a large but skinny terrestrial box full of ants and beetles (#22 to #12) with a few hoppers and inchworms.

LEFT SMALL POCKETS - one has split shot, bug dope, and a fly-sink liquid container; the other has a small box of super Comparaduns tied by my friend Steve, that I save for the most selective trout.

RIGHT SMALL POCKETS- one has an older box of nymphs, not weighted, and includes San Juan Worms, Egg Flies, and other rarely used stuff. The second has a batch of dry Baetis imitations (Blue-Winged Olives) in the middle sizes (#18-#20) which I am finding more and more valuable as time goes on. One compartment in this box also has strike indicators.

Yes, a vest will show how you like to fish. In my case, you can easily deduce that I'll fish dry flies as often as I can. In fact, I'll usually be happy to catch 4 or 5 on dries even if I could have caught 15 on nymphs. Soft hackles and even streamers will come out before nymphs and strike indicators. I time my trips by the day and the hour to maximize dry fly opportunities, to meet the hatches and spinner falls as much as possible. I've been learning to do this for 40 years because I like it best. It's my day on the water, and I'll do what I want. I get outfished by really good anglers who use nymphs (or even a few who use dries) but I don't care. I enjoy myself and I usually get my share.



## TVTU Attends Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for The Completion of the Sprague Land Preserve



It was the work of too many people to name, First Selectman Cathy Osten said, that ensured 630 acres of forest and open space in Sprague will be protected as a land preserve.

Osten and many of those who made the Sprague Land Preserve a reality were on hand at the site Thursday to take part in a ribbon-cutting

ceremony to mark the completion of EPA cleanup efforts there.

EPA officials at the state and local level, area preservationists, hunting and sport groups and local officials... were on hand."

Osten, also a Democratic state senator for the 19th District, said the town initially purchased a 280-acre parcel and subsequently added two more properties.

"The first property had 18 acres that were contaminated," Osten said. The site was a former skeet-shooting club and lead was among the contaminants, she said.

"Previous selectmen made a commitment that we would clean the property up," she said. The EPA offered its assistance in the \$8 million cleanup effort and for the past three years, the federal agency and the town worked toward that goal.

"Today we are all done with the cleanup," Osten said. "It's open for passive recreation. We allow hunting up here, and have a whole host of things that

See additional photos of the September meeting on our [website](#).

### Fly of the Month:

"Improved  
Baetis  
Sparkle  
Dun"



By John Preston

NOW... is the time for BWO on the Housatonic and this fly could be the difference for success or frustration. Like all sparkle duns it imitates an emerging mayfly. The zelon wing provides more visibility and flotation. I believe the "improved" sparkle dun version is better when the emerger is being

happen up here."

The preserve straddles the Shetucket River in Sprague and crosses over the town boundary with Franklin, where it's accessible by using Holton Road.

The first land purchase happened in 2007, followed by others in 2009 and 2011. And the town also is looking at adding other properties to its land preserve.

"We're looking to add some 2,000 more acres and be around the 3,000-acre mark," Osten said. It will do that through a mix of private donations and land acquisition grants, she said.

The preserve is a big boon to anyone that enjoys fishing, hunting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and other activities.

The above was taken from a Norwich Bulletin article. For the complete article [See Here.](#)

## Protect & Save Bristol Bay:



### Send Comments to the EPA, Get Engaged, Donate & Buy Bristol Bay Sockeye

Trout Unlimited has been overwhelmed by the unending dedication of our volunteer and the chapters and councils they run to protect and conserve fish habitat throughout the country.

In Bristol Bay, salmon are counted by the million, trout are measured by the foot, and emerald rivers run red with sockeye salmon strutting their spawning colors.

For more than a decade the proposed Pebble Mine has been front and center in the angler's fight to protect the true fishing gems of the world. Trout Unlimited has asked you and your chapter or council to take action before and in light of the Environmental Protection Agency's current comment period regarding removing protections for Bristol Bay, now, we find it important to ask again.

Bristol Bay is not just home to 30 inch rainbow trout and some of the last strong salmon runs. It's home to the world's last wild sockeye salmon factory where 14,000 Americans are employed every year, millions are contributed to our economy, and native cultures still thrive all because salmon are still there; and we NEED to protect that.

Please consider taking the following personal steps, and sharing this message with your chapter members encouraging them to do the same:

1. Learn about the issues at [www.savebristolbay.org/take-action](http://www.savebristolbay.org/take-action)
2. Send in a comment to the EPA at <http://standup.tu.org/save-bristol-bay/>
3. Sign up for emails from the Alaska team at <http://action.savebristolbay.org/page/s/BBaySignup>
4. Like the Save Bristol Bay Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SaveBristolBay/>
5. Make a donation to the Save Bristol Bay initiative at

preferred by the feeding trout. If you haven't experienced BWOs on the Housy... you are missing out. Tie up a half dozen or so and head to the river... NOW! Yes, I said... NOW and before all the autumn leaves fall and get in the way.

#### Improved Baetis Sparkle Dun material list:

**Hook:** Tiemco 2488 - size 20-24

**Thread:** Olive Dun 8/0 Uni Thread

**Shuck:** Medium Dun Zelon

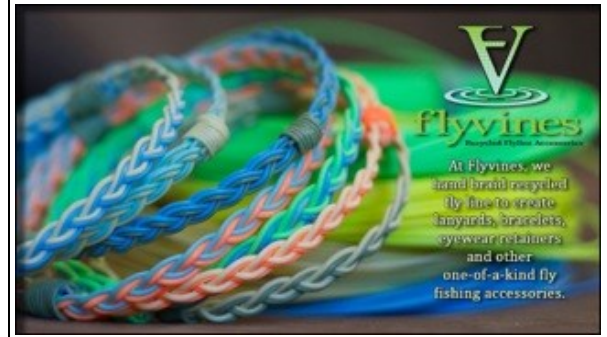
**Dubbing:** Olive Dun Superfine Dubbing

**Wing:** Dun Deer Hair and Dun zelon

For detailed instructions on tying the Improved Baetis Sparkle Dun refer to [The Blue Ribbon Flies video.](#)

## 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](http://www.flyvines.com) for more information about what they do! Thank you...



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**Jacqueline P. Preston**  
Owner



<https://gifts.tu.org/donate/bristolbay>

6. Buy Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon and support the fight (details below)

### Pride of Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon

TU members around the country can now order delicious, sustainable Bristol Bay sockeye salmon and have it delivered right to their front door. Pride of Bristol Bay, a TU business member, is generously donating 10% of all profits to TU's Save Bristol Bay program. The visionary partnership will help safeguard Bristol Bay's clean, fish-filled waters and wild salmon from the Pebble Mine. Buying from Pride of Bristol Bay is a delicious and easy way to support our work to ensure this national treasure is around for future generations to use and enjoy.

To reserve your share go to: [www.PrideofBristolBay.com](http://www.PrideofBristolBay.com) (Use code bristolbayforever for a discount of \$1.00/lb until 11/1.)

## TVTU Youth Movement?



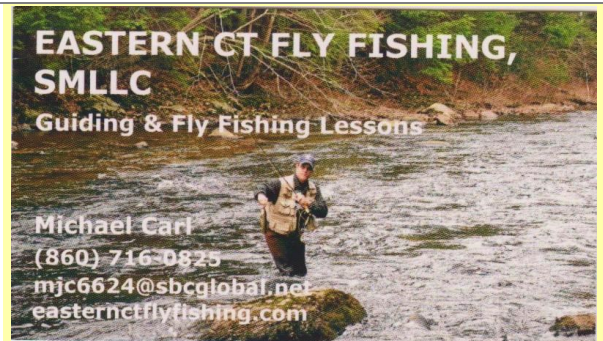
Ted McMahon with sons Jeremiah, Brendan & Padraig have become regulars at TVTU meetings. Now who wouldn't want to teach these young guys conservation and how to fly fish

## About Us

To join Thames Valley TU or for information please visit our website [www.thamesvalleytu.org](http://www.thamesvalleytu.org).

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

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



## 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!**

## 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 conservation projects, stream clean up, stocking, TIC, speaker fees, and other operating expenses. Email [John Preston](mailto:John.Preston@tu.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...**