



TROUT UNLIMITED

CHAPTER NEWS

Thames Valley Chapter 282

January 2014

STREAM LINES

President's Message,

Since there hasn't been a newsletter in some time, I thought a quick review of last year efforts would be in order.

The Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is still going strong under the leadership of Dixie Goodwin and volunteers Doug Hughes, Bill Keister, John Jascot, and John Manfred. We support 14 schools spread across Windham and New London counties. Thames Valley Chapter may not have the most schools but we cover a very large and diverse area. There are some issues with teacher turnover, other schools wanting to participate, and aging equipment, that hopefully, we can help find some funds for acquisition, upgrading or replacement of equipment for present and new TIC schools.

A grant from TU established a pilot program with National Fishing in Schools Program (NFSP) for eastern CT. Six of the twenty adults attending the training session in Norwich, CT (April 2-3, 2013) were Thames Valley members who volunteered to become NFSP mentors for the five regional schools participating.

On May 3rd a Field Day for West Middle School (Groton) included the release of trout the school had raised into Eight Mile River at Devil's Hopyard and fly fishing instruction provided by 5 TVTU members (4 NFSP trained). Eighty students and five teachers and assistants received instruction the day. The students were then bused to Salem Valley Dairy Farm and each treated to an ice cream cone. Great fun for all!

TVTU took part in a Connecticut Free Fishing Day (May 11th) fishing derby at Spaulding Pond that was sponsored by the Norwich Recreation Department in which five TVTU members (4 NFSP trained) set up a fly fishing & knot tying area and provided instruction.

I had the pleasure of providing fly casting instruction to 18 Norwich Free Academy students on October 18th and again on a blustery autumn day in early November where 9 students used their newly acquired skills at Spaulding Pond.

On the conservation front...

TVTU received a letter of thanks from the town of Lebanon and First Selectman Joyce R. Okonuk to all the Trout Unlimited volunteers (Dixie Goodwin, Peter Belisle, Alton Blodgett, Gene Cyr, John Paloff, Lance Magneson, Tom Kolasa, Charlie McCaughtry, Dan O'Connor and son) for their generosity in taking time to clean up litter and other debris from the banks of the Yantic River TMA in Lebanon on Saturday, March 23rd.

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday Jan 21st

Doors open at 6PM

FLIES & PIES NIGHT!!!

Bozrah Moose Lodge

115 Fitchville Rd, Bozrah

The doors will be open at 6pm for the January 21, 2014 Thames Valley TU Membership meeting for a night of fly tying and pizza! If you tie, bring your stuff and tie your favorite fish catching patterns. Beginners can pick up pointers. If you don't tie, come learn, watch, or just talk about fly tying and swap fishing stories while enjoying a slice of pizza.

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There will also be a rod building demonstration by Bill Keister. If anyone has any other fishing skills they you are willing to demonstrate, please contact Bill Keister, bkeister@thamesvalleytu.org

If you are getting the winter blues and cabin fever is starting to set in, we will be running the video, "The Trout Bum Diaries – Patagonia" for your viewing pleasure.

We will also be having a fishing gear swap and tag sale. If you have fishing gear you no longer need, you can set up "shop" at one of the tables available. Or, if you are just looking for fishing gear that Santa didn't bring you for Christmas, bring along your wallet and pick up a bargain.

The Sea-Run Brook Trout Coalition (SRBTC), in conjunction with Mianus, Nutmeg and Thames Valley TU chapters and CT DEEP, will be working to monitor three brooks in the Stonington area to evaluate their potential (for three years) to hold sea-run brook trout. On Sunday, April 7th a total of 17 temperature loggers were deployed along Anguilla Brook, Donahue Brook, and Coppins Brook. The loggers' data was downloaded last summer and November. A potential grant from SRBTC for restoration planting for a section of the Anguilla Brook where a pond and dam was removed is being considered for this year.

Last October Thames Valley Chapter received a \$5K donation from Northeast Recyclers of Windham to use for the Shetucket and Natchaug watersheds. We will be forming a committee to decide how best to use the funding for these watersheds. If you are interested or have suggestions, please contact me.

As you can see, a lot has been accomplished, but there so much more we can do in the upcoming year(s). And with your continuing efforts, donations, involvement, and commitment, we can achieve even more.

Again, thank you all for your support,

John Preston, President

Thames Valley/282

johnpreston@thamesvalleytu.org

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

By Dixie Goodwin, Education Coordinator

There are two significant youth education programs here in Eastern Connecticut. Trout in the Classroom (TIC) began in 2006 and a more recent pilot Fishing in Schools Program began this past year. Both programs were made possible because of community funding, organizational grants and the volunteer efforts of TVTU members.

TIC was initiated because of the vision and leadership of Richard Guarino (Pres. 2003-2005), who reached out to local businesses and organizations for grants and start-up funding for fifteen schools. Additional TIC funding was made available by the Natchaug Chapter under the leadership of Charley McCaughtry when funds were transferred to TIC as Natchaug merged with TVTU. This allowed for five additional schools. Mike Goodwin (Pres. 2005-2007), took on the task of purchasing equipment and supplies and with the help of Don Exley (Pres. 2007-2009) and TIC volunteers ensured that new equipment was properly installed and operational in twenty school (K-12) as of September of 2010. I volunteered to be the TIC Coordinator and greatly appreciate the many dedicated TIC mentors who worked with schools to keep equipment running properly, delivered trout eggs and food provided by DEEP, assisted with trouble-shooting problems throughout the school year, provided fly-tying lessons, and shared their fishing stories and knowledge of local rivers/streams. Approximately 1500 students (1000 students presently) are actively involved in TIC each academic year.

The raffle table will have many special items oriented to fly tying. There will be two (2) door prizes this month... a great wine basket and a new, out of print fly tying book "Advanced Fly Tying" by A.K. Best.

In addition, we will be kicking off a special fund raising raffle for a new Orvis 8 1/2 ft., 3 wt., 7 pc "Frequent Flyer" fly rod and case (\$250 MSRP). Tickets are \$10 each and will be limited to only 50 tickets. Once 50 tickets are sold we will have the drawing at that meeting or the next scheduled meeting. You could be walking away with a very nice Orvis fly rod and also helping us raise the funds necessary to have great monthly meeting programs, under take conservation efforts, and education programs like TIC and Fly Casting in our local schools.

Yantic River Cleanup

Sat March 29, 9AM

Shake off the winter woes, bundle up and join us Saturday, March 29, 2014 at 9:00 AM for our Annual Yantic River Cleanup. We will meet at the Barstow Road cul-de-sac and clean along the river banks and roads for the Trout Management Area. We still have plenty of cleanup materials (bags, gloves, etc.) that were purchased with a grant from Last Green Valley and we'll make sure that hot coffee is available following the cleanup. As in past years, the Lebanon Public Works Department will assist with trash removal. All we have to do is bag the trash and place it in a designated area for pick up by the town crew.

To volunteer or discuss river stewardship opportunities, please contact: Gene Cyr, River Cleanup Coordinator, Tel: 860-376-3350, Email: gcyr@thamesvalleytu.org

Amazing to think that TIC is now in it's eighth year but the story is now changing. As coordinator, I've seen a slow decline in school participation over the past 2-3 years. Teachers retiring, changes in staff, etc. may be factors but aging equipment is most definitely contributing to the decline. Equipment had been inventoried, cleaned and refurbished when possible. We have fourteen TIC schools this year. All are doing very well but I expect TIC will continue to decline without viable equipment and an increase in volunteers to mentor and assist new and existing TIC schools with fundraising for their programs.

Teachers praise TIC as an excellent program which fits in with other studies. TIC promotes student awareness of river and stream ecology/conservation and affords students the opportunity to learn just how hard it is for a trout to survive. This achieves our goal of increasing awareness and river stewardship. However, there has been much discussion amongst TU Youth Education folk about the need to expand the TIC experience and provide opportunities for students to get out of the classroom and to the waters.

In November of 2012, an opportunity was presented when Hendrik Verkade (Pres. 2011-2013) announced that Eastern Connecticut was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the National Recreational Foundation (NRF) to fund Fishing in Schools pilot program. This grant is administered by the TU Director of the Headwaters Youth Programs and is specific to intermediate and high school students learning to fly fish (ff). Our role is to mentor the schools and provide opportunities for students to go to fishing waters to build on what they learned as part of the in-school curriculum.

Five of our Eastern Connecticut TIC schools made application and were awarded funding from this grant. Our chapter received some of the NRF grant monies to cover our expenses for promoting and providing ff opportunities for students.

In April 2013, six of our chapter members, joined teachers and town recreational personnel (21 adults total) for instructor certification training in Norwich, CT. The training was provided by Katie Cole of the National Fishing in Schools Program (NFSP). Obviously our members didn't need ff instruction. The goal was to allow our members to assess the program, promote consistency of teaching methods and to establish camaraderie with the teachers. Following the training there was a flurry of activity to acquire equipment and training materials. Special thanks to Hendrik and Alison Verkade and Bill Keister for helping our chapter with this task. We've organized four events so far:

- May 3, 2013 - our members managed to put a fly rod in the hands of eighty students at Devil's Hopyard State Park and NFR treated each student to an ice cream cone at Salem Valley Farm Dairy at the end of their field day.

February Speaker Rob Nicholas

Fishing in Chile and Argentina

**Tuesday Feb 18, 7 PM Bozrah
Moose Lodge**

Rob Nicholas is a full-time guide with more than 12 years' experience taking fishermen on the Housatonic (his home river) and the Farmington.

In winter, he leads fishermen to some of the best angling in the Chilean and Argentine sections of Patagonia. He will be talking about the vast fishing opportunities in South America.

Come join us for the night and escape to South America!

OPEN BOARD POSITION - Communications Chair

The Communications Chair will be responsible for managing the Chapter's website, newsletter, and correspondence to Chapter members.

This position is available to a qualified individual that has an interest in communications and communications technology and wants to be part of a great



- May 11, 2013 - TVTU partnered with the Norwich Recreation Department for Connecticut license free fishing day at Spaulding Pond.



- June 12 & 13, 2013 - TVTU and The Last Green Valley co-sponsored license-free fishing on the French River but record high water cancelled fly-fishing for many very disappointed Tourtellotte HS students. This will be rescheduled for spring of 2014.
- October 20, 2013 - TVTU planned a license-free fly fishing event at Mansfield Hollow State Park.

organization. It will provide an opportunity for someone that is willing to share their established professional expertise or an individual looking to enhance and develop their burgeoning skills. There are additional opportunities to project manage the redesign of the Chapter's website and newsletter and work to improve the Chapters communications framework and tools.

Please forward your interest in this position to chapter president, John Preston at; johnpreston@thamesvalleytu.org

February Membership Meeting

Tuesday February 18th, 7PM

Membership meetings are held at the Bozrah Moose Lodge at 115 Fitchville Road. This is just south of exit 24 from Route 2. If you are coming from the east on Route 2 take exit 24 and turn left at the bottom of the ramp and go under Route 2. The Moose Lodge is on the left just past the eastbound entrance ramp. Coming from the west on Route 2 you take exit 23. At the stop sign at the bottom of the ramp take a right onto Route 163 and follow it a short ways to Fitchville Rd. Turn right onto Fitchville Rd and go about 1-1/2 miles until you cross under Route 2 at exit 24. Moose is on the left just past Route 2.

Teachers report 14 classes/340 students have participated in the Fishing in Schools Program (FSP). They teach students fly fishing (ff) and the positive elements associated with ff in a classroom and gym setting during the "off season". And during the "on season" our TVTU mentors reinforce the instruction by offering assistance to teachers and students and working with schools to plan on-the-water days. In October and November, John Preston provided instruction to Norwich Free Academy students and teacher, Seth

Yarish and students enjoyed fishing at Spaulding Pond in Norwich.

<http://www.nfaschool.org/page.cfm?p=874&eid=58>.

I think we can pat ourselves on the back for promoting youth fishing in Eastern Connecticut.

If you would like to know more about TIC and FSP or volunteer your time to help students learn to ff, please contact Dixie Goodwin, Tel: 860-464-2685, Email: dgoodwin@thamesvalleytu.org.

Trout fry ready to be released



Students learning to FF



New Hydro License Issued for Scotland Dam

- Flow will Change to Run-of-River

By Jim Smith

On November 21, 2013 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license to FirstLight Hydro Generating Company (FirstLight), the current license holder, to continue operation and maintenance of the Scotland Hydroelectric Project, aka Scotland Station or Scotland Dam. The facility is located on the Shetucket River in Windham County about 4-1/2 miles above Baltic. The new license was granted for a period of 40 years. FERC denied a competing application submitted by Norwich Public Utilities.

Conditions of the Order require FirstLight to implement a number of conservations measures such as, providing upstream and downstream fish and eel passage, protection of mussel populations, enhanced water quality and aquatic habitat, as well as, steps to maintain cultural and recreational resources. In addition, a key requirement of the new license will mandate that FirstLight change the current pond-and-release generating mode to **run-of-river** mode, whereby outflow from the reservoir equals inflow. To capture lower flows FirstLight proposes to install a new 1.026 megawatt (MW) turbine generator lower down in the dam structure. Combined with the existing 2.0 MW turbine the facility's overall capacity will be 3.026 MW.

First Light is required to commence construction of the new project works within two years from the issuance date of the license, Nov 21, 2013, and complete construction within five years from the issuance date of the license.

The new lower 1.026 MW turbine will operate between flows of 110 to 600 cubic feet per second (cfs) and the existing 2.0 MW turbine generator will operate between flows of approximately 600 to 1,930 cfs. Flows above approx. 1,930 cfs will spill over the dam or through the tainter gates. Flows greater than 600 cfs can also be split between the turbines. Flows at 110 cfs

Ice cream to end the day!



and below will be allowed to spill over the dam or through a 30" pipe at the power house. Currently the minimum required flow is 84 cfs.

Expected Benefits from Run-of-River Operations

The eventual elimination of pond-and-release operations at the dam and subsequent change to run-of-river mode with increased minimum flows is expected to greatly improve temperature conditions and habitat for trout in the Shetucket River. Run-of-river operations will allow trout to take advantage of the many cooler water thermal refuge areas in the river and escape lethal in-stream water temperatures during hot summer weather.

As documented in the temperature study conducted by TVTU in 2005 and 2006 and reported on by past president Mike Goodwin, ***"Of primary importance to year-round survival of fish in the Shetucket River is the stability of cooler water refuge areas. The trout must have a place to hold during the warmer hours of the day when river temperatures exceed the temperature that trout can survive"***. The temperature testing proved that these vital cooler water refuge areas exist at the mouths of feeder streams, such as Merrick, Waldo and Beaver Brooks and it's also common knowledge that the river contains underwater seeps and springs that provide additional thermal refuge areas. The study proved that these refuge areas are quickly eliminated during release cycles of power generation and that the rate of temperature change closely approaches or exceeds the lethal tolerance of trout, particularly of fish already stressed by high water temperatures. Even though the seeps and springs weren't part of the temperature testing, one can reasonably assume that they are also eliminated during a release.

It's recommended that DEEP protect the thermal refuge areas by restricting fishing at stream mouths during the hot summer months. This is done on other rivers and streams in the state, including the Housatonic River and Farmington River.

With the eventual change to run-of-river operations, protection of thermal refuge areas, and a more stable environment, one can theorize that trout could survive through the summer and become holdover fish, providing improved fishing opportunities and a healthier fishery. One could also theorize that the river ecology, including insect hatches, could benefit from a more stable environment.

I look forward to the day this stretch of the Shetucket flows and acts more like a natural river. I also look forward to future dam modifications that will allow for the passage of eels along with resident and anadromous fish, such as shad and river herring.

If everything goes as planned, the change to run-of-river operations and modifications to the dam will take up to five years to complete. Until then... I'll wait for that telltale signal, "THE BREAKER IS OPEN", and then make my way up to the Shetucket with the hope of catching one of her terrific hatches. All the while, contemplating what the future will bring.

For a copy of the FERC Order and Shetucket River Temperature Study please email a request to Jim Smith at: jsmith@thamesvalleytu.org

Local Organizations Promoting Conservation and Stewardship

Please take a minute to learn more about the following organizations in our area doing outstanding work to protect and conserve our natural resources;

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust

<http://www.lymelandtrust.org>

The Eight Mile River Watershed

<http://www.eightmileriver.org>

<http://www.eightmileriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/8Mile-River-newsletter.pdf>

The Sea-Run Brook Trout Coalition (SRBTC)

<http://www.searunbrookie.org>

Trout Unlimited's Mission
To conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon and their watersheds.

TIME TO DREAM

A poem by George Jacobi

Thames Valley TU Chapter 282
PO Box 211
Hanover, CT 06350

I wish I could fish the Neversink, in Eighteen Ninety One
Use silken line and cat-gut, Royal Coachman and Blue Dun
With cane and tweed and pipe smoke, beside a tall elm tree
We'd talk of quills and wood duck wings, Theodore Gordon and me.

I wish I could fish the Battenkill, in Nineteen Forty Two
Learn from Wesley Jordan the art of split bamboo
I'd argue with Jack Atherton, about abstract art and such
And those brookies in the Gunsmith Pool? - we'd never get a touch.

I wish I could fish Spring Creek just once, in May of Fifty Three
Down in that misty valley, where it flows melodiously
The sky is all Green Drakes tonight, as Brown and I go back
To a time before the poison. Yeah, I wish we had the knack.

I wish I could fish the Hous again, about Nineteen Eighty Five
With Pete and Jay and all the boys, when we were all alive
Those golden April afternoons pass by in memory
We didn't know back then it was as good as it would be.

I get to play the Old Man now, pretend I know it all
I've seen the glory that is spring, I've watched the last leaf fall.
An old man has to pick and choose the times to go astream
It was always time for fishing, now it's time to dream.

I wish I could fish in Lobsterville, just one more night in June
Where skunks patrol and stripers roll, under the Vineyard moon
Or Firehole, or Grand Lake Stream, down in the Evening Pool
Do land-locked salmon jump for joy, or is life just cruel?

Stream Lines

***A Newsletter of the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited
The Voice of Eastern Connecticut Trout and Salmon Anglers***