



Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

"The Voice for Eastern CT Salmon and Trout Anglers"

May 2014

Dear Member,

Much has happened since we last met. We completed a stream cleanup of the Natchaug River on April 27. A special thanks to the "Cleanup Crew" of Gene Cyr, Charley McCaughtry, Jerry Gourd, John Pallof, Jim Smith, Duke Preston, Michael Arndt, Bill Melanson, and Mr. & Mrs. Craig Terrell for all their help in filling up Gene and Charley's vehicles with discarded buckets, chairs, tires and bags of debris. Funding for the cleanup was provided by The Last Green Valley. After the cleanup lunch was provided, and I must say, Duke and I turnout a mean hotdog. Even though the Hendrickson's were hatching, the weather and prior commitments put a damper on the planned fishing. I still haven't gotten my fly line wet yet. The next stream clean-up is for the Moosup River (see details below).

According to Ray Schaefer and Charley McCaughtry stocking is in full swing. The Little River was float stocked by Ray, Gene Cyr, Irv Stanley, and Mike Romagna. It was tough going but when the goin' gets tough the tough get goin'. How tough was it? Ray was surprised to learn he had lost quite a few studs from his new wading shoes while stocking the Little River. Because of high water the Yantic and Natchaug Rivers were not float stocked. Check out the website for details on upcoming stocking in May. If you are interested in finding out where the big ones are, give Ray or Charley a call to put your name on the call list.

Speaking of the website, I am proud to announce that our "new" website will be up and running very soon. We have been testing the website for a few weeks to be sure it was ready for primetime. The website address will be the same www.thamesvalleytu.org but it is much easier to maintain and to keep up-to-date. There will be at least three people who will be allowed to edit and update the website's content and to make sure it stays current. Check out the new website when it's finally up and let us know the good, bad and the ugly. I want to give a special shout out to my niece Samantha Barracca who helped the chapter setup the new website. Thankfully, she will be available for some time to maintain the site and to point the "old guy" and chapter in the right direction. Check out her link in the Links/Info tab of the website.

As one member asked at the April meeting, it is possible that we'll join the "Facebook" world in the future. If anyone is interested in creating and maintaining a Facebook page for the chapter let me know.

The Thames Valley TU Survey will be out shortly... details to follow. Remember it is very important for you take a few minutes of your time and fill out the survey. The results of the survey will play a critical role in what the chapter will plan and do in the future. Here is your opportunity to have a say in what is important to you and what should be our emphasis in the years to come. Another "special thanks" to Jim Smith and Bill Keister for all their efforts in creating the survey.

Be sure to mark your calendars and make it to the May 30-31 TVTU Campout/Breakfast and Fishing on the Shetucket. It is a little earlier this year (normally we hold it in June) so I hope the weather will cooperate and we'll all have a great time. As usual we have the Konow family to thank for graciously letting us use their property for this annual event. Something different this year... I have devised a fly

casting contest that I hope will be fun for the novice to the expert. Prizes! Check this newsletter for more details.

And finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors I want to thank all of you for your volunteerism, donations, and support. Without it we could not continue to make an impact for the watersheds of Eastern CT.

Thank You.... ALL,

John Preston, *President*
Thames Valley TU, Chapter 282
johnpreston@thamesvalleytu.org



Calendar of Events

Tuesday May 20, 6:00 pm
Chapter Membership Meeting
Moose Lodge Bozrah, CT

Doors open at 6:00 pm for Fly Tying and Swap Meet (details below)
7:00 - 9:00 pm - *Update on Stream Flow Regulations, by CT DEEP*

Friday & Saturday May 30 & 31
Annual Sandy Beach Camp-out
Campout, Breakfast, and Fishing on the Shetucket River
(Details below)

Saturday June 28, 9:00 am
Moosup River TMA Cleanup
(Details below)

Friday & Saturday, Sept 19 & 20
Housatonic River Fishing Trip
(Housatonic Meadows State Park & Campground)
(Details on the TVTU website)

Huge Success!



April Membership Meeting
- Wet Flies 101, by Steve Culton
- Orvis Fly Rod Raffle Winner
(Congratulations to Ray Shaefer!!)



Steve Culton, "Wetflies 101"



Cannon Dean Picks the winning ticket



The Dean Family (all smiles!)

We had a terrific turn out for our March Membership meeting and with 62 members and guests looking on as Cannon Dean pulled Ray's ticket from a container filled with the 50 tickets sold. The Thames Valley Chapter wants to **thank everyone** who participated in our fund raising drive. Your donation will help us to continue our efforts to conserve, protect, and restore the watersheds of Eastern CT. As you can see from the photo, Cannon and his family also did pretty well at our regular raffle at the end of the meeting.

An informative and lively presentation by Steve Culton covered the how, what, when and where of wet fly fishing. In particular, many members were interested in his ideas on leader construction and how to tie and use the leaders with three flies. He covered fly types, presentation and much more. I enjoyed his "live" demonstration of a struggling nymph on its way to the surface to become an adult and how he learned to fly fish. This was, basically, using the same techniques as using worms when he was a kid fishing with his dad. Letting the fly (worm) sink to the bottom, drifting along the bottom downstream, and

letting the fly (worm) struggle to the surface by tightening or "lifting" the line. Here is a quote on his thoughts about the meeting from his website:

"Had enough rain yet? I can only imagine what your favorite trout stream looks like. One of those neither man nor beast nights, so I was astonished to see such an impressive turnout at the Thames Valley Chapter of TU meeting. "Wet Flies 101" was the topic. I can't say enough good things about this group: we had projector difficulties, hardware interface problems - just about anything that could go wrong, did. That is, until several chapter members pitched in and pulled it all together for me. My hat is off to you. Thank you for having me, thank you for helping me, and thank you for being such an attentive and curious audience."

Steve is a Farmington River Guide, professional fly tyer, outdoor writer, and moderator on flyaddict.com. His work has appeared in publications such as American Angler, Eastern Fly Fishing, Fly Rod & Reel Online, Flyfishing & Tying Journal, and Mid Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide. You can see Steve's work on his website, www.currentseams.com.

May 20th Membership Meeting

(Doors open at 6:00 pm)

- Fly Tying and Swap-N-Save (details below)
- Update on Stream Flow Regulations - CT DEEP

Prior to the DEEP presentation, "Stream Flow Regulations", TVTU will open the doors at 6:00 pm for fly tying demonstrations and a Swap-N-Save swap meet. Members are encouraged to set up a table of fishing gear (new and old) or other interesting "stuff" that you want to sell or swap with others. Here is chance to purge yourself of excess gear or help someone looking for "new" fishing gear or "vintage" treasures!



TVTU Membership Milestones

This month, it's our honor to recognize the following long standing Thames Valley TU members with **25-29 years** on the membership roster. Nearly 50 members have reached this milestone! They are to be commended for their dedication to the chapter and countless hours of support and volunteer work. Please help us congratulate them.

May Honorees - 25 to 29 years

Donald Avery, John Baldwin, Paul Barber Jr., Gary Beaudoin, Paul Beaudreau, Alton Blodgett, Christopher Carver, Robert Chalmers, Robert Chambers, David Clark, Paul Cross, Martin Cubanski, Gene Cyr, Joseph D'Addario, Raymond Decosta, Gregory Dumas, Jon Erickson, Christopher Fagan, Al Fehr, Ron Gedney, Philip Gould, Peter Green, Alan Grzyb, Bruce Guarino, Clarence Hamilton Jr., Barrie Hesp, Robert Holland, Roderick Huggan, George Jacobi, Edwin Jette Jr., W.E. Kahler, Anthony Koronkiewicz, Scott LaFlamme, Richard Lamperelli, Gary Lussier, James Maynes, John Manfred, Charles McCaughtry, Bill McDougall, Dean Mercer Jr., Alan Morrison, Joseph Perry, Norman Pratt, Marc Pucel, Carl Reidemeister, Bruce Roberts, Jon Young.

April Honorees - 30 to 34 years

Rad Henke, James Kiess, Walter Koncinski, Richard Lamperelli, Michael Lawrence, Joseph Lockwood, John Majewski, Rick Romagna, John Sikorski, Stanley Warykas, Steven Cioria, Robert Frank, Tom Grabarek.

March Honorees - 35 years plus

Lance Magnuson (52 yrs), Morgan McGinley, (38 yrs), Curtis Nelson (38 yrs), Walter Kent Jr. (38 yrs), Stephen Misovich (35 yrs)

Come Join us at the Thames Valley TU Campout, Breakfast, and Fishing Extravaganza!

Sandy Beach on the Shetucket River

- Friday May 30th - Campout
- Saturday May 31st - Breakfast and Fishing

Come join us for the annual Campout at Sandy Beach along the banks of the Shetucket River. This private property is kindly made available by the Konow family. This is an overnight camp out on Friday evening May 30th with an open air breakfast (sheltered picnic tables) the next day.

Members are welcome to camp out (and go fishing of course) or just come to the breakfast and fish. There should be some great fishing in one of the best fishin' holes on the Shetucket! It is a great place to bring someone new (young and old) to the sport and learn how it's done. I'm sure the "experts" will be willing to give you some pointers. And for you seasoned anglers, well... you know how good it can be.



This year we have added a "fun" Fly Casting Contest for all skill levels (novice to seasoned fly fishers). So start practicing and working out the kinks of your casting arm and you could win a prize and more. Breakfast will be provided by Duke Preston, Jen Miner and I.

The Breakfast Menu will consist of: Pancakes, "Duke's" famous French Toast, Sausage, Hash Browns, Eggs (to order), Donuts, Hot Coffee, Tea, Orange Juice and more.... Breakfast will be served from 8 to 10 AM.

So come join us for the fun, hardy breakfast, good fishing, and meet some great Thames Valley TU people!!!!

My Favorite Water

By George Jacobi



SPRING CREEK PA

Not always perfect, but closer to it than many places, Spring Creek at its best is the trout fishing you've read about in older books. Intimate, technical hatch matching to a thriving population of wild browns from 6 inches to 20 inches, interspersed with an occasional large escaped rainbow from the hatchery. First no-kill area in the country, Fisherman's Paradise, was established here. You can still fish it, off the banks only (!), or you can fish upstream or downstream with waders. There will be trout in all kinds of unexpected places, including spooking under your feet when you step into the water.



Fly of the Month *Soft Hackle Mayfly Emerger*

Video and text by Tim Flagler, Tightline Productions

The Soft Hackle Mayfly Emerger, tied here by Matt Grobert of the blog "Caddis Chronicles", is one of the most versatile mayfly imitations there is. Shown here as a sulfur, by changing hook size and the colors of components, this pattern can be used to represent a large range of emerging mayflies.

Fish deep with split shot, drift then swing without weight, or fish it in the surface film as an emerger.

Click the link to learn how to tie the Soft Hackle Mayfly Emerger; [Link to Tying Video](#).

Link to Caddis Chronicles, www.caddischronicles.com



Save the Date!

Moosup River Cleanup

What: River Cleanup

When: Saturday June 29th, 9:00 am

Where: Moosup River TMA

Meet at the Quinebaug Hatchery in Central Village

*Directions - See below

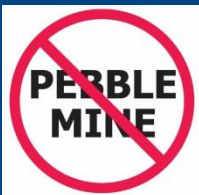
Come join Thames Valley TU on Saturday, June 28th at 9:00 AM and help volunteer for a river cleanup of the Moosup River Trout Management Area. Believe it or not, picking up others peoples trash can be fun! Meet fellow TU members and learn the river. Bring your fishing gear and fish the afternoon.

We will meet at the Quinebaug Hatchery located at 141 Trout Hatchery Rd in Central Village (Plainfield). Hot coffee will be available following the cleanup. Cleanup materials (bags gloves, etc.) will be provided through a grant from The Last Green Valley (TLGV). [Link to TLGV Website.](#)



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

***Directions:** Take I-395 north or south to exit 89 (Route 14); Go west on Route. 14 through Central Village to a light; turn right and go about 1/2 mile; bear left at fork (stay on Route. 14) and go about 1/2 mile; turn right into Cady Lane to the hatchery. Lost? Call (860) 564-7542



Conservation Update - Pebble Mine, Bristol Bay Alaska

The global mining firm Rio Tinto recently announced that it will divest its 19 percent stake in the controversial Pebble Mine project in Alaska, donating its shares to two state charities.

The decision is the latest blow to the proposed gold, copper and molybdenum mine, which is under federal scrutiny for how it could affect the nearby Bristol Bay watershed, which supports nearly **half** the world's sockeye salmon. In late February the Environmental Protection Agency announced it would invoke its authority under the Clean Water Act and consider blocking the mine, effectively halting the project.



Free TU Memberships for Women!

TU is pleased to announce the launch of a limited time offer. From March 1 - May 31, 2014 TU is reviving the offer to [sign up women as new members at no cost](#). In addition, [women renew for half price, at a special \\$17.50 rate](#), and the Thames Valley chapter will receive \$15 of that \$17.50 in the form of a special rebate.

It's TU's goal to both add more women to our ranks and engage more women in TU's leadership. In order to accomplish this goal, we need the support of every chapter member and membership chair out there. If you know a fisherwoman that's interested in becoming a new Thames Valley Chapter member please encourage them to visit the TU website at the link provided below and sign up for free. [Link to Free Women's Membership](#)



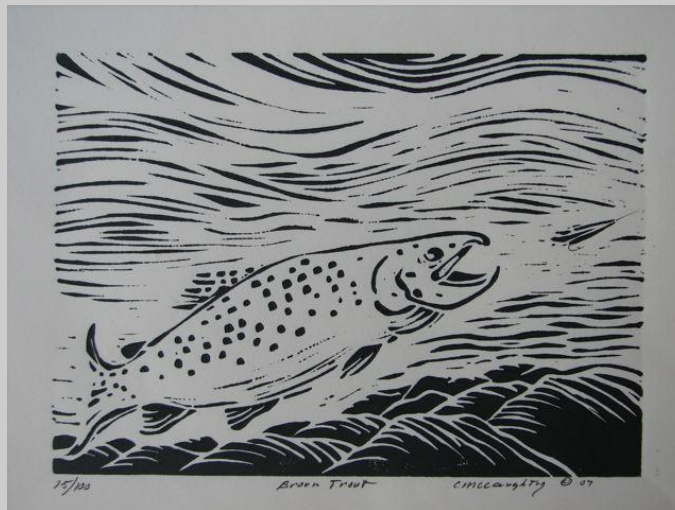
For any questions please contact John Preston at john.preston@thamesvalleytu.org

TU Youth Membership Information

Have you discovered the surprise in the newest issue of TROUT magazine? Right inside is a sample of Stream Explorers, TU's publication for kids. TU wanted everyone -all 150,000 subscribers of Trout- to learn about our youth membership, and the benefits we offer. Stream Explorers is for kids 12 and under, and is offered as part of a [Go Fishing | Stream Explorers](#) for \$12.

A Trout Unlimited [teen youth membership](#) (which also only costs \$12) comes with a subscription to TROUT rather than Stream Explorers. TU Teens also have other great opportunities as part of TU, including our summertime events! For example, this summer, TU is hosting 22 [Fly Fishing Camps and Academies](#) - the most ever. These camps are great places for enthusiastic, motivated youth to learn all about fly fishing and coldwater fisheries. Visit the TVTU website to sign-up a youth in your family, www.thamesvalleytu.org

Dear TVTU Members...



Brown Trout, by Charley McCaughtry

As you may have noticed, we're working hard to maintain communication with our chapter members via the newsletter and other announcements. Please help us spread the word! Forward this email to a buddy or family member and encourage them to attend a meeting and perhaps join our chapter.

Also, if you know someone interested in joining TVTU for a limited time they can join at half price or \$17.50. Have them visit our website and use the "Join TU" link on the front page. [Link to TVTU Website](#). In addition, for a limited time, each new member will receive a free TVTU published book "Trout Streams of Eastern CT" when they attend their first TVTU monthly Membership meeting. A \$15 value for members and a \$20 for non-members.

In addition, if you know a member that's not receiving our emails forward this newsletter to them and they can click on the link below to register their contact information with Thames Valley TU, [Click here to sign up for TVTU emails](#).

The Cleanup Crew - Natchaug River

"We came, we saw, we cleaned up!"

On Sunday morning April 27th fifteen TVTU members and non-member volunteers met at Diana's Pool for the Natchaug River Cleanup. We traversed the parking areas, roads, and river banks along the river. The stream cleanup was funded in part by a grant from The Last Green Valley, <http://www.tlgv.org>. In less than two and half hours we collected a great deal of trash. Mostly bottles and cans, but also tires, lawn chairs, broken glass, foam cups, buckets, etc. After the cleanup John and Duke Preston grilled up some lunch for the crew.

Visit the new website and see a slide show of the cleanup.

There is one more stream cleanup scheduled; the Moosup River TMA on Saturday June 28th. See details below, we will meet at the hatchery at 9 am.

To volunteer or discuss future river stewardship opportunities, please contact: Gene Cyr, River Cleanup Coordinator,
Tel: 860-376-3350, Email:
gcyr@thamesvalleytu.org or, sign up at the Membership meeting.



Natchaug River Cleanup Crew.

Volunteer Needed!



Thames Valley TU could use a little help in the membership department. We are working on a campaign to boost membership and need help contacting members via phone, email, and letter. Short term commitment and you can work from home. If you can spare a few hours during the week and would like to pitch-in please send an email to our Membership Chair, Charley McCaughtry, cmccaughtry@thamesvalleytu.org.

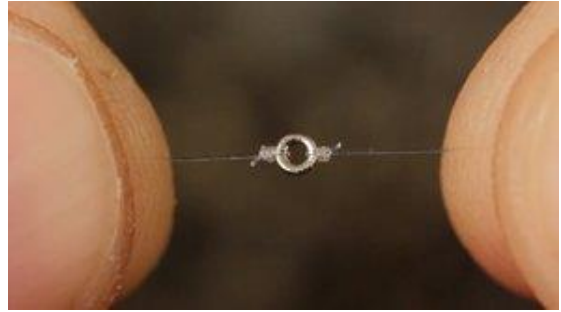
Tip of the Month

Tippet Rings

By Tim Flagler, Tightline Productions

Put a Ring on it...

Behold the diminutive yet mighty tippet ring. Depending upon your perspective it might be the greatest thing since sliced bread or may represent the end of civilized fly fishing as we know it. They usually come packaged on a snap swivel and can easily go unnoticed in a fly shop among more eye-catching accessories.



Tippet Ring

For me, the best part about using tippet rings is they allow leaders to last almost indefinitely while at the same time make it far easier for me to rapidly change tippet material.

If you've never used a tippet ring or ever heard of them you'll want to check out Tim Flagler's instructional video on how to attach them and make them part of your leader system. If you don't like them, don't use them. But you never know, it might be a match made in heaven.

[Click Here to Watch Video](#)



Place an Advertisement in "Stream Lines"

Looking to reach a new and diverse audience? Presently we have over 470 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". The cost is only \$50 for the entire year (9 Issues). For more information and to purchase an ad contact Jim Smith via email at, jsmith@thamesvalleytu.org. Thanks for your support!

Visit Thames Valley TU Website

For more information about Thames Valley TU and directions to the Bozrah Moose Lodge at 115 Fitchville Road visit the chapter's website; www.thamesvalleytu.org

To join Thames Valley TU or for more information please visit our website | [Link to Website](#)
Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact Jim Smith, [Email Link](#)

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