



Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

"The Voice for Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers"

December Issue 2014

Dear Member,

We've had our first snowfall, it's becoming colder, darker earlier every day, and if you're not an ice fisherman our local angling days are numbered. Now... I can remember when I enjoyed (crazy is more like it) going to upstate NY with my friend George Jacobi trying our luck at the then newly established steelhead/salmon fishery. One time on the way up the forecast was for a few flurries (which we laughed off) but when we got there it was a full blown lake effect blizzard. Did that stop us...NO! Full speed ahead! Damn the horizontal snow pelting our faces, howling winds, chipping off frozen guides, freezing hands and iced beards didn't curtail us from our quarry... the BIG one.

Well, those days are now just fond memories. Reality in winter now is reading by a "warm" fire about fishing nirvanas around the globe, tying new fly patterns with the "warm" glow of our magnifying lamp, building another fly rod to add to the collection in the "warmth" of the workshop, and, planning & dreaming of next summer's fishing trip. If you are now in this category too (or not) the Thames Valley chapter has something for all of you:

- December's Membership meeting will feature Lou Zambello, a Maine fishing guide, TU member and author of the book, "Flyfishing Northern New England's Seasons". He will be discussing the best approaches and techniques to use for each season in the waters of N.E. There is still a lot of great fishing here in the Northeast. Such as the Kennebec, Penobscot, Grand Lake Stream, Rapid, Presumpscot, Androscoggin, and Deerfield Rivers, and Rangeley, Moosehead and Sebago Lakes to name a few.
- Also that night we are catering (a bit) to the ladies with a special door prize just for the women who attend the meeting and a cupcake & coffee Meet N' Greet before the meeting. And, as part of our drive to recruit more women to join TU, we are encouraging new female members to extend their membership for another year at special rates (ends JAN 1) and a surprise gift if they bring a friend that joins TU that night. Don't worry guys... there will something there for you too.
- In addition, for those interested in learning how to tie flies come join us and sign up for fly tying classes that will start in January. Yes, we are listening and learning from our website Poll and Survey.
- Need another rod? How about an Orvis "Frequent Flyer" 8 ½ ft., 5 wt., 7 piece fly rod we are raffling for just \$10 per ticket (50 ticket limit). You get a great rod for peanuts and you help the chapter raise funds to support educational, conservation, restoration and future events.

Now that is just a sampling of what is coming this season. We hope to have the full calendar of events posted on our website in the very near future. For those who are unable to attend this month I hope to see you at a chapter event soon and... *Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All!*

John Preston, *President*



Thames Valley TU, Chapter 282
jpreston44@yahoo.com



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Dec 16th, 6:00

Membership Meeting, Bozrah Moose Lodge

Doors open at 6:00, presentation starts at 7:00

Speaker - Lou Zambello - "Flyfishing Northern New England's Seasons"

Jan 13 - Board Of Directors Meeting

(Open to the Public)

Jan 16-18 - Fly Fishing Show, Marlborough, MA

<http://flyfishingshow.com>

Jan 20th - Membership Meeting (Open to the Public)

(Speaker - TBD)

Jan 23-25 - Fly Fishing Show, Somerset, NJ

<http://flyfishingshow.com>

Winter is here! If weather and driving conditions are bad and we have to cancel or postpone a Membership meeting or event, it will be posted on the "Home" page of our website. In addition, storm cancellations will be notified on WFSB Channel 3.



Special Invite to Women Members

You are Invited...

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter would like to invite you to: A Special Women Members **"Meet N Greet"** Night on **December 16th, 2014, from 6:00-7:00 PM.**

Ladies...Come for coffee and cupcakes. Meet other members. For qualifying* women members renew your membership for half price (\$17.50). There will be Special Door Prize drawing for women members. Bring a female friend who joins Trout Unlimited that night and receive a gift. Stay and enjoy the rest on the Regular Membership meeting.

*This reduced-rate renewal is only available for women who joined through the complimentary trial membership drive, and it will end on Jan. 1, 2015. This special deal is found at TU.org [Click here to renew](#)



A Night with Rod Maker Marc Aroner

by John Preston

After reflecting on Marc Aroner's presentation I was struck by the amount of craftsmanship and attention to detail he puts into every cane rod he produces. He creates virtually all the components needed to make a split



bamboo rod... ferrules, real seats, rod cases, etc. These rods are not assembled. They are uniquely his and reflect his pursuit of perfection. As he said; "his rods have personality." I was also surprised at the heavy use of machinery. One thinks of bamboo rod making and you conjure up images of someone spending countless hours manually doing every facet of crafting a blank. But, besides saving time, in this case the machinery is a vehicle to produce a consistent (less variation) and high quality product. Precision turning ferrules on his lathe (think .001 of an inch tolerances) and using his "historic Leonard beveller which is capable of cutting extraordinarily precise finished strips in a single pass." The story on how he acquired some of Leonard's equipment at an auction was priceless and gave credence to the saying "that every dog has its day."

Although the above statements might lead you to believe he never gets his hands "dirty"... that would be untrue. His presentation walked us through every step required to make a bamboo rod. From flaming cane with a large brush burning torch and splitting the "pole", node pressing, heat treating, hand dipping the rod with varnish, etc. In fact, I was very interested in knowing how he is able to achieve such a beautiful finish by hand. After the presentation I pressed him on how it was done. Usually when dipping a rod the accepted rate of withdrawal is very slow (about 4" per minute) but Marc said it is done quickly and the varnish's viscosity is altered. Later I did spend several hours searching the internet and finally found more info on Tom Maxwell's (Marc's mentor/T&T employer/partner) method. Now I didn't learn enough to have the confidence to try it on my next rod but I was very intrigued to learn more about the process. Fabricating ferrules I can't do, hand dipping is within my capabilities and pocketbook. I would love to see it done in person... I'll be working on it. Marc are you listening?



Marc brought several examples of his rods and hardware for us to see. They are just exquisite... talk about eye candy. There was lots of interest in the rod he made for Ted Williams. Between \$6-7k and it could be yours! The only thing within my reach might be the limited edition dubbing needle he is going to offer soon. I believe he said it is made up of specially acquired gunstock walnut, old Leonard blanks and fittings turned out by him... possible around \$100-150. Now if I only had purchased that Aroner fly rod at Joe Sterling's fly shop in Danforth, ME in the early 80's. It was around the price of the dubbing needle

back then! But with a new double digit mortgage and a "Duke" in the oven, my conscience said no. Another of life's if only!

It was another great turn out at last month's Membership meeting. I didn't know there were so many "Boo Boys" out there. I don't remember who mentioned it but maybe there is enough interest in having a "Gathering" someday right here in Eastern CT. After reading "Casting A Spell" by George Black I should have known that CT was once a haven for rod makers. For instance, around 1909 Hiram Hawes first setup shop along the banks of Kitt Brook in Canterbury and later relocated near the Green in town during the 1930's. Then due to material shortages it closed down during WWII. Drop me a line if you might be interested in participating in one, either as a rod maker, collector, bamboo aficionado, or just wanting to learn the craft. For more photos please visit our website www.thamesvalleytu.org and they are posted on the "Slideshow" page.





Dam Removal Project on the Pawcatuck River

Summarized from article printed in the New London Day, Dec 08, 2014

Plans are in place to tear down the dysfunctional White Rock Dam on the Pawcatuck River. The latest version of a series of structures first built to provide water power for textile mills along the river, the current concrete structure dates to about 1940 and has long outlived its purpose.

The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, has secured a \$2.3 million federal grant to remove the dam, the third such project on the river in recent years. The conservancy and the Fish & Wildlife Service are working with the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association, the RI DEM, the CT DEEP and the NOAA on the project. The White Rock Trust that owns the dam and Griswold Textile Print downstream support the project and are negotiating with the conservancy for the easements and other legal agreements needed.

Since 1770, a dam at the site has restricted flows and passage for migrating fish at the juncture between Pawcatuck, off Alice Court, and the end of White Rock Road in Westerly, just after the river takes a sharp bend from the east and turns south toward Little Narragansett Bay. "This is the first major obstacle for fish swimming up the Pawcatuck River," said O'Brien, partnership specialist with the Rhode Island office of the Nature Conservancy, while standing on the Pawcatuck side of the dam. "We want to address fish passage and to reduce the risk of flooding." Now, fish that swim upstream to spawn either get stuck where the natural riverbed dead-ends, or become exhausted trying to swim through the artificial channel built to control flow for the mill, because of the high velocity of the water through the narrowed passage.

The river will be restored to a natural system including wetlands and plans are in place to include meanders and boulders and some pools where fish can hang out and rest before continuing upstream.

Click the link to view the full article published by the New London Day, [link to article](#).

Years End



by George Jacobi

There's high water in the Farmington on the last day of 2003, and it's in the thirties, but I'm here anyway. Maybe I'll find some of those little black caddis hatching, a trout who's hungry, and a bit of the peace and reassurance that comes from watching the river flow.

Pete's green truck is visible on the other side, way down the Church Pool on the flat water, so I cross the bridge and zigzag down the dirt road, around the puddles and holes. Pete and Joe are bundled up and hunched over, deep in conversation. They watch a few other guys fishing the two pockets where trout are rising. There is no sense fishing anywhere else, and nobody is hooking the desultory fish that are visible.

"Hey," says Joe, "Did you hear that Paul Morrissey died?" Pete looks at me, then at Joe. "Umm", he says. "Paul is George's brother-in-law." Joe stops in his tracks, and then we talk for a while about my wife's brother, who did slide shows, fly tying, and represented Atlantic Salmon lodges at fly fishing shows. After a highway accident and a settlement, he had lived the life most of us dream of, fishing most of the year from Chile to Alaska. He took pain killers often, but never failed to get excited about a new day on the stream. A heart attack took him on Christmas Eve, at 62. Now Paul's ashes drift with the pebbles on the bottom of the Matapedia, exactly as he wished.

Gusts of wind come across the Farmington now that the sun is above the tree line. The temperature inches up to tolerable. Joe sees a good fish rise once too often and he goes to get his rod and waders. All of us have the feeling that the hatch will get heavier and some serious feeding will commence.

We are wrong. A few fish along the bank rise once in a while. Joe gets one. Pete goes around to the sunnier side to check it out. Some pretty good sized fish come up, but not often enough for me to get colder. I shoot the breeze with Joe from the bank as he works his way upstream.

I fished often with Paul on the Beaverkill, where he had his trailer all season. The first time, when a green caddis hatch faded into a disguised Hendrickson spinner fall, I figured it out before he did. I could feel his respect and enjoyment. I like that even more in retrospect, knowing what a hell of an angler he was. Lots of trout and salmon fishing were to follow, and lots of laughs. I wish I was there last year when a 30 lber took his dry fly on the Cascapedia, then slipped away before it came to hand. Paul never lied about fishing, or anything else. Blue-collar and logical, he would tell you what you were doing wrong whether or not you wanted to know. Just as you got mad, he'd give you the fly or the tippet or the idea that led to success.

The short winter morning is almost gone. Not much of a hatch, no casting at all, just a long conversation with close friends at the river on the last day of the year. Turns out to be a fine day of fishing, a good way to end one year and begin another.

Trout In the Classroom (TIC) Time to Deliver the Eggs...

by John Preston

Early (8 am) November 18th Charley McCaughtry, John Jascot and I met at the DEEP Fisheries Office in Marlborough to pick up and divide up the trout eggs for distribution to our TIC schools. John had a delivery to East Haddam. Charley then had to meet with John Manfred to deliver to Chaplin, Eastford, Storrs and Willimantic. After swinging by Franklin Elementary I met up with Jim Smith (of Preston) and John Pallof in Norwich. Jim headed off to North Stonington and John proceeded to Groton and Niantic. My next stops were to Lisbon and Dayville. All in all, we delivered 2400 trout eggs to 11 TIC schools in our rather large territory without a hitch.



I think the best part of the delivery process is seeing the reaction and faces of the young children who were (im)patiently waiting for us. As one student said just as I walked into the classroom with a small cooler filled with eggs and fish food in hand; "We've been waiting for you... What took you so long? I laughed and replied sheepishly; "I went as fast as I could but we had a lot of schools to deliver to today." The teacher and a few students chuckled as they all rushed excitedly to see the eggs and place them in the aquarium. I want to thank all the above volunteers for their help... without them I might get tarred and feathered by some of those kids (joking, of course)!



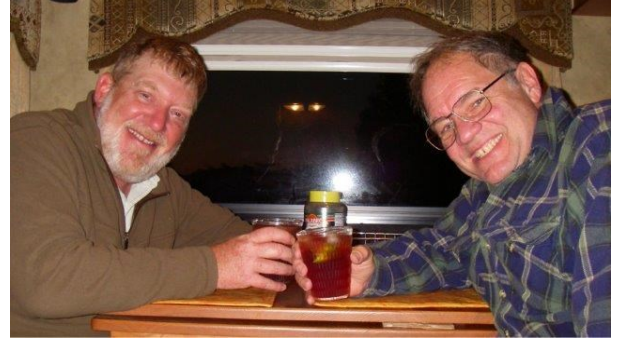
A Man and His Hat

by John Springer

Anytime I see a person wearing one of those baseball caps that says what branch of the service they were in and the war they fought, I always introduce myself and thank them for their service. I tell them people like them made our country what it is today for guys like me and I appreciate it very much.

As it happened on Veterans day this year I was in the South Holston Fly Shop getting ready to fish when one of America's best came in to do some shopping. As I was leaving, I thanked him, and that's how I met Michael Ridlon. As I was walking out the door he asked if I was fishing today I said yes and he invited me to fish with him and I was happy to accept his invitation.

Mike took me to what he called his warm up spot, it's called The Grates. He explained how he fishes it and we ended up catching some fish. We left there and Mike spent the day showing me places that would have taken me years to find if I ever tried it on my own. He out-fished me, but that meant nothing to me as we had a great day talking. It turned out he lived in Connecticut for some time and was happy to talk to a Yankee about back home. We spoke about the important things, like good pizza and steamed burgers from Ted's.



Mike offered me some flies he was having success with but I felt I was in the ball park and had caught a few fish and did not want to bother him since he was kind enough to invite me fishing. Later he showed me his Sulphur nymph and I got a bit of an education for next time I fish this hatch. He took me to what they refer to as the Honey Hole. A guy working in his yard yelled to me that I was fishing the Honey Hole and I knew for sure that there was something to it. Mike got some nice fish and I took some pictures of him, and even I caught a few.

After we got done it was getting late and Mike had a three hour drive in front of him. I invited him back to my camper for dinner and a drink he accepted and we went back to my camper, where I opened a jar of sauce and boiled some pasta. I said I had vodka, cranberry juice, and lime would he like a drink? He said he'd love a Cape Coder. I knew then he was a real Yankee. We spoke of other rivers and I mentioned I was going over to the Watauga the next day; he gave me his favorite fly for that river to try out. Even though I did not catch

any fish on it, I had three hits so I knew it was a good fly for the river and I'll be sure to make a few for next year's fishing.

Living down south they don't have Entenmann's cakes and donuts, Mike knew the brand and was happy to have one. I also sent him home with another one for his long drive. We shook hands when he left and he said next time I come down he wanted to take me fishing on the Clinch River over where he lives, another river for my bucket list. I'm looking forward to spending another day with one of America's finest. I'll make sure I have a box of donuts from Connecticut.



Fly of the Month

"Eggs Over Easy"

Text by Jim Smith
Video by Tim Flagler, Tight Line Productions

Some fly fishermen are conflicted about using egg patterns. They often view them as bait and not true sport for "Fly" fishing. I was in that camp until I caught my first Great lakes Steelhead on a hot pink Estaz Egg. From that point on, I started paying attention to egg patterns, and how to fish them. I mainly use them for Steelhead, but also keep a few in my miscellaneous box next to the San Juan Worms. Believe me, I like nothing

more than matching the "hatch", however, in particular situations and at certain times of the year egg patterns can be very effective. Not only do they work well on trout and Steelhead but they are fun to fish and also fun to tie offering a nice break from the more detailed insect patterns.

Eggs Over Easy is a great pattern that looks amazing once wet. Give it a try along with other egg patterns and you'll be glad you did! [Link to Tying Video](#).

Fly Tying Recipe

Hook: Emerger hook (here a Dai Riki #125), sizes 14-16
Thread: Fluorescent yellow or white, 8/0 or 70 denier.
Yoke: Peach egg yarn, colored with a red Sharpie.
Veil: Peach egg yarn.
Glue: Head cement
Note: Try these in different colors-orange, pink, white-and sizes.



SPECIAL FUND RAISER

WIN a new Orvis travel fly Rod!



Orvis "Frequent Flyer" Fly Rod
8 -1/2 ft., 5 wt., 7pc
Only \$10 Per Raffle Ticket!

In addition to the regular raffle at our monthly meeting(s), we have a special fund raising raffle for a new Orvis 8-1/2', 5wt, 7pc "Frequent Flyer" fly rod and case, (\$250 MSRP). Tickets are \$10 each and will be limited to 50 tickets. Much better odds than the casinos or CT lottery!! Tickets can be purchased at the monthly membership meeting or by calling Jim Clark at (860) 546-6924.

Travel-ready, the Frequent Flyer™ packs right into your backpack, saddlebag, even your briefcase. It carries onto any plane to forever end any and all worry about your fly rod making it to your final fishing destination. Keep it right in your vehicle, out of the way, for quick getaways at lunch, or pack it into the backcountry far easier than even a four- piece rod.

Once all 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 while also helping us raise the funds necessary to have great monthly meeting programs, undertake conservation efforts, and education programs like TIC and Fly Casting in our local schools.



Send Us Your Stuff...

Call for newsletter content

Are you a budding photographer or inspired writer? We would like to include your work in Stream Lines, the TVTU newsletter. Don't be bashful, any and all related content will be considered, including, poems, stories, gear reviews, photographs, paintings, conservation news, fishing tips, etc. Our goal is to get the membership involved in the newsletter and provide an outlet for creativity and sharing information. We have some very

talented members in our chapter and Stream Lines is a great way to share your work. To submit content, please email Jim Smith at jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com



Up The Chute, by Charley McCaughtry
[Visit Charley's Website](#)

Blast from the Past - Tres Caballeros!

Three "wild and crazy" guys along the banks of the Salmon River (NY)



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 chapters 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, jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com. Thanks for your support!

To join Thames Valley TU or for more information please visit our website www.thamesvalleytu.org
Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact Jim Smith, jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited | (860) 917-4485 jpreston44@yahoo.com
PO Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350