



Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

"The Voice for Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers"

December 2015

Dear Member,

A Bravo Zulu and Thank You to all the volunteers who helped complete the first phase of the Versailles Pond fish way rehabilitation on Sunday 22 NOV. In just a few hours the old wooden baffles were removed and disposed of. It was great working project to kick start our renewed emphasis on conservation. The next phase might be a little more challenging but I am confident we will answer the call. See more information on the project below and on our website.

It appears that CT's three hatcheries have been saved... again. To all that signed a petition or contacted their representatives... great work! Now, if only, we could only elect officials that will stop using this as a pawn for every budget crisis (which was caused by them in the first place)... wouldn't that be nice. One of my favorite saying is; "if you continue to do it the same way, you will continue to get the same results." Time for a change (You decide who, what, when, where & how)... don't you think?

The Board of Directors has completed the draft of our Strategic Plan and it will be posted on the website for review and comment from the membership. This is your opportunity to have some input towards the final version. All input and feedback will be considered... we want your feedback! The plan will be the chapter's road map for next several years, so we want it to reflect the membership's needs/wishes as much as possible.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays...

See you at The Moose!



John Preston, *President*
Thames Valley TU, Chapter 282
jpreston44@yahoo.com



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 15th - 6:00pm
Chapter Membership Meeting, Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT
Presentation: Jack Balint - General Saltwater Sport Fishing SE CT

Tuesday, January 19th - 6:00pm
Chapter Membership Meeting, Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT
Presentation: Jean Pillo -

Saturday, February 6th, 2016
CFFA EXPO
Maneeley's, 65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT

Tuesday, February 16th - 6:00pm
Chapter Membership Meeting, Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT
Flies, Pies & More...

Somerset, NJ Fly Fishing Show Trip - January 30th 2016

Jack Balint is arranging a bus trip (room for 50 people) to the Somerset, NJ Fly Fishing Show on Saturday, 30 January 2016. The Somerset Fly Fishing Show is one of the biggest and best FF shows on the east coast. Cost is \$60 which includes show admission, transportation, and beverages. Tentative plans are to depart Norwich 7:30-8:00am & arrive NJ 11am, and leave NJ around 4pm and arrive Norwich 7-7:30pm. Contact Jack at the Fish Connection, 127 Route 12 Preston, CT. Phone 860-885-1739.

December 15th Membership Meeting - Raffle Table

Christmas is just around the corner and here is a chance to get a gift or two and help the chapter too. The raffle table will be stocked with many items including a new fly rod and reel.

Free Upgrade to a Family Membership

We are pleased to launch [a new Free Family Membership Upgrade offer](http://www.tu.org/familymembership) to any existing Trout Unlimited member -- for a limited time only! By signing up and adding the names and information for the family members living in your household at www.tu.org/familymembership, you will enjoy the benefits of a TU family membership for the duration of your regular membership for free.



Thames Valley TU Volunteers Complete Phase I for Versailles Pond Fish Way Rehab...

by Jim Smith

On a cool damp Sunday morning, 22 NOV, 17 Thames Valley TU members, along with Bruce Williams from CT DEEP, volunteered for phase I of the Versailles Pond Fishway Rehabilitation project. Armed with power & hand tools and fueled by Dunkin Donuts the volunteers came, sawed (pun intended), and kicked some you know what to remove fifty five 4'x8' framed wooden baffles from the Versailles Fishway on the Little River. Failing and consumed with rot, and well over a decade old, the baffles were in rough shape and in dire need of replacement. In all, over 1300 stainless steel nuts and bolts were removed and 2 tons of rotted wood was hauled off and disposed. The stainless steel hardware will be recycled for use on future projects.



Phase II of the project will take place in early spring and involve installing new

baffles made of sheet aluminum. The new baffles will be put in place before the first migratory fish species of the year, alewife, make their way from Long Island Sound up the Thames to the Shetucket then up the Little River through the Versailles fishway to spawning grounds upstream. In addition to alewives, the fishway is also used by eel, salmon, shad, and trout. The new aluminum baffles will be a much needed improvement and sure to last for many decades. Visit the TVTU [Website](#) to see more pictures of the project.

The project is being funded by a \$22K grant awarded to Thames Valley TU through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Long Island Sound Futures grant program.

Thames Valley TU would like to thank the following members for donating their time and effort to get the first half of this important project completed: **Don Avery, Alton Blodgett, Jim Clark, Gene Cyr, Sal DeCarli, Katey DeCarli, George DeGray, Jerry Gourd, Robert Heitman, Gary Lussier, Charley McCaughtry, John Preston, Duke Preston, *Ray Schafer, Jim Smith, Peter Sorensen, Mark Ucasz, Bruce Williams (CT DEEP).**



In addition, we'd like to thank Representative Joe Courtney for taking time to check out the project and for lending his support.

If you are interested in future TVTU conservation projects please email Sal DeCarli and [Jim Smith](#).

**A special thanks to Ray Schafer for the use of his dump trailer and making arrangements to handle disposal.*

Doug Thompson's "The Quest for the Golden Trout" - Recap

by John Preston

Last month's featured speaker Doug Thompson on his book "The Quest for the Golden Trout" was about looking at our rivers with a more critical eye and asking questions about both the historic and current practices of some of our current fisheries management practices. Based on a Hartford Courant article I had read a few years ago and some feedback from several members I expected this book talk to be somewhat controversial or cantankerous but instead it was based on sound scientific logic, well received, and very enlightening for all who attended.

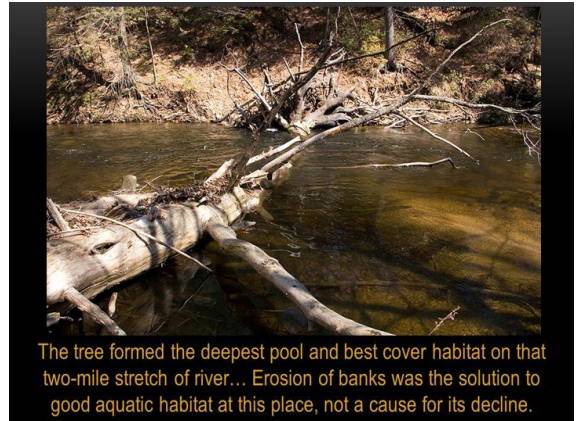
There was so much information presented that I had a hard time jotting down the facts and examples

he used. But some that stuck out were places like Connecticut's Blackledge River's (Veterans area along RT 2) & Merrick Brook, Zealand River in NH and Fisherman's Paradise in PA that I have visited before. They provided examples of "stream improvement" projects (deflectors/lunkers/stabilization efforts) that in reality had the opposite effect and results that were intended. We need to ask what's the long-term effect or impact of some of the practices that has been used and is there a better way... in short, to "know the history if we want to be better in the future."

Probably the hardest to confront for most of us (anglers) is his view of the long-term impact of hatcheries. But, I believe most that were in attendance would have to agree with much of his arguments against hatchery raised fish. Hatcheries use a lot of resources (pellet food uses a lot of marine & plant life), can cause pollution (disinfectives, antibiotics, nutrient run-off), produce fish that don't behave like fish in the wild, and most are non-native fish.

But, does it have to be one or the other? Or, can there be a compromise? Possibly limit the scope or amount of the rivers that are stocked... especially, where water temperature and quality is suspect. Maybe the better alternative is to try to preserve/enhance the cold-water fisheries that exist currently and some de-emphasis of "put n' take" fisheries.

If we take anything away from Doug Thompson's presentation it would be to "think of rivers as a whole" and "native verse non-native." He is an advocate for restoring the natural fauna/native plants along our rivers and let rivers be rivers... basically, let nature run its course (my words not his). The Blackledge River oak tree would be a good example of this. I highly recommend looking at his [website](#) and reading his book.



Conservation Fund Raising Raffle

by the Conservation Committee

Win an Orvis Helios Outfit!



The Conservation Committee has been busy planning & working on increasing our conservation efforts and applying for grants. This takes a lot of resources... man-hours and money. Please help us raise \$2000 for future projects dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring our cold-water fisheries in the Eastern CT. All funds from this raffle will be ear marked for conservation only.

Show your support for Eastern CT cold-water fisheries and **Win** a very "gently used" Orvis Helios 9 ½ Foot, 6 WT, 4 Piece, Fly Rod & case (original MSRP \$795); a "new" Gold Orvis Mirage III LA Fly Reel

(MSRP \$475), and a "new" Sage WF6-F Fly Line (MSRP \$79). A perfect outfit for broodstock Atlantic Salmon or big water angling!

Raffle tickets are only **\$20** each. The drawing will be held once we meet our goal of \$2000 (100 tickets). You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are available at our monthly meetings and through the Chapter's Board of Directors members. Or, send a check payable (with name, address & phone#) to: **Thames Valley TU Chapter 282, P.O. Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350**. A ticket will be mailed back to you and recorded.

Thank You for your Support.



"Housatonic Heaven"

©George Jacobi 2015 - (apologies to RRobertson)

When I get offa this treadmill you know where I wanna go

Up on the Housatonic might stay till it starts to snow

Park myself in the Corner or maybe in the Sand Hole

Fish until the darkness comes that's gonna be my goal.

Good luck is just good timing, and knowing where to be
I want to be about hip deep, trout surrounding me
Set me up in the Housy, fly rod in my hand
That's when I'll begin to do all the fishing I can stand

Up in Cornwall the flies are hatchin'

Be prepared you gotta can match 'em

Dry fly fishing and you can catch 'em

In a Housatonic Heaven...

Nothin' to do, nowhere to go, is a present from above
I'll spend my time on the river, she's my one true love
Caddis in the morning, Duns in the afternoon
If it's time for the White Fly, cast by the light of the moon.

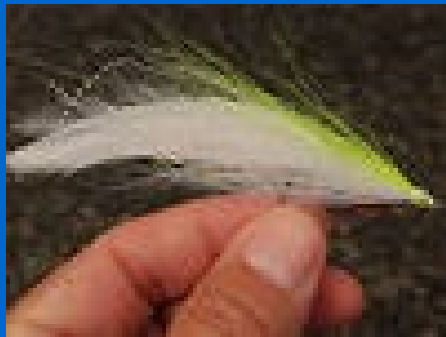
Fishin' in Dun Rollin', down to the Rainbow Run
The Elms, The Flats, The Monument, I'm not close to done,
Push'em Up and Coffin Rock, One and Two Car pools
Bring your vest and waders, Get ready for the Hous.

Fly Tying "Tips"

Storing Thread on a Bobbin

When you are finish tying for the day you can slip a ½" piece of soft plastic tubing over the end of the bobbin, thereby trapping the thread against the side of the bobbin tube. This will prevent the thread from slipping out of the bobbin and having to rethread the bobbin... not always easy. This is especially handy when you are on travel.

If you have any fly tying tips, please submit them to [John Preston](#).



Fly of the Month *"Lefty's Deceiver"*

Tightlines Productions

Video and tying by

Lefty's Deceiver was created by Lefty Kreh in the 1950's and since that time has been a staple in saltwater fly fishing. No fly angler worth their salt would be without one. [Link to tying video](#)

Fly Tying Recipe: Lefty's Deceiver

Hook: Mustad 34007, sizes 2/0-6.

Thread: Fluorescent yellow, 140 denier.

Tail: White saddle hackles, 3X length of hook shank.

Flash: Pearlescent Krystal Flash and medium Flashabou.

Body: Silver or pearl braid.

Wing: White bucktail.

Overwing: Chartreuse bucktail.

Gills: Red Krystal Flash.

Head: Tying thread.

Note: Other great color combinations include red over white, olive over white, blue over white, red over yellow, olive over yellow, all white, and all black.

"Equipment Corner"

by John Preston

C&F Design Threader Fly Boxes

Having trouble threading on size 18 and smaller flies and especially at night or low light conditions? Even when my eyes were "young" it was a pain. I've tried about every fly threader known to man and then some. But the best solution for me was when some years ago I bought a C&F fly box

(there are other brands now available) that comes with fine wire threaders mounted inside the box. These threaders come in various sizes and lengths to handle flies from size #16 to #32!! You simply push the fly onto the metal wire threader (much easier than trying to thread the tippet directly through the eye of the hook) and inserting the tippet through the now much larger opening of the threader. Then carefully pull the fly off the threader and "wha-lah" the fly is ready to tie on the hook! Sorry I don't have an easy solution for tying the knots... other than preloaded tippets. If you have an idea of what is going to hatch you can preload the flies ahead of time. This is very handy when using very light tippets and resulting break offs day or night. Before discovering these threaders by the time I tied on another fly the hatch was over. I now own 3 of these boxes... highly recommended.



If you have any product reviews or recommendations, please submit to [John Preston](#).



"Lucky Friday the 13th"

by John Springer

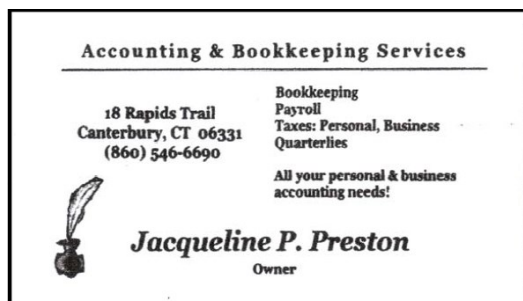
A friend mentioned to me that it seems that when I tell him about one of those magical days the pictures are late and he wonders about it :-). Well on Friday the 13th Chef and I went to the Shetucket river to fish for salmon. Every Ct. fishermen's friend Al Sonski and his help raise these fish for us it takes several years to grow them make sure they don't get sick and are well fed all winter and I am here to tell you that the job is not as easy as this fishermen ever thought. I visited the hatcheries and know what they do first hand, and as we all know that program has been cut back from what it once was. As I understand we get about 130 big fish each year as they are done being used as spawners so that week half were put in the Naugatuck and half for the Shetucket something close to that. Ron Dunleavy AKA: Chef Boy always brings me to where he thinks I'll do best keeps his eye on me lets me know if I'm making any mistakes after all there are only 1,500 salmon in the first place and less than 10% are big and as you can see he caught one of the biggest.

The day started great I caught one on one of his flies right where he knew the fish would be, he has always followed me and did not catch anything so we moved on to his favorite spot. But first I fed him lunch and I make sure it's a good lunch, with a light beer it's the very least I can do for all he has done for me. We fished about an hour saw a fish roll but nothing was going on and then the water got turned on at the dam. It was a very subtle difference at first as always and while I was doing well catching chubs I heard Ron give a yell and we could see he was into a big fish. Several guys from Hammonasset TU were fishing and stopped to watch and cheer him on, this fish was not a push over no tail jumps, big swirls and bull dogging it the last 10 feet were the toughest. Ron was very glad he had changed over his tippet. He tailed the fish as not to squeeze its stomach and gave me the rod to put down. We took pictures and while Ron was reviving the fish who got pretty excited while in Ron's arms as you can see one of the guys asked me what fly he was using, I



said I did not know but he could ask him. That was not good enough though for him he went over and was going to pick up the rod to see Ron's fly without asking. We'll just say I embarrassed him enough and he put the rod down and walked down to where Ron was fishing and started to fish. I told Ron about it when we were leaving he laughed some people just have no respect. I was lucky to be there to capture the moment since Ron has been fishing for these salmon for over 20 years and that was his second largest fish, memorable day for both of us and the fellow who never did get to see the fly.

Thames Valley TU would like to thank the following paid advertisers for their support



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" and website. The cost is only \$50 for the entire year (9 Issues). For more information and to purchase an ad contact [Jackie Preston](#).

Thanks for your support!

Help Raise Funds for Thames Valley TU



by Jim Clark

Dear Chapter Members...

Here is a way you can help us raise funds to support our various projects. Donate your no longer used Fly Fishing equipment and books. We will raffle them off and use the money raised to support the chapter's various projects. As a non-profit chapter we can give you a letter for the value of your items which you can use for tax filing purposes. For more information and to make a donation call Jim Clark at 860-546-6924. Thanks for your support!

To join Thames Valley TU or for information please visit our website www.thamesvalleytu.org
Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact [John Preston](#)

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