

Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

December 2017



President's Message...

Now the weather outside may be starting to become "frightful", but inside our December meeting we will be "delightful"... Celebrating the evening with some tasty morsels, good fellowship and what I expect will be a wonderful journey with Thomas Baranowski to the Yellowstone backcountry and Slough Creek ...one of my favorite places.

Our hard working Fund Raising committee has several surprises for you (all designed for holiday giving) that I know you will enjoy. Like extra door prizes, new merchandise for sale (get there early because selection is limited and the prices are incredible), another great Raffle table, and "first dibs" on donated items that will be targeted for auction soon. If you are fishing tackle collector, there will be some very good buys here. Remember all monies collected goes directly to support our chapter's programs including conservation projects, stream clean ups, stocking, TIC, speaker fees, and other operating expenses.

We have several news items for you. Bruce Danielson has volunteered to be the chapter's Communications Chair (webmaster & newsletter editor) and Jim Valuckas is officially our Stream Clean-up Coordinator. They both will have big shoes to fill and the Board of Directors is looking forward to working with them.

Phil Sands has stepped down as our Fly Tying Coordinator because his job has impacted his availability to attend our meetings. So, if there is a fly tier out there interested in this position give me a call. Ed Walsh has stepped down as the newsletter editor but will continue to contribute articles for it. Thank you both for your time and efforts in behalf of the chapter.

We have had an influx of monetary donations totaling \$1200 of which \$600 is ear-marked by two members for the Sprague open space purchase and \$600 for our TIC program. I personally want to thank the members who donated and especially, Mr. & Mrs. Sharron for their TIC contribution in the name of their son and fellow TVTU member Todd Clement who passed away unexpectedly late October.

Winter will soon be upon us and, of course, that may mean inclement weather and cancellations of meetings. Cancellations will be posted on our website and TV Channel 3 FSB. If that all fails give me a call. Hope to see you all at the Firehouse and to all a...

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to All!

"Duke" Preston
President TVTU
[Email Address](#)



December 19th TVTU Chapter "Special Holiday" Meeting

"Guide to Yellowstone Back Country Fly Fishing" with Thomas Baranowski



The program will focus is on hiking in and fishing the beautiful Slough Creek for Yellowstone Cutthroat. His presentation will be a Do-It-Yourself guide to planning, prepping and making happen, a safe and successful back-country Yellowstone hiking, camping and fly fishing experience. Items include: choosing and securing a site, proper gear, best flies and techniques to catch Yellowstone Cutthroat trout.

Thomas Baranowski was born and raised in Bristol, Connecticut. At the age of six you could find Tommy bushwhacking through the woods with rod in hand. Tommy picked up a love for fishing from his father who enjoyed trout fishing in CT and the Great Lakes region. Lake Ontario, the Salmon and Oswego rivers were their stomping grounds. Thomas is an artistic fly tier who specializes in making and fishing large streamers for trout and pike.

Thomas has a co-operated guide service [CT Fish Guides](#) for about 6 years on the Farmington River. He has been involved with the Boy Scouts for most of his life and made Eagle Scout in his teens, in doing so conservation was instilled in him and he continue those ideals as Vice President and Environmental Director for the [Farmington River Anglers Association](#).

Tommy's first love is small stream fishing. He spends a lot of time in the woods hiking up streams looking for new untouched spots. These days you will most likely find him backpacking the Appalachian trail in NY, CT and MA, fishing small streams as he goes.

Join Us for a "Special Holiday" Meeting

The Doors Open at 6 pm - The holiday meeting is a great way to celebrate, connect with friends old and new, and meet other anglers like you who are committed to our mission and making our area watersheds better and healthier!

After a short business meeting at 7pm, we have Thomas Baranowski, guide, fly tier and guest speaker join us for the evening exploring and fly fishing the Yellowstone backcountry.

A free event for chapter members, their family, friends and fishing buddies... the holiday celebration will feature assorted appetizers, coffee, tea and sweets.

In addition, we will have many new fly fishing "stocking stuffers" available at unbelievably low prices, several



door prizes and, of course, our well-known Raffle table... All to help you be the Santa of the year!

New!...For fly fishing collectors: There will be a "pre-Auction" table containing items that members can get "first dibs" on collectable items at reasonable prices before they go to an internet auction to raise funds for the chapter. Also a great way for novices to purchase fine used equipment without breaking the bank. Large arbor fly reels... overrated! A new \$800 graphite rod!...Give me a break!

Join us at the Bozrah Firehouse!



THE DRY FLY AND THE FARMINGTON

An Inexact Primer for Inexperienced Users of the River

©George Jacobi 2017

By George Jacobi

Connecticut has only one trout stream that can be depended on to furnish quality trout angling throughout the year, the Farmington River. Let's face it - if you fly fish you'll end up there sooner or later, if you haven't already.

To arbitrarily call the West Branch of the Farmington its main stem gives us an 80 mile long waterway that begins in Otis, MA and joins the Connecticut River in Windsor. From its headwaters in the Berkshires to the Bass and Shad habitat below Rainbow Dam, there is a huge amount of fishable river, and the long middle section contains a lot of trout. Nevertheless, there are significant differences from upstream to down. Coming out of the bottom of the Hogback Dam, the Farmington is cold but carries little in the way of organic matter - it has settled out in the Reservoir. Below Unionville the opposite happens - the stream gains considerable nutrients from the civilization surrounding it. The Farmington is still clean and clear but warmer, and invertebrate life has expanded. Between these locations there are major changes in the quantity and variety of life forms, and time continues to alter the ecosystem.

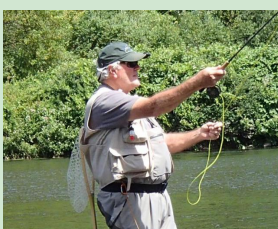
Because of this, a regional Hatch Chart is of negligible use on the Farmington - each bit of information is relevant only to a short section of stream, if that. And the timing is probably off. As a trout fisher, one's main interest (aside from the health of the fishery itself) is in the insect hatches and how they affect feeding behavior. Let's concentrate on significant hatches from the Still River junction in Riverton downstream to the general Collinsville area, particularly the Trout Management Area from Pleasant Valley to New Hartford. And let's assume we are fishing one of the major pools, long and flat, conducive to surface feeding. Expect some competition, but also expect a lot of vigorous healthy trout, some reachable to you - although they're not necessarily easy. In this water you will see dozens of classic mayflies as well as caddis and stoneflies, but they are not all on the Main Menu for trout.

My focus here is on Major Entrees, emergencies that one should always carry imitations for at the relevant times of year. Lots of flies are left off this chart. Nor am I trying to tell you how to fish the river. Other methods will of course work, but these insects are a major part of a trout's diet during these particular times. For successful dry fly angling, for playing the match-the-hatch game even when it gets technical, this is critical information. Nymph fishermen should be able to extrapolate data from this to use their techniques at appropriate times. Be aware too that even within this relatively short length of river, the hatching and feeding activity will a) move upstream over time, and b) not take place everywhere. Nor will the trout necessarily be in feeding mode everywhere. A final caveat - aquatic insect populations are subject to cyclical ups and downs like all else in nature. On the bright side, during the magic last 15 minutes of daylight, you might catch a trout on almost anything.

The Farmington River's consistency allows trout to surface feed somewhere almost all the time. The bottom-release dam means that colder water delays the hatches compared to every other stream in CT, yet by virtue of the same water being warmer than anywhere else in winter it extends the dry fly fishing season to the whole year. Even when they release a lot of water, it usually runs clear. If you fish dry flies, the skills to fish 6X or smaller leaders, and flies smaller than #20, will give you an advantage. Check out the chart. Then get your waders, rig up, and do your own comparative research. Enjoy the Farmington!

Farmington River Hatch Chart

Latin Name	Common Name	Size	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Baetis Vagans	Blue-Winged Olive	18-20		—								
Ephemerella Subvaria	Hendrickson Red Quill	14-12		—	—							
Paraleptophlebia Adoptiva	Paraleps	18		—	—							
Isonychia Sadleri/Bicolor	Leadwing Coachman	12			—	—	—	—	—	—		
Ephemerella Invaria	Sulphur	16-18			—	—	—					
Ephemerella Dorothea	Sulphur	16-18			—	—	—					
Ephemerella Vitrea	Sulphur	16-18			—	—	—					
Ephemerella Attenuata	Blue-Winged Olive	18-20			—	—	—					
Hydropsyche	Tan Caddis	16-18			—	—	—	—	—	—		
Terrestrials Midges	Ants, Beetles Midges	12-14 28	—	—		—	—	—	—	—		
Pseudocloeon Anoka	Tiny BW Olive	26-28						—	—	—	—	
Tricorythodes Stygiatus	Trico	24-26					—	—	—			
Flying Ants	Ant Falls	14-28						—	—	—		
Ephemerella Needhami	Hammies	20-22					—	—	—			
Dolophilodes Distinctus	Black Caddis Winter Caddis	20-24	—	—							—	—



TVTU Member Recognition: "Stan Peterson"

By Ed Walsh



When I floated the idea of doing membership bio's for this publication John Preston suggested I start with Stan Peterson. I had just starting working with Stream Lines and getting to know some of the TVTU members and

actually had a couple of other people in mind but after spending an afternoon with Stan collecting info for this pieces I am glad I followed John's lead. All I can say is Stan Peterson would give the Dos Equis Beer commercial guy (The Most Interesting Man in the World) a real run for his money.

Stan grew up along the Cedar River in Vinton, Iowa. Even though Stan was an active boy who enjoyed, and participated in, all sports, and most outdoor activities, his family kept him away from this big, aggressive and often dangerous river until he learned to swim. Once accomplished not only was the Cedar where he spent a great deal of time but at age 14 he navigated 200 miles of the river from its headwaters in Minnesota back downstream to Vinton. The trip took three weeks and Stan, and a friend, lived on fish, field corn, beans and peanut butter. It was also around this time that he got interested in fly fishing and tying.

He has given presentations on fly fishing at local chapters and clubs throughout New England and gave a presentation to the TU chapter in New Zealand during a visit when he and Ginny spent five weeks touring, and fishing, that wonderful country. He does say that was the best fly fishing experience he ever had but New Zealanders are the worst drivers he ever encountered. He says they drive way too fast and everyone tailgates. He's also written about fly fishing for numerous publications.

Until the past few years Stan and Ginny were regular visitors to the Penobscot River in Maine spending at least one week when the kids were young and he was still working and increasing that stay to two or three weeks after retirement. He's also made five fly fishing trips to Alaska and a semi-regular swing out west starting at the North and South Platt Rivers in Nebraska to the Big Horn in Wyoming continuing on to the Upper Missouri River near Three Forks, Montana down to the Big Hole, Madison, Henry's Fork, the Yellowstone Park rivers and down to the Green River in Utah. That swing required from eight to ten weeks. There was no "etched-in-stone" schedule on these trips. If the fishing was good in one location more time would be spent there.

Stan is experiencing some circulatory problems and getting around often requires the help of friends but he told me he would

In high school Stan was class Valedictorian and an exceptional all-around athlete. After graduation he entered Iowa State Universities ROTC Program majoring in engineering. He worked two part-time jobs to help pay for his education but still found the time to play on the universities football and wrestling teams. By his own admission he was the smallest member of the football team at 160 pounds but few had his speed. Always at the head of his class academically he was surprised when a professor called him into a meeting late in his senior year to discuss a poor grade. His performance had dropped significantly and he was going to get a D in a communications class. When he was asked to explain why the lack of effort he sheepishly responded with "I met this girl". That D was the only grade lower than a B during his entire college career but more importantly the girl he was referring to, Ginny, became his wife of 73 years as of this writing.

After graduating ISU in 1943 Stan entered the US Navy's Submarine Service as an officer and sonar technician. He saw time in a sub during the end of World War II in the South Pacific. After his naval requirement ended he went to work for Underwater Sound Labs, New London, working on sonar technology for almost 25 years until that facility closed.

He was then recruited by the Department of Defense where he examined programs that were, or could be, beneficial to the security of our country. He became the head of research and development in the Tactical Warfare Department working under Admiral Hyman Rickover who was to become known as "The Father of our Nuclear Navy". Stan suggested Rickover was a very demanding leader but always got the best out of his management team.

Stan tells me travel was a part of his professional life with regular trips to northern Canada and the Arctic. And his fishing equipment was always part of his luggage. Any free time would find him exploring local ponds, rivers and streams. He tells great stories about catching large brook trout and Arctic Char.

After five years with the Dept. of Defense Stan retired but knew he wanted to stay active and pursue another challenge. With a family that had grown to five (son's Bruce and David, daughter Barbara) he and Ginny decided to move to Ontario, Canada where Stan worked as a logger while he built his own home about 100 miles northwest of Ottawa. As his family grew he knew he needed to return home and moved back to Connecticut after a few years to his present home in East Haddam.

Stan has been involved in TVTU for as long as he can remember. When he first started attending chapter meetings they were held in the old New London Train Station. The location was later changed to a place some where on Rt. 2 close to the present Foxwoods Casino location. He had served as the chapter stocking coordinator for many years and remembers when the float boxes were big, heavy and extremely clumsy. He often used his own van to transport the boxes with two on the roof and two in the back of the van. Float stocking in those days wasn't for the faint of

be in the woods deer hunting within the next few days. After our conversation and getting to know him I certainly wouldn't bet against that happening. He is simply an amazing individual.

Before my visit I had only spent a few minutes talking with Stan at TVTU meetings. Spending an afternoon with him made me realize how much I had been missing. He is a real gentleman who could teach us all something about fly fishing and has a life's story that he loves to share.



This piece only touches the tip of the ice berg named Stan Peterson. So next time you see him at one of our regular meetings sit next to him and start a conversation and get ready for a most enjoyable ride. And even at 95 years of age Stan says he isn't going anywhere any time soon.

A Christmas Story... My Friend "Doc" Larson

By Ed Walsh

Before a job took me to this area of the country I lived in Coudersport, PA. One of the joys of living in what is so aptly named "God's Country" was getting to meet Doc Larson, the local chiropractor who knew, and was loved by, everybody.

I played many rounds of golf with Doc and don't remember a time when beer wasn't included in that activity. I also got involved in poker games at his camp near the golf course. I rarely remember winning at either place. We all have people in our lives that we refer to as characters and Doc would be at the top of my character list.

Doc, and wife Mary, had 10 kids. He would say seven went on to productive careers. The other three became lawyers. That kind of humor was Doc.

One story I always enjoyed passing on was when Doc and Mary had the entire family spend Christmas at their home. Doc's youngest son Mike, who was also a chiropractor, lived next door so when the entire Larson clan showed up there was enough room for all, albeit a little tight.

All of Doc's stories made me laugh but the ending of this one was pee-in-your-pants funny. He said although it was great having the entire family together for Christmas after a couple of days he was getting worn out trying to keep up with the grand-kids. He finished by saying the experience made him realize what lights he really enjoyed best that Christmas: Tail Lights.

I hope you all have a few Doc Larson's in your lives who will always bring a smile to your face especially when a smile is needed. Hope everyone has a safe,



"Fly Tying Tips & Techniques"

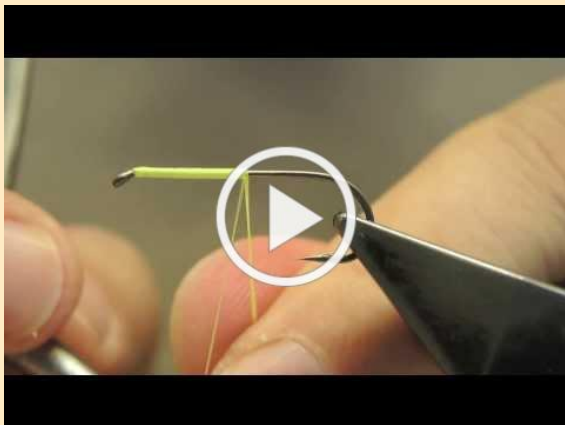
By John Preston

A **Split Thread Dubbing Loop** is a great way to create brushy natural-looking bodies on flies with less bulk.

Some threads are easier to split than others. Uni thread, because of its bonded construction, can be difficult to split. UTC, Veevus, Danville, and others however, are easy to uncoil and flatten. Heavier threads are generally less difficult to split than lighter ones.

1. Get your dubbing ready before splitting your tying thread.
2. Pull down on your bobbin to expose about 3" of thread and spin counter clockwise. This will uncoil and flatten the thread so it's like floss.
3. Use your needle to split the thread in half and insert the index finger of your left hand between the two strands.
4. Start placing small slips of dubbing between the strands. Once the split segment is filled, remove your index finger and spin your bobbin clockwise to coil up the thread, trap the dubbing and form a spikey dubbing noodle.

Split Thread Technique Video - by Hans Weilenmann



Fly of the Month "A Simple Soft Hackle"



Here is a very simple soft hackle to demonstrate the split thread dubbing technique, forming both rib and thorax. This can be tied in other colors to match the natural. For PMDs try it with yellow thread, muskrat, and gray partridge or blue dun soft hackle.

I am always in awe on how such an uncomplicated, impressionistic fly can be so subtly elegant and yet very effective.

Materials:

Hook: Grip 14723BL #14 or equivalent

Thread: Benecchi (silk) 12/0, tan

Hackle: Whiting Coq de Leon hen **Abdomen:** Tying thread

Rib: Beaver, dyed dark brown - in split thread

Thorax: Beaver, dyed dark brown - in split thread

Originator and Fly: Hans Weilenmann

Visit the [Fly Tiers page](#) for addition patterns from this talented fly tier and others. A great website to bookmark.



November Meeting Recap - "In Search of Western Native and Wild Trout" by Dave Parry

By John Preston



Dave Parry's wonderful, visual and informative presentation was about his periodic trips out West fishing for the many wild, native species of trout. He became interested in this in 2004 when he attended a conference in Phoenix Arizona while working for the Boy Scouts. Dave discovered that there is a species called Apache Trout which is native to a small area in White Mountains of Arizona

near New Mexico. After the conference he planned to find and fish for them, and has been hooked ever since.

He began researching the many other species and found they have been pushed to extinction in some cases. The decline of wild native trout in the West is due many factors, such as:

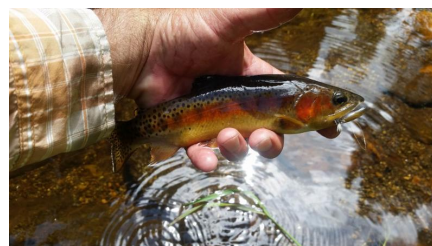
- Habitat degradation – mining, clear cutting, roads
- Over grazing and related riparian damage
- Over fishing
- Fire
- Non-native stocking
- Brook, Brown, Rainbow, Lake Trout out compete for food
- Hybridization

Since then, and his retirement, Dave has traveled to or through California, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, and even CT (our own Merrick Brook) in search of the 25 or so wild native species. Dave offered us a travelog of places he went to pursue the many species still available in mostly remote but beautiful areas of the West. See some of photos he shared with us.

He has learned about and seen some of the great efforts by States, Indian Tribes, Federal Agencies and volunteer groups like TU, step-up and make real progress in protecting these species and start the slow process of extending their range. Some of the efforts they have done are: erecting barriers to prevent hybridization; extirpation of non-native fish and the reintroduction of native trout; riparian zone protection; better grazing practices; and, establishing hatcheries for native species.

Here are some information he provide if you are interested in joining him in the pursuit of native and wild trout..

- Nativetroutflyfishing.com
- Westernnativetrout.org
- Wildlife.ca.gov
- Wgfd.wyo.gov
- Guy Jeans who guided him for Golden Trout - kernriverflyfishing.com





Beginner's Corner

By Bruce Danielson

I know many of our members have been tying flies since dirt was invented, but some of us newcomers are just getting started. My efforts at fly tying often seem like I am tying with a catcher's mitt on. But by trying to stay with the more simple flies, I find that my skills are steadily improving.

One of the best sources for fly tying knowledge I have found is the 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM fly tying/social hour at our monthly TVTU meetings. I ask a lot of questions and get a lot of great advice that has helped me tremendously.

The Internet is a great place to find YouTube videos that are also a great help.

I have found several effective flies that are easy to tie, use a minimal amount of materials and incorporate many of the fundamental tying techniques.

Hopefully, some of our newer members will be encouraged to try these flies.

This fly is very easy and fun to tie. Not a lot of different material is needed. I have caught trout, largemouth bass and bluegills with this fly...

Olive Wooly Worm

Hook: Nymph #6 -#12

Weight: .025 Lead Wire

Thread: Olive

Tag: Red Wool Yarn

Body: Olive Chenille

Hackle: Olive Saddle

Video by Jim Misiura



Angler's Pantry

By Jenn & Duke Preston



Pumpkin Pie Muffins

Ingredients:

1-15oz canned pumpkin puree
 ½ cup sugar
 ¼ cup brown sugar
 2 large eggs
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 ¾ cup evaporated milk
 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 ¼ teaspoon baking powder
 ¼ teaspoon baking soda

Directions:

Preheat oven 350 degrees. Use a muffin tin or silicone liners and spray with non-stick spray (pam or olive oil).

In a bowl, mix pumpkin, sugar, brown sugar, eggs, vanilla, and milk. Add flour, pumpkin spice, salt, baking powder, and baking soda to the mixture.

Fill each muffin cup with 1/3 cup of mixture bake for 20 minutes and let cool for 20 minutes. Remove



cupcakes from pan and chill in fridge for 30 minutes.
Top with whip cream if you like

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

TVTU Fly Tying Classes Start January 13, 2018

Thames Valley TU will be conducting Fly Tying classes again this winter. Bob Walsh, John Preston, and Jack Balint will be teaching the classes. The classes will be held 9:30 - 11:30 am Saturdays at the Fish Connection, 127 RT12, Preston, CT.

Tentative class dates are January 13, 20, 27, February 3 & 10th. Classes are open to members (young & old) and to the public... beginner to experienced fly tiers welcomed. Tools and materials will be available if you don't have any.

Why learn to tie flies?

Fly tying is great way to learn some of the finer points of fly fishing; something to do off-season and keep focused on fishing; because you like being creative & working with your hands; and, you want to spend many hours alone or with friends doing a fun hobby. Also, there is great satisfaction catching a fish on your own fly. Another reason people tie is to save money. How many \$2 plus flies have you lost in the trees or snagged on the bottom of a stream or the hundreds of flies in your many fly boxes? But I would say, the jury is still out on that.



But one sure way to save money for sure is to take a fly tying class. This way you can determine if this hobby is for you before you shell out to buy the necessary equipment and materials to get started. There is nothing better than learning by personal instruction. Learning from a book can be hard but not impossible. Nowadays, I would suggest using online videos might be a good alternative.

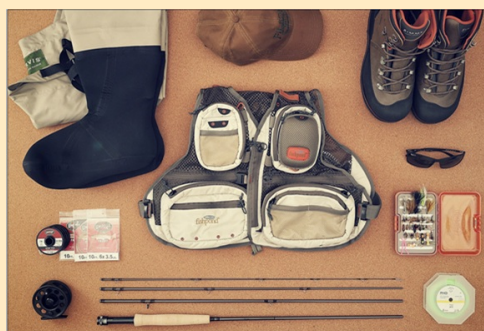
So, if you think you would like to give it a try. Enroll in our fly tying class. It's fun and you will meet some great people and future friends... and have something to give you pleasure for a lifetime!

Contact [John Preston](#) to enroll and for questions or information.

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 for more information about what they do! Thank you..

Donations Wanted



You can help our TU chapter by donating your unused fly fishing and fishing equipment including rods, reels, flies, books, fly tying 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](#) or call 860-546-6690 if you have something to donate or bring the item(s)



to the next chapter meeting.

Thank You... for your generosity and support

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

Accounting & Bookkeeping Services

18 Rapids Trail
Canterbury, CT 06331
(860) 546-6690

Bookkeeping
Payroll
Taxes: Personal, Business
Quarterlies

All your personal & business
accounting needs!

Jacqueline P. Preston
Owner

Thames Valley TU would like to
thank the following advertisers
for their support... Please
patronize them.

**EASTERN CT FLY FISHING,
SMLLC**
Guiding & Fly Fishing Lessons

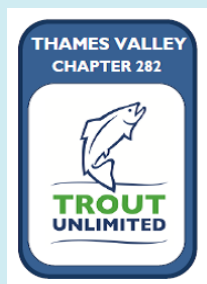
Michael Carl
(860) 716-0825
mjc6624@sbcglobal.net
easternctflyfishing.com

SHU FLY
TACKLE & FLY SHOP

Skip Storch
President

161 Main St., Suite 2-3, Nanuet, NY 10954
Phone: (845) 215-5470 • Fax: (845) 215-5582
shu-fly.com • email: skip@shu-fly.com
Cell: (914) 671-0636

STAY CONNECTED



About Us

TVTU Chapter's Mission:

To conserve, protect and restore Eastern Connecticut's trout and salmon and their watersheds.

Our Vision

By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild cold-water fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.

Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact:
jpreston44@yahoo.com



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!

Visit our Website