



TROUT UNLIMITED

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

Stream Lines

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

February 2016

Dear Member,

It is Flies, Pies & More time! We're hoping for another good turnout. Of course, the "Angler's Art" will be the main focus. Fly tying instruction, demonstrations on how to turn bits of metal, feather, hair, and synthetics into faux insects to deceive selective trout. Several of our members have volunteered to reveal their art & methods and to pass them on to us. But all fly tiers (novice to expert) are welcome to participate and join in the fun. In addition, there will be rod building, net making, mini clinics, art displays and more.

This year we added a "Swap & Shop" tag sale where members can bring in gently-used, collectible, fishing equipment to swap or sell. We all have gear collecting dust that we can recycle to some else to use and enjoy. It is a win-win for all of us. To reserve a table please contact me but some tables will be available that night. Also The Fish Connection will be selling fly tying material & gear.

There has been some interest in holding a weekend day film fest possibly in the future. To test the waters there will be a video (movie) shown during the first part of the event. Please let us know if this is something that you all might be interested in.

Our raffle table will be geared to fly tying but also for the angler. There will be several door prizes given away during the course of the evening.

This event is also an opportunity to make the public aware of what we are all about. We will have a table available for them to get acquainted with us. In addition, any new member who joins TU will receive a FREE copy of our book "Trout Streams of Eastern CT" and an year's membership for half price (\$17.50). So bring a friend along to enjoy the festivities.

Of course, there will be some hot pizza, popcorn & soda/water/coffee.... It should be entertaining night!

See you at The Moose!



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

In This Issue

[Thinking Man's Game - George Jacobi](#)

[Flies, Pies & More...](#)

[Wanted: Stalkers and Walkers](#)

[Free Fly Tying Classes!](#)

[Fly Tying Tips](#)

[Fly of the Month](#)

Calendar

Saturday, March 2nd - April 2nd
Free Fly Tying Classes
Fish Connection, RT 12, Preston, CT

Tuesday, March 15th - 6:00pm
Chapter Membership Meeting,
Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT
Dean Keister - Stillwater Fishing & the LTC

Saturday, April 16th - (TBD)
Natchaug River Stream Clean-up, Lunch & Fishing

Tuesday, April 19th - 6:00pm
Chapter Membership Meeting,
Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT
Neal Hagstrom DEEP Fisheries Update

Saturday, May 14th - 9am
Moosup River Clean-up & Lunch

Tuesday, May 17th - 6:00pm
Chapter Membership Meeting,
Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT
Bob Walsh - Fishing Alaska

Friday/Saturday, May 20 & 21
Annual Campout and Breakfast

"Thinking Man's Game"

By George Jacobi



Standing in the sagebrush of the Harriman Ranch, you squint into the golden sunlight of early afternoon, trying to make out a riseform through the glare on the water. Henry's Fork of the Snake flows by, oblivious to your designs on its celebrated rainbow trout. If rivers have personalities (and they do) this one is mature, focused, on a mission. It coldly goes about the business of being a premier trout fishery. The Fork wordlessly communicates the message: *"Be serious, boy, I'm busy here. I ignore wishes and dreams. Strategy and skill - maybe. Don't hold your breath, though."*

There is no better place to experience the intense challenge of hunting a large fish. These Henry's Fork rainbow trout live in a liquid corridor that brings them food continually. They can CHOOSE to eat instead of needing to eat. Fat and content, their decisions are subject to revision and rejection in an instant.



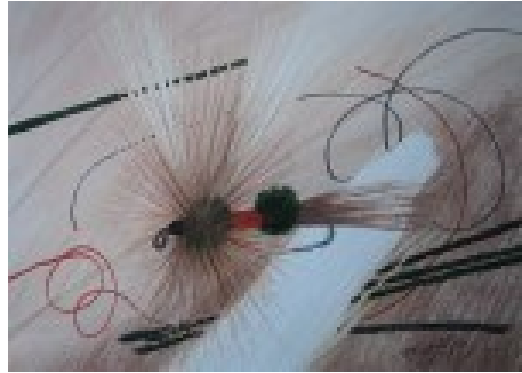
Bees buzz, tall grass rustles. The heat is relentless. At last a couple of fish begin rising in midstream, where three underwater rocks confuse the swirling surface even more. You wade out to a healthy casting distance with painstaking delicacy, a lion trying not to disturb the grasses while stalking the herd. Quartering above the activity, you settle in to watch. A good trout holds just above one of the boulders. The very best fish, though they make the tiniest of sips to feed, will sometimes give themselves away by what resembles a boat's bow wake. The body, the shoulders, are just too big to hide.

These guys will eat two or three surface insects then disappear for fifteen minutes. Meanwhile of course another fish or two out of your reach will become active and visible. At this distance, while you take the time to figure out the drift of your fly, you miss your chance to pinpoint exactly where your trout is. Rats. He's stopped rising anyway. You know if you cast here and now, it's guesswork - either a waste of time or you'll totally blow the opportunity.

You edge closer and wait some more, but the surface remains still. A white pelican lumbers by, low and noisy. You don't even notice. Come on, fish. You cast deliberately short to see what kind of float it will produce. The leader unrolls on the water and the dry fly skates at the end of the drift, about two feet closer to you than where you think the rainbow is. Well, that ain't gonna work.

Casting upstream here, as you've learned, is no better. You settle for being directly across from the spot

"Flies, Pies & More"



"Royal Coachman" by Charley McCaughtry

You are invited...

New to fly fishing or are you an experienced angler or just thinking about taking up the quiet sport? No matter what your skill level, there will be something for you at the Annual Thames Valley TU "Flies, Pies & More" Fly Tying and Fishing Tag Sale. Come in from the cold and join us for a fun, informative evening. Pizza "Pie" and refreshments will be available. As always, this event is open to the public. So bring a friend.

Door Prizes!! Door prizes will be drawn throughout the evening.

Our Raffle Table will contain 30 items including a new 5 ½ ft, 2pc, 3/4 wt. rod along, a new 3/4 wt. fly reel. Other items will include tying material including feathers, hooks, and fur. We will also have a separate table with items for sale at very reasonable prices. The items include a vise, a net with an Eco clear net bag and a pair of gently used Simms waders size MK, a pair of used Orvis size 12 wading boots and more.

Schedule

6:15 - 7pm - Fishing Video: "Once in a Blue Moon"

The following will be run from 6 - 9 pm:

Fly tying demonstrations - Like to learn how to tie a fly? There's nothing more satisfying than catching a fish with a fly you created. Instructors & equipment will be available to show you the "Anglers Art".

Featured tiers:

Bill Cone - TBD

Paul Heely - Tenkara styled flies

Bill Keister - White Marabou Streamer, GloBug/ Egg Fly, and an extended body Mayfly

Tim Pindell - Extended-body stonefly nymph. (using the J-Son System, and variant)

John Preston - Organza Spinners

Phil Sands - Organize for Fly Tying

Other Clinics:



where you saw the fish. Now you should be able to lay a left hand curve cast above the trout, get the best shot at a natural drift, and have the leader straighten out and drag the fly, if it must, below the trout. This position also gives you an upstream and a downstream cast at two more trout rising nearby as you rest your target fish, a

situation that increases your chances of a hookup - or at least relieves impatience. *"It all SOUNDS logical, son. How about you SHOW me?"* says the Fork in your head.

The Henry's Fork in the upper Last Chance/Ranch section is essentially the same piece of water for three or four miles, differing mostly in the velocity of the current. Knee deep to step into, it becomes only waist deep in the middle of its 40-50 yard width. There are almost no fast channels, no nasty riffles, no honey holes. You can wade at will albeit carefully. Long waving weeds blanket most of the bed, harboring every local aquatic insect by the millions.

It's as if an engineer designed a perfect trout stream and decided variety was therefore unnecessary. The thick macrophyte roots create upwelling, thus a complex series of currents on the surface. Concealed between milfoil and elodea most of the time, the fast-growing trout are protected from the ubiquitous ospreys as well as from fly fishers.

Wait some more. Ah, there he is. And again. Now you know exactly where to drop the dry fly. What fly? It's time to consider the bugs; what is this trout really feeding on? The caddis emerger imitation from last night won't cut it and has been clipped off.

There were a zillion Trico spinners dancing above the banks this morning. Most of them are now gone, but you are convinced that if the trout were taking them as they fell, every fish in the river would have been active, especially the bank feeders, and they were not. A few hatching Pale Morning Duns are on the water, 16s and 18s, and a few rusty spinners of the same. Now and again one of the larger mayflies shows itself, as does a caddis fly. Too rare to be of concern. You'll save the beetle trick for a last resort, as it's tougher to see on the water. So you go with a #18 Comparadun type Rusty-bodied dry fly, which splits the difference between a Paraleptophlebia and PMD spinner.



This river is an ideal combination of tailwater and spring creek. It stays cold. Rarely affected by runoff, it is born

"Fly Tying Problems & Solutions" with **Merrill "Doc" Katz**

The "Art of **Charley McCaughtry**"

"How to Make Furled Leaders" with **Duke Preston**

"Graphite Rod Building & Bamboo Rod Making" with **Bob Walsh**

"Cane Rod and Net Making" with **Don Avery**

Swap N' Shop...

Fishing & Fly Tying Equipment Tag Sale open to the public. The event is free for buyers and sellers. A great opportunity to recycle gear taking up space in your garage or basement. Contact [John Preston](#) to reserve a table.

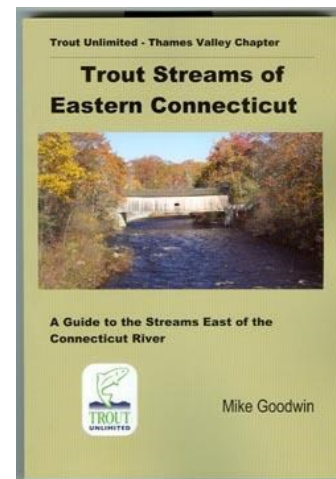
Fish Connection Tackle Shop will be selling fly tying material & equipment.

Trout Unlimited Information table - Info on "Who we are and what we do" - Conserve, Protect and Restore North America's cold-water fisheries and their watersheds.

Sign-up for Stream Clean-ups & to help Stock our local rivers & streams (at TVTU table)

Join Thames Valley TU for Half Price!

New members who sign-up at this event receive a year's membership for half price (\$17.50) and get a FREE copy of our book "Trout Streams of Eastern Connecticut"



Wanted: Stalkers and Walkers

by [George Jacobi](#)

I'm writing an essay - for the average person - about walking to effectively see wildlife in the woods, trying to include everything from how to be still when you accidentally spot a deer, to noticing that a mushroom has mouse tooth marks on it.

from the limestone bedrock that forms the Yellowstone caldera, accounting for the richness of its biota. The rainbow trout are heftier than fish of the same length almost anywhere. It is usually appropriate to use a 4X tippet on a #18 fly as trout will dive into the weeds and break off a lighter leader if given a chance. A tippet of that thickness and stiffness is out of balance with such a small fly. As you can imagine, that makes the challenge of a perfectly natural dry fly float even harder.

Alkaline murkiness and the reflection of the sky preclude you from seeing whether the trout comes to the fly and refuses, tilts up to look, or even waves a fin scornfully as the imitation goes



by. Several fruitless casts later, you're not sure if it was microdrag on the presentation, if it's the wrong fly, or if you just cannot time the floating fly to the trout's schedule. Even easily visible drag, and yeah,

you've created some here, doesn't prevent the fish from coming back to eat natural flies after a brief time out. Perhaps these guys are used to seeing real bugs drift haphazardly in the conflicted surface currents.

Given the erratic timing of the rises there has been no way to adjust your presentations to the trout's feeding rhythm. You attempt to be the first fly over the fish after its rest period. No dice. You try being the second fly, just after a rise, which sometimes appeals to the trout: "Oh, I guess I'll have another." Nothing doing. OK. Something about this is not working. "Maybe you should make a change before it's too late, sucker." Is that the Fork in your ear? Could be time to go to the foam beetle.

The locals refer to it as the HENRY'S fork, accent on Henry, as if the South Fork and all the other tributaries are less than secondary - and they are. Or they just say "THE FORK", as in the ONLY fork. You were last here years ago - and still recall what seemed to be a four or five lb. rainbow that took your dry fly, flew into the air, and snapped your leader with ease. Locals like to say these trout have PHDs. I'd add Olympic quality physiques.

Despite its disconcerting fame, the supposed crowds, and the myriad other classic rivers, you are here again, and there is nothing to complain about. You and your two old friends share about a half mile of otherwise empty river, gleaming in the late July sun. Although you arrived together, each of you is now alone on the hunt, his company only the inside of his own head. You love this. It does not bring you close to nature, it brings you INTO nature. You are now part of the eternal cycle of predation, a privilege few humans get to feel in these days of prepackaged protein.

As hunters, many of you have incidents where either stalking or sitting still, something has happened that you learned from and probably was thrilled by. Maybe an interaction between two creatures, maybe one creature acting in a natural, remarkable, but usually not visible way. Maybe just sign of some kind. The kind of thing that you remember always and think about whenever you go out there in hopes that you would react (or not react) again so as to maximize the experience. What were you doing that made you invisible? What did you learn about the animals' habits?

Your help would be greatly appreciated. George Jacobi, 860-450-0845, gjfishn@sbcglobal.net

"Free" Fly Tying Classes

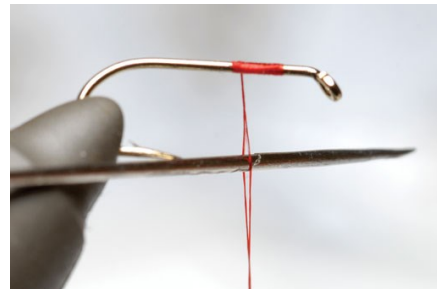


Saturdays, 9:30-11:30am, 5 March - 2 April

There is nothing more rewarding than catching a fish on a fly you have created. Join us at the Fish Connection, RT12, Preston, CT and learn the "Angler's Art". Bob Walsh and John Preston instructors. Equipment is available if you don't have your own equipment. No fee for lessons and materials. Open to the public. Contact [John Preston](#) to enroll or come to the Flies, Pies & More event to learn more about fly tying or to sign-up.

Fly Tying Tips

Split Thread Technique



The Split Thread Dubbing Loop Technique is a quick and easy way to dub and collar flies, without the use of a

The foam beetle, although it's a size 14, sits low in the water. When casting, you need to follow the unrolling leader with your eyes to find it as it lands in order to control the drift. You can't expect to just look at where you THINK it's going to go and immediately see it floating.



The first cast is again short; the beetle sweeps by the rock, making a wake behind it. More distance and more slack are needed. The rainbow eats again, nose, dorsal fin and tail in turn peeking above the surface. This could be the final act of this absorbing experience. *"Better do it right the first time, boy".*

You throw the perfect cast above that spot. The beetle gently sails over the now invisible trout without being touched and swings around your side of the rock. Then with a rush, the big rainbow catches it from two feet behind, coming half out of the water, and you set the hook solidly. You're on. *"Well, not bad",* whispers the Henry's Fork.

Conservation Fund Raising Raffle

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 1/2 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).



Raffle tickets are only \$20 each. The drawing will be held

dubbing loop tool. The Split Thread Dubbing Loop Technique is the most streamlined and clean way to form dubbing loops. It is also one of the best ways to hide the fly tying thread inside the material (since the material is trapped inside the thread, and the thread is not doubled over like a traditional dubbing loop). All you need is a sharp fly tying bodkin and a little patience!

Here a [LINK](#) for a video on the Split Thread Technique

Fly of the Month "Poly Wing Rusty Spinner"



Video and tying
by Tightlines Productions

This one pattern that every angler should have in their vest. This fly is very easy to tie and can be tied in many sizes and colors to represent a wide range of mayflies. Change the color of the body and wing to match the hatch. Sometimes that gentle small sip will reveal a hog. [Link to tying video](#)

Fly Tying Recipe: Poly Wing Rusty Spinner

Hook: Dai-Riki #305 dry fly hook size 10-20
Thread: UTC 70 Denier, Rusty Brown
Tails: microfibbets
Body: Super Fine Dry Fly Dubbing, rust colored
Wing: polypropylene yarn or Zelon



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!

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.

About Us

To join Thames Valley TU or for information please visit our website www.thamesvalleytu.org. Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact: jpreston44@yahoo.com | PO Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350 | Thames Valley Trout Unlimited | (860) 917-4485 |

Quick Links

[Join TU](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[TVTU Website](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)


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

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