

# Trout Unlimited

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

February 2019



## President's Message...

We are about midway through winter and I don't know about you, but I'm already getting antsy to get out on the water and into some fishing. The annual fishing shows are behind us and I did my usual buying spree, stuffing my drawers and vest pockets with more stuff and was glad to run into a bunch of you at the Marlboro and CFFA shows out doing the same thing. Special thanks to Charley McCaughtrey for sharing his table with us at the CFFA show and to

John Preston, George DeGray and Ray Schaffer who helped man the table, selling raffle tickets, promoting our chapter and enlisting new members.

The fly tying classes that have been held on Saturday mornings will be wrapping up after one more class. I stopped by one of the classes just to see how they were going and who was there. I ended up sitting in and then attending all of the rest of the classes. Even though I had thought I'd gotten a good enough start from attending these in previous years, it was surprising how much I learned and the new tips I picked up. I really enjoyed working with the masters alongside others like me trying to learn and improve our tying skills. Thank you to John Preston and Bob Walsh for giving up your time and sharing your knowledge and tying materials. And thank you to Jack Balint for providing such a great spot at the Fish Connection for our class.

This month we'll be having our annual "Flies Pies and More" event at the February membership meeting. Members and guests will be showcasing their skills in a number of areas including fly tying, rod building, woodworking, art, leader building and more. This year we'll be featuring an "Iron Fly" Tying contest open to all that is sure to be fun for contestants and observers alike. We will also have pizza, food, desserts and drinks – so make sure you come hungry. We also have a door prize, some special raffles and items for sale at bargain prices. If you've attended these in the past, you already know what a fun even this has become – and if you haven't get out here to see what you've been missing.

Gary Lussier  
President TVTU  
[Gelconn@yahoo.com](mailto:Gelconn@yahoo.com)

## Thames Valley TU Annual "Flies, Pies & More" Expo

February 19th, Tues., 6 to 9pm

This year we'll be featuring demonstrations by chapter members with different skills including fly tying, rod making, artwork, woodworking and an "Iron Fly" Tying Contest!

As in the past, the board

## Chapter Events

**Feb 12th, Tue. 2:30-4:30pm**

**Fly Fishing School**  
Fly Tying & Casting  
Nathan Hale MS  
Coventry, CT

**Feb 19th, Tue, 6pm**

will be providing pizza and a variety of food for the night. Because a number of members have asked, we invite anyone who would like to contribute to the food to bring a dish, snack or dessert of their choice.

We will be having our normal table raffle and door prizes as well as some additional special bucket raffles and expanded selection of fishing items.

As always, all our meetings and this annual event is open to the public... It should be another fun & terrific night!!

### Fly Tying Material SALE!

We have a vast collection of fly tying material for fresh and saltwater at bargain prices. Feathers, dry & wet fly capes, dubbing, synthetics, hooks, natural fur/hair, and more. **Don't miss this sale!**

### Sign Up for the "Iron Fly" Tying Contest - "Iron Fly" Starts 7:30 pm

The TVTU Flies & Pie "Iron Fly" contest is a really fun and fast paced event. The fly tiers will be pitted against a grab bag of materials from nuts and bolts to tiny feathers and anything outrageous enough to make a tier scratch their head. Can you tie from a mystery bag of goodies chosen by the judges? How about blindfolded? You get the idea, big fun for a good cause! Join us as you tie or just watch and cheer as the tiers try to tie the "best" fly for prizes and bragging rights.

No contest is complete without a reward for the competitors; TVTU BOD is ready to hand out some great prizes. (Note: There are no fees for competing). Visit the [TVTU website](#) for Iron Fly Contest Rules.

Please contact [John Preston](#) to register (so we will have enough material available) for the contest and for questions or information. Walk-on's are allowed.

### Demonstrations Scheduled:

**Bob Walsh** - Bamboo Rod Making, Graphite Rod Building and Net Making  
**Capt. Jack Balint of The Fish Connection** - Saltwater Fly Tying  
**Duke Preston** - Furled Leader Making  
**Charles McCaughtry** - Artwork. Charley has donated two lithographs worth \$85 each to the special raffle.  
**John Preston** - Dubbing Brush Making  
**3 Brothers Fly Tying** (McMahon brothers) - Fly Tying  
**Don Avery** - Net Making and Wood Working  
**Steve Gerling** - Wood Carving  
**Phil Sheffield** - Fly Tying  
**Merril "Doc" Katz** - Fly Tying  
**Steve Babbitt** - Fly Tying  
**John Jascot** - Fly Tying



### How About You?

Do you have some skill or technique that you could share with the chapter? If so, please contact Gary Lussier (860-861-9344) or [email](#) so we can reserve a spot for you.



**Annual Event**  
Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT  
**Flies, Pies & More...**

**Feb 23 - March 16,**  
**Sat 9:30- 11:30 am**  
**Fly Tying Class**  
**Fish Connection**  
RT-12  
Preston, CT

**March 19th, Tue 6pm**  
**Chapter Meeting**  
Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT  
**Neal Hagstrom**

**March 23, Sat. 6-9pm**  
Farmington Valley TU  
Banquet -USS  
Chowder Pot IV  
Hartford, CT

**April 16th, Tue, 6pm**  
**Chapter Meeting**  
Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT  
**Abbie Schuster -**  
**"Striper Fishing**  
**Martha's Vineyard"**

**April 20th Sat. TBD**  
**Natchaug River**  
**Clean-up**

**May 11th Sat. TBD**  
**Quinebaug River**  
**Clean-up**  
Putnam, CT

**May 17-18, TBD**  
**Annual Breakfast &**  
**Camp-out**  
Shetucket River

**May 21st Tue. 6-9pm**  
**Chapter Meeting**  
Moose Lodge  
115 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT  
**TBD**

**June 8th Sat. TBD**  
**Yantic or Moosup**  
**River Clean-up**

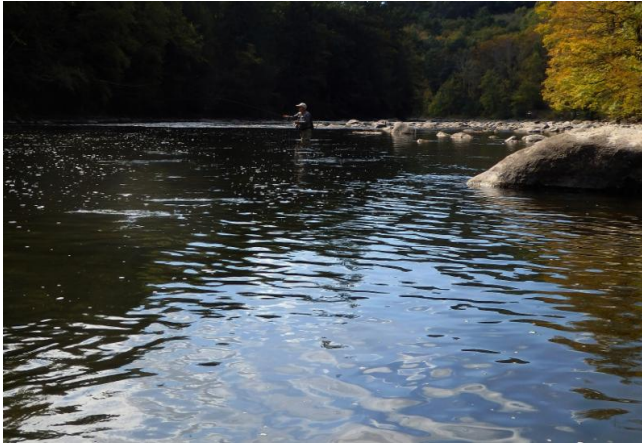
## Event/Meeting Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather

In the event that we need to cancel a scheduled meeting due to inclement weather, an announcement



## "ACCUMULATION OF DEBRIS"

by George Jacobi



Sometimes I fish in a special place, a valley where several tributaries meet to form one deep, rich river. You can look upstream to where two healthy brooks, Science and Nature, pour down off the left slope into the valley. Nearby a Stream of Consciousness and a spring of Spirituality join them from the right. It's never very crowded here – it can be shady and hard to see, and the fishing can be tough. For me, though, it's always rewarding.

I may never catch the big one here, but I catch enough to make life interesting. I might hook a valuable insight. You need

these; even though life sends them your way all the time, somehow they disappear quickly and need to be restocked. How does the creel in your brain get empty so fast? If nothing else, I always manage to catch and keep the day when I'm on this river. Hour by hour, I am in the present. Chores I should have done, regrets and annoyances, are gone, as are the mental list of things I must get to tomorrow. I get to be here. Right now. That's the prize I win by stepping into this special, sacred waterway.



I feel like a Terminal Moraine. At four-score and nine years on (do the math), I've surely reached the limit of my expansion. Conquering new territory either physically or mentally seems unlikely, and in fact it's no longer even a fantasy, let alone a goal. I apparently solidified, froze in place, without even realizing it, most of it during the years after fifty, and now on top of that I've begun to recede back the way I came. Maybe you know what I mean. Inexorably, boulder after boulder rolls off my top and gets left behind as I retreat. Glacial erratics, they call them, but to me they are not erratic at all. Each was once a part of my life. Some I've learned to do without; some, alas, I have

not. They bounce a ways and then sit in my wake like sentinels, warnings to the young about the weight that winters will heap on each of us; warnings that of course will go unheeded. Just the way I ignored them when they were visible on other shoulders. Regret is fruitless; some of those boulders are practically out of sight at this point. Oh, yeah, this moraine is terminal. Nothing to do but make the best of it.

"The angler...routinely misplaces large chunks of time, entire afternoons, whole days, significant portions of a life, with no idea where they have gone or any specific recollection of how they disappeared." Ted Leeson "Inventing Montana" pg. 218, Skyhorse Pub. 2006

Forgetting hours on rivers usually comes easily to me; they blend into one another in a satisfying haze. Like the guy on the t-shirt says, says, "The Gods do not deduct from man's allotted span the hours spent fishing." Wish I could forget the boulders I've lost as easily as I've misplaced some fine days of trout fishing. Was that me with Marinaro on the Letort? With Joe Brooks on the Firehole? Lee Wulff doesn't remember the day on the Humber when I outfished **him**, six salmon and a grilse to his four. At least he says he doesn't. But he's old; his memory might not be so good anymore... I'll give him the benefit of the doubt.

Geology defines a terminal moraine, which forms at the "snout" of a glacier, as "an accumulation of debris". That's a fair definition of my house and a perfect one of my fly-tying bench, sure, but it's also an accurate description of my mind. These streams that burble out carry a collection of stuff that is difficult to sort. They wander all over below my "snout", refusing to be organized. Eventually they may collect in a tarn, a glacial lake. In that circle of green might be memories, dreams, joys and regrets, laughs and tears, intimacy and loneliness. And many reflections of past fly fishing experiences, some I remember



## Beginner Fly Tying Classes Start February 23, 2019

Thames Valley TU will be conducting a Beginners Fly Tying classes again this winter. Bob Walsh and John Preston will be teaching the course. The classes will be held 9:30 - 11:30 am Saturdays at the Fish Connection, 127 RT12, Preston, CT. Class dates are February 23, March 2, 9, & 16<sup>th</sup>. Classes are open to members (young & old) and to the public.

### 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. Tools and materials will be available if you don't have any. There are no fees for the classes and materials. This way you can determine if this hobby is for you before you commit money 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](#) or Jack Balint (860) 885-1739 at Fish Connection to enroll and for questions or information.



## Fly of the Month "Farmington Winter Caddis Pupa"

by John Preston



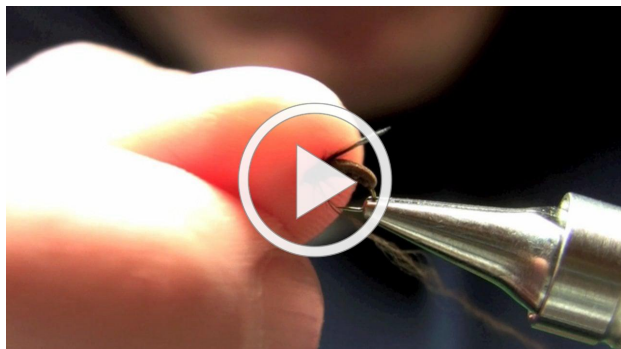
This caddis emerger pattern is specific to the Farmington River and imitates a wingless female caddis pupa...

*Dolophilodes distinctus*.. the Winter-Summer Caddis. The winter caddis is small about a size 18-24. So if you can handle the cold and need an angling fix... head on up to the Farm and do a little skating!

### Winter Caddis Pupa Recipe:

**Hook:** TMC 2487BL, size 18-24  
**Thread:** Brown UTC 70 Denier  
**Body:** 2mm Foam (Brown, Lt. Brown, Root Beer, or Amber)  
**Legs:** Black Hen Hackle (cut flush on the top & bottom)  
**Head:** Mole Fur or synthetic dubbing

In the video Rich Stolis ([catching-shadows.com](#)) demonstrates how to tie this simple foam Farmington River caddis emerger pattern.



*"Often I have been exhausted on trout streams, uncomfortable, wet, cold, briar scarred, sunburned, mosquito bitten, but never, with a fly rod in my hand have I been less than in a place that was less than beautiful."  
-Charles Kuralt*



## Thames Valley TU 2019 Fundraiser Raffle

TU "Embrace-A-Stream" Fly Rod & Orvis Reel Outfit plus an Eastern CT Guided Half Day Trip (1- 2 Anglers) w/ Steve Babbitt



Package Value \$764- Only 60 tickets are to be sold.

**Donation: Only \$15 per ticket**

(All proceeds will be earmarked for our [Education and Conservation efforts only](#))

**TU "Embrace-A-Stream" (St Croix Legend Ultra 8'6") Fly Rod 5 wt, 4 pc, 3.4oz:** This rod includes the following features: High-modulus / high-strain SCIV graphite, slim profile ferrules, Fuji Alconite stripper guides with chrome frames, REC nickel silver reel seat with a stabilized bird's eye maple insert, Super-grade cork handle, includes a rugged rod case with a handle strap and a divided polypropylene liner. Made in the USA. Original MSRP \$330.00

**Orvis Battenkill Disc III for line weights 5-7, 4.9 oz., 3 1/4" dia:** Underneath that mid arbor is the same sealed drag system found in the Hydros SL incorporating six interacting carbon and stainless drag surfaces. Positive click drag is simple and easy to adjust. The reel is built of 6061-T6 aircraft aluminum with an ergonomic Delrin handle and changing from left to right hand retrieve is simple. Finish is black nickel. MSRP \$169.00

**Sage Performance Taper II WF5F:** Sage's Balanced Loading System to create a smooth-handling, high-floating line that provides enhanced line feel through your cast for greater distance, accuracy and consistency. Original MSRP \$65.00

**Guided Half Day Trip for 1 or 2 Anglers (Eastern CT Waters) with Steve Babbitt:** Please schedule trip ahead of time with Steve any time from April to June- September to December 1st. Value \$200.



Steve Babbitt is JT's Fly Shop in Union, CT resident guide and available for individual or group fly fishing trips and instruction. Steve has over 35 years of fly fishing experience and started guiding in the 90's and hasn't stopped. Steve has been tying for 30 years and many of those years were spent as a commercial tier.

If you are looking to get started or already have experience and looking to learn new techniques, Steve, will have the experience and knowledge necessary to make the most out of your time on the water.

---

## Items for For Sale

**Cortland 444 Sink Tip Fly Line NOS 4WT - \$20**

**LL Bean Travel Fly Rod - 9' -7wt, 6pc w/ tube & bag, near mint condition - \$75**

**Cortland CL Fly Rod - 9' - 8/9 wt, 6 pc w/bag & tube, excellent condition - \$65**

**Umpqua Toketee Vest - New, never used, gray, one size fits all - \$65 (MSRP \$159)**

**Cabela's Bootfoot Neoprene Waders - Perfect for broodstocks/winter, no leaks, used a few times -\$30**

**Bamboo Rod Oven (homemade) - The heat gun (not included) oven is **FREE** for the cane rod maker who will pass it on **FREE** to the next rod maker.**

## Wanted

George Jacobi is looking for a copy of "Trout" magazine, Fall 2016, and "Fly Fisherman", Aug/Sept 2018. If you still have one and can part with it, bring to me or John Preston at a meeting. Thanks

For the above items or to place items for sale, contact [John Preston](#) 860-917-4485

---



# "January Meeting Recap"



by John Preston

Our featured guest John Shaner discussed the history, flies, and techniques associated with classic style of flies called "Spiders" (better known as soft hackle in the USA) and how to fish them. In addition, prior to his presentation, John demonstrated some of his fly tying techniques for creating these classic flies.



*John demonstrating his tying skills and offering tips on creating a proper Spider.*

The meeting started with a fly tying demonstration by John. These flies were tied "fully hackled" and not like the modern sparse style of today. This change in his approach to hackling was a result of his study of how anglers of the late 1800's to early 1900's wanted flies that could stand up to use and that could last. Materials were not readily available as they are now and as we all have experienced a well-chewed up fly tends to fish better, probably because its buggier looking.



*A Starling & Purple and Partridge & Orange by John Shaner*

John tied up several soft hackles (Starling & Purple and Partridge & Orange) and talked about the simple beauty of these wonderful patterns as well as their history. He prefers to use natural materials (like Pearsall's silk thread, feathers, fur, etc.). Unlike synthetics natural materials will degrade much faster if a fish breaks free or lands in a tree branch. He also talked about the use of wax, body size (small) and a true Hare's Ear



*John passing on the tradition of Spiders.*

Pearsall's silk makes a great body material because of its translucency. To my ignorance and chagrin John told me that Pearsall silk thread is no longer produced... So, if there is anyone out there who can spare a spool of Pearsall's purple PLEASE let me know. Gold or silver ribbing is used on many patterns. Dubbing should also be sparse (a mist of dubbing so the body thread can be seen). Paraphrasing John... "if you think you have too much, you probably have twice as much as you should have".

When fishing John uses a 10 foot 3 weight rod and emphasized that any rod that is used should have a softer action. Casting a multiple (where allowed) spiders requires using an open loop to avoid tangles. He recommends not tying droppers off the fly but to tie droppers the standard way where a tag is run off a blood or surgeon's knot or tippet rings (which currently favors).



*John Shaner showing his "pull through" technique to members*

The classic method for fishing soft hackle flies is the quartering downstream and swing the flies, though he recommended letting the fly "sit on the hang" a bit or "pull it through" (slowly). He's convinced that a trout will follow the swung fly and then strike it when it stops... something I am

dubbing which he makes himself. The process which he uses (water blending) is easy, simple, non-toxic and fully described in his resource information he mentioned.

John maintains a notebook filled with all types of feathers, information, spiders and some very old originals. After 40 minutes of tying and giving us insights & fly tying tips, John made his presentation to some 45+ TVTU members. The following are just some of the highlights of his presentation:

The spider was first mentioned in angling literature around 1817. These early patterns were snelled to horsehair and contrary to popular belief, they were not always big flies with some tied down to size 20. The spider originated in north England. Rivers such as the River Ure and River Wharfe are places where these flies are fished extensively. Spiders are typically fished in the upstream method and not downstream as done in the USA.

John talked in detail on tying these simple patterns. Hackles, he said, are the heart of the fly. Early flies featured much longer hackle, which he still favors, but he added that trimming the hackle is acceptable and can make the fly appear more like an emerger. John insists on using quality hackle from birds as Hungarian Partridge and Water Hen (which are hard to find but California quail and Coot are good substitutes), but he also said that Starling can be a very versatile feather material.

sure we all have experienced. He also talked about fishing spiders upstream as is done in England. Anglers there fish upstream and approach any river it like you were fishing pocket water... short line and with controlled contact... much like the high stick method when nymphing.

The presentation included John's photography throughout the presentation that were superb, especially the close ups of the elegant spiders and photos of his favorite rivers in England, and his favorite river... the Firehole.



I believe I was not alone in feeling that it was one of the very best presentations we have had in quite a while. I also believe that John Shaner may have convinced more of the members to try these simple, classic, and elegant Spiders as I did about three or four years ago when I first met John... and I'm glad I did!

## January General Meeting Recap

**Ron Bettez** welcomed to the Board of Directors as Veterans Services Coordinator

**Steve Moyer update on clean water rule:** EPA will be finalizing proposed guidelines for Clean Water acting seeking to remove wetlands, ephemeral and intermittent streams from protection. This will be a major setback for water protection and is opposed by TU. When the comment period opens, TU will be taking action to request us all to comment in opposition of this rollback of water protection rules.



**TRBP update:** Gary, Ray, Dave and Bruce attended the Thames River Basin Partnership meeting on 1/15. TRBP is a consortium of conservation minded organizations focused on environmental issues in the Thames River Basin. Among many of the interesting discussions, an eagle survey was conducted last weekend and 22 eagles sighted and there are 7 known nests that have fledged chicks this year.

TVRB is conducting their annual Floating workshop that is a hands on activity open to the public demonstrating some of their efforts and showcasing our local resources. TVTU will be participating with activities such as biodiversity assessments, fly tying demonstrations, fly casting, possibly teaching/demonstrating some fly fishing. It will be held in June at the park on Stockhouse Road on the Yantic river. We will be looking for volunteers to participate.

**Marge Misovich** has made a generous donation of a variety of fly fishing/fly tying items that belonged to her husband Steve who passed away last fall. These will be used in our raffles and fundraisers to support the chapter.

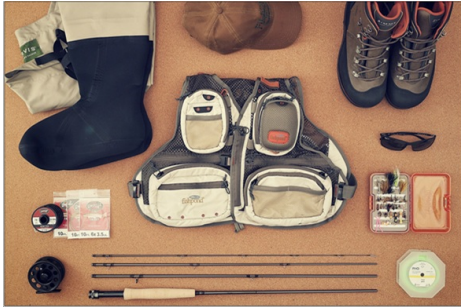
**Dave Parry provided an update on TIC:** Eggs were delivered to participating schools on 1/8. Nathan Hale MS school (Coventry) will be starting a fly fishing club that meets every two weeks. Two of the teachers are experienced fly fishermen, but they are looking for some assistance to attend meetings



and help with fly casting and fly tying lessons. Dave will be updating us as he gets more details. Please contact him if you would like to help out.

**Flies, Pies & More (FEB):** We'll be featuring demonstrations by chapter members of different skills including fly tying, rod construction, woodwork, artwork. We are looking for other people to share some of their talents. Anyone interested in showcasing some of their skills should contact Gary or any board member. **For more photos of the meeting visit our [website](#).**

## 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](mailto: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

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

Bait • Tackle • Fly Tying Accessories • Licenses

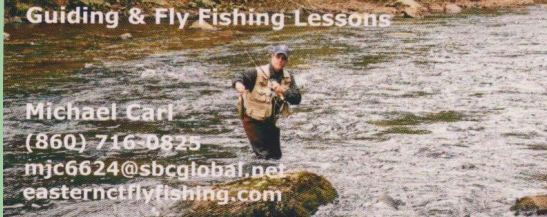
# JT'S FLY SHOP



664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076  
860-684-1575  
[jtsflyshop@yahoo.com](mailto:jtsflyshop@yahoo.com)

## EASTERN CT FLY FISHING, SMLLC

Guiding & Fly Fishing Lessons

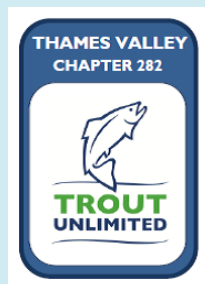


Michael Carl  
(860) 716-0825  
[mjc6624@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjc6624@sbcglobal.net)  
[easternctflyfishing.com](http://easternctflyfishing.com)

## Charles McCaughtry

Original Paintings, Drawings, and Prints  
By Appointment Only  
44 Portland Drive Ashford, CT 06278  
860-429-1016  
[www.mccaughtryart.com](http://www.mccaughtryart.com)  
[cmccaughtry@aol.com](mailto:cmccaughtry@aol.com)

STAY CONNECTED



About Us

TVTU Chapter's Mission

To conserve, protect and restore Eastern



Place an Advertisement in  
"Stream Lines"

Looking to reach a new and diverse audience? Presently we have over



*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 Editor [Bruce Danielson](#)**

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 [Daniel King](#).

**Thanks for your support!**

**Visit our Website**

### **Board of Directors**

Gary Lussier, President, Stocking	860-861-9344	gelconn@yahoo.com
Ray Schaefer, Vice President	860-546-9755	rayschaefer9060@gmail.com
Glenn Levasseur, Secretary	860-204-1201	glenn.levasseur@gmail.com
Daniel King, Treasurer	860-642-4870	dking4870@gmail.com
Duke Preston, Ex-Officio, Fund Chair	860-917-7154	dukeoa5599@yahoo.com
Michael Carl, Membership Chair	860-716-0875	mjc6624@sbcglobal.net
Jim Valuckas, River Cleanup Coord.	215-208-3873	jfvret@gmail.com
Charles McCaughtry	860-429-1016	cmccaughtry@aol.com
George DeGray, Fund Raising	860-546-9872	georgedegray@gmail.com
Bruce Danielson, Communications	860-237-2686	bdanielson62@comcast.net
Dave Parry, TIC/Education	860-617-8270	dfparry01@gmail.com
Steve Gerling, Conservation	860-429-4951	segerling@snet.net
Ron Bettez, Veterans	860-303-7358	rfb.c141@gmail.com