

# Trout Unlimited

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

## Stream Lines

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

January 2018



### President's Message...

Yes, if you missed the last meeting Thomas Baranowski couldn't make it. So quoting Yogi Berra, "It's Deja vu all over again". Paraphrasing my last message... Now the weather outside may be "frightful", but inside our January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting we will be "delightful"...on what I expect will be a wonderful journey with Tom to the Yellowstone Backcountry & Slough Creek ... have you heard that before?

The coming months (JAN/FEB) should be quite a busy period for all of us. First we kick-off our Fly Tying classes at the Fish Connection in Preston on January 13<sup>th</sup>. So if you would like to learn the "Angler's Art" there are still seats available (see details below).

Next, the 3 day Marlborough (MA) Fly Show starts January 19<sup>th</sup> that has about everything a fly fisher dreams of under one roof. I suggest taking in a couple of their seminars or destination talks or get to meet one of your favorite authors or celebrity. You might want to see Gary Borger and Ed Engle.

I highly recommend if you haven't attended a CFFA EXPO (February 3<sup>rd</sup>) before to do so... it's a great show with many local vendors, presentations, fly tiers bargains, and more. Besides, Thames Valley will be there raising the awareness of TU, our chapter, fund raising, and membership drive.

Last but not least, be sure to attend our annual "Flies, Pies" fly tying clinic on February 20<sup>th</sup> which usually is our best attended event. All tiers are encouraged to demonstrate their tying prowess and help others learn the angler's art. It is not just about fly tying; there will be something of interest for everyone. This year we plan to have an expanded raffle and small auction that will appeal to non-anglers too; all to help fund more chapter events and conservation opportunities. Of course, plenty of pizza, food, and refreshments will be available. There will be more details soon. Bring your spouse, family and/or friends for a great night of fly tying, food, fun and much more....

Hope to see you all at the Firehouse...

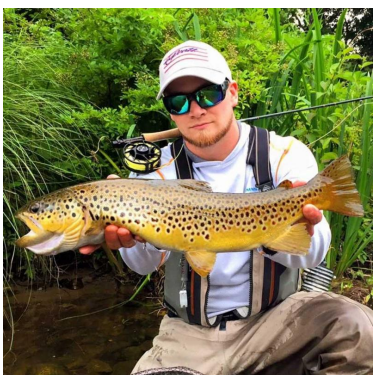
"Duke" Preston  
President TVTU  
[Email Address](#)

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## January 16th TVTU Chapter Meeting Feature Presentation:

### "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.

**The Doors Open at 6 pm** - Our meetings are free and open to members, guests and the general public. Social time, fly tying demonstrations, refreshments, raffle, door prize & more... Featured Presentation starts shortly after short chapter business meeting at 7pm.

**Join us at the Bozrah Firehouse!**

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## 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.

Class dates are January 13, 20, 27, February 3 & 10th. Classes are open to members, family (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 cost? But I would say, the jury is still out on that.



Now one sure way to save money 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](#) or Jack Balint at the Fish Connection to enroll and for questions or info.



## Fly Fishing in New Orleans?

By John Manfred

A few months ago a friend called me to ask if I'd like to join him and two others on a fishing expedition to New Orleans.



At first I thought he was joking, but soon discovered that he was quite serious. He had heard from another fisherman he'd met bone fishing in Exuma that the red fishing in N.O. was extraordinary. I told him I would think about it. Not to doubt him, I went on line to check it out and was pleasantly surprised. U-tubes of folks catching 30lb. fish in the Louisiana bayou peaked my interest. Who would have thought such a thing existed. I called Stan back with three words, "Count me in."

Stan made all the arrangements. We stayed at the Courtyard Marriott for the first night (Monday) allowing us to visit the WWII Museum, which, itself, was fantastic. We spent the afternoon there as well as the next morning. We had a taste of blackened redfish and N.O. jazz that night. By Tuesday afternoon we were ready to hop into the hired van, which took us to our destination – The Dogwood Lodge. Now this is no ordinary fishing lodge. It is a retired Coastguard buoy tender built in 1940. It

headed toward the thrashing fish. They turned out to be Carville jacks. Brandon shut the motor down and rigged up a 9wt rod. Dangling the fly overboard while he was setting the drag on the fly reel a fish came up from under the boat and attacked the fly. He slammed the line back to set the hook and handed the rod over to Stan. A half hour battle later Stan was so tired that he could not turn the fish, by now a hundred yards into the backing. He handed the rod to me. I set the drag even tighter and with all my strength was able to finally gain a few turns on the reel. It seemed forever but he finally tired and we were able to boat the fish – a handsome 30 pounder. Time for a photo opportunity and release.

The second day of fishing was even harder than the first as a cold front had moved in. Not only was there no sun but the wind was howling. Fly-fishing was out of the question. Judd, our guide for the day, brought out the spinning rods. He demonstrated the rig, which consisted of a popping cork about three feet from plastic bait. He winged it out a hundred and fifty feet, gave it a hard gurgling jerk and the whole thing disappeared under water. The first cast and a fish was already on. Wow! That was easy. Judd handed off the rod to me and after a considerable fight a 26 pound red drum showed up to have his picture taken. You might have guessed it – that easy first fish was the last of the day.

happened to be 77 years old, just like me, but in much better shape. It was docked at a canal leading to the vast complex of meandering waterways called "the marsh" by the locals. The double rooms were compact but quite comfortable. The capacity of the vessel was 12 sports. We were lucky enough to have occupied the last two rooms. There was a luxurious lounge/bar area where the fish tales were endless as well as the booze in the open bar. All meals, guides, gear and accommodations for three days of fishing and four nights cost just under \$2000.00. If we stayed at the hotel back in the city we'd have paid much more.

Up at 6:30 AM Wednesday; hearty breakfast at 7:00 and on the water by 7:30. The 17 ft. flats boats took close to an hour to reach the desired fishing grounds at 30 mph. You do the math. The day was overcast so sight fishing was difficult. Fortunately several fish showed themselves by their tailing. Their dorsal fins and tails would splash about as they were busily feeding in shallow water. My first fish was a 10 pounder that ended up with a quick release by wrapping my leader around the boat's trim tab. "Snap!" Brandon, our guide, preferred his flies to the ones I had tied for the trip so I did not start out using my own flies. At mid-day we were just finishing our lunch when I noticed an incredible amount of splashing about a hundred yards from our beached boat. It looked not unlike a school of hungry bluefish smashing through a pod of baitfish in Long Island Sound. I yelled to Brandon, "Are those fish I see splashing out there?" His response was "Hold on!" While he quickly started the motor, backed away from our lunch stop, and



The third day was the most exciting of all. The sun finally came out and we were able to sight fish. Not only did David and I catch several fish, but my u-tube fly turned out to be a killer. One of the fish weighed in at 22 pounds. Happy campers all.



## "Welcome New Member "

Glenn Levasseur

By Ed Walsh

Other than one year in Upstate New York Glenn is a lifelong resident of Connecticut. He and wife Lesa live in Colchester.

He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and is employed as a mechanical engineer at Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford.

Glenn started fly fishing with a friend in the Farmington River at age 16 when he purchased his first fly rod. It became his "home river" throughout his formative years. Locally you'll find him on the Salmon or Jeremy Rivers which are a short drive from his home.



His passion for fly fishing has taken him to the Salmon River for steelheads, the Niagara River for lake trout and Oak Orchard for brown and steelheads. All of these locations are in upstate New York. He's also fished the Kinzua River in Northeastern, Pennsylvania.

As new TVTU member Glenn hopes to meet other active fly fisherman and get involved in chapter activities. He's become a regular helping with our stocking program.

Let us all welcome Glenn to Thames Valley Trout Unlimited.



## Trout in the Classroom (TIC) 2017/18

By Dave Parry

This school year, we have increased the number of schools with Trout in the Classroom programs to 14. This includes 3 new schools, Flanders and Niantic Center Schools in East Lyme and Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School in Coventry. Trout eggs were delivered by TVTU volunteers in November.

The TIC program help teachers build a hands on educational program that builds a curriculum around ecology, biology, writing, art and other subject matter. When some of the schools release their trout in a local stream, our TU chapter provides fly casting instruction and other support.



Candice Mead is a teacher at Eastford Elementary School. She recently sent us an update.

"Eastford's trout are doing well now. There were many eggs that initially didn't hatch, but the alevin have "swum up" and made it to the fry stage. I was a little worried that they'd need to eat over the winter break, but they held on to their yolk sacs until we returned to start feeding them. There are two, maybe three, with deformed spines that probably won't make it, but the rest seem to be doing fine.

I am thinking of a releasing in mid-April, probably the 11th, 12th, or 13, which is right before vacation. My experience is that the amount of water-changes needed by the time they are that big means that we lose several due to dirty water over vacation, so I like to release them before that. I do an "all-day" release, where each hour I get a new group of students, and each student takes his or her own container with one fish out to the stream (Still River) behind our school. I don't need permission slips or a bus; my classes just go for a walk and spend an hour outdoors. It's fabulous."

What a great hands on learning experience! TU is making a difference with these students. If you are interested in helping this program or supporting us with a donation, contact [Dave Parry](#).

**Note:** The other TIC schools are: Eastford Elementary, Chaplin Elementary, EO Smith Alternate (Storrs), Wheeler MS (North Stonington), Lilley B Haynes School (Niantic), Lisbon Central, Griswold Elementary, Windham HS, Barrows STEM Academy (Windham), Franklin Elementary, and Lyman HS (Lebanon). Trout egg delivery volunteers were: Charlie McCaughtry, Doug Hughes, Gary Lussier, John Preston, Jenn & Duke Preston, and Dave Parry.



## "Angler's Pantry"

### Crockpot Kielbasa & Pierogi Casserole

By Jenn & Duke Preston



3 boxes of Mrs. T's Mini Cheddar Pierogi's.  
1 8oz block cream cheese  
4 cups chicken broth  
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese  
1 lb kielbasa sliced  
Salt & pepper to taste

Heat chicken broth and cream cheese in a sauce pan until cream cheese is melted. Then combined all ingredients in the crock pot. Cook on low for 6 hours or high for 4.

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



## "Beginner's Corner"

By Bruce Danielson

### The Insult:

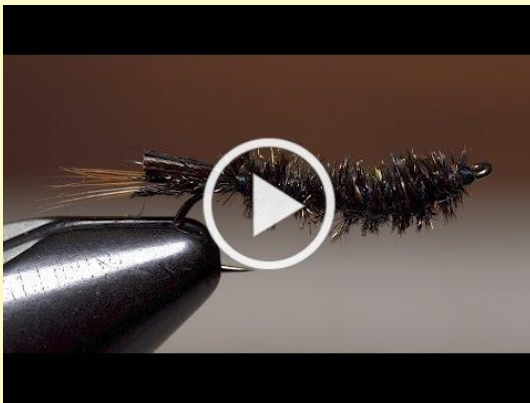
This fly is very easy to tie and incorporates several of the basic fly tying techniques such as the basic thread wrap, tying a tail and wrapping a body. It attempts to imitate an isonychia nymph. Not a lot of different material is needed.

**Hook:** just about any 12 or 14 nymph hook

**Thread:** 6/0 or 8/0 black UTC

**Tail:** the video calls for brown hackle but pheasant tail works well too.

**Body:** Lead wire and peacock herl.



## Fly Fishing and Tying TV Shows on CPTV Spirit



Sunday mornings at 7:30 AM on CPTV Spirit there is a one-half hour presentation of **The New Fly Fisher**. Interesting fishing and some beautiful scenery.

This show is then followed at 8:00 AM by **Fly Tying: The Anglers Art**. Leroy and Carolyn tie some very interesting flies. Great show for new fly designs and tying tips. On my Comcast channel lineup, it is channel 966.

The CPTV website (<https://cptv.org/schedule>) provides the channel listings for the various service providers.



## "Fly Tying Tips & Techniques"

By John Preston

### Using a Whip Finishing Tool

I could never master whip finishing a fly... probably because I never put in the practice time. A few half hitches and a drop of head cement did the trick anyway. The old Thompson type whipping tool was just too cumbersome. I then tried the first Matarelli whip finishing tool (which has no notch) way back when and it was pain too (I keep it as a collectors item). The improved version is probably the most used whipping tool today. But before that came out I picked up a "Charles's Whipper" or "simple whipper" (no moving parts) from someplace and it was cat's meow to me.... still use it today.

But when helping with the TVTU fly tying classes all we had for the students was the improved Matarelli type and I couldn't show them how to use it. I have since learned and it

## Fly of the Month "CDC & Elk Caddis"



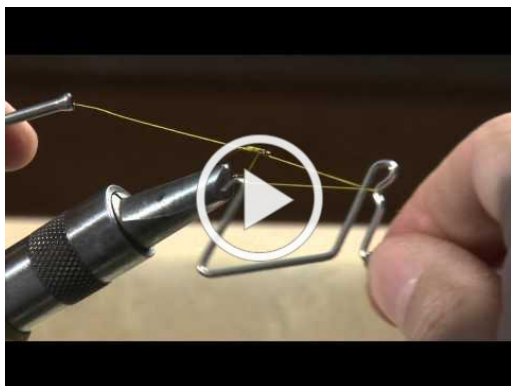
I'm always looking for simple and uncomplicated, impressionistic fly patterns. With only two materials needed this fly meets that criteria. Its a dry, its a wet, its an emerger since it floats low on the water... sort of what Gary Borger calls a Wet/Dry Stage 4 Emerger. But most of all it catches fish. Try one during your next caddis fly hatch... just match the color and size of the caddis hatch.

**Fly Tying Recipe: CDC & Elk Fly**

just as easy to use as my Charles's whipper but I feel you have a little less control with it.

Long story short here's a video to show you how to use one with an interesting tip on how to use it to cut the thread and save a step by not having to put it down and pick up your scissors to cut the thread.

**Video - Tightlines Production /Tim Flagler**



**Hook:** Dai-Riki #305, size 16

**Thread:** UTC 70 Brown

**Abdomen:** brown CDC

**Wing:** Natural colored elk or deer hair

**Legs:** Brown CDC

**Head:** Clipped butts or elk or deer hair

**Fly Originator:** Hans Weilenmann

**Video by:** Tightline Productions & T. Flagler

For step by step instructions by the originator see [LINK](#)

For more in-depth info on CDC and this fly and others see

<http://globalflyfisher.com/tie-better/tying-with-cdc>



## December "Holiday" Meeting Recap

By John Preston



Our Holiday meeting didn't turnout as planned... our featured guest was unable to attend... but with the holiday spread created by some of our Board of Directors, a good turnout; we still had a

great time seeing and conversing with old and new friends. Paul Rice and Bob Walsh demonstrated their fly tying skill & artistry and answered questions on techniques & methods. An expanded raffle, special pre-auction sale, and door prizes rounded off the night. A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year indeed... For more photos of the Holiday meeting visit our [website](#).



## 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

## Donations Wanted

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](http://www.flyvines.com) for more information about what they do! Thank you..



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@flyvines.com) 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**

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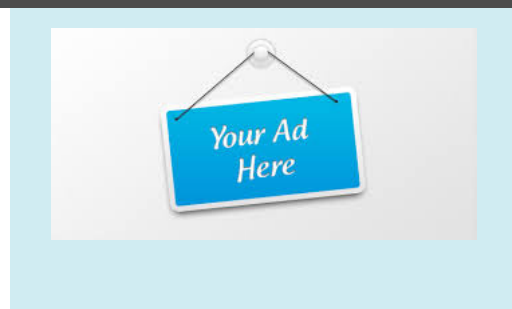
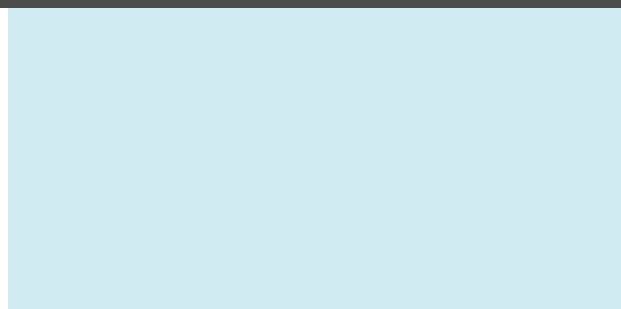
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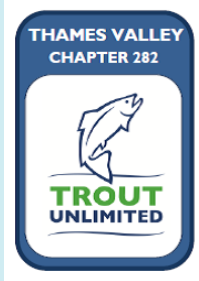
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## About Us

### 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](mailto: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!**

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