



## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# *Stream Lines*

*"The Voice for Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers"*

**March Issue 2015**

**Dear Member,**

Despite snow earlier in the day last month's Flies, Pies & More was well attended and a nice respite from cabin fever that was setting in this very cold and snowy winter. Now that spring is just around the corner it's time to start thinking about getting ready for the fishing season which starts a week earlier than normally... 11 April. This link <http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?Q=561404&A=4707> will take you to the DEEP press release and more information on changes to the fishing regulations.

It is also time to sign up and help with "stream cleanups" and trout stocking of area streams. To kick off Earth (Day) Month our first stream cleanup will be the Yantic River on Saturday, 25 April. The Eightmile and Moosup Rivers will be scheduled next, dates and times TBD. Join us, bring along family and friends, and make a difference. Then we will celebrate with lunch, refreshments and maybe a little trout fishing too. Please contact the chapter's Stream Cleanup Coordinator Gene Cyr and look for further details and information on our website. For stocking opportunities be sure to contact our Stocking Coordinator, Ray Schaefer. Ray maintains a list of volunteers for stocking, so be sure to contact him if you would like to help stock this year or be added to the list. It's a great way to learn more about a stream you never fished. There are times we get a very short notice from DEEP so be prepared for a quick call from Ray. Hopefully, this year we will be able to do some float stocking... last year the weather wasn't very cooperative.

Thank all of you who took the time to write the Appropriations Committee and/or your State Representatives. Hopefully, your efforts will have an impact on the decision to close the Kensington hatchery. It is unfortunate that we need to go through this "drill" time after time. It is very frustrating. This state takes in a lot of revenue but spends it like there is no tomorrow. Does anyone at the capitol remember the tale of killing the golden goose? I will leave you with this thought on the subject; "If we continue to do things like it always has been done, you can expect the same results."

On a more pleasant note, this month's meeting should be good one. Rob Nicholas will guide us for some great fishing on the Housatonic and in South America. Besides our normal fly tying demonstrations, there will be (by popular demand) furling leader making instruction from 6 to 7pm.

See you at the Moose...

John Preston, *President*



Thames Valley TU, Chapter 282  
[jpreston44@yahoo.com](mailto:jpreston44@yahoo.com)



# Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, March 17th, 7:00**

**TVTU Membership Meeting, Bozrah Moose lodge**

Doors open at 7:00, presentation starts at 7:45

Speaker - Rob Nickolas *"Fly Fishing the Housatonic, Argentina, and Chile"*  
Live demos on Furled Leader Construction & the CT Wild Brook Trout Project

**Saturday, April 11th**

Fishing Season Opening Day

**Tuesday, April 14th, 6:00**

**TVTU Board of Directors Meeting**

Moose Lodge, Bozrah CT

*(Open to the Public)*

**Tuesday, April 21st, 6:00**

**Membership Meeting**

Speaker - John Preston *"Fly Fishing Yellowstone National Park"*

**NOTICE** - If weather and driving conditions are bad and we have to cancel or postpone a Membership meeting or event, it will be posted on the "Home" page of our website. In addition, storm cancellations will be notified on WFSB Channel 3.



## *Flies, Pies & More Recap*

*A good time was had by all...*



February's Flies, Pies & More attracted well over 60 members and non-members despite earlier snow and very cold weather that night. Event goers were treated to fly tying demonstrations and tips, graphite and bamboo rod building, knot tying, furled leader making, and presentations on entomology, trout and saltwater fishing, and more. Of course, there were the pizza pies, popcorn and other refreshments to enjoy while swapping fishing stories and techniques with other members. And, I think you would all agree that the door prizes and raffle tables were just the icing on the cake.

A very special thank you to Merrill Katz, Phil Sands, Steve Babbitt, Bill Cone, Jim Smith, Michael Carl, Jack Balaint, Duke Preston, Jen Miner, Charlie McCaughtry, George DeGray, Jim Clark, Ray Schaefer, Bob Walsh and Jackie Preston for without them the meeting would not have been successful or as enjoyable.

The following photos are just a few that are available on our website for viewing. [Visit TVTU website](#)



TVTU is pleased to present Rob Nicholas at its March Membership Meeting



## *Fly Fishing the Housatonic River, Argentina & Chile*

*March 17th, 7PM, Bozrah Moose Lodge*

March's Membership meeting will feature Rob Nicholas, the longest-serving, full-time guide on the Housatonic River. Nicholas also guides on the Farmington River and runs a travel service for anglers seeking the best of fly fishing in Argentina and Chile. Having fished all over the world, I was delighted to find that Nicholas is an expert guide as well as one of the best companions on a river. He teaches without being preachy and is patient with anglers of various levels of experience. He finds time to be light-hearted, yet is a productive guide. His program will cover both the Housatonic and South American fishing.

For more information on Rob's fly shop, guide services, and travel services, check out his website: [www.housatonicanglers.com](http://www.housatonicanglers.com)





## Special Thanks to...

# The Fish Connection

Thames Valley TU would like to extend its appreciation and gratitude to the Fish Connection in Preston for hosting its fly tying classes over the last six weeks. Joe Balaint, Captain Jack Balaint, and Archie Cassidy at the Fish Connection are great guys and went out of their way to make us all feel very welcome at the shop. They were also kind enough to share materials, tools, and a vice or two when needed.

If you haven't been by the Fish Connection lately, pay them a visit to check out the shop and expanded fly tying section and large selection of fresh and salt water tackle. If you don't see what you need, the guys can order supplies through their distributor and have it within a week or so.

In addition, keep an eye out for upcoming fly tying classes hosted by the shop. They are still working out the details. Also, Captain Jack Balaint provides salt water guided trips through the shop. Give him a call to discuss the details and check his availability (860) 885-1739.

The Fish Connection is located at 127 Route 12 in Preston, (860) 885-1739.



Capt. Jack Tying a Lefty's Deceiver



## Winter -

# The New Normal

©George Jacobi

Here's what my garage looks like these days. Never mind the four brown ice clumps, the ones that match each wheel well. But watch out for the pile of split logs that almost blocks the back door. I might need them for the wood stove if the power goes out. There's no sense in stomping through all that snow to the woodpile when it's frozen in a solid block anyway. And watch out for the compost bucket full of frozen vegetables - yeah, that used to be outside the door as well. Once a week I get to bring the bucket into the house until it thaws out and smells, then I put on the giant boots and clump over to the compost, which is by the woodpile, and dump it. Careful - avoid the roof rake that stretches diagonally across the hood of the car.

The roof rake's gotten a lot of use. But not enough to stop the roof from leaking over the master bathroom, which has a low pitched, shaded valley, just perfect for ice dams. I raked it as much as I could, it just hasn't

helped. I really need snowshoes now to rake the roof - it would make it a lot easier to navigate the deep snow around my house. Put it on the list of household tools for next year. Now the pile of snow around the house is three to four feet deep from all the roof raking. I'll appreciate it when it melts in July. Or if we have an early hot spell, I'll all end up in the basement. Wonder if I need a new dehumidifier down there. Put it on the list...

Why not wreck your home from top to bottom? Anything worth doing is worth doing right. Not that I'm bitter or anything. Out here in eastern Connecticut we always enjoyed watching Hilton or Charlie Bagley show us the 12"-18" of snow they got in Barkhamsted while we shoveled our 6 inches. What did we do wrong this year?

And did I mention the cold?

Inside the house: Watch out again - don't trip on the pile of boots, caps, and gloves right inside the door on the wet newspaper. It lives right near the radiator. The doors under the sink stay open all the time now to keep the pipes from freezing. The big spaghetti pot, full of water, is always on the stove in case the power goes out. We close the curtains on the shady side and open them on the sunny side twice a day. When we go out shopping for hand cream, dry socks and snow blower gas, we've found that you have to drive very slowly. No, it's not the cars slowly peeking out from driveways surrounded by ten feet of snow; it's that the roads are one long frost heave. Feels like you're driving on four different sized tires.

The chickadees are friendly enough now to eat out of my hand, but there's no way I'm staying out by the feeder long enough to visit with them. On the bright side, the deer didn't even eat all the bushes. I guess they can't get here from whatever hemlock patch they hid out in. As the late February dusk approaches, the sparkling snow turns blue, then purple in the shade of the bare oaks, and a rich yellow in the low sunlight. Hmm, not bad. The male cardinal adds to the color, and he's begun his spring mating call. I wonder if he knows what he's doing.

**\*NEW**

## CT Wild Brook Trout Project

Web Based Tool to Catalog Wild Brook Trout in CT



The Thames Valley TU Conservation Committee has developed a new web based tool to help catalog wild brook trout populations in the Thames Valley TU area and statewide. The tool was developed to assist TU and others with identifying local brooks, streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds that sustain wild brook trout populations.

The tool is very user friendly and designed to provide valuable data for best use practices related to watershed and fisheries management. Often, DEEP Fisheries does not have the resources and/or manpower to evaluate each potential wild brook trout stream in the state. This tool can supplement fisheries

data collection. Our members have local knowledge with boots on the ground and along local brooks and streams and there's no one better than YOU to capture this information!

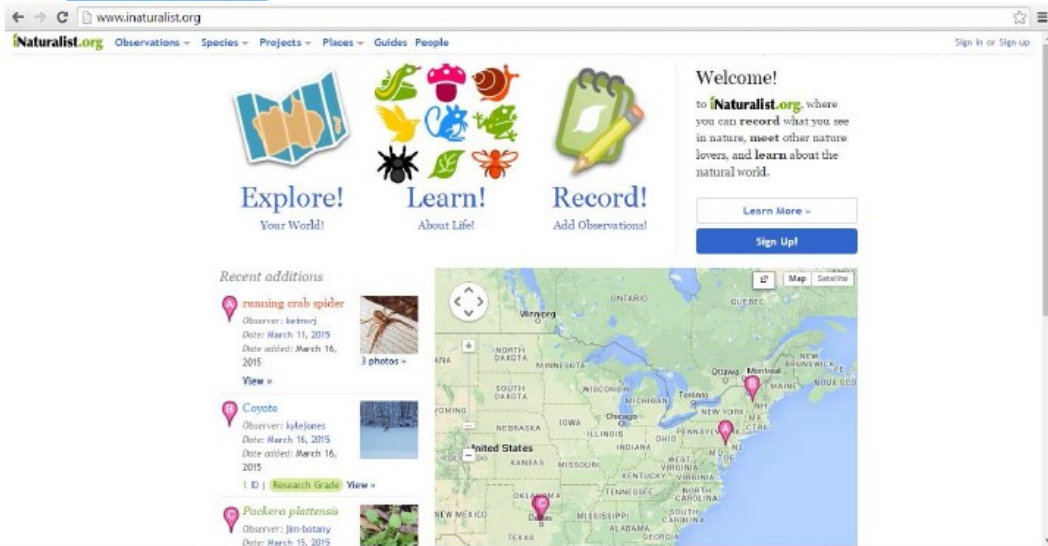
The instructions are listed below and will be posted to the TVTU website. Please take care to handle fish properly and in a timely manner. It's best to keep fish in the water as much as possible and return them immediately upon taking a brief snapshot and calculating length.

Please click on the following link to access the site, [CT Wild Brook Trout Project](http://CTWildBrookTroutProject.org)

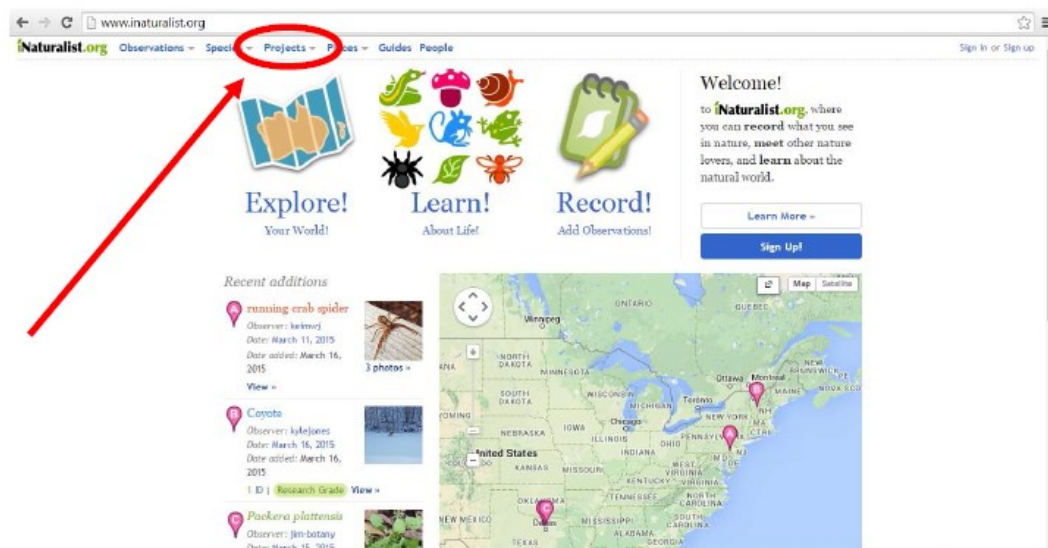
If you have questions or technical issues please send an email to the following clickable email address [TUThames@gmail.com](mailto:TUThames@gmail.com)

GOOD LUCK!

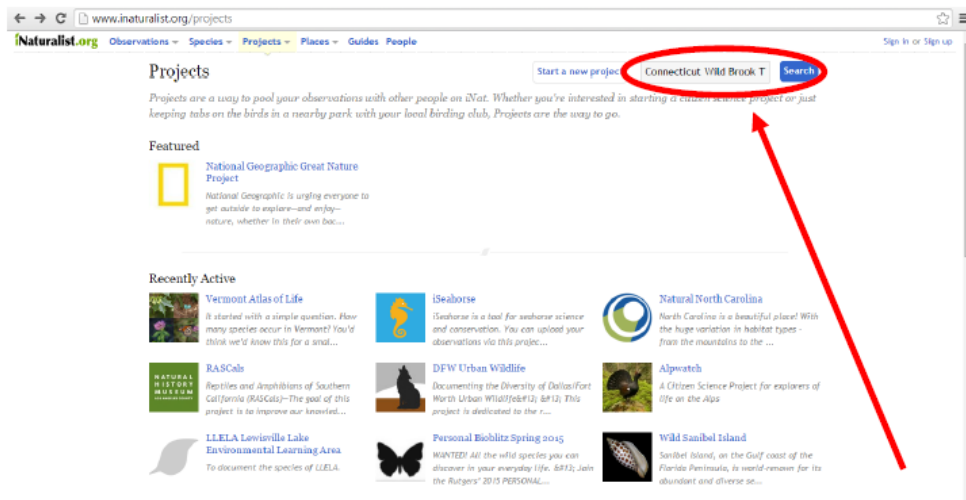
- 1) Go to [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)



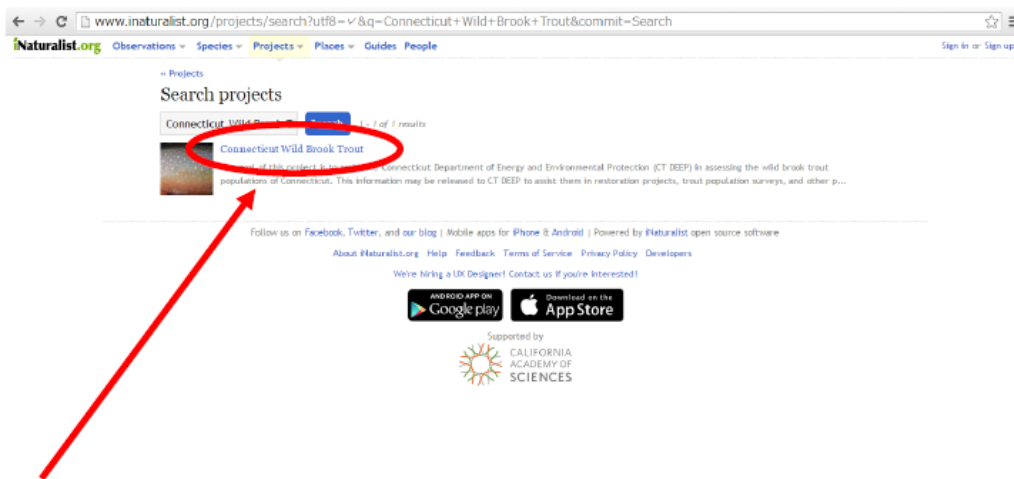
- 2) Click "Projects" at the top of the page.



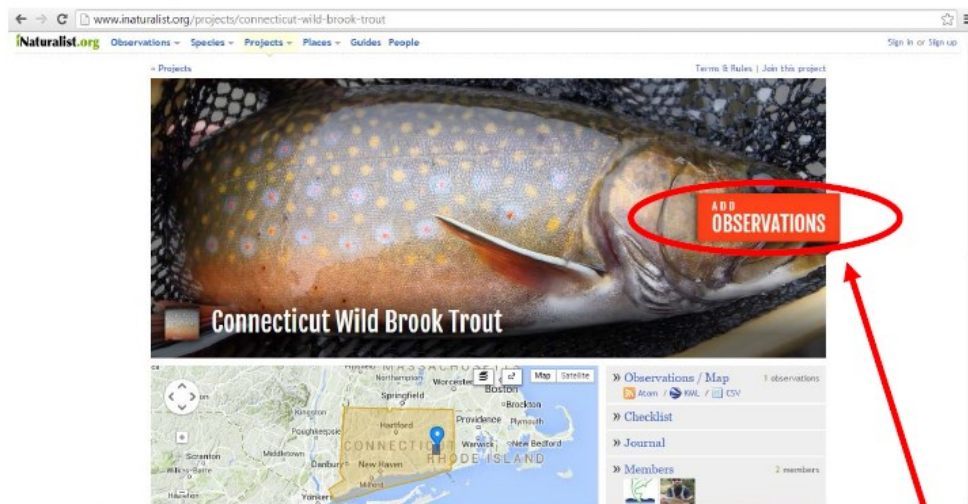
3) At the top of the “Projects Page” type in: Connecticut Wild Brook Trout



4) Click the Connecticut Wild Brook Trout Project Link



5) Click “ADD OBSERVATIONS”





**Password: brooktrout**

www.inaturalist.org/users/sign\_in

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You need to sign in or sign up before continuing.

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**What did you catch:**

**Brook Trout**

**When did you catch it:**

(Calendar will pop up)

**Please feel free to add any other information you would like (fish condition, sex, riffle, pool, run, weather etc.)**

**Length (This field is REQUIRED)**

**Habitat (Riffle, run, pool, stream, river, brook, lake, pond, etc.)**

**Kept (boxed) or Released**

**Enter the Water temperature, if you have it.**

**Connecticut**

**Wild Brook...**

**Map**

**Geoprivacy**

**Open**

**Obscured**

**Private**

**Geoprivacy!!**

**Changing the geoprivacy alters how other people see the location of your observation.**

**Open**

Everyone can see the coordinates unless the taxon is threatened.

**Obscured**

Public coordinates shown as a random point within 10KM of the true coordinates. True coordinates are only visible to you and the curators of projects to which you add the observation.

**Private**

Coordinates completely hidden from public maps, true coordinates only visible to you and the curators of projects to which you add the observation. Observations with private coordinates will still be used to verify place check lists.





## Fly of the Month

### *"Little Black Stone"*

*Video and tying by Hans Stephenson. Intro by Jim Smith.*

I'm always amazed when I see stone flies hatching in February and March, often crawling around atop the snow and ice. It just seems too cold, but they are a hardy insect and apparently like to get a jump on things. It's often said that stone flies hatch out of the water on streamside vegetation and rocks, however, they are still readily available in adult dry fly form on the water and can often be seen fluttering on the surface toward the bank.

Hans Stephenson provides an interesting pattern here to imitate the adult. I really like how he forms the wing with a grizzly hackle and uses CDC for the legs also creating a fluttering wing effect. I have to admit, I've never tied this pattern or fished it, but something tells me it's a good one to have in your box this time of year!

[Link to Tying Video.](#)

### Fly Tying Recipe

Hook:	#14 to #20 dry fly hook	Thread:	6/0 or 8/0 black
Tail and antenna:	Moose hair	Body:	Brown dubbing
Wing:	Grizzly hackle	Legs:	Black or gray CDC feather

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## Help Raise Funds for Thames Valley TU



Jim Clark

### Dear Chapter Members...

Here is a way you can help us raise funds to support our various projects. Donate your no longer used Fly Fishing equipment and books. We will raffle them off and use the money raised to support the chapter's various projects. As a non-profit chapter we can give you a letter for the value of your items which you can use for tax filing purposes.


For more information and to make a donation call Jim Clark at 860-546-6924.  
Thanks for your support!

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

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## 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". The cost is only \$50 for the entire year (9 Issues). For more information and to purchase an ad contact Jim Smith via email at, [jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com). Thanks for your support!

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To join Thames Valley TU or for more information please visit our website [www.thamesvalleytu.org](http://www.thamesvalleytu.org)  
Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact Jim Smith, [jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com)

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