

# TROUT UNLIMITED

## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter *Stream Lines*

*The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers*

March 2017

Dear John,

We all chuckle about wooly worms and groundhogs predicting weather but they are probably as reliable as some of our local weathermen & women forecasts. Well, as I am hopefully waiting out the last snowstorm/blizzard of this winter, all I can say is; I guess, Punxsutawney Phil was right about another 6 weeks of winter. Now winter may be still happening and spring is just around the corner, but this season the chapter will be very busy executing the last few months of our season. We have lined up some great guest speakers for our final three monthly meetings this season... an expert (Kirsten Martin PhD.) on dragonflies; John Springer who is well known to us all on VT trophy Trout Fishing... I expect a typical "fun" night with John; and PA/NY fishing guide, Jesse Filingo on reading big water (Delaware River). Judging from his website content you don't want miss his presentation.

The stocking season should be full swing soon and if you would like to participate contact our new Stocking Coordinator - Gary Lussier at 860-861-7344; e-mail: [gelconn@yahoo.com](mailto:gelconn@yahoo.com). It's a fun & great way to learn a river and stream that you never fished before.

Our two river clean-ups will start April 15th (dates and times will be determined as soon as the Board of Directors can meet (had to cancel this week because of the storm). Please note that after many years with TVTU Eugene Cyr has resigned from the Board and his position as the River Clean-up Coordinator. He said with the recent infusion of new Board members it was time for some "young blood" to carry the torch. Gene will be truly missed and we wish him all the best and thank him for his service and dedication all these years. Anyone interested in trying to fill his "big" shoes as River Coordination, please contact me. We try to do three river clean-ups a season (one on the fall & two in the spring).

Our Fly Tying classes seem to be high demand this year. We just finished our fly tying class with Scout Troop 76 and our free classes on Saturdays at the "Fish Connection" shop will end March 25th. The chapter was requested by the Salem Library to conduct a fly tying class for 12 April and the New London Library as request one too (TBD). Anyone interested in helping out with instruction, please contact Phil Sands, 860-861-9344, email: [featherman1117@gmail.com](mailto:featherman1117@gmail.com)

TVTU members George Jacobi and John Preston are scheduled to make a presentation on the "How & Why" of fly fishing April 15th, 2pm, Saturday at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Goodwin State Forest, Hampton, CT (more information to follow).

As you can see we (TVTU) are only as good as our dedicated

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### Calendar

**February 4 - March 25**

**"Free" Fly Tying Classes**

The Fish Connection  
127 Rt-12 Preston, CT

**March 21st - Tuesday, 6pm**

**Dr. Kirsten Martin - "The Final Hurdle: Riverbanks, Rip-rap and Dragonflies"**

Chapter Membership Meeting,  
Bozrah Firehouse  
239 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT

**April 12th - Wednesday, 6-7:30pm**  
**Fly Tying Class**

Salem Public Library  
264 Hartford Rd (RT85), Salem, CT

**April 15th - Saturday**  
**Stream Clean-up**  
**(Time & River TBD)**

volunteers.... Thank You All!!



"Duke" Preston  
President TVTU

[Email Address](#)

## Thames Valley Chapter Monthly Meeting Tuesday, March 21st - "The Final Hurdle: Riverbanks, Riprap, and Dragonflies."



Join us for a great evening with Dr. Kirsten Martin, PhD. from the Biology Department at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, CT whose presentation will be "The Final Hurdle: Riverbanks, Riprap, and Dragonflies."

Dragonflies are well known for their amazing aerial acrobatics as adults, and their long life spans (several years) as aquatic macro-vertebrates, but little is known about a short (yet incredibly vital) period in their lives known as the emergence stage. During this stage, dragonfly nymphs must crawl out of their water, and travel up the riverbank to a suitable location

where they will make their final transformation into adults. The features of this "emergence zone" can mean life or death for these nymphs. The presence of rocks, steeply eroded banks, or other barriers may shorten their travel distances, forcing them to remain within the splash zone. This presentation will provide an overview of a dragonfly life cycle, and will highlight how two local dragonfly species the Arrow Clubtail and the Cobra Clubtail, are impacted by riverbank features



### Door opens at 6pm.

Our meeting is free and open to members, guests and the general public. Social time, refreshments, fly tying demonstrations, door prize & more. Presentation starts shortly after 7pm.

## Win a Cabela's/Orvis Fly Fishing Outfit!



**April 15th - Saturday, 2 PM**

**CT DEEP Fly Fishing Seminar**

**"Fly Fishing - How and Why"**

James L. Goodwin Conservation Center  
Goodwin State Forest, Hampton, CT

**April 18 - Tuesday, 6pm**

**John Springer - "Vermont Trophy Trout Fishing"**

Chapter Membership Meeting  
Bozrah Firehouse  
239 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT

**May 7th, Sunday, 9am**

**Fly Casting with Scout Troop 76  
Sandy Beach**

**May 16th - Tuesday, 6pm**

**Jesse Filingo - PA/NY Fishing Guide**

Chapter Membership Meeting  
Bozrah Firehouse  
239 Fitchville Rd  
Bozrah, CT

**May (Date & Time TBD)**

**Annual Camp-out & Breakfast  
Sandy Beach**

## We are now on Facebook!

When you visit our website there is now a link to our Facebook page. Also see our Quick Links below. Jenn Miner is our administrator and we are looking for an additional person assist her. Please contact

[Duke Preston.](#)

## Quick Links

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## Donations Wanted

As always we welcome your donation of any Fly Fishing items such as rods, reels, fly's, books, etc. We will put your donated items on the raffle table along with our assortment of items to be raffled off.

Donated Fly Fishing items are extremely important to us as a way for us to keep our raffle table expenses down enabling us to use those items to raise funds for our TU chapter. It is one way you can contribute to our fund raising effort.

For your donation we can, if you wish, give you a letter

Thames Valley TU is continually working on our Mission of conserving, protecting and restoring our cold-water fisheries in the Eastern CT. This takes a lot of resources... man-hours and money. Please help us raise funds for current and future projects

The Cabela's/Orvis outfit consist of a highly rated 7' 4/5 wt., 3 pc. Cabela's CGR Fiberglass Fly Rod (MSRP \$130); an Orvis Battenkill II Fly Reel (MSRP \$109); and an Orvis Access WF4 Fly Line (MSRP \$59). This a terrific small stream trout outfit that you will enjoy time after time on your favorite trout stream.

Raffle tickets are only \$10 each. The drawing will be held once we meet our goal of \$600. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are available at our monthly meetings and through the Chapter's Board of Directors. 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**

**"I fish better with a lit cigar; some people fish better with talent." Nick Lyons**

## "Choices"

By Ed Walsh



In the last two "Choices" column a few of the responders offered their favorite fly fishing experiences so I am including that topic as we go forward. I am finding it's makes for a better story with those tip-bits included. Don't hesitate to ask the contributors to elaborate when you see them at a meeting or on a stream somewhere. The questions are:

1. **What's your favorite fly?**
2. **What's your favorite hatch to fish?**
3. **What's your favorite river to fish?**
4. **Got a favorite fly fishing experience?**

## Phil Sands



My favorite fly to tie and fish is the Adams. It looks a little like almost everything. I also like to fish Dave's Red Squirrel Nymph when I am fishing subsurface.

My favorite, and hopefully humorous, fishing story happened where the Shetucket River and Merrick Brooks meet. There was no one around and I was having a good day when I started hearing a voice. I looked around and couldn't see anyone but the voice kept calling. I started to think this was it and my makes was calling me home when I looked up and realized a guy in a hot air balloon was trying to get my attention.

From that point on I have become a big fan of hot air balloons.

you can use to get a monitory credit with the filing of your federal tax return. If you have an item or items to donate bring them to one of our monthly membership meetings and give them to George, Jim, or Ray who are the guys manning the raffle table. If you can't make a meeting and have something to donate call Jim Clark at 860-546-6924. Thanks.

## CT. DEEP Fly Fishing Seminar

### "Fly Fishing - How and Why"

**James L. Goodwin Conservation Center,  
Goodwin State Forest, Hampton, CT**

**Saturday, April 15th - 2 PM**

Thames Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter members George Jacobi and John Preston will explain the anatomy of a Connecticut trout stream - why fly fishing knowledge helps understand it, whether you're fishing (with any technique) or just admiring the beauty. Strategy and timing, insect identification basics, fly skills, casting, reading the water.

All members are welcome regardless of skill and experience, as is anyone else who is a novice angler or who may be interested. At present, this is the date of the Natchaug River Cleanup, although that usually takes place in the morning. Yes, this is a perfect time and date for a Hendrickson hatch (it's killing us too).

The naturalist at Goodwin, Jasper Sha, is interested in developing a relationship with TU Thames Valley, so we felt this is a positive opportunity for the club's future.

Further info will appear in the [DEEP Calendar](#) within the next week.

## February Membership Meeting Recap: "Flies & Pies"

By John Preston



It was another great "Flies & Pies" event last month. We had over 10 fly tiers demonstrating the "angler's art", exchanging techniques and fish stories; two local fly shops (The Fish Connection and JT's Fly Shop) providing information, fly tying material & equipment, and fishing equipment; and, two people offering a bevy of bamboo rods and gently used fishing equipment. Charley



## Joe Balint



My favorite flies to tie and fish are the Hornberg and March Brown Nymph. I use both on my favorite river, the Salmon from the Rt.16 bridge on down. That section of the river generally sees less traffic than the upper TMA area.

Don't have a specific story about the sport but I love fly fishing because of the people I've met and I find being on a river is very peaceful. It's also an inexpensive sport once you've made

the original investment.

*Editor's Note:* Joe is the co-owner, along with son Jack, of The Fish Connection in Preston.

They allow us to use their shop for the Winter Fly Tying Classes. I sat down with Joe after a recent class.

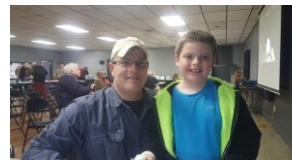
McCaughtry displayed and donated some of his fine artwork. The TVTU Conservation Committee manned a table on projects we have completed and are currently working. Our raffle table was loaded with fly tying material and fishing equipment. And we provided many door prizes... new and used fly tying books, fly tying tools & material, and fly threaders. While this all was going on a video on sight fishing for trout was playing. Refreshments, popcorn, pizza, soda and coffee what more can one ask for...



## "Free" Fly Tying Classes



Thames Valley TU is conducting free Fly Tying classes from 9:00 to 11:00am at the Fish Connection Tackle Shop, 127 Route 12 in Preston, CT starting Saturday, February 4th. The classes will run 8 Saturdays ending March 25th. We will supply materials and equipment, bring your own vise and equipment if you like. Course outline by Merril "Doc" Katz. Instructors are Phil Sands, Merril Katz, Bob Walsh & John Preston. **Classes are open to the public.**



## Editor's Desk

On Sunday, March 5, more than a dozen TVTU members met eight Boy Scouts, and their troop leaders, from Lisbon Troop 76 at the Lisbon Firehouse to provide basic instructions in the fine art of fly tying. Watching the guys share their talents and experience made me even more aware of the responsibility we have to develop, guide and nurture the fly fisherman of tomorrow.

Because there were more teachers than students I had the opportunity to drift around the room taking pictures and watching each instructor patiently guide these young men through each step with the end result a fly (Woolly Bugger) they would tie, and hopefully fish, when we take the group to the Shetucket River in early May.

Between tying and the fishing excursion we will be meeting with the group to provide casting instructions and introduce stream etiquette.

Watching this teaching and learning exercise I couldn't help but think that this, along with conservation, is what our chapter and Trout Unlimited is

## Fly Tying Tips

By John Preston

### Soda Straw Hackle Guard



Having trouble holding back hackle with your fingers when whip finishing a fly? A simple and cost effective solution is to cut off a 1/8 or 1/4 inch piece of a drinking straw and cutting a slit in it so you can pass it through the thread to push back the hackle out of the way.

all about. With our ever changing technical world consuming so much of a young person's time it's our responsibility to help keep a focus on clean water, clean air and a healthy environment. Exposing young men and women to fly fishing is exposing them to a sport that depends on an environment managed properly. We should always be available to guide the future gate keepers.

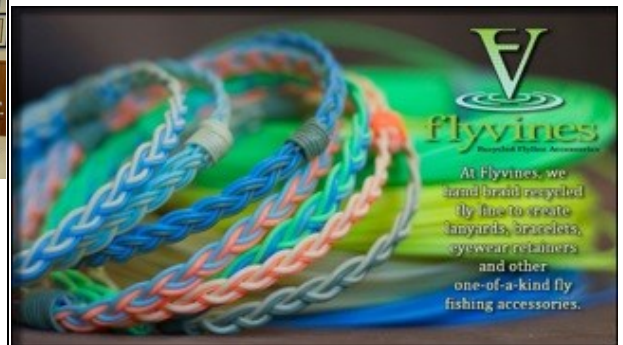
Ed Walsh

## TVTU Teaching Fly Tying to Scout Troop 76



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



## Fly of the Month- "Baetis Foam Emerger"

By John Preston



Video by  
Blue Ribbon Flies

Another great pattern from Blue Ribbon Flies; the Baetis Foam Emerger. Also tie this as a PMD which has a brown shuck, yellow-olive body and dun hackle.

Fish this in the film when they are not taking the dun and it is surprisingly easy to see. Apply floatant to foam & hackle and let the body hang in the film.

### Fly Tying Recipe: Baetis Foam Emerger

**Hook:** Tiemco 100 or Dai Riki 320

**Thread:** Dun or Olive/dun 8/0 Uni-Thread

**Body:** Superfine Olive/gray dubbing

**Shuck:** Baetis Olive or Dark Dun Zelon

**Wing:** Gray foam

**Hackle:** Dun Soft hackle or Dry fly hackle

[Link to video - tied by Craig Matthews](#)





"My biggest worry is that my wife (when I'm dead) will sell my fishing gear for what I said I paid for it."

-Koos Brandt

## Farmington Valley TU Banquet - 19th Annual Banquet Friday, March 24th, 2017

Tickets may be ordered online at [www.fvtu.org](http://www.fvtu.org) You must reserve your seats no later than March 22nd. Questions? Contact Don LaChance

Dlachanc1@cox.net or (860) 666-3447

**FARMINGTON VALLEY TROUT UNLIMITED**

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**19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BANQUET**

**MARCH 24, 2017**  
 USS Chowder Pot IV  
 100 Boston Road, Hanover, CT  
 6 to 9:30 p.m.

**TICKETS: \$40 EACH**  
 Hors d'oeuvres, Buffet Dinner, & Dessert

For reservations contact:  
 Don LaChance: 860-666-3447  
 37 Goodale Drive, Newington, CT 06111  
 DLachanc1@cox.net  
 Tickets also available at [www.fvtu.org](http://www.fvtu.org)

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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](mailto:JackiePreston).

Thanks for your support!

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


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## About Us

To join Thames Valley TU or for information please visit our website [www.thamesvalleytu.org](http://www.thamesvalleytu.org).

Questions or comments on the Newsletter contact: [walsh4613@cox.net](mailto:walsh4613@cox.net) | PO Box 211, Hanover, CT 06350 | Thames Valley Trout Unlimited | (401) 742-6536 |.

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