

TROUT UNLIMITED

Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter *Stream Lines*

The Voice of Eastern CT Trout and Salmon Anglers

November 2017

Dear Member,

Without our volunteers we couldn't accomplish much. For example, I had the rare opportunity to help stock the Yantic and the Shetucket last week and not only was it fun but educational too. If you ever have the chance you should contact our Stocking Coordinator Gary Lussier and join in with all the great volunteers in stocking the waters in our area. Checkout our website slideshows and see them in action... we sure do draw a crowd when the Atlantics are stocked!

Another example is the delivery of trout eggs by five volunteers to our (14) Trout in the Classroom (TIC) schools that are spread all over our rather large territory. They will put in a lot of miles and time to get the delicate cargo to all the awaiting students and teachers at those schools. Look for an upcoming article on this very important program next month.

I'm looking forward to listening to and learning from Dave Parry's presentation "In Search of Western Native and Wild Trout". He is very passionate about his pursuit and preservation of native & wild trout. I have had fortune to observe and catch a few wild & native trout on trips out West with my dad. There nothing like it... they live in very beautiful surroundings. Another don't miss presentation

See you at the firehouse!



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

Nov. 21st, TVTU Monthly Meeting

Featured presentation: Dave Parry -
"In Search of Western Native and
Wild Trout"

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Calendar

November 21 - Tuesday, 6pm

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

Dave Parry

December 19 - Tuesday, 6pm

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

TBD

January 16, 2018 - Tuesday, 6pm

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

TBD

February 3, Saturday 9am to 3pm

CFFA EXPO

Maneeley's

65 Rye St, South Windsor, CT



Dave Parry

Dave Parry's presentation will be about his periodic trips out West fishing for the many wild, native species of Trout. He became interested in this in 2004 when he attended a conference in Phoenix Arizona while working for the Boy Scouts. Dave discovered that there is a species called Apache Trout which is native to a small area in White Mountains of Arizona near New Mexico. After the conference he planned to find and fish for them, and has been hooked ever since.

He began researching the many other species and found they have been pushed to extinction in some cases. He

has learned about and seen some of the great efforts by States, Indian Tribes, Federal Agencies and volunteer groups like TU, step-up and make real progress in protecting these species and start the slow process of extending their range. Since then, and his retirement, Dave has traveled to or through Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona in search of the 25 or so wild native species.



Stonefly caught helpless in current

Dave Parry is a TVTU Board of Directors member, TIC/Education Coordinator and active in conservation efforts for the chapter.

Back By Popular Demand - We had a number of request to replay the "Bugs of the Underworld" video that was shown at the September meeting.

"Bugs of the Underworld" video (35 minutes) will be shown 6:10 to 6:45pm

Extraordinary underwater video follows the life cycles of mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, and other amazing bugs. Fly-anglers will gain valuable insights as they see how insects behave and what they really look like to trout!



Door opens at 6pm.

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.

February 20, Tuesday, 6pm

Chapter Membership Meeting
Bozrah Firehouse
239 Fitchville Rd, Bozrah, CT
Flies, Pies & Auction

Visit/Contribute to Our Facebook page!

When you visit our website there is now a link to our Facebook page. Also see our Quick Links below. Here is your opportunity to stay in touch between monthly meetings.

Jenn Preston is our administrator and we are looking for an additional person assist her. Please contact

[Duke Preston.](#)

Quick Links

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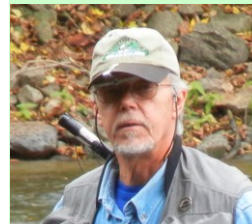
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"Speedster Junkie" ©George Jacobi

By George Jacobi



I'm waitin' for my first Albie.

Castin' again into the empty sea.

Fly rod in my sweaty grip,

I strip as fast as I can strip.

I'm waitin' for my first Albie.

Here they come, electric purple and green.

Fastest fish - that you have ever seen.

Here one minute, ah, gone again,

Gotta get my hook in one but until then,

I'm waitin' for my first Albie.

Welcome, boys, to Fisher's Island Sound.

These here Albies aren't foolin' around.

TVTU Donates \$2500 for Sprague Open Land Purchase



TVTU President Duke Preston and Treasurer Jackie Preston present Andre Trudelle, Sprague Contract Mgr. with a \$2500 check for Open Land Purchase

The donation to help purchase 97 acres along the Shetucket River is a result of working on two of the chapter's five Strategic Goals created in 2016:

- Implement Watershed Conservation Projects and Recreational Access
- Build Relationships with Landowners, Conservation Groups, and Local/State Agencies

We continue to strive to accomplish our Mission: To conserve, protect and restore (Eastern CT) cold-water fisheries and their watersheds.

Note: At the last Membership meeting a number of people indicated they wished to donate towards the land purchase. It was suggested by Mr. Trudelle that the best way to do this is to add an individual(s) donation with the TVTU donation. This way, if the land purchase fails, the money can be returned via Thames Valley TU. TVTU would in-turn ensure that all money would be returned to whoever donated. Donations can be sent to Thames Valley or at our monthly meetings. Please indicate on the check the donation is for the Sprague Open Land Purchase. As you see from the below information we believe this is a worthy cause that will have a lasting effect on sustaining and supporting wildlife, fishing, recreation and access for the public.



The Friends of the Shetucket River Valley continue their land preservation mission by working towards purchasing an additional parcel, which is a 97 +/- acre property, not contiguous to the Sprague Land Preserve, but in close proximity and adjacent to the Town of Sprague owned "River Park" and recreation area off of Rt. #97 in Baltic, CT.

This parcel of land is accessible from Park Drive in Baltic and is located on the westerly side bordering the Shetucket River. This parcel of land offers easy access to the Shetucket River, allowing for passive recreation.

The property is level with a steep hillside on the westerly side, a favorite property for pheasant hunters as well as salmon and trout fisherman. Some of the open acreage is used to grow corn; when harvested the farmer will leave several rows for feeding wildlife.

Because of this property's unique topography, wildlife habitat and proximity to the Sprague Land Preserve, the Connecticut Department of Energy and

*This ain't no Bluefish, this ain't no Bones;
First thing you learn is that you got a heavy Jones.
You're waitin' for your first Albie.*

*Hang on tight! You better reel and reel and reel.
How's your heart? I know just how you feel.
This is a new drug and once you get a taste,
Other fishing is a frivolous waste.
I'm waitin' for my first Albie.*

Thanks to Lou Reed: "Waitin' for my Man", Velvet Underground

"Angler's Pantry"

By Jennifer & Duke Preston



"Apple Crisp"

(the Carmel like one) oven at 350*

Ingredients:

10 cups apples 1 TSP Cinnamon
1 tablespoon Flour 1 cup white sugar
1/2 cup water

- Mix together then put in 9x13 pan
- Pour 1/2 cup water evenly over apples

Topping:

1 cup quick oats 1 cup packed brown sugar
1/4 tsp baking powder 1/4 tsp baking soda
1/2 cup melted butter

**double this if you like the topping

Bake 45-50 minutes at 350*

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

Environmental Protection recognized this and gave the Town 70% of the funds necessary to purchase this property, known as the Bombero Property. The Town of Sprague has been awarded a \$174,000.00 grant leaving a total of \$102,000.00 to be raised to complete the property purchase, as well as additional legal costs and surveying costs.

Annual Meeting Results



TVTU President Duke Preston (L) congratulates new Treasurer, Dan King (R)

Dan King was unanimously elected as TVTU Treasurer at our Annual Meeting this month. Jackie Preston, outgoing Treasurer (for over seven years) will continue to support Thames Valley TU as Fund Raising Chair & Board of Directors member. The following members were elected for the Board of Directors: Sal DeCarli (Conservation Chair), George DeGray, Morgan McGinley, Ray Schaefer and Jim Smith (Conservation Co-Chair)

The following positions are still open: Communications Chair (John Preston will be stepping down soon after 5 years), Programs Chair (Vacant), and River Cleanup Coordinator (Vacant)

Please contact [Duke Preston](#) if interested in a leadership position for the chapter or information for these vacant positions or any questions on position responsibilities.

Let's All Welcome Dan King... Our New TVTU Treasurer

By Ed Walsh



At our annual meeting in October Dan King was elected as our new treasurer. Dan has been a TVTU member since March 2013 and knew he always wanted to take a more active role in our chapter when time allowed and when Duke Preston discussed the open treasurers position Dan was ready, willing and able for that assignment.

Dan is a Service and Facility Supervisor at Pratt Whitney in East Hartford. He and wife Barbara reside in Lebanon with two daughters, aged 14 and

"Fishing is the chance to wash one's soul with pure air. It brings meekness and inspiration, reduces our egoism, soothes our troubles and shames our wickedness. It is discipline in the equality of men-- for all men are equal before fish."

~ Herber Hoover

Shetucket Broodstock Salmon Outing - Oct 27 & 28

The water was extremely high Friday afternoon and evening, but our spirits were even higher. The fish weren't feeding, but we did. And the next morning after a great pancake & sausage breakfast prepared by Jen & Duke Preston we wet our lines in pursuit of trout & salmon.. The river came down Saturday and the weather let up enough for us to have two nice sunny & seasonable days of fishing, food, fun and great camaraderie. You should have been there...



Ray Schaefer casting with the "boys".



Jenn & Duke preparing the Friday hotdog dinner



Dan with a very nice catch

Dan always was an outdoors person. In his own words: "I grew up wandering the woods and that often included having a fishing pole in hand. When I was around 14 years old, my great uncle gave me an old split bamboo fly rod. I clearly remember tying many involuntary knots while learning to cast. But the flow of the sport always appealed to me. Casting on the river forces you to slow down; it forces you to become more engaged with what's going on around you. At least it does with me and that's part of the allure".

Locally Dan fishes the Natchaug, Yantic, Salmon and Farmington Rivers and tells us he also enjoys

the Sound once the warmer weather arrives. Away from this area he'll spend a long weekend in the Catskills on the Beaverkill or Vermont's Battenkill. He does suggest he would like to explore the Upper Delaware River drainages and has added Maine and Northern Vermont fisheries to his to-do list after listening to presentations at TVTU meetings.

So take time to congratulate Dan when you see him at an upcoming meeting. Spend a little time taking to him about fly fishing and TVTU and you'll soon realize he will be a big asset as a new board member and chapter treasurer. Welcome aboard Dan.



Now if only the river will come down... which it did.



After breakfast huddle by the fire

"Go West Young Man, Go West"

By Ed Walsh



A few years ago John Preston mentioned he met a guide at Blue Ribbon Flies, West Yellowstone, Montana, who was a local Connecticut native. As a regular Blue Ribbon Flies Newsletter reader I had seen pictures of, and stories about, Patrick Daigle and knew I wanted to meet him if the opportunity ever presented itself.

As luck would have it a group of good friends from our Wood River Fly Fishing Club had an opening in their annual fall trip to Yellowstone and asked if I was interested. Once the wife said I should take advantage of the opportunity I was in and stopping by BRF to talk to Patrick was on the TO-DO list.

Unfortunately a meeting never took place as schedules didn't allow us to get together. But through subsequent email exchanges, and Patrick's willingness to provide his life's story, I received plenty of info for the story that comes next.



Charley McCaughtry "speying" for salmon.



Patrick Daigle

Patrick grew up in Moodus, on the Salmon River, just downstream from the Leesville Dam. He started fishing at age four with a spin rod using live bait and converted to fly fishing at 14. He rarely came in contact with trout as he lived far downstream from the "fly fishing only" section of the river but continued to practice, and improve, his casting ability from a backyard dock.



Mark with a Rainbow

It wasn't long before he learned that trout were stocked upstream and asked his Mom to drive him up to that area. Fishing the TMA area became a regular part of his schedule as he would be dropped off in the morning and picked up later in the day by an understanding mother. Fly fishing quickly became his passion. And tying entered his routine when he got his first vice and tools, an LL Bean starter kit.

After graduating high school Patrick entered the horticultural program at UConn but by his own admission his partying skills far outweighed his academic achievements and he left after his freshman year. He then went to work at North Cove Outfitters in Old Saybrook where he learned a lot about the business end of fly fishing. With his fly fishing skills and knowledge improving but his personal life decisions in question he had to make a decision.

Still unsure of his future, but knowing he wanted to build it around fly fishing; Patrick decided to move out west with Montana being his focus. He spent a year working in a fly shop in Twin Bridges and four summers behind the counter at BRF before becoming a full time fly fishing guide. A position he's held for the past 10 years.



He gives much credit to the folks he worked for, and met, at North Cove but says the guidance and support he's received from Craig Mathews, John Juracek, Nick Nicholas and other members of the BRF staff are what have made him the guide and person, he is today. He tells me that when he sits in the same chair that Garry Lafontaine sat in when he and Craig tied flies together it still send chills up his spine.



Patrick does between 95 to 105 guide trips per season and for the past 10 years guides all the BRF back country horse trips. He's in his 10th year with BRF and coming up on 15 years in Yellowstone Country.

He tells me a highlight of his career came this past spring when Craig asked him to guide Yvon Chouinard and himself fishing some of the local waters. He states it

was an absolute honor to serve two of the biggest names in the sport.

In the off season Patrick is a ski instructor at the private Yellowstone Club. He lives on the Madison River near Lyons Bridge where he's a caretaker for a property owned by Madison Valley seasonal residents.

The following are some suggestions Patrick provided for area visitors who are there to fish:

A special "Thank You" to the Konow family for the use of their property. See additional photos of the outing on our [website](#).

Fly of the Month: "Golden Retriever"

By John Preston

Until a couple weeks ago the only Golden Retriever I knew was my buddy's dog named Bailey. But on a recent Grand Lake Stream fall trip the "Golden Retriever" was THE streamer fly that was a consistent producer during the "dog days" this fall at GLS.



It can be tied in other Estaz colors (white, pink, root beer, etc.). I have used an similar all white version (without the bead) before for the worm hatch in the Thames river. I think a root beer Estaz and red thread version might be the ticket for the worm hatch at Ninigret next spring (use a SS saltwater hook)..

Material list:

Hook: Size 10 - 6, 3X or 4X long streamer hook

Beadhead: 5/32 Gold Bead

Tail: Tan Wooly Bugger Marabou

Body: Gold Estaz regular & red threadthread

Weighed: .025 lead wire

Thread: Danville Red flat waxed nylon

For detailed instructions on tying the Golden Retriever see [Mossy Creek video](#)

January - March: Fishing is best in the afternoon during the warmest part of the day. No people but cold and usually locals only. When it's crappy skiing, the fishing is probably good.

April to mid-May - Spring Trips. At BRF we offer spring trips for \$1700 a person. We'll pick you up at the Bozeman Airport, feed you, house you for five nights and fish four days. We consider these to be road trips. We fish areas from the Missouri to area spring creeks.

Late May to June - Run off is in full swing. The Madison outside the park is off color. The park opens on Memorial Day Weekend and fishing the Firehole can get exciting. Hebgen Lake will have good baetis fishing.

July is prime time - Lots of bugs! Lots of people! Come after the 4th to avoid the big rush.

August - Should be a lot better in 2018 on the Madison with water coming from a bottom release again at the dam. Nine years of top release have hurt summer fishing on this wonderful river. Time for terrestrial fishing on most rivers. Hebgen and Quake Lakes will have gulper looking for an easy meal.



September - The most technical month of the season with low, clear and often the warmest water. The Madison below Quake Lake starts to fish better with cooler nights and the arrival of fall Baetis. October Caddis start showing up too. Fall spawners start arriving in the park

and swinging soft hackle flies might be your best bet.

October - Is the last call. Fall baetis fishing peaks on the Madison and surrounding waters. The Firehole is some of the best fishing on overcast days with Baetis and what's left of the White Miller hatch. The NE corner of the park is void of anglers and full of raising trout in the afternoons. You have to fish the Lamar River and Slough and Soda Butte Creeks this time of year.

November - Elk season begins. No one in their right mind is fishing unless they've already bagged their Elk or have scheduled a guide trip with Patrick. Actually November and December are great fishing months. Gentlemen fishing hours again with plenty of Midge and Baetis activity.

I want to thank Patrick for providing so much useful, and insightful, information for this article. I am hopeful that any TVTU member who reads this piece, and is visiting Yellowstone Park area in the near future, will get in touch and use Patrick for all your guide needs. He can be reached at the addresses listed below.

Blue Ribbon Fly Shop, 305 Canyon Street, West Yellowstone, Montana, 59758. Email: brf@blueribbonflies.com / P: (406) 646-7642 / Web: www.blueribbonflies.com

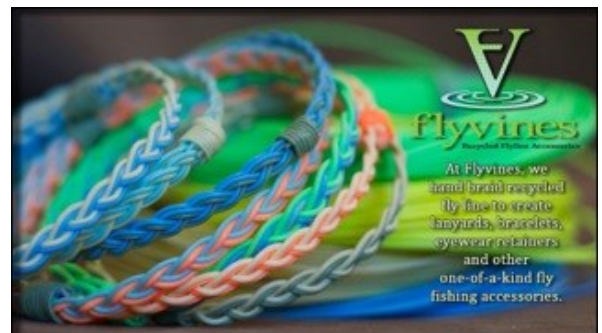


"Game fish are too valuable to only be caught once."

~ Lee Wulff

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 for more information about what they do! Thank you...



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Donations Wanted

You can help our TU chapter by donating your unused fly fishing/fishing equipment including rods, reels, flies, books 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@thamesvalleytu.org) or call 860-546-6690 if you have something to donate or bring the item(s) to the next membership meeting.

Thank You for your generosity and 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:
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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:Jackie.Preston@thamesvalleytu.org)

Thanks for your support!