



## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# Stream Lines

"The Voice for Eastern CT Salmon and Trout Anglers"

September 2014 Edition

Dear John,

Hope you all had a very good summer of family fun and fishing. I hear on the news that people are complaining of the short summer and lack of 90 degree days and humidity. Well, all I can say is the trout aren't complaining (especially west of the CT River) and if you like that kind of weather, consider moving to the Deep South. Personally, I am looking forward to the Fall fishing that is just around the corner. Flying ants, BWOs and Isonychias.... cool, crisp mornings and falling autumn leaves.... Aah! Now that is my time of the season. And, if that sounds good to you too, signup and join us for the 19/20 September TVTU Housatonic River trip (see article below for details).

If you can't make that date, how about Saturday, 27 September on the Farmington River for a fishing outing, casting clinic and picnic. All the CT TU Chapters will be participating. It's a great opportunity to meet our counterparts from around the state and some great fishing. Did I mention it is all free??

The TVTU Board of Directors is diligently working to provide you with another year of great presentations, informative meetings/newsletters, area events, river cleanups and other conservation efforts to improve the cold-water fisheries of Eastern CT. Of course, we could use a little help from our members from time to time. If you can spare just a few hours or so, please contact me or one of the board members or signup when we have a specific request. More involvement from the membership is critical to the success of this chapter. So, please consider getting involved in the areas that appeal to you... fund raising, stream cleanups, education (TIC, casting instruction, fly tying), banquet planning, conservation, give a presentation, write an article for the newsletter, etc.

See you at the Moose for our 16 September Membership meeting!

John Preston, *President*  
Thames Valley TU, Chapter 282  
[johnpreston@thamesvalleytu.org](mailto:johnpreston@thamesvalleytu.org)



## Calendar of Events

**Tuesday Sept 16th, 6:00 pm**  
**Chapter Membership Meeting, Bozrah Moose Lodge**  
*(A Guides Guide to Fishing Hatches, by Steve Babbitt)*

**Friday & Saturday, Sept 19th & 20th**  
**TVTU Housatonic River Fishing Trip**  
**Housatonic Meadows State Park & Campground**  
*(Details below and on the TVTU website, [www.thamesvalleytu.org](http://www.thamesvalleytu.org))*

**Saturday, Sept 27th 10:00 am (or earlier)**  
**CT TU Farmington River Fishing Trip & Picnic**  
**Matthies Grove Shelter, American Legion & Peoples State Forest**  
*(Details below)*

**Tuesday October 9th 6:00 pm**  
**Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Bozrah Moose Lodge**  
*(Members are welcome to attend)*

**Tuesday October 16th 6:00 pm**  
**Chapter Membership Meeting**  
**Bozrah Moose Lodge**  
*(Program details TBD)*

You are invited...



## TVTU Housatonic River Fishing Trip Campout & BBQ!

Where - Housatonic Meadows State Park

When - Fri & Sat, September 19 & 20

\*For additional details & registration - Contact John Preston via email at [jpreston@yahoo.com](mailto:jpreston@yahoo.com) or phone (860) 917-4485

Dear TVTU members and guests...

Join us for some great Fall trout fishing on the Housatonic River. Come for the day or campout overnight with your guest and/or other TVTU members. The event will be held at the Housatonic Meadows State Park off Rte 7 North

in Sharon CT. There will also be a BBQ on Saturday afternoon with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and soda. All provided at no charge. Details as follows;

### Fishing and the Park

Housatonic Meadows State Park is a beautiful park directly on the Housatonic River. If you have never fished the "Housy" then now is your chance to learn the river and get first-hand information from fellow TU members. The Housy is one of New England's top trout and Small Mouth rivers. Early fall fishing for trout can be spectacular and you can expect hatches of BWOs, ISO's, Caddis, and terrestrials, such as ants and beetles.

*There are some great pools with easy access near the camp sites by the river (sites 1 thru 18 are along the river/sites 8-11 are the cabins).* It is just a short drive away from other well-known pools. You have the option of camping at the state park for the weekend or just coming for the day. Housatonic River Outfitters is a good resource for the latest conditions and to stock up on flies and gear [Link to website](#).

### Camping Details

There are four cabins that sleep 4 people available or for you campers (tents or RV's) there should be many campsites available. I tried to reserve sites for the chapter but unfortunately none of the cabins or campsites can be reserved during this time of the year (walk-in only). I was told that the only way I could reserve them was on the actual arrival date. During September the cabins are only available for Friday and Saturday (checkout on Sunday). I plan to go there on Thursday and I am willing to make reservations for you first thing Friday morning. You will be responsible for the reservation cost... show or no show. Cabins are \$50/night plus 15% CT tax and processing fee (\$3) with a two night minimum (about \$118 for 2 nights). For four people that is less than \$30 for two nights! Camping sites are \$17/night plus processing fee (\$3).

### Registration

If this is acceptable to you please contact me (John Preston) by the end of our 16 September Membership meeting. Of course, you may arrange your own reservations or accommodations. Please go to the Housatonic Meadows State Park website for detailed policy information, campsite map and directions at: [Link to park website](#). Or contact them directly at (860) 927-3238.

### Directions

Housatonic Meadows State Park is located at # 90 Route 7 North, Sharon CT.  
[Click here for directions](#)

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## Join us at the Sept Membership Meeting...

# "A Guides Guide to Fishing Hatches"

Who: Steve Babbitt, Local Guide & Fly Tier

When: Tuesday Sept 16th, (doors open at 6:00)

Where: Bozrah Moose Lodge

Thames Valley TU is pleased to present professional guide and fly tier [Steve Babbitt](#) at its upcoming monthly membership meeting on Tuesday September 16th.

With the fall trout season upon us the timing of Steve's presentation "A Guides Guide To Fishing Hatches" couldn't be better. The talk will focus on a season's worth of hatches, highlighting the important habits of fish and the techniques that have brought success to Steve and his clients!



Steve Babbitt has been guiding since 1998 and tying flies for 30 years. Many of those years were spent as a commercial tier. He was an independent guide for ten years and now guides out of JT's Fly Shop in Union CT. Steve is also in the guide program for Hardy and Greys and Flymen Fishing Company.

Thanks for supporting Thames Valley TU. We look forward to seeing you on Tue Sept 16th!

## TROUT UNLIMITED TEEN SUMMITT

### Driftless Region - Wisconsin 2014

by Hugh Cipparone of Thames Valley TU



Thames Valley TU was proud to sponsor teen member Hugh Cipparone of Old Lyme at the annual TU Teen Summit in Wisconsin. It's quite an accomplishment to be selected, CONGRATULATIONS Hugh!

Here is a personal account of Hugh's experience...

By Hugh Cipparone

The Trout Unlimited Teen Summit was a fantastic experience. Set in the Driftless Region of Wisconsin, the wooden cabins and fishy streams were straight out of an edition of Trout Magazine. In the glow of the camp, not only did the Brown Trout sip dry flies but I found 23 other teenagers just like me. Loving nothing more than fur, feathers and scales, they shared my love of fly fishing and renewed my passion for conservation.

The major goal of the program was further encouraging conservation. We sat on weathered picnic tables on the porch, listening intently to Dave Vetrano discuss the tragedies and successes of Wisconsin conservationists. Their



largest challenge is erosion. Dislodged by the millions of Wisconsin cows, soil tumbled from the tops of the ridges, adding 15 feet of soil to valley floor. Even today, with Wisconsin TU's extensive repair work, the effects are evident. The banks stand 5 feet high above the streams adding unique difficulties to both access and casting. We also took a tour with Duke Welter, a national trustee of the Trout Unlimited Organization, observing past successes in conservation and building cattle styles of our own. We electrofished with Michael Miller, a current Wisconsin Fisheries Biologist, watching with mouths agape as stunned Brown Trout flowed from nooks and crannies that we had fished heavily that morning. Finally, we created a plan for moving ahead, a plan to grow TU Teens to an organization that can eventually lead Trout Unlimited through an uncertain future.



Interlaced with these tasks were many hours of fishing. The streams, stocked in the 50s with Brown Trout, now sport wild populations of up to 6,000 fish per mile. We mostly perused Sugar Creek, rewarded for our adventures afield as we found unpressured trout at every bend. At Knapp Creek, two Brown trout devoured my grey Parachute Adams in the twilight.

The Trout Unlimited Teen Summit was truly extraordinary. Twenty three other teenagers from around the country and I managed to catch fish and create a plan of action over the course of just a few days. I look forward to working locally to improve the Trout Unlimited Teens organization. *Hugh Cipparone*



THE CREW

Hugh Cipparone - middle of pic holding sledge hammer



# Save the Date!

## Farmington River Fishing Trip

- Sponsored by the TU Chapters of Connecticut

*\*Meet & Greet \*Fishing \*Casting Clinic \*Cookout*

**What:** Fishing, Cookout, Meet & Greet, Casting Clinic

**When:** Saturday Sept 27th, 10:00 am (or come earlier)

**Where:** Farmington River, Matthies Groove Shelter  
Peoples State Forest, Barkhamsted CT

\*Details and Directions - See below

### **You Are Invited....**

Did you recently become a member of Trout Unlimited, joined within last 12 months - or thereabouts? Or, as a standing member, would you like to come out and meet fellow TU members throughout the state?

All the TU Chapters in Connecticut Candlewood Valley, Farmington Valley, Hammonasset, Mianus, Naugatuck-Pomperaug, Northwestern Ct., Nutmeg, & Thames Valley invite YOU to a Fishing Outing & Picnic Saturday 9/27 free of charge (rain date 10/18)

### **Welcome to TU and let's get acquainted!**

Donuts & Coffee - 10am (arrive earlier if you want)

Picnic Lunch - Noon

Fishing on the Farmington River TMA - all day

Casting Clinic - Throughout the day

### Location

Matthies Grove Shelter American Legion and Peoples State Forests  
E River Rd, Barkhamsted, CT 06063

### Directions

Matthies Grove is on the west side of East River Rd. The park and shelter are between the river and E. River Rd.  
[Link to Google Maps](#)

### RSVP

RSVP to TVTU president John Preston by Friday Sept 9/19 or ASAP at [jpreston44@yahoo.com](mailto:jpreston44@yahoo.com) or phone (860) 917-4485

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# TVTU Steam Conservation

## Thermal Refuge Area Signs on the Shetucket



Back in July, Thames Valley TU assisted DEEP with the installation of two "No Fishing" signs within thermal refuge areas on the Shetucket River. Signs were placed at the mouths of Merrick Brook in Scotland and Beaver Brook in Baltic.

The signs remind anglers that the thermal refuge areas are closed to fishing from June 15th through September 15th within 100' of the mouths of these tributaries

These tributaries along with Waldo Brook in Scotland contribute cool oxygenated water into the Shetucket River and can provide a refuge for trout during the hot dry summer conditions as temperatures rise and oxygen declines.

As most of us know, on hot summer days it's best to avoid trout fishing altogether especially during the heat of the day. Limit your fishing to early morning and evening time. It's also a good idea to pack a thermometer in your vest and monitor stream temps. As stream temps approach 70 degrees it's best to avoid fishing altogether.



## Fly of the Month

### *Ken's Crazy Ant*

*Video by Tim Flagler, Tightline Productions*

*Pattern by Ken Walrath*

It's that time of year again... Ant Time that is! If you've fished with ant patterns before then you know how effective they can be. If you've yet to try an ant pattern, then don't wait any longer.

For whatever reason trout LOVE ants and often will go out of their way to grab them on top, in the film, just below the surface and drowned.

Ants can be fished at all times of the day and work very well on trout "junk feedin" along the seems. Also... look for supple rises along the banks. Often times, large trout set up in shallow water at low light and grab ants and beetles near the edge. They are also great as an indicator fly this time of year when placed in front of a smaller offering,



Once you acquire the inexpensive foam draw liner material, this is a neat little pattern that is super easy to tie and floats well.

Click the link to watch Tim Flagler tie the Ken's Crazy Ant; [Link to Tying Video](#).

### Fly Tying Recipe

Hook: Standard dry-fly hook (here a Dai Riki #305), size 16.  
Thread: Black, 8/0 or 70 denier.  
Body/antenna: Foam drawer liner.  
Adhesive: Zap-A-Gap.  
Wing: White Antron or Zelon.  
Legs: Grizzly hackle.

Note: Tie these with different-colors bodies and wings.



## Thames Valley TU Has a New Website!!!

Thames Valley TU is pleased to announce the launch of its new and improved chapter website! The address is the same, [www.thamesvalleytu.org](http://www.thamesvalleytu.org).

Dear TVTU Members...



*Brown Trout, by Charley McCaughtry*

As you may have noticed, we're working hard to maintain communication with our chapter members via the newsletter and other announcements. Please help us spread the word! Forward this email to a buddy or family member and encourage them to attend a meeting and perhaps join our chapter.

Also, if you know someone interested in joining TVTU for a limited time they can join at half price or \$17.50. Have them visit our website and use the "Join TU" link on the "About" tab of the website, [www.thamesvalleytu.org](http://www.thamesvalleytu.org).



For a limited time, each new member will receive a free TVTU published book "Trout Streams of Eastern CT" when they attend their first TVTU monthly Membership meeting. A \$15 value for members and a \$20 for non-members.

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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 chapters 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.org](mailto:jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.org). 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, [jsmith@thamesvalleytu.org](mailto:jsmith@thamesvalleytu.org)

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