



## Thames Valley Chapter Newsletter

# *Stream Lines*

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

**November Issue 2014**

**Dear Member,**

The Thames Valley Chapter survey is finally out and as of this writing about 67 people out of the 359 sent have responded. The comments that have been posted have been especially revealing. If you haven't submitted a survey yet, please take the time (just 10 minutes) to do so. There's a link to the survey on the chapter website. We really do want to hear from you and as I've said before, your responses will be used to plan future activities and events. We may not be able to address all your concerns or suggestions due to limited funds or human resources, but we are going to try. The survey has also identified some members who want to get more directly involved within the chapter. Fantastic!

I'm really looking forward to this month's speaker, bamboo rod maker Marc Aroner. As a budding bamboo rod maker on my third fly rod (under the fine tutelage from Bob Walsh) I will be taking extensive notes. And if allowed, I will try and pick Mr. Aroner's brain on some of the subtleties of the craft. You can only get so much from reading... the real learning comes from observing and the doing. But the best part is using the rod you built, casting it, and then catching a wild trout with it. When I went on my annual trek out West I didn't plan on taking fly rod #1 but Bob Walsh said that I should. I'm sure glad I did because it was such a blast catching trout with it; I used it 70% of the time. Cane fly rods just provide a different feel to fly fishing that is very hard to describe... it has to be experienced. Don't miss this presentation even if don't think you want to build rods. But be forewarned... you might be bitten by the bamboo bug and it can be incurable and addictive.

In closing, it is a pleasure to announce that Steve Babbitt (September's speaker - *"A Guides Guide to Fishing Hatches"*) has joined our chapter and has volunteered to be our Education Program Coordinator. Steve, Welcome Aboard and we are all look forward to working with you. I know we can expect great things from you in the near future.

Thanks for your support,  
John Preston, *President*



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



# Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, Nov 18th**

**Doors open at 6:00, presentation starts at 7:00**

**Membership Meeting, Bozrah Moose Lodge**

*Special Guest - Renowned bamboo rod maker Marc Aroner of Spinoza Rod Company  
Mr. Aroner will discuss his craft and the state of Atlantic Salmon*

**Tuesday, Dec 9th, 6:00**

**Board of Directors Meeting, Bozrah Moose Lodge**

*(Members are welcome to attend)*

**Tuesday, Dec 16th, 6:00**

**Doors open at 6:00, presentation starts at 7:00**

**Membership Meeting, Bozrah Moose Lodge**

*(Speaker - TBD)*



## SPECIAL FUND RAISER

### WIN a new Orvis travel fly Rod!



**Orvis "Frequent Flyer" Fly Rod**  
8 -1/2 ft., 5 wt., 7pc

**Only \$10 Per Raffle Ticket!**

In addition to the regular raffle at our monthly meeting(s), we have a special fund raising raffle for a new Orvis 8-1/2', 5wt, 7pc "Frequent Flyer" fly rod and case, (\$250 MSRP).

Tickets are \$10 each and will be limited to 50 tickets. Much better odds than the casinos or CT lottery!! Tickets can be purchased at the monthly membership meeting or by calling Jim Clark at (860) 546-6924.

Travel-ready, the Frequent Flyer™ packs right into your backpack, saddlebag, even your briefcase. It carries onto any plane to forever end any and all worry about your fly rod making it to your final fishing

destination. Keep it right in your vehicle, out of the way, for quick getaways at lunch, or pack it into the backcountry far easier than even a four- piece rod.

Once all 50 tickets are sold we will have the drawing at that meeting or the next scheduled meeting. You could be walking away with a very nice Orvis fly rod while also helping us raise the funds necessary to have great monthly meeting programs, undertake conservation efforts, and education programs like TIC and Fly Casting in our local schools.



# Fishing with Nymphs

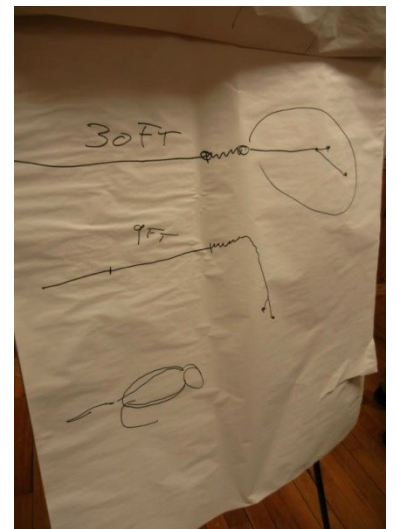
Presented by Antoine Bissieux at the  
October Membership Meeting



Last month's presentation "Fishing with Nymphs" by Antoine Bissieux was very enlightening, informative, and refreshingly low-tech (easel, pad and marker). Especially, if you're like me and don't do much nymph fishing. Yeah, I know, I've heard it before... trout spend 90% of their time feeding subsurface... but there is nothing like fishing to fish active in the film or surface. Right? Well, I have to admit that I don't catch a lot when they are not feeding on the surface. But after listening to Antoine's presentation I'm more incline to give his method a try. Here are some of the highlights of his presentation that made a lot of sense.

He uses nymphs tied on a specialized hook which resembled a jig hook and special tungsten beads with a slot it that will fit the jig type hook. This hook presents the nymph in a more "realistic" and natural manner (on an angle) as it drifts downstream. A regular straight shanked hook will present the fly perpendicular to the streambed or as Antoine would say: "to the fish it looks like "Sputnik" floating right at them". In short, he believes presentation is more important than matching the hatch. Although, if one knows that there is a major hatch in progress it doesn't hurt to use a matching nymph. It is also important to consider the size and weight ratio... "it should sink but not too heavy". Natural colors work best (greens, tans, browns and black) and he believes UV dubbing is helpful.

The equipment he uses is also not the "norm". He recommends long rods (he uses a 12' 2/3 weight fly rod) and long leaders... 27' to 30' (that's right "foot") 3X to 5X colored tapered leaders, 7X fluorocarbon tippets, with two weighted nymphs and a special suspension indicator he fabricates. He wraps different colored monofilament around a small rectangular board, dips it into boiling water and then places it into the freezer. The result is an indicator that looks like something like this: o\_/\_/\_/\_/\_/\_/\_/\_o (the "Os" represent tippet rings which are used to connect the leader and tippet to). He claims the angles of the "zig-zag" indicator are much easier to see than "coiled" indicators. Antoine uses pink indicators when it is grey and cloudy, yellow in low to differing light, and fluorescents for bright conditions. But use the colors that are best for you. The indicators are kept off and above the water surface. You are able to approximate the depth of your flies by how much of the tippet is exposed and by the angle of the tippet from your outstretched rod.



The leader set up looks like this: 30' o \_/\_/\_/\_/\_/\_/\_/\_ o 7X 2 flies. Now I know what you're thinking... 7X tippets! No way!!!! But Antoine demonstrated with the help of one of our members that you can apply enough pressure to haul in a fish without breaking the 7X because the long, light-lined fly rod acts like a shock absorber whenever the fish makes a run.

He basically, never uses the fly line for casting... to quote him "my fly line only went past my rod tip once last year". I would describe how he works the stream like the Battleship game like we did in the back of class during a boring lecture in high school. By using incremental (4 to 6 inches), grid-like casts, leading and drifting the flies along the streambed and trying to get a direct hit in front of the fishes' mouth. Fishing parallel to the stream flow something like this as you progress upstream: --> ||||| As you see you are



covering an area very thoroughly. For us "Old-timers" think the high sticking method (with a European twist) we learned years ago.

Although he recommends long rod and leaders, Antoine says it can be adapted to 8 ½ to 9 foot fly rods. The setup would consist of a 9 foot tapered leader, a suspension leader (greased), 5 to 7 foot tippet, and, of course, two flies. You'll have to be stealthier as you work the stream since you will tend to be much closer to where the fish are laying.

Now the above is just a small sample of the information and methodology of Antoine's presentation, but it may be enough for you to give it try at your favorite fishin' hole. I know I

am. Some suggested reads are: Dynamic Nymphing by George Daniel, and Czech Nymphing by Karel Krivanec. Tight lines and happy hunting....



## Special Invite to Women Members!

**You are Invited...**



Thames Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter would like to invite you to:

*A Special Women Members Night* on December 16th, 2014, from 6-7 PM. The gathering will be held prior to our regular monthly member meeting at the Moose Lodge in Bozrah. [Click here for directions](#)

Ladies... come out for a meet & greet and enjoy a fun night out with fellow TU members! Coffee and cupcakes will be served and there will be special door prize drawing for women members. Bring a female friend and if they join Trout Unlimited that night you will receive a gift. Afterwards, stay and enjoy the rest on the regular membership meeting.

For qualifying\* women members renew your membership for half price (\$17.50). \*This reduced-rate renewal is only available for women who joined through the complimentary trial membership drive, and it will end on Jan. 1, 2015. This special deal is found at TU.org [Click here to renew](#)



## FISH FINS And what they do...

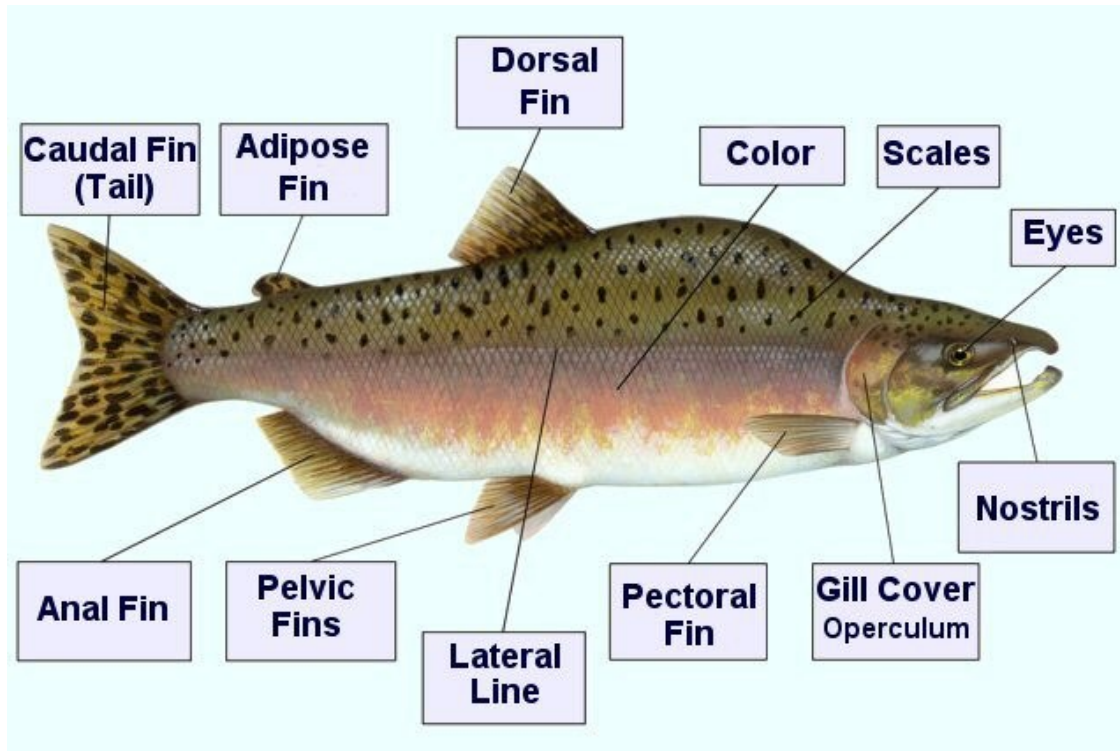
*By Jim Smith*

I've always been amazed how effortlessly a trout can "hang" in the current, using it's fins and body to maintain position while it surveys the underwater scape for its next tidbit. A size 16 Hendrickson nymph perhaps? Or the ability of a trout to "tip-up" through several feet of greasy brown trout water and pluck a size 18 Blue Quill spinner off the surface with nary a dimple. Have you ever spooked a resting trout and seen it blast off like a torpedo leaving behind a cloud of mud and algae in its wake.



Trout have eight fins in total, four individual and two paired. Incredible that these fins are constantly manipulated to allow a trout to do what it does in the water. Neurons firing in almost undetectable measurements of time. Trout may only have a brain the size of a pea, but what an amazing evolutionary pea brain it is!

Here is a good image detailing a trout's fins along with an explanation below of what the fins are used for.



**Pectoral Fins** - The paired pectoral fins are used for hovering, slow starts, slow speed turning, and braking or deceleration.

**Pelvic or Ventral Fins** - The pelvic fins assist the fish in going up or down through the water, turning sharply, and stopping quickly.

**Dorsal Fins** - Dorsal fins serve to protect the fish against rolling and assist it in sudden turns and stops.

**Anal Fin** - The anal fin is used to stabilize the fish while swimming and turning.

**Caudal Fin** - The caudal fin is the tail fin and is mainly used for propulsion and turning.

**Adipose Fin** - The adipose fin function has remained a mystery, and is frequently clipped off to mark hatchery-raised fish, though data from 2005 showed that trout with their adipose fin removed have an 8% higher tailbeat frequency. Additional research released in 2011 has suggested that the fin may be vital for the detection of, and response to, stimuli such as touch, sound and changes in pressure. Canadian researchers identified a neural network in the fin, indicating that it likely has a sensory function, but are still not sure exactly what the consequences of removing it are.



## Contribute to Stream Lines...

### A call for newsletter content

Are you a budding photographer or inspired writer? Are you interested in conservation and have news to share? We would like to include your work in *Stream Lines*, the TVTU newsletter. Don't be bashful, any and all related content will be considered, including, poems, stories, gear reviews, photographs, paintings, conservation news, fishing & tying tips, etc. Our goal is to get the membership involved in the newsletter and provide an outlet for creativity and sharing information. We have some very talented members in our chapter and *Stream Lines* is a great way to share information, stories, and art work.



Up The Chute, by Charley McCaughtry  
[Visit Charley's Website](#)

To submit content, please email Jim Smith at [jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:jsmiththamesvalleytu@gmail.com)



## Clean Water Ruling

### TU releases letter to EPA and Army Corp in support of clean water ruling

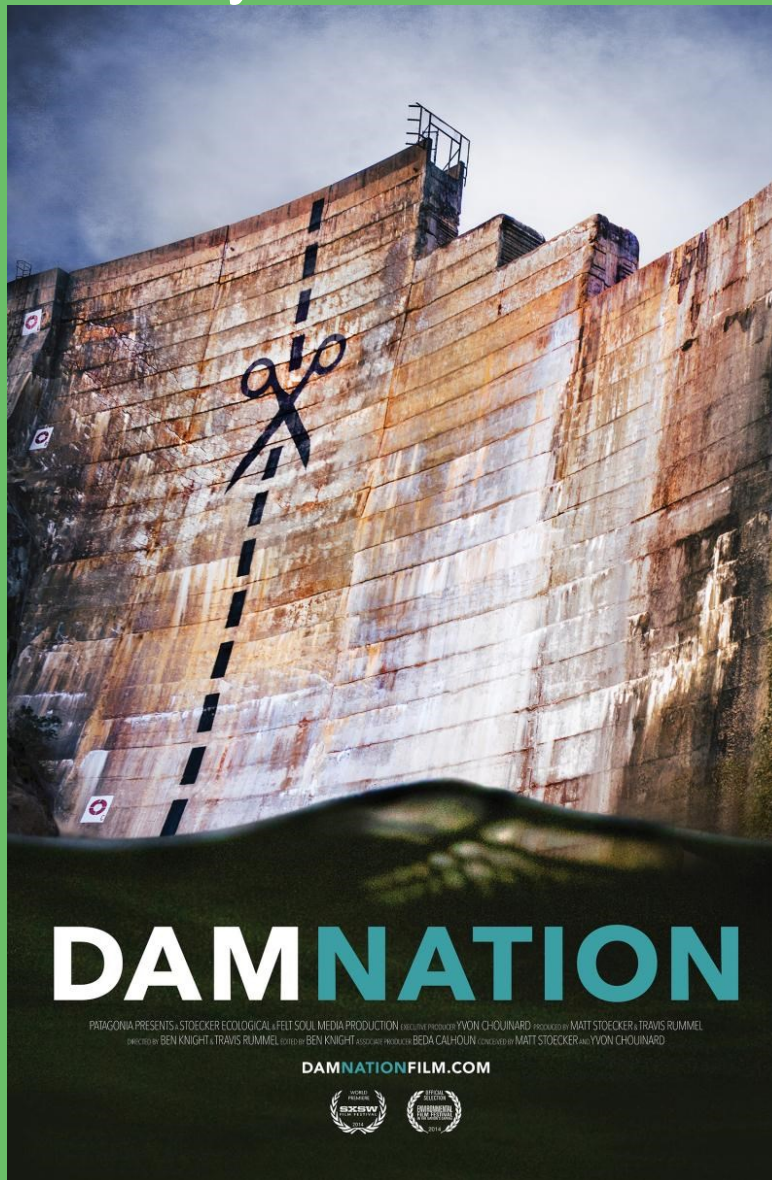
One-hundred eighty-five sportsmen groups, including Trout Unlimited, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the National Wildlife Federation and the Izaak Walton League of America, have released a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Assistant Secretary of the Army Jo-Ellen Darcy expressing their support for the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers' clean water rulemaking.

The agencies' proposed clean water rule would clarify Clean Water Act protections for water bodies that provide drinking water for one in three Americans and benefit fish and wildlife and their habitats. The rulemaking process responds to two Supreme Court rulings (in 2001 and 2006) and subsequent agency actions, all of which muddled the proverbial waters by creating uncertainty about which bodies of water were protected under the Clean Water Act, leaving many of our nation's waterways at increased risk of pollution and destruction.

According to a recent report by Trout Unlimited, nearly 60 percent of all stream miles in the U.S. are considered small, intermittent or headwater and protecting these seasonal waterways from foreign materials and toxins is critical to maintaining clean water for drinking and recreation, as well as safe and healthy fish and wildlife habitats.

Click here to view the letter, [website link](#).

# Dam Removal Garner's National Attention in Newly Released Film



Patagonia presents; a Stoecker Ecological & Felt Sole Media Production

The following is from the official press release packet from DamNation.



This powerful film odyssey across America explores the sea change in our national attitude from pride in big dams as engineering wonders to the growing awareness that our own future is bound to the life and health of our rivers. Dam removal has moved beyond the fictional Monkey Wrench Gang to go mainstream.

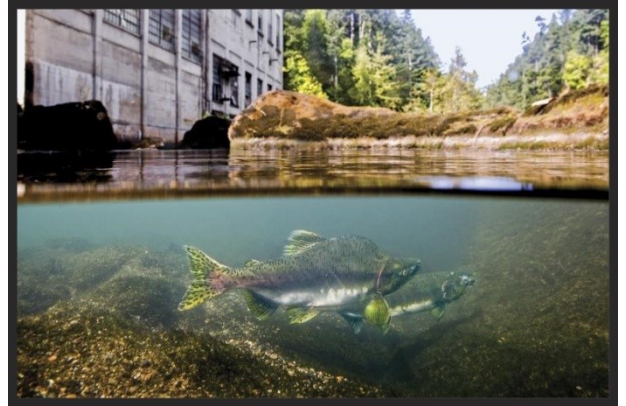
Where obsolete dams come down, rivers bound back to life, giving salmon and other wild fish the right of return to primeval spawning grounds, after decades without access. DamNation's majestic cinematography and unexpected discoveries move through rivers and landscapes altered by



dams, but also through a metamorphosis in values, from conquest of the natural world to knowing ourselves as part of nature.

DamNation opens big, on a birth, with the stirring words of Franklin D. Roosevelt at the dedication of Hoover Dam, and on a death, as the engineer at Elwha Dam powers down the turbine on its last day. DamNation stints neither the history nor the science of dams, and above all conveys experiences known so far to only a few, including the awe of watching a 30-pound salmon hurtling 20 feet into the air in a vain attempt to reach the spawning grounds that lie barricaded upriver. We witness the seismic power of a dam breaking apart and, once the river breaks free, the elation in a watching wild salmon - after a century of denied access - swimming their way home.

The film is available for download on Netflix and iTunes and can be purchased on the movie website at [www://damnationfilm.com/](http://damnationfilm.com/)



Click link to watch movie trailer - [www://damnationfilm.com/trailer](http://damnationfilm.com/trailer)

Click link to visit movie website - <http://damnationfilm.com/>



## Fly of the Month

### *"Pheasant Tail Euro Nymph"*

*Video by Tim Flagler, Tightline Productions*

With the ongoing fascination and popularity of Euro style nymphing, this month we bring you the Pheasant Tail Euro Nymph. According to Tim Flagler, the pattern is quite easy to tie, can be dressed in a variety of colors and has proven itself in fly fishing competitions the world over. Typically this type of anchor fly would be used as the point fly on a two or three fly rig and fished with the tight-line or Czech style method. Keep a connection the line Lead the fly through

Videographer and tier Tim Flagler says of the Pheasant Tail Euro Nymph: "I think the spiky, squirrel hair really adds to a lot to the fly. Add a small drop of head cement to make sure the thread wraps don't come unraveled and the fly is ready to fish. These are like the turbocharged version of the tried and true Pheasant Tail."

Click the link to learn how to tie a Pheasant Tail Euro Nymph; [Link to Tying Video](#).

### Fly Tying Recipe

Hook:	Trout Legend Model J, size 14
Head:	Black slotted tungsten bead, 3mm
Thread:	Fluorescent orange, 8/0 or 70-denier
Tail:	Medium Pardo Coq de Leon fibers
Rib:	Copper Ultra Wire, small
Body:	Dyed dark-brown pheasant tail fibers
Thorax/legs:	Dubbing blend-2 parts gray-squirrel fur to 1 part rabbit dubbing
Hot spot:	Tying thread
Adhesive:	Head cement



# Stocking Update

## 2014 Broodstock Atlantic Salmon stocking complete



Connecticut DEEP began spawning salmon at the Kensington Hatchery and approximately 80 spawned salmon were released last week into the Shetucket River. These fish are beautiful, ranging in size from 2 to 15 pounds, and average 8 pounds each. The Thames Valley TU chapter helped the state release the final stocking of salmon on the Shetucket River on November 7 with the help of the following members; Phil Sands, Rick Romagna, Irv Stanley, Tim Pindell, Michael Carl, Charley McCaughtry, Gene Cyr, George DeGray, and Ray Schaefer.

These stockings complete the 2014 stockings and bring the number of brood-stock Atlantic salmon stocked this fall to 354 salmon in the Shetucket River. Anglers are reminded that it's catch-and-release fishing in the Shetucket for Atlantic salmon until December 1, when the creel limit becomes one fish per day.

For volunteer information and future stocking schedule please visit the TVTU website [Click here to visit the website.](#)



## 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!

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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