

President's Corner

As a member you are a part of many activities that are helping to conserve, protect and restore our coldwater fisheries and their habitats. Our chapter, covering Ridgefield to New Milford, has as many varied waterways as we have threats that face them. Our thrust has been in recent years on the Pootatuck/Deep Brook area. The fact that it is specially designated as a Class 1 Wild Trout Management Area it demands particular attention by TU. After all, protecting wild trout and their habitat is the highest purpose of our organization.

There is another reason why we have succeeded so well in Newtown and this watershed, it's because members, that are local residents, made it happen. We have had success with work on other waters, such as the recent project on the E. Apsetuck River in New Milford, and involvement on the Norwalk River. These also came about because members and partners worked to make it happen.

Unfortunately there are often many local issues, including politics, involved in addressing threats to trout habitat and healthy watersheds. It can also involve a lot of work. In order for our chapter to pursue projects we need volunteers to initiate them in their own neighborhoods, where they are familiar with the issues and have a pertinent voice in their community. I implore each of you to be a representative of TU and an advocate of healthy rivers and watersheds in your community. I promise the support of this organization and our Officers in your attempts. Your local water could be the next project we undertake. Everyone has waterways in their backyard that flow into or are a part of a trout stream and helping to protect these will secure our fishing heritage and commitment to natural resources in Western CT.

Have you seen our web site yet ? It's loaded with good stuff. Try it and let us know how we can make it better for you !

www.cvtu.org

December 12th Meeting

We'll be meeting at the Miry Brook Firehouse (south of the airport in Danbury) at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be Frank Plona on the Farmington River . Don't miss this tour of fishing on the Farmington (see Jerry's writeup on the next page). We'll have updates on our projects and news of trips planned.

Tony Mortimer will show us before the meeting how he ties a *Murray's RoadKill nymph*.

- Fly Tying Session: 6:30 PM
- Coffee and snacks: 7:00 PM
- Meeting 7:30 PM

Come and join us at the meeting and see what's going on. Hope to see you there.

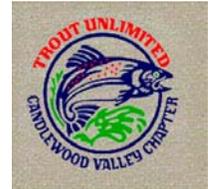
Membership News

Chuck Rich

We have began our Attendance Incentive Program and had good turnout with a number of new members attending. A high quality CVTU ball cap is awarded to a lucky member and tickets distributed for our year-end grand prize drawing at our meetings. Remember, bring a new member or a present member who has not been attending meetings and earn extra chances.

Let us know what we can incorporate into meetings to encourage you to attend. You can contact board members at www.CVTU.org and clicking on "contact us." Remember, this is your chapter, come and participate.





Trout Lines

Volume 12, Issue 4

Dec 4, 2006

SPEAKER'S FORUM

Jerry Rekart

How often do you fish the Farmington River? Do you know it well? Do you fish mostly the TMA? Were you aware that the Farmington River doesn't start at "The Church Pool" and end at "The Bridge Pool"? If you seldom wander outside the TMA this month's presentation is for you.

Our December presenter is Mr. Frank Plona. Frank is the Project Manager for the Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter. He is involved in a number of local conservation and trout stream preservation projects as well as local TU Chapter projects.

Several years ago, Frank started putting together presentations on his fishing trips. Over the years he has come up with several great presentations. He is neither a guide nor an outfitter nor a lodge representative. He is just an accomplished fly fisherman with a good eye and a good presentation.

His presentation for our December Meeting features the Farmington River concentrating on specific detail and locations outside of the crowded Pleasant Valley TMA. He will give you access points, hints on evaluating the pools and runs in the river's mid-section, and generally what to expect from this section of the river.

I expect to leave this presentation with two or three new spots to fish next spring. If you would like to do the same, join us at our December Meeting to expand your angling horizons on Connecticut blue-ribbon trout stream, the Farmington River.

Banquet Call:

The date is set for our banquet and fundraiser, March 23, 2007, 6:30 PM at the Stony Hill Inn, Bethel, CT. This one event provides the chapter with nearly all of our operating funds for the year. Besides being necessary for our chapter to continue its activities this evening is always a good time for members and guests. Tickets are available at our meetings, at the Valley Angler in Danbury or by contacting James Belden via the info at the end of the newsletter.

In addition to your attendance we also need contributions for the auction. Both silent and live auctions take place and anything from a gift basket or certificate to a trip or service are wonderful donations. Collectibles and tickets to events are always good items as well. The sooner we collect these items for the banquet the better, so don't hesitate.

Web sites of Interest

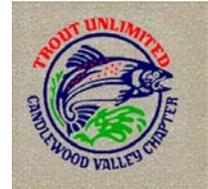
Tony Mortimer

Occasionally, I've been listing websites I run into that I find interesting. I'd encourage you to send me (tony.mortimer@cvtu.org) sites that you might want to share with others and I'll list them.

This site is an on-line magazine that is so comprehensive (they archive old articles listed in the drop down lists on the left side of the home page) that I'm tempted to drop my "hard copy" fishing magazines. Try it:

<http://www.midcurrent.com/default.aspx>

Also, I think I listed this before, but for local fishing discussions, you can't beat: <http://www.flyaddict.com/>



Trout Lines

Volume 12, Issue 4

Dec 4, 2006



Ask Brook

Advice from the membership

Starting with this issue, we will be publishing a new column every month in the newsletter. This column will publish fly-fishing or fly tying “how to” questions from the readership, and solicit members’ responses on how they have successfully dealt with the question at hand.

That’s right, you’re the experts! There is no CVTU expert hiding behind a green curtain who will answer all of these questions like Ann Landers does, the intent is for members to share their knowledge and experience to answer other members’ questions.

Each month we’ll select answers to publish in the newsletter. All answers that are submitted will be available on the Ask Brook Forum on the CVTU website (more info below).

To prime Brook’s pump, we have the following first question:

How do you organize the flies in your fly box(es)? Mine are a mess. I have to look through 5 boxes to find the right size, color, pattern, and medium.

Signed: Bewildered.

Brook can be reached in several ways: 1) You can share your wisdom or ask a question by posting on the cvtu.org forum, 2) you can send an email to brook@cvtu.org, or 3) via snail mail to any member of the Board at the return address listed on last page of this newsletter.

Brook looks forward to your responses and questions !

CVTU Tripping Gary Whipple

It is time to start planning a slate of CVTU-sponsored trips for 2007. If you have any input on places you'd like to go next year, now is a great time to let us know.

At present, we are planning two trips next year to central Pa to fish with Rocco Rosamilia; the first is our regular May trip, while the second is a trip to fish over the green drake hatch in very early June. We also are working on a visit to Cape Cod to fish for stripers, a July trip to northern New Hampshire to fish the Connecticut River tailwater, a trip to the Ausable in September, and another visit to the Connetquot in early November 2007. I am willing to add other trips to the list, or to look at replacing some of the listed ideas with places that member would rather go if you give me your thoughts.

Please drop me an email (gary.whipple@cvtu.org), drop me a postcard (121 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT 06812), input your thoughts on the CVTU forum (www.cvtu.org), or hand me an index card at any of the upcoming meetings with your suggested fishing trip ideas; suggest an ideal time frame to go if you think some times are better to fish than others.

I am particularly interested in your thoughts about going to new fishing locations versus revisiting old standards, your input on the level of accommodations and food you desire, and your thoughts on taking some of these trips during the week when the numbers of fisherpersons is not ordinarily as high. If there are particular things you liked or disliked about this year's trips, please mention those details as well.

Flash: We have opening for one to three more fly fishermen on a 7 day fishing trip for large brookies and char to Minipi Lodge in Labrador Aug 14-22. Flying out of Boston through Halifax to Goose Bay on a commuter jet, and then on to Lake Minipi on a float plane. Approximate cost \$5000. For details, contact Messer. Ballato, Hovious, Mortimer, Rekart or Whipple.



Candlewood Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Trout Lines



Volume 12, Issue 4

Dec 4, 2006

A few words from our new Secretary

Jonathan Atherton

I'm delighted to have the chance to support the Chapter and its continued successes. As a recent arrival from Edinburgh I've been struck by the enthusiasm and determination behind the TU movement. Growing up fishing the rivers and lochs of Scotland I was already aware, like so many Brits, of the Trout Unlimited organisation. It's true to say it has resonance throughout the world, perhaps simply because it sets the example of how to get like-minded people "putting something back". A simple concept perhaps, but 10 years as a policy advisor to the UK government has taught me how tough this is in practice, particularly where the environment is concerned.

I'll bore people to sleep with my UK fishing exploits another time! Enough to say I'm delighted to find myself surrounded by good company and some excellent waters here in New England. A home-from-home indeed, but I've had a lot of fun rethinking most of my fishing techniques (when do we stop?) There are significant differences in the way we fish and in the fish themselves: my 15 foot salmon rod (I believe you call them "Spey" rods) is consigned to the garage, and I need urgent help tying the most minuscule trout flies I've ever witnessed (my loch-style patterns are way too big, except on the Connetquot!) My fishing at home was largely for the thankfully omni-present brown trout and the occasional Atlantic salmon. In fact, so entranced was I by these fish that my academic career was spent "studying" the habitat stresses on the native Scottish brownie (I particularly enjoyed the sampling, with dry-fly, naturally!) In general, the sheer amount of habitat across Scotland means the brownie does well seemingly everywhere – the city of Edinburgh has a wonderful trout stream through its heart (it was a cast from my front door) - but the brown's sea-run cousin has fared less well, and I've supported efforts by a growing band of anglers to protect the migratory routes taken by these fish. It's a struggle we may have lost – the sea-trout is on the brink of extinction in the Western Highlands. Did I mention that there's no TU in the UK?

The rivers of Scotland are largely the preserve of the salmon angler, and I've been lucky to fish many of the country's most famous: the Spey, Dee, Tweed, Tay, to name a handful. And here again, the American influence has been strong. My last trip before my own migration was to the beautiful "silvery" Dee in Scotland's north-east, a river almost entirely "catch & release" thanks in no small part to the sensible messages about catch & release emanating from across the pond. The benefits have been so tangible even I catch the odd salmon!

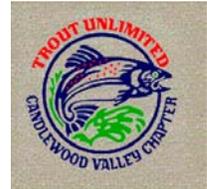
I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to experience a new country and all the cultural colour that goes with it. My principal "discovery" this past summer? Not driving on the "right", nor the fact that my electrical goods are rendered utterly useless here. No, at the grand age of 35, this past summer I caught (and released) my first brookie! It's wonderful to find a new species and I needed no further incentive to get involved with CVTU. Maybe I'll also pick up some tips on your nymphing techniques along the way. Lord knows I need to!

This scratches the surface of my enthusiasm for fly-fishing, ecology and the fascinating link our sport has to habitat conservation. It's great to be on board and I'm looking forward to rolling my sleeves up as I get to know you and the on-going work of the Chapter.



Candlewood Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Trout Lines



Volume 12, Issue 4

Dec 4, 2006

More Local Publicity on our Trout in Classroom projects

November 24, 2006 The Brookfield Journal

Students Take Trout Challenge

BY ALICE TESSIER *Managing Editor*

There's something interesting happening in aquariums in public schools in five area towns— young trout are coming alive.

Students at Whisconier Middle School (WMS) are taking part in the Trout in the Classroom challenge, an educational initiative sponsored by the Candlewood Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited, which is dedicated "to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds," according to its mission statement.

"It is a great program for getting young people interested in fish and aware of the importance of a healthy environment," said Jerry Rekart, a Brookfield resident who is a member of the local chapter. "Hopefully they'll learn about good environmental conditions and be interested in our stream protection efforts," he continued.

The program was started at New Fairfield Middle School four years ago and now Trout Unlimited is sponsoring it at Anna H. Rockwell Elementary School in Bethel, Danbury High School as well as his WMS. The organization also sponsors a Salmon in the Classroom program at Reed Intermediate School in Newtown. Both trout and salmon are members of the salmonid family of freshwater fish.

The program is simple, according to Mr. Rekart. "At the beginning of the school year, an aquarium is set up in the classroom, and then we stock it with trout eggs so the kids can see them hatch," he said. "Their job is to take care of the aquarium, watching the temperature and the pH [degree of acidity of alkalinity] of the water in it so the trout can develop. When they get big enough, the fish fry will be released."

Oct. 30, "about 1,250" brown trout eggs were delivered to the four participating schools, and by Nov. 10 they had hatched in Brookfield, according to Mr. Rekart. "Right now they are egg sacs, and they are considered hatched," he said in an interview that day.

Ken Norton, a seventh-grade science teacher at WMS, said yesterday that he began the project three weeks ago. "Our goal is to get the trout to a stage where they can be released back to the state Department of Environmental Protection to be put in a stream," he said. "We also want to share with the students how the state works to help preserve fish species."

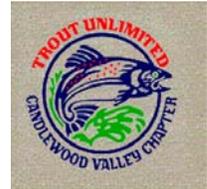
Mr. Norton said he is using the project with five different classes.

Mr. Rekart noted that another teacher, Tim Wilbert, is also using the project, and that Trout In The Classroom in Brookfield is being supervised by Tim Laughlin, who is the science curriculum specialist at WMS.

Mr. Rekart, an avid fisherman, is delighted about the increased interest in the Trout Unlimited programs in area school districts. "I like to fish—and to fish for trout standing in a stream—but it's important to make sure that the environment is healthy so they can continue to thrive," he said.

For more information about the national Trout Unlimited organization and its conservation and educational efforts, visit its Web site at www.tu.org/tic.

Staff Reporters Scott Benjamin contributed to this story.



Podcasts

Tony Mortimer

Podcasts are springing up everywhere on about any conceivable topic. Podcasts are similar to radio interview programs; they are broadcast live on an internet website and then stored as an archival mp3 file that anyone can access to listen or download at their leisure.

When I got my iPod last year, I discovered a host of fly fishing podcasts and now find I listen to them on my iPod transmitted through the FM radio in my car when I'm driving. It sure makes the time and tedium go faster and I've learned quite a bit, ranging from in-depth understandings of caddis behavior and how to fish caddis patterns to casting improvements and new effective fly patterns. Fishing topics are very diverse and international. The easiest way I've found to keep updated on them is to use iTunes software on my computer (free download from apple.com) and subscribe to a podcast (see some examples below). Then iTunes automatically downloads a specific podcast from that site when they have been issued. I can then listen to them or update my iPod on my own time schedule.

Check out these sites and listen to a few and see if you don't find them interesting and informative. Contact me if you have questions (Tony.Mortimer@cvtu.org) and I'll try to help.

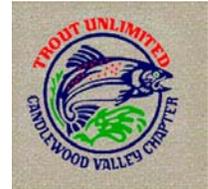
- www.flyfishradio.com (current podcast and Archives for past) – have standalone player file to listen immediately or podcast mp3 file for downloads. I have over 30 files from this site already
- <http://Globalflyfisher.com/podcast> – appears to be Danish and Swedish primarily, but has lots of good fishing tactics and innovative fly patterns.
- Itinerantangler.com – wide variety of locations and types of fishing
- <http://feeds.feedburner.com/NewEnglandFlyFishingBlog> - focuses on New England, latest podcasts feature Selene Dumain a Maine guide and tier of fancy streamer flies (a la Carrie Stevens).
- <http://www.askaboutflyfishing.com/> - very prolific site, many podcasts with wide variety of topics.
- http://americanpublicmedia.publicradio.org/podcasts/xml/writers_almanac/writers_almanac.xml—not about fishing, but each daily podcast is about 5 minutes and is Garrison Keillor providing a *Writer's Almanac* perspective in his unique way. Enjoy.

Let me know of others you run across and I'll list them in future editions.



Candlewood Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Trout Lines



Volume 12, Issue 4

Dec 4, 2006

2006/2007 EVENT CALENDER					
DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCALE	INFORMATION
Sept. 09	Sat	8:30-3:00	Microinvertebrate sampling	Newtown Water Treatment	Hovious 203-270-1960
Sept. 12	Tues	7:00 PM	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House	Capt. Bob Turley, Speaker
Sept 18-21	M-T	3-Sep	E.Aspetuck Stream Restoration	Pratt Ctr. New Milford	Peterson 203-775-0655
Sep 22-24	F-S-S		Ausable Trip		Whipple 203-746-5982
Oct. 10	Tues	7:00 PM	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House	Mike Goodwin, Speaker
Oct. 24	Tues		Newtown P & R Comm.		Belden 203-426-6039
Oct. 25	Wed		CT TU State Council Meeteng		Hovious 203-170-1960
			NW Conservation Dist. Annual Mtg.		Belden 203-426-6039
Oct. 25	Wed.				Belden 203-426-6039
Nov. 2	Thurs	all day	Connequot State Park, LI NY Trip		Whipple 203-746-5982
Nov. 15	Tues		PWA Board Meeting		Hovious 203-270-1960
Nov. 14	Tues	7:00 PM	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House	Mike Tougias, Speaker
Nov. 23	Thurs.		Happy Thanksgiving		
Nov. 28	Tues		Newtown Rams Pasture Mtg.		Belden 203-426-6039
Nov. 30	Thurs		NRCS WHIP Submitted		Belden 203-426-6039
Dec. 1	Fri.		Natives Grant subm. to F&W Found.		
Dec. 1	Fri.		Pratt Center Banquet & Auction	Candlewood Lake Inn	Peterson 203-775-0655
Dec. 12	Tues	7:00 PM	PWA Board Meeting		Hovious 203-270-1960
Dec. 12	Tues	7:00 PM	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House	Frank Plona, Speaker
Dec. 18	Mon		EAS Grant Deadline		Belden 203-426-6039
Dec. 25			Merry Christmas		
Mar. 23	Fri.	630 PM	T U ANNUAL BANQUET	STONYHILL INN	JAMES BELDEN
Jan. 9	Tues.	7:00 PM	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House	Jerry Bannock
Feb. 13	Tues.	7:00 PM	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House	Dr. Marc Taylor
Mar. 13	Tues.	7:00 PM	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House	Bill Hyatt—CT DEP
Mar. 30	Fri.	TBA	CVTU Annual Banquet	Stonyhill Inn - Bethel	Belden 203-426-6039
Apr. 10	Tues.	7:00 PM	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House	
May. 8	Tues.	7:00 PM	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House	Casting & tying clinic - PIZZA
May 17-20	T-S		PA	Rocco Rosamilia Lodge	Whipple 203-746-5982
Jun. 4 - 8	TBA	TBA	PA - Green Drake hatch	Rocco Rosamilia Lodge	Whipple 203-746-5982
Jun 15-17	F-S		Cape Cod - Stripers		Whipple 203-746-5982
July	TBA	TBA	CT River headwaters	Lopstick Lodge, NH	Whipple 203-746-5982
Sept	TBA	TBA	Ausable river	Hungry Trout	Whipple 203-746-5982
Nov	TBA	TBA	Connequot River	Long Island, NY	Whipple 203-746-5982

Fishing trips are dependent on membership participation. Contact Whipple as soon as you can commit!!!!

Contact Jerry Rekart with any additions or corrections to the calendar.

Rekart - 11-31-06



Trout Lines



Volume 12, Issue 4
Dec 4, 2006

Advertisers Section

We will list an advertiser for \$50 a year (which will provide at least 8 monthly listings). We will need text listings (pictures or business cards take up too much data space for many of our email members to download and manage). Please send any listings to me by either email or to the CVTU address on the back and I'll get them in.

Capt. Paul Koopmann of **Salty Flies Charters** (Orvis endorsed fly fishing guide with 25 years experience fishing Long Island Sound) who has a Custom 23' boat out of Rowayton, CT 203-561-9683 (email: captkoop@saltyflies.com)

English Angling Trappings at Angler's Den
11 East Main St.
Pawling, NY 12564
Located in the Historic Village of Pawling

845-855-5812 WWW.Anglers-Den.com

NORTH COAST CHARTERS
Fishing CT, NY & Southern RI

CAPT. BOB TURLEY
(203) 378-1160
Old Saybrook, CT
www.northcoastcharters.com



The Board has been holding our meetings at Stevens Diner in Newtown over the last couple years and found them to be cheerful, efficient hosts and their food to be excellent. We encourage chapter members to visit and enjoy, as well.

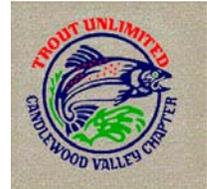
Steven's Diner & Restaurant
43 South Main Street
Newtown, CT 06470

For Sale Section
We will list items that members have for sale or swap in the newsletter. Just send me an email (tony.mortimer@cvtu.org) or see me at a meeting with details and I'll print your advertisement



Candlewood Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Trout Lines



Volume 12, Issue 4
Dec 4, 2006

Our chapter meetings are held September through May on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Miry Brook firehouse in Danbury

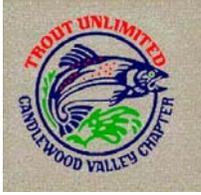
Visit our web site for copies of recent newsletters, interactive member forum, trout fishing links and more: <http://www.cvtu.org>



This newsletter is for you, our members. Let me know how we can improve it or make it more useful to you. And think about dropping me a note with some content, items for sale, stories, etc. It makes it more interesting to all of us !
Tony Mortimer
Tony.Mortimer@cvtu.org

Candlewood Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited — Board of Directors

James Belden 203-426-6039	President James.belden@cvtu.org	Tony Mortimer 203-241-7716	Communications/Newsletter Editor Tony.mortimer@cvtu.org
Jerry Rekart 203-775-2764	Vice President Jerry.Rekart@cvtu.org	Joe Hovious 203-270-1960	Conservation Chair joe.hovious@cvtu.org
Chuck Rich 203-952-4408	Treasurer Chuck.rich@cvtu.org	Gary Whipple 203-746-5982	Trips Chair Gary.whipple@cvtu.org
Jerry Rekart 203-775-2764	Program Chair Jerry.Rekart@cvtu.org	Doug Peterson	Grants and Government Affairs Doug.peterson@cvtu.org
Chuck Rich 203-952-4408	Membership Chuck.rich@cvtu.org	Jonathan Atherton 203-417-1163	Secretary



**Candlewood Valley
Chapter of
Trout Unlimited**
P.O. Box 3795
Danbury, CT 06811
Email: tony.mortimer@cvtu.org

Volume 12, Issue 4
Dec 4, 2006

