

# Trout Lines



## **President's Corner** **James Belden**

As I sit to write this it is snowing again! Well hopefully we're just paying now for good streamflows this summer, I like to find the silver lining, but I sure can't wait until Spring.

You will find in this newsletter information on the CVTU annual Banquet being held March 27th. I encourage everyone to attend. It will be a pleasant, family-oriented, evening with a few nice auction items and a wonderful speaker in James Prosek.

We have been seeing some new faces at the meetings lately, which is a wonderful thing. I strongly encourage everyone to consider bringing a friend or family member to meetings, even if they aren't a member. CVTU is involved in many important efforts in the community as well sponsoring great programs and opportunities to become involved. I hope to see many of you again at February's meeting.

## **February 10, 2009 Meeting**

### **Adam Taylor**

Chris Elser is a US Coast Guard Licensed Captain with over 30 years of fishing experience. He grew up fishing most of our local trout streams and many saltwater estuaries in CT and NY. At the age of 6 Chris became fascinated with the challenge, lore and history of fly fishing and that grew into a passion that will last a lifetime. He will be speaking to us about some of the species that he targets and locations that he fishes locally.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION:**

**In the event that we need to cancel a CVTU meeting due to inclement weather the announcement will be made on WTNH 8. It should be included as well on [wtnh8.com](http://wtnh8.com) as well as the forum at [www.cvtu.org](http://www.cvtu.org).**



**CANDLEWOOD VALLEY  
CHAPTER**

# **ANNUAL BANQUET**

**Speaker: James Prosek- Renowned  
Author, Fisherman, Artist  
AUCTIONS, FOOD, DRINK AND FUN  
FOR ALL!**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009**

**6:30pm**

**THE STONY HILL INN**

**Route 6, Bethel, CT**

**COST: \$40.00 PER PERSON**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS  
OR VALLEY ANGLER**

**OR**

**CALL James Belden at (203) 426-6039**

**(Email – [jbeldenflyfish@yahoo.com](mailto:jbeldenflyfish@yahoo.com))**

**(TICKETS IN ADVANCE ONLY, WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR)**

# Swap & Sell Table

At the February CVTU meeting, we will continue [The Swap and Sell Table](#).

Surely, you have an old rod, reel, fly boxes, tying equipment and material, the vest you used when you were 175 lbs (remember that ?) or waders you'd like to sell for the same reason.

At our meetings you will have a chance to sell or swap your valuable "stuff", or buy somebody else's valuable "stuff".

All you have to do is bring your item, with an attached tag stating your name and the starting price, or possibly an item into which you would like to trade. (We will have blank index cards available if you need one).

Check the garage and basement for "stuff" you haven't used for several years, tag it appropriately and bring it to [The Swap and Sell](#). (You can also bring "free stuff" if you can't bring yourself to throw it away, but want to offer it to someone who could use it ?)



## **2009 Chapter Conservation Projects**

- 1. Spring Youth Day at the Pratt Center in New Milford**
- 2. US Fish and Wildlife Service grant for data collection and analysis on Deep Brook**
- 3. Placement and retrieval of temperature monitoring probes in various streams in the Chapter's area**
- 4. Fall sampling of macroinvertebrates in Deep Brook, Pootatuck, Pond Brook and Halfway River in cooperation with CT DEP and the Town of Newtown**
- 5. Completion of the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) project on upper Deep Brook near Dickenson Park in Newtown**
- 6. Completion of the WHIP project on the East Aspentuck River at the Pratt Center in New Milford**
- 7. Analysis and reporting of data from 2007 and 2008 projects**



## Niagara River Exploration

### Joe Hovious and Gary Whipple

This fall, we set out to explore several steelhead fisheries to determine if they warrant a CVTU-sponsored trip in the future. Messers Hovious, Rekart and Whipple fished Eighteen Mile Creek and Cattaraugus Creek in October; Messers. Hovious and Whipple were scheduled to fish the Maitland and Niagara Rivers in November; Gary Whipple is fishing the Salmon River in December. We got washed out of the Maitland, but the other three streams are all lovely fisheries worth revisiting. As a result, we have a CVTU-sponsored trip to the Cattaraugus in November 2009.

For those of you who are not yet familiar with steelhead, they are migrating rainbow trout on steroids. In the case of the streams above, the fish live in the Great Lakes for 1-3 years after being born in a river, and then return to spawn in the same river, much bigger and stronger.

The photo below was taken of a Niagara River steelhead caught on a white streamer using an 8 weight rod and sinking line. The Niagara is big, fast, cold river full of steelhead, lake trout, smallmouth bass and muskies. In two days our explorers caught about 30 steelhead and lake trout from a motor boat; the largest fish was almost 14 pounds. Because the river is moving so quickly, it doesn't freeze over, and it can be fished all year long. Gary Whipple is going back in January or February if anyone doesn't mind a little cool weather and has the itch to join him for a couple of days of swinging streamers on a sink tip line for winter steelhead.



Joe Hovious in  
“the workout room”  
on the Niagara

Gary Whipple doffs  
his cap to a “big ‘un”



## TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM – February 2009

Jerry Rekart & Gary Whipple

Last month's article dealt with "the most dangerous times of the year; Christmas and spring vacations". We were lucky this year, only one school had a problem. They lost power for a week-end and lost all but four fish. A second school had earlier lost all of its fish, but that was a water problem requiring a complete cleaning, change of water and a restart to the bio-system in the aquarium. Both of those schools will be restocked this month and ready to restart the academic program by mid-February.

We are already planning release dates and sites, and working with the DEP to assure the stream site is approved for the trout we are releasing. The releases are the culmination of the program and the students look forward to this all year. We usually have an event with the release and the students either bring their lunch or the teachers will grill hamburgers and hot dogs. The mentors will bring fly rods and introduce the students to casting and for many it is the first time they have ever been in a trout stream. They have an opportunity to hold the invertebrates they have studied, see the minnows and crawdads and frogs, and observe a real trout stream. If you would like to join us, please call me and I will set you know when there is a release in your area.

Again, I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who keep the program going and invite anyone else who would like to be a part of a great program to call me at 203-775-2764

Kids enjoy starting the process



Trout and kids enjoy release part of the process





**Candlewood Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter  
PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS  
Trout in the Classroom - 2008-2009**

**PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS  
2008-2009**

**18 schools – 25 units**

**Whisconier M. S. (Brookfield)**

**Brookfield High School**

**Rockwell Elementary (Bethel) (2 units)**

**Reed Intermediate (Newtown) (5 units)**

**Danbury High School (2 units)**

**Broadview Middle School (Danbury)**

**New Fairfield Middle School (2 units)**

**New Fairfield High School**

**Ridgefield High School**

**East Ridge Middle School (Ridgefield)**

**Ridgefield Academy**

**St. Rose (Newtown)**

**Rumsey Hall (Washington Depot)**

**Washington Montessori**

**Wooster School (Danbury)**

**Hotchkiss School (Lakeville)**

**Chase Collegiate School (Waterbury)**

**Sarah Noble (New Milford)**

## 2008-2009 Trip and Classes Calendar

### Gary Whipple

#### **Trips:**

The 2009 calendar for CVTU-sponsored trips is complete. There is a May trip to fish for brown trout in central Pennsylvania, a June float trip on the Deerfield River in Massachusetts to fish for rainbows, an October float trip to fish for landlocked salmon and brookies on the east branch of the Kennebec in Maine, and a trip to fish for steelhead in western NY. Details on all these trips can be found at : <http://www.cvtu.org/forums/viewforum.php?f=6>

**Alert: The Deerfield and Kennebec trips have early signup deadlines.** Anglers must sign up for those two trips in particular before the end of December 2008. Only the number of rafts that have been reserved by anglers who have made their deposits on the trip will be retained; the remainder of the 5 boats for each trip will be released in early January. The blocks of rooms will also no longer be reserved after January 15.

#### **As of November 13, the status of the CVTU-sponsored trips in 2008-2009 is:**

May trip to Penns Creek and the Little Juniata in central Pennsylvania: 4 of 9 seats still available

June trip to the Deerfield in Massachusetts: 7 of 10 seats still available

October trip to the Kennebec in Maine: 5 of 10 seats still available

November trip to the Cattaraugus in western New York: 1 seat still available

To reserve a seat, send in your deposit check and registration form (in case of a tie where two people each reserve a seat, the postmark date/time on your deposit check submission will determine priority). A waiting list of 2 or 3 names will be accepted once the trip is filled, and persons on the waiting lists will fill any cancellations. This status report will be periodically updated on the forums at <http://www.cvtu.org/forums/viewtopic.php?f=6&t=350>.

A Deerfield River wild brown trout caught by the editor this January (two feet of snow on the banks). The Deerfield is on our trips itinerary this year (without the snow) !





# **2009 Master Classes**

January 24 Fishbugs with Mike Beauchene

March 28 Farmington River walkabout with Jack Smola

May 11 Drift Free Drag Clinic with George Daniel

May 12 Private casting instruction with George Daniel

June 4 Stream Reading with Tom Rosenbauer

## **Fishbugs Master Class 1-24-09**

### **January 24 Fishbugs Class**

The next in our series of educational efforts is a class on Fishbugs being taught by Mike Beauchene and Jim Krul on January 24 in Brookfield. Mike is going to focus on the bugs that trout eat, and tell us how to identify a bug by its body characteristics. Mike will also tell us how the bug acts in the environment, while Jim is going to show us the imitations that correspond to the more prevalent fishbugs. More details can be found at <http://www.cvtu.org/forums/viewtopic.php?f=26&t=317>

Pre-registration is required; please contact Gary Whipple to sign up. Fourteen of 20 seats are filled as of December 18.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A BETTER FLY FISHER? WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BUGS THAT THE FISH ARE EATING? TRYING TO FIND THE RIGHT FLY TO TIE ON YOUR LINE? ATTEND THE CVTU-SPONSORED ENTOMOLOGY CLASS ON JANUARY 24.**

Who: Featuring Mike Beauchene, Entomologist for the CT State DEP

When: January 24, from 10am to 3pm

Where: the Brookfield Public library at 82 Whisconier Rd in Brookfield, CT 06804

What: Classroom clinic

Review basic entomology including morphology, classification, and ecological attributes

Systematically work through the classification system, going order by order using real specimens (preserved/and or alive).

After identifying a specimen, provide details about life history traits, including how it lives, how it hatches...

Details: Registration fee of \$25 includes lunch and morning coffee

Preregistration only; attendance limited to 20 persons. Check-in at 9:45

Attendance limited to TU members and guests.

## **Farmington River Walkabout 3-28-2009**

**INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FARMINGTON RIVER AND THE STRUCTURE THAT DICTATES WHERE THE FISH IN THE TROUT MANAGEMENT AREA (TMA) LIVE? JOIN GUIDE JACK SMOLA FOR A TOUR OF THE TMA. RAIN OR SHINE. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

Exact Meeting Time and Place will be made available to all registrants.

Registration limited to first 20 CVTU members and guests who turn in a registration form and check. All registrants must hold a Connecticut Fishing license for calendar year 2009. Registration fee of \$25 and signed waiver also required to register.

Grilled hamburgers and fixings will be available at a location to be determined after the walking tour. Food is free to walkabout registrants and any CVTU member who signs up to be an afternoon fishing mentor no later than the meeting on March 17. ADVANCE SIGNUP REQUIRED so we have about the right

number of burgers. If it rains on the 28th, we will still have the walkabout and fishing, but the burger and fixings will not occur.

Mentored fishing for all walkabout registrants and any members who sign up in advance; the desire is to have an experienced CVTU fisherman accompany each walkabout registrant who desires a mentor.

## **Drag-free Drift Master Class 5-11-2009**

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A BETTER FLY FISHER? WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW TO HAVE THE FLY ON THE END OF YOUR LINE ACT MORE NATURALLY ? ATTEND THE CVTU-SPONSORED DRAG-FREE DRIFT CLASS ON MAY 11.**

Who: Featuring George Daniel, member of the US National Fly Fishing Team and Junior Fly Fishing Team Coach

When: May 11, 2009 from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm

Where: a 90 minute introduction will be taught at the Cornwall Inn (to be verified), 2 miles south of the Housatonic Outfitters Fly Shop  
lunch will be at 12:00  
the streamside clinic will be held on the Housatonic River, at a location to be announced

Details: Registration fee of \$ 50, including lunch and morning coffee

Preregistration only; attendance limited to 20 TU members and guests.

## **Private Casting Lessons with George Daniel**

George Daniel will be available the afternoon of May 12 to conduct one-on-one casting lessons on the grass. Sign up for an hour. Fee will be \$X for an hour, payable to George.

George is the guest speaker at the May 12 meeting at 6:30, so there are probably 5 or maybe 6 slots for lessons. Contact Gary Whipple to reserve a slot.

## **Stream Reading Master Class 6-4-09**

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A BETTER FLY FISHER? WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW TO RECOGNIZE WHERE FISH MIGHT BE HOLDING IN A STREAM? OR TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY MIGHT BE EATING? ATTEND THE CVTU-SPONSORED STREAM READING CLASS WITH TOM ROSENBAUER ON JUNE 4 .**

Who: Featuring Tom Rosenbauer, author of Prospecting for Trout and Reading Trout Streams, as well as the best-selling fly fishing book The Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide

When: June 4, 2009, from 10am to Xpm. Check-in and set-up at 9:30.

Where: a two hour introduction will be taught at:  
Pine Meadow Fire Co  
Pine Meadow Fire Co  
366 Main  
New Hartford, CT 06057

following lunch, we will adjourn to the Farmington River for the field exercises.

Learn to read the water and how to fish when there is no hatch. Learn where trout live and how they behave under all kinds of conditions, from early season cold temperatures to the low water of summer. Learn special techniques for dry fly, nymph, and streamer fishing that will improve your success any time on trout waters throughout the world. Class involves short classroom introduction to trout behavior and reading the water, followed by extensive onstream instruction. Students should have a good grasp of knots, leaders, and casting technique as this will be intermediate-to-advanced level instruction.

What to bring: You will be wading in the river, so bring your normal wading tools (waders, boots, staff) and fly fishing gear.

Details: Registration fee of \$75 includes morning coffee. Bring Your Own Lunch.

Preregistration only; attendance limited to 20 CVTU members and guests.

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Send your check made out to CVTU and registration slip (below) to Gary Whipple at 121 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT 06812

For information about our Master Classes and other educational efforts, please see the CVTU Education thread at [www.cvtu.org/forums](http://www.cvtu.org/forums).

Registration Slip

.....  
Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone number: .....

Email address: .....

## **New 2009 Master Class :**

I have agreement in principal and negotiating the details for a beginners' spey casting class for 10-20 anglers sometime this year. The clinic will start in the class room, but the majority will be taught on the Housatonic River. The organization that I am talking with would provide instructors and gear for the group. The session is likely to be on a Sunday. Rate information is dependent upon the number of registrants but will not exceed \$150 per head. Your thoughts and input are welcome. If you have a preference as to spring versus fall, please share your thoughts. (Gary Whipple)

## **Get your fishing licenses on-line ?**

Many states offer fishing license purchases and or renewals on-line. Although I think you have to purchase your original NY state license in person, you can renew on line and we have been able to buy Maine, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts licenses on-line. Connecticut is now offering fishing licenses on this website: <https://ct.outdoorcentral.net/InternetSales>.

## **Fly Fishing Magazines**

I've been reading **Midcurrent** on-line magazine delivered by email for some time now ([www.midcurrent.com](http://www.midcurrent.com), email at: [news@midcurrent.com](mailto:news@midcurrent.com)) and find lots and lots of interesting articles, videos, etc. on fly fishing – instructions, locations, how-to's by prominent fly fishing experts. Try it, you may want to cancel your magazine subscriptions too !

Gary Whipple just discovered another on-line mag called **Fly Fishing Life** (<http://issues.flyfishinglifemag.com/publication/fd3b8b7d>) which has an interesting presentation format. Current issue features comprehensive reviews of new products for 2009.

CVTU EVENT CALENDAR					
DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCALE	INFORMATION
13-Jan	Tues	1900	Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	Chris Elser, Salt Water Guide
15-Jan	Th	1930	Fly Tying Class	Pete Peterson's House	Peterson - 426-3004
24-Jan	Sat	1000	<b>FISHBUGS - Mike Beauchene</b>	Brookfield Library	Whipple - 746-5982
24-Jan	Sat	all day	T. U. Day at Cabelas	Hartford	See CT TU website
1-16to18	FSS	1930	Marlborough MA Fly Tying Show	Marlborough, MA	See internet
1-23to25	FSS	1930	Somerset NJ Fly Tying Show	Somerset, NJ	See internet
29-Jan	Th	1930	Fly Tying Class	Pete Peterson's House	Peterson - 426-3004
5-Feb	Th	1930	Fly Tying Class	Pete Peterson's House	Peterson - 426-3004
10-Feb	Tues	1900	Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	Charlie McCaughtry, Big Bushkill Creek
12-Feb	Th	1930	Fly Tying Class	Pete Peterson's House	Peterson - 426-3004
19-Feb	Th	1930	Fly Tying Class	Pete Peterson's House	Peterson - 426-3004
26-Feb	Th	1930	Fly Tying Class	Pete Peterson's House	Peterson - 426-3004
5-Mar	Th	1930	Fly Tying Class (Inclement Weather make-up)	Pete Peterson's House	Peterson - 426-3004
10-Mar	Tues	1900	Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	DEP or Green Lawn Care
27-Mar	Fri	1830	<b>Annual Banquet</b>	<b>Stony Hill Inn, Bethel, CT</b>	<b>Belden - 426.6039</b>
28-Mar	Sat	TBA	<b>Farmington Walk-about</b>	Farmington River	Whipple - 746-5982
14-Apr	Tues	1900	Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	DEP or Green Lawn Care
2-May	Sat	TBA	<b>Youth Day</b>	Pratt Center - New Milford	Zakur - 994-0627
11-May	M	TBA	<b>Geo. Daniel Clinic - Drag free drifts</b>	Housatonic River	Whipple - 746-5982
12-May	Tues	1900	Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	Geo. Daniels
14-May	T	TBA	Penns Creek	Travel on 13th, check CVTU.org for more	Whipple - 746-5982
15-May	F	TBA	Little Juanita	important Information	Whipple - 746-5982
4-Jun	Th	TBA	<b>Reading Streams with Tom Rosenbauer</b>	Farmington River	Whipple - 746-5982
24-Jun	W	TBA	Deerfield River Float	Ox Bow Motel, June 23 & 24	Whipple - 746-5982
25-Jun	Th	TBA	Deerfield River Float	See CVTU.org for more	Whipple - 746-5982
1-Oct	Th	TBA	Landlocked Salmon Trip	East branch of the Kennebec River	Whipple - 746-5982
2-Oct	F	TBA	Landlocked Salmon Trip	Greenville, Maine - See CVTU.org	Whipple - 746-5982
4-Nov	S	TBA	Steelhead Trip	Cattaraugus Creek	Whipple - 746-5982
5-Nov	S	TBA	Steelhead Trip	See CVTU.org	Whipple - 746-5982



A Spawning Brown in one of our local streams

Our chapter meetings are held September through May on the second Tuesday of each month starting around 6:30 PM for snacks and coffee (and usually some fly tying) with the meeting starting at 7:30. The meetings are open to all – members and non-members. Come over and see what we're about, we'd like to meet you.

Visit our web site for copies of newsletters, interactive member forum, trout fishing links and much more:  
***cvtu.org***

***Candlewood Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited – Board of Directors***

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