

# Trout Lines



## President's Corner James Belden

It appears that the rain is finally coming in earnest and our rivers are sighing in relief. Now let's get out there and enjoy some Fall fishing before the weather really takes a turn towards winter. A year full of conservation projects and advocacy means that fish and wildlife will be better off next year and that our members all deserve to take time to enjoy what we protect. I enjoyed seeing some of you at our Connetquot trip last week and encourage everyone to attend the next meeting -- and while you're at it, bring someone new!

Our elections filled most of our necessary chapter positions but there are a few vital roles yet to be filled, namely Membership Chairman and a newsletter production assistant or Chairperson. Additionally, we are seeking more help with the Annual Banquet planning. Don't be shy; there are no strings attached, or stringent requirements, to helping out.

Membership Chair is a position full of opportunity and rewards as the position that is tasked with reaching out to new members, potential members and our youth. It is vital to our success that we bring in new people, educate the public and encourage the younger generation to be excited about clean water, trout and conservation. Existing programs like Trout in the Classroom are great things to dovetail into an effort like this.

As a highlight to our outreach efforts Steve Zakur has taken on the planning of a public youth education/outreach day next Spring that may include fun things such as a hands-on trout tutorial and stocking experience with DEP biologists, casting instruction and fly tying. This is a great way to get out and have an impact while having fun, so take this opportunity to volunteer by just contacting Steve or me directly with the information available in the newsletter and/or the website.

Thank you all for helping our Chapter achieve so much success. If we each continue to lift a small piece, we can continue to move mountains. It is people like us; those who care enough to do something, who will ensure a future that includes trout streams. With that thought in mind I leave you with one of my favorite quotes: "Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do."- Johann von Goethe

## November 14, 2007 Meeting Adam Taylor

Jeff Yates, secretary of the Mianus Chapter, is a fourth generation Wilton, CT resident who has fished the Norwalk River his entire life. He is a newspaper editor for The Wilton Bulletin, and works as a fishing associate at Orvis in Darien.

The presentation on fishing the Norwalk River will focus on the gear and tactics needed for taking trophy and wild trout on the river. It will also provide descriptions of the river restoration the Mianus Chapter has conducted on the river, and how that restoration has led to a resurgent wild Brown Trout population.

We will meet at the Miry Brook Firehouse south of the airport in Danbury at 6:30 PM.



# TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Nov '07

Jerry Rekart & Gary Whipple

CVTU now has TIC in fourteen schools in our area. The schools are Ridgefield High School, Middle School and Academy, Rockwell School in Bethel, Reed MS and St. Rose in Newtown, two units at Danbury HS, Whisconier MS in Brookfield, two units at New Fairfield MS (one is Salmon in the Classroom), Wooster School in Danbury, Rumsey Hall and Washington Montessori in Washington, and Hotchkiss in Lakeville.

The eggs should arrive in mid November as eyed brown trout with a hatch date in early January. The DEP has asked that we move the delivery date back this year in an attempt to postpone hatching until after the Christmas break.

Several of you have asked about getting brook or rainbow eggs and the best answer is that this is an academic program and the brook trout are better used in a hatchery situation; rainbows are more difficult to raise, as they tend to fight and jump out of the tank, so we get brown trout.

We have four mentors this year (one volunteer and three conscripts). Regardless of how you came to be a mentor, thank you for your time and interest.

If you have any questions or an interest in the program, call me (Jerry) at 775-2764. I really need someone with some New Milford academic roots! Don't forget to bring an inactive member to the meeting in November

## Trip Input Sought Gary Whipple

If you have any input you'd like to make into next year's trip calendar, please send an your thoughts in an email to [gary.whipple@cvtu.org](mailto:gary.whipple@cvtu.org). Or send me a postcard with your thoughts to 121 Route 37, New Fairfield CT 06812. I'd say hand me an index card at the October Meeting, but that would at best represent only a small portion of our membership.

I am interested in the places you liked (or didn't) this year? And what places or type of places you'd like to have a CVTU-sponsored trip to next year? It's OK to say I'd like to catch 5 pound brook trout within a 20-minute drive of Danbury, and have a 5 course dinner before driving back home that night, but of course I'd struggle to find such a place. Nevertheless, knowing that's what you'd like will help me find places to visit.

## Macroinvertebrate Sampling Joe Hovious

On October 20, fourteen volunteers sampled riffle dwelling benthic macroinvertebrates (RDBM's) in Deep Brook and the Pootatuck as a continuation of TU's efforts to assess stream water quality. Although rains on the evening of the 19th made the morning a bit questionable, by sampling time the sun was out and the water had receded enough to complete sampling on 7 total stations. We had some new volunteers this time including interested Newtown citizen environmentalists and some old hands. The general consensus was that the sampling was both educational and fun. Numbers of organisms seem to be up from past samples in spite of the near record drought conditions over the summer. I will forward results when received from the state.

Many thanks to all who participated in the sampling and to Aquarion and the Town of Newtown who volunteered the use of the conference room at the Newtown wastewater treatment plant for our use.

We are also in the process of building a collection of RDBM's to use to help in identification and for modeling for fishing purposes. Hope to bring these to a meeting soon.

For results of past sampling events see the CVTU website at [www.cvtu.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=262](http://www.cvtu.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=262)

### Some Web sites to check out (editor)

[www.midcurrent.com/](http://www.midcurrent.com/) (a truly great on-line fly fishing magazine)

[www.flyaddict.com/](http://www.flyaddict.com/) a local based site that provides great references and tools and a very active forum

[www.wildtroutstreams.com/CT.htm](http://www.wildtroutstreams.com/CT.htm) for further research follow up to Steve Culton's talk last month

# A fall evening on the Pootatuck

Steve Zakur

Late in the afternoon two Sunday's ago, I got to the point where I could not go a minute longer without wetting a line. Several weeks of business travel and a long weekend of personal and business commitments left me with a hollow feeling. I've been tying a fair amount lately just to keep sane, but nothing beats wetting a line. After what seemed like months of no rain, we had finally gotten a soaker. The rivers were up, but not too much. Saturday, we had done the macroinvertebrate sampling so I knew that the water, both on Deep Brook and the Pootatuck, would be at just the right level by Sunday evening.

My real objective was to put some Brook Trout in the net. However, as I thought about it I changed my mind and fished the Pootatuck instead. I figured that after a bruising summer with no rain, the Brookies in Deep Brook could use some rest. And besides, I knew some good holding spots on the Poot that would hold trout regardless of water levels.

I started at a pool where I've never caught a fish before. I've heard others tell of fish being in there, but they've always managed to avoid me. I really didn't intend to fish this particular run, but as I crossed at the tail of the pool I noticed one or two splashing rises. My course of action was clear and I was quickly rewarded with a seven inch Brown Trout. I caught him on a #16 Tan Caddis dry.

With the Caddis thoroughly slimed I switched to an Ausable Bomber that I had tied. I was shortly rewarded with the first Brown's twin brother.

At the next pool up I caught another brown, perhaps an inch longer than the other two, on the same Bomber. This trout had taken the fly deep and I was glad I had purchased one of those Ketchum Release Tools. It worked like a charm in getting the barbless hook out quickly.

With the light fading I dragged a streamer through the pool to see if anyone else was lurking there but to no avail. With three to the net, I headed home.

It was nice to finally see some decent water in these small streams. The water temps were also right on target - 58 degrees! Our efforts in restoring the habitat in and around Deep Brook must be having some impact because even after a horrid summer I was still finding wild trout in all the likely spots.

Fall is a terrific time to fish these small streams. Bring a short rod, a healthy dose of patience - leaves and branches conspire against you, and a sense of wonder at the miracle of wild fish in a suburban stream.



## Pulaski, October 2007 – Be careful what you wish for Doug Peterson

Fishing the Salmon River last year at 1750 cfs, Tony Ballato and Doug Peterson struggled with heavy water, rough wading, and restricted access during their three-day mid-October trip. Fishing was excellent, but a bit more exciting than two retired types would have preferred.

This year, joined by Jerry Rekart, they had no such problem. The water flow was a mere 100 cfs, providing access everywhere and making wading a much safer chore. But that's about all the good news. The lower fly fishing area was closed completely, and few fish made it up as far as the upper fly fishing area. Nature being what it is, this concentrated both the fish and the anglers downstream in Douglaston.

Long walks, low water, high temperatures, tired fish, and scores of (possibly snagging) anglers standing shoulder to shoulder around the few water-holding pools made for a less than sporting experience. One altercation over territory had to be put down by the Douglaston security crew.

Our three members did work to find the few runs with fresh fish and did hook up many times and land some, but the experience left a lot to be desired. Although the trip camaraderie was enjoyable as always, the fishing conditions were such that they cancelled a second planned trip.

(Note: Salmon River novices might benefit from seeing the river at this level as a learning guide for future trips.)





2007/2008 CVTU EVENT CALENDAR					
DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCALE	INFORMATION
Sept. 11	Tues	1830	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	Giant Brookies in Labrador
Sept. 11-12	T-W		Tree planting	E. Auspatuck River	Peterson - 775-0655
Sept. 11-12	T-F		Tree planting (rain date)	E. Auspatuck River	Peterson - 775-0655
Sept. 17	Mon.	830	TIC Teachers/Vokunteer Mtg.	CL&P Hq	Rekart - 775-2764
Sept 28-30	FSS		Ausable/Boquet Rivers	Hungry Trout Inn, Wilmington NY	Whipple - 746.5982
Oct. 9	Tues	1830	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	
Oct. 20	Sat		Invertibrate Sampling	Deep Brook	Hovious - 270-1916
Nov. 1	Thurs		Connectquot River	Long Island, NY	Whipple - 746.5982
Nov. 10-11	SS		The Arts of the Angler Show	Ethen Allen Inn	Rekart - 775-2764
Nov. 13	Tues	1830	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	
<b>Thurs</b>			<b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>		
Dec. 11	Tues	1830	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	
<b>Dec. 25</b>			<b>Tues MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>		
<b>Jan. 1</b>			<b>Tues HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>		
Jan. 8	Tues	1830	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	
Feb.12	Tues	1830	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	
Mar. 11	Tues	1830	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	
<b>TBA</b>		<b>Fri</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>Annual Banquet</b>	<b>Stony Hill Inn, Bethel, CT Belden - 426.6039</b>
Apr.8	Tues	1830	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	
May. 13	Tues	1830	CVTU Monthly Meeting	Miry Brook Fire House, Danbury	

## CANDLEWOOD VALLEY TU FLY TYING CLASS

*This coming winter we will present our first entry level fly tying program. It will consist of six classes to be held in January and February. All classes will be held at Pete Peterson's home in Newtown. Presently, Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 7:30 is being considered for the starting date.*

For the first class, the only thing you will need is writing material to take notes. It will be a detailed discussion of tools, equipment, and materials with a demonstration and participant exercise on thread handling and knots for which the needed equipment will be provided. For the remaining classes participants are expected to provide their own tools, equipment and materials. The Chapter will provide the hooks. In each successive class we will learn progressively more challenging flies and eventually cover bucktails, wet flies, nymphs, and dry flies (duns and spinners). In addition, we will discuss selected aquatic entomology as it pertains to fly tying and fishing.

These classes will be a fun and fruitful learning experience which will add a tremendous dimension to your fly-fishing enjoyment and success.

The fee for the course is \$100.00 payable to the Candlewood Valley Chapter - Trout Unlimited. This fee will be used to buy materials for the course, with any left over funds being donated to the chapter.

To register, or if you have any questions, please see Pete at a chapter meeting, call him at (203) 426-3004 or e-mail him at [cpeterson3004@charter.net](mailto:cpeterson3004@charter.net). Class size is limited, so sign up ASAP to guarantee a seat.



A Spawning Brown in our local stream

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:

<http://www.cvtu.org>

Don't forget about:

**The Arts of the Angler Show  
November 10 & 11, 2007 at the  
Ethan Allen Inn**

Lots of dealers, vendors and fly tyers focusing on fly fishing.

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

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