

Trout Lines



Sept 8, 2009 Meeting

Miry Brook Firehouse, Danbury, CT – 7:00 PM. James Belden will present a review of his New Zealand trip and we'll have a raffle (see below).

Speakers Forum:

Adam Taylor

New Zealand is proclaimed by many to be the world's best location for trophy brown trout. CVTU's very own James Belden was lucky enough to make the trip to New Zealand last spring. Come see and hear about his adventures as we kick off the fall meeting schedule.

This year's meeting lineup ranges from the brown trout of New Zealand, Steelheading in the Great Lakes, Chasing Stripers on the Housatonic, Etymology, Fly Tying and a couple of surprises.

We'll also have a raffle at the meeting -- Want to learn how to catch fish when there is no hatch to match? Thanks to the efforts of Gary Whipple we have in our possession a copy of *The Orvis Guide to Prospecting for Trout* written and autographed by Tom Rosenbauer. We will be raffling it off at the September meeting. Come on out and hear James' presentation about New Zealand and get a chance to win the book.

Gary and Joe with steelhead from the Niagara River this year !



President's Corner

James Belden

This year represents a milestone which every TU member and volunteer should be proud to reflect upon. Our organization turns 50 this year. Founded upon a set of principles guided by an ideal that humans have the opportunity, actually a requirement, to be a steward of the natural resources which coldwater species depend upon, TU has prevailed as a leader in the conservation world. Fish and fishermen are reaping the rewards, but as we enter our second 50 years it is apparent that the effort to protect watersheds is vital to human health and progress as well. Groups such as ours are instrumental in re-establishing a connection between humans and the natural world through education, active participation and recreational enjoyment of our resources. Taking my kids on a guided fishing trip yesterday in NW CT was a great reminder of how important it is to spend time passing along this enjoyment and appreciation to the next generation.

This month will be the last in my term as President of our chapter. I look at the many accomplishments of this group and it seems astonishing. Although too many to relate here, there are many areas we have seen success. Through events and programs we educated scores of children in all aspects of fishing, the importance of salmonids and the need for clean water. With the help of grants and fund raisers, we have raised tens of thousands of dollars for successful restoration projects, scientific research and education. Our chapter has more Trout in the Classroom systems than any other CT chapter. The schedule of trips, presenters and classes we offer has become quite impressive offering something for everyone. We are also active in the advocacy of environmental legislation and policy on local, state and national levels. For all of this we owe ourselves a round of applause and I have been proud to help make some of it happen.

However we need every member's help to continue this effort. Elections will offer new opportunities for involvement but just raising your hand to help with anything small or large is all it takes. Please remember we are open to new ideas so bring yours along.

I hope to greet many of you as we return in September and I certainly hope to see some new faces. Invite a friend!

Swap & Sell Table

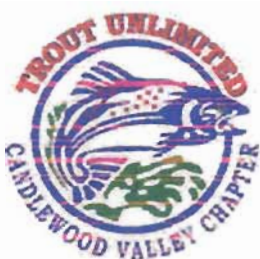
At the September CVTU meeting, we will continue *The Swap and Sell Table*.

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 ?)



Call for volunteers!

Please help CT TU celebrate Trout Unlimited's 50th Anniversary at a one of a kind event. The **Hammonasset Festival** in on October 2, 3 and 4th at Hammonasset State Park is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the public about TU and be a leader in youth education. Perhaps 10,000 people attend this festival. To volunteer: please contact James Belden at the email provided in this newsletter or at our meeting.

Support will be needed for the following hours in 3 hour shifts;

Friday - 5 pm – 9 pm
Saturday - 9 am – 6 pm
Sunday - 9 am - 6 pm

Volunteers will be needed for the following;

Fly Tying
Casting
Entomology
Marketing/greeters
Food & Drink for TU Volunteers (this does not require staffing - just donations and council funds)
Raising of Teepee as special event
Setup (Friday) and Teardown (Sunday)
Environmental Presentation (teepee event)

Camping at the park campground will be available for volunteers for Friday and Saturday nights. The park campground is closed to the public at this time of year.

There will be a number of volunteers planning on fishing the surf Friday and Saturday nights.

High tide for Friday Oct 2 is at 10:30 pm and 11:30 Saturday. Prime Time!

Macroinvertebrate Sampling

Joe Hovious

Mark your calendars for the CVTU fall macroinvertebrate sampling event. We will gather on the morning of **October 17** to collect macroinvertebrate samples and water temperature probes from several streams in Newtown including Deep Brook, the Pootatuck, and Pond Brook. We will need about 15 volunteers with waders to collect samples. This is always an interesting morning and opportunity to see a close up view of the trout food in our local streams and perhaps some new water.

Details will follow in the near future but the current plan is to gather at about 8:30 here in Newtown and to be done by noon. Fishing may be available in the afternoon if you are interested. For more information contact Joe Hovious at 270-1960 or 470-2952 or jchovious@snet.net.

Volunteer, student or intern needed!

James Belden

CVTU is involved in a wide array of water quality monitoring, habitat research and conservation work. We are searching for someone to help pursue these projects in particular the need to compile, evaluate and organize data. The goals include authoring a report and creating an organized template for continued reporting. A good opportunity for graduate level candidates and an opportunity to be published.





Trout in the Classroom 2008-2009 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

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)

Second Annual Youth Education Day

By Stephen Zakur

In early May, over 30 students and their parents assembled at The Pratt Center in New Milford, Connecticut for our second annual Youth Education Day.

The day consisted of three seminars. The first was Fly Tying. Doug Peterson, Chuck Rich, Sue Hager and Adam Taylor taught the kids the basics of Fly Tying. All the kids walked away with at least one Wooly Buzzer and many went on to tie a second.

Fly casting instruction was led by Jerry Rekart, Tony Ballato, Gary Whipple and Jason Stewart. They braved the waving sticks and flailing lines to impart some order and skill to our fingerling students. By the end of the session all our students had made good progress in mastering the fundamentals.

Macroinvertebrate sampling rounded out the day and was taught by Ann Astarita, Joe Hovious, and Bill Bennett. The students helped Joe and Ann get some bugs from the streambed and then sorted them using the same sampling tools that we use in our stream surveys. It's amazing how focused a group of kids can get while sorting insects.

The final event of the day was stocking trout into the stream. Todd Bobowick of Rowledge Pond Aquaculture introduced the children to brook, brown, and rainbow trout and then assisted in the stocking of the stream. Several students stayed after the event and fished a bit. We managed to catch a few.

Many thanks to the donors including the many who donated funds at our annual banquet as well as LL Bean for the donation of fly rods. Many thanks to Pete Peterson for loaning us his equipment and supplies from the fly tying class. And thanks to Kit Kechejian, Dick Rother and Klaus Nielsen for leading the three groups of students.

Most importantly, thanks to the volunteers who made the event successful. I hear every year how rewarding the volunteers find the day. We'll be holding another event next spring and I encourage TU members to get involved.





FLY-TYING CLASS

CVTU will again sponsor a fly-tying class for a fee of \$100 which is a donation to the chapter. There will be challenges for the tier who has mastered the basics but it will include procedures for the beginner. So, for novices and more experienced tiers, it promises to be a most rewarding experience. Once again, the class will have numerous teachers so the participants will almost get one-on-one instruction. There will be various handouts and detailed, step-by-step instructions for each fly tied.

Tentatively, the class will be held on six Thursdays starting on January 7, 2010. The remaining five classes will be held on Thursday, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18 and 2/25. They will begin at 7:30pm at Pete Peterson's home in Newtown. The reason for the lapse between the first and second class is to allow participants to get the required tools, equipment and materials. This should give participants the chance to order supplies online or by phone or mail. Participants may also purchase supplies (sometimes at really great prices) at the Fly Fishing Show in Marlborough, MA (Friday, January 15th thru Sunday, January 17th) or Somerset, NJ (Friday, January 22nd thru Sunday, January 24th).

The first class will be a detailed discussion, accompanied by hand outs, of tools, equipment, and materials and suggestions about where to procure them. We will also discuss useful books and web sites. Finally, there will be a hands-on exercise on tying on, tying a half hitch and tying a whip finish. Accordingly, the only thing participants will have to bring is material to make notes.

In the last five classes, 3 different flies will be tied in each class. For beginners, the class will emphasize fly-tying principles and deal with larger flies. For repeat participants, some of the flies tied this year will be different from last year's flies and the focus will be on smaller flies. In either case, participants will build on the skills and techniques learned in prior classes and continue to learn new methods. The Chapter will provide the hooks for the classes.

Should participants be unable to attend a particular class, the hand-out material will be provided. A couple of additional Thursdays will be reserved in case a class must be cancelled due to inclement weather.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Pete Peterson by phone at [203] 426-3004, by e-mail at cpeterson3004@charter.net or in person at one of the meetings.

CVTU-sponsored Master Class and Sponsored Trips

Current as of September 1 , 2009

Class: Knot Tying for Fly Fishers - Brookfield Library 9-19- 2009

by Rob Lewis

Rob is the proprietor of Anglers Den and Rob's Realistic Flies in Pawling, an accomplished fly tier, and a gifted guide. The approach will be to teach participants reliable knots for a fly reel arbor to backing connection, all the way through to the knot(s) you use to connect your fly to the tippet. A few extras like constructing wire leaders for toothy game fish, and how to tie loops will round out the curriculum. Demonstrations and hands-on practice using materials distributed at the class. Registration fee of \$35 includes materials used for knot tying exercises.

Class: Streamer Fishing on Housatonic River 9-26- 2009

Loren Williams

Loren Williams, a member of the 2008 and 2009 USA Fly Fishing Teams, and the 2005 Team Fly Tier, and an accomplished guide on the Salmon River in Pulaski, will be conducting an all day "Streamer Fishing" Clinic on the Housatonic River. Loren will teach a two hour introductory theory class, we will have lunch at the Cornwall Inn, and then we will adjourn to the Housatonic River for an afternoon hands-on clinic. Registration fee of \$75 includes lunch and morning coffee.

Class: Fly Tying with Pete Peterson (Thursdays, starting in January)

Class: Fly Fishing for Great Lakes Steelhead by Rick Kustich on January 23, 2010

Class: Caddisflies by Thomas Ames on April 24, 2010

Trip: wade Little Juniata in PA for trout in May

Class: George Daniel Clinic on May 10 or May 12, 2010

Trip: float Deerfield in Massachusetts for rainbows in June

Class: A Walking Tour of the Croton River by Rob Lewis - spring of 2010

Trip: float Androscoggin River in Maine for small mouth bass in July

Trip: wade Salmon River in New York for steelhead in the fall

Class attendance is open to all Trout Unlimited members and their guests, but enrollment is limited. No Walk-ins. For additional details, and registration forms, please check the Forums at www.cvtu.org

To reserve a seat, please send a check (made out to CVTU) for the registration and a completed registration form to Gary Whipple at 121 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT 06812.

Notes:

Suggestions for new classes or trip venues welcome. Drop an email or postcard to Gary Whipple

Input Sought for 2010 Trips Calendar

It is time to gather your thoughts and make your suggestions about where you'd like to have CVTU-sponsored fishing trips in 2010. We will probably be looking for four trips again this next year. In 2009, we fished the Little Juniata and Fishing Creek (plan B because Penns Creek was out of its banks) in central Pennsylvania, and floated the Deerfield River in northern Massachusetts for rainbows. We also have trips scheduled in October to fish for land locked salmon from drift boats in the Kennebec River in Maine, and to stalk Cattaraugus Creek steelhead near Buffalo in early November. Anything goes in the way of a suggestion. I will start planning trips in September once i get back from my fishing vacation, so hand me a card with your thoughts at the September meeting, or drop me a postcard or drop me an email.

In the context of trips and signing up for them, it is important for you to know that the board has been working on a policy to address what happens when a person signs up for a trip and then withdraws. While the policy is still under development, it appears that we will "pencil in" a seat for a trip based on a verbal request, but the seat will be guaranteed only when a non refundable deposit check is received. A second deposit will be required some time iin advance of the trip; that second deposit will be sized and timed to protect other trip participants from the extra expenses that are incurred by a person withdrawing. If the withdrawing person finds a replacement to fill his seat, he can get a refund of his two deposits.

An example might help us all: 4 persons commit to a one day float trip on a CVTU-sponsored trip; this means two boats with two guides, and two fisherman in each boat. A boat and guide costs \$400 for the day, or \$200 for each fisherman. The day before the trip, John withdraws, leaving his boatmate, Sam, alone in the drift boat. Rather than having Sam pay the whole \$400 for the boat and guide, John would have paid his \$200 deposit before hand, and that deposit would pay for John's seat.

There is still an ongoing discussion about this topic, with lots of strong feelings on all sides of the issue. While the concrete is still wet, please let a board member know what you think of the issue and how we can deal with it equitably.

Steve with a Deerfield trout



The boys catch fish on the Deerfield



Floating the Deerfield River

By Stephen Zakur

In late June Joe Hovious, Bill Dunn, Gary Whipple, and I floated the Deerfield River fishing for Trout and Bass. The guides for the day were the Harrison brothers – Tom and Dan – of Harrison Anglers. They also brought a guide-in-training/slave/butt-of-all-jokes Ryan along. The guys are a great group who knew the river and its fish, could masterfully maneuver a boat, and got everyone on fish pretty consistently. One could not ask for more.

The first day we fished a couple of miles of river just below the dam. This portion of the river was classic riffle-pool structure with more riffle/pocket water than pool. My first two trout came from the first eddy we parked at. We were fishing large PMXs and Bugmeisters. The first fish was one of those “hey, where’d my fly go” moments. A gentle suck of the fly caused it to disappear and reappear in the mouth of a particularly lively Rainbow. Fortunately, I set the hook quickly enough to get the fish on and into the net.

Most of our focus was on the banks drifting large flies like PMXs and Bugmeisters. The fly of the day seemed to be the Bugmeister both in peacock and a burgundy color. We cast hard against the banks and worked on getting long drifts. The takes were explosive and by lunch we had all managed fish. I had even managed a small smallmouth.

After lunch it was more of the same. We moved from pool to pool with a lot of focus on the banks in the riffles. It seemed like the best action was along the banks in tiny little eddies that held big trout. Nothing monstrous came to the boat though I don’t think any fish was under twelve inches and many were fat and in the fifteen to seventeen inch range. The day ended with a great meal and outstanding local brew at the West End Café in Shelburne Falls.

Our strategy for the second day was very similar to the previous day – fishing the edges of pools and hard against the bank in between pools. The fishing in the morning was slow. I think I managed only four trout though they were all healthy Browns and Bows.

Tom and Dan planned a special treat for lunch. They brought along a gas fired grill and made steaks. Beer. Steak. Fine cheeses. Nice. Though with all that food pounded down it made getting started for the afternoon session a bit difficult.

The best moment of the afternoon was as we approached a large bend pool. Joe and I were floating with Dan. Tom was already there fishing the outside of the bend with Bill and Gary. As we approach Dan comments that he hasn’t seen a bend in either Gary or Bill’s rod. Clearly there’s some friendly intra-family competition going on. We pull up on the inside of the bend and anchor. Joe and I both cast out with streamers and we both hook up on the first cast and land two nice fish.

As we’re looking over feeling good about our display of fishing prowess (and sharing in Dan’s trumping of his brother) we see a deep bend in Gary’s rod. Gary then proceeds to land five or six fish seemingly on consecutive casts. And when Gary doesn’t have a bend in his rod, Bill does. It was one of the few times during the day that we all got to fish together and everyone did well. Definitely, the highlight of the trip.

All in all, a great float trip with good company and very good guides. Thanks to Gary Whipple for planning another excellent trip. I’ll definitely be going back there soon.



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: www.cvtu.org

A Spawning Brown in one of our local streams

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