

Trout Lines



President's Corner

Adam Taylor

Next Meeting: January 12, 2010

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 12th at 7 pm at the Miry Brook Firehouse in Danbury, Connecticut.

Paul Dinice will be speaking with us about "Fishing for Stripers on the Housatonic". The topics will include techniques, flies, bait and locations.

As usual, we'll also have a Swap-n-Sell table so bring those items you're looking to unload. We'll also be doing some fly tying prior to the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

Save the Date for Banquet Fundraiser

We will have our annual fundraiser on March 26, 2010. Save the date, more details will follow – and you can stay updated on our website: CVTU.org.

CT DEP Stream Flow Standards Being Shaped

Doug Peterson is leading the Chapter's efforts to support the Connecticut DEP revision to stream flow standards. If you have any comments or opinions or would like to help shape our responses, contact him at Doug.Peterson@CVTU.org.

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 as well as the forum at www.cvtu.org. Usually, if Danbury High School is closed that day, we will not hold a meeting.



TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM - January 2010

Jerry Rekart & Gary Whipple

It's hard to believe we are half way through the 2009/2010 Trout in the Classroom school year. In August we determined how many new start and restart kits we needed for this year's classes. We picked up a new class at Sarah Nobel in New Milford, Anna H. Rockwell in Bethel and Rogers Park in Danbury. However, we lost three schools; one due to apathy, one to a pregnancy where the substitute didn't think she could care for the tank and one due to a teacher change. The good news is that two of the schools intend to return next year.

September and October saw us setting up the new tanks and restarting the old tanks. This isn't just a matter of throwing in the water. The teacher has to build a biosphere in which the eggs and later the trout can survive. While the tank is being conditioned to accept the eggs, the students are going through a similar conditioning as they gain an understanding of the tank, prepared to accept the eggs and are started down a path to an understanding of conservation, the care and feeding of fish, streams and watersheds, fish food in the wild, and many other areas that will be new and exciting to them.

On November 17th, the big day arrived! The mentors distributed four thousand eight hundred eggs to their schools. The distribution went smoothly thanks to the mentors and volunteers, and the eggs were in the classrooms and now we had to wait for the hatch. We didn't have to wait for long. The hatch started over the Thanksgiving break and was finished by the end of the month.

The next time of concern will be the Christmas and Spring break, when the fish are unattended and alternate ways of monitoring and feeding have to be planned.

It won't be long until May arrives and I'll be looking for volunteers to assist the monitors at the releases. I have already asked the teachers to provide me with the place and time they wish to release.

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 or rekart@earthlink.net.



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)



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. 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 hooks for the classes.

Should participants be unable to attend a particular class, the handout 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.

Check it out !!

If you haven't gone there recently, pull up our newly re-designed web site, CVTU.org. It pops with easy to find and read features and news of our activities. Try it, you'll like it !! And, take a minute to compliment Steve Zakur on the job when you see him at the meetings.

Register Now for Upcoming Master Classes!

If you haven't been on a trip or attended one of our Master Classes you're missing some of the best features of being a Candlewood Valley TU member. These events are reasonably priced and focused on making you a better fisher person.

We have finalized the schedule for the CVTU-sponsored Master Classes for the remainder of the 2009-2010 season. Our planned classes include:

[Fly Tying Class](#) by Peter Peterson - 6 weeks beginning on January 7, 2010

[Caddisflies](#) by Thomas Ames on April 24, 2010

[Fly Fishing Fundamentals](#) with George Daniel on May 10, 2010

[A Walking Tour of the Croton River](#) by Rob Lewis in the spring of 2010

So far this fall, we had three master classes scheduled. The Beginner-to-Intermediate Fly Fishermen's Knots Tying Class with Rob Lewis and the Fly Fishing for Great Lakes Steelhead Class with Rick Kustich were both cancelled due to less-than-adequate registrations. A Streamer Fishing Class with Loren Williams was held on the Housatonic River as scheduled, to great acclaim.

These classes are all self-funded, meaning CVTU needs to set the registration fee at or about what we expend for the teacher, the room rental and any food that is provided. We assume a registration of about 15 people to break even, and if the registration falls below that we are faced with taking the loss or canceling the class.

With the exception of the fly tying class being offered by Pete Peterson, we presently have a total of 14 registrants for the remaining three classes. We make a decision about the status of each class 60-90 days ahead of each session so the instructor is not inconvenienced, so we will probably decide at the January meeting if the Thomas Ames class will be held or cancelled, and we will decide at the February meeting if the George Daniel class will be held. Check the Forum on CVTU.org for news and status.

Caddisflies with Thomas Ames

Gary Whipple

Noted author Thomas Ames is conducting a caddis flies clinic on Saturday, April 24, 2010. The session will be split between a classroom, and the river. This session will be similar to the Fish Bugs class taught by Mike Buschene last year.

Preregistration is required; no walk-ins will be accepted. Registration is limited to 20 TU members and guests. The \$75 registration fee for this class includes morning coffee and a light lunch. On-site sign-in will start at 9:30 am on April 24. Class starts at 10:00 am sharp. Thomas will talk about caddis from 10:00 am -12:00 pm, we will have lunch, and then Thomas will talk about caddis imitations. We will finish by 5:00 pm with an on-the-water session on the Pootatuck River.

More details as they are developed. Registrants will be contacted with class venue once details are set. Check the Forum on CVTU.org for continuing updates and details.

CVTU-sponsored Fishing Trips

Gary Whipple

CVTU has arranged for a number of fishing trips for members this year. We are:

- Brown trout fishing the Little Juniata in Pennsylvania on May 19 and 20 with Keystone Anglers.
- Floating the Deerfield in Massachusetts for rainbow trout on June 23 and 24 with Harrison Anglers.
- Drift boating the Androscoggin River in Maine for world class smallmouth bass on July 23 and 24 with Michael Jones and friends
- Stalking steelhead on the Salmon River in upstate New York on November 16 and 17 with a team of outstanding guides.

Seats are still available for the Little Juniata trip. Names are being taken for the wait lists on the other three trips because they are all full at the moment.

If you have a specific suggestion for a future trip, please let someone on the Board know of your interest.

(Ed. – On behalf of the Board and all our members who have participated in any of the trips or Master Classes Gary has arranged, we extend a broad “Thank You” to Gary for his yeoman efforts and outstanding results during his service over the last few years as Trips and Master Classes leader. We have learned many new skills and visited many venues we likely would not have discovered without his efforts).



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 between 7:00 and 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

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