

THE DROUGHT OF 2016

PROTECTING TROUT IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



JEFF YATES PHOTO

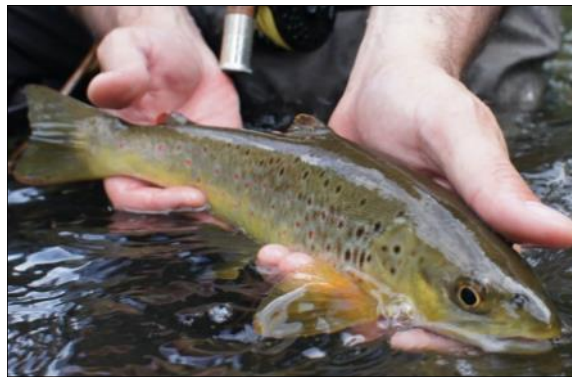
Thirteen inches. In pretty much any standard of measure, it's a small amount - a trifle.

When talking about rainfall however, in a state that receives just 50 inches of rain annually, it's fair to say that being short by thirteen inches is significant.

As we enter winter still in a state of extreme drought, a drought that began in late June and has gone unabated all summer and fall with mandatory water conservation measures put into effect in Greenwich, Stamford and Norwalk, the question on many anglers minds is "Have the trout survived?"

Let's start with the short answer - yes, trout have survived the drought in all of our local trout streams and in the states larger rivers, like the Housatonic and Farmington. Populations have been hit hard, many adult fish were lost, and it will take time for our rivers to recover, for the population densities to be restored and for fishing to feel more like normal on many local streams.

A single, prolonged drought can devastate a trout stream, but it typically does not destroy it. The real threat comes with successive, severe low-water events which diminish multiple generations of trout.



While we can hope that this year's drought was a one-time event, the odds are that in this rapidly changing climate we will see more frequent and more severe droughts on a recurring basis and we need to prepare our rivers for them.

To combat this, our chapter is working to plan for a hotter, drier future. In the following pages, you will read how we are planting more trees to shade and cool the rivers, narrowing stream channels to provide deeper low-water refuge pools for trout, removing dams and looking to reduce flooding and increase the resilience of our rivers. We hope you'll join us in this important work ahead.

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AN ANGLER'S EYE



Lawrence Frank, a professional photographer and Mianus TU board member, brings our story to life through images.

To say that Lawrence Frank has made an impact on the Mianus Chapter would be to diminish the true depth of support he has given to our chapter over the years.

Long before he joined our board of directors, Lawry's skills as a photographer made it easy for us to tell our chapter's story and grow our community of members and volunteers.

His ability to capture the true essence of what it means to be a TU member, to share a passion for fishing and conservation, and a love of our local rivers is beyond compare.

Thanks to Lawry, we can share vibrant images of our members and friends making sure our rivers are in better shape for generations to come. We are lucky to have his support and talent!

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ABOUT US

The Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited conserves, protects and restores the coldwater rivers and streams in lower Fairfield County. We are a community of anglers who share a passion for fishing and protecting the rivers we fish. With more than 600 members living in Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, Norwalk, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Wilton and beyond, we lead restoration projects and cleanup events on local rivers, promote educational programs in schools, host fishing outings for members and collaborate on conservation programs across the region. We host free monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month September through April at Waveny Mansion in New Canaan. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Learn more at: www.mianustu.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

DOUBLING DOWN TO PROTECT LOCAL RIVERS

One of the best parts of being a Mianus Chapter member is the knowledge that together we are making our local rivers healthier and engaging more area children in environmental education!

You should all be proud of what you've helped make possible in this past year. From more than a mile of stream restored and improved, to over 1,000 students inspired by our education programs, our impact is strong and growing!

And while we were as active as ever in our river restoration and youth education projects, this was also a year when we began planning for much bigger things to come.

We conducted flow and temperature analysis on a native brook trout stream hampered by drinking water withdrawals in the hopes of starting a dialogue to improve that stream.

We funded sediment sampling behind a dam on the Norwalk River with the expectation of beginning the process of planning its removal with the landowner.

We assessed the health and habitat of more than six-miles of the Norwalk River and identified a need for increased deep pools and log structures throughout the system.

We developed a proposal to begin reducing polluted storm water from reaching the river and



Mianus TU President Tony Hill, measures culverts during a training on assessing barriers to fish passage in streams with the state of Connecticut fisheries biologists.

have pitched this plan to major funders in the region.

All of these planning efforts were made with an eye towards one goal - to tee-up opportunities for some major projects in 2017 and beyond!

And with your continued support, we will. This year, you contributed over 6,000 volunteer hours and donated over \$90,000.

As an all-volunteer organization, accomplishing all that we have, and growing into a larger and more impactful group takes an incredible amount of time, and dedication. We are blessed to have so many active volunteers, members and supporters that help drive our work forward.

It is our privilege to be able to share this love of rivers, this deep reverence for trout and this belief that we can accomplish great

things together.

In this newsletter, you will find an envelope to send a donation to Mianus TU. I hope you will join hundreds of others in making a contribution - no matter what the size - as all donations go directly into our important conservation and youth education work.

What's more, you can rest assured that your donations are leveraged even further by the thousands of hours of volunteer effort that go into each and every project that we take on.

Whether you make a financial contribution to help us grow our work in the year ahead, join us at a river cleanup or restoration project, or both, thank you for all that you do for Mianus TU!

Tight Lines,
Tony Hill
President

VOLUNTEER, LEAD, DONATE - WE NEED YOUR HELP & SUPPORT

From members stepping forward to pick up trash, plant trees and teach kids to fish and tie flies, to volunteers willing to lead a committee or plan an event - we need all sorts of help to grow our impact this coming year. Please consider how you can help Mianus TU do even more in 2017. Then contact us and share your idea or offer. In our all-volunteer group, every helping hand is incredibly valuable.

THE BENNETT WOOD STEWARDSHIP FUND

HONORING BEN'S LEGACY WITH INAUGURAL PLANTING PROJECT



The tragic loss of Ben Wood, the Mianus Chapter intern who died in February at the age of 23, left our community reeling and tore a hole in the hope we had all shared for the bright future ahead for a remarkable young man who cared deeply about rivers.

Out of the loss, however, Ben's family had a beautiful vision of a way to honor their son's life and his passion for conservation. The Bennett Wood Stewardship Fund will help support important river restoration and internship work for decades to come.

To date, nearly \$60,000 has been raised.

In October, the Wood family and more than 100 of their friends and Mianus Chapter members planted over 1,000 native trees and shrubs along the Norwalk River. Not only was the project the first to be funded with the stewardship fund, it was also the last project planned by Ben during his internship.

The project, which helped restore over 500 feet of stream bank, will make habitat better for the wild brown trout that spawn in the Norwalk River. By stabilizing the riverbank to prevent erosion, shading the river to keep it cool and protecting trout from predators, the plants are already making a difference.

As the trees grow to full size, and the shrubs fill in the streamside buffer, they will also



More than 100 volunteers helped plant over 1,000 native trees and shrubs along the Norwalk River at the YMCA property in Wilton this fall. The project was a poignant event as it completed an effort that started with Ben Wood, who planned and designed the restoration as a Mianus Chapter intern prior to his death in February 2015.

help filter polluted stormwater runoff before it reaches the river, improving water quality not only for the trout, but also for the entire Long Island Sound watershed.

In the coming spring, we plan to continue the project by installing an informational kiosk at this highly visible site. We will also engage

students from the local high school across the street in monitoring and maintaining the restoration project site and its impacts.

In the years ahead, the power of Ben's legacy will continue to improve our local rivers. To donate to the Bennett Wood Stewardship Fund, visit www.mianustu.org/benwood.html

INTERNSHIP IMPACT

MAX AND GERALD LEND BRAINS AND BRAWN TO THEIR SUMMER PROJECTS

Chances are, if you fish in Fairfield County, you've bumped into Max Jones and Gerald Berrafati a time or two on the water.

The two young men, both Wilton residents, are fanatics about fly fishing and love seeking out trout on just about any type of stream.

Having been active Mianus TU volunteers in high school, it was only natural that Max, a student at Hobart and William Smith, and Gerald, a College of the Holy Cross student, would make for perfect summer interns.

Given their passion for trout, and their deep love for the Norwalk River, this summer's work was a chance for the young men to learn some important skills while giving back to a resource that has given them so much.

Their initial project was a research-based effort, to determine how the chapter could most effectively build a dialogue with a local water company's elected commission in an effort to change practices of flow and water withdrawal on a native brook trout stream. It was clear that the chapter needed to speak up for this river, but without fully understanding the goals and needs of the water company, starting that conversation would be difficult at best.

Thanks to their efforts and research, we now have a strategy in place to propose changes to the water company that will minimize their risk to the drinking water supply while allowing for improved in-stream flows to benefit the brook trout!



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Max Jones, left, and Gerald Berrafati made an impact on the stream and in the board room this summer. Their work was crucial in helping the chapter plan a major advocacy effort to protect a native brook trout stream on water company land. What's more, they single-handedly built a half-dozen deep pools in the Norwalk River to help trout survive the severe drought that had made them vulnerable to predation.

While Max and Gerald spent most of the summer bent over books and reading through water company meeting minutes and charters, it was important, also, to get them out on the river getting their hands dirty.

As the summer dry spell turned into a drought, it became evident that the local trout were suffering and in dire need of support. Max and Gerald eagerly stepped up to start building deeper pools to protect the trout.

In high heat and humidity, the two spent countless hours carrying boulders and tossing cobbles across the stream to narrow the channel and provide refuge for the trout.

You can view their work most easily downstream of the wooden bridge at Merwin Meadows Park in Wilton where the Norwalk River now cascades into a series of deep, cool pools protected by overhead trees and bushes. (Be sure to toss a fly under the bush on the right-hand side of the stream!)

AN OPPORTUNITY TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATIONISTS

The future of our trout streams depends on having more young people, like Max, Gerald, Kyle and Kristina, who care about the environment and want to protect it.

Making conservation a family activity is easy to do with Mianus TU. Whether at a trash cleanup, streamside planting project or river restoration event, we always have a variety of ways a family can get involved no matter how young or old your children are. And chapter fishing trips are always family-friendly so never hesitate to bring your kids. The chapter even has fly and spin rods you can borrow!

Another great way to grow and transform young lives is by giving a gift youth membership to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews! Simply go to www.tu.org/headwaters to give a Stream Explorers (\$12 - under age 13) or TU Teen (\$14 - ages 13-18) membership today!



JEFF YATES PHOTO

KYLE WILSON EARNS HIS EAGLE WITH RESTORATION PROJECT



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Kyle Wilson of Wilton earned his Eagle Scout badge after designing, planning and completing a river restoration project with Mianus TU.

When Kyle Wilson is 50 years old, the 750 trees and shrubs he and 40 other Boy Scouts planted along the Norwalk River will be towering oaks, majestic maples and incredible sycamores that shade and protect the quiet pools and the trout living in them.

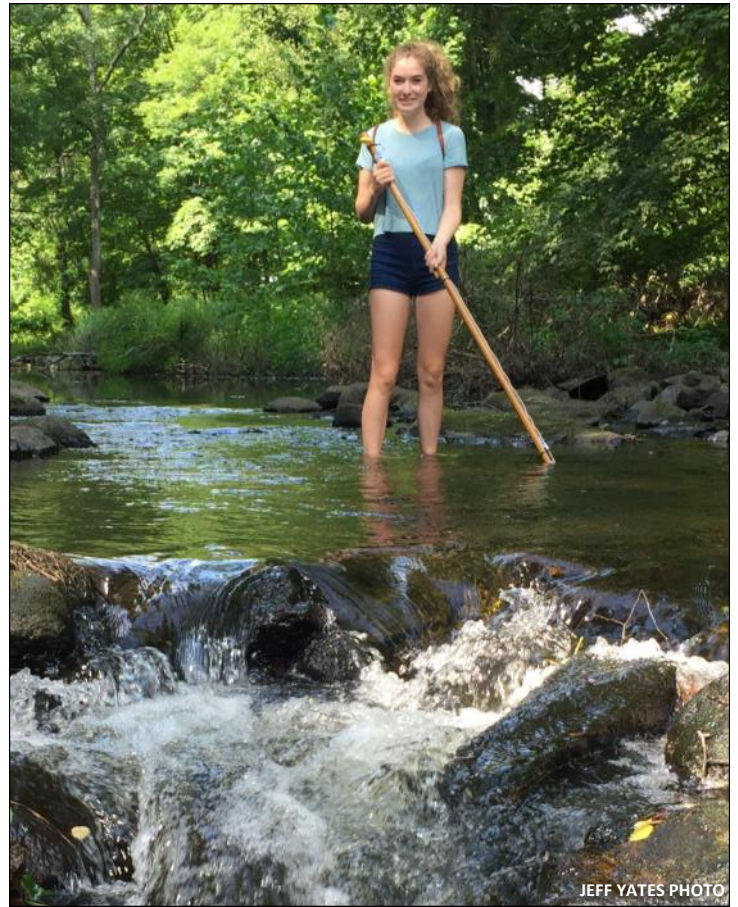
Of course, by that time, we also fully expect that Kyle - who earned his Eagle Scout badge for the project - will have saved thousands of acres of open space, protected two endangered species and funded important scientific research on ecosystem restoration in his position as the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee!

It may be too much to expect Kyle - who just started his senior year of high school - to save the world all on his own, but given all we've seen of this young man we can hope for the future!

Kyle's project was a riparian buffer planting - a strip of native vegetation planted along the river to prevent erosion, filter polluted storm water runoff and provide shade to keep the river cool and overhanging limbs to protect trout from predators.

The next time you're fishing off Old Mill Road in Wilton, you'll have Kyle and his fellow Scouts to thank for the great fishing.

KRISTINA MITCHELL DISCOVERS WHERE TROUT HIDE IN SUMMER



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Kristina Mitchell of Darien worked through the heat of the summer to map all the cold refuge pools where trout go to stay safe in low water.

Droughts and low water conditions are sure to continue in the future, making it more difficult than ever for trout to survive the summer heat in local rivers.

Thanks to Kristina Mitchell, a Darien High School student, however, we now know how we can help. Over the course of several weeks in August, Kristina walked more than five miles of stream, measuring water temperature and mapping the cold, deep pools where trout were observed.

These pools - referred to as summer refuge habitat - are critical for trout survival in the heat of the summer. They provide cold, clean water to ensure survival, even during a drought, and cover and protection from predators - especially herons and egrets.

Now, with Kristina's maps and detailed notes on the number of trout and the conditions of each of these pools, we can work to prioritize our restoration projects so that we are improving the best habitat first to maximize the potential of holdover trout making it through these tough summers.

We'll start the restoration work this coming summer and expect to see an impact almost immediately!

Events at a Glance

Sunday, January 1

New Year's Day Fishing Trip

Tuesday, January 10

Fly Tying Clinic

Tuesday, February 7

Chapter Meeting

Friday, February 24

Fly Fishing Film Tour

Tuesday, March 14

Chapter Meeting

Saturday, March 25

Mianus River Fishing Trip

Saturday, April 1

Croton River Fishing Trip

Saturday, April 8

Annual Fundraising Banquet

Tuesday, April 11

Local Tips & Tactics Class

Saturday, April 22

Norwalk River Trash Cleanup

Sunday, April 23

Mianus River Restoration

Sunday, April 29

Mill River Fishing Trip

May 5-7

TU Northeast Rendezvous

Saturday, May 13

Family Fishing Clinic

Saturday, May 20

Housatonic River BBQ

Saturday, May 27

Norwalk River Restoration

Saturday, June 3

Saltwater Fishing Trip

Friday, June 16

George Daniel Talk

Saturday, June 17

Farmington River BBQ

Saturday, June 24

Mianus River Restoration

July 7-9

West Branch Angler Trip

Saturday, July 15

Norwalk River Restoration

2017 UPCOMING EVENTS - JOIN US ON THE WATER!

New Year's Day Fishing Trip - Norwalk River - Friday, January 1

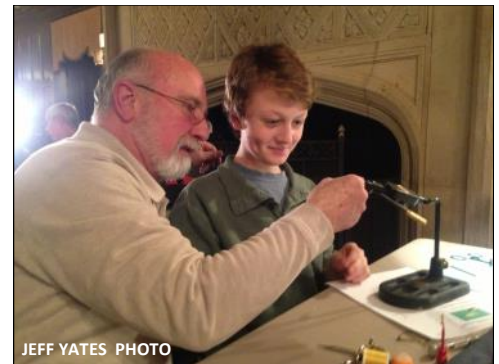
The Mianus Chapter's New Year's Day fishing trip is a fun tradition. Join us on Sunday, January 1 at 10 a.m. at Merwin Meadows Park in Wilton to spend a morning fishing with friends and fellow members. We'll have hot coffee and doughnuts ready and waiting - and after fishing a few hours you're invited to join us for a late no-host lunch at a nearby restaurant. The river can fish well in the winter if the weather and temperatures are on our side, so you'll likely find some hungry trout in many of the deeper pools. Whether you are a beginner or expert angler, this chapter trip is a great way to learn how to fish our local streams in winter.



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Winter Fly Tying Clinic - Waveny House - Tuesday, January 10

There's nothing more fun than catching a fish on a fly you've tied yourself. Join us at our annual Fly Tying Clinic on Tuesday, January 10 at Waveny House in New Canaan starting at 7 p.m. Our expert tyers will teach you how to tie their favorite local fresh and saltwater patterns. This meeting is perfect for kids and families, and we'll have all the gear and tools you'll need to get started - though you are free to bring your own vise and materials. Even if you've never tied a fly before, come for the camaraderie, some refreshments, great fishing talk and more.



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Chapter Meeting - Waveny House - Tuesday, February 7

Join friends and fellow anglers from the Mianus Chapter for our monthly February meeting on Tuesday, February 7 at Waveny House in New Canaan starting at 7 p.m. The topic is TBD, but with the spring season right around the corner, we'll likely focus on tips and tactics related to local fishing. Regardless of the topic, you're sure to meet new people who share your passion for fishing and taking care of our local rivers. Chapter meetings are free and open to the public. Members are encouraged to bring friends, colleagues and family members.



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Fly Fishing Film Tour - Trumbull - Friday, February 24

If you've never been to an a Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) showing, you're in for a treat. You'll enjoy dozens of incredibly shot, exciting fishing and conservation films while enjoying a few cold drinks and fun raffles and door prizes. The best part is that this great night supports the conservation and education programs of the Mianus, Candlewood and Nutmeg Chapters here in Fairfield County! Be sure to round up your friends and fishing buddies for a fun night out. Tickets will go online soon at www.mianustu.org so don't delay in making your reservations as the last two year's shows have sold out within a matter of weeks! The cinematography on these short films is amazing and the stories and places featured in the movies will inspire you and take your breath away. Check out some trailers online at www.flyfilmtour.com



Chapter Meeting - Tuesday, March 14

Spend a fun evening learning about fishing for striped bass and bluefish on Long Island Sound from Capt. Rob Thompson. The meeting will be held at Waveny House in New Canaan starting at 7 p.m. Chapter meetings are free and open to the public. Members are encouraged to bring friends, colleagues and family members.



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Mianus River Fishing Trip - Saturday, March 25

If you've never fished the famed Early Black Stonefly hatch on the Mianus River, now's your chance! Join us on Saturday, March 25 at Mianus River Park in Stamford at 9 a.m. for a great day on the water. The river will likely have been stocked and the trout will be gorging on the big bugs as they hatch. This local trip is perfect for kids, families and beginners or anglers new to the area.



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Croton Watershed Trip - Saturday, April 1

Hop across the border into New York for great fishing on the Croton Watershed, a dam-release system feeding drinking water from the Catskills down to New York City. We'll wait until closer to the date to make a call on which of the many rivers is fishing best, but regardless it will be well worth the 30-45 minute drive!



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Annual Fundraising Banquet - Saturday, April 8

Save the date now for one of the biggest events of the spring! The Mianus Chapter's annual banquet brings together more than a hundred members and friends to celebrate all we have accomplished together and commit to the work still ahead. Please plan to join us for this incredible night of camaraderie, conversation and support of our critical local education and river restoration work. You'll have a great time, meet people like you, help us continue our work and have the chance to win incredible prizes and trips!



LAWRENCE FRANK PHOTO

Local Tips & Tactics - Tuesday, April 11

You won't want to miss this chapter meeting! Every year, as a new fishing season arrives, our chapter experts share their tips and tactics on how and where to find the best fishing on our local rivers and what you can do to make the most of your time out on the water. The free food, beer and fun at Orvis in Darien, also help!



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Back-to-Back River Cleanups - April 22 & 23

Help us keep the Norwalk and Mianus Rivers clean at our annual trash cleanup events in the spring. A fun way to meet fellow members, learn more about the rivers and engage your family in conservation. We will be on the Norwalk River on Saturday in Wilton and the Mianus River on Sunday in Greenwich. We will pick up trash from 9 a.m. to noon followed by lunch and fishing.



LAWRENCE FRANK PHOTO

Mill River "Trees & Trout" - Saturday, April 29

Plant trees along the Mill River in Fairfield, then spend the afternoon chasing native brook trout and wild browns in this incredible local tailwater. This event and trip is a great way to learn where and how to fish this gem of a local trout stream with our friends and fellow conservationists from the neighboring Nutmeg Chapter.



JEFF YATES PHOTO

Family Fishing Clinic - Saturday, May 13

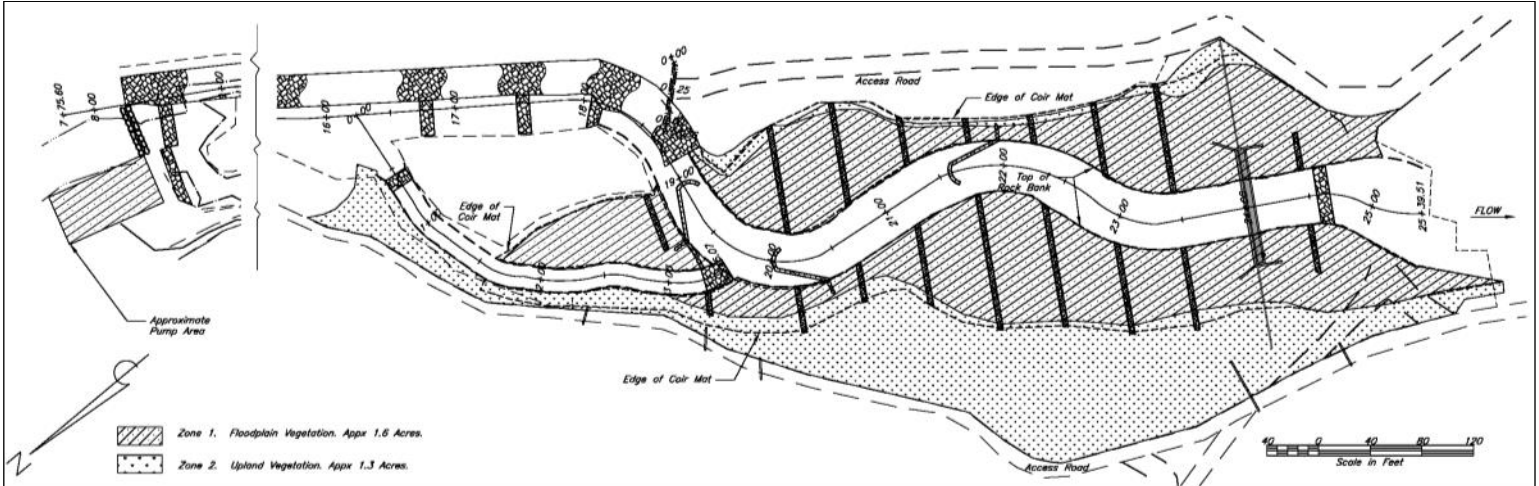
Nothing beats a great spring day learning to fish, fly fish or improve your casting at our annual Family Fishing Clinic at Merwin Meadows Park in Wilton. What's more, the state will be stocking several hundred trout, so almost everyone will have a chance to catch a trout! We will hold the clinic from 10 a.m. to noon, host a free barbecue lunch and then break for fishing or more casting practice. Kids should be there by 10 a.m. for trout stocking. All gear is provided if needed at this free event!



LAWRENCE FRANK PHOTO

DOWN WITH THE DAMS

OPENING THE NORWALK RIVER TO LONG ISLAND SOUND



Engineering plans aren't the prettiest of pictures, but images like the above - schematics for a dam removal on the Norwalk River- are essential when trying to improve our river on a scale many of us couldn't imagine just a few short years ago. That makes this drawing a priceless work of art in the eyes of Mianus TU members and volunteers!

Imagine, in the very near future, standing in the cool, canopied waters of the Norwalk River and quietly tossing a streamer into some likely log cover up near the Ridgefield town line.

Suddenly, the calm is shattered by a vicious strike and the screaming of your reel as a trout - far larger than any you've caught on this river before - tears across the pool heading for deeper water and safety.

The battle is long and hard-fought, and eventually ends with you bringing to hand a bright, silvery brown trout the likes of which you've never seen before. You admire the fish for a minute, then carefully cradle it until it regains its strength and with a flick of its tail slides into the deep, dark waters.

The trout is a sea-run brown trout - a fish that is rare for the Norwalk, and can only be caught in the lower two miles of the river, downstream of where the Flock Dam blocks these large fish from migrating out of Long Island Sound. But you were fishing far upstream - more than 11 miles away from the brackish waters of the Norwalk Harbor where these brutes grow large competing with predators like bluefish and striped bass for the swarms of small baitfish in the Sound.

A few years ago, this vision may have seemed like just a fantasy, but now, with the Flock Dam being removed next summer, the door is open for even more dams to come down.



Dams not only block trout from swimming upstream to spawn, they also prevent downstream migration during droughts like this past summer's and super-heat rivers to temperatures that cannot support trout. The Flock Dam in Norwalk, (top left) is scheduled to be removed this coming summer. The Dana Dam in Wilton (top right) is poised for removal discussions thanks to formal engineering and permit-ready plans. The work is also just starting to study the Cannondale Dam (bottom two images) where the Mianus Chapter and the dam owner recently split the cost of state sediment sampling to determine how best to safely take down that dam.

Next on the list would be the Dana Dam, just upstream of Merwin Meadows Park in Wilton, and as shown above, the plans are in place for this structure's removal and now only the permitting and funding pieces need to be put in place with a little local advocacy. Then the Cannondale Dam can be targeted

for removal, with sediment sampling this summer helping move that goal closer.

It's not a done deal, dam removals are difficult and expensive projects to undertake to be sure, but never has their been a better chance to make a permanent impact. The time is now for us to marshal our forces.

BUILDING RESILIENCY IN OUR STREAMS

DEEP, COLD POOLS PROTECT TROUT DURING DROUGHT

It's very likely that the drought this summer was the worst you've seen in your entire life.

Equally as likely, unfortunately, is that this year's low, hot river conditions will become more frequent in the years and ahead.

Even as we were planting trees, building cover and habitat and making the river better for trout this year, we began the important, long-term work of planning for a tougher future for trout in our local rivers.

This work began with a more than six-mile assessment of the Norwalk River's prime trout section with restoration specialists from Urbani Fisheries, a firm that has improved trout habitat across the country for towns, nonprofits and private clients such as Ted Turner.

Their comprehensive analysis and report not only confirmed what we already knew - that the Norwalk river is a gem of a trout stream that has amazing potential - but also that with focused effort on larger in-stream projects, we could drastically improve the river's health, the trout population and the fishing we all enjoy so much.

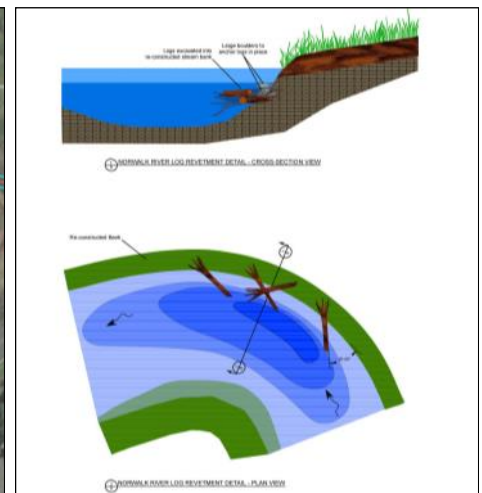
The plan calls for an intensive period of work with a goal of installing four, half-mile-long habitat projects over the next five years that build deep pools and create improved habitat and cover. The expectation is that by adding two miles of water where larger trout can find refuge from predators during the heat of summer, we'll improve the entire length of the river and ensure more big trout holdover and share their genes the following fall.

With marching orders - and a full set of plans and concept designs in hand - we now begin the work of bringing this vision to reality.

The first project we plan to tackle is habitat work at the Schenck's Island open space in Wilton, a 17-acre town and land trust owned parcel in the downtown area where nearly half-a-mile of good trout water is going to get even better thanks to our efforts.



JEFF YATES PHOTO



Tony Hill leads employees from Urbani Fisheries and the town of Wilton on a tour of degraded habitat along the Norwalk River (above). The resulting report and plan from Urbani Fisheries identifies major habitat projects to create the cover and depth big trout need to survive low flows in the summer.

After completing some final survey work and designing each new trout pool down to the last boulder and log, we'll be ready to start.

The hope is that by this summer, heavy equipment will roll into the park to start creating the pools and installing log jams, boulder clusters and other structures to build deep pools that will last through floods and droughts and everything nature - and man - throws at them.

Each new pool we create, every seam and

slide that can hold a big trout, will be one more step towards a Norwalk River that can come through a drought in stronger shape.

To make this vision a reality, however, we'll need your help. In the days and weeks and months ahead, please join us in this work and find out how you can help make a difference.

From elbow grease, to letters to the editor, to donations and more, we'll need every resource the Mianus TU community can bring to bear to keep our trout safe in summer.

FIXING OUR RIVERS

VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTE OVER 6,000 HOURS THIS YEAR

The Mianus Chapter's activities are broad and diverse, but nothing captures our members' passion and drive like our annual conservation and education efforts.

This year will go into the record books as one of our busiest - and most successful - ever thanks to more than 200 individuals who contributed over 6,000 hours to our chapter. Without our volunteers and the dedication they bring to our work, we'd never be able to set our sights on the goals we have for the future.

This year, on the Mianus River, we installed our third 'hardened' access designed to allow walkers, dogs and anglers access to the river while protecting the banks from damaging erosion. We followed that up by installing more than 250 pine trees along the river's edge to stabilize and prevent erosion and also narrow and deepen the stream channel. The fall saw nearly 1,000 native trees and shrubs planted along this same stretch to further improve the trout habitat. Our annual trash cleanup netted a truckload of detritus out of the lower river in Greenwich this past spring.

Along with the Norwalk River work already described, we planted more than 5,000 trees and shrubs, built in-stream cobble structures to narrow channels and provide deeper water during the drought and held several trash cleanups.

Our youth education programs and Family Fishing Day inspires over 1,500 children annually to spend more time outdoors and away from their phones and devices. High level scientific investigation is taking place thanks to our support of youth internships in water quality monitoring, and in-school science classes throughout the region.

Perhaps most importantly, thanks to you, the Mianus Chapter is making a name for itself and attracting partners - both public and private - at a rapid rate.

We can't wait to see what 2017 has in store for our important mission!



JEFF YATES PHOTOS



Volunteers are the engine that drives Mianus TU. From creating better trout habitat on the Norwalk River (above) to installing better pools and access on the Mianus River (left), hundreds of members and friends contributed. Youth education remains vital to our work building the next generation of conservationists with programs like Trout in the Classroom in Stamford (below left) and supporting the Wilton High School water quality studies (below right). New this year were efforts to engage a broader group of partners, including employees of The Nielsen Company (bottom) who cleaned trash from over a mile of river this summer.





JEFF YATES PHOTO

A TU COMMUNITY

Mianus TU is Not Fun Without You!

At it's heart, the Mianus Chapter is a community of people who care, doing all they can to protect the rivers they love. That sense of community is what binds us together and helps us forge deep bonds of friendship with one another. Be sure to join in on the fun this year - we look forward to it!



LAWRENCE FRANK PHOTO



JEFF YATES PHOTO



JEFF YATES PHOTO



JEFF YATES PHOTO



LAWRENCE FRANK PHOTO

CHEERS TO YOU! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR MIANUS TU

It's incredibly rewarding to look back on this past year and see all we've accomplished as a community of anglers with a passion for conservation. Together we are all making our local rivers healthier and engaging more area children in environmental education!

Thanks to your support, this year we:

- Contributed nearly 6,000 volunteer hours on projects and programs
- Restored and improved more than one mile of local stream habitat
- Offered 16 youth education programs to engage and inspire over 1,000 youth
- Held over 30 community events to reach out and grow our presence and impact

As an all-volunteer organization, accomplishing all of this takes an incredible amount of time, commitment and dedication.

Thank you for all that you do for Mianus TU as a member, supporter and volunteer!



JEFF YATES PHOTO

More than 1,000 students participate in our chapter's Trout in the Classroom program in nearly a dozen schools and community locations. The students raise trout from eggs to fry, at the same time learning about ecosystems, the importance of cold, clean water all while having fun in this hands-on science program. It's a great way to foster an interest in conservation among the generation who will soon be leading the charge to protect and restore our rivers, streams and their watersheds!