



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 46

April 2015

Number 4

Presidents Beat

Our annual banquet is now in the past and it was a great night! We had the largest turnout in many years and from what I observed everyone had a wonderful time. It appears to have been a financial success as well and I think Biagio's did a great job with the food and the accommodations. If you missed, it I am sorry to say it was definitely your loss. I want to thank Dino Eftychiou for his help in making it a great event.

The Pequest Open House also appears to have been very successful thanks to a sunny weekend (although it was a little chilly). Word from the state is that it was their largest turnout ever! Thanks to Rich Malizia for organizing the chapter's participation.

These are only two of the events for what is shaping up to be a very active spring. The prior weekend, after the snow melted, we did our annual parking lot maintenance by the Ramapo at Glen Gray road. We had about 15 members participate and we made short work of 2 large piles of wood chips. While we were there, we took a look at the weir that was worked on over the last two years and it was good to see that it is doing its job and diverting the current towards the center of the river. An opportunity to do additional work may exist and we need to check back when the

Continued on bottom of Page 4

When: April at 7:30 PM

Where: American Legion Hall
33 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, NJ

April's Speaker Rod Rohrbach "BUGS"

Rod spent thirty years as a banker before converting a historic Springhouse on the banks of the Little Lehigh to a fly shop. For fifteen years he studied this limestone's ecosystem while giving hundreds fly tying and fly fishing lessons and speaking at fishing and social clubs throughout the Mid Atlantic area.

He is now retired and spends most of his time camping and fishing around the country. His travels serve as a backdrop for his presentation, 'Bugs'.

"Bugs" will enable you have the right fly anywhere you fish. It will provide an easy, humorous, entertaining and understandable approach to entomology for the fly fisherman, without the need for acquiring a degree in Latin or entomology.

Welcome to March's New Members

Jesse Canella	Ridgewood
Lorenzo Damiano	Midland Park
Robert Flynn	Old Tappan
James Piombino	Fair Lawn
David Sylvester	North Haled
Johnny Ventimiglia	Teaneck

Calendar

Please consult EJTU's web site's "Upcoming Events" for the most up-to-date information and details.

Trips: contact Chris Henrickson
C.henrickson@icloud.com

Other events: Rich Malizia at
973-304-0789 or
remqcp@optonline.net

Apr 4 [Sat]

Open-
ing Day

Apr 13/15

Pulaski
Steelhead
Trip

May 9 [Sat] Hooked on Hudson

May 9 [Sat] Secaucus Green
Fair

May [TBD] Delaware Shad trip

May 15 [Wed] Mtng. Speaker
Tom Gilmore

May 23 [Sat] Mahwah Fishing
Derby

May 30 [Sat] Catskills Pig Roast

June 6 [Sat] Ramapo River Day

June 13/20 Block Island Trip

June [TBD] Ausable River trip

July [TBD] Farmington River
Trip

Aug [TBD] Kayak Trip

Sep [TBD] Housatonic Trip

Oct [TBD] Musconetcong Trip

Nov [TBD] Salmon River Steel
head Trip



**East Jersey Chapter
Trout Unlimited
Board of Directors**

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George Petersen

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Ray Cappock

Conservation Chair
Rich Malizia

Founding President
Don Ecker

Monthly General Member Meeting: The East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM.

Location: The American Legion Hall,
33 West Passaic St, Rochelle Park, NJ. 07662.

Monthly Board Meeting: Board Members of East Jersey Trout Unlimited meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30PM.

How to contact us: Website <http://www.eastjerseytu.org> Mailing Address: East Jersey Chapter, Trout Unlimited Box 366 HoHoKus, NJ 07423-0366
For Membership Information call Ken Barile at: 201-391-9214 or email: kenbarile@optonline.net.
For Information on trips and other Chapter Activities go to www.eastjerseytu.org
For East Jersey and National Trout Unlimited information, visit our website at <http://www.tu.org>. Go to chapter number 091 and you will get the latest information about our chapter.
Riffles is your publication so we invite and encourage every member to contribute articles, tips, and stories. The articles may relate to trout, trout fishing, fishing in general or conservation but all articles are published at the discretion of the editors and should meet EJTU standards regarding protecting our environment and the merits of 'catch and release' techniques. Pseudonyms may be used but the editors must be informed of the name of the member who writes the article. Email to raycapp@optonline.net

Conservation Notes

One thing seems to be a constant..WINTER. Our plan to do repairs to the parking area along Glen Gray Road had to be postponed until Sunday after several inches of snow covered the area on Friday night. I am thankful that so many members responded. We completed the task in a few hours and the area looks great. Thank you Mahwah DPW for providing and delivering the wood chips. Welcome to some new members who came out to help and thank you to the "regulars" who are always there.



Preseason stocking will have taken place by the time Riffles comes out. We will be on the regular stocking schedule every Thursday from April 9th to May 21st. We meet at the Glen Gray Bridge in Mahwah about 9:30AM for coffee and wait for the arrival of the fish. We will float stock whenever river conditions permit and we have two volunteers willing to take the ride. As always, bring waders or hip boots and lots of energy to walk those buckets full of fish to your favorite spots up river.

We will be participating in a number of events sponsored by other organizations during the next two months. Please consult the calendar for specifics. We use these events to promote EJTU and to inform the public about our conservation activities. Although it is easy to get caught up in teaching fly tying or fly casting, we hope to make a greater effort to promote and inform. You need no special skills, just a willingness to talk to people about who we are and what we do. Pick an event and come out but PLEASE let me know in advance.

Our biggest annual event is Ramapo River Day, this year on June 6th. While it is a few months away, now is when we try to contact groups to participate in the event. If you, your kids or grandkids are involved in a school or scout group, please consider encouraging that group to participate. We will need lots of help to set-up and take down equipment on the day of the event so please mark your calendar.

Plans to do restoration work on the Ramapo River by the Town of Oakland are moving ahead. We should expect to see some significant improvement in the river as a result. Work should start in July or August. We hope to do some riparian area plantings once the work is done and would like an EJTU member to coordinate this effort. Anyone interested? Please contact me.

Oakland has received funding and will remove several flood-prone houses along Roosevelt Avenue near the soccer field. The area will be maintained as public parkland once the houses are removed.

Mahwah will be dredging the Ramapo and Mahwah Rivers near the Crossroads Center upriver from Route 17. While we all know that such efforts have no long term benefits, Mahwah has received a grant and will spend the money and the local residents will be happy when they see big yellow machines in the river.

Recently, Robert Barr was confirmed as a member of the Pinelands Commission, despite the fact that four prior governors came out publically in opposition to his appointment. He may become the deciding vote to approve building a pipeline through the Pine Barrens, which seems to be a pet project of Governor Christie. If you have seen the horrible scar left through the Highlands when the new pipeline was built, you know what to expect.

Rich Malizia

Salt Water Registration

As the temperatures rise, fishing from the beaches in our area becomes more inviting.



But don't forget that, if you ocean-fished in the past, your registration has probably expired. If you have never fished from the beach or a kayak, you might not know that you should register in order to stay on the right side of the law.

Registration is free, so don't worry about another expense. If you register with New York State, you will be covered for fishing in New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island, but to fish New Jersey's waters you will need a separate registration.

For New York registration go to their DECALS site, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/>, and follow the "Saltwater Fishing" link.

New Jersey's registration information can be found at the Division of Fish and Wildlife's site: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/licenses.htm>. Once at the site, follow the link for "NJ Saltwater Registry".



Help Needed

EJTU needs people who are willing to take over volunteer duties in two interesting and important positions.

One need is for someone who will become coordinator of the Chapter's Trout in the Classroom (TIC) project that is presently handled by George Petersen. George has a health problem that will prevent him from continuing his duties, but will be able to mentor the person who takes over this functioning and well organized project.

The main duties will be to keep up lines of communications with the schools that are in the TIC program, schedule the once a year egg deliveries and occasionally deliver a replacement chiller to schools whose chillers have failed (might happen once a year).

The second need is to fill a new and interesting volunteer position, that of Publicity coordinator. During the year, EJTU is involved in many conservation, education and fishing projects that, if known about by the general public, would enhance the Chapter's reputation. However, we need someone who can establish lines of communication with local newspapers and the many community papers in our vicinity and keep them updated with our story. If you have experience in an area such as this, it would be helpful, but an enthusiastic, inexperienced volunteer should have no trouble doing a good job while having fun in the job.

If you would like to assist the Chapter by taking over either of these two positions, please contact Bruce Seiden at either Bruce_Seiden@Verizon.net or 201-452-0973

Free Canoe Brackets

John Grisoni has two very nice solid wood support brackets for a canoe. They were used at the Paramus Orvis store to display a canoe in the show window.

The brackets can be screwed to a wall and extend out 2 feet on nicely scrolled brackets. They are nice enough to display indoors at a vacation cabin or to put up in the garage to hold a canoe. Free to an EJTU member.



John Grisoni; 201-444-0189

Out West?

Is this what our members do on those western fishing trips?

Author Hampton Sides on page 15 in his 2006, Doubleday book, *Blood and Thunder; An Epic of the American West*, writing about the west's Mountain Men in the early 1800s:

"They met once a year in giant, extended open-air festivals, the 'rendezvous', where they danced fandango and played intense rounds of monte, euchre, and seven-up. Late at night, sitting around the campfires, sucking their black clay pipes, they competed in telling legendary whoppers about their far-flung travels in the West -- stories like the one about the mountain valley in Wyoming that was so big it took an echo eight hours to return, so that a man bedding down for the night could confidently shout 'Git up!' and know that he would rise in the morning to his own wake-up call."

EJTU Volunteer Biographies

We would like EJTU's members to know little more about some of the people they see at our events who are busily organizing the activities, dealing with non-TU authorities, speaking at meetings and generally carrying out the duties that keep a volunteer organization performing optimally.

We start this occasional column with Rich Malizia, Board member and Chair of the Conservation Committee, who tells us a little about himself and his background.



I have been a TU member for many years but life's challenges did not allow time to get too involved in EJTU programs during those early years.

My interest in the environment and the outdoors started early in my life. The Paterson neighborhood, where I grew up, was a superfund site waiting for the government to list it. Factories and multi-family houses dominated the landscape but there was the Passaic River. Polluted by chemicals and textile waste, which at that time were dumped directly into it, the river still provided an escape.

There were migrating waterfowl, muskrats and sewer rats and carp as long as your arm. I spent many hours along the river and had many adventures. I started fishing when I was a little kid thanks to Uncle Ted who would take me fishing while my aunt spent Sundays in church.

As I got older, I was included in trips to the Big Flat Brook, Beaverkill, Willowemoc and an annual week-long escape to the West Branch of the Ausable. In the late '50s and early '60s, these places were pristine. A sharp contrast to what I experienced in the city. I lived for the weekends when I could fish or hunt or hike.

The environmental movement was in its infancy in the early 60's. Outdoor studies trained you to be a forest ranger and job opportunities were limited. A career in the outdoors was a non-starter.

In college I focused on my second choice. I earned a degree in economics and a career in accounting followed. But my advocacy has always been the outdoors. Programs and courses offered by the State and by various organizations provided me with some training. EJTU offered me the opportunity to apply what I learned and provided the soap-

box from which to teach kids and influence adults.

Fishing became the "hook" by which I could gain the attention of others less inclined to protect and preserve. I am proud of events like Ramapo River Day, promoting EJTU at the various fishing derbies and outdoor events in which we participate, training volunteers for the HOFNOD program, participating in the fly fishing course and volunteering with other local environmental organizations.

I regularly write "letters to the editor" (some actually get published), send e-mails to our elected representatives (it is an easy way to offer your opinion), attend meetings and hearings and try to remind the decision-makers that some of us are paying attention to what they are doing.

Sometimes it is frustrating but by working together I believe we can improve quality of life

President's Beat—Continued from Page 1

river level drops to see if we will have enough rocks available for another wing just downstream.

Over the next couple of months we will be participating in various events ranging from fishing derbies and community events to Ramapo River day on June 6. There will be a few fishing trips

thrown in as well, beginning with a steelhead trip to the Salmon River on April 13. Check out the events schedule on the front page to see what is coming up and be sure to mark your calendar so you can come out and lend a hand, or wet a line, with a your fellow members.

Bruce Seiden



"HOSPITALITY, n. The virtue which induces us to feed and lodge certain persons who are not in need of food and lodging."

Excerpt From:

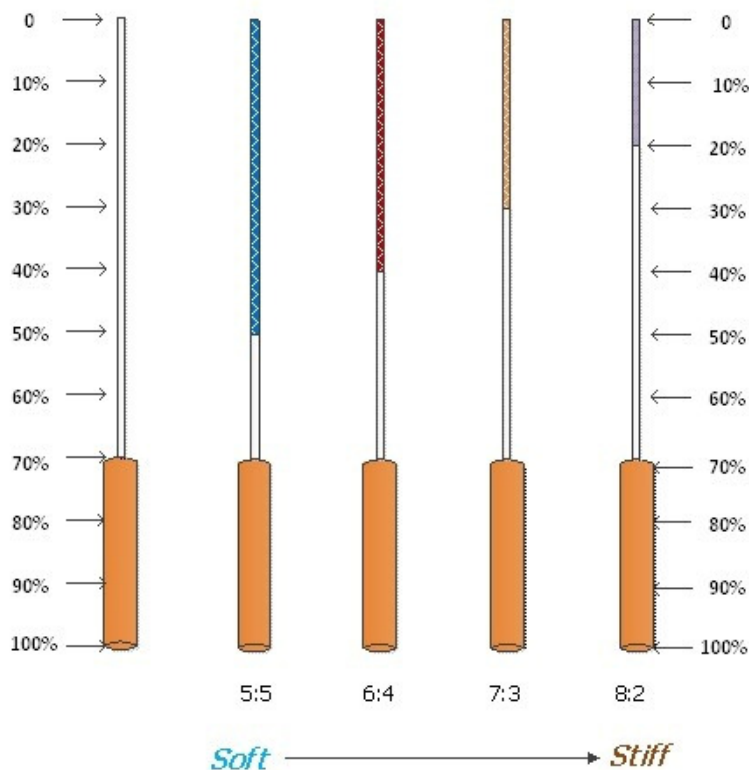
Ambrose Bierce.
"The Devil's Dictionary."

Tenkara Rod Flex Rating System

We are all familiar with the classification of western fly rods. Western rods are available in varying lengths: 9 feet, 8 feet and 7 feet and weights such as 2 weight, 5 weight and 8 weight. They also come in a number of flex actions like fast, moderate fast, moderate and slow.

Like their western counterpart, Tenkara rods are available in various lengths, generally from 12 to 14 feet, but have their own unique flex rating system represented as 5:5, 6:4, 7:3; 8:2.

Tenkara Rod Flex Rating



Using the above diagram, let's look at a Tenkara rod with a 6:4 rating. Imagine that the rod is divided into 10 equal segments and think of each segment as a percentage of the whole. The first number represents the butt section or stiffest part of the rod. The second number of the rating represents the section where the rod will flex the most. So a 6:4 rod will flex the most at the point 40% from the tip of the rod. A 5:5 rod will flex the most 50% from the rod tip. A 7:3 rod will flex the most at the 30% point from the tip of the rod. An 8:2 rod will flex the most at the 20% point from the tip of the rod.

So what does all this actually mean? A 7:3 tenkara rod is much stiffer (similar to a moderate fast action western rod) than a 5:5 tenkara rod (similar to a slow action western rod).

Unfortunately, this rating system is not always accurate between manufacturers or even across the varying types of level line rods. So a 6:4 rod made by one company may feel softer or stiffer than a 6:4 rod made by another. This rating system should be used as a guide and not an absolute. Physically handling the rod is the ultimate test.

A more accurate flex rating system, called the Common Cents rating system, was developed by Chris Stewart from Tenkara Bum. In this method, a bag of pennies is attached to the rod tip to determine the amount of weight needed to load the rod. So the action of a "12 penny" rod would be soft compared to the action of a stiffer "38 penny" rod. The penny ratings can range dramatically from a "6 penny" rod (soft action) to a "46 penny" rod (fast action) and anywhere in between.

Personally, I prefer the Common Cents method since it provides a more accurate flex rating than the 5:5, 6:4, 7:3 and 8:2 classifications.

East Jersey Trout Unlimited “Cast and Blast” Event

East Jersey Tu is offering a new membership event that combines a fishing trip with Sporting Clay shooting.

Some facts about the event:

- The event would take place on May 16 - 17, 2015 over a weekend
- The location is the Catskill region
- Saturday - Fishing on the Beaverkill or Willowemoc
- Saturday night - Lodging at the Catskill Pheasantry Shooting Facility
- Sunday - Breakfast and Sporting Clays shooting at Catskill Pheasantry, Long Eddy, NY



Cost:

- Lodging \$65 per night, per person to stay at the lodge, includes breakfast
- Sporting clay costs: \$45 for 100 clays.
- Rental shotguns are available for \$30. Beginners are welcome. Ammo is available for purchase @\$12 per box (you need 4 boxes). Better to buy your own ammo @ \$7 per box.



If you are interested in attending

Tier or Tyer

You say tier and I say tyer.” OK, maybe it’s just a matter of personal preference and no real fuss should be made over it. However, since this issue did come up recently for debate among some of my EJTU colleagues, I felt inspired to do some research. So, I figured the most expedient thing to do was to go online to see what the fly tying community was saying about this issue.

As I suspected, I could find no definitive argument for either spelling and no one seems to know the true etymologies of these two words, other than that “tyer” has British origins. I did read on a number of sites that “tyer” might have become popular when “Fly Tyer Magazine” chose it for its title. Supposedly, and this might be apocryphal, the reason for that spelling is that the founders of that magazine liked the graphic appearance of the letter “y.” Another suggested reason is that they could trademark “Fly Tyer,” as opposed to the generic “Fly Tier.” Ironically, however, writers for that magazine seem to favor “tier.” This does not surprise me, because the more articles I read online about fly tying, the more I was convinced that “tier” is the preferred spelling.



I decided to look through my admittedly not very extensive collection of fly tying books. Yep, they like “tier,” at least the authors of my books. Prominently entitled is “The Fly Tier’s Benchside Reference,” what many consider the bible of fly tying. I figured that if it’s good enough for those guys who are experts at both tying and writing about this art form, then it’s good enough for me.

Just when I almost was convinced that “tier” is the prevailing and proper choice, I decided to type “fly tyer” as a search in Amazon. Sure enough, up popped dozens of books with “Fly Tyer” in the titles. And not just titles, but fly tyer materials, fly tyer tools, and fly tyer posters. I even came across a Fly Tyer Wall Clock.

Frankly, I have to admit that I do like the look of “tyer.” Y is a unique letter, especially when used as a “sometimes” vowel. (Look at the way that letter adds character to my last name.) Besides, no one is going to confuse “tyer” with the other definitions of “tier.” And no one should spell “tying” as “tieing.”



Ira Gershwin

So maybe I will adopt “tyer” as my personal choice. One problem though: every time I type “tyer” into my word program, it tells me I’m misspelling it. Oh well, maybe we should call the whole thing off.

Dino Eftychiou

this event, please email your name and contact information to: kenbarile@optonline.net or call me at (201) 391-9214 for more information.

A non-refundable deposit of

\$65 is required in advance to hold your place. Attendance is limited to 15 people, so please sign up early.

For more information visit:

www.catskillpheasantry.com

Are They Just Big Rods?

As if you didn't have enough to think about when buying a fly rod! Bamboo rods became fiberglass, then they became composites of man-made fibers and lately boron. But, wait a minute we've gone in a circle and now bamboo is again the choice of "true" fly-rodgers". And what weight and action should you choose in whichever material you decide to buy? You spend time reading about all of the combinations, you try a few samples and then you are finally comfortable with the all of the possibilities. Oh Yeah?

Now, in addition to a variety of lengths, weights, actions and materials in standard rods, there are two other classes of rods to choose from: Spey rods and switch rods. Here we go again.

Let's start with Spey rods since, as Chris Henrickson points out, they are the oldest. We will deal with switch rods next month.

Spey Rods

Spey rods originated in Scotland and are named for the country's River Spey. Many people think of the Scots as a small and light weight people, but remember the Highlanders are among the tallest people and they are the people who think it's fun to see who can throw a telephone pole the farthest. While tossing the caber is not like fly fishing, their Spey rods are 12 to 15 feet long and are designed to place a fly up to 80 feet away without the usual back cast. Also, while a "traditional" rod ends close to the rear reel foot, a Spey rod has an



extension below the reel giving you a place to use that hand that used to be free to handle the line.

The reason for the extension is to allow the caster to get maximum distance and accuracy while using less muscle power. For a right handed caster, the right hand holds the grip in the usual location and the left holds the extension-grip. Instead of moving your whole right arm back and then forward while casting, you can pull on the left hand while pushing with the right and quickly build a great amount of loading of the rod as it flexes and, as a result, propel your fly longer distances.

When the Spey rods were developed in the 1800s, the River Spey was lined with trees so there was no room for a back cast when reaching out to the river's salmon. Therefore, 22 foot rods were developed and a specific way of casting went along with the rods. The rods are now shorter but that casting technique, still called Spey casting, is used with modern Spey rods; it can also be useful with a traditional rod or a switch rod.

Instead of a back cast, as a Spey caster, you lift the tip of the rod up and back, while keeping it at about a 45 degree angle away from vertical, until just leader and

fly are in the water in front of you and the line is suspended from the rod tip behind the you. The rod and line are in a position that is generally called a D loop. The rod is then brought quickly forward using two hands and the



weight of the leader, that is still in the water, loads the rod. When the rod tip is aimed at the an-

gler's target, rod motion is stopped and the line proceeds forward. The action is similar to a roll cast, but it has to be performed in one, sweeping movement to be effective.

The Spey casting technique is also used to change the direction of the cast, i.e., a cast headed directly in front of you, then the second cast to your right or left, then back to in front of you,



whichever direction you choose and all from the same D loop. Spey rods need different and

heavier fly lines than traditional rods and, once again, you will be faced with learning some new names. Scandi lines for Spey rods are used for lighter flies than the Skagit lines that are used for hurling large flies a great distance. And don't forget that lines that can reach across wide rivers or across a heavy surf will also need large arbor reels. I'll let you do a little research on the lines and reels.