



# Riffler

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 41

August 2011

Number 8

## Take Heart

Most conservation articles, much like the front pages of newspapers, contain stories about disasters that just happened or those that are expected to happen soon. From this constant emphasis on dire events we can easily develop an "all is lost" outlook. But sometimes Mother Nature, plodding along without regard for what we expect to happen, can fool us.

For the last few springs I've noticed that flowering bushes in my yard that years ago were covered with honey bees had only a few bumblebees foraging in them. Later, when *Liatris* bloomed, some honeybees would show up but as we entered summer months the bees would again disappear.

I was aware of the problems that bee keepers were having with the sudden collapse of a high percentage of their hives because I had, for a while, thought about putting a hive in a secluded area in my back yard. Fencing the site, chasing Blue Jays, fighting off mice and mites, feeding the hive on snowy days, and all of the other work involved in keeping 50,000 winged pets healthy and a few neighbors happy caused me to admire bee keepers from afar. But I continued to read any news about bee keeping and most of it presented a negative picture.

(Continued on page 3)

**When:** August 10 at 7:30 PM

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

## August Speaker

### Brian Cowden

Brian is the Musconetcong Home Rivers Initiative Coordinator and he is also the local representative for Trout Unlimited's Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. Between these two duties Brian gets a chance to visit most of the waters that are in northern New Jersey.

Brian will bring us up to date with work on the Muskie and other streams that are to be improved and, if you have questions about where you might be able to fish during the warm summer months, Brian will give you firsthand information about where it's possible to wet a line.

## Welcome to July's New Members



John De Santis	Midland Park
Jesse Frank	Harrington Pk.
Noah Frank	Harrington Pk.
Al Juliano	Galloway
Chris Weismann	River Edge

## EJTU Calendar

When calendar events are scheduled, advise Rich Malizia (973-304-0789 or [remqcp@optonline.net](mailto:remqcp@optonline.net)) of changes to them; let Ed Higgins ([easyedh@gmail.com](mailto:easyedh@gmail.com)) know if you are interested in fishing trips well in advance because openings are limited and reservations must be made in advance. Get your money in as soon as possible or someone else will take your place.

The fishing trips that are listed below will take place only if volunteer coordinators agree to host them.

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

- Aug 6** [Sat.] Point Mountain Park on Musconetcong
- Aug 24** [Wed.] Ken Lockwood Gorge
- Sep 10** [Sat.] Flat Brook
- Sep 23/25** [Weekend] Housatonic
- Oct 8** [Sat.] Esopus Creek
- Oct 19** [Wed.] Pequest
- Nov 5** [Sat.] Ken Lockwood Gorge
- Nov 23** [Wed.] Ramapo



Call Ed Higgins [973-697-0722] to volunteer or to get further information.

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

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George Petersen

**Points**  
Paul Reithmeier

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John Grisoni

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**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 to: [kenbrile@optonline.net](mailto:kenbrile@optonline.net).  
For Information on trips and other Chapter Activities go to [www.eastjerseytu.org](http://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](mailto:raycapp@optonline.net)

**Guided Fishing Trip For 2 – value \$400**



**\$5 per ticket**

Fish Norwalk Islands in Long Island Sound for Striped Bass & Blue Fish

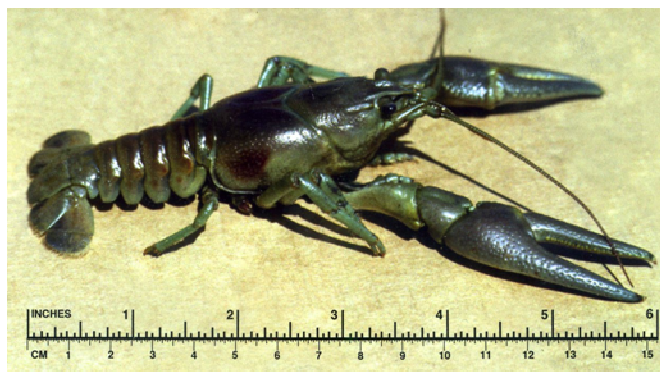
Guided by Captain Steve Tiffinger on a 223 Cayman flats skiff

Rods, reels, and custom tied flies are supplied

Only 70 tickets will be sold – sold only at monthly meetings

Raffle tickets sold ONLY at monthly meetings  
(August 10 next meeting)

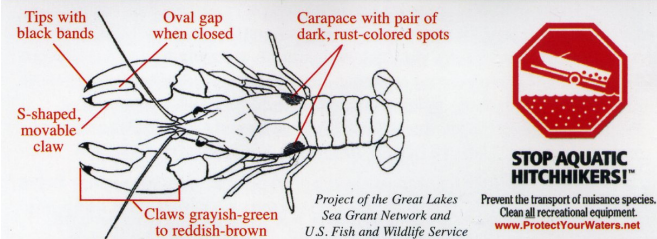
**Rusty Crayfish Watch**



Rusty Crayfish are aggressive, invasive crustaceans spreading to waters in North America. They can harm native fish by eating their eggs and their young, they displace native crayfish and they graze on and eliminate aquatic plants.

**How to Identify Rusty Crayfish**

(Use the following illustration as a guide; some characteristics may be absent.)



**General Characteristics**

- Adults generally 3-5 inches (7.5-13 cm) long (nose to tail)
- Claws larger and smoother than many other crayfish; usually without wart-like white bumps
- Claws with oval gap when closed; no distinct thin slit or notch present

It is impossible to eradicate established infestations! Be careful of everything that you bring from one body of water to another. If you find Rusty Crayfish call US Fish &

**The Library Display**

Doug Penna has put the EJTU display into the Montvale Library.

Why don't you drop by – 13 Mercedes Drive, Montvale - and check it out?



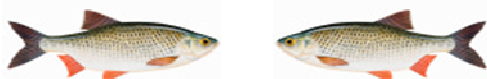
(Continued from page 1)

This spring a Weigela bush covered with enticing red flowers was again devoid of bees so I felt that we had seen the last of once common honeybees. But then, in July, as I passed a plant that carries feathery flowers six feet in the air (sorry, I planted it but forgot what it was) a honeybee circled my head and landed on the plant. When I moved closer I found that there were dozens of honeybees, most with their leg pouches heavy with pollen, working the flowers.

A nearby drift of Rudbeckia (Black Eyed Susan), normally the feeding place of Gold Finches, was also swarming with honeybees – enough of them that when the street was quiet the buzzing of their wings was easily heard.

This surprising reappearance of honeybees was the reason I spent an evening's twilight staring at the sky while sprawled on a lounge chair. If honeybees had come back, what about the bats whose numbers had also crashed because of winter deaths? For a long time the sky was depressingly clear but when I had almost given up two bats dated overhead clearing the air above my house of any flying insects.

Two positive events in one week! But, why ramble on about bees and bats in a trout newsletter? Perhaps, while we continue to worry about and try to protect cold water environments we should also spend some time enjoying the positive things that we don't notice but that always surround us.



## Housatonic trip

Do you enjoy sitting around a campfire with friends, recounting the days catch and lamenting the one that got away . Fishing a storied river that holds giant browns and acrobatic rainbows. . . well then the East Jersey Trout Unlimited camping/fishing trip to the Housatonic river in Sharon Connecticut is for you.

This three day trip will take place September 23<sup>rd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be camping at the beautiful Housatonic Meadows State Park campgrounds. We will pre-plan campsites to combine tent locations and save members money. The three-day inland non-resident fishing license cost is \$22.00.



For more information, visit the East Jersey Trout Unlimited website, or contact trip coordinator Ken Barile at: (phone) 201 316-6965 (email) [kenbarile@optonline.net](mailto:kenbarile@optonline.net)

Food tastes better around a campfire after a day of fishing, and you'll sleep like a baby in the woods nestled amidst the fir trees.

Come spend an inexpensive and memorable weekend with us.

Ken Barile  
Trip Coordinator

## Wildlife Conservation Corps

The Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC), with more than 1700 members, is the largest natural resource management volunteer group in the state. WCC members are involved in all phases of Division of Fish and Wildlife activities from wildlife research to newsletter production. Every year volunteers contribute services valued at more than \$1,000,000.

Volunteers assist in the following Division activities: operation of deer, turkey, beaver and otter check stations; spring and fall trout stocking programs; operations at the Rockport Pheasant Farm; fishing instruction and visitor services at the Pequest facility; upkeep of five shooting ranges located in Wildlife Management Areas; and various activities with the Endangered and Non-game Species Program.

Volunteers also participate in the Endangered and Nongame Program's Speaker's Bureau, presenting slide presentations on endangered and non-game species management.

Anyone 18 years of age and older is welcome to join the Division of Fish and Wildlife as a volunteer. If interested, download, complete and mail an application form from the Division of Fish and Wildlife's web site (<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/>), or e-mail questions to [WCC\\_DEP@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:WCC_DEP@dep.state.nj.us).



## Fly Tying

Did you always want to be able to tie a Woolly Buzzer or even a Royal Coachman? Well, now's your chance to learn.



EJTU's two fly tying schools will soon re-open after their summer hiatus.

Our school that is located in Wayne will begin in October; for details contact Doug Penna 201-288-4409. The Paramus school opens on September 27; check the Paramus adult education listing

for enrollment information.



## Old Fashioned Fun

What you might do on a warm August day when the water is too hot to fish!

Animals from gerbils and rabbits to milk cows and horses; home-made wine, vegetables and scarecrows are judged. Demonstrations of chainsaw carving, honeybees, weaving and wagon wheel making.

The Great New Jersey Zucchini Contest, clog dancing and swimming pigs

All the glittery, spinning rides you can think of and every type of carnival food (some call it junk food but who can resist funnel cake?) you have seen. <http://www.newjerseystatefair.org/html/fair.cfm>



## 2011 Raffle Winner

The winner of our raffle prize - tackle box, large selection of lures and gift certificate – was Warren Wright III. We had some difficulty contacting Warren because of a slightly illegible phone number on his raffle ticket but we eventually made contact and delivered the prize.

Warren is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fly fishing, fishing with conventional gear and even fishing with a bow. The prize seems to be going to someone who will really enjoy it.

**Visit the East Jersey TU  
web site for  
up-to-the-minute  
Information:**

**[www.eastjerseytu.org](http://www.eastjerseytu.org)**

A bad day of fishing is better than a good day of work

*Anon*

## Tenkara

While some fly fishermen are two-handed long Spey rods, some of which look like they can throw a gnat across three states, others are one-handed equally long rods that can only cast the length of the rod. The difference? The rods with limited casting ability are Tenkara rods – collapsible, Japanese rods weighing three ounces that have the line tied directly to the place where a tip top would be on a normal rod.

There are a variety of Tenkara rods but all of the ones that I have seen for sale on the internet have Japanese names so it's difficult to tell them apart. However, since their 13 or 14 foot length telescopes into a 20 inch handle, their weight is next to nothing, there is no provision for any sort of a reel, and only 10 feet of line with about five feet of tippet controls the

fly, the Tenkara system would seem to be ideal for hikers and campers. Of course, if you are camped on Cape Cod, the bluefish you hook on Tenkara equipment will be smiling as it swims away with your broken rod.

The users of Tenkara rods say that the rods are not at all similar to the very long collapsible rods that have the line travel through the hollow rod from a hole in the top to a built in reel, the type that were popular for pond fishing.

When I first read about this old Japanese system that was developed to fish on small, fast moving mountain streams I was reminded of the many times a few of us snuck onto the railroad bridge that spans Shark River to fish for snapper blues. Our unsophisticated equipment, a long bamboo rod

with line attached, was similar to Tenkara but used differently.

In Tenkara a fly, either wet or dry, is gently cast upstream and then controlled by manipulating the rod. Users also insist that Tenkara technique is not dapping and on-line videos bear this out.

The cost of the imported rods seems to be from \$125 up to slightly over \$200 but I did see some listings for under \$100. So far I haven't found any ratings or information about how to judge quality or action.

Lines sell for less than \$20 and tippets are the same as those used in standard fly fishing. There are no special flies for Tenkara use so if you are interested in this style of fishing you can probably get started with minimal expense.