



# Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Volume 47

December 2015

Number 12

## President's Beat



Hard to believe another year has flown by. We just completed another semester of Fly Tying Classes, we have our holiday party at the upcoming meeting and it seems like I was just elected to my second term, but that was back in January.

Speaking of the fly tying classes, we begin new terms in Paramus and Wayne this winter. The Paramus classes will start on January 3<sup>rd</sup> so we don't get too much of a break between terms. Even if you are an experienced tyer, you should join us because the classes offer a night to get together with other tyers, swap patterns and exchange fishing stories. It is a great way to spend an evening, enjoy the sport and improve your techniques during the winter months.

Chris Henrickson is already working on the next set of fishing trips and Paul Reithmeier is working on the Block Island trip for next June. Ken Barile is also planning the next Catskills Cast and Blast, but possibly in April this year instead of the crowded month of May. I am sure Rich Malizia is working on spring activities and Ramapo River Day for June, but you can most likely read about

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When: December 14 at 7:30 PM

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

## December's Christmas Party

As usual at our December's meetings, there will be 50 to 60 speakers: everyone who attends.

There will be a variety of foods in abundance, soft drinks and, finally, sweets to top off the eating phase of the evening.

A grab bag will again be offered to those who wish to participate. Bring a wrapped gift with a maximum \$15 cost and you will leave with a gift of comparable value that was supplied by a fellow member.

Come to the meeting and enjoy the food while discussing conservation, fishing, hiking or hunting with fellow members.

## Schedule



- Jan 11 [Wed] Speaker: Jef Skelding
- Feb [TBD] Possible Connetquot trip
- Feb. 8 [Wed] Speaker: Steve Culton
- Mar 8 [Wed] Speaker: Tom Gimore
- Apr [TBD] Catskills Cast and Blast
- Apr [TBD] Brodhead Creek trip
- Apr. 12 [Wed] Speaker: KenTutalo
- May [TBD] Delaware shad trip
- May [TBD] Catskills picnic
- May 10 [Wed] Speaker: Dick Despommier
- June [TBD] Block Island trip
- June [TBD] Ausable river trip
- June 14 [Wed] Speaker: George Daniel
- July [TBD] Farmington River trip
- July 12 [Wed] BBQ and tackle swap

## Welcome To November's New Members

- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Nicholas Addesso  | North Haledon |
| Leslie Bekeley    | Little Falls  |
| Thomas Buel       | Nutley        |
| Nancy Canfield    | Cedar Grove   |
| Bill Dais         | Teaneck       |
| Alex Emery        | Fair lawn     |
| Justin Fuller     | Park Ridge    |
| Frank Funicello   | Wayne         |
| Gerrit Van Italië | Mahwah        |
| Luis Velasco      | Elmwood Park  |
| Andrej Vorbrodt   | Allendale     |
| Jonathan Weber    | Bergenfield   |



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Trout Unlimited  
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Ray Cappock

**Conservation Chair**

Rich Malizia

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**Monthly General Member Meeting:**  
the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM.  
**Location:** The American Legion Hall,  
33 West Passaic St, Rochelle Park, NJ. 07662.

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

How to contact us: Website: [ejtu.org](http://ejtu.org)

Mailing Address:

East Jersey Chapter, Trout Unlimited Box 366  
HoHoKus, NJ 07423-0366

Membership Info: G. Inwood at: 201-489-7182 or  
email [inwoodgale@aol.com](mailto:inwoodgale@aol.com)

For East Jersey and National Trout Unlimited  
information, visit [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org). Go to chapter  
number 091 for the latest information about our  
chapter.

Riffles is your publication; we encourage all mem-  
bers to contribute articles, tips, and stories. Arti-  
cles may relate to trout, trout fishing, fishing in  
general or conservation, but all articles are pub-  
lished at the discretion of the editors and should  
meet EJTU standards regarding protecting our  
environment and the merits of 'catch and release'.  
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)

**Conservation Notes**

Somehow it seems that the seri-  
ousness of the drought which we  
have been experiencing most of  
the year has not gained enough  
attention. Several recent news-  
paper articles that attempted to  
bring attention to this crisis  
seemed to present the event as  
an anthropological curiosity  
rather than the environmental  
tragedy it actually is. Despite re-  
cent rains it is evident that the  
drought has not abated, since we  
are not supposed to be able to  
see the remains of structures at  
the bottom of reservoirs which  
are usually covered by a hundred  
feet of water. My local indicator  
is Goffle Brook that, while it runs  
full immediately after a storm,  
goes completely dry within a day  
or two afterward. That indicates  
the extent of the groundwater  
deficit. This is particularly con-  
cerning because at this time of  
year trees, grass and shrubs are  
going dormant and are not draw-  
ing water. As anglers we should  
be particularly concerned.  
Streambeds which are devoid of  
water cannot support aquatic life  
because eggs, nymphs and the  
critters that provide food for the  
fish we seek cannot survive with-  
out water. Going into the winter  
months, low water also increases  
the possible development of an-  
chor ice which will kill much of  
the bottom-dwelling life.

**What can you do?** Be-  
sides performing a rain dance,  
you should do the basics to con-  
serve water:

- don't run the washing ma-  
chine or dishwasher unless  
they are full
- limit the length of your morn-  
ing shower
- shut off the water while shav-  
ing and brushing your teeth

- fix that dripping faucet and  
limit the  
discretion-  
ary use of  
water.

You  
should also  
consider dis-  
cussing the  
seriousness  
of the drought  
with your fam-  
ily and friends  
because,  
unless nature comes to the res-  
cue, we will have a difficult fish-  
ing season this spring. Please  
do your best to conserve water.



Efforts to stop the con-  
struction of the Pilgrim Pipeline  
continue. While more communi-  
ties have stepped up to voice  
their opposition to this threat to  
our drinking water, the oil inter-  
ests continue their push to build  
the pipeline. Consider the disas-  
trous combination of an oil spill at  
a time when we are already suf-  
fering from a drought. If that hap-  
pens, you might as well trade  
your fishing rod for a bowling ball  
and learn how to drink sand.  
Members of C.A.P.P. will be  
meeting with representatives of  
announced gubernatorial candi-  
dates to learn about their posi-  
tions regarding the construction  
of the pipeline. This should gen-  
erate some interesting discus-  
sions.

Ringwood is still spinning  
its wheels with regard to the  
cleanup of the O'Connor Landfill.  
The Borough administration has  
ignored a deadline imposed by  
the State. I would say that they  
have their heads in the sand but  
they would be exposing them-

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Conservation Notes  
Continued from page 2

selves to the contamination that abounds there. It is time to make Ford Motor and the Borough of Ringwood step up and do the right thing by cleaning up the mess that they created.

Since Governor Christie has found his way back to Trenton, the push to change the septic density rules have gained momentum. Scientific evaluations of the ability of the Highlands watershed to accommodate septic systems found that due to the composition of the soils and the nature of the terrain, 88 acres of land is needed to maintain pure drinking water. This has been the accepted standard for over thirty years. However, Christie's minions have somehow determined that only 23 acres are needed. Now, I don't think that the composition of the Highlands soils have changed, nor do I think we have changed our definition of PURE. Maybe this is something akin to the levels of allowable filth that can be contained in processed foods. Send an e-mail to your State Representatives and tell them to leave the septic density rules alone.

In closing, I want to thank those of you who commented favorably about last month's column. We do a lot of good stuff all year long and I will try to present those achievements in this column. Finally, I wish all readers a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy 2017.

Rich Malizia



## Ramsey Outdoor Store Cabin Fever Day

On Saturday, February 18, 2017 Cabin Fever Day will again be held at the Ramsey Outdoor Store located on Route 17 South in Ramsey, NJ (835 Route 17, Ramsey, NJ; Tel.: 201.327.8141)

EJTU will have a table at the event and will need a few people who can interact with visitors to the store, hand out literature, and/or tie flies.

These have always been very popular events that draw quite a few visitors. As a result, we increase our visibility in the community and have the opportunity to increase membership while also helping Ramsey Outdoor Store (that often helps our Chapter).

## The Library Display

Well, Doug has finally slowed down! During December, our EJTU Library Display will remain in Franklin Lakes.



Franklin Lakes's library is located at 470 De Korte Dr.  
(Tel: (201) 891-2224)

## Learn to Tie Flies

EJTU's great classes in Fly Tying will begin again in January!

### Paramus

The Paramus classes for beginners and intermediates will begin on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at the Westbrook Middle School and continue until March 14, 2017. Classes are from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM.



Enroll by going to the Paramus Continuing Education site: <http://www.ssreg.com/paramus/classes/results.asp?string=fly+tying>

### Wayne

The classes in Wayne will begin on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

For full information about the Wayne classes and to enroll, please call Doug Penna at 201-0288-4409

## New Jersey's 2016 Trout Stocking

NJ DEP ended its 2016 trout stocking program with the Winter Trout Stocking Program which put 5,100 large rainbows into 18 ponds and lakes throughout the State

Over the course of the year nearly 640,000 trout were distributed.

For details, visit <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/trtinfo.htm> on the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife website.



## SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF DENMARK November 13, 2016



Lines from Hamlet being used in STM are pretty few and far between, but this time they fit as well as they did when written by William Shakespeare (not the reel/rod/bait maker). A call for help has gone out in Denmark to enlist anglers to catch some 80,000 rainbow trout that were released after a cargo ship accidentally tore apart a fish farm net in a fjord near Assens in the western region of the country.

Anglers were asked to catch and keep the rainbow trout before these North America escapees gained a foothold that might upset the area's ecological balance. Police say no one was injured when the ship sailed into the aquaculture farm.

But now authorities fear the farmed trout could wreak havoc on the region and eat the eggs of other trout species.

*(From: Southern Trout.com)*

## Palm Reels

If you are one of the anglers who like to dress like Charlie Brown in winter, skitter out onto a frozen body of water and then sit for hours on an overturned bucket while jigging through a slush-covered, soup-bowl size hole, you will probably be interested in this equipment. It has been used in Europe and Russia in the past and, for at least the last two years, has been carried by fishing equipment makers in the US.

This ice fishing gear is called a Palm Reel. But it is not just a reel; it is a combination of a small reel, similar to a fly reel, that is attached to a short, very light rod. Why "Palm" Reel? Because the reel has a small diameter and, when it is used, the reel is held in the palm of the angler's hand and the rod protrudes from beneath the fingers.

These palm reels are designed for small pan fish in shallow water, so they are very light and have very flexible tips.

If you are interested, one site to investigate is Akara Fishing: [akarafishing.com](http://akarafishing.com). Akara's palm reels are at: <http://akarafishing.com/winter-rods>



Akara

Another palm reel site, that also contains a few videos about the gear, is Frabill. Their palm reels are called Frabill Black Ops. The videos can be found at <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=frabill+black+ops&view=detail&mid=EA8AE6B56C71A0FC07CBEA8AE6B56C71A0FC07CB&FORM=VIRE>  
A list of available palm reels is at <http://www.frabill.com/ice-fishing/ice-rods-reels-combos.html?p=1>



Frabill Black Ops

### A November Visitor From: Hudson River Almanac

11/16 – New York Harbor, Upper Bay: The Coast Guard blasted out a warning to boaters this morning to be wary when sailing around Liberty Island after a whale was sighted near the Statue of Liberty. The whale appeared to be a humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

- Paul L. Sieswerda, Gotham Whale



[What was the attraction for a humpback whale to enter the Upper Bay of New York Harbor? The best guess was the presence of forage fishes. There had been a steady stream of young-of-the-year shad, river herring, and striped bass exiting the estuary as well as menhaden, silverside, and bay anchovies. Atlantic menhaden in particular have had a strong presence in the estuary this summer and fall, with adults being found as far upriver as Greene County (river mile 128).

Tom Lake.

Our best guess is that this is a sub-adult humpback whale, 25-30 feet long. We have documented that it has been “lunge feeding,” suggesting that the whale was in good health. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association’s (NOAA) regulations for approaching humpback whales call for keeping a distance of at least 100 yards, slowing speed, and never placing a vessel in the path of the whale.

Paul Sieswerda

### EJTU’s 2016/7 Raffle

This year EJTU we will once again offer tickets on a raffle for a one-half day, guided fishing trip.

The winner and guest will be able to fish Pennsylvania’s Spring Creek, Little Juniata, Penns Creek or Big Fishing Creek with a guide from Oak Hall Outfitters.



Look for your tickets in the Chapter’s annual mailing that goes to all members, or purchase them at one of our monthly meetings.



### The Hotspot Pheasant Tail

If you had the pleasure of hearing Tim Flagler of Tightline Productions speak at our November meeting, you might have picked up a few new tips on how to fish our local waters, especially during low water conditions. A repeated bit of advice was to fish small flies in the 18-22 range and even smaller if those sizes don't work. One particular small fly that he illustrated was the Hotspot Pheasant Tail nymph.

A few days earlier, I had been directed to one of Tim's online videos while I was looking for variations of pheasant tail nymph patterns. The particular fly that he was highlighting was coincidentally the Hotspot Pheasant Tail, which he refers to as a micro nymph. What really caught and kept my attention is that the video starts out with a scene of the Ken Lockwood Gorge and a familiar fisherman hooking onto and netting a nice trout. It was Bill Silvia who is not a member of our local chapter, but who often attends our meetings and trips.

Tim's voice-over narration explains that Bill has tied an effective variation of this popular nymph. Basically what he does is substitute the traditional pea-

cock herl thorax with ice dubbing. The video shows pink for the thorax, but Tim suggests experimenting with other colors. (I asked Bill at the Somerset Fly Tying Symposium what other colors he uses and he recommended purple.)

I tied about a dozen of these flies, sizes 18-22, and got my first chance to try them a couple of weeks ago on the Farmington River. I don't remember what specific size I fished, but I do remember not having pink ice dubbing and using shrimp color instead when I tied them. Close enough. It worked. After a few casts on the Beaver Hole, one of the popular sections of the river, I hooked and netted a nice size brown trout.

I'm not suggesting that you abandon the tried and true conventional patterns. But if you tie your own flies, don't hesitate to try a modification of a favorite pattern, whether it's one you learned from someone else or you refined on your own. If you want to try tying the Hotspot PT, check out Tim's video and possibly learn some new tying techniques while you're at it. In the meanwhile, here's the pattern:

Dino Eftychiou

#### Hotspot Pheasant Tail Nymph Pattern



- |                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Hook:          | Emerger hook            |
| Thread:        | Olive 6/0 or 140-denier |
| Tails/abdomen: | 3 pheasant tail fibers  |
| Wingcase:      | 6 pheasant tail fibers  |
| Thorax:UV      | Pink Ice Dubbing        |
| Bond:          | UV-cure resin           |

### Sahara Savannah



*Today a searing wilderness of barren sands, appropriate to the destructive powers of the sun god's daughter, the Sahara was once a vast green savannah, stretching right across north Africa from sea to sea.*

*As a result of the rain belt shifting further north at various times, there was sufficient rainfall to sustain grassy landscapes dotted with acacia and tamarisk trees, and a wide range of wildlife from lions to giraffes, elephants, camels, gazelle, wild cattle and, of course, humans. The earliest human remains from Egypt are - perhaps appropriately - those of a child, who lived around Dendera some 55,000 years ago.*

From: Chapter 2 of "The Story of Egypt, The Civilization that Shaped the World", by Joann Fletcher. Pegasus Books, copyright2016



## Water Hours and Hotel Showers

In his Conservation column, Rich Malizia writes about the present drought conditions and the need to conserve water. But those of us who served on the older US Navy ships - I spent three years on a 2100 ton Fletcher Class Destroyer out of Long Beach - were well acquainted with restricted water use.

The ships had desalinization equipment, but fuel and water were the two most important items onboard so, when it came to water usage, the ship came first. The purest water had to be fed into the four boilers so the snipes could superheat it and send it to the turbines which then powered the two engines that gave us our 60,000 horsepower. Therefore, if water supplies were low or threatened, the ship went on "water hours".

Water Hours meant that all scuttle-butts were disabled and all normal use of water by the crew was reduced or restricted; by time and by day. Take a shower? First check the schedule to see if today is a day that you can, then see what time it is. Maybe you're lucky and you can, but it's likely that you have to wait.

And what was a "Hotel Shower"? First a description of how a shower had to be taken in normal times - a Navy Shower. You enter the shower, turn on the water and get wet as fast as possible, then turn off the water. Now you soap up and scrub your body. When you are clean and soapy, turn on the water long enough to flush the water from your body and, as quickly as possible, turn off the water again. Everyone longed for the luxury of a Hotel Shower, one taken when you were ashore someplace and could turn on the shower water and revel in the flow from start to finish - heaven on shore!

Any other Tin Can Sailors out there who remember the crazy life at sea on those sleek ships that were only 39 feet wide?

## Sabiki

Fly fishing purists will please avoid Sabiki rigs. If not, you have a good chance of reporting to a doctor's office with multiple hooks imbedded in the back of your head and shoulders because Sabiki rigs carry six to ten very sharp jigs on a long leader that has a terminal sinker.

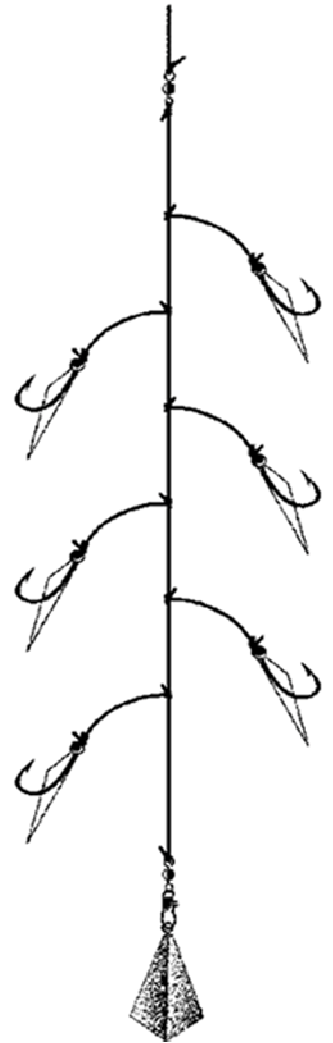
However, if you are going to fish in lakes or ponds with spinning or conventional gear, Sabiki might be a way to increase your catch. These rigs were originally used to catch bait fish that, in turn, could be used to attract game fish, but some anglers are now using Sabikis with larger hooks to catch larger fish both in fresh and salt water.

The hooks need no bait because they are dressed with an attractant like feathers or imitation, iridescent material. However, if conditions warrant, small pieces of bait can be attached to the hooks.

They are fished by either lowering the rig to the depth of schools that have been detected, or by starting deep and raising the rigs in increments. When the rig is either at the level of a school or pausing while being raised from its lowest point, it is raised and lowered in a jigging motion. This YouTube clip show how to fish for bait. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAswsM2g5Zo>)

The hooks are very sharp and there are lot of them so, when you decide to stow them, there may be a messy tangle. To prevent this, you can use a hollow Sabiki rod in which you can reel the whole string of hooks and sinker into the core of the rod. Another "however" - in a piece about using Sabikis, the International Game Fish Association advises not to use Sabiki rods because the hooks rust while inside the rods and become unreliable (<https://www.igfa.org/Learn/Using-Sabikis.aspx>)

Typical Sabiki Rig



President's Beat, continued from page 1

this in his conservation column. Be sure to keep up with all the activities by checking our website regularly.

We all have to hope for a nice and wet 2017 with regular rain falls to keep the rivers flowing. 2016 was not a good year for trout fishing because of low rivers and warm temperatures through-

out our area. We cancelled our fall stocking of the Ramapo due to the lack of water, and did not have a fall steelhead trip either. Hopefully the spring will provide greater opportunities for all of us.

Enjoy the holiday, spend time with your family and friends and have a great New Year!

Bruce Seiden