



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 40

November 2010

Number 11

More Questions

Long before groups of humans learned to grow edible crops and to store them, thus allowing humans to end a nomadic existence and remain in one location, hunting and fishing were the primary methods of accumulating food. Snares, deadfalls, weirs, nets, concealed attacks, spears or tridents, traps in pits and even the American Indian's technique of driving herds over high cliffs, were all used as methods of supplying food for the clan.

While some of the above schemes would have caused the destruction of more fish/animals than necessary, when using any of those systems the hunters had to know their prey. They had to know where the prey would be, where it would go and when, where it would hide, what danger might be involved when attacking the prey and most important, what was edible. Once agriculture was developed to the point where crops were dependable, there was less dependence on fish and game but the clan still needed skilled fishermen and hunters who could reliably bring home high-protein food. Thus, there was still a need for those who knew the prey.

In the thousands of years since humans shifted from the wandering, gathering phase to the sedentary life of towns, fishing and hunting have remained a part of life but as pastimes rather than as activities necessary to life. But how close are pastime hunting and fishing to the hunting and fishing practiced by our remote ancestors?

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When: November 10 at 7:30 PM

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

November Speaker John Shaner

Our speaker will be John Shaner from The House of Hardy, purveyors of fishing tackle and famous for their Perfect reel that was first introduced in 1888.

Come out to hear John speak about Fishing in England, the Chalk Streams and Beyond.

December 8 Meeting

Don't forget to bring your children or grandchildren to our December meeting!

We will again feature the entertaining Jerry Zalenka who will present his animal show. This is a highly informative event which provides some inter action between friendly animals and kids.

Jerry is well known in educational circles, children's camps and entertains at parties for children.

The Arts of the Angler November 6 & 7

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum will hold this show at the Ethan Allen Inn in Danbury CT.

Collectible and contemporary fly fishing tackle and accessories. Live auction on Saturday.

EJTU Calendar

Advise Rich Malizia (973-304-0789 or remqcp@optonline.net) of changes to calendar events; let Ed Higgins (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.

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



- Nov 10, 2010 - Members Meeting, John Shaner, Hardy Rep,
- Nov 13, 2010 - Fishing Trip Esopus Creek, Mt Pleasant, NY
- Dec.4, 2010 – Catskill Fly Fishing Museum Holiday Open House
- Dec 8, 2010 - Members Meeting, Animal talk by Jerry Zalenka or his daughter

2011

- Mar. 3 /6, 2011 – The Suffern Show
- Apr. 30, 2011 – Hooked on the Hudson
- May 28, 2011 – Mahwah Fishing Derby
- June 11, 2011 – Ramapo River Day
- Aug/Sept. Date TBA – planting at Cresskill Brook

"I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it."

~ W. C. Fields

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Trout Unlimited
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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.

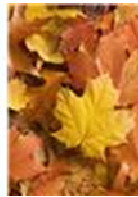
Monthly Board Meeting: Board Members of East Jersey Trout Unlimited meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30PM.

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.
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

Leaves

Water temperatures have finally dropped below lethal levels and stream flows have increased due to the recent rains. These factors, along with the need to go fishing after such a long dry summer, bring many of us to the rivers and streams. But what do we encounter once we get there? LEAVES. They have begun to fall and litter the streams and it seems that we foul hook one on every other cast. But, if you fail to remove the leaf, you risk turning your leader into a tightly coiled spring.

Then there are the leaves that intercept our fly just at the point when the drift is perfect and the fly is approaching the best feeding lie in the pool. It's like they have eyes!



All of this can be very frustrating but you can turn it into a learning experience.

Put on a pair of polarized glasses, then sit or stand at the edge of the stream and watch the leaves, particularly the easy to see bright yellow ones, as they drift down stream. Watch them as they float and are then pulled under; look for their movement. How the leaves move is determined by the structure over which the water is flowing. Whenever there is a change in the direction, speed or position of a leaf in the water column,

there is a change in the bottom or side structure.

What happens to the leaves will also happen to your fly. When you see a change in the drift of a leaf look all around it for whatever is causing movement. It may be a boulder or log sticking up from the bottom or maybe a hole or depression. If you can't identify what it is, keep watching and you will see that the next leaf that drifts through will react in the same way as the previous one. Eventually you will identify what is causing the movement.



Now when you see similar structure you can anticipate when, where and how your fly will drift. Too often we watch the leader at the point where it breaks the surface or the way a strike indicator moves, but that only reveals what is happening on the surface. Subsurface currents and water speeds are very different. It is nearly impossible to see a nymph moving through the water column at a dead drift. But you can see those bright yellow leaves.

So the next time you are on the water when the leaves are falling, take advantage of the learning experience and don't curse the leaves.

Limp Leader

Fly of the Month

Everything is dwindling after a busy year. The hatches of summer are behind us and the last of the caddis flies for the year will soon be gone.

Last call for Mayflies, the tiny blue wing olives of the fall can continue well into November and on most rivers are the last of the Mayfly hatches for the year.



So break out your finest thread and those size 22 and 24 hooks. November's fly of the month is Olives (Mayfly Family Baetidae).

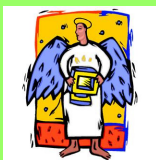
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Obviously our clothing is better than skins and our scientifically designed equipment is better but what about the basics of the search? Local deer and small game hunters must know their prey – with the exception of pheasant hunting where birds from Rockport are released, pop up in front of platoons of hunters and are promptly knocked from the sky – and both spring-run shad fishermen and surf fishermen have to know something about the movements of their prey but do those who hunt or fish outside of their localities have any of the skills of our ancestors?

One reads of hunts where the hunter and his entourage are brought to the animals and an individual animal is pointed out. No other animals may be shot at, only the one assigned to the hunter by the guide. When fishermen leave their home waters they also quite often use guides who tell them to “cast to the right of that rock” or “use this fly or lure”. And, what salt water fisherman would be successful without a boatload of electronics?

After a fisherman or hunter develops accuracy and goes afield with a guide has the hunt been reduced to displays of technique? Have fishing and hunting become hooking and shooting?

Want to know the latest about what’s happening in East Jersey TU? Visit the web site for up-to-the-minute Information, links to stream-flows and other Interesting information:



www.eastjerseytu.org

Your Birthday Suit

As I sat on the table in my dermatologist’s office just after he had scraped away a squamous cell carcinoma from my chest and froze some sort of pre-cancerous lesion on my back, I picked up one of the booklets that all doctors of every type have in racks in their offices. This one was entitled, “Darker Side of Tanning”.

Wonderful days in the sun during my, long-ago youth left me with great memories and skin that looks back on those hours on the beach with regret. Since then there have been many little things frozen or cut off and even a melanoma that the dermatologist found before it could cause major damage – or death. But this little pamphlet reminded me of something that I had forgotten, the readily available UV index. UV (Ultraviolet) is accepted as the damaging portion of the rays that our sun sends our way, therefore - too much UV and you will have problems.



I went to the Sun Wise Program site (<http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html>) that is maintained by the US Government’s Department of Environmental Protection and entered my zip code, expecting to be told not to worry since this was late October in New Jersey. Surprise! The index was a 3, moderate according to the site, but the site advised, *“Take precautions if you will be outside, such as wearing a hat and sunglasses and using sunscreen SPF 15+. Reduce your exposure to the sun’s most intense UV radiation by seeking shade during midday hours.”*

As “outdoors” types we worry about poison ivy, bears, stings, infections from scratches and other threats but we accept the sunlight that is beating down on us. Don’t! While the sun provides energy, vitamin D, plant growth and warmth, too much will kill.

Ramapo Mountain Park Management Plan

On October 19th, I attended a “public visioning workshop” that was held by Bergen County to get input from the public on possible future uses of the Bergen County section of the Ramapo Mountains. While most of the land does not include parcels through which the Ramapo River flows, the use of land in the Stag Hill, McMillian, Bear Swamp and Fox Brook drainages could impact the river. And, while the County’s “Purpose Statement” talks about “protect and maintain the wilderness experience”, it also talks about “sensible and sustainable human use”. To me that opens the door for all kinds of damaging activities.

I am happy to report that the majority of attendees favor maintaining the current levels and types of use. There were a number of others looking to have mountain biking and limited ATV use and a few want to add other activities, guided hikes or seasonal special uses. Most of those had no idea that many of the things they suggested, like camping, already exist in certain areas of the park.

Those of you interested in following the progress of the plan should get on the email list that is being established. The County has information on its website (www.co.bergen.nj.us/planning/os/ramapo.html) along with a survey which anyone using this land should complete. Offer your ideas. You can be sure those who would love to turn the mountain into an amusement park will.

Rich Malizja



Happy Thanksgiving

More on Leaves

In this issue of *Riffles* Limp Leader has an interesting idea about what to do about leaves that drift through the places where we would like to fish, instead of complaining about them, make them work for us.

Trees, the same ones that whose shade we enjoy during the summer and the same ones that hover over stream banks providing cover for fish are the primary leaf depositors at this time of year. However, while we can't tell trees where to drop their leaves as they prepare to go to sleep for the winter, we should remember that we cannot be indiscriminate about where we put the leaves that we rake.



If you have enough gray in your hair you probably remember the burning of leaves that used to take place in the

fall, piles of leaves set afire on every block, columns of smoke rising from all over town, that enjoyable, distinctive smell. Now, however, most people rake leaves from their lawns and then put them into the street for pick-up and drive over them until they are a pulpy, sodden mess.

But, there are many people who live near waterways who try to be neater by dumping their piles of leaves into the nearby streams. This is a problem! Those heavy doses of leaves moving downstream can scour the bottom of the streams as they move along, carrying away the invertebrates on which fish live. If you live near flowing water or know people who do, let them know that the leaves that they dump into the water can have a bad effect on creatures that live in the water. Most people so not try to injure wildlife, it's a matter of knowing how you affect your surroundings.

Engineer

EJTU and the town of Mahwah would like to build a small platform from which handicapped people can fish the Ramapo River. Initial meetings have been held and a preliminary set of plans have been completed.



What is now needed is a coordinator with an engineering background who can watch over the project and connect with Mahwah's engineers.

If you have a civil engineering background and would like to help on an interesting project please contact Rich Malizia at remqcp@optonline.net.

The Library Display

Doug Penna has installed our Library Display in the Elmwood Park Library (210 Lee Street).

If you are in that area stop in and see the nice job that Doug has done. And ask your local librarians if they would like to host the exhibit; if so meet Doug at our next meeting and let him know.

The Peaceable Kingdom

According to a June 21 posting on *Live Science*, "Chimp-on-chimp attacks in the wild are very common, especially among small packs of males on patrol." Scientists who studied a large group of chimpanzees in Ngogo-Kibale National Park counted 21 chimp-on-chimp murders during a ten year period.

The reason the Chimps murder neighboring Chimps is apparently to gain territory, thereby gaining greater access to food and to females.



Water

Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and its watersheds. However, to do this we should first know a little about the water that we are trying to enhance. Here are a few items of interest.

When we in New Jersey look at a map there is a great expanse of blue on the right, all salt, the Atlantic. But what percentage of the earth's water is freshwater? Only 3 percent – and 2/3 of this is frozen in glaciers.

Americans each use about 500,000 gallons of water per year; how does that compare with other developed countries' usage? We use twice as much!

What is a watershed? According to the USCGS: if you are standing on ground right now, just look down.



You're standing, and everyone is standing, in a watershed. A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that falls in it and drains off of it goes into the same place. Watersheds can be as small as a footprint or large enough to encompass all the land that drains water into rivers that drain into Chesapeake Bay.

What's unique about water (besides the fact that all life forms depend on it and die without it)? Water is the only substance that occurs naturally as a solid (ice), a liquid and a gas (water vapor). It covers about 70 percent of the Earth for a total of approximately 332.5 million cubic miles

Can "clean" water be bad for you? Drinking too much water too quickly can lead to water intoxication. Water intoxication occurs when water dilutes the sodium level in the bloodstream and causes an imbalance of water in the brain.

