



Riffler

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 43

March 2012

Number 3

The Birth of EJTU

Don Ecker, an avid fly fisherman and an outdoor columnist for the *Record* newspaper, founded the East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited in 1971. Don had been a member of both the Sparta chapter of TU and the Theodore Gordon Fly Fishermen. However, like a lot of Northern New Jersey fishermen, he wanted a chapter much closer to home. So he contacted National TU and applied for a new charter. From a list of New Jersey members that National TU had sent him, he assembled a group of individuals who also wanted a chapter closer to home

In the same Fort Lee apartment where Don and his wife still live, this group of men and women met and laid out the plans for the new organization. The application was completed, National TU approved it, and East Jersey Trout Unlimited was born. The first photo shows Don receiving the EJTU Charter from the National Director of Trout Unlimited, with Lee and Joan Wulff in attendance. The second photo shows the masthead from the first issue of *Riffler*, the chapter newsletter, with names of some of the original members.

Today, the chapter enrollment is well over 700 members, making it one of the largest TU chapters in the country. Among its many involvements and projects are conservation of local waterways, primarily the Ramapo River, promoting fly fishing through fly casting and fly tying classes, volunteering with Healing Waters, support-

When: March 14 at 7:30 PM

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

March Speaker John Shaner Of Hardy Tackle



John Shaner always seems to be billed as “the foremost Hardy Tackle expert”.

However, while he is one of the best at explaining how to rehabilitate and maintain fishing equipment, he can also tell you about where to fish in England and how to fish the streams that you find there.

He is also one of the best soft hackle fly tyers and is specifically known for his traditional flies.

For our meeting John will do his soft hackle/spider presentation.

ing Casting for Recovery, and promoting trout conservation through Trout in the Classroom.

Dino Eftychiou

(See page 5 for photos)

EJTU Calendar

If you wish to go on one of the fishing trips contact Ed Higgins at (easyedh@gmail.com) well in advance. If the trip requires reservations or other arrangements openings are often limited and the reservations must be made in advance.

Other events marked with an M are being sheperded by Rich Malizia. If you have questions or wish to volunteer contact Rich at 973-304-0789 or remgcp@optonline.net

Please consult EJTU’s web site’s “Upcoming Events” for the most up-to-date information and details.

Mar 12 Fly Tying classes begin in Wayne

Mar 24 [Sat] Woodchip spreading at Glen Gray Road

Mar 24 [Sat] EJTU Annual Dinner

Mar 14 [Wed] Members meeting

Mar 17 [Sat] EJTU table at LL Bean, Paramus

Apr 11 [Wed] Members meeting

Apr 21 [Sat] Hooked on Hudson

Apr/May [Thu] Trout stocking

May 9 [Wed] Members meeting

May 26 [Sat] Mahwah Fishing Derby[M]

Mar31/Apr 1 Pequest Open House

Jun 9 [Sat] Ramapo River Day

Jun9/16 Block Island Trip

Jun 13 [Wed] Members meeting

Summer/Fall [Dates TBA] planting along Cresskill Brook

Act Now! EJTU’s Annual Dinner—Saturday night March 24—Grand Chalet

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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

Woodchip Time!

Spring begins on March 20 this year so it must be woodchip time.

For those who haven't taken part in this Spring ceremony – every year the winter's rains and snows destroy the parking area along the north side of Glen Gray Road near the bridge over the Ramapo River, so we repair it.

Rich Malizia contacts the department in Mahwah (They have always been very helpful)

that accumulates woodchips and requests that they deliver some to Glen Gray Road. We then meet, with shovels and rakes, and spread the woodchips throughout the parking area.

Repairing the parking area only takes a couple of hours so the job is done by noon.

This year we rakers and shovelers will meet at 9 AM on Saturday, March 24 for coffee and quick repairs.

Hooked on the Hudson

The Hudson River Fishermen's Association offers this great, annual event to the public on **Saturday, April 21** this year.

As in past years they have asked us to attend and to give presentations on fly tying and fly casting.

The event takes place at Ross Dock – just north of the George Washington Bridge – and runs from 10 AM until 2 PM. There is a fishing contest (8 AM – 2 PM), with bait provided and loaner rods, exhibits and fun for all – Free.

We will need a few people to tie flies and to show youngsters how to cast. Contact Rich Malizia at 973-304-0789 or remgcp@optonline.net

**Welcome to February's
New Members**



Patrick Andes	New Milford
Kevin Beenders	Hillsborough
Dave Blackowski	Clifton
Charles Capra	Hillsborough
Linda Carter	Hewitt
Bradley Daugherty	Absecon
George Delaney	Bayonne
M. Harrington	Hewitt
Arthur Harvey	River Edge
Jason Klett	Hillsborough
Peter Kozak	Bloomfield
Josh Merrill	Carlstadt
Nic Michael	Watchung
Paul Ramirez	Woodcliff Lk
Herb Reinert	Harrington Pk
Jeffrey Sammis	Leonia

I am not against golf, since I cannot but suspect it keeps armies of the unworthy from discovering trout...
~Paul O'Neil

LL Bean

The New LL Bean store located in Paramus Park Mall (From Road) will have a Spring Fishing event on Saturday, March 17.

They have asked EJTU to man a table at which we can talk about our organization, hand out literature and generate new members. The event will run from 10 AM until the afternoon.

Spend a couple of hours in this new store with other EJTU members. Contact Ray Cappock at raycapp@optonline.net

East Jersey Trout Unlimited Annual Dinner March 24, 2012

The Annual East Jersey Trout Unlimited Dinner will be held at the **Grand Chalet** 1377 Route 23 South, Wayne, NJ 07407 --Tel (973) 633-5111.

This dinner recognizes members that sacrifice their time and energy to make the programs we support a success - from Conservation to Education, to State Hatchery Programs for both children and adults, to the Suffern Show, as well as many more. Please come and join us as the proceeds from this affair fund our programs and keep the club active.

The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a cocktail hour featuring unlimited hors d'oeuvres. Complementary beer and wine will be served the entire evening. (Mixed drinks available) Dinner will be from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm. The menu includes mozzarella & peppers, Caesar salad, penne marinara, and a choice of entrée served with potato, vegetable and dessert.

**Entrée Choice: C - Chicken François
 B – Prime Rib
 F – Fillet of Sole stuffed with spinach**

Payment of \$ 50.00 per person is due by 2/28/11

Please make checks payable to: EJTU. Mail completed form and check to:

**Bruce Seiden - Treasurer
5-09 River Road
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
(201) 452-0973**

**Please enter the letter of your meal choice
on the line after your name**

Name _____ Entrée: ____

Guest _____ Entrée: ____

Guest _____ Entrée: ____

Guest _____ Entrée: ____

Phone _____

Email: _____

Please do your best to sit me with the following members:

****** EIGHT PERSONS PER TABLE ******

The Adventures of Elio, Dave, and the Big Rod

Humility is a good thing. If you don't already have it, get yourself some regular fishing buddies and they'll teach it to you.

Nearly two years ago, we went to Yellowstone. It's my turn to drive the rental, and as I'm truckin' down the highway to the NW entrance, a ranger pulls me over and says I'm speeding. I get all innocent and humble and he lets me off with a warning.



Elio

The ranger leaves and I reenter the highway, driving cautiously lest another ranger spring up. Suddenly, I feel a poke behind my right shoulder. It's Elio. "Are you gonna take that from that guy?! Ranger Bob?!" "Uh . . . well," I stammered. "Listen," Elio continues, "You go just as fast as you want!" Hmmm. With friends like these . . .

Dave's turn.

For the first few days, I was grumpy from the cold, the cramped tent, the poor fishing and whatever. I felt bad about my temperament and offered an apology: "I know I've been whining a little, and I'm sorry." "Whining a little?" says Dave. "Hell, I thought we were going to have to stop at the store to get you some tampons." Nice.

Okay, me now.

Dave's a real camper. If one of us gets hurt, he can make a sled out of dead branches and drag the body back to camp. He shows us a tennis ball with a hole in it that he brought from home. He explains that he can insert the end of a stick into the ball and prop the other end on the picnic table. This will support a tarp overhead without putting a hole in it. Elio and I look at each other and say, "Well . . . okay, Dave."

Later, we're at the showers and Dave is looking to borrow soap, shampoo, and other toiletries. He hastily explains how he had to pack in a big hurry because of his job, his family, his dog, etc.

I said, "Wait a minute, you didn't have time to pack deodorant or soap, but you remembered to bring a tennis ball with a hole in it?!"

Final Story

For various reasons, the fishing was not so good that trip. But one day, I happened to land a pretty big cutthroat. Didn't do **anything** special, just got lucky. A couple of days later, a ranger stops by our campsite just to say hello. Young guy. Nice, but with that official, unexpressive face.

"How's the fishing?" he asks politely. "It sucks!" Elio volunteers. "Except for that ___ over there!" he adds, jabbing an accusing finger my way. He hands the ranger his camera and shows him my cutthroat.

The ranger looks at it. He looks at it some more. Raising his head, in a calm and even tone, he looks Elio in the eye and says, "I could shoot him for you." Before anyone can react, he turns to me and says, "Sir, would you step into the woods with me, please?"

Yep. It's all about humility.

As for "the Big Rod," that's a story for another day.



Dave

Fly Tying Classes - Wayne

The EJ TU fly tying classes in Wayne, NJ will begin on Monday, March 12.

The Preakness School [1006 Hamburg Turnpike] will once again be the location.

Our coordinator, Doug Penna, says that if you cannot make it to the first class, don't give up! He will let you join the class if you must be late.



Library Display

In March the display will be in the window of the Rutherford Public Library that faces on Park Avenue.

The library is located at 150 Park Avenue so if you happen to be nearby look for the library and you will see the display that Doug Penna has put together.



Visit the East Jersey TU web site for up-to-the-minute Information:
www.eastjerseytu.org

Pequest Open House

On Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1 – the week before opening day of the 2012 trout season – the Pequest Trout Hatchery will hold its annual open house. The Hatchery will be open from 10 AM until 4 PM on each of those days.

Beginner archery and shotgun ranges will be set up, there will be fishing in the education pond for youngsters, food vendors, wildlife artists, carvers and taxidermists, self-guided tours of the hatchery and much more.

EJTU will have a table in the exhibit hall and we can use some help meeting and talking with visitors. Also, there is always a need for people to help children who fish the education pond.

The hatchery is on Route 46 about five miles west of Hackettstown, NJ.

Ramapo River Day, A Day For Kids

School groups, scout troops, and youth groups are invited to attend an environmental education program sponsored by East Jersey Trout Unlimited and Ramapo College faculty.

When: Saturday June 9, 2012

Time: 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM Rain or Shine

Where: Halifax Road at the Ramapo River in Mahwah, New Jersey (Behind the Ramapo College tennis courts off Rt. 202

Who Can Attend: Fourth grade through high school aged children

Participants will learn about the things that live and grow in the Ramapo River watershed: what makes a healthy environment, what you can do to protect it, catch and identify bugs, do water chemistry experiments, learn about non-point source pollution and botany. Try casting a fly rod and observe fly tying demonstrations.

More information is available from Rich Malizia at 973-304-0789 or email him at REMOCQP@OPTONLINE.NET

The program is offered free of charge, but attendance is limited so please reserve your spot soon. Advance registration is required.

The Birth of EJTU—1971



Presentation of Charter to E. Jersey Chap. From left, Lee & Joan Wulff, Don Ecker, Pres R.P. Van Guytenbeck, Nat'l Dir. of T.U. Ed Burrough, Pres. N. Jersey Chapter

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Trout In The Classroom

Recent photos of trout that Passaic High School students are raising



Photos courtesy of Chuck Bobrowski of Passaic High



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First Class Mail