



# Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 48

May 2017

Number 5

## President's Beat



When you received this issue of Riffles many TU members from Chapters in the northeast, including a group from our chapter, will be in the Califon

area attending the first Regional Rendezvous to be held in New Jersey. These regional meetings started about 7 or 8 years ago and have expanded to all areas of the country. I have been going for the last 4 or 5 years and have also attended a few of the National meetings. They provide a great opportunity to meet like minded individuals from chapters throughout the area and it is great to hear about some of the work they accomplish.

This year's Rendezvous is a little different in that we are including a streamside workshop on Sunday. This is the first time, I am aware of, that a regional meeting is actually going streamside for something beside a few attendees who sneak out to fish. The program is titled: *Hands-on, stream-side training on assessing rivers and identifying restoration projects and using macroinvertebrate sampling to measure and monitor water quality.* The title does not really flow from the tongue, but should prove to be interesting.

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When: May 11 at 7:30 PM

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

## May's Speaker Pat Hamilton - NJ F&W

Pat and Ross Shramko, both biologists with NJ F&W, will discuss pending changes to the New Jersey Fish Code. They will also cover new wild Brook Trout regulations.

If you want to know what will be happening on New Jersey's streams and ponds in the future, come to the meeting; it will be a rare opportunity to ask questions of the people who monitor the State's waters and plan for their future.

## Schedule



- May 5-7 TU Region Rendezvous
- May [TBD] Delaware shad trip
- May 20 [Sat] Brodhead Creek trip
- May 20 [Sat] Earthfest, Overpeck Pk
- May 23 [Tue] Pequest TIC release
- May 27 [Sat] Mahwah Fishing Derby
- June 3 [Sat] Catskills picnic
- June 10-17 Block Island trip
- June 14 [Wed] Speaker: George Daniel
- June 23-25 Ausable river trip
- July 12 [Wed] BBQ and tackle swap
- July 15-16 Farmington River trip
- July [TBD] West Branch Delaware
- Aug [TBD] Aeroflex kayak trip
- Aug 9 [Wed] Fly Tye/Rod Build/Lders
- Sept. TBD Housatonic Trip
- Sept 13 [Wed] Speaker: Rod Rhorbach

## Welcome To April's New Members



- |                   |            |                 |             |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Michael Baker     | Totowa     | Roy Cupples     | New Milford |
| Thomas Dore       | Westwood   | Randy Greene    | Haledon     |
| Joanie Harrington | Ridgewood  | Lisa Lestardo   | Nutley      |
| Bruce Macconchie  | Rutherford | Wayne Oshin     | Glen Ridge  |
| Greg Ricca        | Ridgewood  | William Roos    | Verona      |
| Margaret Sargente | Ridgewood  | Jason Szabo     | Montvale    |
| Jeffrey Towers    | Mahwah     | Raymond Tripodi | Wayne       |

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Trout Unlimited  
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Vacant

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**Conservation Chair**  
Rich Malizia

**Publicity**  
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George Petersen

**Founding President**  
Don Ecker

**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**

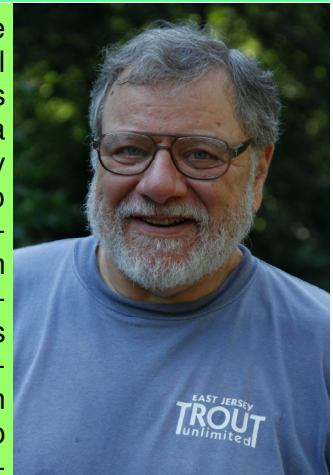
We are approaching the mid-point of the trout stocking schedule and, so far, we have had great participation by our members. I appreciate the efforts of all our volunteers, without whom we could never accomplish this very demanding program. Each week we bucket or float stock the Ramapo River from West Oakland Avenue to Riverview Terrace, thus improving the fishing experience for all anglers. Again, this year, the numbers and size of the fish provided by NJF&W have been outstanding. Each week several 2 and 3 year old fish measuring between 14 and 20 inches have been released, so go catch them, but please put them back. NJF&W will continue weekly, Thursday stocking of the Ramapo until and including May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars and continue to support our efforts to make fishing the Ramapo a quality experience.

A special "thank you" to the members who helped post 2017 fishing regulations at a number of streams and ponds in our area. Manpower limitations combined with the late arrival of the 2017 signs put the Conservation Officers in a tough spot, but our members stepped up and got the job done. Unfortunately, signs have already been torn down in some places so if you fish in a location stocked by the State where there are no signs, please let me know and we will try to repost those locations.

Despite our efforts, we still encounter anglers fishing when trout stocked waters are closed. If you encounter someone fishing during the closed periods, please inform them that they are in violation and subject to a fine if caught by a CO. If the angler refuses to stop fishing you can report this to enforcement by calling 1-855-OGT-TIPS. Please do not cause a confrontation with a violator. If possible, record a violator's license plate number for follow up by a CO.

I was able to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ramapo River Watershed

Conference on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Topics included a study by Ramapo College students on the Cumulative Effects of Development Within the Ramapo



Watershed, Pilgrim Pipeline developments, Torne Valley restoration efforts and DuPont Acid Brook remediation in Pompton Lakes, among other topics. The outlook for many of these projects is generally depressing. An investigation of dumping in the Stag Hill area showed that a substantial amount of debris is trucked into the area with vehicles using four-wheeler trails. While local residents are somewhat culpable, the vast majority of the waste is brought in from outside the area. One bright spot is the continued cleanup of Ford dump sites in Rockland County. It is unfortunate that Rockland County is the only entity to hold Ford's feet to the fire. Ford is required to remediate every location where paint residue is found and Orange County and Ringwood should have followed the same course, but, instead, they sold out.

The NY/NJ Trail Conference has built several new trails in Ramapo Reservation and Harriman Park. New maps will be published soon.

EJTU was represented at two recent local events. The annual Hooked On Hudson Day sponsored by the Hudson River Fishermen's Association faced its usual weather challenge. It is a great event at Ross Dock near the GW Bridge, but it was hard to see the bridge though the rain and fog. Thank you hearty volunteers for holding out as long as you did. The Party for the Planet sponsored by the Bergen County

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# The Tidal Exchange

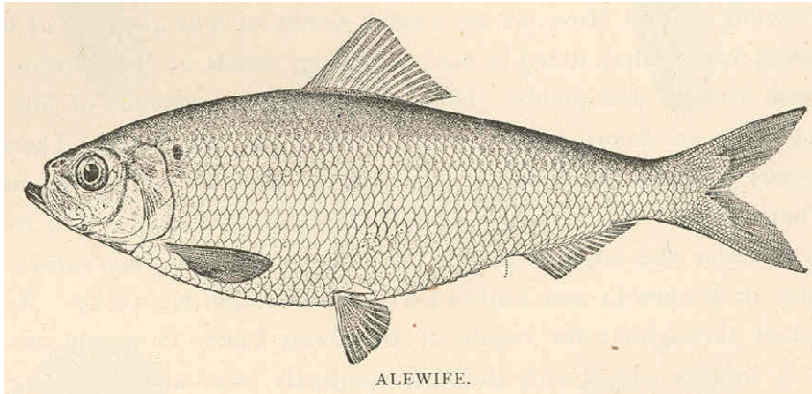
~E-news~

Of the



New York-New Jersey  
Harbor & Estuary Program

## Creature of the Month: Alewife



### Herring Season Has Arrived

April, New York-New Jersey Harbor--- Just as the region's students take off for spring break, schools of Alewives approach their freshwater spawning spots in the estuary's tributaries and lakes. Named for their distinctive round shape, the grey fish are the first herrings of New York and New Jersey to complete the journey from several hundred miles off the Atlantic coast up through the harbor-estuary.

Like their white shadfish and blueback cousins, Alewife herrings rely on disciplined group coordination for feeding and protection. Alewife primarily feed on copepods (small crustaceans found in the sea and nearly every freshwater habitat) and other zooplankton through swimming in a grid formation spaced to account for the jump length of their prey. When a copepod uses its antennae to sense an approaching fish, it "jumps" to scoot out of the way, but lands immediately in

front of a neighboring fish, who eats it before it can deploy its antennae a second time. Packing together tightly also helps defend individual fish from being plucked away by predators such as seabirds, cetaceans, and larger fish. If a group of predators succeeds in disrupting a free-streaming school, alewives will form bait balls, flowing globes of fish vulnerable only to energy-intensive predator tactics such as lunge-feeding.

Though alewives are a beloved staple food of many cultures, habitat loss, tributary damming, and overfishing have dwindled their numbers. The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service designated alewives a Species of Concern under the Endangered Species Act, and both New York and New Jersey have regulations in place limiting their use as recreational baitfish. For more information about the Alewife, read DEC's Herring of New York page.

### Kentucky Coal Mining Museum in Harlan County switches to solar power

By Travis M. Andrews April 6

Housed in a former commissary building and tucked into the hollers of Harlan County — the heart of Kentucky mining country — is a museum dedicated to all aspects of extracting coal from the state's mountains.

Mining equipment decorates its walls, while a two-ton block of coal at the front door greets visitors. Children can climb on the museum's 1940s model electric locomotive that once carried Kentucky men into the mines. An exhibit dedicated to Loretta Lynn (who wrote and who is the "Coal Miner's Daughter") sits on the third floor. Guests can even wander through an actual underground coal mine.

Not much about the Kentucky Coal Mining Museum screams *modern*. It sits next to City Hall on Main Street, the only thoroughfare of Benham, Ky. That's to be expected from a museum dedicated to an old form of energy, which is what makes its own power methods so interesting.

The museum is switching to solar power in hopes of saving money on energy costs. Installation of solar panels began this week.

"We believe that this project will help save at least \$8,000 to \$10,000 on this building alone, so it's a very worthy effort and it's going to save the college money," Brandon Robinson, communications director of Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College, told WYMT.

"It is a little ironic," said Robinson, "But you know, coal and solar and all the different energy sources work hand-in-hand. And, of course, coal is still king around here."

The Washington Post, April 6, 2017

## Conservation Notes - Continued from page 2

Zoo was attended by many families and benefitted from good weather. There was a lot of interest in TU with some parents asking how and where their children could learn to fish. There appears to be a desire to get kids outdoors and involved in a healthy activity. Maybe this is a void EJTU could fill. Thanks Gale for promoting TU membership.

The assault on public lands by the Trump administration continues. Recently a review of all national monuments was ordered. The newly appointed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will head the review team. He stated that he would seek local feedback before making recommendations. He doesn't get it. Many of these monument designations were made to protect these lands from the use and abuse of local residents. These lands belong to all of us and Zinke should expand his inquiry so we all have a say. They are not the private domain of locals and the locals should not be permitted to exploit the timber, minerals or oil and gas on these lands. Must all the assets of our nation be monetized? I see a forest as a place of beauty which offers protection to flora and fauna, but others see only board feet of lumber. If you think that these lands should continue to be protected and that quality of life is more important than profiteering, you better make your opinion known to your federal representatives. Protection of these lands

can be removed with the stroke of a pen.

Local issues like protecting Federal Hill from destruction by the Tilcon stone quarry operations and the capping of the Ford dumpsite in Ringwood have reached a point where only successful litigation will stop these projects. It is unfortunate that our politicians are so short-sighted.

We regret that we were unable to schedule Ramapo River Day this year; conflicts with personal schedules and other events, in which our regular volunteers are involved, were too great to overcome. We are already looking at scheduling the event for June 2018. When we choose a date we will begin to aggressively promote the event to make the 2018 event memorable.

On Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, Mahwah will hold its annual fishing derby. This event is for Mahwah residents, but EJTU members have provided support for several years. It is a good opportunity to promote membership and to offer Mahwah officials our help. Let me know if you would like to help. We only need 3 or 4 members.

We are evaluating a few conservation projects which we hope to do later this summer. We try not to conflict with prime fishing time. Watch for announcements in this column and on our web site.

Go fish!

Rich Malizia

## President's Beat

Continued from page 1

Our chapter activities are ramping up with the last two weekends being particularly busy; we participated in Hooked on the Hudson at Ross Dock and in an Earth Day celebration at the Bergen county zoo in Paramus two weeks ago. On this past Saturday, April 29, we had both our Cast and Blast outing and a work project at the Catskills Fly Fishing Center and Museum. Among our numerous other events that are coming up, we will have a trip to Brodhead River and our Chapter Picnic in the Catskills. During this time, the float stocking of the Ramapo is under way so you can always stop by on a Thursday morning to lend a hand and see what fish the state is providing and where we are putting them.

By now, everyone should have received the Chapter postcard that lists our upcoming events. If you lose it, the info is always available on our website. Try to keep up on what the chapter is doing and come on out to lend a hand.

Tight Lines and a great spring of fishing!

Bruce Seiden

## EJTU's Fly Fishing School



## Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

As opening day of trout season approached, disabled veterans and volunteers from the Northeast Jersey Unit of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing were exploring some fishing options. Our concern was trying to take a dozen or so vets with varying abilities to fish on one of the potentially overcrowded streams in the area. But we were relieved when NJ Fish & Wildlife announced the opportunity for the disabled vets from PHWFF to spend opening day fishing the education pond at the Pequest



Hatchery. It turned out to be an outstanding event.

Disabled vets with their family members and volunteers from four PHWFF units in New Jersey attended. We first enjoyed a light breakfast at the main building and then proceeded to the pond. The veterans, their spouses and children, enjoyed several hours of catching cooperative rainbow trout, several of which were taken home to be enjoyed again at dinner. While the

weather was a little cold and windy, nearly everyone landed a fish, some of which were in the 2 – 3 pound class. It was particu-

larly rewarding to watch the dads relating to their kids. One youngster, whom I guess to be 6 or 7, flashed the biggest smile each time she caught a trout. She certainly enjoyed her day and made her father proud.

All of us who participated in the event offer our thanks to the Pequest staff for their extraordinary efforts to make it such an enjoyable and successful day. It was truly a special opening day for some very special veterans.

PHWFF Northeast Jersey meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30PM at the VFW, 28 Faner Road, Midland Park, NJ. Any disabled veteran is invited to attend.

EJTU has partnered with PHWFF and our members consti-

## Proposed Barge Anchorages on the Hudson River

The lifting of restrictions on the export of oil is having a direct effect on the Hudson River. Oil extracted via fracking is arriving at the Port of Albany and being transported on barges down the Hudson River. The barges act as storage facilities, waiting transfer to oil tankers in the New York Harbor. To accommodate the increased barge traffic, shipping industry representatives have petitioned the United States Coast Guard to allow additional mooring in the river. The petition has requested 10 mooring sites. Although this sounds minimal, these 42 long term and one short-term mooring will actually encompass 2 square miles or 2,000 acres of river.

This increase in barge traffic and mooring will adversely affect the River system in many ways:

- Barges pollute the river with noise from their generators and stadium lighting to prevent night time collisions.
- Anchors drag on the river bottom damaging and fragmenting river bottom habitats for fish and other species.
- Increased commercial traffic puts recreational fisherman in danger of collision.
- The more oil “stored” on the River increases the risks of catastrophic spills. The turbid nature of the River also adversely affects cleanup efforts.
- Three quarters of the proposed anchorage sites are on commercial fishing areas and will affect both the fisheries and the use of those areas.

The proposal does not mention any of the economic costs or

benefits, biodiversity or pollution concerns, effects on the residents or communities abutting the moorings. All these issues need to be addressed.

Initial public comments to the Coast Guard closed on December 2016. Very few of the 10,000 comments were from New Jersey residents or organizations. Public hearings on the issue will be held in the near future.

For additional information:

<http://www.hudsonriveranchorages.org>  
<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=USCG-2016-0132>

Bob Groskin, DVM  
 Saltwater Conservation Chair  
 Fly Fishers International (formerly IFFF)

## Wood Chips



Our Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> annual maintenance of the parking area along Glen Gray Road in Mahwah was a great success.

Most of the snow had melted, but a large residual pile of ice, created by plowing a driveway on the other side of the street, had to be dispatched by four young and strong Boy Scouts. They came to earn some service hours and we took advantage of their youth and strength.

The Township of Mahwah provided the piles of woodchips, which looked daunting at first, but soon disappeared as our volunteers spread them over the parking area.

We thank the numerous volunteers who came out for our first event of the season and whose efforts made a demanding task relatively easy. We get a lot of work out of our members in exchange for a cup of coffee and a few munchkins. One important fact is that we hope everyone works within their own limits. Many of us are old as dirt and do what we can, but, thankfully, we have a few “young” volunteers who pick up the slack for the rest of us. I hope our members continue to support our conservation activities.

I think the folks that live in the area appreciate our concerns about keeping the area clean and safe, since some of them stopped to thank us for our efforts. The parking area will get plenty of use during the next few months and most anglers are respectful and help to keep the area clean. But don't be afraid to speak up if you see any abuses. Although the parking area is on land owned by Bergen County, it could revert to the days when parking was prohibited.

In-season trout stocking will start on April 13<sup>th</sup> and continue every Thursday for seven weeks, so we will need many volunteers to properly distribute the fish to provide a quality fishing experience.

Thanks again to all.

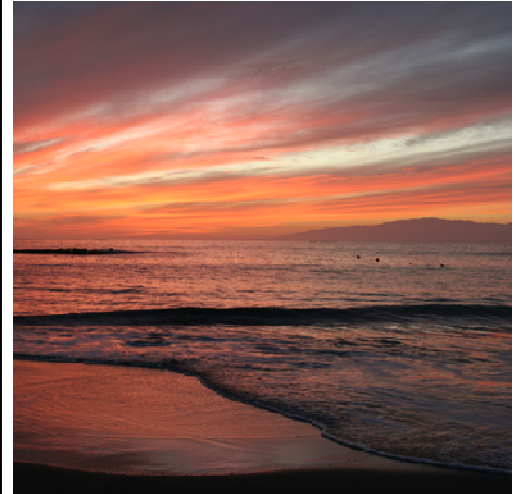
Rich Malizia

“But fortune will always confer an aura Of worth, unworthily; and in this world The lucky person passes for a genius.”

From The Heracleidae (about 430 BC) By Euripedes

## Ocean Temperature

For those who enjoy tossing big flies into the surf, the big fish should be moving close to shore as the temperature off Belmar is now 55. Add a coastal storm that can churn up the bottom and bring up clams and other food and you should start finding fish in the surf.



For wave heights, water temperature and surf conditions go to: <http://www.surf-forecast.com>

## EJTU Poll

Help to decide where EJTU will schedule a fishing trip in 2018!

Go to EJTU.org and, on the home page, choose where you would like the Chapter to have a trip next year. You can choose from five suggested locations. If you have other suggestions, tell us.

## Ramapo River Day Cancelled

Because of conflicts with personal schedules and other events we were unable to schedule Ramapo River Day this year.

Dates in June 2018 are being reviewed and when one is chosen you will be notified.