



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited



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Number 11

President's Beat



After last month's chapter meeting, I was curious to see the latest news on the Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska. I did a quick Google search and immediately found the Pebble Partnership website which is provided by Northern Dynasty Minerals, the current owner of the Pebble mineral deposit.

One of the first things I see on their website is that a lawsuit brought by Pebble in US federal court charges EPA with violating the Federal Advisory Committee Act by inappropriately colluding with environmental activists. They are claiming that the EPA was wrong to undermine long-standing federal regulatory and permitting processes in seeking to veto Pebble before a project had been proposed or permits applied for.

Both Pebble Partnership and the EPA are requesting and reviewing documents from each other. Pebble is going back years in its search of EPA records for signs the agency was involved in behind-the-scenes maneuvering to stop the mine.

The EPA is asking for Pebble to provide company documents on

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When: November 9 at 7:30 PM

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

November's Speaker Tim Flagler

In November Tim Flagler, of Tightline Productions, comes in from Califon to give one of his informative presentations.

His talk centers on "What is happening now on New Jersey's trout streams", but he will also have video covering catching fish, popular patterns, bugs and fly tying.



Welcome to October's New Members



Todd Cortese	Franklin Lks
Maureen Farrel	Ridgewood
Darren Lilley	Ridgewood
Jeffrey Patel	Montclair
Ellsworth Whiteman	Ramsey

Schedule



- Nov. (TBD) Salmon River steel head trip
- Dec. 14 [Wed] Christmas Party
- Jan. 11 [Wed] Speaker: Jef Skelding
- Feb. [TBD] Possible Connetquot trip
- Feb. 8 [Wed] Speaker Steve Culton
- Mar. 8 [Wed] Speaker: Tom Gilore
- 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
- Jun. [TBD] Block Island trip
- Jun. [TBD] Ausable river trip
- Jun. 14 [Wed] Speaker:George Daniel



From "Aging With Attitude" by Pauline Whitchurch and Evelyn Beilenson; illustrated by Bonnie Krebs.

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Trout Unlimited
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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.**

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information, visit www.tu.org. Go to chapter
number 091 for the latest information about our
chapter.
Riffler 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

Conservation Notes

I thought I would offer a change from the usual focus of my column and provide an overview of the activities of the Conservation Committee. Both my head and the wall will get a rest this month.

Those of us who are directly involved with the various EJTU Conservation Committee activities often overlook the fact that some of our members don't know very much about many of them. As a result, I often assume that our members are as familiar with the projects and locations as I am. Therefore, as we approach the end of the year, I thought it would be worthwhile to recap our activities. In the future, I will attempt to provide greater details about each project and offer more information about what a volunteer may be asked to do.

When the winter weather breaks in March, we enlist the support of Mahwah DPW to provide woodchips for the parking area along Glen Gray Road. Our volunteers spend the morning repairing the area, filling holes and spreading woodchips, so it is suitable for anglers to park there and not interfere with neighborhood traffic by parking on the street. Since we started this project many years ago, homeowners have been far more cooperative and supportive of our activities in the area.

In late March or early April volunteers assist at the Pequest open house weekend by helping kids fish at the pond or by working at our information table at the main building. This event provides the opportunity to meet the many attendees, to raise money by selling flies and to promote chapter activities. Those working at the pond have an opportunity

to interact with the kids and help many of them catch their first trout.

Spring is the time when we support the state's stocking activities. Starting with the preseason stocking in March and ending with the final release in late May, our members float stock or bucket stock the Ramapo River from West Oakland Avenue to Riverview Drive, a demanding task which requires support from at least a dozen members every week. Thankfully, a core group of regulars are there almost every week but we need many more to get it done. If we have lots of help, we usually get a few extra fish to enhance the angling experience for everyone.

We are often called upon to assist at local fishing derbies because many of the organizations and municipalities that sponsor these events don't have enough knowledgeable workers to assist the kids. That is where our members step up to help. These events afford EJTU the opportunity to interface with leaders of various communities and to promote TU membership. Volunteers wear EJTU branded attire so we are easily identified. We have become the "go to" organization and have helped several groups to organize and conduct these events. These kids and young parents potentially represent the future membership in TU.



Conservation Notes—continued

Environmental education continues to be a major activity. Our Ramapo River Day event had to be canceled at the last minute this year due to a scheduling conflict created by the college, but we hope to get back on schedule in 2017. Take a look at our web site for photos of this event from years past. It is the largest and most demanding single project that we do each year and we need the support of many members to set up the tents and equipment. The program is conducted by our members and staff from Ramapo College.

We are often asked to support school or scout groups by presenting macroinvertebrate programs and fly casting instruction. We assisted the Englewood Rec summer program this year by providing fishing instruction to dozens of kids for a few weeks this summer. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough volunteers to support their entire schedule.

We continue our monitoring of water quality issues by conducting a water temperature monitoring program at several local waterbodies and our B.A.T.S. program continues to provide meaningful data about the macroinvertebrate populations in our rivers and streams. We would like to expand these programs but to do that more members must step up to assist in these endeavors.

Our monofilament recycling program continues at several locations in our area. This too is a program that benefits the environment and could be easily expanded if we had enough members willing to monitor specific locations. Look for those white PVC pipes at your favorite fishing spot.

The battle with trash is unending. Our cleanups, many of which are coordinated with other organizations or municipalities, provide the opportunity to create an immediate, while at times short-lived, benefit to our surroundings. A cleanup at Mill Pond in Park Ridge this summer yielded 1,180 pounds of debris. Many locations need attention, but again this work depends entirely on member participation. Remember, every storm sewer eventually dumps into the nearest body of water. If you want your favorite trout stream to be debris free, it is best to keep the trash out of the streets.

Major projects like the Cresskill Brook restoration and the Ramapo River weir reconstruction often take years to plan, obtain funding and get approvals. Take a look at the web site for more about these projects. Recently, we found it necessary to withdraw our support of a restoration project on the Ramapo River in Oakland. We felt that the process was flawed and had the potential to cause damage to the river. Therefore, we no longer wanted EJTU to be associated with it. While the project is only in its early stages, certain events have reinforced our decision to withdraw our support.

For several years, we have been trying to establish an access for handicapped anglers. We have proposed several locations only to be refused due to concerns over liability exposure or other issues. While at times it is discouraging, we continue to seek out an appropriate location and hope to be successful at some point. Our efforts to get approvals for Lake Henry in Mahwah, Mill Pond in Park Ridge and

Potash Lake in Oakland have ended in disappointment. Do you have a suggestion? Get involved.

So as you get ready for winter, think about how you might contribute to our efforts. Remember the mission of Trout Unlimited is conservation. We just happen to have many members who like to fish. I hope to see new faces at our conservation events. Be assured there will always be a job to do and you will always be welcome. While some members are "regulars", this is never to the exclusion of others.

Rich Malizia

November's Library Displays

Doug is careering around North Jersey again and has managed to install EJTU Library Displays in two sites for November.

The people of Franklin Lakes will have one display in their library, while the citizens of Wayne will also be able to visit one in their library.

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

The Wayne library is at 461 Valley Rd. (Tel: (973) 694-4272).

Franklin Lakes Library



Dolly Varden by Dino Eftychiou

I'm fascinated with the names of flies that I tie. Some have to do with the creator of the fly, e.g. the Prince. Some with the material used, e.g., the Pheasant Tail. And others identify their intended purpose, e.g., the Stimulator. But what about trout names? Browns, Rainbows, Brookies are self-explanatory appellations, albeit not with any engaging back-stories regarding their names.



A number of years ago, during a cruise to Alaska, I paid for an extra excursion so that I could be flown to a river in the back woods to fly fish. I had no idea, at the time, as to what specific species we would be targeting. The excursion description promised trout and that's what I expected. As it turned out, it was a Dolly Varden, a fish I had never heard of. And a really odd name! Regardless, at the time, I didn't care what they called it. I was on the river to have a fun, successful experience, which I did, and to have

something to brag about to the fellows back home, which I also did.

So what is a Dolly Varden and what's with the name? To quote the Alaska Fish and Game website, "Though similar to, and often confused with trout, Dolly Varden are actually a char (*Salvelinus* sp). To tell a char from a trout, look at their spots—char have light spots (white or yellow to red) on a dark body, while trout have dark spots (brown to black) on a light body."

OK. That's all I needed to know about this species. I was more interested in the colorful name, which turned out to be all about the color.

For you see, back in 1839, Charles Dickens wrote a novel entitled *Barnaby Rudge*, in which one of the characters was Dolly Varden. One of her most distinct characteristics was her flamboyant, very colorful outfits in which she liked to strut about, as illustrated in this Currier & Ives lithograph.



In researching the connection between the fish and the character, I could not find out who exactly coined the name. All I could find was that someone at some time caught this very colorful fish and might have said something like, "Gee, this fish looks just like that Dolly Varden." And he didn't even have to be a reader, because for quite a number of years in the 19th century the Dolly Varden look was in vogue and people were aware of the fashion, even if not the character.

There are many fish with fascinating reasons for their names. A toothfish was relabeled a Chilean Seabass for marketing reasons. Moby Dick was based on an actual notorious whale known as Mocha Dick. Every time a huge white shark is caught, the media calls it Jaws. For me, though, having caught Dolly Varden and having since read Dickens' passages about the character herself, I find the name uniquely suitable.

President's Beat Continued from page 1

its mining plan, finances, lost investors and payments to select Pebble advocates and groups connected to the Bristol Bay region. The EPA says it is trying to determine "if Pebble's asserted financial troubles can be attributed to EPA, or whether, as EPA suspects, they are caused by other factors such as falling mineral prices and mine viability more generally."

In February 2014, EPA announced its intention to use its

authority under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to protect the salmon fishery in Bristol Bay "from the potentially destructive impacts of the proposed Pebble Mine." Part C of Section 404 authorizes the EPA to withdraw, deny, prohibit or restrict those areas to discharge – before or after a permit has been submitted – if it determines that a discharge of fill would result in a "significant loss or damage to fisheries, shell fishing, or wildlife habitat or recreation areas." The lawsuit is currently preventing the EPA from completing the steps

necessary to implement this restriction.

Conservation groups such as the World Conservation Congress are still joining the fight and calling for Bristol Bay Protections. They have joined a large group of organizations, including TU and the Federation of Fly Fishers that have come out against the mine.

While the project is in the courts right now, it seems to be a fight that will continue for many years to come.

Bruce Seiden

The Difference of a Day - Housatonic River

TU's trip to the Housatonic River was canceled because of the state campground's closing schedule, but I still felt the need to get there at this time of year. I had two reasons for wanting to fish the Housatonic at this time: I was monitoring the volume of water, but more importantly the water temperatures had finally cooled considerably, making for a guilt free trout fishing excursion.

Instead of sleeping in a tent, I camped at my daughter's house, an hour away in Fairfield, CT. On the first trip up, I got to one of the Housey's classic pools at around 4 p.m. Hatches started shortly thereafter beginning with random Isonychias and about 1 hour later size 20 whatever (whitish Cahill / Sulphur like). I was opposite a fisherman at the other side of the pool when I got into a large fish. How big? Well after he broke off, he jumped high out of the water three times while trying to throw the broken fly. I estimate it to be a 20 inch plus rainbow. For the next two hours nothing. Fish of every size were leaping out of the river or rolling everywhere in the water, but no connections. But the gentleman on the opposite side hooked a brown that was in excess of 20 inches. I had my GoPro camera with me and I videoed him and will send him a copy once I figure out how to send a large video file. Disappointed in my results, and yet satisfied that at least I was fishing over fish, I went back to Fairfield. Upon departing the gentleman told me that he would not be back next night. Hehe- I would get his spot.

The next day I went back around 4 PM to his side of pool which gave a better drift for the whole pool. Within minutes, Isos started floating on the river, and the next three hours can only be described as a wet dream (no pun intended). Fish were rising everywhere and I landed



seven fish, with the smallest 16 inches and the largest 20 inches, (yes, I measured them!). There was not one small fish! According to the local fly shop expert, during the warm water period the big trout bullied the small fish out of the prime waters and it was primarily small fish in the following die off. Anyway, I missed a few more, but it was like the hatch you dream about. Fortunately, I had my GoPro camera running and captured a number of the fish both on my line and on "film".

Despite my success, the fishing was not easy since the fish had to decide if they would choose my fly versus the many naturals floating by. Still, it was probably one of the best days of my fishing career.

So, next day where did I go? Yep, same place. However this day was different as the Iso hatch did not even start until 6 p.m. One gentleman who was there when I arrived at 4 p.m. caught two nice 16 inch plus fish in the prime spot on the pool on an Iso artificial and then left. I tried for the next hour with no positive results but there were few if any Isos showing. By 6:30 p.m. those size 20s were back with the fish again leaping and rolling on them. Two other fellows who live seven minutes away showed up and caught two each while I missed one or two while using a size 20 cahill. Then, as I was looking over at one of the guys to see what he was doing while my Iso was floating down river, I felt my line go tight. Yup, a 20 inch brown had hooked himself. After that I missed a few on the size 20 cahill and then it was time to go home.

Apparently, as a result of cool water, they have stocked the Housey, but Furnace Creek which dumps into Church pool is off limits for 100 feet.

Greg Tarris

Check Your Newspaper

To acquaint the public with East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited's meetings and activities, we send information to newspapers and cable TV stations in hopes they will publish it. To get as much coverage as possible, we would appreciate your checking the list and, if your local newspaper or cable channel is not there, please notify Bruce T. Halstater at brewtrum@verizon.net or at a meeting so we can add it to our contact list.

The Record
Cliffside Park Citizen
Clifton Journal
Fair Lawn News
FIOS channel 34
Hackensack Chronicle
Northern Valley Suburbanite
Our Town
Pascack Press
Ridgewood News
The Clifton Insider
The Fisherman Magazine
The Gazette
Twin Boro Shopper
Wayne Today
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Thank you,
Bruce T. Halstater
Publicity

Visit the East Jersey TU
web site for up-to-the-minute
Information, the photo gallery,
links to fishing sites and much
more:

www.ejtu.org

But don't forget to also check out
EJTU on Facebook

<http://tinyurl.com/ptq2u3t>

Trout Eggs Delivered!



Rainbow trout eggs were delivered to 22 schools in our area as part of a nation wide program called Trout in the Classroom. Teachers help students hatch the eggs, which are then called alevins, and then feed the fish as they grow from alevins stage to

fry and then to fingerling. Fingerling trout are about 3 inches long. These fingerling trout are then released into designated local waters.

At the schools I delivered eggs to both teachers and students were very excited to receive their trout eggs. Teachers had Petri dishes ready to go where the students would sort the eggs. This was just the beginning of many lessons in math, chemistry, biology, English and the arts that students would do in connection to raising the trout.

Thanks to members Rich Malizia, Doug Penna, Paul Reithmeir,

Fred Madura, Tom DeAngelis, Anthony Gentile, and Joe Martella for delivering the eggs for our club.

Jim Piombino



Maryland's 2016 Striped Bass Young Of The Year

The official numbers are out on Maryland's 2016 striped bass young of the year, and they aren't good. This late summer count of striped bass born during the past spring is calculated annually by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources by hauling a seine through essentially the same areas of Chesapeake Bay, at the same time, year after year. The number of baby bass caught in the net is averaged and a final count for the year is eventually calculated. **In 2016 it was 2.2 which compares to a long-term average of 11.86.** In fairness striped bass spawning success in the Bay has historically varied considerably on a year to year basis. But it is the trend that is worrisome. Here is the average YOY trend by decade since the recovery began from the collapse of the late 1970s:

- 1987-1996 17.3
- 1997-2006 16.2
- 2007-2016 10.9

This is a decline of 37% since the height of the recovery that gave us the great fishing of the late 90s and early 2000s. But what is more alarming is that two of the poorest years for young stripers in the last 30 – 2016 and 2012 – occurred during the last 5 years. In fact the average for the last 5 years is just 8.81 or about half of what it was during the top of the recovery.

Clearly the direction is not good. We cannot change these numbers and the abundance or scarcity of big bass available to spawn and to fish for 10 or 15 years from now will depend on how we treat these fish as they grow. If we gill net them in Chesapeake Bay, then start cropping them off commercially and recreationally at 28 inches in size, there certainly will be many less large spawners than there are right now, and the quality of fishing will continue to deteriorate.

In truth we are not talking just about numbers here but of the future of wild striped bass and how we choose to manage this shrinking resource going forward. This fishery and the billion dollar plus recreational striped bass fishing economy is threatened by current regulatory philosophy that undervalues. At present these fish are managed primarily for their limited commercial value and as long as these fish have a commercial price tag on their heads their future will always be in doubt. Only by declaring and managing them as a game species will they have a secure future..... and that is the goal of Stripers Forever: insuring a healthy and robust wild striped bass fishery.

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This report was originated by Stripers Forever.

www.stripersforever.org