



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 39

November 2009

Water, Water Everywhere. Oh Yeah?

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 1798 poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* contains words that are probably known to every English speaking person,

*Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.*

Coleridge was writing about a becalmed sailing ship with a crew that was angry at its captain but, according to some predictions, people living on the New Jersey peninsula may find themselves wailing that same refrain when they realize that while they are next to vast supplies of salt water the supply of sweet water cannot meet every day needs.

Yes, there is another crisis facing us and this one concerns something that is both one of mankind's basic needs and also something that we in EJTU are often found splashing around in; water.

You may think that water problems and severe droughts are limited to backward areas in third world countries but this is not true. Throughout the world, the use of water has surpassed the supply. In fact, the US government projected in 2007 that at least 36 states will face water shortages within five years because of a combination of rising temperatures, drought, population growth, urban sprawl, waste and excessive use.

You have probably heard of the problems in California's central valley where thousands of acres of farmland are lying fallow because the State felt that water normally used for irrigation could be better used elsewhere but have you heard of the Ogallala Aquifer? This massive underground water source that lies beneath 225,000 square miles in the Great Plains has supplied Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska with water since the early 1900's but is now disappearing. Like California's Central Valley, these States produce much of the food that is consumed in the United States so if the Ogallala Aquifer is drained America's breadbasket will have no water and therefore no crops. And, if drained, it would take more than 6,000 years to refill naturally.

A parochial view of the water crisis might cause you to feel that we in New Jersey have always seemed to have plenty of water so it's not our problem. If you feel this way you have never visited the Wanaque Reservoir in years when rainfall was less than normal, you don't remember those summers when lawn watering was limited to "odd and even" days, you've forgotten the times when washing cars was prohibited and you don't remember our politicians promising to build large underground tunnels so water can be pumped to eastern Jersey from areas with adequate supplies (one more

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When: November 11 at 7:30 PM

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

November Speaker

Dick Despommier

Madison and Missouri Rivers

Dick is an active trout fisherman and has been affiliated with EJTU for a number of years. He is a professor at Columbia University, teaching courses in parasitology and a well known expert on viruses.



If you read the New York Times August 31, 2009 Op-Ed piece on vertical farming by Dickson Despommier you were reading an article by Dick about one of his favorite topics.

If you want to know what weather patterns might trigger a West Nile Virus epidemic, ask Dick; this is one of his interests.

An interesting man, an interesting speaker and a good friend of EJTU

December 9 Meeting

Jerry Zalenka and his animals

At our December meeting we will feature Jerry Zalenka and his array of scaled and furry friends.

Those who saw Jerry's performance last year will certainly return for a repeat of this fun evening.



Bring your children, grandchildren and anyone who enjoys an entertaining and informative close-up look at some strange creatures.



EJTU Calendar

Advise Rich Malizia of changes to calendar events (E) at remqcp@optonline.net or 973-304-0789.

Ed Higgins easyedh@verizon.net plans fishing trips (F) to a number of locations. Let Ed know if you are interested in these trips well in advance because in many cases openings are limited and reservations for a firm number of participants must be made. 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.

2009

November:

November 7 - stocking

November 8 - (F) Fishing trip to Ken Lockwood Gorge

November 11 - Membership Mtng; Speaker Dick Despommier on Madison & Missouri Rivers

December

December 9 - Membership Mtng; Jerry Zalenka and animals (bring children)

2010

January 13 - Membership Mtng; Capt. Paul Eidman, Marine Fish Conservation and Fishing 2010



February 10 - Membership Mtng; Ken Tutalo, Baxter House Guide, Roscoe, NY

March 10 - Membership Mtng; Tom Gilmore, Fly Fishing Delaware Shad

March/April (Dates TBA) (E) Spring trout stocking

April (Date TBA) Hudson River Fishing Association's Hooked on the Hudson

April 30/ May 2 - (F) Frost Valley (Clareyville, NY) on East Branch of Neversink River

May 29 (E) Mahwah Fishing Derby

May (Date TBA) (F) Shad fishing on the Delaware River

May (Date TBA) - (F) possible overnight fishing trip to Penns Creek or Big Pine Creek (Central PA.)

June 5 - (F) Picnic/fishing at Catskill Fly Fishing Museum

June 12 - (E) Ramapo River day

June (Date TBA) - (F) Twin Maples, Block Island,

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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 Ed Sikorski at: 201-337-6396 or email to: dored100@hotmail.com
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

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forgotten promise)

No matter what has brought us to this point, the problem shows no signs of disappearing; people continue to need food, the sun continues to pump



out heat and world-wide population continues to grow. The solutions that have been proposed include increasing the cost of water, desalination via reverse

osmosis, spending one trillion dollars a year in applying existing technologies for conserving water, maintaining and replacing infrastructure, and constructing sanitation systems and even replacing dams with underground storage in order to reduce evaporation losses. Dick Despommier, EJTU member and our November 2009 speaker, has for quite some time been recommending that agriculture be shifted to vertical farming.

It will be interesting to see if any governments recognize the seriousness of this problem before it becomes unsolvable.

On Line Fly-Tying Contest

While rummaging around on the Web I came on a site that offers what they call "The Endless Online Fly-Tying Contest". I did not generate the User Name and Password needed to make full use of the site but, from a cursory look at the site, it appears to be legitimate and something that our tyers might be interested in.

At the site, www.hacklehead.com, you may enter contests by sending digital photos of flies that you have tied or you may judge contests that are in progress. As they say on the home page, "Whether you win or not, Hacklehead is a great way to get feedback on your tying..."

If you have time to register with the site and either enter flies or judge them, let us know what you think. We will then let the rest of our members know whether or not they should also make use of it.



Blue Wing Olives

Another Discount for Oldies.

Northeastern New Jersey has a few nice streams but, because better ones are found away from our congested area, our fishermen spend a lot of time on the NJ Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. E-ZPass users probably don't think about the amount that they are spending on tolls until they receive a notice that the account is adding funds from the credit card that is associated with the E-ZPass account. If you travel the toll roads often, that notice can be frequent and possibly unpleasant. But, if you are one of the EJTU members whose hair blends in with the "sea of white" that is usually in attendance at our meetings you can get an E-ZPass discount that is valid on the Turnpike and Parkway Monday through Friday during off-peak hours.

To participate you must be 65 or older, have a valid driver's license (from any State), have a passenger vehicle registered or leased in your name (from any State) and have a New Jersey E-ZPass account.

If you want to participate in this discount program call 732-442-8600 Ext. 2100 and ask for the application(s); if you have multiple passenger vehicles

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applications arrived within two days of my call but the applications contain a notice that indicates that processing may take up to six to eight weeks.

Help The EJTU Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner is approaching rapidly and the Chapter can use your help. We would, of course, like to see a large number of our members, along with their guests, attend the dinner but, if other obligations prevent you from attending, you can still help.

A great deal of the money that we use for our projects is generated through the bucket raffles and auctions that take place at the dinner. And, in order for the Chapter to generate the greatest amount of income, it has to have a large number of prizes. That's where you can help; you can contribute items that we can use as prizes. They do not have to all be fishing-related because a large number of wives and girlfriends attend the dinner and all of them are not "outdoors" oriented.

The Chapter would appreciate your help.

This planet is covered with sordid men who demand that he who spends time fishing shall show returns in fish...

Leonidas Hubbard, Jr.

Fall Fishing

Fall and early winter are special times on trout streams for me. On a warm day the conditions are much better than those that we are willing to subject ourselves to in early spring. There are far fewer fishermen on the water and you will often find yourself alone on water that in Spring has a rod every 50 feet. Maybe because years ago trout seasons ended in most states in September or October there just doesn't seem to be as much interest in fishing in the Fall.

But fishing in the Fall can be a challenge. There are few if any hatches, most of the ants, hoppers and beetles are gone and nymphs of the year are still very tiny. Then there are the leaves. Nothing gets your attention like the "take" of a big Sycamore leaf. And cleaning leaves off after every cast can be a drag (no pun intended). In addition to the leaves you see floating on the surface there are lots more that have settled to the bottom. This makes fishing with added weight on your leader difficult



But, there are a few things you can do to make the experience more fun. Use a tapered leader; knotted leaders can catch a leaf on every knot. If the water is low and clear, as it often is in the Fall, leave the strike indicator home; it will only snag leaves anyway. Use a weighted fly and cast and fish upstream; you can control the drift and you will find that you hook fewer leaves.

Bait fish are still present in the rivers so a streamer will often catch fish. And if the water levels are high enough, it's the time to break out that sink tip line that you have carried all year in the back pocket of your vest. Sink tips will get your fly down without adding shot so you can fish streamers and wet flies very easily. Just keep your leader short, around 6 feet, otherwise the line may be down but the fly can be riding high in fast water.

Choice of flies can be tough. In the early Fall many simple nymph patterns work, not because there are naturals in the water, but because they look like a bug that has been dead for a while and washed downstream. If you ever sample a river in the Fall you will find bees, flies, beetles, hoppers, etc. which are missing all or most of their wings, legs and other body parts. Wet flies with beadheads, soft hackle or flash will take fish too. I think they work as attractors and are taken because they annoy the fish. If you get lucky, you may encounter a caddis hatch in late afternoon. There are also small BWO's and midges and on some water tiny brown or black stoneflies. Your other options are those bugs like stoneflies that take more than one season to hatch and things like scuds that never hatch.

So get out and experience the quiet season. Even if the fish don't come out to play, the beauty of the Fall colors, chance encounters with migrating birds and the uncommon pleasure of being the only one at your favorite "secret spot" is worth it.

Enjoy!! *Limp Leader*

There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process.



....Paul O'Neil, 1965

Fly of the Month

Everything is dwindling down 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.

**The Red-shouldered Hawk
An Endangered Species in NJ**

Hawks, eagles, and owls are known as raptors or birds of prey. Some raptor species like bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and ospreys are familiar to most people because they are easy to identify and highly visible. These species are also often covered by the media because of the work being done to bring about and maintain their magnificent recoveries in New Jersey. Some other species of raptor in New Jersey are much less well-known. The red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), a forest hawk listed as an endangered species in New Jersey, is one such raptor. It is not highly visible and can go undetected in the wetland forests where it lives and nests. Today, we believe fewer than 200 pairs of red-shouldered hawks breed in New Jersey, but little is known about whether this number is increasing or decreasing.

The red-shouldered hawk is a small "buteo" (pronounced "beauty-o"), or soaring hawk. It gets its name from red or rust-colored patches on the upper shoulders. It has bold black and white stripes on its tail and flight feathers, a red-orange chest, and pale underwing feathers. It is one of the most beautiful hawks in eastern North America.

It ranges in along the Atlantic Coast from New England to Florida. In New Jersey, the red-shouldered hawk is a year-round resident, but during spring and fall many migrate through the state along the Atlantic Flyway. Its habitat is comprised of forested areas that are periodically flooded (e.g., forested wetlands).

Pairs of these hawks exhibit a high level of site fidelity. They return to the same nest, year after year, although not necessarily to the same tree. They build stick nests in a crotch or fork in large trees that are below the forest canopy. The female lays 3 to 4 eggs that are incubated for around 33 days. The young are cared for by the adults for another 10 to 15 weeks or until they can hunt on their own. The young will return to nest near where they originated. This hawk has a varied diet of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians

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November 21 and 23, 2009

Doubletree Hotel, Somerset, NJ

The theme of the 19th International Fly Tying Symposium is "Big Fish Flies."

The show will present limited classes, seminars and a selection of the latest materials, necks from the actual growers exhibiting, hooks, tying desks, frames and shadow boxes, artwork, books and DVDs.

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Red-shouldered hawks require between 250-650 acres of unfragmented forested habitat to nest. They usually nest more than 3,000 feet away from the nearest house, but there are a few pairs in northern New Jersey that have set up residence closer to people. These hawks are easily disturbed by human activities like hiking and off-road vehicle use. They can abandon a nest early in the season if they feel threatened. Their need for intact forests



and minimal human disturbance restricts the number of places they can breed in New Jersey and may be limiting their population growth. In the early 1800's, red-shouldered hawks were quite common in New Jersey. As the human population grew, their population declined as

many birds were shot to prevent them from killing poultry and game birds. In the early 1900's, their decline continued as forests were cleared and wetlands filled. By 1979, only 100 nesting pairs were found, and the species was listed as threatened. In the 1980's, surveyors found only 36 pairs. This discovery led to increased protection for the red-shouldered hawk. Its status was reclassified as endangered in 1991.

Biologists have continued to study this species to determine the overall health of the population in New Jersey. Woodland raptor surveys and sighting reports from the public have provided the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) with data to help judge population trends. Red-shouldered hawks may suffer if essential habitat continues to be lost or degraded by development and forest fragmentation. Current research and data analysis conducted by ENSP will more accurately determine the population's status and trends in New Jersey. Conservation measures, including wetland protection and wise forest management, will help protect this interesting raptor.

From EJTU's Past

The following article appeared in the first issue of *Riffles*. The banner proclaimed that it was Volume 1, Issue 1 of "The Riffle", throughout the issue it was referred to as "Riffles". The date? January/February 1971.

The Hot Spot Of The Month

The Big flat Brook by Andrew A. Gennaro

Out of all the trout streams in this state I've fished, I believe the Big Flat Brook to be the finest and most picturesque. My favorite section is the Fly Stretch, approximately 4 miles of classic calendar picture water.

The easiest way to find the Flat Brook is to ride North on State Route #206. A few miles past the Stokes State Forest entrance, a concrete bridge carries the road over the stream. The Highway Department has thoughtfully marked the crossing, so you can't miss it.

Route #206 marks the uppermost boundry of the Fly Stretch. Here, the Flat Brook is a typical mountain stream flowing through stately hemlocks and mountain laurel. There are several nice pickets and pools in this section, the deepest of which is Warner Pool. Legend says this beautiful and popular pool carries the name of a man found dead on its banks many years ago.

A short distance below Warner Pool, the Flat Brook enters a swamp appropriately named the "Jungle". The stream is heavily over grown and splits into several channels here. Fishing is tough in the "Jungle", and it is the only section of the

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stretch not readily accessible by road or trail.

Upon leaving the "Jungle", the stream enters The Blewett Tract. This is the only part of the Fly Stretch on private property and it is governed by a special set of regulations. Consult your Compendium or take time to read the signs before fishing this tract.

In Blewett Tract, the Flat brook takes on the characteristics of a meadow stream. There are pastures on the banks, and you may encounter horses or a herd of beef cattle. Here, the pools are long and flat separated by insect producing riffles. The Little Flat Brook joins its Big brother here at the head of the popular Mud Hole.

From the end of the Blewett Tracy, to the Roy Bridge, the brook is shaded with several smaller pools, pockets and riffles. One of the largest, deepest pools in the stream lies below the bridge, after which the water is very flat, slow moving and weedy. The extreme lower part of the Fly Stretch is somewhat reminiscent of a limestone stream and the trout are selective.

season progresses, these are followed by Light Cahills and Pale Evening Duns. Dark Caddis imitations are also good, as are ant and beetle patterns later in the season.

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Generally speaking, any fly will take fish on the Flat Brook at one time or another. Early season dry fly fishermen find the Quill Gordon, Hendrickson and Blue Dun match most hatches. As the season progresses, these are followed by Light Cahills and Pale Evening Duns. Dark Caddis imitations are also good, as are ant and beetle patterns later in the season.

Nymph fishermen do well with grey, tan, olive, black and brown flies in sizes #12 to 16. The same colors apply to wet flies, and favorites include the Black Gnat, Quill Gordon, Hendrickson, Hare's Ear and Lead Wing Coachman. Any streamer or bucktail will produce, but white and yellow patterns or the famous Muddler Minnow are most popular.

The Flat Book is a heavily fished stream, so you may have trouble finding a parking place or pool of your own on weekends. It holds some fish all year round and fishing it can be a challenge. However, like any other trout stream in New Jersey the quality of fishing depends on weekly stockings. If Hackettstown has been good, so will be the fishing.

Good luck, and remember to limit your kill. A good fisherman doesn't need a creel full of dead fish to prove his effectiveness.



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