



# Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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Issue 7

## President's Beat

Summer officially arrived on June 21. With it comes the hope for better weather than the preceding spring. The record keepers are probably the only people who are happy that we set a new record for rainfall during the month of June. The good part of it all is that the reservoirs are full and the streams should stay at adequate fishing levels for a while. Thanks go out to all the members of EJTU who helped at Ramapo River Day. Rich Malizia and Dr. Cristini did an outstanding job organizing and pulling it all together. Thank you Dr. Cristini and your crew from Ramapo College for providing the "science" for the day. Unfortunately we have a battle to be fought. PETA is at it again! I am sure that most of our members have been following the "bear" hunt in the news. Our fight isn't necessarily to keep the bear hunt, but to keep the proposed legislation from being passed. Senate bill S2603 and Assembly bill A3764 will take away control from the Fish and Game Council. It will place total control of Fish and Game, as well as control over the use of monies obtained from the sale of sportsmen licenses, into the hands of DEP Commissioner Campbell. The Fish and Game Council will become irrelevant in the management of fresh water fish, game animals, and furbearers. Proposed is the expansion of the council to 19 members, who would be political appointees, without any relevant qualifications or understanding of wildlife management.

Fish and Game has been doing an outstanding job working with limited funds. All sportsmen in New Jersey should get involved. If the bills are passed, there may be fewer fish in the rivers, less pheasant in the fields, and more restrictions than I care to imagine. When con-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Meeting Notice

**When:** July 9 at 7:30 PM

**Where:** American Legion Hall  
33 West Passaic Street  
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

**July 9th**  
**Dick Despommie**  
**Songs of the River**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

## Future Guest Speakers

**August 13th**  
**Mickey Goshen**  
**Fishing N.J. Streams**

**September 10th**  
**Mark Sadatti**  
**Saltwater Fly Fishing**

**October 8th**  
**John Roetman**  
**Fly Fishing either**  
**New Zealand or Chile**

*All programs have a slide show.*

### Quote of the Month

**"If a new man is particularly attentive he can learn to fly fish in half an hour. But then he will go on learning as long as he fishes for trout."**

**Arthur R. Macdougall Jr.**  
**"Rods and Rods"**

**The Trout Fisherman's Bedside**  
**Book (1963)**

## Wells in the Park

The Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders is currently considering a request from the Town of Ramsey to draw drinking water from two wells located within the Ramapo River Reservation. One well is located 39 feet from Scarlet Oak Pond and the second is in the wetlands just South of the pond. Somehow Ramsey has already gotten all the permits from the State to take the water. The approval process has been going on for the last 10 to 12 years but stayed under the radar until the matter came up for final approval.

While Ramsey contends that the wells will have no effect on the park, the Passaic River Coalition said the water level in Scarlet Oak Pond will drop 20 feet. At present neither the Freeholders nor I know who is right but, in addition to the damage to the Park's environment that will result from the loss of water, Ramsey will have to pipe the water over, under or through the Ramapo River. Ramsey can get water from United Water Company to supplement the water they get from their own wells but they dismissed this option because **they do not like the taste of the water.** Of course Ramsey would have to pay the United Water Company for the water, while, if they get the OK from the Freeholders to drill, they will get the Park water FREE. (Guess that's why it tastes better.)

If Ramsey gets approval nothing prevents any of the nearby towns from putting their own wells in the Park. And once the genie is out of the bottle it is hard to get him back in.

PLEASE write to Valarie Huttler, Chairwoman, Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ 0760, and ask her to stop the wells.

*Rich Malizia*

## East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

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For Information on trips and other Chapter Activities call our hotline: (201) 445-3902 (24 hrs.)

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. We invite and encourage every member to contribute articles, tips, etc., relating to trout or trout fishing in general. Email to: [tu@cataloguepublishers.com](mailto:tu@cataloguepublishers.com) attention Riffles. Each piece of material submitted earns you 10 points towards your next goal in the points program.

**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 Street, Rochelle Park, NJ. 07662.

**Monthly Board Meeting:** The East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board Members meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30PM. **Location:** The Bergen County Community Center, 327 East Ridgewood Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652.

(Continued from page 1) **President's Beat** trol is given over to unqualified decision makers we may find it difficult to continue participation in the sport of our choice.

Another problem is the possibility of two wells being drilled in Ramapo Reservation. These wells are designed to pump 2 million gallons of water a day out of the aquifer under the Ramapo River and adjacent wetlands. Common sense tells me that removing that much water could only lower the rivers level and probably drain the wetlands. Anyone using a straw demonstrates what happens when liquids are removed from the bottom of a glass. The glass empties! One estimate of the wells effect states that the pond level in the Reservation would be lowered 25 feet.

The effect on the river would probably negate all the work EJTU has been doing along the Ramapo. Please contact your legislators and freeholders opposing the drilling of these wells. It is important that our voices be heard regarding S2603 and A3764

*Bill Borowski*

## Clifton Fly Tying Course

Sixteen students completed the ten week beginners and intermediate fly tying courses that EJTU held at the Clifton high school this past winter/spring. Thanks to our instructors Karen Canning, Ed Higgins, Rich Hudak, Dennis Fitzsimmons, Bill Herinko, and Doug Penna.

The Clifton fly tying courses will resume this winter. If you would like to sign up for classes or if you would like to help as an instructor, please call Doug Penna at (201) 288-4409.

*John Roetman*

## Ramapo River Day 2003

THANK YOU to the many hands that contributed to the success of the day. I hope you all saw the articles before and after the event.

We are already planning for Ramapo River Day 2004, and, since we learn from our mistakes and successes each year, next year will be even better. We have already received inquiries from other school districts that want to participate next year.

This type of activity is what TU is about. Thanks Again.

*Rich Malizia*

## Frank Hall Memorial Fly Tying Award

This years contest for the Frank Hall Memorial Fly Tying Award will take place over the next few months. The winner will be announced at the November meeting. The fly selected for this years contest is a traditional summer time pattern, the Letort Hopper. Ernie Schwiebert originated the pattern for Pennsylvania trout. His creation of the pattern is described in the story "Grasshopper Wind" in *Remembrances of Rivers Past*.

The original pattern follows:

Hook:	Sizes 6 through 16, 2X long down eye
Thread:	00 Yellow
Tails:	None
Body:	Yellow nylon wool dubbed on yellow silk
Wings:	Brown-mottled turkey glazed with lacquer
Legs:	Brown deer body hair
Head:	Trimmed deer body hair butts

Flies may be submitted to any director prior to the judging, which will take place the week before the November meeting.

## Fly of the Month

July is TERRESTRIAL TIME, whether it's the quick site ant, fur ant, crowe beetle, simple foam beetle, or a fancy hopper pattern, these are some of the easiest patterns to tie. If you don't fish them all summer, you are missing some great opportunities.

You will receive 10 points and an entry into the monthly drawing for every dozen flies you turn in. If you can't make the meeting, mail your flies to the chapter P.O. Box or turn them in to any director.

*Bruce Seiden*

## Salmon Trip

The chapter has made arrangements to once again take a trip to Maine (Sept.13-20), fishing for Landlocked Salmon and Brook Trout. We reserved a cottage at Prays Camps for six guests. The cost per person for the week's lodging is \$300.00, plus Maine fishing license, and one night stay in Freeport. For more information please call Elmer Hopper (973) 256-1368 or John Roetman (201) 447-1810.

## No Fishing? No Hunting? Maybe!

On June 9, 2003 Assemblyman Reed Gusciora of Mercer County introduced a bill that, according to the synopsis, "Expands membership and revises authority of Fish and Game Council". However there is more to the bill than is implied in that synopsis.

To start with, membership on the Council would be increased from eleven to nineteen with the make-up as follows: Three farmers, six sportsmen, one land use and soil conservation expert, seven "individuals with experience in environmental protection or other fields relevant to animal welfare and with a background in the conservation of fish and game", the chairperson of the Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act committee, and heading it all the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or his representative. So the "sportsmen" on the new Council could be outnumbered by people who might very well lean toward PETA's crazy ideas who are working with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection.

A second major change is that, while members of the Fish and Game Council now serve four year terms, on the altered council their four year terms would be served, "at the pleasure of the Governor", and the following sentence would be deleted, "Any member of the council may be removed from office by the Governor, for cause, upon notice and opportunity to be heard". Looks like summary execution to me.

Thirdly, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection would have to approve the nominee to the position of Director of the Division of Fish and Game (oops, that would become the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Tough luck to the hunters out there!). And, Fish and Game Wildlife which is now in the Department of Conservation and Economic Development would fall under the Department of Environmental Protection.

Fourth, the Fish and Game Council would still recommend hunting/fishing/trapping seasons and bag limits but the new law adds that the recommendations are, "subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection".

And last, it appears that everything that the Fish and Game Council does will be, "subject to the approval of the Commis-

sioner of Environmental Protection", but, despite this Orwellian control, the proposed bill also says, "... the Commissioner of Environmental Protection may suspend any season at any time, without public hearings, if the commissioner determines that it is necessary to do so to protect the species, public safety or the public interest".

In an interesting bit of sleight of hand an identical Senate bill was introduced on May 29, 2003 (by Primary Sponsors Senators Joseph F. Vitale, and Bob Smith, and Co-Sponsors John H. Adler and Barbara Buono) and then withdrawn on June 12, 2003, three days after Reed Gusciora introduced this Assembly bill.

If you want to read the bill - it only takes nine pages to turn New Jersey's outdoors scene to a dictatorship - go to: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills/BillsByNumber.asp> and type in either A3764 or S2603.

If you do not like the idea of one person being in a position to make all decisions regarding the use of New Jersey's outdoors, make your views known to your state representatives. To find your representative, go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/municipalities.asp> and click on your municipality then, when you get to the list of municipalities by district, click on your district and you will get the names and addresses of your local Senator and Assembly people.

*Ray Cappock*

## Lifetime Reward

As a 12 year old at camp I fished Stokes State Forest's Big Flatbrook early in the morning when I would sneak down to the Mc Donalds Y camp Iron Truss Bridge at four AM to fish for the legendary big trout under the bridge. I was never successful in those early years and, since camp activity began at six am, fishing was over for the day at that time.

Over fifty years later, on May 10 1999, I returned to the same bridge to fish. The challenge of fishing my favorite childhood fishing spot was exciting and it was a beautiful afternoon so just to be on the water and wet my line was a pleasure.

I found nothing under the Iron Truss Bridge, so I moved downstream to a typical feeding area for trout in a small brook, a large tree with roots near a small pool.

I approached the supposed trout lie from

behind the tree.

The second cast of my small, dressed Panther Martin resulted in a strong strike but the fish quickly retreated and became tangled under the tree roots so I thought for sure that I had lost him. Keeping my cool and a tight line, I moved around the tree toward the fish and reached out over the water away from the bank. The trout somehow untangled himself and headed into the main current where I felt his full weight and saw how big a fish I had on my 4 weight line. He jumped twice and I thought he might slip off in the fast water so I decided to make sure I wouldn't lose him by working him into shallow water.

The trout was so large that at first he would not fit in my net. However on my second attempt I was able to lead him in smoothly.

"Alright! Alright!", I shouted for joy.

I sat down to admire this great 19 1/2 inch 2 pound Brook trout. His bright spots, orange belly and perfect fins indicated that he might be a holdover or native fish. I considered releasing him but I decided to keep him for sentimental reasons. My dream had finally materialized on that day.

*Fred Lauffer*

## Environmentalism vs. Conservationism

Is there a difference between the two? Conservationists are thought to be interested in protecting the natural state of our planet and conserving the best of our ecological system if we can. Conservationists can see a balance between mankind's domain and nature's existence. Environmentalists, on the other hand, have a political agenda. They seek to put forward, establish and enforce by any means their particular view of the way the Earth should be and how people should be treated. And they believe the ends justify the means (e.g., propaganda).

Case in point...**Global Warming.** A Senate bill called the **Climate Stewardship Act** assumes that there is Global Warming and that man's activities contribute to it substantially. The bill seeks to divert large sums of taxpayer dollars to institute programs aimed at curtailing or altering many of the average American's activities.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Ramapo Ramblin'

Last month Dave and George Petersen did a BATS survey on the Ramapo. They reported that when they checked the river at Halifax Road, they found Caddis and Water Penny along with Crayfish and Scuds. The rating for this on the Save Our Streams chart was "poor to fair". At Mansion Run, above the Glen Gray bridge, the results were "excellent" with Caddis, Mayfly, Gilled Snail, Riffle Beetle adults, and Water Penny in the sensitive category; Clams, Crayfish, Damselfly and Scuds in the somewhat sensitive category, and Aquatic Worms in the tolerant category. Below Glen Gray bridge, at Cindy's pool, the rating was "good" with Caddis, Mayfly and Water Penny in the sensitive category, Clams, Damselfly and Scuds in the somewhat sensitive category and Blackfly and Snails in the tolerant category. The list above is larvae and nymphs only, not adult bugs. Dave studied the various critters to get his college degree and we are fortunate to have him doing the BATS surveys.

The rain has been constant and is almost too much of a good thing as the river was at the top of its banks when the kids arrived to celebrate Ramapo Day. The field was wet and soggy, but the kids seemed to ignore their wet feet as they visited the various stations where they learned about keeping rivers clean and in condition so they are healthy for the trout. They looked through microscopes at various bugs that our members somehow gleaned from the high water and they tested the water quality, finding the pH to be a healthy 7 to 8! They were also taught all about non point pollution from the Americorp volunteers. They learned how flies are tied and how to cast them with a fly rod, and last but not least they took a nature walk and learned how to pick out Poison Ivy among other vines, bushes and trees that live along the river. Last year they were surprised by a large black snake that slithered across their path and this year it was a big snapping turtle that did not appear to be in too good a frame of mind. To top off the day NJ Fish and Wildlife brought some warm water fish to stock in Henry Lake. The kids were thrilled; remember that most of the 150 kids come from the Paterson area where they have little opportunity to enjoy a day such as this! A special tip of the hat must go to Dr. Angela Cristini and our own Rich Malizia

for all of the work that they did to make it a success. I understand that they already are planning bigger and better things for next year so if you know of a group of kids age 10 to 14 that might like to come, contact Rich or me. They must have chaperones as we are not a baby sitting service.

I am looking for more fishing stories. With the new fishing year now in full swing I am sure some of you have stories to tell, and, whether they are funny or serious they all are of interest. Send your story to [hermaril@aol.com](mailto:hermaril@aol.com) or via snail mail to Herm Drenth, 235 Roosevelt Ave. Elmwood Park, NJ 07407. Hand written is OK as I will type it up. Please note that sometimes a sentence or paragraph may have to be changed so the story fits into the available space in Riffles. Please no more than 500 words.

Want to get on my EMAIL list? Send me your name and Email address.

The water is high, so as the Sergeant on NY Blues used to say, "Be careful out there!"

Remember we all live downstream. See you there.

*Herm Drenth*

*(Continued from page 3) E vs C*

**Paradox #1.** Supporters of the bill, such as the **New Jersey Sierra Club**, claim that the bill will reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Yet the paradox is that this same group has fought every congressional initiative to carefully harvest the large oil deposits in many of our wilderness areas, thereby INCREASING dependence.

**Paradox #2.** There is no majority of scientists who say that global warming has been proven. While some National Academy of Sciences experts believe the global mean temperature went up about 0.5 degrees Celsius compared to a hundred years ago, they can neither attribute

that to carbon dioxide nor predict future climate changes. A recent Harvard study found that temperatures in the Middle Ages were warmer than today. Keep in mind that was before factories, autos and other man-made infrastructure. And this past winter was one of the coldest on record.

**Paradox#3.** Even assuming, for the sake of argument, that there is global warming, it could actually be beneficial. Growing seasons in northern areas could last longer, crops and timber could become more plentiful and therefore cheaper. Fuel bills could be lower. There could be more warm weather for construction and recreation.

**Paradox#4.** Why don't you know all these things? Because much of the media reports only one side, the Environmentalist side. The paradox is that the media's mission is to inform the public. That means the media must report all points of view and most importantly, all the facts. (See the website. <http://www.media-research.org>).

**Final Paradox.** The "good intentions" of the **Climate Stewardship Act** could impact the average American by:

- Reducing income growth and curtail household consumption
- Carbon taxes would reduce the income of the population
- There would be a substantial increase in energy costs (heating, cooling, and driving)
- Corporate taxes would be passed onto the consumer
- Fuel would be rationed. (See <http://www.globalwarming.org>)

Can we learn a lesson from this? How about this...we as fishermen, conservationists and citizens have to be very informed before we take a leap that can affect us adversely. We have the greatest amount of knowledge available to us, more than any culture in the history of the Earth. Let's use it!

*Jim Furno*



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