



# Riffler

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 33

October 2003

Issue 10

## President's Beat

Weather this summer has not been cooperative in one sense; but in another it has provided us with an abundance of water, which should carry the fishing well into fall.

On a recent trade show trip to Pennsylvania, the day after three inches of rain fell, John Roetman, George Petersen and I stopped to look at the Little Lehigh. Before we arrived we had observed several ponds and catch basins filled with murky brown water. Low spots in fields and lawns were so saturated that there were "ponds" formed in the grass. Arriving at the Heritage section of the Little Lehigh, we parked near the bridge down stream from the Little Lehigh Fly Shop. The water level was about a foot below the bottom of the bridge and was the color of hot chocolate. While we perused the flow while standing on the bridge, we were surprised to see fish rise. Several times a trout came up within a foot of rocks on the bank lending credence to the fact that in high water fish will hold in the slower flows next to the bank. We could not determine what the fish was taking, but the swirl indicated it was sub surface. On the down stream side of the bridge a large back eddy formed, which was racing in comparison to other back eddies I have seen. In behind a clump of grass in this back eddy, a trout facing down stream against the flow of the back eddy continued to rise and feed even as we walked up to the edge of the water. I guess the water was so off color and turbulent we didn't spook him until we moved into his line of sight. Only then did he stop rising.

On another trip we encountered similar conditions on a stream in central Pennsylvania. The water was off color but we were able to wade safely. Our guide for the day recommended small, size 18 flies that looked like pocket lint tied on a

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Meeting Notice

**When:** October 8th at 7:30 PM

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

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

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Future Guest Speakers

**November 12  
Bob Levitson  
Montana**

**December 10  
Bob Demarest  
Author/Artist**

**January 14  
Fisly Fullum  
Fly Fishing for Trout**

*All programs have a slide show.*

### Quote of the Month

**"There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home."**

*Roderick Haig-Brown  
Fisherman's Spring, 1951*

## NJ Wildlife

### Conservation Corps

The New Jersey Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) is a group of volunteers who donate time and talents to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Through the program, Fish and Wildlife is provided with a workforce that it could not afford and the volunteers can involve themselves in interesting Division activities.

Herm Drenth reports that Rose at Fish and Wildlife says that this year's volunteer classes have been completed but that anyone who wishes to qualify for the WCC program and be an authorized volunteer should do the following: send either a passport picture or a 1"x1" digital picture to her with the following information - Your name, address, phone number and where you volunteer to help.

Send it to: Fish and Wildlife, Northern Region Office, 26 Route 173 W, Hampton, NJ 08827, Attention: Rose - WCC To make it easier for you, Tom Yuille will bring his digital camera to the EJTC

membership meeting that will be held on Wednesday, October 8. Photos will be taken for anyone who wishes to join the WCC.

Anyone can apply for membership in the WCC.

But, if you are not a member of the WCC you will not be allowed to do volunteer work for Fish and Wildlife because their insurance will not cover you. As an example, only WCC members were allowed to assist with the recent electro-shocking on the Ramapo. Herm says that he will make up some application forms to fill out at the October 8 meeting.



## East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

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Bill Borowski

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Bruce Seiden

#### 2nd Vice-President

Bob Ribar

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Herman Drenth

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Doug Penna

#### Trips/Pequest Programs

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#### Speakers

John Roetman

#### Merchandise

Basil Santamaria

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Gary Heger Ray Cappock

[tu@cataloguepublishers.com](mailto:tu@cataloguepublishers.com) / [raycapp@optonline.net](mailto:raycapp@optonline.net)

#### Points

George Petersen

#### Dinner

Dave & Barbara Wedlick

#### Shows

Basil Santamaria

#### Publicity

Larry Hill

#### Directors at Large

Karen Canning Tom Yuille

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#### Founding President

Don Ecker

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Box 366 HoHoKus, NJ 07423-0366

Hodline: (201) 445-3902 (24 hrs.)

For Membership Information call Ed Sikorski at:

201-337-6396 or email to: [dored100@hotmail.com](mailto:dored100@hotmail.com)

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**

hook. One was gray and the other orange. Both flies caught fish in a stream I had thought to be un-fishable.

A lesson learned from these two experiences is that the fish are there and they will eat regardless of the color of the water. The challenge will be to select the fly that will mimic the insects they are feeding on. Since there will be no hatch to observe and it may be difficult to use a seine to sample what's in the fast moving water a good guess may be called for. So look for back eddies, slower flows against the banks, and anything else that will reduce the velocity of the water and provide a holding place for trout. And don't walk away from off color water. You may be surprised and turn a disappointing prospect into a rewarding experience. Tight lines.

*Bill Borowski*

## Get Riffles Faster

If you would like to receive your copy of Riffles earlier, you now can.

Sign up to receive your copy of Riffles via email and get it days before the snail mail version is delivered. Not only will you receive Riffles earlier, you will help the chapter save money on postage. Just send an email to: [ejtu@optonline.net](mailto:ejtu@optonline.net) with "Subscribe - Riffles" in the subject. Be sure to include your full name and if possible your TU membership number. You will receive a sample copy with instructions on how to open it. Give it a try - you can always cancel if you don't like it!

*Bruce Seiden*

## For Sale

New Trident TLS 8' 6" 5wt 4 pieces.

New never fished. Original Cost \$375.00 sell for \$200.00

St Croix Legend Ultra UFT 9' 6wt 4 pieces custom used on one trip.

Cost \$310.00 sell for \$155.00

Call John Roetman

(w) 201 261-5000 (h) 201 447-1810

## Fly of the Month

Now that the hatches of summer are winding down, it's time to think subsurface. October's fly of the month will be bead head nymphs. Bead heads currently dominate the nymph category and for good reason. The patterns have the weight and flash necessary to provide some action when nothing seems to be happening. Tie up your favorite bead head pattern, or better yet, an assortment of your favorites, and turn them in at the next meeting. You will receive 10 points and an entry into the monthly drawing for every dozen flies you turn in. More importantly, you will be helping your chapter raise funds for our various projects. If you can't make the meeting, mail your flies to the chapter P.O. Box or turn them in to any director. With all the excellent fly tiers in the chapter and all the rainy weather we've had, I expect to see lots of excellent flies.

*Bruce Seiden*

## Don't Forget! Submit a Letort Hopper for the Frank Hall Memorial Fly Tying Contest

Here is the pattern.

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

Turn in your entry to any director or mail them to the chapter's P.O. Box 366, HoHoKus, NJ 07423

*Bill Borowski*



## Free Money for EJTU!

Do you know that you can give \$5.00 to our EJTU chapter without any cost to you? The next time you get a TU renewal notice from the national office pay your dues through the EJTU chapter instead of mailing it to the national office and the chapter will get \$5.00! You can also save the EJTU chapter a few dollars by getting your Riffles via E-mail instead of by regular mail. You'll get your copy about a week earlier and, as a bonus, any pictures will be in color! Send an E-mail to [seidenb@optonline.net](mailto:seidenb@optonline.net) with "Subscribe - Riffles" in the subject. You can cancel at any time, so you have nothing to lose.

*Ray Cappock*

## A New Fishing Buddy?

In a September 16 news release New Jersey's Division of Fish and Game urged north Jersey residents to bear-proof their homes and surrounding areas this fall. The release says that as temperatures drop, black bears become more active foraging for food and looking for den sites. And as they investigate food sources such as garbage cans, leftover pet food, bird feeders and barbecue drip trays the bears are brought closer to human habitation.

"Bear-proofing should include proper storage of residential garbage in an airtight container in a secure area such as a basement or against the inside wall of a garage. Garbage containers should be washed at least once a week with a disinfectant solution to remove any odors. Outside feeding of cats and dogs should be done during daylight hours and any uneaten food should be removed immediately after feeding. Birdfeeders should be hung during daylight hours only, suspended by a free-hanging wire at least eight feet off the ground. Barbecue grills should be cleaned to minimize food odors and stored securely."

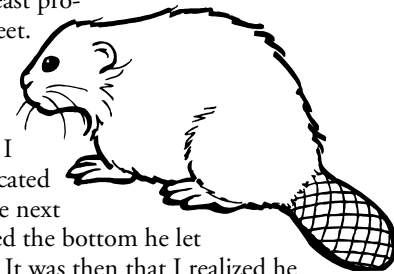
The Division's web site also gives the following history of our bear population. "The population estimate for the year 2001 in the primary bear range of Sussex, Warren, Passaic and Morris counties is 1146. The 1997 Black Bear Management Plan identified 942 square miles of bear habitat in these counties; bears currently exist in 2603 square miles across northern New Jersey. In 1995 they were known to occur in 48 municipalities in 12 counties. During the past 5 years their range has been steadily expanding southward and eastward from the north-western part of the state. In the year 2001, they occupy 140 municipalities in 16 counties."

Recently a member of the Fish and Game Council said that estimates now reach up to 3,000 bears. So if you hear noise in the underbrush while you're out there concentrating on catching one of those fall-stocked trout, don't assume that it's just another bait fisherman spoiling your day. It might be a hungry, three hundred pounder with big teeth and a fur coat that's interested in your spot on the stream.

*Ray Cappock*

## Fishing Companion

Well here goes my best fish story: Several years ago I was fishing for steelhead on the Platte River in Michigan. As I was casting in waist deep water I noticed a large black shape moving upstream in my direction along the bottom. Suddenly I felt hands grabbing the back of my waders at my ankles. I froze as the beast proceeded to shimmy up my legs, almost pulling me off my feet. Then, while it held on to my waist, it poked it's head up out of the water. It was one hell of a large beaver. It looked me in the eyes while making a loud hissing sound. I was only armed with a Rapala filet knife and my fly rod. I still remember his armament, those big chisel like teeth located in a very tender spot. While I was still frozen, he made the next move and shimmied back down my legs. When he reached the bottom he let go and began crawling upstream using his tail as a paddle. It was then that I realized he had only used me to maintain his position in the river while he exchanged old air for new in his lungs. Boy, what a relief!



*Paul Lahullier*

## Whose BATS?

OK, when EJTU schedules a BATS and then talks about the results, how many of you have been too embarrassed to ask just what the heck BATS means? Well, first of all it's a process of testing a stream - in our case the Ramapo - for wildlife adequacy. Not the fish themselves but the things that they eat and that we try to imitate with fur and feathers. It's a structured analysis of what is living on the bottom of the stream and how many of each are living within a set area. From these tests, a good estimate of how well the water can support other higher forms of life - fish for instance can be made. So, what does it mean? Biological Assessment Team Study. If I've gotten any part of this wrong, please contact George Petersen who is up to his hips in crawling things at each of the studies. George has also reported on the results of past BATS work. I'll just give the Location, Date and Rating:

Location	Date	Rating
Halifax Road	8/11/01	Fair
	10/27/01	Poor
	6/23/02	Fair
	10/6/02	Fair
	5/18/03	Poor
Mansion Run	8/17/03	Fair
	10/6/02	Excellent
	5/18/03	Excellent
Cindy's Pool	8/17/03	Good
	8/11/01	Good
	10/27/01	Good
	6/23/02	Good
	10/6/02	Good
Well	5/18/03	Good
	8/17/03	Fair
	8/11/01	Poor
	10/27/01	Good

The next time volunteers are invited to help with BATS, come on out. It's fascinating, fun and informative.

*Ray Cappock*



EJTU members and NJ Division of Fish and Game personnel clean out Cindy's Pool during the recent electro shocking program.



EJTU members and NJ Division of Fish and Game personnel sorting and recording the results of the electro shocking program.

## Instructor Needed

Clifton fly tying class is in need of an instructor for their Monday night fly tying classes. If you can help please call Doug Penna at (201) 288-4409

## Ramapo Ramblin'

Now that fall is here it's time to once again to hit the streams and enjoy the beauty of nature. With water temperatures at perfect levels and the trees turning their fall colors, it is probably the best time of the year to wet a line! Your Conservation Committee will also be on the run with projects to be done. We plan to work on the dam upstream from the Glen Gray Bridge. Over the years the rocks supporting the dam that controls the flow of water have been washed out and moved. By replacing some of the rocks we feel that the water can be redirected to create a better flow for the trout. (The work is scheduled for Sunday, October 5, which means that it may be done by the time you read this.) The first fall trout stocking of the Ramapo is scheduled for Friday, October 10 when trout over 10 inches will be released. We will assist with the stocking; the time will be the usual 10 AM when we expect the truck. On Tuesday October 21, we will help stock the breeders. They will also stock small trout as they clean out the hatchery; again the time of the stocking will be 10 AM.

The EJTU fall stocking of 12 to 14 inch Rainbows will take place on Sunday, November 9 at the Glen Gray Bridge. We request that everyone practice catch and release on all trout. Our stocking is meant to give everyone a chance to enjoy a few hours of fishing near home. Spin fishermen are asked to use only light gear and small spinners with one barbless hook - in fact it might be a great time to get involved with fly fishing. If you have never tried fly fishing I am sure that some of our members that you meet on the stream can give you some tips. Please remember that fly fishing requires

room to cast and float a fly, so please give them room!

The August electro-shocking went quite well with 16 of our members attending; I guess we were all curious. The State biologists had a 6X4 plastic boat that held a generator and from that they had three electric probes attached to 25 foot electric cords. They went back and forth in the stream starting 150 meters below the Glen Gray Bridge. Assistants with nets accumulated everything from baitfish to trout, bass and suckers. As they moved up stream the fish also moved until they got to Cindy's pool where most of the trout were caught. We found 14 Brown trout and one Rainbow, along with smallmouth, sunfish, suckers and a variety of baitfish and crawfish. The quality of the baitfish is important in evaluating whether the river can sustain the trout population. The State biologists must do more tests next year before they can complete their evaluation.

Fred Lauffer was driving by Halifax Road, when he saw a ceremony going on. He found that it was to acknowledge the acceptance by Mahwah of 15 acres north of Halifax Road. This was called the Polo field and is where we hold the Ramapo day event.

In order to be a volunteer at Division of Fish and Wildlife events you must be registered as a Wildlife Conservation Corp. volunteer. You can find directions on how to do this elsewhere in this issue. I am looking for more fishing stories and stories that promote catch and release will be given preference. At this point I have no more stories and unless you send them to me this feature will be terminated. Send to [hermaril@aol.com](mailto:hermaril@aol.com) or snail mail it to me at Herm Drenth, 235 Roosevelt Ave. Elmwood Park N.J. 07407; 500 words or less.

On Sunday Sept. 6, I received my copy of Riffles via EMAIL! You can get your copy early too. Contact Bruce Seiden. EJTU can save a buck or two in postage over the year also.

I guess it is time to hitch up the horses and be on my way for this month. See you downstream, where we all live, bend back the barbs and keep the lines tight. God Bless America

*Herm Drenth*

## East Jersey Fly Tying Paramus and Clifton begin in September

Where: Paramus (West Brook Middle School)

When: Tuesday, September 30th  
7:00-10:00 PM

Contact: Bob Ribar at 201-995-0107

Where: Clifton (Clifton High School)

When: Monday, September 15th  
7:00-10:00 PM

Contact: Doug Penna at 201-288-4409

Beginners will learn the techniques and materials needed to tie trout flies. Patterns will include a selection of nymphs, streamers, wet and dry flies. You will gain the basic understanding of the basic materials and techniques learned in the beginners course. Beginners will be supplied with tools, all materials, and EJTU fly tying book. Beginner's material fee is \$15, which can be made payable to the instructor at the first class. Intermediates must supply their own materials. All instructors are volunteers from East Jersey Trout Unlimited with many years of experience in the art of fly tying. The class is divided into small groups of two to four people per instructor.

*Bob Ribar*

## Connetquot Trip

On November 14, East Jersey Trout Unlimited will have a trip to the Connetquot River State Park on Long Island. This is the time of the year when the sea run brook trout start to show up. The cost for the day's fishing 8 AM - 5 PM is \$40.00. A director will be available at our monthly meetings to take your reservation and payment. Full payment must be made when signing up for this trip.

The trip is limited to thirty fishermen.

*John Roetman*



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