



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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Issue 8

President's Beat

On March 23, 1775 Patrick Henry stated: "The battle, Sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave." To this list I should like to add the wary. As the present Presidential Campaigns get into full swing, it is imperative that we heed Henry's advice, especially in the areas of conservation and environmental awareness.

I have always believed that actions speak more eloquently than words. In that vein our current Governor and President both leave much to be desired.

We applauded Governor McGreevey's Highlands Initiative that preserves the open lands that supply 50% of New Jersey's population with water. Both the State Assembly and Senate passed this legislation but the Governor has yet to sign the bill into law. However, he was more prompt to sign the Fast Track Bill (a.k.a. Pay-to-Pave), a compromise which will serve to expedite builders' applications. This would, in effect, skirt stop-gap measures such as public notifications and hearings on proposals which were initially put into place to prevent abuses and act as protective devices.

Commissioner Bradley Campbell, appointed by Governor McGreevey as the head of the Department of Environmental Protection, is currently seeking to restructure the Department of Fish and Wildlife. E.g., aided by Assembly proposal A2642, he wants to add non-license holders to the Fish and Game Council. Remember that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is funded solely by the money received from the sales of fishing and hunting licenses, and that the Department manages over 350,000 acres of land with those funds. Should the Department of Fish and Wildlife be managed by people who

Meeting Notice

When: August 11 at 7:30 PM
Where: American Legion Hall
33 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

August 11
Rich Kustich
Steelhead and Salmon
in New York State

Mark Your Calendars!

September 8th
Joe Petrella
Fishing Wet Flies
The Lost Art

October 13
Bill Borowski
Fishing
Patagonia, Argentina

November 10th
Steve Andrusika
Shad Fishing the Delaware

December 8th
John Roetman
The Connetquot
Getting Ready for our Super
Bowl Sunday Trip

All programs include a slide presentation

don't purchase licenses? Will these proposed members follow conclusions drawn from hard science or from their own emotional reactions to issues? Commissioner Campbell has already demonstrated that he prefers to follow

the dictates of his private political agenda rather than heed the advice given by scientists from his own department.

Despite appearances, I don't mean this to be an attack on individual politicians, whether they need it or not. My point is that we each should be more aware and more vigilant when we respond to pleas for our votes. Do candidates really mean what they say or are they playing to the crowd and currying votes?

In our present political climate much of the rhetoric appeals to emotional reactions and very little to hard facts. We have political "debates" which deteriorate into mean-spirited mud slinging, rather than becoming vehicles that can provide suggestions for meaningful solutions to current problems. (What will be this election's non-issue? I believe that four years ago much discussion and ink was used on prayer in the public schools. Whatever happened with that?)

Long ago I shed the shackles of blind party affiliation. I found that to be too constrictive. I now vote my conscience, based on facts not feelings, a very different perspective from that preached at the National Conventions. Let us take advice from Patrick Henry and be not only strong but also vigilant.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Rich Malizia and everyone who helped at Verona Park on July 25. Once again, you all helped to spread the message of EJTU and what we do.

I would also like to publicly thank the local merchants who continue to support us in our efforts, especially the Orvis Company Store in Paramus and Ramsey Outdoor Stores. Without their assistance and generous donations our uphill road would be much steeper. I ask all of our members to patronize these businesses.

George Petersen

Quote of the Month: "There is no use in your walking five miles to fish when you can depend on being just as unsuccessful near home."
Mark Twain 1835-1910

East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

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Bill Borowski

Federation of Sportsmen's Rep

Ray Cappock

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Volunteers Needed

Here are some coming EJTU activities that need your help. If you've never participated in one of these events, you should give one a try. You'll find yourself having fun, meeting people, and getting a great deal of satisfaction out of it.

Sunday, August 15

Mini fly fishing course for kids at the hatchery - 10 AM to 3PM.

Teach knots, casting, fly tying, etc.

Sunday, September 26

Open House at the hatchery - 10 AM to 3PM. Volunteers to assist kids at the fishing pond.

End of September; date to be announced (a weekday event)

Kirk Babcock of the Ramapo Interstate organization will have seniors from Suffern High School taking water samples from the Ramapo River, Masonicus Brook, the Mahwah Brook and other tributaries. The tests will be for chemicals, pollution, etc. Volunteers are needed to supervise the activity. Further information and date/time will follow.

Sunday October 17

Casting for Recovery at the Hatchery - 10AM to 3PM.

This activity is supported by the Joan Wulff Fly Fishers. Studies find that the fly-fishing casting motion helps build the upper chest muscles of women who have suffered breast cancer. Casting for Recovery teaches women who have had breast cancer to fly cast. Volunteers needed to teach and assist.

Help Wanted (Paid)

Ramsey Outdoor Stores in Paramus and Ramsey have full and part-time positions available in their fishing departments. For an interview please contact John Roetman at (201) 261-5000

Fly of the Month

This time of year the fishing is at first and last light. The middle of the day can be hot and slow.

Instead of driving 2 hours to your favorite Catskill stream with the hope of an hour or two of good fishing, how about a 15 minute trip to your local bass or pan fish pond?

Whether you prefer bass or pan fish, a hot summer day seems appropriate for this type of fishing.

This month's *Fly of the Month* will be Warm Water Patterns: bass bugs, pan fish poppers, streamers, dragonflies, leeches, or whatever pattern you prefer.

Tie up a dozen of these, or any other pattern, 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.

The chapter's fly inventory is still quite lean, and we need your help in getting it rebuilt. 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

Jeffrey Kurman

A good friend has passed away. Jeffrey Kurman served as Secretary of East Jersey TU's board of directors and was for many years a fly tying instructor. He also made time to sit as Chairman of EJTU's Conservation Committee. Jeffrey was also active in the Coastal Fly Rodders, serving as their Treasurer. Our condolences go to his wife Peggy and to his daughter Aimsley.

Joan Wulff Fly Fishers

Well, it's August so we're still out enjoying the summer. But, on Thursday, September 2 we will meet at 7:30 PM in the Paramus Ramsey Outdoor store.

What's New for EJTU's 2005 Annual Dinner & Fundraiser?

New Location

Wayne Manor

New Day

Saturday, March 19, 2005

New Time

Hospitality Hour: 6:30pm

Dinner: 7:30pm

Additional details to follow!

The Dinner Committee

How to contact us:

Website <http://www.eastjerseytu.org>

Mailing Address:

East Jersey Chapter, Trout Unlimited

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

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 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 either:

tu@cataloguepublishers.com or raycapp@optonline.net. Each piece of material that is published 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.

Ten Common Fishing Terms You Need To Know

Catch and Release - A conservation action that happens most often right before the local Conservation Officer pulls over a boat that has caught over its limit.

Hook - (1) A curved piece of metal used to catch fish. (2) A clever advertisement to entice a fisherman to spend his life savings on a new rod and reel. (3) The punch administered by the fisherman's wife after he spends their life savings on the rod and reel.

Line - Something you give your co-workers when they ask how your fishing went the on past weekend.

Lure - An object that is semi-enticing to fish, but will drive an angler into such a frenzy that he will charge his credit card to the limit before exiting the tackle shop.

Reel - A weighted object that causes a rod to sink quickly when dropped overboard.

Rod - An attractively painted length of fiberglass that keeps an angler from ever getting too close to a fish.

School - A group in which fish are taught to avoid your \$29.99 lures and hold out for Spam instead.

Tackle - What your last catch did to you as

you reeled him in, but just before he wrestled free and jumped back overboard.

Tackle Box - A box shaped alarmingly like your first aid kit. But, a tackle box contains many sharp objects, so when you reach blindly into the wrong box to get a Band Aid, you soon find that you need more than one.

Test - (1) The amount of strength a fishing line affords an angler when fighting fish in a specific weight range. (2) A measure of your creativity in blaming "that darn line" for once again losing the fish.

Fish Ways – Gadgets, Gimmicks and Gimcracks

Napoleon said that armies travel on their stomachs. In his volume *Gallic Wars*, Julius Caesar was always concerned with the baggage necessary for the waging of his campaigns. Being Roman, he used the word "impedimenta," the Latin word for baggage. From this, we derive our English word "impediment," or hindrance. After all, the first syllable in "luggage" is 'lug.' Consider that when choosing the tools you will carry on stream.

Flies do not weigh much, but flyfishers' vests and packs can become cumbersome with the addition of all the extraneous gear that fisherfolk seem to find necessary. Wise choices and sound advice from long-time fly anglers can help to alleviate this condition.

Essentials:

1. Clippers for trimming knots. Most of us use nippers, basically clippers that also have a small needle attached, useful for cleaning a stray drop of head cement from the eyes of flies.
2. Polarized glasses and a hat, preferably with a broad brim. These will help you see under water (especially helpful when wading) and protect your eyes from sun glare as well as the errant fly or unnoticed tree branch.
3. Hemostats or pliers are useful for removing fish and mashing down the hook barbs. Fasten these to your vest or pack with small lengths of cord or zingers, which have retractable coils or cables. Remember Murphy's Law: if left unattached, these tools will try their best to find

the stream bottom or forest floor.

4. Spools of tippet material, usually the same 'x' as your leader as well as one heavier and one lighter. If you purchase the same brand, they will nest together.
5. Fly boxes come in many and varied configurations; try to find those which best suit your needs.
6. A vest or pack suitable for storing all of your "impedimenta," with pockets to accommodate the fly boxes and such.

Useful items:

1. Fly floatant
2. Net
3. Stream thermometer
4. Wading staff (depending on local conditions and personal needs)
5. License holder (especially when fishing in New Jersey and Pennsylvania where the law requires that licenses be displayed on your outer clothing)
6. Rain wear (remember our friend Murphy, and the corollary that he was an optimist)
7. First aid kit
8. Sunscreen
9. Lip balm
10. Bug dope (here I refer to insect repellent, not an inept entomologist)

Stuff to bring but leave in the vehicle:

1. Fall-in bag with extra clothing in case of the inevitable (periodically check to be sure they still fit)
2. Two round rubber disks (sold for the opening of jars). These are help-

ful for disassembling multi-piece rods

3. Extra leaders and tippet spools

I may have overlooked some items, but others you may think I've overlooked, actually are unnecessary. For example, leather leader straighteners are nice to have, but I find that my hands can create the proper amount of friction to perform the same job.

Most important of all, remember the computer programmers' motto, K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple, Stupid). We go to the streams and rivers to have a good time, not to pass an endurance test.

As for the gimcracks (a cheap, showy object of little or no use), leave them home.

George Petersen

Doug Penna in TROUT Magazine

Did you happen to notice the Actionline article about EJTU's Doug Penna in the Summer 2004 issue of Trout Magazine? It talks about a project that Doug has worked on for some time:

"New Jersey. The East Jersey Chapter has teamed up with local libraries to promote coldwater conservation and TU. Chapter members assembled a colorful, eye-catching exhibit that describes recent projects, TU's mission and the history of fly-fishing. Several local libraries have displayed the exhibit and submitted stories about it to the local paper. For more information, contact Doug Penna at (201) 2888-4409".

Nice going Doug!

Ramapo Ramblin'

I'm Chairman of the Conservation Committee and I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of the Committee's members: Rich Malizia, Ed Sikorski, Bruce Seiden, Larry Hill, John Grisoni, Ray Cappock, George Petersen, Ken Vander Pyl and, Joe McCourt. Then, there are those who are not members but who are always there to help when needed; such people as Bill Borowski, Doug Penna, Rich Hudak, Walter Nahadil, Edward Janiga, Don Sirota, Pete Talirico, Tony Corsi, Roy Fogelstrom, Carl Hoetzel, Tony Miller, Chris Van De Wal, Bob Schneider, Herb Janusee, Bob & Rory Flynn, Dean Cabrales, Mathew Cailouet, Bob Ledun, Mike Rawson, Bob Hresko, Paul Warga, Bill Latham, Fred Meehan, Martin Matuson, John Szep, John Roetman, Roger Law, Ron Fletcher, John Swider, Fred Damiano, Debbie Anderson, Bill & Karen Canning and others whose names I probably missed. Thanks to all of you for your assistance. There is always a need for more people, so why not come out to give a helping hand, perhaps share a tall fish story or two and, possibly find a new fishing buddy?

In August we will assist Bob Papson from the Department of Fish and Wildlife in electro-shocking stretches of the Ramapo, an important step in our efforts to have the 1.2 mile stretch from Fox Brook above Glen Gray Bridge to the run below Patriots Way Bridge designated a conservation stretch. If the Ramapo receives this designation, bait fishing would not be allowed from just before the last stocking in May until March of the following year, only fly fishing and spin fishing with lures would be allowed, and only one trout over 15 inches per day could be kept. Last year's electro-shocking found 14 trout in the tested section and we hope to find more this year. If you plan to assist please have

Monthly Conservation Committee Meeting

The East Jersey Trout Unlimited Conservation Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at

The Bergen Community Center
327 East Ridgewood Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652

boots or waders that DON'T LEAK! Also, to help in the water you must be registered as a volunteer with the Hatchery. The date has not been set, however I will Email all of the people on my list when I get the information.

How much mercury is needed to pollute a pond the size of Henry Lake? About one tablespoon full! There is a sign at the Bergen Community Center in Paramus that asks you to bring in your mercury thermometer and exchange it for one without mercury. I only use Henry Lake to illustrate the size and have no indication of mercury there.

Please be aware that whatever goes into storm drains near your house goes directly to the nearest brook or stream. People have been known to dump dirty motor oil into drains and the little bit of excess fertilizer that washes into the drains from each home adds up to a lot. Greenwood Lake has a problem because a heavy growth of weeds, caused by fertilizer entering the lake from streams that carry it from storm drains, is fouling boat engines. Another chemical problem, mainly in Pompton Lakes, is the phosphorous that is usually found in soaps.

A lot of animal and human coliform (fecal) bacteria that tests show comes from New York State and older homes is found in the Ramapo River. TU's Ray Bergman Chapter, NY DEP and other agencies are working on the problem, and Mahwah has applied for a grant of \$300,000 to study the pollution problems. EJTU will assist with the testing if Mahwah gets the grant. Part of the answer will be a new sewerage plant to be built in Hillside just above the NJ line but, we must be sure that the clean water discharge from the plant is not warm and that there will be guarantees that there

will be no overflow or spillage.

As you can see, we are working hard to improve the Ramapo and we appreciate the positive comments that we get from trout fishermen who, after years of frustration, are once again catching trout in the Ramapo.

As many of you know, a group of bait fishermen requested that we stop float stocking the Ramapo and put all of the trout at the bridges where they could easily catch them! I am pleased to let you know that in two weeks, we got 70 signatures and 25 emails requesting that we continue the program. Bob Papson from the Department of Fish and Wildlife says that they are pleased with our program and that it will continue.

You can get on my EMAIL list by sending your name and Email address to me at hermaril@aol.com. Your name will never be given out for any purpose.

Please do not go fishing alone. If you must, be sure to take your fully charged cell phone or at least a police type whistle.

Be careful out there and remember, We all live down stream!

Herm Drenth

Catskill Flea Market

How about tying up a dozen fleas for the chapter - oops, wrong column! But, if you have any excess fishing or fishing-related equipment that we can sell at the Saturday, August 28 Catskill Flea Market please get it to Doug Penna. Doug will be representing EJTU at the flea market and he will need donated items to sell. He will use any equipment that is was not sold at the Chapter's July 14th Sell/Swap meeting but he can use a lot more.



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