



# Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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Issue 12

## President's Beat

The leaves! The leaves! They're wonderful when they provide shade and they're spectacular when they turn color in the fall but they're a major pain when they're on the lawn.

I had been alternating between using a leaf blower to move loose leaves and a rake to free those that were captured in the branches of perennial plants and soggy hostas when I felt the need to take a break. I decided to check the leaves in the no-name creek that flows past my yard and found that, despite the warnings against placing leaves in flowing water because of the damage caused by their scouring effect, Mother Nature had dumped mountains of them in the water. Tough luck, Mother N, these blistered hands aren't going to clean your debris from your water!

The no-name creek is really a drainage ditch that meets other small creeks and eventually feeds into the Hackensack River. Although the system is shallow and sluggish until heavy rains convert it into an overflowing torrent, there are scattered fish near playgrounds, culverts and other unlikely places, all within a half mile of my house. So, apparently the seasonal dumping of leaves hasn't wiped out the sturdy fish that cruise through this unlikely water. But, because I was in the midst of a boring task, my mind wandered and as I considered the effect of leaves on local streams I eventually thought about the effect of chemicals in the water. Chemicals like the ones in lawn fertilizer.

Until recently it seemed that phosphorus, the second of those three numbers that are on all fertilizer containers, was considered to be the cause of the growth of "grass" in both fresh and salt water. In fact, Minnesota – The Land of 10,000 Lakes – restricts the use of phosphorus through the *Phosphorus Lawn Fertilizer Law*, that was enacted "to reduce over-enrichment of rivers,

**When:** December 10 at 7:30 PM

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

## Special December Holiday Meeting

Our December 10 meeting will not feature a fishing or tying speaker but will feature Jerry Zelenka who will present his touch of nature for our Holiday meeting.

Lizards, ten-foot snakes, chinchillas, bunnies, tarantulas, things that slither, chirp, hoot or croak fascinate boys and girls and all the parents. That is what Jerry, a retired science teacher, will bring to our meeting for a Wild Animal Party.

His exotic animal collection and his presentation are geared to the age group in attendance. Jerry gets down to the children's level as he pulls animals, one at a time, out of his many vintage suitcases, but it's all very safe and controlled (reptile mouths are taped, for example). Children are riveted to Jerry and his animals, which they are allowed to touch.

Refreshments will be served to the children (and maybe the adults), so be sure to attend and to bring your children or grandchildren.

lakes, and wetlands with the nutrient phosphorus". According to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, "Excessive phosphorus in surface water leads to an overabundance of algae and other aquatic plants." This law means that, if you live in Minnesota you must meet one of two criteria in order to use phosphorus on your lawn or the 30-10-10 you would like to use becomes 30-0-10.

## Suffern Show

It's getting colder and many of us will not want to brave the chill winds, the icy guides, and the slippery paths that lead to streams. So we will wait until early in 2009 and look forward to re-supplying our fly boxes and checking out all of that new gear that is guaranteed to catch more fish.

As we wait for the new fishing year, Basil Santamaria has already begun preparing for it. He has reserved space for EJTU at the Suffern Show (officially the World Fishing and Outdoor Exposition). The 2009 show will take place from Thursday, March 5 to Sunday, March 8, and will, as usual, be at Rockland Community college. Basil will need your help, so note the above dates on your calendars.

## Annual Non - Superbowl Sunday Trip

At one time the last Sunday in January was the day on which the NFL's final big game of the season, the Superbowl, was played. Because EJTU members preferred flies to pigskins the last Sunday in January was also the day on which EJTU offered its Superbowl Sunday Fishing Trip, a fishing trip to Long Island's Connetquot River.

While the NFL decided to change their schedule the traditionalists at EJTU held firm and have continued to visit the Connetquot on every January's final Sunday.

This year the last Sunday in January will be January 25 and, as usual, there will be an East Jersey TU Superbowl Sunday Connetquot fishing trip. The cost of the trip is \$45.

This trip can get booked up quickly so get your money to Ed Higgins (easyedh@verizon.net) as soon as possible so you can guarantee that you will be included.

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## East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited Board of Directors

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### Points

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*(Continued from page 1) President*

Now, however, I have been reading that nitrogen, the first of the three numbers that describe fertilizer contents, is the culprit. In Massachusetts a group called Preserve Falmouth's Bays and Ponds, funded by the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, says that nitrogen leaching from septic systems is the main source of nitrogen pollution, "which causes rapid algae growth". A further fifteen percent of the pollution is "coming from the chemical fertilizer we put on our lawns" and they feel that they can eliminate fifteen percent of their problem by adopting some simple lawn care practices.

Also, according to the November 2008 NJ Federated Sportsmen News, a group named Save Barnegat Bay recently drafted a Nitrogen Lawn Fertilizer Ordinance and presented a draft to the county administrator who, because of lack of expertise, referred the matter to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. DEP responded that phosphorus not nitrogen is the bigger problem. This despite the fact that the Save Barnegat Bay "group is made up of three members of the Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Science, a scientist from the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, an ecologist and historian of Barnegat Bay, and a representative from the Urban Coast Institute from Monmouth College".

So it seems that the hook-clogging greenery that is cursed by both fresh and salt water fishermen is caused by fertilizer but there are still arguments as to whether the specific cause is nitrogen or phosphorus. I wonder if potash will be looked at next?

*Ray Cappock*

## Fly of the Month

The holidays are around the corner and things are getting hectic. Maybe you can sneak out for a few hours. It's a nice sunny day and a few midges might be around - it sure beats spending the afternoon in the mall. Let me see, fighting the crowds in the department stores or fighting a few of those big Rainbows the chapter stocked this fall on the Ramapo - you decide.

Tie up your favorite midge 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're not into tying tiny flies, we will accept any pattern you care to tie. 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*

## TIC

As you know, in October EJTU volunteers



- under the direction of our Trout In the Classroom coordinator, George Petersen - went to the Pequest Hatchery, picked up trout eggs and delivered them to local schools. What you might not know is that EJTU is assisting ten schools that are raising trout in fourteen tanks in their classrooms. The statewide TIC program continues to grow and our part of it increases every year.

## EJTU's Exhibit

Doug Penna and our EJTU exhibit were taking a rest in November but you will be able to find the exhibit again in December.

In December the exhibit will be in the Ridgewood Library and then in January Doug will move it back to the Rutherford Library.

## Big Fish Fly Fishing

For those of you who like to have a little salt on your flies the Coastal Fly Rodders web site may interest you. The url is <http://www.coastalflyrodders.com/>.



## EJ TU Calendar Of Events & Coming Fishing Trips

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

Ed Higgins (easydh@verizon.net) is planning fishing trips **(F)** to the following locations in 2009. 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 EJ TU's web site's  
"Upcoming Events"  
for the most up-to-date details.**

### December:

No scheduled events but don't forget the Wednesday, December 10 members' meeting. Jerry Zelenka will bring his menagerie for children (and adults) to enjoy.

### January:

Sunday, January 25: **(F)** Connetquot River - EJ TU members have always referred to the annual Connetquot trip as the Super Bowl Sunday trip since the last Sunday in January was for a time the date on which the "Big Game" was scheduled.

The cost of the trip is \$45. Get your money in as soon as possible so you can guarantee that you will be included.

### February:

No scheduled events

### March:

Thursday, March 5: **(E)** Sunday March 8: Suffern Show; Need set-up and take-down help, fly tyers, raffle sellers and EJ TU promoters.

Saturday, March 14: **(E)** - The EJ TU annual dinner.

Saturday, March 28 (tentative): **(E)** - EJ TU Ramapo Clean-up and parking area maintenance at Glen Gray Road

### April:

Saturday, April. 4 - Sunday April 5: **(E)** Pequest Open House; Assist with youth fishing program, promote EJ TU

April (Date To Be Announced): **(F)**

Saturday trip to Ken Lockwood Gorge, Pequest, Paulinskill, Beaverkill, etc

Saturday, April 25: **(E)** Hudson River Fisherman's Association; Demonstrate fly tying, provide fly casting instruction promote EJ TU

### May:

Friday, May 1 - Sunday May 3: **(F)** Two nights at Frost Valley, Claryville, NY

Saturday, May 16 - **(F)** Shad trip to Worthington State Forest, NJ

Saturday, May 23 (tentative): **(E)** Mahwah Recreation Dept. Fishing Derby; Assist kids fishing

### June:

Friday, June 5 - Sunday June 7: **(F)** Picnic, plus a possible two night stay at Catskill Fly Museum, Livingston Manor, NY; They have two nice bunkhouses that we can rent.

Saturday, June 13 (tentative): **(E)** Meadowfest; Demonstrate fly tying, provide fly casting instruction promote EJ TU

Saturday, June 13 - Saturday, June 20: **(F)** Possible Block Island trip. This has to be arranged soon; we must have confirmation from members who will be interested in the trip so we can book the ferry, and rooms on the island in January, 2009. The trip may include a couple of classes for tying flies that are appropriate for the area

**July:**  
No scheduled events

### August:

No scheduled events

### September:

Saturday, September 12: **(E)** Ramapo River Day 2009; Same program as in prior years

## The Birds

Do you shudder when other EJ TU members talk about their January and February fishing trips? Is your bottle of that stuff that keeps guides free from ice still un-



opened? Don't have waders heavy enough to keep out winter's chill? Maybe you would like to take part in an "outdoorsy" event with out leaving your house.

If you have a bird feeder in your yard, and if you enjoy watching the birds during the winter, get ready for February's big birding event - The Great Backyard Bird Count. In 2009 the count will begin on Friday, February 13 and end on Monday, February 16 so you have plenty of time to buy suet and seeds and begin to offer meals to those fluffy little tree dwellers.

## Salt Water Licensing

There have been many arguments about whether or not New Jersey should institute licensing for salt water fishing but, come January 2009, whether you are for or against licensing, some form of it will begin.

You may wonder why New Jersey would suddenly consider issuing licenses for what many of us always felt was a right. But, it is not New Jersey that will require a license; it will be the Federal Government.

When Congress renewed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act in 2007 the act contained this language in 109-479 (g):

*"(1) FEDERAL PROGRAM - The Secretary shall establish and implement a regionally based registry program for recreational fishermen in each of the 8 fishery management regions. The program, which shall not require a fee before January 1, 2011, shall provide for-*

*(A) the registration (including identification and contact information) of individuals who engage in recreational fishing...*

*(2) STATE PROGRAMS - The Secretary shall exempt from registration under the program recreational fishermen and charter fishing vessels licensed, permitted, or registered under the laws of a State if the Secretary determines that information from the State program is suitable for the Secretary's use..."*

What Congress wants to accomplish is to establish a registry of salt water anglers so it can improve the collection of data about catches of oceanic and anadromous (fish that spawn or migrate in estuaries - think of stripped bass in the Hackensack River, salmon, etc.) species.

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been charged with developing this registry of anglers, and on June 11, 2008 released a proposed rule. In its release NOAA again stated that, "NOAA may exempt anglers from registration if they already have a state-issued saltwater fishing license and the state provides sufficiently complete information to place in the national registry." NOAA's release also states, "States on the West Coast (including Alaska), the Gulf Coast, and South Atlantic offer saltwater fishing licenses. Hawaii and the states from New Jersey to Maine do not."

As you can see, if New Jersey has a State licensing program that allows the Federal

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*(Continued from page 3) License*

Government to collect the information about catches that it is looking for, there will be no need for Jersey anglers to get a federal license. If New Jersey does not offer a saltwater license, then Jersey anglers will have to get one from NOAA. While NOAA will not charge a fee in the first two years, hey feel that, beginning in 2011, the annual fee will be an estimated \$15 to \$25 per angler.

On June 23, 2008 New Jersey State Senator "Kip" Bateman introduced a bill (S2080) that would have established a recreational fishing license. However, the NJ Legislature's web site indicates that the bill was "Withdrawn from Consideration" on October 23, 2008. An identical bill (A3252) was introduced on October 11, 2008 and the assembly requested a fiscal estimate because it was felt that there would be an increase in DEP's expenditures caused by data processing and advertising associated with the licensing program. No cost information was developed because the Executive Branch failed to respond to a request for information. Despite this, on November 11, 2008 the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee voted 5 to 0 in favor of the bill.

So, we are coming down to the wire and a licensing program does not appear to be a



high priority among New Jersey's leaders. Meanwhile, Delaware has instituted a license that covers fishing, crabbing, and clamming that costs \$8.50 for residents. Will Federal funding be based on the number of registered salt water anglers? If so, will little

Delaware be able to obtain more of the funds than New Jersey if it shows a registry with more anglers than New Jersey? If New Jersey does not institute a license, will the Federal government charge New Jersey for the cost of monitoring the catch reports? When licenses are issued by the government rather than New Jersey, will New Jersey wish that it was receiving the \$15 to \$25 per angler that will go to NOAA?

### Welcome to September and October's New Members

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Frank Bassilo      | Rochelle Park   |
| Gia Boss           | Ridgefield Park |
| Leslie Cimino      | Ridgewood       |
| G. Robert Leis Jr. | Little Falls    |
| Lillileet Lee      | River Edge      |
| S. Origoni         | Westwood        |
| Erik Oster         | Hoboken         |
| James G. Wolfe     | Demarest        |

## Tell 'Em What You Think!

*This announcement was sent by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.*

Anglers are reminded that the NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife will hold the 2008 Freshwater Fisheries Forum on Saturday, December 6 at 10 am at the Hackettstown Hatchery.

Anglers are invited to come share their views and recommendations for the future of freshwater fisheries research and management in New Jersey. This forum is of particular importance as fisheries staff will soon be in the process of developing recommendations for regulations changes for the 2010 Fish Code.

Latest license trend information will also be available for discussion. So come share your views and be a part of driving New Jersey's fisheries programs.

Registration is not required but appreciated. Please contact Carol Delibero at the Lebanon Field Office at 908-236-2118 or e-mail [njfwfish@earthlink.net](mailto:njfwfish@earthlink.net). We hope to see you there!

*(Continued from page 3) Birds*

During the four day period of the event people all over the country will count the birds that visit their property and then report their numbers to [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

The "Bird Count" is a project that is run jointly by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology



and the National Audubon Society and is not just an attempt to get TV time and free publicity. As the Bird

Count site explains, "The data these "citizen scientists" collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years."

Last year participants submitted 85,000 checklists. If you would like to make 2009's number of checklists 85,001 visit the bird count site: [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).



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