



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 39

July 2009

Issue 7

President's Beat

Last month's President's Beat suggested that TU members should contact their elected representatives to tell them how they feel about subjects that are being or should be considered by the representatives. As 2009 progresses it seems that more of the country is coming under the control of the federal government so the suggestion becomes more important than ever. An instance of the increased federal control occurred last week in a Bergen County town when, in response to a voter's question about why a noise ordinance was disregarded, the mayor is quoted as responding that the action came after a call from the Department of Homeland Security and, "I for one will not say no to the Department of Homeland Security. We get money from them every year." A statement that is not exactly on a par with "Give me liberty or give me death".

You should be aware, however, that when you contact your representatives, whether they meet in Washington, Trenton or your backyard, you may not receive a straightforward response. You have to remember that many of our politicians attain and retain their positions in government by practicing a rhetorical technique that was described by Aristotle in 350 B.C., i.e. *Begging the Question*.

If you wish to contact a representative there are a number of on-line resources. Here are three of them:

RollCall - (links to both federal agencies and elected officials as well as links to local elected officials) <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/media/>

Contacting Congress - (also lists committees, leadership, etc): <http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/index.html>

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When: July 8 at 7:30 PM

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

July Meeting Early Start - 7 PM

Because we will hold the July meeting in the 'Cabana' at the rear of the American Legion Hall there will be no speaker.

However, we will have a swap meet at which you can trade your unneeded fishing equipment. So spend one of these rainy days looking through that pile of stuff that you never use and bring it to the meeting.

There will also be free food! Our talented chefs will prepare hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings, along with cold soda and coffee.

Don't take the time to go home for a rushed supper before the meeting! We will begin the meeting early so you can dine with your fishing buddies.

August Speaker Jay Angrick

You may have heard stories of the stripers and other fish that can be caught in our backyard on the Hackensack River. Jay Angrick, a fishing guide on the Hackensack River, will tell you what is there and where to look. Jay is an ex-tournament bass fisherman. He may have a DVD to show us some of the fishing on the Hackensack.

Visit the East Jersey TU
web site for
up-to-the-minute
information:

www.eastjerseytu.org

More on Points

Last month we explained that when our members spend time on EJTU volunteer projects their time is recorded and points are awarded for the time that they contribute. Then, when the volunteer reaches various point levels, gifts are given to him/her as a thank you.

The general rule for awarding points is that we record ten points for each four hours that are contributed. This is a "general rule" because no one attends each event with a stop watch to monitor the exact number of minutes that people work.

These are the gifts that EJTU gives to members who attain various point levels:

- 150 points Polo shirt
- 500 points Green jacket
- 750 points License
- 1,000 points Beer stein
- 1,500 points Denim shirt
- 2,500 points Fleece jacket
- 4,000 points \$100.00 Gift card
- 6,000 points Trout Carving
- 8,000 points \$500.00 Gift card

Glasses are Good

You lift your fly out of the water in a relaxed back cast when you notice that the fly is rapidly coming toward your ear. It seems to be dancing up and down like a gnat as it comes at you but then it buzzes past your head and you ready yourself for a forward cast. It's a fascinating sight but it's also unnerving when you think about how close your ear is to your eye. Particularly if you are not wearing glasses.

Fly fishermen often wear polarized glasses that cut surface glare, enhance the ability to see below the surface and also protect the eyes. That's fine; but if you decide to remove the sun glasses because it's cloudy or

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East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited Board of Directors

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Points

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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: The East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board Members 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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USA.gov - (links to all state and local governments): http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/State_and_Territories.shtml

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Job Search?

When a person is looking for a job one of the suggested actions is to make sure that as many people as possible know that you are looking for work and also the type of work that you are capable of performing. Recent job statistics indicate that there are quite a few people who are now looking for work and, since EJTU has over 600 dues-paying members, the probability is high that some of our members are in that category.

I do not know how effective we can be in helping our unemployed members find work but I feel that we should make an effort to do so. We obviously cannot act as an employment agency, nor can we check the qualifications of the unemployed but, if we can publicize the qualifications of those who are searching for a job, we may be able to assist some of them. Our effectiveness would be limited because we would probably only be able to send information to our members but if we can help any of those involved in the discouraging task of looking for work it would be worthwhile.

I would like to first know what our members feel about this idea. It would be very helpful if those who are familiar with projects such as this would offer advice and/or warnings about legal aspects, how best to publicize job applicant information, etc. However, any suggestions or criticisms are welcome; please contact me at raycapp@gmail.com

Ray Cappock

Visit the East Jersey TU web site for up-to-the-minute information:

www.eastjerseytu.org

July Fly of the Month

The major hatches of spring are winding down and the hatches that are taking place are getting later and later in the day. The middle of the day is void of insect activity, or is it?

It's TERRESTRIAL TIME; time to find yourself a stretch of river with overhanging branches and put on that ant or beetle pattern you prefer.

Whether it's the quick site ant, fur ant, crowe beetle, simple foam beetle, or a fancy hopper pattern, now is the time.

Bruce Seiden

Road Kill Hackle

(This reprint of a past Riffles article is appropriate at this time of year)

Old habits are hard to break. When I was a kid much of my fly tying material came from my mother's sewing box or from feathers and such found along the river. And of course there was road kill. The challenge with road kill is to get to the critter soon after it has been hit for the first time. Usually that is not the case and it is not worth dodging cars and trucks for a beat up beast or bird.



Although it has been years since I last scraped something off the street, I admit to still looking carefully at the condition of the tails of recently flattened squirrels.

One way to satisfy the old hunt and gather gene is with goose feathers. This time of year geese lose their flight feathers. It's nature's way of taking the car keys away from Dad so he has to stay home with the wife and kids. (Glad I'm not a goose.)

If you visit any of the local parks, just about all of which have large goose populations, you can get a year's worth of feathers in a few minutes. The best part is that you can select the right feather for the right use. Smaller softer feathers are great for wing casings. Larger stiffer ones make great wet fly wings.

After a few days of dry weather (heavy rain messes up the feathers) take a stroll, gather some feathers and satisfy that road kill gene for another year. Just watch where you step!

Limp Leader

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.

July:

Wednesday, July 8: Meeting – in open pavilion, with hot dogs and a swap meet.
Sunday, July 12: (E) Clean-up on the Wanaque River along East Shore Road – and for those new to this river, an introduction to the river.

August:

Wednesday, August 12: Meeting – speaker Hackensack River guide Jay Angrick

September:

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

October:

Friday, 10/ 2 - Sunday 10/4
NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife's Wildlife EXPO at Assunpink WMA

Contact: Rich Malizia for Calendar Events (E) at remqcp@optonline.net or 973-304-0789.

Leisenring Lift

Don Bastian, our November 2008 speaker, mentioned the Leisenring Lift very briefly during his informative and entertaining talk but he did not spend any time on it and he did not explain its odd name. The following description of this technique is from the Ultimate Fly Tying web site (<http://www.ultimateflytying.com/Leisenring.htm>).

"In the years prior to World War II, Jim Leisenring, an ardent wet fly fisher, developed a technique that dead-drifted a fly into a prime lie, then just as the fly reached the likely holding position of the fish, it would suddenly rise away, inciting the fish to strike. His namesake technique has proven to be absolutely deadly, yet it is disarmingly simple to execute.

"The angler stands at the edge of a current tongue and casts up and slightly across stream with a short (usually no more than 20 feet), controlled line. After the fly settles to the water, the rod tip is raised to keep only enough line on the water to allow the fly to sink. Leaving the entire length of the cast on the water causes downstream drag to set in, undermining the effectiveness of the technique.

As the fly moves toward the angler, the rod tip is raised higher in order to prevent excess slack from forming on the water. Once the fly passes the angler's position and heads down current, the rod tip is lowered, keeping pace with current's pull on the line. This raising and lowering motion will keep the fly right on the bottom and drag-free during the length of its drift.

"Once the rod has been returned to the horizontal position (or to whatever position is desired for the situation), it is held still, allowing drag to set in and the currents to swing the line across stream. As a result, the fly will be swept (lifted) to the surface like an ascending natural. This upward sweeping action is the "lift" part of Leisenring's technique.

"It is important that the fly get down on the bottom quickly, so the angler should either weight the fly internally or add shot or a similar weight to the leader.

"Fish may hit the fly at any point during the drift or the swing, so the angler should always be ready. The use of a strike indicator will make detecting any subtle takes much easier and also provides an additional visual cue if the fly should begin to drag.

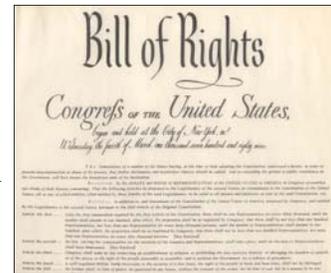
"To increase the chances of a fish chomping the fly, the angler may try timing the

swing so that it begins in areas where a fish would naturally be holding, looking for food (a prime lie or a feeding lie).

"A real bonus of the Leisenring Lift is the fact that it can be executed without the angler ever needing to make a cast. All an angler needs to do is to wade into position and feed line downstream into the current until the desired length is reached. At that point, the angler simply flops the line upstream, using the water tension to load the rod. After the fly has been swung, the line can again be flopped upstream. This is technically a tension cast, but the rod motion need not be precise—a simple lift and flopping movement will suffice.

Freedom or Subversive?

In 1951 a reporter for Madison, Wisconsin's *Capital Times* typed up the preamble to The Declaration of Independence and some of the amendments to the US Constitution, probably those known as the Bill of Rights. He then presented his document to people as a petition.



Of the more than 100 people to whom the "petition" was presented only one person recognized the basic concepts of our government and was willing to sign it. Most thought the "petition" was subversive and were afraid of it. I have read that in following years others have repeated the experiment and received the same reactions.



Remember that the Fourth of July is not a holiday in honor of hot dogs and parades.

If you would like to read our subversive US documents go to <http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/index.htm>, <http://www.usconstitution.net/xconst.html> or <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/>



Rock Snot in the Esopus

(The following is a condensation of a Tuesday, June 16, 2009 NY Times article that was written by Anthony DePalma)

The Esopus Creek, a legendary Catskill Mountain fly fishing stream, is one of the latest bodies of water to be infected with *Didymosphenia geminata*, a fast-spreading single-cell algae that is better known to fishermen and biologists around the world as rock snot.

Last fall officials did not find it in the Esopus but a fly fisherman told state biologists a few weeks ago that he thought he had seen *Didymo* clinging to rocks on the bed of the Esopus.

Investigators later confirmed that *Didymo* had spread along 12 miles of the Esopus from Shandaken to the Ashokan Reservoir, and biologists believe that it is being transported by sport fishermen.

Didymo is native in North American areas of higher elevations that have cold, nutrient-poor waters but in the last 20 years it has spread from British Columbia across the continent to New York. It has a natural tendency to grow in fast-moving rivers and creeks, and it can spread by clinging to fishing equipment, especially the felt-bottom waders

Didymo clings to rocks on the bottom of rivers, streams and lakes, at times growing furiously in blooms that can cover a river bottom from bank to bank, smothering the stone flies and other organisms that trout and other sport fish live on. It grows in long goey tan, gray and brown masses that resemble wet toilet tissue or sludge. However, despite its appearance, it is not slimy to the touch. Rather, it feels like wet cotton

The US EPA considers rock snot an invasive species, as do several states, although none have gone so far as to ban felt-soled waders. However, manufacturers have developed rubber-sole alternatives that have

become increasingly popular with fly fishermen.

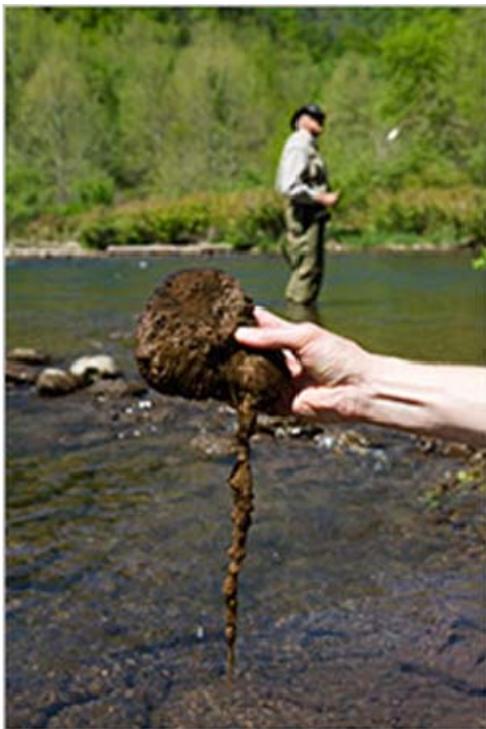
Sarah A. Spaulding, an ecologist with the US Geological Survey, said that *Didymo* can survive outside water for a day or more, making it easy for anglers to transport it as they move from river to river but, when kept in a cool, damp place like the trunk of a car *Didymo* can survive for 90 days in a felt sole.

Michael J. Flaherty, regional fisheries director of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, said *Didymo* had been found on the east and west branches of the Delaware River, the location of two huge reservoirs in the New York City water system. The Esopus Creek also receives water from a New York City reservoir. Biologists theorize that free-flowing streams are less habitable for *Didymo* than controlled waters connected to reservoirs because they are regularly scoured clean by raging floodwaters.

And Mr. Flaherty said he was worried that *Didymo* could spread to two of the most famous fly fishing streams in the country, the Beaverkill and the Willowemoc, which are close to the Delaware's tributaries.

Leslie J. Surprenant, the New York State invasive species management coordinator, said there were no known ways to eradicate *Didymo* once it was established. The best that can be hoped for, she said, is to slow its spread by informing fishermen and others who use the infected streams. On its Web site, New York encourages fishermen to submerge waders in a solution of water and bleach to kill cells before they can spread.

The message is starting to get out, at least to some groups. Alfred Marchetti, who was out fishing with friends on the Esopus recently, said he knew all about how dangerous rock snot could be. He and his friends said they were dunking their waders in a washtub filled with water and bleach as soon as they got back to camp.



(Continued from page 1)Glasses

dark, do you replace them with some other eye protection?

Because my age requires that I wear glasses, I carry prescription sun glasses along with the usual clear, prescription glasses. As a result I don't have to remember to always bring glasses. But an article in the July 2009 issue of *Field & Stream* reminded me of the need for eye protection.

In *Field & Stream's* "Close Calls" column, a photographer named, Joe Daniel, tells of an experience he had while he was photographing a friend who was casting a large deceiver pattern to roosterfish. Daniel had removed his sunglasses because he was using a wide-angle lens while positioned under his friend's casting arm. A slight casting error caused the line to whip across his face and, as a result, the 1/0 hook entered the side of his eye, then turned, and the barb came out through the center of his eye.

It took four hours of surgery to remove the hook from Daniel's collapsed eye, and after this an eye clinic had to rebuild the eye. Think of this when you are trying to decide whether you should wear those annoying glasses that slip down your nose and get in your way.

NJ TU Membership

Even though TU is a cold water conservation organization, most of the conversations between members center on fly fishing equipment, where to fish, what hatches are in progress, and where the trout are. It is easy, therefore, to think of TU as an organization of fly fishers. And, although fly fishers often travel together on fishing trips, the actual fishing is a solitary experience. (Try standing as close to a fly fisher on a stream as you would to another fisherman on a bluefish head boat).

To let you know that, while you may be alone on your favorite stream, you are one of thousands of New Jersey TU members, here are May 31, 2009 New Jersey membership statistics:

Chapter	Membership
East Jersey	648
Central Jersey	519
Hacklebarney	407
Fred S. Burroughs, North Jersey	397
Ray Neirle, South Jersey	265
Ernest Schwiebert	254
Ken Lockwood	249
Jersey Shore	237
Rahway River	32
NJ Total	3,008