



# Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Volume 46

March 2015

Number 3

## President's Beat

I am sitting here looking out the window at the snow falling once again. Spring still seems a long way off. I do enjoy fishing on a mild winter day, but with the temps in the teens and 20s and all the snow we have been having, there haven't been any mild winter days. Personally, I cannot deal with ice on the guides all day and the reel freezing if it gets too wet. Give me the mid 30s and I will consider it.

The only good about this weather has been that I am not tempted to blow **off** my other responsibilities so I can wet a line. I know that spring is coming and the chapter will hit our busiest time of the year. I am working on preparations for our March 28<sup>th</sup> annual dinner and our Fly Fishing Course that begins on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Conservation and public outreach activities will be in full swing shortly and I'm sure Rich Malizia is covering all that in his column.

If you know anyone that might have expressed an interest in fly fishing, be sure to mention our upcoming course. It will provide the information and the casting lessons to get them up and running by the time all the major hatches start. We are always looking for additional hands to help out with the course, so if you are available to help, let me know.

If you haven't been to an EJTU banquet, please consider attending this year's. We are returning to Biagio's and it should be a good time for all. Prizes have been coming in and we should have some great items for the raffles. The reservation form is included in this edition of Riffles. Please get it in ASAP, as time is running out. *Bruce Seiden*

When: March at 7:30 PM

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

## March Speaker Tony Ritter

### Fishing the Upper Delaware River

This is Tony Ritter's 21st year as a guide on the Delaware River

He is licensed by the National Park Service and New York and Pennsylvania



Tony offers driftboat freshwater fishing trips for wild trout, wall-eye, smallmouth bass or shad in the Catskills, Poconos and Upper Delaware River region of New York and Pennsylvania

## Welcome to February's New Members



Rich Eitel  
Thomas Kowalczyk  
Verona  
Elmwood Pk

## Calendar

Please consult EJTU's web site's "Upcoming Events" for the most up-to-date information and details.

Trips: contact Chris Henrickson  
C.henrickson@icloud.com

Other events: Rich Malizia at  
973-304-0789 or  
remqcp@optonline.net

### March 11 [Wed]

Meeting: Fishing the Delaware River

### March 13 [Fri] Pulaski trip

### March 14 [Sat] LL Bean event

### March 21 [Sat] Glen Gray parking lot repair

### March 28/9 Pequest Open House

### March 28 [Sat] EJTU Banquet

### April 4 [Sat] Opening Day

### April [Date TBD]

West Branch Delaware trip

### May 9 [Sat] Hooked on Hudson

### May 9 [Sat] Secaucus Green Fair

### May 23 [Sat] Mahwah Fishing Derby

### May [Date TBD] Delaware River shad trip

### May 30 [Sat] Catskill (Roscoe) picnic

### June 6 [Sat] Ramapo River Day

### June [13-20] Block Island trip

### June [Date TBD] Ausable River trip

### July [Date TBD] Farmington River trip

### August [Date TBD] Kayak trip

### September [Date TBD] Housatonic trip

**East Jersey Chapter  
Trout Unlimited  
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**Trout in the Classroom**  
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**Points**  
Paul Reithmeier

**Riffles Editor**  
Ray Cappock

**Conservation Chair**  
Rich Malizia

**Founding President**  
Don Ecker

**Monthly General Member Meeting:** The East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM.

**Location:** The American Legion Hall,  
33 West Passaic St, Rochelle Park, NJ. 07662.

**Monthly Board Meeting:** Board Members of East Jersey Trout Unlimited meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM.

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 Ken Barile at: 201-391-9214 or email to: [kenbarile@optonline.net](mailto:kenbarile@optonline.net).  
For Information on trips and other Chapter Activities go to [www.eastjerseytu.org](http://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](mailto:raycapp@optonline.net)

## Conservation Notes

Sooner or later, the snow and ice will melt and the earth will start to show signs of Spring. The snow melt should help replenish ground water and our rivers and streams should enjoy healthy flows for some months to come. While we all wait for Winter to ease its grip, the Conservation Committee has been busy scheduling a variety of events. Please refer to the calendar in Riffles for the list. EJTU uses these events to educate and inform the public of the conservation programs we conduct. Our restoration work on Cresskill Brook and Ramapo River, our education programs like Ramapo River Day and our temperature monitoring and B.A.T.S. surveys are just some of the things we try to present and promote at these events. We need your help for a successful outcome. Select an event at which you can help. The Chapter has literature and promotional materials. All you have to do is be willing to talk about our activities. PLEASE let me know in advance of your plans to help



On the legislative front, three bills have passed and been signed by the Governor. Authority for municipalities to sell publicly owned water and wastewater systems to private owners leaves many questions about the quality, quantity and cost of water used in our homes and businesses. The absorption of the Meadowlands Commission into the Sports and Exposition Authority will diminish environmental advocacy in favor of "economic development". The new name of the combined entities is Meadowlands Regional Commission which will focus on "development and gaming". The DEP has lost its authority to oversee Liberty State Park to the new Meadowlands Regional Commission. They will determine use and development of park property. I did not find any reference to protecting the environment in any of these new laws.

Our initial efforts to bring attention to the lack of legal parking in the vicinity of Bear Swamp Brook have been rebuffed. We will try to address this again with Mahwah and/or Bergen County. Right now you cannot park legally on Ramapo Valley Road or on any of the nearby local streets. Please comply with these regulations. Parking illegally will only make it more difficult to achieve some concessions.

We have scheduled our annual maintenance of the Glen Gray Road parking area for Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM. We will request a supply of woodchips from Mahwah D.P.W. The area was damaged significantly by staging materials and parking equipment while the Glen Gray Bridge was replaced. The new bridge is in use but, due to snow cover, there is no way to determine the condition of the parking area. For now we will proceed as planned.

I look forward to seeing some new faces at our events. Thank you in advance for your participation.

*Rich Malizia*

973-304-0789

[remqcp@optonline.net](mailto:remqcp@optonline.net)





There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a serenity of the mind.

*~Washington Irving*

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May those who love us, love us.  
And those that don't love us,  
May God turn their hearts.

And if He doesn't turn their hearts,  
May He turn their ankles  
So We'll know them by their limping.

*An old Gaelic blessing*



Last month's Riffles mentioned the return of Harbor Seals, one of the water-loving animals that became scarce because of excessive hunting and the degradation of their preferred environment. Here is another mammal that is very comfortable in the water and whose numbers are reported to have increased in New Jersey, the River Otter.

Related to minks and weasels, these primarily nocturnal animals are one of those creatures that are built like living torpedoes. Their long

### River Otters

streamlined, two and a half to four feet long bodies, powerful legs, eleven to thirty pound weight and webbed feet, allow them to live on a diet of fish, birds, other mammals and almost anything else that lives near their preferred body of water.

Even though they have become more numerous in New Jersey, they are difficult to find because



of their nocturnal habits. However, you may find signs of their activity near a body of water. You may notice their tracks, but signs of their activity that few other animals leave are areas of worn soil and plants that form slides into the water.

If you happen to spot one of these playful animals as it goes into the water, you will have to wait a while for it to reappear since they can close their ears and nostrils and hold their breath for eight minutes.

## Fly Rods

Fly rods are generally long, rather thin and whippy fishing tools that are used to place an imitation of a macroinvertebrate, known as a fly, into any tree or bush located within one hundred yards of where you happen to be standing; even if your fly line is not one hundred yards long! But which of the many fly rod styles would be best for you or would you like best?

Let's divide the fly rod world into two types, those that have a reel on which line is stored for travel and, more importantly, for use in casting and in fighting fish that are hooked, and those with a relatively short, fixed length of line that is attached to the tip of the rod. The second type, with a fixed length of line, is a recent import from Japan called Tenkara. Let's call the others, those with a storage reel, traditional rods.

Both types are made in a variety of materials, from Cantonese Chinese bamboo to man-made synthetic fibers, and in many lengths, weights, and ability to flex. Traditional fly rods are made in separate, tapered sections that slide together to form one, long tapered unit; they can be in two, three or four sections.

Tenkara rods are also made of tapered sections but the pieces are nested inside each other and, when extended, lock into place. Then, from their working length, they can collapse to eighteen to twenty inches so they can be easily carried.

### Tenkara Rods a brief description

Because Tenkara rods originated in Japan, a hilly country with small, mountain streams, they are thought to be best suited for fishing on small streams and in places where a Traditional rod, that can require more space to manipulate, would be unwieldy. However, despite their origin in small streams, Tenkara rods, commonly 12 or 13 feet in length, are longer than the Traditional fresh water rod's usual nine feet.

Vendors of Tenkara rods also sell special Tenkara flies for use with the rods. They are wet flies with a coarse, forward facing hackle that forms a cone around the eye of the hook. Will a normal streamer, dry or wet fly work as well? I don't know. Will the use of Tankara flies



with a Traditional rod increase the number of fish that are hooked? Again, I don't know. But I can't think of a reason why a trout that is interested in a fly that is drifting past would care what kind of rod placed it in front of him.

The main advantages of Tenkara rods are that their small sizes when collapsed make them more convenient to carry, especially through brush, the small amount of equipment that is needed on the stream and not having to master the casting techniques necessary for using a Traditional rod. The Traditional rod's casting techniques and reel full of fly line and backing, however, make it possible to present a fly to a fish that is a greater distance away than the length of a standard Tankara line and also to fight larger fish. Of course, the obverse is that, while long casts can be fun, most fish are caught fairly close to anglers and accuracy is far more important than distance when casting.

Next month Traditional rods: Standard, Switch and Spey

EJTU member Bob Hresko used only Tenkara for the last two years. Part one of his description of Tenkara rods is on **page 6**

Visit the East Jersey TU

web site for up-to-the-minute information, the photo gallery, links to fishing sites and much more:

[www.ejtu.org](http://www.ejtu.org)

But don't forget to also check out EJTU on Facebook

<http://tinyurl.com/ptq2u3t>

## Library Display

Everyone is waiting with baited breath (whatever that is) to know where Doug has installed his EJTU Library Display. Well, unbait your breath! The display is in Hasbrouck Heights.

The library is located at 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604.

Why not take timeout from snow shoveling and head over to Hasbrouck Heights?





## EJTU Fly Fishing School Starts March 24

If you know of anyone who would like to attend a highly regarded, comprehensive, inexpensive course on how to fish with a fly rod, tell them about the EJTU course at Paramus' Westbrook Middle School that begins on March 24.

Students will learn the techniques needed to cast with a fly rod, fly selection, tackle for fly fishing, lines and leaders, knots, entomology and how to read a stream.



All equipment will be provided; however students with their own rods and reels are encouraged to use them in class.

The course is part of Paramus Community Schools but all instructors are volunteers from East Jersey Trout Unlimited with many years of experience in fly-fishing.

There will be seven evening sessions on Tuesdays from 7 PM until 10 PM from March 24 through May 12.

To sign up go to <http://www.ssreg.com/paramus/> and enter SR12 in the Catalog Search box.

## Limpets



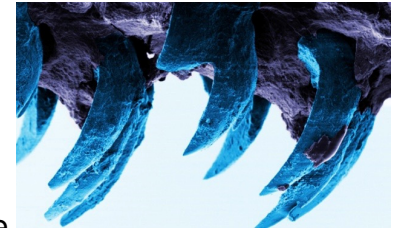
This is not a b o u t very relaxed kittens and puppies but about

those marine snails that have been imitated during wartime. The wartime use began in 1918 when Italy developed mines that could be attached to the hulls of ships. Then, during the Second World War, Allied divers, using strong magnets developed by General Electric, sank thousands of tons of Axis ships with various limpet mines.

After the wars not much was heard about the real limpets, the snails. They attached themselves to rocks, minded their own business and somehow made it almost impossible to remove them from their wet homes.

However, during February 2015, many publications wrote about the findings of Britain's University of Portsmouth. Scientists there found that limpets move to a tidal rock and scrape out a depression

into which they attach themselves. But how do these little snails accomplish this?



Th e researchers discovered that the tongues of limpets are covered with small teeth that are made of the strongest biological material ever studied. Spider webs had held this record, but now the teeth of little limpets, with five times the strength of spider silk, have taken over the crown.

This finding may seem to be another useless piece of information, but scientists feel that the material in the teeth, goethite, since it is stronger than Kevlar and almost as strong as the highest quality carbon fiber material available today, can be used in the manufacture of formula one cars, boats and airplanes.

## Fly Floatant

Eddie Keegan, in Coton Watershed TU's 2007 publication "TU Tips", recommends soaking dry flies in Rain-X and then air drying them to make them water resistant.

Rain-X is intended for use on auto windshield and can be found in most auto supply stores.



## 2015 Trout Stocking

Because brown and brook trout in the Pequest Hatchery were infected with furunculosis last year, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife will stock only rainbow trout this year. Rainbows are resistant to this disease.

The Division stated that, "Some 570,000 healthy and robust rainbow trout will be stocked in waters across New Jersey for the spring trout season. As many as 180,000 of these feisty fish will be stocked by the time the season kicks off April 4."



## Tenkara Rods

By Bob Hresko

Tenkara originated in Japan approximately 400 years ago and was used by commercial fishermen to catch native trout called Amago, Iwana, Yamame and Ito on small mountain streams. Tenkara rods are telescopic rods which traditionally extend from 11 to 14 feet in length and collapse to 15 to 20 inches making them ideal for backpacking and easy transport through the brush. In April 2009, Daniel W. Galhardo founded Tenkara USA which introduced Tenkara here in the United States.

Tenkara is the simplest form of fly fishing requiring only a rod, line and a fly. No reel is used. Tenkara is a form of level line fly fishing where the line is attached to what is referred to as the Lillian (yarn like material) which is attached to the tip of the Tenkara rod. Years ago in Japan, horse hair lines were used for Tenkara fishing, whereas today Hi-Vis fluorocarbon is the line of choice. Tippet is 3 to 4 feet and usually 5X, to help protect the delicate tip of the rod.

The standard length of line that is commonly used is equal to the length of the rod. So a 12 foot long rod would be matched with 12 feet of line. However, there are situations when short line fishing requires the length of line to be approximately 2 feet shorter than the length of the rod. There are also situations that require long line fishing when the length

of line is anywhere from 1.5 to 2 times the length of the rod.

Tenkara is not dapping or cane pole fishing. Accurate casting presentations and proper techniques are required. No double hauling here but accurate casts are a must.

A major advantage to fishing with a Tenkara rod is the drag free presentations. Because of the long length of the Tenkara rod along with the length of line used, it is possible to keep all of the fluorocarbon line off the water resulting in that perfect, drag free presentation.



In Japan, Tenkara fly fishermen practice the concept of “one fly,” meaning the use of a single fly pattern. Only a few different sizes are used, size #8, #12 (most common) and #16. The Sakasa Kebari (meaning reverse hackle) is one style of fly many Tenkara anglers use. These flies are wet flies with facing forward wet fly hackle that forms a cone around the eye of the hook. Many Sakasa Kebari flies are

nothing more than a thread head, thread body and reverse hen hackle. To many Tenkara Masters in Japan, the fly used doesn't matter. It's all about the technique and presentation.

Will a normal streamer, dry fly or nymph work as well? That depends. Small streamers and lightly weighted nymphs will work fine. Tenkara rods scream dry fly fishing with their perfect drag free drifts. There are 2 other types of

level line rods that although not technically classified as Tenkara rods can be used for Tenkara fishing. These are called Keiryu and Seiryu rods. These rods are also telescopic rods that can range from 10 to 14 feet and even longer. Keiryu rods have the backbone to handle larger flies like streamers and heavily weighted nymph and are well suited to catch larger fish like bass, pickerel, catfish and carp. Seiryu rods are at the other end of the spectrum. They are very light rods, perfect for fish in the 6 to 14 inch range. Both Keiryu and Seiryu rods will cast Sakasa Kebari flies beautifully.

Will the use of a Tenkara Sakasa Kebari fly with a western fly rod increase the number of fish that are hooked? Good question. The Sakasa Kebari has excellent hackle movement when the fly is pulsated so there is really no reason why a trout that is interested in a fly that is drifting past would care what kind of rod is placed in front of him. Again the fly doesn't matter. It's all in the technique and presentation.

Listed below are a few of the many web sites that have descriptions of Tenkara equipment and videos of their characteristics and use. To learn more about the different types of level line fly rods mentioned above, refer to the Tenkara Bum articles on the Seiryu-Tenkara-Keiryu Continuum Part I and Part II.

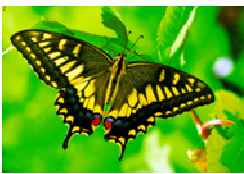
[www.tenkarabum.com](http://www.tenkarabum.com)  
[www.tetontenkara.blogspot.com](http://www.tetontenkara.blogspot.com)  
[www.tenkarausa.com](http://www.tenkarausa.com)  
[www.tenkaratalk.com](http://www.tenkaratalk.com)  
[www.castingaround.com](http://www.castingaround.com)

And of course, checkout You Tube!



The potential extinction of snow leopards, condors, sea turtles and other large animals seems to easily make headlines, but when what was once a local and common, but small, living thing disappears few people notice.

Those of us who are appreciably past college age probably remember seeing many butterflies every summer. There were black and blue patterned Red Spotted Admirals, brilliant yellow Swallowtails, and other small and large butterflies. However, the ones that many of us probably remember most



were the black and orange Monarchs, along with their imitators the Viceroy (Monarchs are poisonous to predators, so Viceroy save themselves by imitating the look of Monarchs). They seemed to be on every flower on bright summer's days. But now, along with Honey Bees they are disappearing.

The cause of Honey Bee hive collapse is still in doubt, but the reason for the diminishing number of Monarch butterflies is well known: loss of habitat. You may think that the butterfly's habitat is any patch of flowers, but for Monarchs this is not true. Monarchs

## Disappearing Monarchs

need that common road-side weed that is also disappearing: milkweed. And, they need it everywhere in our country east of the Rockies and throughout northern Mexico.

Milkweed with its large leaves and milky sap is where Monarchs lay their eggs because milkweed is the only plant that the Monarch caterpillars eat. That is because the milkweed plants contain toxins called cardiac glycosides that the caterpillars must ingest. As a side benefit, this causes both the caterpillars and the butterflies to be poisonous to most predators except Black Headed Grosbeaks and Black-Backed Orioles.

The milkweed plants are needed in a large area because, unlike the birds in our backyards that build nests in spring, lay eggs and raise their chicks in a confined area by late summer,



Monarchs, because of their short life spans, lay eggs along a 3,000 mile route from mountains in western Mexico's Michoacan region to the northern United States. This is not their residence in warm weather; it is the distance Monarchs fly every year.

In late February through mid-March huge numbers of Monarchs are moving east, over mountains from the Michoacan



area. They will soon head

north across the US/Mexican border, travel through Texas, and then spread throughout the US east of the Rockies. In fall, they move south and return to Mexico for the winter. During the fall trip, they often fly down the Atlantic coast and can be seen passing points of



land that act as funnels. Cape May is said to be one of these places and I saw a large number of them flying south down New York City's West Side Highway one afternoon as I was waiting to board a ship for an autumn cruise.

It's now March, so Monarchs are beginning their trek back to New Jersey! What can you do to help them? That's easy; plant milkweed and other butterfly-friendly plants, make a little muddy patch in your garden to provide water, build a butterfly house, plant flowers that butterfly like to feed at, leave some flat rocks around to act as warm resting places and stop using pesticides indiscriminately.

Many seed and plant suppliers carry milkweed; here are three:

**Prairie Moon Nursery** [[www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com)],  
**Toadshade Wildflower Farm** of Frenchtown, NJ [[www.toadshade.com](http://www.toadshade.com)]  
**The Xerces Society** [[www.xerces.org/milkweed-seed-finder/#search](http://www.xerces.org/milkweed-seed-finder/#search)]

Sites that are trying to help the Monarchs:

**The Wild Center:** <http://tinyurl.com/nmdx5my>  
**Monarch Joint Venture:** [www.monarchjointventure.org](http://www.monarchjointventure.org)  
**Purdue butterfly house plans:** [http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/4hyouth/pdf/Butterfly\\_House\\_Plans.pdf](http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/4hyouth/pdf/Butterfly_House_Plans.pdf)  
**NJ Butterflies:** <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabanj/butterflies.html>