

Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of East Jersey Trout Unlimited

April 2020 Volume 51, Issue 4 Please Consider The Environment Before Printing *Riffles*

April General Membership Meeting - Cancelled



Tentative Fun Upcoming EJTU Events

April 25th: Lake Aeroflex fishing trip - Tentative

May 13th: General Membership Meeting - Tentative

May 15th-17th: Esopus fishing trip - Tentative

May 17th: Overpeck Earthfest Fishing Derby - Tentative

May 23rd: Mahwah Fishing Derby - Tentative

May 30th: Annual Catskills Picnic and BBQ - Tentative

June 6th: Flatbrook Fishing Trip - Tentative

A full list of upcoming events is available on EJTU's calendar.

Check our Website and Your Emails
Before Leaving for any EJTU Event to
see if it has been cancelled!





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Volunteers Needed

- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Bergen County Federation of Sportsmen's Representative
- Conservation Committee Chair

EJTU Board of Directors

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1st Vice President

Justin Fuller - Park Ridge

2nd Vice President / Membership

Elio Chiavola - Lincoln Park

Treasurer

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Conservation Chairman

Rich Malizia - Hawthorne

Publicity

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Merchandise

Charlie Maccia - Verona

Trips

Rom Mroz - Secaucus

Education

Doug Penna - Hasbrouck Heights

Points

Paul Reithmeier - Ringwood

Director At Large

Igor Zaretsky - Fair Lawn

Additional EJTU Leaders

Strategic Planning

Ken Barile - Montvale

Diversity Initiative

Jon Daffron - Ridgewood

Riffles Editor

Dino Eftychiou - Montvale

Veterans Services

Vic Mignoli - Little Silver

Trout In The Classroom

Jim Piombino - Fair Lawn

Youth Coordinator

Jeanne-Marie Thomas - Ridgewood

President's Beat

By Chris Henrickson



Well, it has certainly been an upsetting and worrying few weeks due to COVID-19. I hope everyone and their families are safe and healthy during this period of crisis. Please remain assured that EJTU's Board of Directors remains committed to the health and safety of all our members.

So, as recommended by TU National and as now required by New Jersey law, we have been cancelling our events one by one. The Banquet, woodchips spreading, conservation committee meeting, our fly fishing class and our April regular membership meeting have all been cancelled.

We will continue to cancel EJTU events as necessary

going forward. So please remember to check your email account and our website, before leaving for any TU event. We will be trying some new things like doing online fly tying and hang out sessions for our members on Instagram. So make sure to download the Instagram app to your iphone or tablet and follow @eastjerseytu.

As you all know, we currently have a stay in place order in the State of New Jersey due to COVID-19 until further notice. Governor Murphy's Stay at Home executive order can be read here.

In the executive order it states that "the best way for New Jersey residents to keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe during the COVID-19 outbreak is to stay at home as much as possible." This order does carve out a few limited exceptions to the stay at home order such as obtaining goods or services from essential retail businesses and seeking medical attention. Thankfully, the order does allow New Jerseyans to leave the home for "engaging in outdoor activities with immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners while following best social distancing practices with other individuals, including staying six feet apart."

It is wonderful that this allowance for outdoor activities was included! We all know that time spent outdoors helps us destress and stay fit. Go for a walk, a jog, ride your bicycle or fish at your closest body of water and practice mandated social distancing. State Parks currently remain open for passive recreation but all amenities are closed, so make sure to carry in and out any trash and use the restroom before you go.

The DEP and the state park service state that during the epidemic it is important that you stay close to home and that you should only visit nearby parks, forests and wildlife management areas. Likewise, it advises against driving across the state for outdoor recreation opportunities at this time. All Bergen county parks have been closed by County Executive Jim Tedesco.

Fishing license requirements and all fishing regulations still remain in effect. Please note that opening day has been moved to April 1st. All licenses must be purchased online and NJ Fish and Wildlife says that "All anglers are reminded to not congregate in parking lots or on shorelines, and should maintain proper social distancing behaviors."

So while not strictly mandated by the executive order, please try to avoid driving excessive distances to go fishing. The more we can do to minimize the transmission of COVID-19, the sooner this state of emergency will be over and we can get back to working, living our lives and fishing as we would like to do. Obviously, driving over to any store to buy fishing tackle or tying materials is currently prohibited and all sporting goods and fishing tackle stores are currently required to be closed.

Also, right now is a great time to tie flies, build a new fly rod, take EJTU's online member survey, learn new techniques or read that fishing book you just haven't had time to at home. Stay safe and I hope to see everyone soon!

New Jersey Opening Day of Trout Season Moved to April 1st

By Chris Henrickson

Opening has been moved forward from April 11th to April 1st due to COVID. Opening trout season on a week-day will hopefully help fishermen spread out instead of gathering in large numbers on a weekend at the state trout hatchery in Warren County, according to NJ DEP Commissioner McCabe. Catch and release is required.

The Commissioner also stated that conservation officers will be enforcing social distancing measures. Please review Fish and Wildlife's social distancing and other best practices on the last page of Riffles.



Photograph of the Month: Karsten Andre - "kafly.net Temporarily Shifting Gear" EJTU member Karsten Andre and owner of kafly.net has been sewing masks for those in need of them.

A Fishing Log?

By Greg Tarris

I remember reading years ago about how some of those "founding fathers" of fly fishing kept fishing logs. A great idea especially for someone who writes books and articles and has the time to log in their results of each trip. As for me I never considered doing so because I just didn't see the need.

That changed two years ago. I thought that now that I was spending more and more time fishing, (you will love retirement!), it would be interesting to at the least keep track of my catching success. As such my first attempt at a log was merely to record the number of fish caught on each outing and then to record the size of any notable catches- (those over 17 inches for me). After reviewing my results at year end, I realized that the numbers caught along with the name of the river were meaningless other than giving me a feeling for having a "score".

Fast forward to last year. As I mentioned in previous articles in *Riffles*, I decided to expand my skills and knowledge by learning how to use different nymphing and wet fly techniques much as those that are now in vogue. However, while still being at the learning/experimental stage of using these new techniques, it seemed to me that by logging in my results, both good

and bad, I could actually learn something instead of just tallying up fish caught.

So here is what I did. I logged in the date, place, and conditions (weather as well as water level), e.g., Flatbrook, cloudy day, water 220cfs, (normal 160cfs for that date). Then I indicated flies used, and if nymphing, whether I was straight lining (Euro) nymphing or using an indicator. Sounds like a lot but if it was one of those days when I caught more than 12 fish, I wrote down what I was using and how I was fishing on a little pad that I carried with me. Otherwise I waited to get home to log in my results.

Then this winter while I had nothing else to do, I then typed out the log results in nice chronological order, so that I could see how the season evolved and what were the inputs and the results.

Was it worth it? I don't know. But I cannot remember what worked for me last April. But now I do know based on my log exactly what flies, under what conditions and how I fished them. I am ready to go to see if the same things that worked last year will work this year. Stay tuned for the results.

Contact EJTU

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Facebook: eastjerseytu
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East Jersey Trout Unlimited P.O. Box 366 Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423

General Membership Meetings:

Second Wednesday of the month.

Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM

The American Legion Hall 33 West Passaic Street Rochelle Park, NJ 07662 Directions

Board of Directors Meetings:

Last Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM

Fair Lawn Athletic Club 14-19 Parmelee Ave Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 201-796-9771 Directions

Conservation Committee Meetings:

Second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

Louis Bay 2nd Public Library 345 Lafayette Avenue Hawthorne, NJ 07506 Directions

About EJTU

East Jersey Trout Unlimited (EJTU) is a community of more than 750 anglers in the greater northeastern New Jersey region who are dedicated to cold water conservation and the stewardship of our local watersheds.

Our members work to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain trout habitat for anglers today and for the next generations of sportsmen and women who value the relationship between clean, healthy waterways and sustainable fishing.

Conservation Notes

By Rich Malizia



COVID-19 has certainly changed my life. As one of those high risk folks, I have had to significantly alter my activities and those which I had planned or organized for the chapter. I'm sure many of you, your fiends and family are in the same position. The parking area maintenance work on March 28th at Glen Gray Road and the pre-season stocking scheduled for April 7th had to be can-

Currently, there is a question about our participation with the in-season stocking. For those of you planning to get out on the water opening day, the state has already issued warnings about not congregating and allowing sufficient space between anglers. Can you imagine anglers at Saxon Falls? It will be interesting to see if they will be able to alter their behavior. If a travel ban is in effect, no one should be going fishing.

NJF&W got an early start on the pre-season stocking. Several bodies of water were stocked before March 23rd which made it legal to take those fish.

NJF&W had no choice due to their concerns about having sufficient numbers of workers to stock the waters throughout the state.

I received some reports of anglers catching some of the freshly stocked trout. I was informed that many anglers released these fish. I don't know if it was because they were unfamiliar with the regulations or if they were just conscientious anglers. Either way some trout were spared to be caught another day. If the stay at home restrictions are still in effect in April, we will suspend at least some of the in-season stocking activities.

The Southern Reliability Link pipeline construction continues to tear up the Pinelands. Somehow this pipeline has been giving the green light while all other statewide business has been shut down. Someone determined that this project is exempt as an essential project. Governor Murphy, while understandably focused on the COVID-19 outbreak, could simply stop them from digging in the Pinelands until he has time to address the issue. Additionally, the state courts are closed so no legal action can bring about a stoppage of this project. It is an ideal time to sneak one under the rug. Since many of us are stuck at home, why not take a few minutes to express your feelings about this project to your state representatives. Much more information is available on-line.

We were able to get most of the posting done before the travel ban was put in place. Thank you to those members who were able to spend some time getting the trout regulation posters out. Thank you to those who offered to help but were not called upon to do so. We actually had more volunteers then we needed to complete this project. Our efforts covered all the streams in Bergen County and several in Passaic and Morris. We also posted Whites Pond, Oldham Pond and Potash Lake. Our efforts save NJF&W many hours of work. They have expressed their gratitude for our involvement. Please consult the trout regulations available on the NJ F&W web site to be sure you are fishing legally.

The contamination in Ringwood continues to be the state's biggest football. Many conflicting positions are still being discussed. It seems that no real cleanup will take place until people's deaths are definitively linked to the toxins buried in those mines. I pity the poor people who live in that area. This is another issue you can "google" rather than watch another old movie while you are stuck at home. Please familiarize yourself with the issues and step up too express your views.

During these troubling times, I wish that you and your families are safe and unaffected by the pandemic. Listen to the experts and be safe. We will have lots to do once this has passed.

TAKE TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Annual Banquet Refunds

By Chris Henrickson

If you previously registered to attend EJTU's Banquet scheduled for March 21st, we appreciate your support of the chapter. The banquet was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus and we are offering full refunds to all those who previously RSVP'D for the event. Please keep in mind that the Banquet is our biggest fundraiser of the year and that by cancelling EJTU is now facing a very large hole in our annual budget.

If you have not already done so, please let me know if you would like a full refund, partial refund or if you would like to donate the money to East Jersey Trout Unlimited. If you are requesting a partial refund let me know how much. If requesting a full or partial refund, please provide the following information:

- Name to make the check out to.
- Address to mail the check to.

Email your response to EJTU's President Chris Henrickson at the following address **c.henrickson@icloud.com**

Once again, thank you for supporting EJTU. See you at the 2021 Banquet.



New EJTU Members

Jacques Cluzel, David Fedorko, Carmine Giacomini, Dan Glennon, Edward Koziol, John Lyons, David Nadeau and Brian Robinson

Welcome and thank you for helping us to protect northeastern NJ's cold-water resources. We look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming conservation projects, meetings or fly fishing trips!

To Join EJTU or Renew Your EJTU Membership

Visit TU National's membership page at gifts.tu.org. Remember to choose to be assigned to the "East Jersey Chapter - 091".

Passing of EJTU Past President George Petersen

By Chris Henrickson

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of veteran EJTU member George Petersen. I know we all share a deep appreciation for everything George did for East Jersey Trout Unlimited. George was a long time member of our chapter's Board of Directors. He also previously served as President. For many years George supervised our Trout in the Classroom program. He also taught at our fly fishing class and was an instructor at EJTU's Wayne fly tying class up until the present. George was a passionate conservationist and of course an avid fly tier and angler. Everyone always looked forward to the gift baskets donated by George and Rita Petersen at our annual banquet. In fact, they were so wildly popular, that they frequently brought in the most raffle tickets. George will be sorely missed. As EJTU members we will continue to fight for his cause of cold water conservation.

George's son Dave wrote to Rich Malizia and Bruce Seiden to inform us of his passing in the following email:

Rich and Bruce,

Although I wish to have contacted you both more recently with positive news, regretfully my father, George, passed away early yesterday morning of COVID 19 related complications.

He cherished his time with East Jersey and each of you, and always talked about being able to fish more, tie more flies and just spend time on the water. He would wish you the same if he could.

I truly appreciate the friendship both of you (and others) offered him through the years, especially as my life turns had brought me away from him.

Tight lines to you both,

Dave

I know we all appreciated George's friendship, leadership and service. George's online obituary follows.

Petersen, George F. Jr. age 75 of Clifton at rest in Ridgewood on March 30, 2020. Born in Paterson, he lived in Paterson before moving to Clifton 50 years ago. He was a Reading Specialist/Teacher for the Oakland Board of Education, Valley Middle School, Oakland for 34 years before retiring in 2000. George was a parishioner of St. Bonaventure R.C. Church, Paterson. He was an avid fisherman and member of Trout Unlimited of East Jersey. He was a committee chairman for the Boy Scouts of America Troop #7, Clifton. He cherished time spent with his family, especially his 4 grandchildren. George was a graduate of Seton Hall University and William Paterson University and was an Adjunct Professor at Felician University.

Beloved husband of 51 years to the former Rita A. Hopler of Clifton. Loving father of Jeffrey Petersen and his wife Helena of Totowa, Marc Petersen and his wife Lindsey of Wilson, NC and David Petersen and his wife Megan of Morris Plains. Dear grandfather of Conor, Quinn, Rick and Isla. Devoted brother of Petersen of Osprey, Fl and Theresa Petersen of Harvey Cedars. Also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Out of an abundance of caution and due to the recommendation of social distancing, the family has chosen to have all services for George to be private with a memorial at a later date. As a form of remembrance the family has asked for donations to be made in George's memory to Eva's Village, 393 Main Street, Paterson, NJ 07501.



Hendrickson Flymph

By Dino Eftychiou

A flymph is a term that was coined by Vernon S. Hidy and was promoted in his book, coauthored with James Leisenring, *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly & Fishing the Flymph*. Essentially it is a hybrid of a wet fly and a nymph. Hidy himself described this fly as "a wingless artificial fly with a soft translucent body of fur or wool which blends with the under color of tying silk when wet, utilizing soft hackle fibers easily activated by the currents to give the effect of an insect alive in the water, and strategically cast diagonally upstream or across for the trout to take just below or within a few inches of the surface film."

This particular pattern is a variation of a light Hendrickson flymph tied by Johny Utah: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPsGOQMgVmE Rather than use soft hackle as suggested by Hidy, I tie my Hendrickson flymphs with rooster light dun hackle. I've had success with dead drifting them, letting them sink on their own, and also with trailing them behind a streamer. If you prefer that your flies sink faster, try tying them with a bead right behind the hackle rather than behind the eye, as shown in the second photo.

Material

Hook: Size 12-16 wet fly hook

Thread: Tan

Bead: Optional, can be tied in front of or behind hackle

Tail: Mallard duck fibers or dun hackle fibers
Abdomen: Hendrickson dubbing or pink floss

Thorax: Hendrickson dubbing

Ribbing:

- For dubbing, rib with either gold tinsel, flat or round, or with gold wire

- For pink floss, don't cut off the tag end of the tying thread; dub it with a thin noodle of Hendrickson dubbing and rib forward over

the abdomen

Hackle: Partridge, light dun hackle, or cdc feather





Passing of EJTU Member John Rice



John H. Rice, Jr., 77, of Harrington Park, passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2020. Beloved husband of 52 years to Donna (nee Siebert). Loving father of John H. Rice, III and his wife Patricia of Suffern, NY and Dione Olson and her husband Robert of Hillsdale. Proud grandfather of Zachary, Daniel, Jesse and Gracie Jo. Dearest brother of Diane Zimmerman, Christine Hickey and Margo Sprague and loving uncle to many nieces and nephews.

John was a USMC veteran. Before retirement, he was an electrician with Local 3. An avid outdoorsman, John belonged to Trout Unlimited, Rochelle Park, Healing Waters, Hackensack and the Eagle Mountain Hunting Club. He was also an avid gardener.

Unfortunately, due to the current world health crisis, funeral services will be postponed. A memorial celebration of John's life will take place at a future date and will be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations in John's memory may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, www.stjudes.org.

The Big IDEA (IDEA = Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Awareness)

By Jonathan Daffron



Carrie Stevens - Legendary Fly Tier

Apologies for my tardiness since this is the April edition of Riffles, but as many of you know March is Women's History Month. I thought it would be a good time to take a moment to express some gratefulness to just a couple of the many, many women who have been so impactful on the sport of angling and natural conservation. First is Carrie Gertrude Stevens: originally from Maine, Carrie was one of the innovators behind the tying of streamer flies, and she is the inventor of one I think we all know well, The Gray Ghost. She was so influential that back in 1970, the governor of Maine declared August 15th to be "Carrie Gertrude Stevens Day."



Kelly Buchta - New Jersey TU NLC Rep and Diversity Champion

Another woman who has been immensely, almost immeasurably, impactful to the angling world is Joan Salvato Wulff. A masterful fly caster and originally form Paterson, NJ, Joan's involvement to further the sport are many, and just to name a few: she and her husband founded the Wulff School of Fly Fishing, she had a casting column in Fly Rod & Reel magazine for 22years, she wrote two fly casting books and later an instructional video called "The Dynamics of Fly Casting," and she founded the Joan Wulff Fly Fishing club to promote the knowledge and experience of women in fly fishing. To this day Joan remains a mentor and teacher to many. Hopefully she reads this and knows how thankful we are for everything she's done.

There are so many more that we should be thanking, but if we think locally, Kelly Buchta has to be on our list. Kelly represents our chapter and the rest of the State of New Jersey at the TU National Leadership council, she's the Northeast Regional VP, Women's Initiative Coordinator for TU's NJ state council, and she is the chairperson of TU National's Diversity Initiative Working Group. And she does all this in her spare time! On behalf of our chapter, thank you.



Joan Salvato Wulff - Master Fly Caster

Take our EJTU Member Survey If You have Not Yet Done So

Please Click Here And Take EJTU's 2020 Member Survey!

"Conservation isn't just the business of a few people. It's a matter that concerns all of us." - Walt Disney

Fly Fishing With A Spinning Rod

By Ron Mroz

I don't know about you, but fly fishing was never easy for me and I struggled with fly selection, leaders, tippets, drag-free drifts, etc. and I still do at times. One of the things that helped me transition into traditional fly fishing and to be more effective in certain circumstances was to fly fish with a spinning rod. Two techniques I list below might be considered heresy to a traditional fly angler's ears, but bear with me and you just might be able to add another tool to your fishing toolbox.

The first way to "fly fish" with a spinning rod is with a weighted fly or a fly and float rig. I use a five-foot ultralight spinning rod with 2-4 pound test with either a fly or a fly and float combination. Since I tie my own flies, I weight some of them very heavily so they can easily be cast with the spinning rod. Many of the flies I tied resembled the baits I used when I used to fish with live bait, including worm patterns, maggot and grub patterns, egg patterns, leech or crayfish patterns, etc. I have since used just about most nymphs with the spinning rod. In addition to being able to cast them, I am able to maintain a tight contact with them throughout the drift and this enables me to detect strikes really well. This way of fishing is similar to the Euro style of fly fishing with a fly rod.

For lighter flies, I drift them under a float or indicator. You can use just about all of the same indicators you use for fly fishing plus small bobbers, but my favorites are tiny Styrofoam bobbers that have a small lead ring attached so that it adds weight to a tiny fly that I am casting. To help eliminate drag, split shot can be added between the fly and float, similar to the way steelhead fisherman do when using Centerpin reels. They stagger them from top down, perhaps starting with a group of three split shot up high, then two in the middle, than one about 4-6" from the fly. I have found this technique to be very helpful when fishing with lots of overhanging trees and brush, fishing log jams, or when fishing deep very holes, in which I don't find using a fly rod to be productive, but I still like throwing flies.

Another way to "fly fish" with a spinning rod is with a teaser rig. In this case you are fishing with streamers as a teaser rig in front of a heavier lure so you are able to cast your streamer much further than you can with a fly rod. I think this is called a teaser rig because it looks like a small fish is chasing a smaller fish and it teases a gamefish into thinking it is missing out on something good to eat.

To tie up a teaser rig, tie one end of a barrel swivel to the end of your spinning rod line. Better quality swivels such as those from Spro reduce line twist. Next, you are tying two leaders from the other end of the barrel swivel. Make the first leader about 2-3' long and tie a lure of choice at the end, such as a swim bait, crankbait, Kastmaster, diamond jig, bucktail, shad dart, etc. Now you have a delivery system for your fly because you wouldn't be able to throw such a light streamer with a spinning rod. Next tie a 4-8" leader to the same side of the barrel swivel that you tied your 2-3' leader and then tie a loop at the end so you can attach a streamer by a loop-to-fly connection.

I have found using a teaser rig to be useful in freshwater or saltwater, and in lakes, streams, rivers, bays, and the surf. You can cast your fly a country-mile, get them down deep in a hurry, and you are doubling your chances because catching two fish at the same time does happen. There are times when I only want to catch fish on the streamer teaser fly, so I will use an unhooked Kastmaster and its function is to provide flash and weight.

I usually carry a fly reel with a five weight floating line while spin fishing in a stream and in a pinch I can swap out the reels and float a dry fly down to a rising fish. I am able to cast flies about two car lengths with a 5' to 6' ultralight spinning rod or one of those fly and spin combo rods.

Aside from state fishing regulations there are no rules to fishing and sometime thinking out of the box can help make your day more productive.

About Riffles

Riffles Editors: Dino Eftychiou, Justin Fuller and Chris Henrickson.

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Riffles is your publication; we encourage all members to contribute articles, tips and stories. Articles may relate to trout, trout fishing, fishing in general or conservation. All articles are published, edited and may be condensed at the discretion of the editors and should meet EJTU standards regarding protecting our environment and the merits of "catch and release." Pseudonyms may be used, but the editors must be informed of the name of the member who writes the article.

Questions, Comments and How to Submit Articles

Any suggestions you may have to improve *Riffles* are greatly appreciated. If you have any articles or content you would like to submit, please email the Editors at eastjerseytu@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

About Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited is a national organization with about 300,000 members and supporters organized into over 400 chapters and councils from Maine to Montana to Alaska.

This dedicated grassroots army is matched by a respected staff of lawyers, policy experts and scientists, who work out of more than 30 offices nationwide.

Looking to Buy, Sell, Swap or Donate a Fishing Related item?

EJTU can help! Chapter members are welcome to list items they are looking to buy sell or swap on either our online website forum or on our Facebook Page.

All chapter members are welcome to attend our annual tackle swap and BBQ at our July regular membership meeting. At the meeting you can display all of the items you want to sell or swap.

EJTU also accepts donations (which are tax deductible) of items, which we will sell to raise funds for chapter activities and conservation projects.





FISH LOCAL

Stay close to home. Keep your fishing trip short. Avoid high-traffic destinations.



BE SAFE

Avoid crowds and groups. Keep a distance of **6** feet or more from others, including staff stocking fish.

Advise children not to wander into the personal space of other anglers.



BE ADAPTIVE

Move quickly through parking lots and paths.

If crowded, choose a different fishing location or time to visit.



STAY HOME

If you're not feeling well, stay home.

6 Feet of Social Distance



For additional information visit: www.NJFishandWildlife.com

