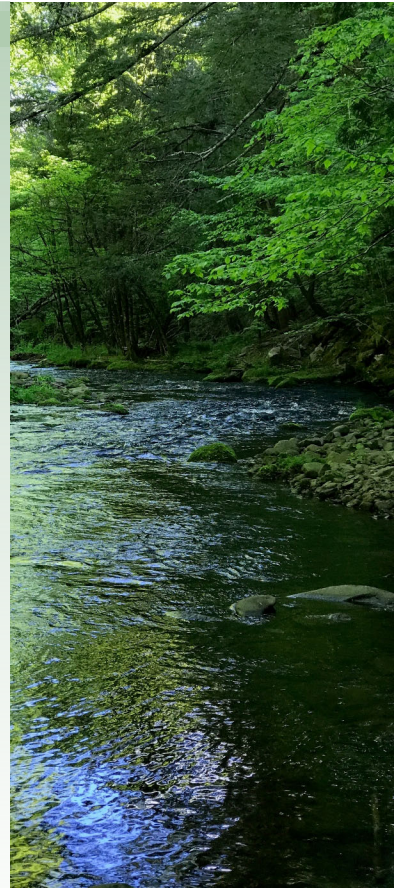




Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of
East Jersey Trout Unlimited

December 2020
Volume 53, Issue 12
Please Consider The Environment Before Printing *Riffles*



THIS IS STILL URGENT!!!

EJTU Needs Additional Volunteer Leaders Now

1st Vice President - Prepare to be President starting in 2022

Conservation Chair - Lead Chapters Environmental Efforts

Banquet Committee Chair - Run our Annual Banquet

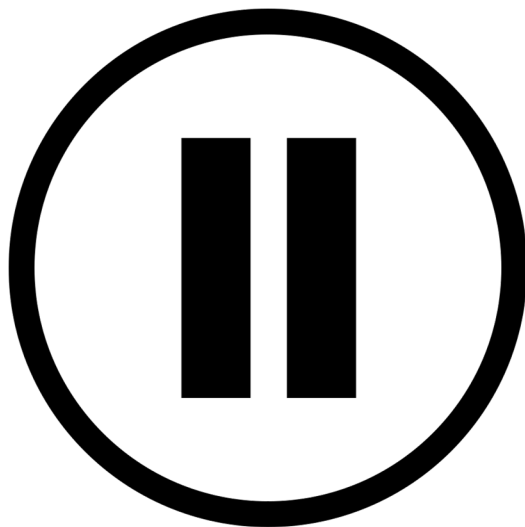
Community Outreach Coordinator - Lead our fishing derbies and similar events

***Contact Chris Henrickson to Discuss How You Can Help
c.henrickson@icloud.com or 347-581-6361***

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EJTU Is Pausing All In-Person Activities



Sadly, we are going to have to cancel in person meetings again for the foreseeable future. As of right now we are planning on not meeting in December, January, February and March.

EJTU Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President / Webmaster

Chris Henrickson - Westwood

2nd Vice President / Membership

Elio Chiavola - Lincoln Park

Treasurer

Ray Tannberg - Washington Township

Secretary

Jim MacDonall - Hasbrouck Heights

DIRECTORS

President Emeritus

Bruce Seiden - Fair Lawn

Conservation Chairman

Rich Malizia - Hawthorne

Publicity

Bruce Halstater - Norwood

Speakers

Ed Janiga - Franklin Lakes

Director At Large

Greg Koch - Hoboken

Merchandise

Charlie Maccia - Verona

Trips

Rom Mroz - Secaucus

Education

Doug Penna - Hasbrouck Heights

Points

Paul Reithmeier - Ringwood

Director At Large

Libby Brickmann - Elmwood Park

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

Veteran Services / NJ State Council Rep

Vic Mignoli - Little Silver

Trout In The Classroom

Jim Piombino - Fair Lawn

Youth Coordinator

Jeanne-Marie Thomas - Ridgewood

President's Beat

By Chris Henrickson



Although we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, conservation organizations like East Jersey Trout Unlimited continue to fight and advocate for native trout and clean water. For years Trout Unlimited and other allied conservation organizations like Save Bristol Bay have argued that the proposed Pebble Mine was the wrong project in the wrong place. Thankfully, after years of hard fighting and advocacy, I am happy to report that the Trump administration and the Army Corps of Engineers have denied the permit for this project. This is not the first time this project has been

stopped, but let's hope it is the last.

The Esopus is well known to be home to a large, robust and long standing population of wild rainbows. Theodore Gordon himself wrote fondly as far back as 1913 regarding this wonderful wild rainbow trout fishery. For some odd reason, NY DEC had proposed to start pumping the Esopus full of hatchery reared brown trout. Local fly shops like Esopus Creel, Conservation minded anglers and EJTU members all voiced their opposition to NY DEC stocking over this historic wild rainbow trout population on the Esopus. Now, after robust criticism, NY DEC has revised their plans and the Esopus will be managed as a "Wild-Quality", which it is and this is exactly how it should be managed. This is another example of how all our voices matter at a more local level. As members of Trout Unlimited we do have a seat at the decision making table when it comes to fisheries management and water quality. Please continue to make your voices heard when appropriate and get involved in our conservation activities and advocacy.

Many of our activities are currently canceled due to COVID-19, but EJTU still has lots to offer you right now. We have a fly fishing trip scheduled for January 30th to the Connetquot River. As usual, priority is given to those members who volunteer at EJTU and have earned points. Our annual Frank Hall fly tying contest is ongoing, so please remember to tie up some flies and enter the contest. Information on the pattern and contest rules are on our website.

I hope everyone has a happy, safe, and wonderful holiday season and that your 2021 is filled with abundant wild, native fish and cold, clean water.

Frank B. Hall Memorial Fly Tying Contest

Entries Due By 02.28.2021

The Frank B. Hall Fly Tying Contest is an annual East Jersey Trout Unlimited event, the winner of which has "bragging rights" as EJTU's best fly tyer. The winner of the prior year's contest, Ed Janiga, selected the fly to be tied for this year's contest and will also serve as the contest's lead judge.

The 2021 contest winner will be announced and recognized at our chapter's Annual Banquet (if possible) and will receive an award plaque.

Entries should be given to any EJTU director. You may submit a maximum of three flies per entrant, but the deadline is February 28, 2021. All entries should be individually packaged with the tyer's name and phone number. All flies submitted for the contest become the property of East Jersey Trout Unlimited.

2021 Fly Pattern: Thunder Creek Streamer - Rainbow Trout

Hook: 4XL straight eye streamer (TMC 9394, Mustad 36620), #6

Thread: White for body, Red for gills

Body: Pearl Krystal Flash wrapped over shank

Ventral Side: White bucktail

Dorsal Side: Olive bucktail

Lateral Side: Pink bucktail

Gills: Red thread

Eyes: White, then black nail polish

Note: Head area is covered with thin epoxy, Hard Head, or similar



Passing of Thomas J. Gilmore



The longtime New Jersey Audubon Society president was a staunch advocate for bringing people closer to nature. Thomas J. Gilmore, 74, of Pocono Pines, died unexpectedly Friday, November 6, 2020, at his home. He was the loving husband of Joanne (Gallagher) Gilmore, with whom he shared 52 years of marriage. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Hornidge and her husband, James, of Westwood, New Jersey; Julie Becan of Maywood, New Jersey, and Christina Radigan and her husband, Bryan, of Ramsey, New Jersey; and six beloved grandchildren: Jack, Ashley, Reagan, Paige, Morgan, and Brooke.

Born in Philadelphia, he was the son of the late Thomas M. and Margaret (Lang) Gilmore. Thomas was President and CEO of the New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) for 30 years. Tom was a beloved and highly respected leader who, during his tenure, was instrumental in the passage of landmark conservation laws and the preservation of hundreds of thousands of acres of open space. A staunch advocate for bringing people closer to nature, Tom advanced environmental education through New Jersey Audubon nature centers, as well as in our schools and communities. Prior to NJAS, Thomas served as the Vice President and General Manager of the Philadelphia Zoo. Earlier in his career, in 1968 he taught at Archbishop Carroll High School in Radnor, PA. While at the school, he combined his passion for sports with mentoring and launched and coached the first-ever boys soccer team. Thomas was also an avid fly fisherman and outdoor enthusiast. After retiring in 2012, he focused his efforts on this outdoor writing, having authored seven books and innumerable magazine articles.



Photograph of the Month:

“Bruce Seiden’s Housatonic Brown” by Fred Madura

Contact EJTU

Website: www.eastjerseytu.org
Email: eastjerseytu@gmail.com
Instagram: [@eastjerseytu](https://www.instagram.com/eastjerseytu)
Facebook: [eastjerseytu](https://www.facebook.com/eastjerseytu)
Twitter: [@EJTU1](https://twitter.com/EJTU1)
YouTube: [EJTU](https://www.youtube.com/EJTU)

Mailing Address:

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 continues to be a major threat to our health and wellbeing. Our activities have been curtailed, but our desire to get back to “normal” is ever present. We do not usually engage in conservation activities at this time of year, but a few things have taken place. Our temperature monitoring was limited to Bear Swamp Brook. Details will be available to our members, but the preliminary data shows that the water temperature continues to be adequate for the survival of trout. As has been the case in the past, the water temperature drops as it flows down the mountain. This further enforces the rationale for the removal of the dam at Bear Swamp Lake which is a warm water source. While that project may take years to bring to fruition, it may be the only way to improve the odds of survival of the best wild Brook Trout stream in our area.

Friends of the Alonso Bonsal Preserve in Montclair enlisted our guidance several months ago to develop a study to evaluate the possibility of restoring Brook Trout to the Third River. Their volunteers have done an outstanding job generating data and executing a protocol which we developed with them and NJF&W personnel. Their study was extensive and well executed. It is being evaluated at this time. Whether or not the study results in a favorable outcome, the effort of the volunteers and the development of the protocol that was followed could be used as a model for similar studies in other waterways.

If the outcome is favorable, EJTU might be called upon to support the project to restore Brook Trout.

Trout stocking will be completed prior to Thanksgiving. While many of the trout are stocked in our larger lakes, some are allocated to smaller waters. You can view a complete list on the NJF&W web site. Some of the smaller bodies of water are accessible to limited shore fishing and offer a change for those who normally focus on the rivers and streams. If the weather is good, it might be worth a trip to one of these ponds. I have been told by some anglers who fish these spots that the trout tend to hold near the shorelines when they are initially stocked and take a while to acclimate to deeper water. I assume that this is because most of the food sources they are accustomed to are found near the water's edge. It might be worth a try.

The Ford Motor dump sites in Ringwood have been in the news again. Local residents are still pushing to have the toxic ground water pumped out and treated. The EPA wants the water to be left in place because there has been no evidence that the water has infiltrated the reservoir. The operative word might be “yet”. Is the EPA willing to risk the health of millions of people who depend on the water supplied from Wanaque Reservoir?

The current administration has started the leasing process for oil and gas drilling sites off the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Is this a last minute giveaway to the energy industry? While there may not be sufficient time to complete the leasing process, this might be an attempt to put pressure on the system. **TAKE TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Delaware River Honored

American Rivers, one of Trout Unlimited's conservation partners, has declared that the Delaware River is their 2020 River of the Year. This honor is in recognition of the dramatic improvement of the river's water quality thanks to the efforts of local, state, and federal authorities, conservation organizations, the Delaware Watershed Initiative, and the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed.

To learn more about the Delaware River success story and to take a virtual tour of the river and its watershed, use the following link:

<https://www.americanrivers.org/2020/04/river-of-the-year-for-2020-the-delaware-river/>



New EJTU Members

Kyle Laskowski, Dennis Paige, Ryan Rohlf, Michael Maietta, Alina Albano, Melissa Lambert, Karen Chianusse, Sofia Ovsyannikov, Ruth Piscane, Jennifer Galenkamp, Todd Davidson, Matthew Bittner, Michael Wurch, Renee Blackowski, William Heuberger, William Fahrlander, Joseph Pinsdorf

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 “East Jersey Chapter - 091”.

Connetquot Fly Fishing Trip

East Jersey Trout Unlimited will host its first fly fishing trip of the year on January 30th 2021, at the famous Connetquot River on Long Island.

The chapter has reserved the entire river for the day for our members' exclusive use. We have both sessions (morning and afternoon) available to us from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Priority will be given to EJTU chapter members who have accumulated EJTU volunteer "Points" over the past year. (Please, no last minute donations or volunteering in an attempt to attend the trip.) A spot on this trip is intended to be a thank you to active members who have volunteered and supported EJTU's mission over the past year. More information about how to accumulate points can be found [here](#). Any spots on the trip that are not filled by members with points will be given to EJTU chapter members who have not accumulated points on a first come / first serve basis.

After submitting your request to attend this trip, our trip coordinator will be in contact with you to let you know whether you have a spot on the trip or not. If you do have a spot on the trip, the coordinator will let you know where to send the \$50.00 fee. Those selected to attend the trip must mail the \$50.00 fee to the trip coordinator and no refund will be given due to inclement weather (cold, rain snow, etc).

Please email our trip coordinator, Bruce Seiden, at Bruce.Seiden@gmail.com if you would like to attend the trip.

The Connetquot River State Park preserve is the former home of the historic Southside Sportsmen's Club which catered to the wealthy businessmen of Long Island during the gold coast era. It was in operation from the 1870s to 1960s. The Connetquot has one of the oldest hatcheries in the country which has been in operation for 140 years. Our quarry will be mainly brook trout with some rainbow trout.



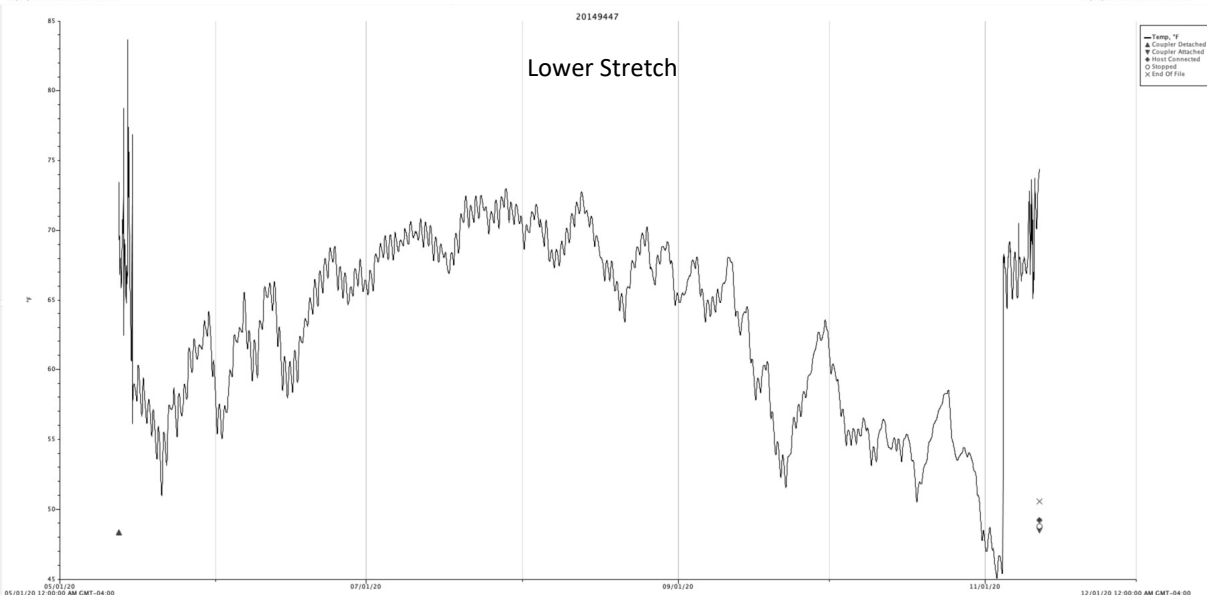
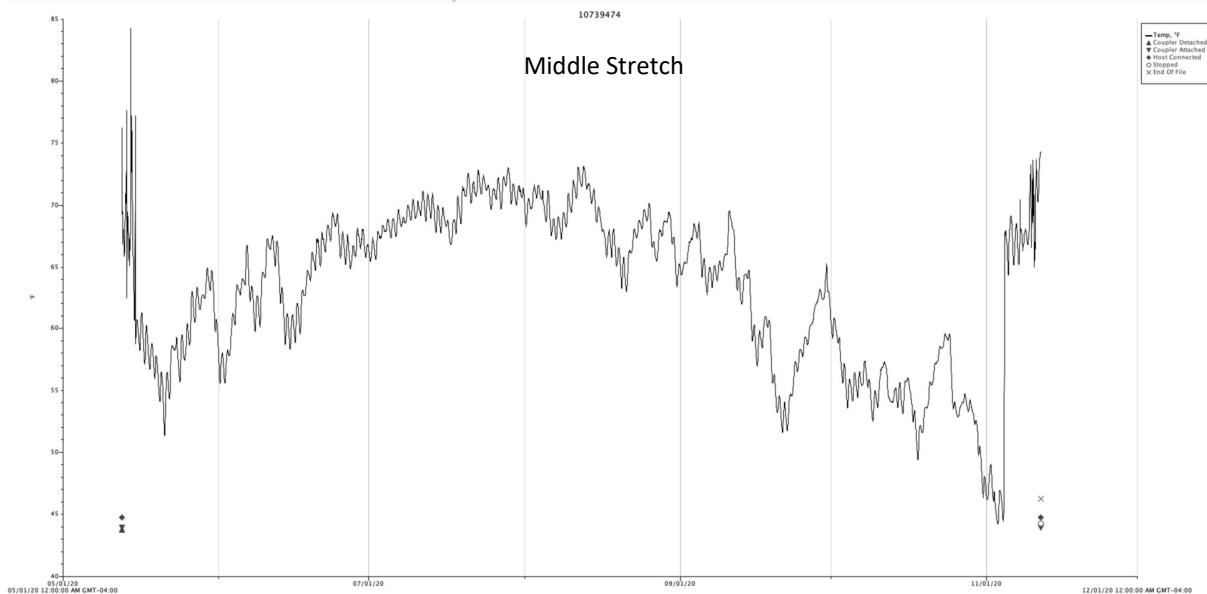
Ramapo River Access

The area of the Ramapo River at Glen Gray Road has long been a popular access point for anglers. The number of anglers utilizing this area has increased markedly this year. Anglers have enjoyed access to the eastside shoreline by way of a footpath that parallels the river from the bridge downstream for quite a distance. This is PRIVATE PROPERTY. Property ownership extends to the midpoint of the river. For a number of years angler access has not been obstructed. However, some time ago a fence was installed to prevent access. The fence was taken out by flood waters and was never replaced, but another fence could be installed.

Anglers should appreciate the current situation. If you access the river along the shoreline path, you are in fact trespassing and proceeding AT YOUR OWN RISK. The recent spread on invasive vegetation combined with flooding has weakened several of the trees along the river causing some to fall. This presents an additional danger to anyone passing through the area. Please be alert to these conditions. If you choose to traverse this area, please be careful not to litter or to damage any property. If you see litter, make an effort to pick it up and dispose of it properly. "NO TRESPASSING" signs have been placed along the path to remind folks that this is PRIVATE PROPERTY. Some thoughtless person(s) had torn down the signs, which were replaced by the property owner. Please do not cause an adversarial situation. Tearing down the signs will only cause problems.

Your access to this area is a PRIVILEGE which should not be taken for granted. Property owners could easily enforce their rights to prevent you from entering their property. FISH SMART! Let's not lose this access.

2021 Bear Swamp Brook Temperature Loggers



Gratitude for the Red Dart

By Ken Barile



One of the unexpected consequences of the Pandemic is that I've spent a lot of time on my computer learning about how to improve my fly-fishing skills. One of the recurring topics that comes up in the YouTube Videos is Euro Nymphing. At first, I thought this was just another fly fishing "fad". Upon deeper inspection, I discovered there was real science behind this approach to fishing. My guru in Euro Nymphing, Lance Egan, is a member of the USA Fly Fishing team. After watching countless videos, I purchased his excellent DVD on the topic, *Modern Nymphing Elevated*. This lengthy video covers every aspect of this fishing technique. I won't put you through that here. I can distill it down into two key factors.

First, the flies used in Euro Nymphing are slim and weighted, which makes them sink quickly to the strike zone where Trout are waiting for food to pass. Second, using mostly leader and tippet in the water results in minimal drag on the flies which makes them drift through the strike zone at the same speed as natural food. I am convinced these two factors make all the difference, resulting in more strikes and fish (fewer fish if like me you fish barbless hooks). What's left to discuss is euro nymph fly selection. For that decision I again refer to my guru Lance Egan. In YouTube videos and the website <https://www.flyfishfood.com>, there are numerous examples of euro nymphs Lance uses with great success.

One fly that got my attention was **the Red Dart** invented by Egan. While searching out videos on how to tie it, I found that Tim Flagler also has a video on tying the Red Dart, and he speaks with great enthusiasm about his success with the fly. I tied up a bunch of Red Darts and other Euro Nymph flies, took out my seldom used 10.5' four weight Cortland Competition Nymphing rod, rigged it up with a Euro Nymph leader system and headed out to the Housatonic River with my EJTU Fishing buddies, Dino Eftychiou, Andy Preziosi, and Greg Tarris. There were no rising fish, so we had to go down to where the fish were feeding.

Casting Mono line as required by Euro Nymphing requires acquiring a new skill. The circle, flip cast. At the bottom of your drift, you swing your rod tip downstream, circle the rod behind you and flick the tip and your flies upstream for the next drift. I found it easy and logical to do. I fished a two-fly rig with the Red Dart on the bottom as my "anchor" fly and a size 20 olive emerger as my upper fly. The results came quickly as fifteen minutes after I started fishing, I caught my first Rainbow at the Push'em Up pool.

The results speak for themselves. On a day that was slow fishing on the Housy, I hooked six rainbows and four browns, and landed most of them (I do need to get better at fishing barbless. . .) A side benefit I believe of Euro Nymphing is that I did not lose a single fly. The flies were not on the bottom and since they were on jig hooks, they floated inverted with the barb up. For those interested, here is a link to the Red Dart. I hope you decide to try it for yourself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gZL36MI0uk>

Tight Lines!

Veteran's Flies: Honoring Those Who Served and Sacrificed for Our Country



John Gort is the designer of the fly plate and creator of the Purple Heart fly. He recruited and trained tyers from the ninety-member Olympic Peninsula Fly Fisher Club to design and create each fly to complement its campaign theme. Sixteen one-of-a-kind flies were designed, tied and mounted with the companion campaign ribbon. The Fly Plate was given to Project Healing Waters in 2009, and now resides at AMFF. To better appreciate each of the flies and its name, enlarge the document on your screen.

Pebble Mine Stopped

By Meghan Barker

Originally published at

<https://www.tu.org/blog/pebble-mine-stopped/>

U.S. Army Corps denies permit to construct massive open-pit mine in the headwaters of Bristol Bay

Today, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers denied the key permit for the proposed Pebble Mine and announced that it found the proposed Pebble mine would cause significant degradation to the Bristol Bay region.

That's right. After nearly two decades of fighting this mine, we're so very pleased to report that Pebble is stopped in its tracks. Finally.

The Corps' denial of the permit for the Pebble Mine is a victory for common sense. Bristol Bay is the wrong place for industrial-scale mining, and we look forward to working with the people of the Bristol Bay region, Alaska's Congressional delegation, the state and other partners to permanently protect Bristol Bay and its world-class fisheries.

Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited

With our celebration comes immense gratitude for you — your voices, your persistence, your generosity and your time. Showing up to testify, writing comments, calling elected officials, repping endless “No Pebble Mine” stickers — it all helped us get here.

Today's announcement is supported by the majority of Alaskans and 80 percent of the Bristol Bay region's residents who have opposed the project for nearly two decades. In various comment periods in the effort to permit Pebble, over 3 million Americans have weighed in with the same message: Pebble will threaten American jobs, American fisheries and one of the world's most unique and cherished regions. It is the wrong mine for Bristol Bay.

For the better part of two decades, Trout Unlimited brought our organizing tools, science-backed policy expertise, nationwide network and legal proficiency to this effort. From Day One, we stood behind businesses who would be most impacted and the Yup'ik, Dena'ina, and Alutiiq peoples who have taken care of the region for eons.

Thank you to each and every supporter who signed petitions, wrote letters, made calls and donated to ensure that our voices for Bristol Bay were heard loud and clear. You are the people who made a difference in this permit outcome.

Today, the coalition of people working to fight Pebble — tribes, hunters and anglers, commercial fishermen, and many others — are celebrating.

But we know our work isn't done.

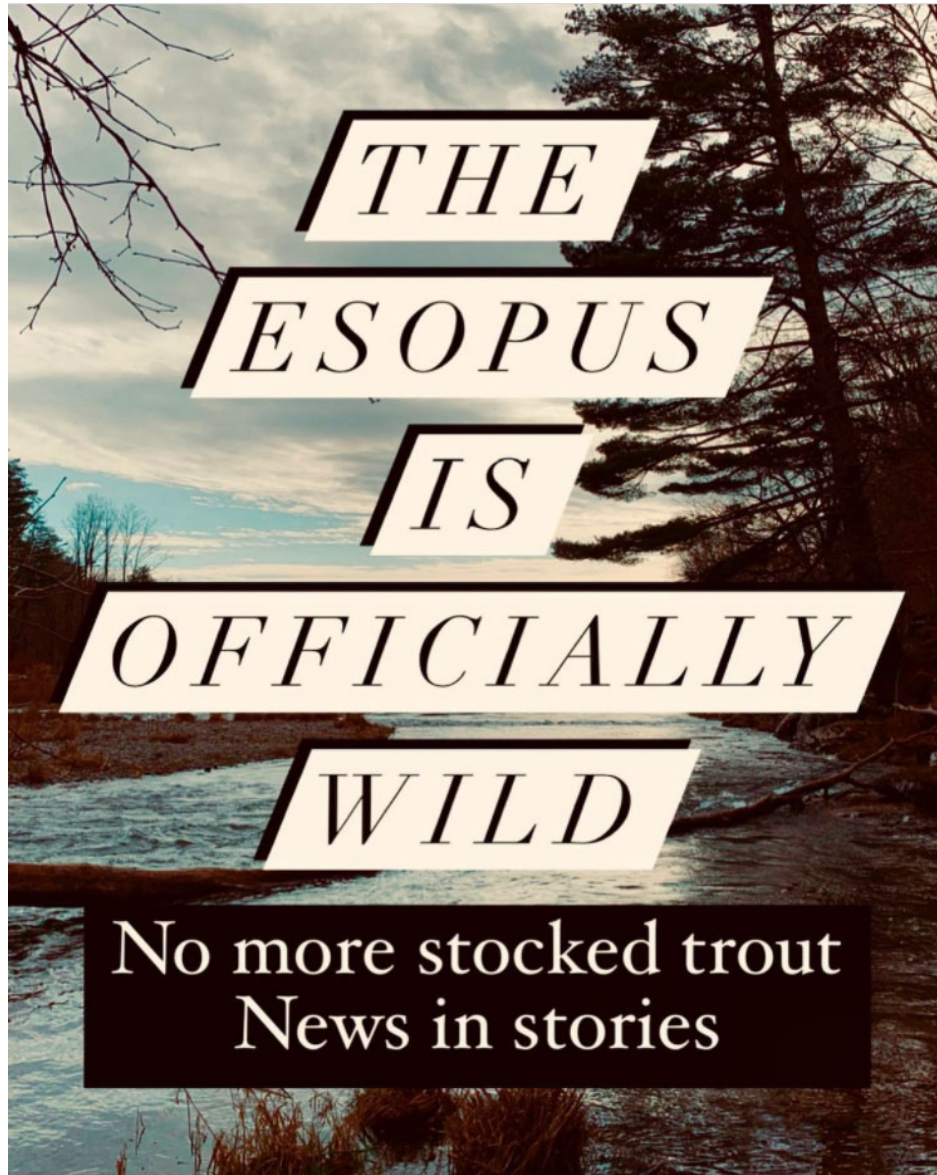
Our initial commitment to Bristol Bay was to stop the proposed Pebble Mine. With today's permit denial, we've done that. But our other commitment to the fish, people and fish-based resources of the region looks to the future. Today, we recommit to getting up-front, community supported, permanent protection for the Bristol Bay region so that Pebble (or any other mining company with its eye on Bristol Bay) does not have the opportunity to threaten Bristol Bay again.

We need you to stay in this with us — the fight isn't over. Today, we celebrate. Next week, we come back ready to make sure that the people and fish of Bristol Bay never have to worry about their homes turning into an industrial mining district again. **We hope you will join us pursuing long-term protection for Bristol Bay.**



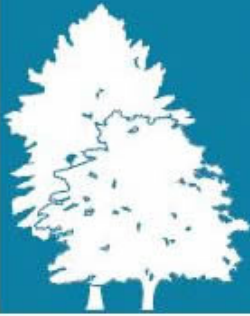
Esopus Creek Designated “Wild-Quality”

Thank you to NY DEC for listening to Conservation minded Anglers’ input on this important issue. We were seeking for the Esopus to be managed for its abundant wild rainbow trout and not to have stocked brown trout dumped on top of this robust wild trout population. Also, thank you to Esopus Creel, Dette Flies and all EJTU members who took the time to submit comments advocating for the Esopus’s wild rainbows. Our voices all matter and this favorable outcome illustrates how important it is for all of us to continue to be strong voices for wild trout populations.



COVID - 19

SOCIAL DISTANCING



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



- ONE FISHING ROD LENGTH -



For additional information visit:
www.NJFishandWildlife.com



About Riffles

Riffles Editors: Dino Eftychiou, Chris Henrickson, and Charlie Ruzkowski

[Subscribe to and Download Back Issues of Riffles](#)

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.