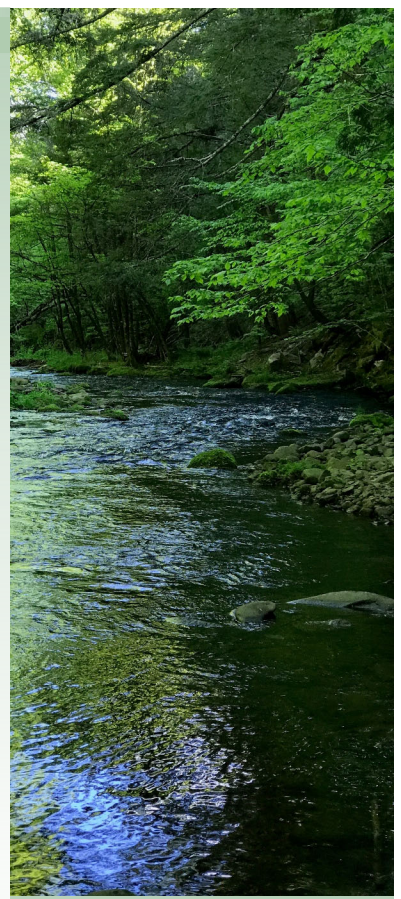




Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of
East Jersey Trout Unlimited

February 2021
Volume 54, Issue 2
Please Consider The Environment Before Printing *Riffles*.



EJTU Needs Volunteer Leaders

Positions Available:

1st Vice President - Prepare to Lead Chapter
(Starting in 2022)

Conservation Chair - Lead Chapter's Environmental Efforts

Banquet Committee Chair - Run our Annual Banquet

Community Outreach Coordinator - Lead our Fishing Derbies and Events

**To Learn More Contact Chris Henrickson at
c.henrickson@icloud.com or 347-581-6361**

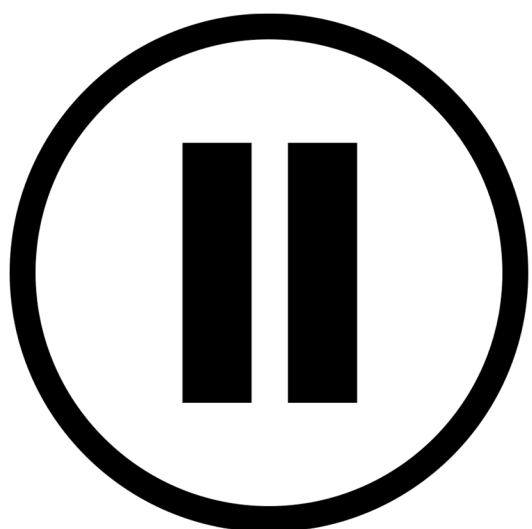
Don't Worry!

Mentoring and Guidance Will Be Provided to Those Who Volunteer.

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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 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



Can you believe that it is East Jersey Trout Unlimited's 50th Anniversary year? I remember it like it was just yesterday! President Richard Nixon was visiting China for the first time, the microprocessor had just been invented, and I was watching All in the Family when my rotary phone rang. OK, just kidding. I wasn't around for 1971 or any of that decade.

The few years around 1971 were unique because they saw landmark bi-partisan environmental legislation like the Clean Air Act, The Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the Environmental Protection Act all signed into law. The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970. Even Marvin Gaye's hit conservation anthem "Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology)" made it to number 62 in the Billboard top 100 in 1971. I guess it's not really surprising that East Jersey Trout Unlimited was founded during this era when Americans were quickly becoming aware of the devastating, negative impact mankind was having on the environment.

East Jersey Trout Unlimited was founded in 1971 "To conserve, protect and restore northeastern New Jersey's cold-water fisheries and their watersheds". I can assure you that today we are more focused on that mission than ever before. In fact, conservation is our reason for being.

Our Chapter of Trout Unlimited just adopted a new strategic plan in which Environmental Restoration was identified as one of our chapter's three critical needs. The other two were leadership development and member engagement. Basically, we need to do a better job reaching out to you, so that you can help us save our rivers and wild fish.

It has been a wonderful 50 years. EJTU has taught countless women and men to fly fish and tie flies. We have visited places all across the country to fly fish together. There have been many friendships created, laughs had and hot dogs served. We picked up a whole lot of trash and have eaten even more donuts. Most importantly we have done our part to make sure our water resources and fish are protected. Many of us have seen our children and grandchildren get involved in Trout Unlimited. We designed a cool 50th anniversary logo, which is now available on a wide variety of merchandise. Other small ways in which we celebrate our "Golden Jubilee" will be announced as the year rolls on. Cheers to 50 really successful years and many more to come.

Frank B. Hall Memorial Fly Tying Contest - Update

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.

Due to COVID-19, we are going to push the submission deadline for our annual fly tying contest back until July 15th 2021. This will give everyone ample opportunity to enter the contest. We should have some in person meeting by then, where you can turn in your entry to any Director in person.

In addition, our lead judge Ed Janiga has graciously offered that anyone can also mail their entries to his office or drop them off in person any day except Sunday 10-5 and 10-7 Monday and Thursday at the address below:

Edward Janiga OD
188 Lafayette Ave
Hawthorne, NJ, 07506

Good Luck!

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
















EJTU 50th Anniversary Merchandise

Our online store is now up and running for 50th anniversary EJTU merchandise! All of the items feature EJTU's cool 50th anniversary logo as part of our chapter's semicentennial celebration. We have ballcaps, fleece jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies and lots more. All items can be purchased through our online store by visiting the following website:

<https://pateamstores.com/collections/east-jersey-trout-unlimited>

Make sure to place your order as soon as you can. Orders must be placed by March 11th, 2021. Purchased items will be delivered 2 weeks after the store's closing date and all orders are final with no returns or exchanges.

A portion of the proceeds will be given to East Jersey Trout Unlimited in order to further our mission "To conserve, protect and restore northeastern New Jersey's cold-water fisheries and their watersheds". With a projected budget shortfall in 2021 due to COVID-19, your support is both greatly needed and appreciated.

 *Textured Hooded Soft Shell Jacket - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$73.00	 *R-Tek® Pro Fleece Full-Zip Vest - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$43.00	 *Triumph 1/4-Zip Pullover - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$33.00	 *Yarn-Dyed Long Sleeve Flannel Shirt - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$40.00
 *Colorblock 1/4-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$53.00	 Tough Mesh Pocket Short - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$23.00	 Hooded Sweatshirt - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$38.00	 Sweatpants - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$30.00
 Cotton Long Sleeve - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$22.00	 Cotton Tee - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$20.00	 *Carhartt® Watch Cap 2.0 - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$23.00	 *New Era Adjustable Structured Cap - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$22.00
 Stretch Performance Gaiter - East Jersey Trout Unlimited \$13.00			

Photograph of the Month:

“EJTU’s Barret Abramow with a nice Connetquot Brookie”



Contact EJTU

Website: www.eastjerseytu.org
Email: eastjerseytu@gmail.com
Instagram: @eastjerseytu
Facebook: eastjerseytu
Twitter: @EJTU1
YouTube: 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.

Conservation Notes

By Rich Malizia



Growing up in the fifties along the Passaic River in Paterson, my exposure to rare wildlife was limited to the occasional wood duck that would stop to rest on the river or the hawks passing through during their southward migration. In the last few years, I have been overwhelmed by sightings of bald eagles along that same Passaic River. NJ DEP has recently announced that there are nesting pairs in every county in the state and the overall count is over 200 nesting pairs. Thanks to the federal ban on the use of DDT, passage of the Endangered Species Act and the environmental professionals and volunteers who monitor the activities of these birds. So keep an eye skyward when you are near Overpeck Park or the Passaic River near Little Falls. The state is very careful not to disclose nesting locations since the birds are very susceptible to any disturbance. Chalk one up for the “good guys” (and girls).

If you are interested in a slightly more technical insight into fisheries policies, consider attending the Fisheries Forum on February 27th. Historically, the state has conducted two programs to cover northern and southern locations. This year’s program will be virtual saving the drive to the hatchery. Consult the NJF&W web site for details. Having attended the forum in the past, I can attest to the value of spending two hours participating in the forum.

For those of us who venture out into the salt, you should be aware of a recent change in striped bass regulations. Non-offset (in-line) circle hooks must be used when fishing with natural baits. This does not affect your collection of striper flies. Some years ago when I was engaged in a tagging program of spawning stripers in the Hudson River, we used circle hooks exclusively. We limited our tagging to bucks out of concern for stressing the cows. I cannot remember losing a fish during the tagging process.

The 2020 trout stocking program was a success despite limitations caused by COVID-19. Over 620,000 trout were stocked during the spring, fall and winter stockings. Some of the broodstock were in excess of 18”. Those that survive the winter will offer quite a challenge when conditions improve in the spring.

In the never ending battle to stop the construction of the proposed power plant in the Meadowlands, Governor Murphy has requested the air permit application be withdrawn. This appears to have resulted from increasing pressure from the environmental community. Concerns about the release of greenhouse gases continue to be a significant issue. NJ Transit will go back to the drawing boards in an effort to develop an acceptable plan.

In its first oil lease sale for Alaska’s Arctic Refuge locations, the event appears to have been a bust. No major oil companies offered any bids. The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority was the sale’s main bidder. There is no way to know what caused the lack of bidding. Has Big Oil developed a concern for the environment? Is the fact that a number of major banks have announced their plans to stop lending to projects in the Arctic? Does this represent an acknowledgement of the rights of the indigenous people to these lands? Or is it simply an unwillingness to take any risks in these uncertain times? The Arctic Refuge has dodged the bullet this time but for how long?

The conservation committee is anxious to hear any ideas you have for conservation projects. There are many talented and hardworking members in our chapter. Let’s identify some projects to involve them.

TAKE TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

New EJTU Members

Ron Adams and Thomas Kiernan

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

Check Out Page 7 for Photos from EJTU’s Connetquot Trip!

Thread Spool Tips

By Dino Eftychiou

Probably like a lot of fly tyers I've tried all kinds of ways to keep my thread spools from unraveling. I've tried rubber bands, but you have to wrap long ones around the spool a number of times and they tend to break, especially after becoming brittle. I also have used a utility knife to cut a notch into the edge of the spool into which I tucked the tag end of the thread. That served me relatively well until I was in one of our local odd lot stores recently and spotted a package of very small hair bands. I immediately thought how well sized they are for my spools. So I bought a package of 50 for \$1.99. You'll see in the photo that they are perfect for thread spools. Yeah, I know you can buy small rubber bands comparable in size to these, but trust me that these will last a lot longer and frankly look and feel a lot nicer. If you can't find them in a retail store, they're also available online.



Duke Island Park Smallmouth

By Ron Mroz

After over one hour of unsuccessfully flailing flies in the same spot, a lightbulb went off in my head that I had to make a change. They say that insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results, but sometimes I stick with a strategy because it's just got to work...doesn't it?

I used to fish the Raritan River in Raritan/Bridgewater and across Duke State Park for carp before they removed the dams on the river. The carp fishing was so good we had over thirty carp between eight and thirty pounds one morning. We also used to jump off the dams and swim in the deep holes below and I also used to take my kids catching grasshoppers along its grassing banks when they were younger and at times it looked like it was snowing grasshoppers. A few years ago after the dams on the river were removed, my niece invited me to kayak the river since you can go a long distance without having to portage around the dams. I know dam removal is overall better for the fish, but I noticed all my deep trusty fishing holes were now gone. I brought along a 5' ultralight rod with some tiny plastic curly tail grubs while kayaking just in case and I'm glad I did because the river was loaded with small smallmouth bass, white bass, and striped bass which I picked up along our journey.

(Continued on next page)

Duke Island Park Smallmouth (continued)

When Chris Henrickson asked me to come up with an “exotic” fishing trip for EJTU, so I figured let’s give the Raritan River a chance for smallmouth bass and I set a tentative July date for our TU trip. Months later we are still into the COVID pandemic with organized fishing trips canceled. But, I decided to fish the Raritan River at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater Township for smallmouth bass one July morning by myself. I first learned about this area after my niece had a birthday party at one of the pavilions at the park. I proceeded past the Visitor’s/Ranger Station on the right to Parking Lot C which has better access to the water. The area I started at was shallow near the bank, but progressively deepened to waist high near the middle of the stream. The water was off colored, but not muddied. It was moving very slowly, but moving steadily. The water surface was covered with carpet of very tiny flies that I’m guessing were Tricos, but I didn’t see any fish rising to them. However, periodically a jumping carp, with its bowling-ball-hitting-the-water splash, would snap me out of my lull and remind me of my targeted species.

I started off using a small white popper figuring the smallmouth would be suckers for such a tantalizing sight and sounding meal, but after seeing all the flies on the water and nothing taking them, plus seeing a lot of 1-2” baitfish around, I figured a weighted chartreuse with white belly Clouser Minnow would clean up better than a Hoover vacuum in the off colored water. After one plus hour of no runs, no hits, and no errors, I started to realize this wasn’t going to be as easy as I thought. The wheels started turning so I stopped fishing upstream and started using more of a down and across approach, then deeper, then shallower. I noticed a great blue heron on the opposite bank along the shade line. Ha! The bass must be sitting along the edge of the shade line waiting to ambush my fly, so I started focusing on the far bank and shade line, but that didn’t work either.

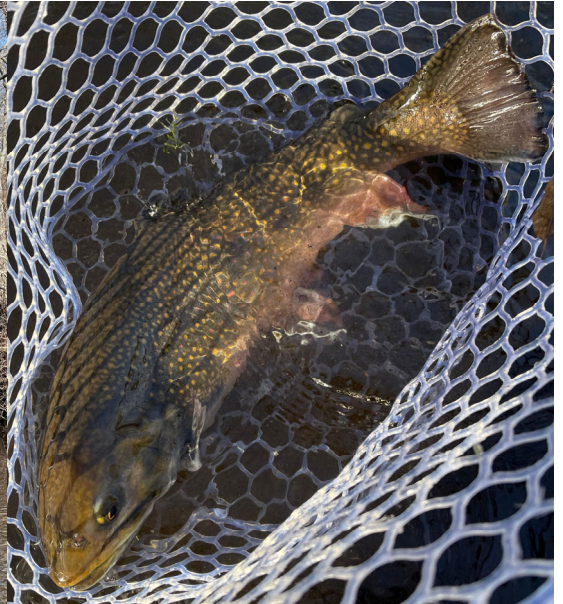
Do you hear that? Sounds like a faint sound of running water if you listen closely. That’s it. I need faster and more oxygenated water on this humid day. So I portaged myself out of the water and headed upstream to where the water resembled more of a trout stream with riffles and pockets. I switched flies more frequently. What smallmouth bass can’t resist a nice juicy Hellgramite fly? Never mind, I can name a few now that can. What about a small Woolly Buzzer or white Deceiver? Nope. They have got to be taking something smaller like a Mop Fly, which I tried in chartreuse and also in white with no success. Nothing on the planet can resist a Squirmy Wormy right? So that was next to be tied on, but it didn’t last long. Grasshoppers? Oh yeah, it’s summer and we used to catch lots of them along the banks that should do it...or not. I fished the fast water, the current seams between the fast and slower water, bubble lines, the pockets behind boulders, shade lines, near logs and rock ledges. I fished fast, slow, with short strips, with long strips, dangling downstream and lifting it up slowly as if the fly was rising out of the water and all that was running through my head at this point was the Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah song.

I put on a black leech with a tungsten bead and I was just about to give up on it when I thought I felt a tap, but after going so long without any taps perhaps I was mistaken. What the heck, I might as well just leave the leech on and keep trying. Possibly ten minutes later around 10:30 AM, my floating line jumped and I set the hook into a fish, which felt pretty good. This fish was going left, then right, then back, then forth until I got it close enough to see it was a small 8-10” smallmouth bass. That’s it? I easily guessed much bigger based on the fight, but beggars can’t be choosy and at least it put up a good fight. A quick photo and release then I reassessment of where it was when it struck and how I was fishing to try to duplicate this strategy to get some more. The fish hit while drifting the black leech downstream in moderately moving water about knee deep over a series of large rock ledges that were covered in a thin layer of algae.

OK, let’s do that again. And again, and again, and again, and nothing for the next 30-40 minutes. Now I’m guessing that fish was an accident. I felt like my skin was starting to melt off my body because it had gotten so warm and I had enough abuse so I decided it was time to pack it in. I looked downstream about 100 yards and noticed another angler using a spinning rod and drifting his lure slowly through the water. I didn’t see him catch any fish, but I decided to walk over to him and commiserate about the poor fishing conditions. He just arrived, he was fishing an area I fished through, and he was using tiny Trout Magnet lures. He fished there yesterday at the same time with the same lure and told me he couldn’t keep the smallmouth bass of his line, which included two 13” smallmouth bass, which are a good size river adversary. That figures. The one thing I didn’t try and should have tried was the old “You Should Have Been Here Yesterday” strategy. I wish I had a nickel for every time I missed out on those days. I guess the lesson is that you shouldn’t go fishing today or even tomorrow, but you should always go fishing yesterday.



EJTU's Connetquot Trip, January 30th, 2021



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.