

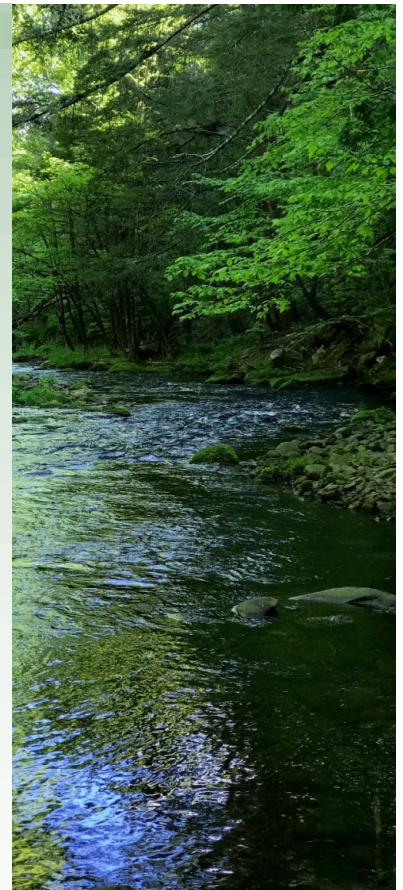


Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of
East Jersey Trout Unlimited

June 2020
Volume 51, Issue 6
Please Consider The Environment Before Printing *Riffles*

June General Membership Meeting - Canceled



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Volunteers Needed

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

All of EJTU's In Person Events are Currently Canceled.

Catskills Picnic, Ausable, Flatbrook and Block Island are all Canceled.

EJTU Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President / Webmaster

Chris Henrickson - Westwood

1st Vice President

Justin Fuller - Park Ridge

2nd Vice President / Membership

Elio Chiavola - Lincoln Park

Treasurer

Ray Tannberg - Washington Township

Secretary

Libby Brickmann - Elmwood Park

DIRECTORS

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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

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



I hope everyone is healthy and doing well. I know I miss seeing all of my EJTU friends and I am sure others feel the same way. It seems that little by little things are finally starting to return to normal, or at least a new type of normal in New Jersey.

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife has started some limited supplemental stocking of trout in select waters throughout the State. All of you stocker trout enthusiasts can visit NJ Fish and Wildlife's website [here](#) for up to date information regarding where and when rainbow trout have been stocked.

EJTU's Board of Directors continues to monitor regulations in the State of New Jersey and requirements

and recommendations from Trout Unlimited National regarding holding in person events. Due to an abundance of caution, all in person chapter events and meetings are still being canceled. We do hope to be able to have some limited outdoor events like a single day local fishing trip at some point. Check our website for news of any upcoming possible events.

The Ausable trip, Catskills Picnic and Flatbrook trip have all been canceled. We also canceled our annual week long trip to Block Island. Both regulations and common sense dictate that we cannot have this trip at this time. I am particularly disappointed since I had been planning on attending this trip after many years of having wanted to do so.

Trout Unlimited has partnered with other organizations to create a "Responsible Recreation" campaign. This campaign encourages anglers to stay safe this year when they get outside by following a few basic steps: practice social distancing, wear a face covering, stay local when you fish, and always follow state orders and federal guidelines. You can follow the campaign on Instagram at [#ResponsibleRecreation](#). You can see what [#ResponsibleRecreation](#) is all about below. Stay well and please remember to review NJ Fish and Wildlife's social distancing requirements on the last page of this month's issue of *Riffles*.



From TU.org. What does [#ResponsibleRecreation](#) look like? It's simple.

- Practice appropriate social distancing. The Centers for Disease Control recommend keeping six feet between you and other people. We'll make it even easier — stay a rod's length apart.
- Wear a face covering when you come into contact with other anglers. A Buff or a mask can help keep you safe, and it's a sign of respect for others who are trying to stay healthy during these trying times.
- Avoid fishing from boats if you can — it's tough to maintain social distance in a boat. If you must fish from a boat, remember to cover your nose and mouth with a mask or a gaiter.
- Fish local. Stay close to home.
- Drive to the river separately if you're meeting a fishing buddy. Better yet, consider fishing alone (where that's safe, of course).
- If you don't feel well, or are running a temperature, it's best to stay home.



Photograph of the Month: Chris Henrickson - “#Wild, #Native”

Take The TU Climate Change Survey

TU National wants to know what anglers and conservationists think of climate change and how TU can best address it.

Anglers and conservationists across America, regardless of their affiliation with Trout Unlimited, are invited to participate in TU’s new climate change survey.

The purpose of the survey, crafted by TU’s National Leadership Council workgroup on climate change awareness, is to gather information from America’s anglers and conservationists that might help TU better direct its efforts to address climate change and its impacts on coldwater fish, like trout and salmon, as well as its impacts to fish habitat.

Every perspective is valuable when it comes to how TU continues to work in the climate change arena. The organization wants to hear from all who are interested in the topic, and how they see TU’s role in addressing climate change today and well into the future.

Take the survey if you have a minute or two and tell TU what you think. There are no wrong answers — TU wants your unfiltered perspective on this important topic.



[Click Here To
Take TU’s Climate Change Survey](#)

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 has had a significant impact on all our lives. Being stuck at home during prime trout fishing season is a real bummer. Some of our members have ventured out to their favorite fishing destinations. Local rivers like the Ramapo, Wanaque and Pequannock have been stocked again by the state. The requirement that trout stocked waters be closed until 5:00 PM on the day they are stocked has been waived. The anglers who follow the stocking trucks to count the number of fish stocked must be beside themselves with joy. Most likely this will be the last stocking of the year. Some bodies of water were not stocked due to elevated water temperatures. If you don't already, you should subscribe to the NJF&W e-mails so you will get all the updates to stocking schedules as well as other helpful information. Please keep your outings local. There is concern that anglers venturing out to the Catskills could put significant strain on the medical facilities in that area. Even though they derive a substantial portion of their revenue from out-of-area anglers, they have asked us to stay on our local waters and not venture to the Catskill haunts.

Protective environmental regulations continue to be overturned by the current administration. They are fast approaching the attempted reversal of 100 regulations which were implemented to protect the environment, clean air and clean water. Sadly, there are too many to enumerate. The May 20th issue of The New York Times lists these actions. While you are stuck at home, take a few minutes to look up this article

on the internet. Hopefully, you will be moved to voice your opinion to your elected representatives.

Environmental and conservation programs in which we usually participate continue to be cancelled or postponed. I hope that once the stay-at-home orders are withdrawn, the organizing groups will reschedule their events. Kids that have been stuck at home for these many months will certainly appreciate being able to participate in a fishing derby or some other outdoor event.

TAKE TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Folstaf Wading Staff Tip

By Dino Eftychiou



If you're the owner of a Folstaf wading staff, as I am, or a comparable one with a shock cord, then perhaps you've had the same frustrating problem that many of us have had with it. At the end of a fishing trip, you try to fold the darn thing and it refuses to budge. You twist its sections, you bang its tip on the ground, you try first to pull apart the handle end, and then you try to pull apart the tip end. Sometimes, just as

you finally have succeeded in folding a couple sections, it suddenly thrusts itself right back into shape. So you get exasperated and toss it into the back of your vehicle, figuring you'll work on it when you get home. For me that was usually trying to lubricate it with 3-IN-One Oil or WD 40, banging it with a rubber mallet to unjam the joints, even clamping it in my workbench vise while trying to pull it apart. Somehow, I always managed to tame it and shove it back into its holster, dreading the next time I had to go through this same routine. (Of course, I risked nullifying the limited lifetime warranty which explicitly "does not cover defects which result from intentional abuse...or damages caused by improper care of the product.")

I don't recall how long I owned this staff before I finally had a "DUH" moment: Go to Folstaf's website and see what their recommendations are. You might have a lot more sense than I and visited the website a long time ago. Or you might have figured out intuitively the best way to prevent a folding wading staff from jamming. Good for you. Smart.

Nonetheless, I still occasionally see guys struggle with their staffs at the end of a fishing day and I figure it's worthwhile to share Folstaf's practical and simple advice. When you do have your staff folded, grab a piece of paraffin or comparable wax and rub the male ends of each section. Note that as you hold the folded staff there are five male ends, three on one end and two on the other end of the folded sections. I use the ferrule wax that's packaged with new rods. Do this before each fishing trip and as important wax your staff after each trip. In fact, waxing after the trip is probably a better idea because you're likely to forget to do so when rushing to pack and load your equipment. Regardless of what brand folding staff you have, you might want to look at Folstaf's website that includes videos on folding, lubricating, and unjamming: <https://folstaf.com>

New EJTU Members

Jeff Alfonso, Bob Badaracco, Michael Callahan, Bryan Ciccarelli, Mark Cipollini, Natalie Collins, Tony D'Anna, William Doka, David Dziurzynski, Anthony Gennaro, Alexander Georg, Connor Gillan, Kyle Jacobs, Doug Johnson, James Kennedy, Brian Kunisch, Peter Lemasson, Bill Lupo, Tom Martine, Richard Mills, Michael Nolan, Deno Oricchio, Liam Parker, Paula Parsley, Margarite Ramsey, Christopher Sariti, Justin Scales, Brad Waudby, John Wright, Frank Zimmerman

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".

Take A Kid Fishing - A Reflection & A Tribute

By Ron Mroz

The average age of TU members has been getting older and our organization needs to bring in more young blood to sustain itself into the future and carry on its conservation efforts. This got me thinking about why people get involved with fishing and why some stick with it throughout their lifetimes. In doing so, I got to reflect about how I got hooked on fishing and haven't been able to shake my addiction since. This article is how I got started and is also a tribute to the four founding fathers of my fishing upbringing, which includes my grandfather, my uncle, my step-father and best friend's father.

My grandfather was the first one to ever take me fishing. I was around eight years old and we fished at the lake that used to exist off Route 3 West in Clifton where a strip mall is now located. The lake is now a mere catch basin, but I remember Grandpa showing me how to dig up worms from a pile of leaves and dangle them under a bobber. I don't remember what prompted that trip since my grandfather didn't fish much and I don't think we were there more than an hour, but I got to learn how to use a spinning rod and reel, plus we caught a "monster" chub that was about four or five inches long that day and I've been hooked since. I fondly think of my grandfather and that trip every time I pass that strip mall. For the past twenty years, every time I pass it with my daughters in the car I say, "Did I ever tell you when my grandfather used to take me fishing here as a little boy when there was a lake here?" pretending I never told them before and wait for them to yell at me or moan for telling them the bazillionth time. But, was it that trip with my grandfather that did it or was there more?

My father didn't fish at all and he moved out when my parents divorced when I was ten years old, but my uncle Ed took me fishing a few times to the Wanaque Reservoir, where he knew a ranger that worked there, so we'd check in at the guard shack, get a key for one of the gates to a dirt road along the reservoir and fish from the bank with shiners to catch largemouth bass and pickerel. I loved it out along the Reservoir which seemed like I was in the most remote part of the world. The first fishing photo taken of me, by my uncle, is of me holding a pickerel about twelve inches long and boy did my mother dress me funny back then. Uncle Ed taught me how to catch night crawlers after dark at local baseball fields and how to keep them stored in the refrigerator, plus how to fish worms, shiners and herring under a bobber. He introduced me to shopping at Ramsey Outdoors in Paramus and Edlemans in Wayne, both of which are long gone. Uncle Ed eventually introduced me to bass fishing with spinnerbaits and crankbaits, how to use baitcasting rods and reels, plus fishing at Spruce Run Reservoir in his boat, how to run a boat with a tiller motor, and more. My uncle taught me how to "invest" in the "stock" of Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's, which I think I must own a good part of the company by now after all of the "investments" we made into them by purchasing their "stock" through their mail order business.

When I was about thirteen years old, my mother remarried and my step-father loved to fish for cocktail-sized bluefish, summer flounder/fluke, and winter flounder. He used to take me to the Great Kills of Staten Island, Caven Point Pier in Jersey City, and Keansburg Pier. By watching him I learned about saltwater gamefish and baitfish, how to catch spearing and killies, how to hook a sand worm without getting pinched, tides, moon phases, etc. He used to love to put out a chair, throw out some live bait or cut bait, and wait for the fish to come to him. He taught me about being patient and just enjoying the moment. In doing so, I learned about being observant of how the sun was shining on you when it is cold out, how the clouds move

and which are better for fishing, how the breeze feels and which direction they are moving, the way the seagulls moved over and on the water and what baitfish they are probably over, what other people were doing to catch fish, etc.

When I was about fifteen years old, a new kid named Billy moved into town that I became friends with because he spoke "fishing" when nobody else my age I knew did. His dad used to take him to the Flat Brook to trout fish every Saturday morning and I eventually got invited to join them and learned the importance of leaving the house at 3:00AM or 4:00AM to be on the water at first-light and avoid the crowds. I was introduced to visiting Meltzers in Garfield for tackle, wearing and repairing waders, using a 5' ultralight rod, using Mepps spinners, salmon eggs, etc. Billy and his dad Bill were the best two trout anglers I have ever seen. Bill always had a limit of the largest trout and released countless numbers of trout. Some say Houdini died, but I think it was a trick so he could fish more and he changed his name to Bill. My buddy Billy could actually predict and call when and where he was going to catch trout from particular spots and both of them were extremely accurate casters able to cast way back under brush to catch fish I wouldn't even think was possible to do.

Bill used to take Billy and the rest of his family to Maine every year for a fishing trip and I was invited to join them in 1980 to stay at Camp Wapiti in Patten, Maine. Now that was a heck of a one-day drive, but we were in a white van with extension, four wheel drive, and lift kit and it felt like we could park cars under his van. Our hardest decision each day of our trip was whether we were going to fish a stream, pond, or lake first. We caught trout in the streams and landlocked salmon in the lakes and ponds. I remember how we had to slide our canoe down a steep cliff tethered by rope to get to our secluded spot and there I caught my largest pickerel ever. On the way back from fishing, Bill used to drop Billy and me off a few hundred yards away from our cabin so we could eat wild raspberries that lined both sides of the dirt road and so we could catch 2-3" native brook trout from a runoff that crossed a dirt road to our cabin. In between our morning and afternoon fishing excursions we would cool off in the lake, which had a log set up and we would practice log rolling. Billy received a fly rod for his birthday and a highlight of the trip was when we got to use it in Maine for the first time. We had no idea what we were doing since Bill's tool of trade was a spinning rod, but we managed to catch scores of bluegills from a dock and I couldn't wait to get home and get me one of those long rods which set off a new passion.

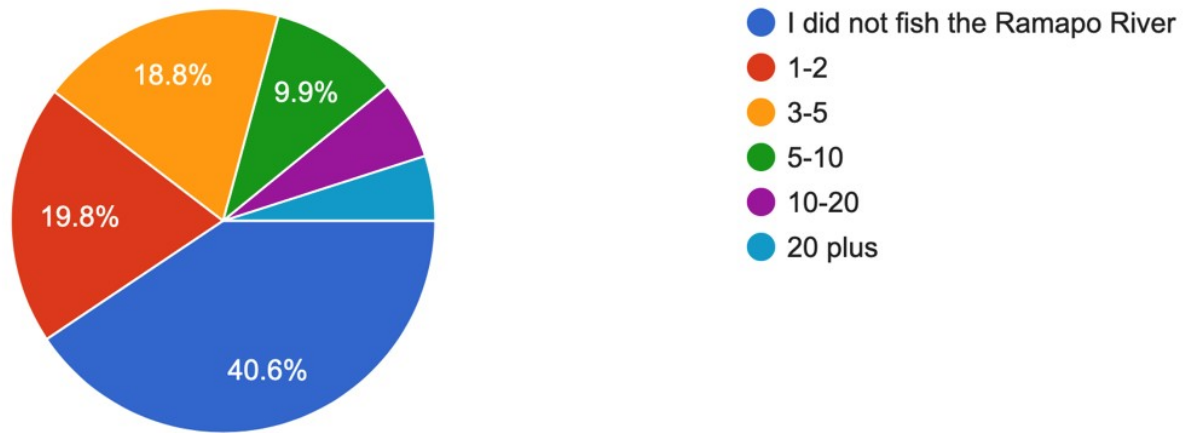
Coincidentally my grandfather, my uncle, and my step-father were all named Ed and I felt it necessary to take Ed as my confirmation name because of their importance to me. My grandfather and step-dad have since passed away. Grandpa has been gone since 1984 and I make it a point to fish every May 11th and tell my boss I can't make it in because it is "Grandpa's Day" in his honor of being the first one to take me fishing and so I can spend the day on the water with him. Bill moved to West Virginia and Billy moved to Florida so we haven't seen or fished with each other in almost forever. My uncle relocated to Pennsylvania and today we fish Pennsylvania lakes when we can. I figured when I had kids they would have the same interest in fishing as I do and they would be my best fishing buddies,

[Continued on Page 7](#)

2020 EJTU Member Survey Results - Thank You To All That Participated

How many times did you fish the Ramapo River in 2019?

101 responses



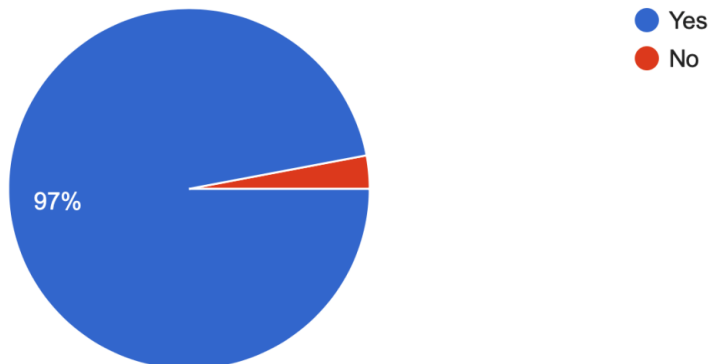
Which Was Your Favorite EJTU Fishing Trip in 2019?

101 responses



Are you aware that EJTU is a cold-water conservation organization, whose mission is to conserve, protect and restore northeastern New Jersey's cold... and their watersheds and not a fly-fishing club?

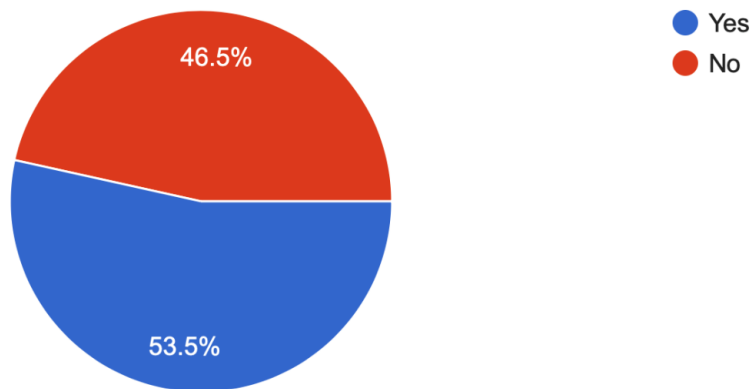
101 responses



2020 EJTU Member Survey Results - Continued

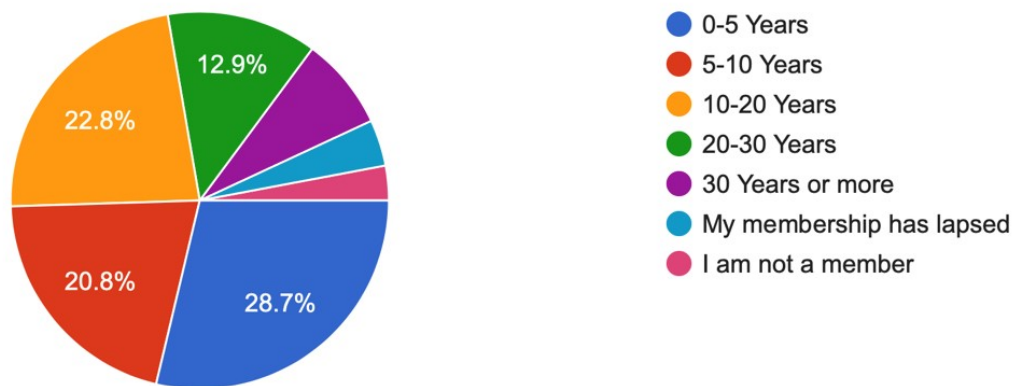
Did you know that EJTU receives less than \$300 per year from TU National, that no part of your yearly dues paid to TU National is returned to EJT...d by member donations and fundraising activities?

101 responses



How long have you been a member of EJTU?

101 responses



Take A Kid Fishing - A Reflection & A Tribute - Continued

By Ron Mroz

[Continued From Page 5](#)

but I eventually learned that's not how it works. My grandfather had two kids and only one fished. My uncle had two kids and neither of them fish. My step-dad had a previous kid that does not fish. Bill had three kids and only one fished. So how do we get kids involved?

Time flies when you are having fun and many times I can't remember what I did ten minutes ago so I'm surprised by how much of the details of my fishing excursions with them I can remember. Each of these great men gave me a part of themselves and added to my appreciation of the outdoors and nature. Spruce Run is still my favorite freshwater impoundment to fish, I still prefer to fish for trout at Flat Brook more than any other place, and I prefer to fish at first-light than any other time. I learned so much from each of them and they have enabled me to add more fishing tackle to my mental tackle box. Was it the fishing that hooked me or something else?

I wonder what my life would have been like if I was never introduced to fishing? I know it has given me a great appreciation of everything wild and outdoors related, not just fishing, and it has kept me out of trouble that many of my friends got into because I had to go to bed early to wake up early so I could be on the water at first-light. There are a lot of competing forces out there for kids today with cell phones, the Internet, smart watches, video games, etc. I wish I knew how to raise fishing kids, but you never know who will take to it like a fish in water. I think the best thing we can do is to provide opportunities for kids, such as fishing derbies and fishing outings that are kid-friendly, both of what TU does, and be patient with them. Some may not remember the fishing, but will remember how the fishing experience made them feel and maybe that's the real hook. Maybe it doesn't matter what you do or how you do it, but just that you do something with them. Consider taking a kid fishing or perhaps take a friend and his son or daughter fishing during Free Fishing Days offered in NY, NY, PA, and CT. Think about how you got involved with fishing and why it is so important to you. Maybe our childhood can teach us something about our future and how we can get more kids involved today.

“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.” - Frank Lloyd Wright

Griffith's Gnat Emerger

By Dino Eftychiou

I first learned about this fly from Ken Barile last year when we were fishing the Housatonic River in Connecticut. He was catching fish; I was not. Being a proper fly fisherman and a good friend (and knowing I might be too proud to ask him what fly he was using), he asked me whether I wanted to try one of his Griffith's Gnat Emergers. Of course, I know what Griffith's Gnats are and always carry at least a dozen of them. But a gnat emerger?! Never heard of it. I accepted his offer, tied one on, and proceeded to catch fish. I've been tying them ever since and they have been especially successful for me during this spring's fishing trips.



Tim Flagler, one of our most popular guest speakers at EJTU meetings, has one of his typically excellent videos on how to tie this pattern:

<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-how-to-tie-the-griffiths-gnat-emerger>

Materials:

Hook: Emerger hook, size 20.

Thread: Light olive, 8/0 or 70-denier.

Trailing shuck: Golden brown Antron yarn.

Hackle: Grizzly saddle hackle, slightly undersize.

Thorax: Peacock herl.

Head: Tying thread.

Steam Your Dry Flies

By Chris Henrickson

If you put too many dry flies together in one compartment in a fly box, the wings and hackle can get bent and crooked. Sometimes bent and crooked wings can happen from flies being left in a fly box for a long time.

Not only do these flies look bad, they often will not land on the water correctly when cast. You can bring your dry flies back to life and realign crooked or bent wings and hackle by steaming them. Just bring a tea kettle of water to a rolling boil. Hold your dry fly with a pair of forceps or long tweezers and place it in the steam coming out of the tea kettle. Do this for a few seconds while slowly rotating the fly in the steam and your dry flies will be as good as new.

Here are a couple of additional tips. Be careful not to get your fingers in the steam. After steaming your flies, leave them out to completely dry before putting them away. The steam leaves them pretty wet and letting your recently steamed dry flies completely dry will make sure that they do not rust.

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.

COVID-19

SOCIAL DISTANCING

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife



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

TROUT STOCKED
LOCATIONS

