



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 48

May 2018

Number 5

May 2018 President's Beat



East Jersey Trout Unlimited is a cold-water conservation organization and our members are conservation-minded anglers.

As such, we should always be on the lookout for small ways in which we can practice conservation, especially when we are enjoying a day out on the water fly-fishing.

While fishing, if you see a tin can or plastic bottle at the edge of the river bank or along a trail, stick it in your vest or backpack and throw it out later. If you are changing out tippet or switching flies, keep the extra nylon or fluorocarbon trimmings with you for proper disposal when you get home... or at one of our chapter's mono- recycling bins!

Practicing responsible catch and release to ensure your catch's survival is another easy way to practice conservation. Just play your fish quickly, wet your hands prior to handling the fish, and make use of a rubber landing net bag. Also try to keep the fish in water while removing the hook and making sure they are properly revived, if required.

One area in which we can really make a conservation impact while angling is in the choice of the manufacturer of our tackle and

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When: May 9 at 7:30 PM

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

May's Speaker Ben Turpin



Ben will take anglers through the fly fishing year, matching the best hatches and streams, month by month. Throughout the program he will also talk about his favorite patterns and tactics to match the hatches.

The program will describe many of PA's best streams and when to fish them.

Schedule



- May 4 – 6 Stevens State Park trip
- May 19 - 20 State College, PA trip
- May 20 [Sun] Overpeck Earthfest
- May 26 [Sat] Mahwah Fishing Derby
- Jun. 1 - 3 Catskill Pig Roast
- Jun. 2 – 3 Pequest Open House
- Jun 4 [Mon] Intro to Fly Fishing
- Jun. 9 - 16 Block Island trip
- Jun. 8 - 10 Ausable River trip
- Jun. 13 [Wed] Speaker Tim O'Neil
- Jul. 11 [Wed] Chapter BBQ
- Jul. 21 [Sat] Farmington River trip
- Aug. 8 [Wed] Fly Fishing Skills night
- Aug. [TBD] Kayak/Canoe trip
- Sept. 12 [Wed] Speaker Jack Skelley.
- Sept. [TBD] Housatonic trip
- Oct. 10 [Wed] Speaker Bob Romano
- Oct. [TBD] Saltwater Day trip

Visit the East Jersey TU
web site for up-to-the-minute
Information

www.ejtu.org

Welcome to April's New Members



- | | | | |
|------------------|------------|------------------|--------------|
| Carlo Cimillo | Moonachie | Richard Dennis | Fair Lawn |
| Robert Donohue | Wayne | Kevin Grunstra | Fair Lawn |
| James Loder | Glen Ridge | Robert Macbeth | Maywood |
| Michael Saliceti | Belleville | Bart Tirino | Oakland |
| William Tristram | Park Ridge | Robert VanderPyl | Franklin Lks |
| Matthew Welch | Tenafly | | |

**East Jersey Chapter
Trout Unlimited
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Don Ecker

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

How to contact us: Website: ejtu.org

Mailing Address:

East Jersey Chapter, Trout Unlimited Box 366
HoHoKus, NJ 07423-0366

Membership Info: Membership Info: E Chiavola
at: 845-422-2429 or email elichivola1@gmail.com

For East Jersey and National Trout Unlimited
information, visit www.tu.org. Go to chapter
number 091 for the latest information about our
chapter.

Riffles is your publication; we encourage all mem-
bers to contribute articles, tips, and stories. Arti-
cles may relate to trout, trout fishing, fishing in
general or conservation, but all articles are pub-
lished 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.

Email to raycapp@optonline.net

Conservation Notes

We have recently celebrated another Earth Day. Did you do something to make our world a better place? It doesn't take much to make a little improvement. If everyone took the time to pick up one piece of litter in the street, there would be 300 million fewer pieces to wash into the nearest storm drain. Just think of what our world would be like if every day was Earth Day! Unfortunately, we are faced with continuing efforts to weaken environmental regulations. Off-shore oil and gas exploration, opening the North Slope, shrinking national monuments, reversing clean air and clean water standards, all fly in the face of the spirit of Earth Day. Have we learned nothing?

I am pleased to convey that the Pilgrim Pipeline proposal appears to be dead. Several factors came into play. The demand for and price of Baaken Crude has dropped and available supplies from Canada are being transported to the Gulf Coast. Terminals which handle the transfer of products at Albany have announced that they have no interest in handling products to or from Pilgrim. Financing has only been secured for the first planning phase, and additional financing was predicated in part on Pilgrim's ability to secure right-of-way and easement approvals. This is where the actions of those of us involved in C.A.P.P. (Citizens Against the Pilgrim Pipeline) came into the picture. Through the efforts of C.A.P.P. volunteers, residents of most communities through which the pipeline may have been built were convinced to oppose the pipeline and prohibit its construction through their communities.

We may have stopped the pipeline for now, but the possibility of its resurrection still exists. If F.E.R.C regulations are changed to include oil pipelines, it would be possible for these projects to use eminent domain to force access to private property. When one considers the outrageously anti-environment actions of the current administration, anything is possible.

I hope all of you read the recent article published in The Record about remediation efforts in Pompton Lakes. James O'Neill and Scott Fallon did an outstandingly in-depth investigation. DuPont is still dragging its feet. They have succeeded in transferring ownership of this property to a new company, Chemour. When all the transfers are done, Chemour will own all the contaminated DuPont sites, which are estimated at 170 in various locations around the country. One can only guess the end result. One option might be to have Chemour declare bankruptcy and walk away from all these properties. That would leave the local resident taxpayers to deal with and pay for the mess DuPont created.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Ramapo River Watershed Conference. This annual event features speakers from various government agencies and volunteer organizations. Topics included water quality and supply issues in the Ramapo wa-



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flies. Purchasing quality equipment and tackle from companies such as Loon Outdoors, Orvis, Costa, and Patagonia, amongst others, that offer more environmentally friendly products and that volunteer robust financial support for cold-water conservation organizations such as Trout Unlimited is important.

Another important area in which EJTU members can make a significant environmental difference while angling is in the selection of the metallic weighted products that we all use while angling subsurface. As conservation minded anglers we should make the utmost effort to discontinue the use of lead products in our fishing tackle.

Lead is an undeniably a toxic substance that has various negative impacts on fish, birds and of course, us! As a nation, we have been collectively removing lead from a wide variety of things such

as gasoline, paint, plumbing system components, and air-bourne emissions. Yet many anglers and even TU members still seem to feel that it is fine to use and therefore subsequently leave lead-based split shot, wire, jigs, and all sorts of lead tackle in our drinking water.

Ducks, swans and loons ingest pebbles to aid in digestion. Those that unwittingly ingest lead sinkers and spit shot can die from lead poisoning. According to the State of New Hampshire, ingested lead fishing tackle is the leading cause of death for adult common loons. Birds of prey that ingest fish or other birds full of lead can suffer the same fate.

Many states have already taken the lead with remedying this problem by more strictly regulating the sale and use of lead fishing products and should be commended for their efforts. Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachu-

setts have all banned the use and sale of lead jigs and sinkers weighing one ounce or less. New York state prohibits the sale of lead sinkers weighing one ounce or less. It would be wonderful to see more States follow suit.

We are lucky to have a variety of safe alternatives to lead, such as tungsten and brass bead heads and tin split shot, to use today. Are these products more expensive? – Yes. Is this extra expenditure worthwhile to protect our fish, fowl and drinking water – Undoubtedly. Let's get the toxic lead out of our tackle.

Many small efforts can make a large difference when considered in summation. So, help clean up our streams. Choose safe, non-toxic and responsible fishing products and practice safe catch and release. See you out on the water!

Chris Henrickson

Conservation Notes continued from page 2

tershed, Pompton Lakes DuPont remediation project, the never-ending Ford paint sludge cleanup and several other topics. This conference is held each April and is open to the public. I was disappointed by the low attendance but found the information to be enlightening while equally depressing. In short, the Ramapo watershed is still under great pressure. Water quality has been stable but at a poor level. Treated sewerage effluent and storm runoff represent the greatest percentage of the water found in the Ramapo during the warm weather. Sadly, there seems to be little opportunity for improve-

ment and efforts are focused on stopping conditions from getting worse. There is little coordination or cooperation with Rockland and Orange Counties in New York. Any efforts to improve Ramapo waters would require limitations of or improvements to their treatment and discharge facilities, which they are not interested in pursuing. The expression, "We all live downstream", has never had greater significance.

The season of fishing derbies, community cleanups and environmental events is in full swing. Unfortunately, so is prime fishing season. Trout should begin to respond to angling efforts,

striped bass are beginning to move into feeding locals and warm water species will awaken from their winter haunts. While we all look forward to having rod in hand, please consider the need to spread the word about EJTU. Your participation at community events will teach the next generation about the mission we are so passionate about. Find a way to give up a day or a few hours to give back. The calendar on our web site lists a number of events where your help is needed and would be greatly appreciated. Please help.

Rich Malizia

April 2018 Cast & Blast Trip Report

The fishing portion of the 2018 Cast & Blast trip was plagued by unseasonably cold, windy weather, but, in spite of this, eleven hearty fishermen braved the cold to wet their lines in the storied rivers of New York State's Catskills.

We started on the Willowemoc at the Fly Fishing Museum stretch. This section of the river is well-stocked and usually produces good results. On this day, however, the trout refused any and all offerings. With so many fine anglers in the water, this was quite unexpected. So

we did what any good fisherman would do, we moved to a new stretch on the Willow to again try our luck. This also produced no results.

At lunchtime most of us traveled to Roscoe and the Courtyard restaurant for something to eat. We were rewarded with good, hot food and refreshments to bolster our spirits

after a morning of wading in cold, unproductive water.

After lunch we tried a different piece of water, opting to fish the Barnhart pool on the Beaverkill. The water looked promising, with beautiful runs and riffles, yet the fish remained uncooperative. After a long stretch of inactivity, we moved further downstream, checking out numerous other pools for signs of life. We ended up at

the Sunoco pool, our meeting place for dinner, and decided to spend the remainder of the day fishing there. Following a theme,

the Sunoco pool proved to be no better.

This was frustrating as many of the fishermen have successfully fished this pool in the past. Finally, late in the day we caught a few fish, but all in all the fishing was disappointing, probably because of the

unusually cold weather. (Although surprisingly I did manage to catch a couple of nice trout with a Get It Down Pat's, a variation of a Pat's Rubber Legs, that I had tied for my upcoming Montana trip.)

The good thing about shooting sporting clays is that the clay pigeons always show up. After a fine dinner at the Riverside Café, eight of us drove to Catskill Pheasantry and stayed overnight in the lodge, which was quite comfortable. Sunday brought improved weather with sunny skies and 50 degree temperatures. After a homemade breakfast of pancakes, sausage and eggs, we divided the eight shooters into two groups of four. We had two motorized carts to carry shooters and equipment around the quite mountainous course. Everyone had fun shooting, no one got hurt, and we finished in time to drive back into Roscoe for a return visit to the Courtyard for lunch before the drive home.

Ken Barile



**Get It Down Pat's
(As tied by Tim Flagler
of Tightline Productions)**



- Hook:** Barbless jig hook, size 8.
- Bead:** Black Nickel slotted tungsten bead, 5/32.
- Weight:** Lead-free round wire, .020.
- Thread:** Black, 6/0 or 140-denier.
- Body:** Black/Coffee Variegated Chenille, med.
- Tails/Legs/Antennae:** Black Round Rubber Legs, sm.



RIP Gil Bergen Mr. Connetquot



Gil Bergen

Gil Bergen was born December 15, 1929 and grew up just across the highway from the Southside Sportsmen's Club.

One day he was looking over the fence at the gentlemen fishing and snuck into the Club; he then ran into some of the guides and other people that he knew. He started working part time at the Southside Sportsmen's Club in 1945 as a sixteen year old, first guiding some of the members fishing. Gil used to say that his parents taught him to listen, learn and be

polite, which were the lessons he used in working at the Southside Sportsmen's Club and throughout his life.

He became the Superintendent of the South Side Sportsmen's Club from 1960 until June 6th, 1963, when New York State bought the Sportsmen's Club for \$6 million dollars for parkland. The membership was given a ten year lease as part of the sale and Gil was the Superintendent of The Connetquot River Club Inc. for its ten years of existence.

In 1973 Gil became the Park Manager of the Connetquot River State Park Preserve and he was still the Park Manager when he died in his 89th year on Wednesday evening, April 4, 2018.

Gil spent 58 years managing the 3,473 acre property. He was a "hands-on" Manager and knew how to do everything. He worked hard at the Hatchery propagating trout and stocking the streams so that every fisherman would have an excellent experience. Gil knew every inch of the Preserve where he either rode his horses, walked or drove around checking on poachers, ensuring that equestrians were riding with permits and were on the right trails, inspecting the streams to make sure fishermen were in the correct places, and ensuring users that his beloved park was being enjoyed by the countless visitors. From the time the Friends of Connetquot was formed over twenty years ago, Gil worked constantly with the Board to improve the buildings, grounds and programming.

Because Gil was a good fisherman and a great shot, he was often invited to go Salmon fishing in Canada, asked to travel to Scotland for Grouse shooting and also hunting Quail in the south. He was well-respected and made many friends in his years at the Club and the Park and is thought of as a Legend. It is the end of an era and he will be sorely missed.

RIP Lefty Kreh



Lefty Kreh, well known fly fisherman, instructor, speaker and writer, died at his Cockeysville, Maryland home on March 14, 2018 after battling congestive heart failure. He was 93.

In 1947, after serving in the Artillery in the Battle of the Bulge, Lefty, who at the time was a well known small mouth bass angler, bought his first fly rod and reel. His fishing changed forever.

Though continuing to be an avid angler, Lefty worked in the government's bioweapons labs in Ft. Detrick Maryland where he was one of a small group that was infected with anthrax; he was the lone survivor. The government then named a strain of anthrax, BVK-1, for him (Bernard Victor Kreh).

In the 1950s, after writing a local outdoors column, he moved to Florida where he wrote for the Miami Herald. He then moved back to Maryland and joined the staff of the Baltimore Sun. He stayed at the Sun until he retired at age 65.

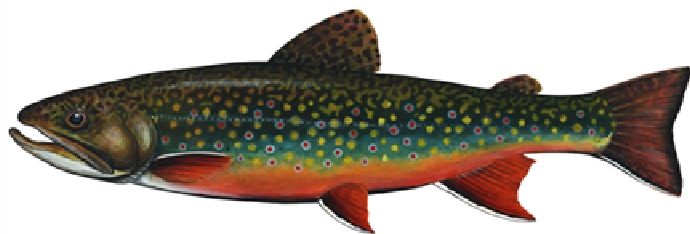
Although he had retired, he continued to write (more than 30 books) travel and instruct anglers in fly fishing techniques. Since bonefish were one of his favorite targets, he also designed saltwater flies.

Trout in the Classroom looking for teachers for this exciting program

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a science-based program that teaches children about the importance of coldwater conservation through a hands-on approach to learning. Through the process of raising trout from eggs provided by the Pequest Trout Hatchery to fingerling size for release, students learn about the importance of clean, cold water, not only for the trout they are raising, but also for the other organisms, including people.

The TIC program is cross-curricular and can encompass many subject areas such as science, math, art, language arts, reading, technology, music and more. While the activities associated with the program are geared towards middle school aged students, schools from Kindergarten through college levels are using the same materials. By the end of the school year, students will be able to identify the different stages of a trout's development, recognize different anatomical parts of the fish and how they function and describe what a trout needs in its ecosystem to survive.

So join the program that is currently reaching over 40,000 students a year, connecting urban, suburban and rural students in a discovery of the importance of clean water - for insects, for trout, for people - clean water is needed by everyone!



This program is supported with a partnership between the Division of Fish and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited in New Jersey.

Registration for 2017-18 school year is closed, but teachers will need time to prepare for the project so contact either of the people below.

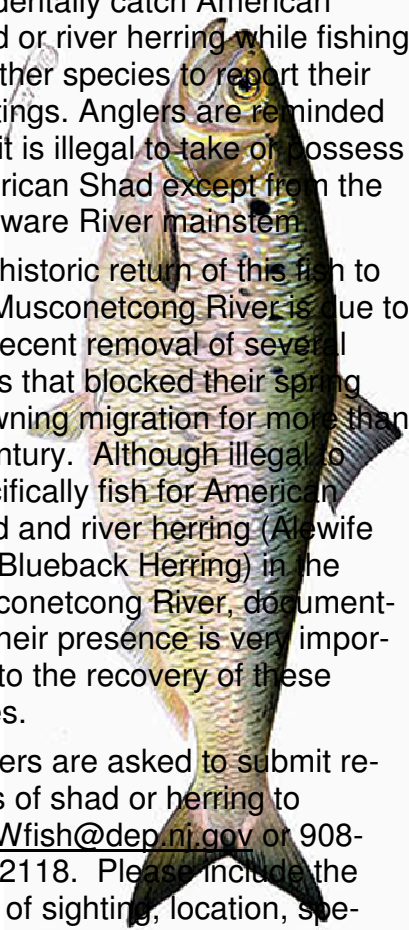
For questions please contact TIC State Coordinator Jessica Griglak at Jessica.Griglak@dep.nj.gov or EJTU's TIC Coordinator, Jim Piombino, at coacheastside1952@yahoo.com

Anglers Asked To Report Shad In Musconetcong River

American Shad have returned to the Musconetcong River and the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife is asking anglers who see or accidentally catch American Shad or river herring while fishing for other species to report their sightings. Anglers are reminded that it is illegal to take or possess American Shad except from the Delaware River mainstem.

The historic return of this fish to the Musconetcong River is due to the recent removal of several dams that blocked their spring spawning migration for more than a century. Although illegal to specifically fish for American Shad and river herring (Alewife and Blueback Herring) in the Musconetcong River, documenting their presence is very important to the recovery of these fishes.

Anglers are asked to submit reports of shad or herring to NJFWfish@dep.nj.gov or 908-236-2118. Please include the date of sighting, location, species, any photos, and your contact information. The Division appreciates the cooperation of the angling public.



May Fly of the Month

A great time to be out in a trout stream. The first major hatches should be in full swing after the damp and chilly weather we have been experiencing. There should be Hendricksons, Blue Quills, Quill Gordons and Sulphurs.

These are the flies that made the Catskills famous and defined the "Catskill Style" of dry fly. So as you prepare for your days on the stream by tying up a few of your favorites, how about whipping up an extra dozen for the chapter?



Housatonic Striper Trip



Woodchip spreading

