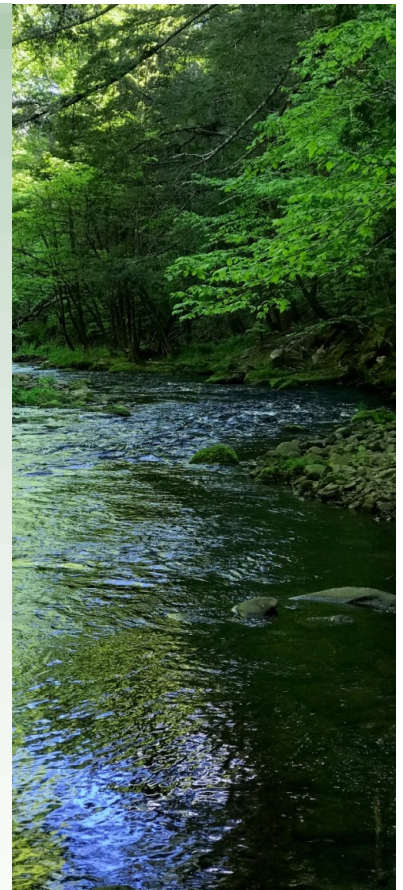




Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of
East Jersey Trout Unlimited

May 2020
Volume 51, Issue 5
Please Consider The Environment Before Printing *Riffles*



May General Membership Meeting - Canceled



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Tentative Fun Upcoming EJTU Events

- May 15th-17th: Esopus fishing trip - Tentative
- May 17th: Overpeck Earthfest Fishing Derby - Tentative
- May 23rd: Mahwah Fishing Derby - Tentative
- May 30th: Annual Catskills Picnic and BBQ - Tentative
- June 6th: Flatbrook Fishing Trip - Tentative
- June 10th: Chapter Meeting - Tentative
- July 8th: Chapter Meeting - Tentative

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

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



Volunteers Needed

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

President's Beat

By Chris Henrickson



I trust that everyone is well and safely practicing social distancing. As the COVID pandemic continues to unfold, I have a few updates regarding the fishing situation in New Jersey. Governor Murphy closed all of NJ State Parks and County Parks.

According to NJ Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Management Areas are currently open for hunting and fishing. In order to keep these areas open, you must observe proper social distancing, minimize crowded parking areas and follow all guidelines to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please take a minute to review social distancing requirements again. They can be found on the [last page of this issue of Riffles](#).

Excessive angler crowding, socializing and lack of observing social distancing at Glen Gray bridge on the Ramapo has resulted in complaints from some local homeowners and lobbying for the woodchip parking area to be closed. This area has now been closed by the Bergen County like all of the other parks and physical barriers installed. This parking area is currently slated to be reopened after the COVID pandemic. The closure of the woodchip parking area resulted in everyone crowding the smaller parking area on the other side of the bridge. The smaller lot is owned by the homeowners and they have now they have closed it for the time being.

The Ramapo is a big river, so spread out. I assure you, Glen Gray bridge is not the only place stocked. Remember the current NJ administration in conjunction with the "Stay at Home" order requires people to stay (and fish) as close to home as possible. This is not the time to be travelling across the state to go fishing. Excessive angler concentrations could very well result in more places being closed.

So, try fishing your local stream or pond instead of making the pilgrimage over to Glen Gray. Here is a link to [NJ Fish and Wildlife's access points for trout fishing](#). You may be surprised to learn of a place to fish for NJ State approved, hatchery reared, stocked rainbow trout much closer to your home. Make sure to verify that the location is still open to fishing before you go.

NJ Fish and Wildlife has stated that "Due to an accelerated stocking schedule, most waters have already been generously stocked with their full allotment of trout. All regulations remain in effect except there will be no in season closures this spring on the 14 major streams where they normally would be in effect." They also explained that they "Reserved trout at the Pequest hatchery in anticipation of being able to resume stocking towards the end of May, depending on the status of COVID-19, stream temps and public access." So until further notice there will be no additional in season stocking.

Since we are required to fish locally, not travel excessive distances for public safety and since many people have not been working, our local bodies of water are seeing very heavy fishing pressure. Due to the lack of additional in season stocking and in order to ensure that everyone has access to local fishing opportunities, I am begging you to please practice only catch and release. This is not a typical fishing season and by safely releasing fish you catch, you will be making sure that local, nearby places to go fishing are not "fished out". We are all making sacrifices at this point and time. I don't think practicing catch and release is an excessively heavy burden to bear.

EJTU Board of Directors

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Chris Henrickson - Westwood

1st Vice President

Justin Fuller - Park Ridge

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Elio Chiavola - Lincoln Park

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Diversity Initiative

Jon Daffron - Ridgewood

Riffles Editor

Dino Eftychiou - Montvale

Veterans Services

Vic Mignoli - Little Silver

Trout In The Classroom

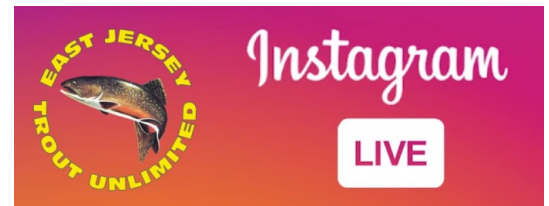
Jim Piombino - Fair Lawn

Youth Coordinator

Jeanne-Marie Thomas - Ridgewood

EJTU Online Fly Tying!

EJTU has been having online fly tying sessions on Instagram most Monday nights! So we all can hang out online, chat and tie some flies. Lots of us enjoy an adult beverage during these sessions as well!



If you are not already on Instagram, it is free and really easy to use. Just download the instagram app to your tablet or smart phone from the iphone app store or the android google play store. The app is free. Just follow the instructions and setup your instagram account. You can also follow what's going on by visiting Instagram's website, but the functionality is limited on the website. So if you have a smart device, that is the best method for joining us. Information on how to download the app and find us can be viewed by [clicking the link here](#).

Check your emails for the next upcoming online Instagram fly tying session. The email will have a list of patterns and materials, so you can tie along with us. We hope you will join us for our next session to catch up and tie some flies. It's fun! Also if you are interested in leading one of these sessions, email [Chris Henrickson](#).



Photograph of the Month: Justin Fuller - "Missouri Crappie Fishing at Dawn"

Free Trout Unlimited Membership for All "Essential Workers"

From TU.org

TU President and CEO Chris Wood offered free Trout Unlimited memberships to every essential employee in America last week as a "thank you" for putting themselves in harm's way during the coronavirus outbreak.

In addition to offering free one-year memberships to essential workers, TU is also giving memberships to emergency personnel, first responders and those in the health care community that might benefit from becoming a member of the TU community.

On behalf of Trout Unlimited, thanks to all essential workers who continue to report to work, perform their duties and make life easier for the rest of us. If you're an essential worker, please reach out directly to Chris (email chris.wood@tu.org), and he'll hook you up with a complimentary membership.

Trout Unlimited Packable Bags

From TU.org

Trout Unlimited light weight packable bags are now available!

In thanks for your donation of \$40 or more, you'll receive two TU packable bags. The TU Packable Backpack and Packable Duffel Bag are constructed from lightweight and durable 40D ripstop nylon that sheds water and dirt, and resists lacerations. Each of the bags folds into its own pocket for super-packable and easy storage and take up virtually no space. These bags are versatile and can be used for fishing, hiking, camping, boating, and everyday use.



Visit https://gifts.tu.org/survey_feb20?ms=MWL-WFO-WSUR20-T to make a donation to Trout Unlimited.

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

I would like to apologize for continuing to be the source of so much negative information. Sadly, the environment has become the focal point of efforts to weaken federal regulations. One would think that our problems have been solved.

The week of April 19 – 25 was National Volunteer Appreciation week.

Thank you to all of you

for the time you have given and work you have done to advance the mission of EJTU. Too often your efforts go unnoticed or unrecognized. It may be a member who goes out on their own to collect trash along their favorite stream or who takes the time to offer some instruction or advice to a novice angler. Those of you who are the eyes and ears of EJTU, reporting possibly inappropriate activities along our rivers, extend the reach of our organization. It all counts and should be recognized. Without volunteers willing to make an effort to protect, reconnect and restore our waters, TU would be nothing more than a bunch of anglers looking for a place to fish. So to all our volunteers, please accept my sincere appreciation of all you do, both seen and unseen.

April 22nd marked the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. In 1970, nearly 10% of the nation's population demonstrated in some way to express our concerns for what many thought was irreversible damage to the planet. The outpouring of public sentiment forced our government to take action. The Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts were the direct responses to the Earth Day demonstrations. The result has been the improvement in air and water quality in many locations. Several species deemed endangered 50

years ago have recovered. Now there are bald eagles nesting as close as Paterson and Leonia. They are small successes but ones which would have never happened without environmental regulations. While this all took place before many of you were born, it is something that those of us on the frontlines remember very well. That is why we are so outraged by the disassembling of these acts. Had it not been for these regulations, our nation would have continued on its downward spiral of environmental destruction. While these regulations did not cure all ills or reverse all threats, they at least slowed them down. The water crisis in Flint, Michigan and Newark, New Jersey, tell you that the problems are not solved and the work is not done. Yet the Administration continues to chip away at the protections that were fought for by many and now are undermined by few. And to what avail? Is air that chokes you and water that makes you sick a pathway to greatness? Lands that were protected for their beauty and uniqueness are now valued more for the profit they could generate for a few instead of the joy that they bring to the many. The lengthy battle to stop the authorization of Pebble Mine continues with no favorable result in sight. The Environmental Impact Statement is due to be released by the Army Corps of Engineers this spring. A process that usually takes five or six years has been pushed through in about two years. What is the hurry? The salmon aren't going anywhere. This high-speed approach appears to be an attempt to limit public input and scientific analysis. If it is approved, it will put at risk a vital salmon population. Farther to the south, there is another assault. Do we really need to cut the ancient trees from the flanks of Tsongas National Park? Efforts continue to build roads in the previously "Roadless" area to reach the timber in the Park. Where are our priorities? Recent weakening of regulations which limited the amount of mercury and other toxic metals emitted from fossil fuel powered generating plants put everyone's health at risk. It seems that not a week goes by without the reversal of some regulation designed to protect the environment.

We are all focused on COVID-19, as we should be. However, while most of us are so focused, the administration has taken the opportunity to roll back auto mileage standards put in place several years ago. The administration's logic is as follows. Eliminating the stricter mileage requirements will reduce the price of a new car by about \$1,000. This will be sufficient incentive for

[Continued on Page 6](#)

Passing of EJTU Member Ronald Fletcher

EJTU member Ronald Fletcher was born on Saturday, July 18, 1936 and passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 from COVID related complications. Ronald Fletcher was a resident of Hawthorne, New Jersey, at the time of passing.

Fletcher, Sr., Ronald, age 83, of Hawthorne, on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. Born and raised in Paterson, Ronald had lived in Hawthorne for 55 years. He served his country as a sailor in the U.S. Navy. After his service, Ronald worked as a machinist for G. R. Kelm Machine Works in Paterson and later Homac Machinery. He had been a member of the Joan Wulff Fly Fishers Club.

Ronald was the beloved husband of Carol (nee: Wyr) Fletcher. Loving father of Ronald Fletcher, Jr. and his wife Amy of Hawthorne and Elaine Tirrito and her husband Frank of Mahwah. Dear grandfather of Alex Fletcher, Aaron Fletcher and Jessica Rodriguez. Dearest brother of Harry Fletcher, Jr. and his wife Susan of Thorndale, PA.



Immediate funeral services will be private to the family with an entombment at Laurel Grove Memorial Park in Totowa. Future funeral services will be announced at a later date.

New EJTU Members

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

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

To Join EJTU or Renew Your EJTU Membership

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

One Man's Junk is Another Man's Treasure

By Ron Mroz

I ran into another angler on the stream; we exchanged how we did. I told him I caught a few trout on Squirmy Wormy flies and the other angler referred to them as "junk" flies. This wasn't the first time I heard something like this throughout the years and I've even had anglers apologize to me when they tell me they caught trout on a Squirmy Wormy, but why are they considered to be junk flies if they catch trout on a fly rod? Was it because I said the "worm" word, which many fly anglers consider to be the lowest form of fishing? For the record, I'm not one of them. So a San Juan Worm is not junk, but a Squirmy Wormy is right?

I've also heard this reference to Mop Flies as well. Is it because there are no Squirmy Wormy or Mop Fly hatches? Is it because they are not insects? Well, crayfish and scuds are of crustaceans and are not insects, and these patterns are regularly fished and are not referred to as junk. Ever see any Chernobyl Ant hatches? How about streamers? Some old-timers consider streamers to be lures, but I've never heard of them considered to be junk flies. Then what about the egg patterns from fish or how about a part of a fish pattern? The Parmachene Belle was created to represent the fin of a brook trout and was held in high esteem back in the day. The Royal Coachman was another hot ticket and many couldn't see themselves using it because it didn't really resemble anything.

Is it just that flies tied with synthetic materials are considered to be junk? Does one consider using flies with gold bead heads, foam, rubber legs, Flashabou, Krystal Flash, or those with "hot spots" as being junk? Ever see photos of George Daniel's fly boxes? What a pile of junk.

Well, what constitutes a fly to be a junk fly? I would think one that didn't catch fish to be junk, but flies that catch fish should be anything but junk. There are some fly fishing purists that only fish with dry flies tied to Frederick Halford or Theodore Gordon's time or others that only fish with nymphs tied G.E.M. Skues, so anything less might not be considered to be worthy, which would mean anything not made from traditional fur, feathers, and silk. I imagine that Dame Julianna Burners purists would consider the dry fly or nymph to be a junk fly because it wasn't one of her original fourteen wet flies that she wrote about.

I guess any fly can be considered to be a junk fly depending on what your definition of fly fishing is, but I take the view that any natural food item that a trout comes across could and should be imitated and cast from a fly rod. Since the Squirmy Wormy could represent an aquatic or terrestrial worm and a Mop Fly could represent a caddis poking out of its case, both food items are readily eaten by trout, plus they do catch trout, I'll keep using them. I guess it's true that one man's junk is another man's treasure.

Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey

By Dino Eftychiou



Living in the most densely populated state in the Union, I'm amazed and thankful that one third of New Jersey is preserved land: state owned, county owned, and under the auspices of nonprofits. One of the challenges for maintaining these areas as wild and open is keeping them as physically interconnected as possible. Because of New Jersey's large network of roads, it is critical to the survival of many of these animals that their habitats and breeding grounds remain as contiguous and accessible as possible.

Through the Division of Fish and Wildlife and a partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the state has launched "Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey." It is one of many such projects throughout the country that are helping wildlife safely travel throughout their ecosystems by the construction of underground tunnels and culverts.

PBS recently filmed an episode for its *Ecosense for Living* series entitled "Wild Crossings." It highlights connectivity projects in three east coast states, including New Jersey's. Watching this film, I felt heartened and proud that our state is supplying the resources necessary to help these creatures and that so many people were volunteering to help out. I also found it fascinating that we have so many different animals in our state that rely on these man-made corridors to navigate. There are shots of salamanders, frogs, turtles, beavers, foxes, coyotes, bears, and rattlesnakes, among many other animals. Did you know that we even have a Bobcat Alley in northwestern New Jersey?

You can watch this short 30 minute film by clicking on the link below. The segment on New Jersey comes in at approximately the 14 minute mark, but it's well worth watching the entire episode. (It's not like you don't have the time.)

https://www.pbs.org/video/wild-crossings-1orqyv/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdeliver

Cased Caddis

By Dino Eftychiou

If you're like me, you probably are carrying around flies in your box that you rarely or never use. Why? Because you think they aren't suitable for particular stream conditions or you just plain forget about them. Such a fly is the cased caddis. As most of you know, Trichoptera, or caddis, go through a larval stage. The larvae of some caddis species form a protective case in which they live until they emerge as adults. They use stones, sticks, leaves, and sand to create their shelters.

I've been tying and carrying around cased caddis flies for a number of years now. It wasn't until a recent trip to the Pequest River, however, that I finally put one on my tippet and proceeded to land a number of Rainbows. That's because I watched my fishing buddy that day, Jim Brinkerhoff, hook one right after the other with that pattern. Fortunately, I had a couple in my box. It's always exciting when you catch a fish on a pattern that you've never used before, especially when you tied it yourself. Thanks, Jim.

As illustrated in the photo, my pattern is a variation of one that Jim Misiura ties:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRRDE540DyA>

Materials:

Hook: nymph, size 12-16

Thread: black (I tie them with dark brown thread also)

Ribbing (optional): thin copper

Underbody: tin wire for weight

Case: mixture of black, gray, brown, and olive fur dubbing (I prefer fur because the guard hairs look like little sticks.)

Body: olive dubbing

Legs: partridge

Head: black thread (a black or brass bead can be substituted for the head)

Note: After tying on the case, but before tying the rest of the fly, I spray on Fixatif to give the case some hardness and a little sheen.



Conservation Notes Continued From Page 4

people driving unsafe older cars to purchase new cars. That may have been the case when I bought my first car over 50 years ago for \$3,000, but my most recent purchase of a stripped-down utilitarian model costed \$35,000. That \$1,000 would have been lost in rounding. Further, they are trading deaths due to vehicle accidents with the health of lots of other people. Kids that develop asthma are not in the market to buy cars. There is a foolish comparison. All the major US auto companies have come out against the rollback. That should tell you something. Other than to increase the consumption of gasoline, which is also contrary to our environmental goals, there isn't much of a positive result.

Efforts to obtain a piece of Liberty State Park for the expansion of the golf course continue. While the attention of Trenton has been to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the owner of Liberty National Golf Course has not stopped his efforts to take Craven Point. If you are sequestered at home, please take a few minutes to address this issue with your state representatives. The Liberty State Park Protection Act was passed by the Senate but stalled in the Assembly when no vote was taken. Now it will have to be reintroduced in both houses in the new session.

The early opening of the 2020 trout season has yielded some positive results. All trout caught had to be released. It seems that anglers have complied with this requirement or maybe those intent on filling their freezers just stayed home. For several years, some of us have been suggesting delayed harvest

regulations on trout stocked waters that are considered "put and take". The retort was always that this would be unenforceable. This year's unfortunate circumstances may have proved otherwise.

All official chapter activities have been suspended by a directive from TU National. As I understand it, this includes chapter organized activities as well as our participation with other organizations. Most of the fishing derbies have been canceled. Our stocking support of NJF&W falls within the guidelines from TU and has also been canceled. So at this point, consider our conservation calendar canceled or postponed until further notice. The spring stocking scheduled has been changed and "closed" stocking days have been eliminated. Stocking may resume next month. There has been heavy stocking in most of our streams so there should be plenty of fish if you choose to go out.

TAKE TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



“The Battle for conservation will go on endlessly. It is part of the universal battle between right and wrong.” - John Muir

Alan’s Everglades Tarpon

By Alan Rosenbloom

She was around 80lbs. We were in Everglades National Park in late March just as the tarpon returned. I got the leader into the guides after about 15-20 minutes and had her alongside the boat. They told me that was a catch. She then took off and after another 5 minutes cut the 40# mono on shells on a log. The snook were all under 20”.



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



For additional information visit:
www.NJFishandWildlife.com

TROUT STOCKED
LOCATIONS

