

Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of East Jersey Trout Unlimited

November 2019 Volume 50, Issue 11 Please Consider The Environment Before Printing *Riffles*

November General Membership Meeting



John Isdanavage -Coastal Angler Fly Fishing & Light Tackle Charters

his home waters for 30 plus years. You can find him fishing inshore, near shore or polling his skiff across the shallow flats of Barnegat Bay. John's season starts mid March and runs through the late fall into December fishing for striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, fluke and false albacore on both fly and light tackle. John will be speaking about Fly Fishing Barnegat Bay & The Jersey Coast. Come and join us!

Other Fun Upcoming EJTU Events

November 13th: General Chapter Meeting - John Isdanavage November 23-24th: International Fly Tying Symposium December 5th: Orvis 50/50 on the Water Screening December 11th: General Chapter Meeting - Holiday Party. January 8th: General Chapter Meeting - Tom Gilmore January 24th-26th: EJTU Booth At The Edison Show February 1st: EJTU Connetquot Fly Fishing Trip February 9th: EJTU Beer Tasting at Ghost Hawk Brewery March 21st: EJTU Annual Banquet - Baigio's in Paramus A full list of upcoming events is available on EJTU's calendar. EJTU's November general membership meeting will be held on November 13th. Doors open at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Our special guest speaker will be Captain John Isdanavage.

John Isdanavage is the owner of Coastal Angler Fly Fishing & Light Tackle Charters. His experience has taken him from New Jersey, to Cape Lookout North Carolina, to the west coast of Florida. John spends most of his time fishing and guiding the Surf along the beaches of the Jersey Shore and the Back Bays,

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Inside this issue of Riffles

Jpcoming Events1
President's Beat2
Wild or Stocked Trout 2
EJTU Photo of The Month
Congrats Greg Koch!
-ly Tying Symposium
Angler's Lie EJTU Beer 4
Conservation Notes 5
Paulinskill Tree Planting6
2020 Frank Hall Tying Contest 7
Conservation Guided Raffle 7
A New Generation of Fly Fishers8
Dry Flies Needed 8
Review: Trout Whisperers
FIC Egg Delivery Day9
50/50 On The Water Film 10
A Case for Fluoro Tippet 10
Volunteers Needed

- Board of Directors Members
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Bergen County Federation of
 Sportsmen's Representative
- Fishing Trips Director

President's Beat

By Chris Henrickson



Where were you on October 19th? You weren't at home watching TV were you? Were you doing something meaningful?

Well, if you were one of 15 dedicated EJTU volunteers at the Paulinskill tree planting event, you were putting your words about conservation into action! This was meaningful, true conservation work in every sense of the word.

We had volunteers in their 80s and volunteers less than 5 years old and everything in between. We had men, women, children and families all pitching in. The Nature Conservancy had staked out 900 trees to be planted and we got 700 of them in ground. We

planted maples, oaks, willows, dogwoods, sycamores and birches over the course of four hours. If we had just another four or five volunteers from our 800 members, we would have planted each and everyone of them.

Our specific site this year was located right at the former dam site in an area that was under an artificial body of water for about 100 years created by the ill-conceived Columbia dam. This dam located about 1/4 mile upstream from the confluence of the Paulinskill and Delaware Rivers cut off access to the Paulinskill from the Delaware for fish as diverse as shad, eels, bass and trout. Our shovels went easily into the silt and sediment that accumulated while the dam was in operation. We all worked hard and yet I saw nothing but smiles on our volunteers' faces. It was a great day.

We have traditionally had a fairly broad definition of "Conservation Projects" in our chapter, but I can confidently assure you that the hard work put in by our volunteers during this event did more permanent good than any of our chapter's other efforts this year.

Next year, after the last hatchery reared trout that was shuffled around in a bucket by one of our volunteers is eaten, suffocates or expires, the overwhelming majority of these trees we planted this weekend will still be alive and well. In 15 years after all the rocks we rolled and repositioned have all been moved out of place during high water events, our trees that we put in the earth will tower at 15-25 feet tall.

Long after we and anyone we ever knew during our lifetimes have passed away, our efforts planting trees along the banks of the Paulinskill will continue to have a lasting positive impact on our environment, by providing habitat for wildlife, filtering the water of the river, helping to reduce the river's temperature and fighting climate change. Everyone that participated in this event has my sincerest thanks and gratitude for your hard work.

What's In Our New Jersey Rivers is up to You!

 Wild

 Brook

 Trout

 New Jersey Resident

 Stocked

 Rainbow

 Trout

 California Transplant

EJTU Board of Directors

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Merchandise Charlie Maccia - Verona

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

Veterans Services Vic Mignoli - Little Silver

Trout In The Classroom Jim Piombino - Fair Lawn



Photograph of the Month: Fred Madura - "Flatbrook Brookie"

Congratulations to EJTU Board Member Greg Koch and Toni Marraccini on Your Wedding from Everyone at EJTU!





secure Py Tyer Magazine + Wapai Fly + Keeugh Hackle + Spirit River + Harefine Dubbiog

Contact EJTU

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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 Director's 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. Coming Soon For The 2019 Holidays - "Angler's Lie" Beer by Departed Soles Brewing Company - Portion of Proceeds from Sales to Support EJTU's Conservation Efforts



Conservation Notes

By Rich Malizia



Like the Phoenix rising from its ashes, the Pebble Mine project is once more being considered for approval by the current Administration. Five years ago the EPA issued rules which were written to severely curtail the project. At that time the EPA recognized that the mine presented a threat to one of the most important salmon reproduction areas in Alaska. Here are some facts of which you should be aware:

1. The company proposing this project is a Canada-based entity.

2. As proposed, the Pebble mine will be an open pit mine.

3. The proposed mine will involve hundreds of acres, some of which are wetlands.

4. In addition to the mine itself, hundreds of acres of land will be disturbed to build the roads required to access the site. Multiple river crossings will be required.

5. Mining vehicles used in pit mines are enormous. They are very heavy and require specially constructed roads and bridges.

6. Open pit mines utilize massive holding ponds into which millions of tons of mine waste and other discards of the mining process are dumped, much of which is laden with toxic chemicals.

7. Waste pits are earthen constructs which can collapse when seismic activity occurs. Alaska experiences frequent earthquakes.

The site is near two rivers that empty into Bristol Bay. Both rivers are highly productive salmon spawning rivers. There are estimates that place the economy based on a sustainable fishery at nearly 14,000 jobs with an economic contribution of \$1.5 billion annually. That's billion with a "B". If this administration is so driven by dollars, you would think they would be unwilling to risk the potential economic loss. Maybe it is because those dollars go into the hands of the fishermen, cannery workers, and local business people. A few dollars into the hands of many people has significant broad-based benefits. Conversely, the mine will provide few permanent jobs and concentrate profits into the hands of a few. I believe that the economic and environmental risks far outweigh any benefit that could be derived from this mine.

Please make the effort to contact your representatives to express your opinion. Emails follow:

Senator Booker www.booker.senate.gov/contact

Senator Menendez www.menendez.senate.gov/contact

The easiest way to contact your congress person is to go to

www.house.gov/representatives which provides a listing by state. You will be able to send a message to your representative through this site. There is too much at risk to leave it to someone else.

Special thanks to our October speaker, John Jinishian. His concluding remarks caused me to revisit this issue. We have completed stocking the Ramapo for this year. On Friday, October 11th, we had one of the largest volunteer groups of the year. Most notably, several were "new" volunteers. The fish were extraordinarily large with estimates that some would exceed five pounds. Low water conditions were a concern but the recent rains have raised the water levels. There were several eager anglers staking out their spots well before any fish were released. I would like NJF&W to consider closing the river to fishing as is done during the regular spring stocking. This would enable the fish to relocate to protected waters and acclimate to the river. While I chose not to watch the anglers, I'm sure they extracted their "pound of flesh" from the freshly stocked trout. Our volunteers did their best to release trout in areas with deeper water. Thankfully the water temperature has cooled so the chance these fish might survive to provide some enjoyable catch and release fishing throughout the fall and winter is somewhat increased. Thank you to all the volunteers. I know it was a long wait for the truck to arrive, but I think we were rewarded by the size and numbers of trout.

In conjunction with The Nature Conservancy, several of our members and their families participated in a tree planting project. Several hundred trees and shrubs were planted in what was once the bottom of Columbia Lake. A dam on the Paulins Kill River formed the lake. The dam removal was one more step in the process of opening up the Paulins Kill River from its source to its outflow at the Delaware River. Thank you to all who came out to work. It was a dirty job, but the final result will be a free flowing, unobstructed river that is protected by the riverside foliage our volunteers planted. We expect to partner with The Nature Conservancy again next year to continue improvements to our major waterways. Please watch for an announcement and come out to help.

Conservation committee members will soon be removing temperature loggers they placed in several stream in our area. Once the data is downloaded, we will publish it in *Riffles* so our members can get some insight into the conditions of the local trout streams. High water temperatures are lethal to trout and the trout in several of our local streams suffer from this problem. It is rewarding to find that some trout are able to survive in a few of the thermal refuges which still exist in these waterways. Watch for the reports in a few months.

TAKE TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



New EJTU Members

Jesse Carr, Roberto Cobos, Brett Fialkoff, Vladislav Kandravy, Patrick Keating, Tom Lagatol, John McParland, Craig Sheppard, John Swartz, Joseph Talos, Bob Finnen, Lukas Politis, Michael Thompson

Welcome and thank you for helping us to protect northeastern NJ's coldwater 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".

2019 EJTU Paulinskill Tree Planting



2020 Frank Hall Fly Tying Contest Announcement

By Chris Henrickson

Every year East Jersey Trout Unlimited holds a fly tying contest as a memorial to Frank B. Hall. This classic fly tying competition has been going strong since the late 1980s!

Proportions, materials used and the application of the components to the hook will all be considered in determining a winner. Flies entered in the contest are reviewed by a panel of EJTU judges. The prior year's contest winner, EJTU Board member Bruce Seiden, has selected the classic Catskill style dry fly pattern "Adams" for the upcoming year. As the previous winner, Bruce will also serve the contest's lead judge.

Entries (maximum of three entries per contestant) must be turned in at one of our monthly chapter meetings or delivered to any member of EJTU's Board of Directors to allow for judging. All entries should be individually packaged with the tier's name and phone number. All flies entered in the contest become the property of EJTU. The winner of the contest will be announced at EJTU's annual banquet in March. Entries are due no later than February 29th, 2020.

More information about the contest and both the patterns and winners from years past can be found on EJTU's website here. The recipe for the "Adams" pattern from Eric Leiser's *The Book of Fly Patterns* is printed below with an accompanying image. Good luck to all of the women and men of EJTU that enter. We are hoping to have a strong turnout with many entries this year.

Official Contest Recipe

Hook: Mustad 94840 (or equivalent), Size 14 Thread: Gray or Black (6/0) Wing: Grizzly hackle tips Tail: Brown and grizzly hackle mixed Body: Gray muskrat dubbing fur Hackle: Brown and grizzle mixed



2020 Frank Hall Fly Tying Contest Pattern: "Adams"

"Laws change; people die; the land remains." - Abraham Lincoln

2020 EJTU Conservation Guided Trip

By Chris Henrickson

Justin Siegel has donated a one day guided fly fishing trip to EJTU in order to help raise much needed funds for our Chapter's conservation projects. You will be receiving information in the mail about how to participate in this fundraising event

Justin Siegel is a licensed fishing guide in New York, Pennsylvania, and the Upper Delaware National Park and the manager of Streams of Dream Fly Shop (Upper Saddle River, NJ).

Justin has had a lifelong love of fishing. As a child, he spent his free time fishing lakes, ponds, and rivers in and around his hometown in Northern New Jersey, occasionally venturing up to the Catskills with his father and uncle.

During his time in college at Penn State, he was president of the Penn State Fly Fishing Club and fished the famed waters of Penns Creek, Spring Creek, and Fishing Creek.

After graduation, Justin made the Upper Delaware River his home waters. Justin has been fishing the Upper Delaware Region heavily for the last 10+ years and guiding it for 4.



A New Generation of Fly Fishers

By Dino Eftychiou

From what I'd been hearing recently, I had the sense that fly fishing was on the decline. Fewer fishers were seen on the water. Attendance at fly fishing shows was down drastically. Fewer vendors were willing to spend money on events that didn't financially benefit them. The owner of a Montana outfitter company told me that he no longer does shows because, in his words, "They're a dying animal."

I've read online that fly shops are closing throughout the country. A while ago I called Orvis to ask why I couldn't apply a coupon to some fly tying material I was ordering. I was told that Orvis had made a decision not to compete with the mom and pop type fly shops, that the coupon discounts were hurting the little guys, which, of course, impacted adversely on the integrity of the industry. The rep on the phone said something similar to the Montana outfitter, that fly shops were "dying." (He did tell me though that the coupon was good for anything not related to fly fishing equipment and fly tying materials.)

Well, here's some good news for the fly fishing industry. According to a 2019 Outdoor Industry Association's "Special Report on Fishing," out of all the many different types of sport fishing, fly fishing's "number and percentage of participants has been increasing the most. Since 2016, the participation rate has increased by an average of 3.7%, and the number of fly fishing participants has jumped by an average of 4.5%. Also encouraging for fly fishing, the category had the highest rate of first-time participants. In 2018, 17.4% of participants were new to the category."

The New York Times recently published an article calling fly fishing the new bird-watching especially among millennials. Not surprisingly, given their generation's purported concerns for and interest in the environment and outdoor activities, many of these young men and women are inclined to immerse themselves in experiences that directly interface them with nature. The *Times* article does note that this group can afford the equipment and leisure time to pursue the sport, while also noting that the equipment can be "rudimentary." The article also points out that the demographics reflect a growing gender and racial diversity.

Many of the businesses that are benefitting from this renewed interest are in the Catskills, which is appropriate given the history of fly fishing in that area. These include a new brick-and-mortar fly shop, The Esopus Creel, in Phoenicia, NY, the Livingston Manor Fly Fishing Club in the Catskills, and an upscale boutique hotel, The DeBruce, on the banks of the Willowemoc Creek also in Livingston Manor. To promote this new interest in fly fishing, the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum even hosts an annual Emerging Anglers Dinner.

One of the highlights of the article for me as an EJTU member is that Joe Fox and Kelly Buchta are featured. As many of you know, Joe is the grandson of Mary Dette and the great-grandson of Winnie and Walt Dette. In 2018, which marked the 90th year of the renowned Dette Fly Shop, Joe and Kelly Buchta, a long time active member of both our chapter, State and National TU, moved the Dette business from the Dette family home in Roscoe to a larger store in Livingston Manor. According to them, "Longtime customers have stayed loyal. New customers continue to arrive." Joe is quoted in the article as saying that, although he's not sure particularly why, there has been an especial increase in new customers in the past three years.

With new participants comes a demand for equipment, guides, lodges, shops, outfitters, fly fishing schools, fly tying classes, and whatever. It's good for the industry and it's essentially good for the environment. The more knowledgeable these new fishers become about the ecosystems of cold water fisheries, the more passionate they might be about protecting them, and the more actively involved they might be in conservation projects led by organizations such as Trout Unlimited. I do have one concern though after reading the *Times* article. I hope that most of these new anglers make fly fishing a long term commitment and not just another vogue-du-jour.

If you want to read an excerpt of the NY Times article for yourself, go to https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/14/style/fly-fishing-returns.html

Donate your dry flies!!! More flies are needed to fill our raffle fly box for the Edison Fly Fishing Show



East Jersey Trout Unlimited Reviews

"Trout Whisperers, A Novel by Pete Bodo"

A Review By Michael Sebetich



Pete Bodo is a fly fisherman who lives in the Catskills and an outdoors columnist for the *New York Times*. He also is the author of *The Atlantic Salmon Handbook*.

In Bodo's newest book, two colorful fly fishermen, Louis Traub and Raul Mendoza, are on the 25th anniversary of their annual six-week fishing and camping trip in Montana. Louis is a somewhat rotund and out-of-shape Easterner, whereas Raul is a physically fit Dominican, tall and mustachi-

oed. A thread throughout this zany novel is their search for a mythical, unspoiled trout stream hidden in a high plateau. The given name is Little Gooseneck Creek which supposedly teems with huge brown and rainbow trout, and has a historic brown drake hatch. It is a limestone stream that originates from springs in a geologic sinkhole.

They begin their fishing in a drift boat on the Beaverhead River with their eccentric friend Bowen Kiick, who suddenly decides to abandon his two friends and leaves them with his drift boat to float the river without him. Downstream, they damage the boat enough to require repair to use again. Raul and Louis catch trout throughout the six-week fishing foray as the reader learns about their personal lives. Campers who read this novel will appreciate the descriptions of their numerous campsites, tent set ups, fires, brewed coffee and delicious cooked meals.

Numerous references to the Lewis and Clark expedition through the Mis-



souri River country (1804 – 1806) are described by Louis throughout the novel. In addition, Louis describes Western ecosystems and provides interesting facts about the geology of the various locations.

Louis has an authoritative attitude based on his knowledge and competence. His personal card states, "Wordsmith and Public Intellectual." He writes many letters to the editor and runs his own website, "Guardian of Grammar", which he claims is the arbiter of English Language usage. He likes to gesticulate and expound on a variety of topics.

The author includes a mention of a machinist from Fair Lawn, NJ, who was fishing near an Allentown stream (name not given), who discovered a previously unknown mayfly during a trico hatch. Entomologists at the NY Museum of Natural History named it *Ephemerella marocapobianco* in honor of the fisherman. In the novel are scientific names of numerous freshwater insect species that may satisfy purists.

By chance the two fishermen meet Lottie Moffo, a Ph.D. psychologist, and her tiny dog who are stranded with her broken down vehicle. They immediately become friends and Lottie remains with the two fishermen for the remainder of the novel. Lottie falls for Louis, which was a surprise to me, but it's the author's story.

They are all invited to a fancy ranch by the owner where a new subplot develops. Louis and Raul suspect that the ranch is the location of the mythical stream that they had been seeking. Soon, Raul and Louis get arrested for possession of state property, the drift boat, and get taken to jail from which they escape (again author's privilege).

How does all this end up? Were they innocent, did they locate Little Gooseneck Creek, did they catch more fish, and did Lottie and Louis live happily ever after? I will not be the spoiler.

Have a book, movie, piece of fishing related gear or perhaps even a place you fished that you enjoyed and would like to review? Shoot an email with a brief write up to the *Riffles* Editors. Be fair and give an honest rating of the item in question on a scale of one to five trout.

Successful Trout In The Classroom Delivery

By Jim Piombino

On Monday, October 21, EJTU members delivered rainbow trout eggs to 24 schools in our North-East Jersey area. The eggs were placed in a small basket in the tank whose water was cooled to 52 degrees Fahrenheit. Here the egss will hatch, grow and then enter the large tank. The students and teachers were very excited to receive their trout eggs and many class projects completed over the next six months will increase the students appreciation and respect for nature.

Each school received around 350 eggs, but since the trout are raised in a real life river situation only about 10 to 20 fingerling trout are expected to survive. These fish will be released into designated rivers and streams in our area. All together 149 New Jersey schools are in the program, over 52,000 eggs where delivered with TU members driving around 2,500 miles.

I would like to thank the following members of EJTU for donating their time and energy for the delivery of eggs: Mike Capizzi, Rich Malizia, Bruce T. Halstater, Paul Reithmeier, Dino Eftychiou, and Don Schalck.

Editor's Note: Thank you to Jim Piombino as well! For successfully running our Trout in the Classroom program. Great job Jim.

Orvis 50/50 On The Water Film Screening - 12.05.2019



Joan Wulff Fly Fishers will present the 2019 Orvis 50/50 On the Water film tour at the Louis Bay Hawthorne Library (345 Lafayette Ave, Hawthorne, NJ 07506) on December 5th from 6:30 to 8:30PM. All EJTU members are invited and female EJTU members are highly encouraged to attend!

The Orvis 50/50 On the Water initiative aims to introduce more women to the sport of fly fishing. The 50/50 on the Water Film Tour is a family-friendly night of female focused fly-fishing films. You'll leave the event inspired and energized by the 90+ minutes of story-telling, which highlights anglers and fisheries from around the world.

A Case for Fluorocarbon Tippet

By Ken Barile

Fly Fishing is a sport of many subtleties. One such subtlety is the choice of tippet material. Anglers must decide on the proper length and strength of the tippet they need to fool a wary trout into accepting their fly. Too thick a tippet and the trout might refuse your fly; too thin a tippet and the trout might break you off in the fight.

An added consideration is whether to use a monofilament or fluorocarbon tippet. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. Here are some of the key points to consider when choosing a tippet material:

• **Presentation:** Do you want your fly to float or sink? If you want it to float, mono is preferred as fluorocarbon sinks. If you are fishing nymphs, fluorocarbon is the right material for you.

• Visibility: When fishing in gin clear water and visibility is high, fluorocarbon is the preferred material as it does not reflect light like mono.

• **Strength:** If you are fishing very small flies, fluorocarbon is your choice as you can use a smaller diameter material without sacrificing strength. This will produce a better, more natural presentation.

• **Product Lifespan:** Another cost consideration is the lifespan of the product. Mono has a shorter lifespan than fluorocarbon. Perhaps you have had the experience with older tippet material breaking easily. I know I have.

Well, it seems I have been making the case to use fluorocarbon as the tippet of choice. One big disadvantage I have not mentioned is cost. Fluorocarbon is much more expensive than mono. That is until now

While fishing in Montana with my angling buddy Dino Eftychiou, our guide Charlie introduced me to Seaguar 100% Fluorocarbon tippet material. It comes in many sizes on 200 yard spools and performs outstanding. It can be inexpensively purchased on Amazon. The following is a comparison of the cost of Seaguar versus other notable tippet brands:

Brand	Yards	Cost
Orvis	100	\$37.99
Rio	100	\$50.00
Frog Hair	100	\$53.76
Seaguar	200 *	\$15.00

The 4 lb. Seaguar Tippet material corresponds to a 5.5x tippet material. A common size used by Trout fishermen.

For a more detailed comparison of mono versus fluorocarbon check out the following website.

https://www.fishingoclock.com/monofilament-vs-fluorocarbon-fishing-lines/



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.