



# Riffler

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 33

April 2003

Issue 4

## President's Beat

Spring officially arrived on March 20 and the weather has been hinting of things to come. Finally! The snow is gone, water levels are improving and cabin fever will soon be cured.

Our annual dinner at the Rustic Lodge was a success, thanks to the committee comprised of Barbara Wedlick, Karen Canning, and Dave Wedlick. There were many prizes donated by various vendors, and our thanks go out to all who contributed. Patronizing the companies that supported us would show our appreciation.

Following is a list of all who contributed: Angler Sport Group; Battenkill Lodge; Brett Borowski; Britt's Tackle Shop; Campmor; Karen Canning; Coldsteel Sport Fishing; Collins Hackle Farm; Cortland Line Company; Creekside Custom Woodworks; Dr. Slick Company; Herman Drenth; Fly Fisher's Paradise; Fly Logic; Fly Rod and Reel; Golden Witch Technologies; Gudebrod; Elmer Hopper, Bill Hrinko; Krieger Enterprises; L.L. Bean; Loon Outdoors; Merco Products; Morris Communications Group; Murray's Fly Shop; Norlander Company; New Jersey Frame and Moulding Company; Bob Novak; Orvis; Outcast Sporting Gear; Ted Patlen; Doug Penna; Powell Rod Company; Pure Fishing; R. L. Winston Rod Company; Ramsey Outdoors; Linda Reper; John Roetman; Ross Reels; Sage Rods; Scott Fly Rod Company; Scuttlebutts Pub, Norinne and Dennis Fitzsimons; Bruce Seiden; Simms; Don Sirota; The Village Grill; Thomas and Thomas Rod-makers; Toppin the Waders Trading; Umpqua Feather Merchants; David Wedlick.

The amount of money realized at the dinner, after expenses was \$2190.75.

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## Meeting Notice

**When:** April 9 at 7:30 PM

**Where:** American Legion Hall  
33 West Passaic Street  
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

**April 9th  
Paul Morrissey  
Beaverkill River**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

## Future Guest Speakers

**May 14th  
No Speaker  
Chapter Auction**

**June 11th  
Glenn & Anderea Van Benschoten  
Lake Fishing with a Fly Rod**

**July 9th  
Dick Despommie  
Songs of the River**

**August 13th  
Mickey Goshen  
Fishing N.J. Streams**

**September 10th  
Mark Sadatti  
Saltwater Fly Fishing**

**October 8th  
John Roetman  
Fly Fishing either  
New Zealand or Chile**

**All programs have a slide show.**

## Ramapo River Day 2003 June 14, 2003

On Saturday, June 14th, EJTU in conjunction with Ramapo College will host Ramapo River Day 2003. This is one of the most ambitious projects we undertake. We again expect between 150 and 200 students to participate in this program and we need lots of help.

This year's program will be divided into six "stations". We will: (1) collect and sort macroinvertebrates collected from the river, (2) identify and examine them using microscopes, (3) conduct water chemistry tests on water samples obtained from the river, (4) demonstrate and discuss causes of non-point source pollution using models, (5) conduct a nature walk to identify streamside vegetation, and (6) demonstrate fly tying and teach flycasting.

Ramapo College volunteers will oversee the more technical station, and Americorps volunteers will handle the non-point source pollution demonstration. Our members are needed for the in-river collection, fly tying, fly casting, setup, takedown and general supervision.

In order to accommodate the large number of participants and to ensure that they get the most out of the program, we will have two of each station. We will need about 30 members to properly execute the program.

The Chapter received national recognition last year when TU's Trout magazine wrote about our program. The program



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## East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

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Bill Borowski

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#### Recording Secretary

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Ed Sikorski

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Herman Drenth

#### Education Director

Doug Penna

#### Trips/Pequest Programs

Bob Novak

#### Speakers

John Roetman

#### Merchandise

Basil Santamaria

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[tu@cataloguepublishers.com](mailto:tu@cataloguepublishers.com) / [raycapp@optonline.net](mailto:raycapp@optonline.net)

#### Points

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#### Dinner

Dave & Barbara Wedlick

#### Shows

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#### Publicity

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#### Founding President

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How to contact us:

Website <http://www.ejtu.org>

Mailing Address:

East Jersey Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Box 366 HoHoKus, NJ 07423-0366

Hodline: (201) 445-3902 (24 hrs.)

For Membership Information call Ed Sikorski at:

201-337-6396 or email to: [dored100@hotmail.com](mailto:dored100@hotmail.com)

For Information on trips and other Chapter

Activities call our hotline: (201) 445-3902 (24 hrs.)

For East Jersey and National Trout Unlimited information, visit our website at <http://www.tu.org>. Go to chapter number 091 and you will get the latest information about our chapter. Riffles is your publication. We invite and encourage every member to contribute articles, tips, etc., relating to trout or trout fishing in general. Email to: [tu@cataloguepublishers.com](mailto:tu@cataloguepublishers.com) attention Riffles. Each piece of material submitted earns you 10 points towards your next goal in the points program.

**Monthly General Member Meeting:** The East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM. **Location:** The American Legion Hall, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, NJ. 07662.

**Monthly Board Meeting:** The East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board Members meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30PM. **Location:** The Bergen County Community Center, 327 East Ridgewood Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652.

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#### President's Beat

This will be used to continue our conservation and educational programs.

The turn out of members and guests totaled close to 90. Among the attendees were several that we haven't seen for a while. Several former directors were present including Bill Adams, Bob Doremus, and Stewart Cohen. One of our founding members and former director Don Ecker and his wife Barbara were also in attendance.

Two of our education programs are still in session. Paramus fly tying has ended, Clifton fly tying is winding down, and the fly fishing/casting school has begun. Fly tying demonstrations at the hatchery have ended. I extend a heartfelt thank you to all members who participated in these programs. Special thanks to Bob Novak for organizing the Saturday tiers over the last two months, and to Doug Penna and Bob Ribar for handling the fly tying programs. Basil Santamaria also deserves recognition for his usual great job of planning and organizing the Suffern Show, one of our biggest fund raising activities for conservation.

There are many more upcoming events for which we can use volunteers. To keep up with activities, sign up with Herman Drenth and get on his e-mail list. More members getting involved means less work for each volunteer, which will result in more available time for fishing.

Paraphrasing an old saying, "time spent fishing is not deducted from your time here on earth" so go out and enjoy the new fishing season.

*Bill Borowski*

## Fly of the Month

It's here - it's here. After a long snowy winter opening day has finally arrived.

The first hatch of the year will usually be the early black stone fly. These tiny (size 18) stones can frequently be seen crawling out of the water onto a snow bank to hatch.

The first mayfly of the year will usually be the tiny (size 22 or 24) blue winged olives.

If you don't have both of these patterns in your fly box, and you plan on hitting the water soon, I would suggest you hit the vise first. While you're at it, how about whipping up an extra dozen for the chapter.

Tie up one of these, or any other pattern, and turn them in at the next meeting. You will receive 10 points and an entry into the monthly drawing for every dozen flies you turn in. More importantly, you will be helping your chapter raise funds for our various projects.

The chapter's fly inventory got wiped clean during the Suffern show and Basil could have sold a lot more if we had them. Now is the time to start rebuilding our inventory for next year. If you can't make the meeting, mail your flies to the chapter P.O. Box or turn them in to any director.

*Bruce Seiden*

## Auction Notice

At our May 14th membership meeting we will be holding a fishing tackle auction. The proceeds from the sales will help defray the cost for speakers, hall rental and the mailing of Riffles.

We need your help by donating any items related to fishing. You will receive 10 points for each item donated. Remember to put your name on your donation so your points can be recorded.

You may bring your donated items to any membership meeting and give them to either Doug Penna or Basil Santamaria. You may also drop them off at Ramsey Outdoor Store in Paramus with me.



*John Roetman*

## Quote of the Month

**" Fishing is much more than fish.... It is the great occasion when we may return to the fine simplicity of our forefathers "**

Herbert Hoover, 31st US President  
Recalled on his 90th birthday, NY  
Times 9 Aug 64

## Outdoorsmen's Websites

Whether you want to mollify the effect of cabin fever or if you are just interested in good websites here are three URL's you really need to look at.

<http://www.ussportsmen.org>

First is the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance's website at <http://www.ussportsmen.org>. The mission statement of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, originally called the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, is to, "protect the rights of hunters, fishermen, trappers and scientific wildlife management professionals."

This website includes features such as latest national and statewide news alerts. It also tracks legislation and court cases in the states, including New Jersey. There are partner links that connect to other outdoor organizations, businesses and state game departments. Go to State reports to find out about the latest proposed legislation in New Jersey and other states affecting sportsmen.

<http://www.junkscience.com>

The second website is <http://www.junkscience.com>. This unusually named site provides us with different viewpoints on scientific issues of the day. We are constantly being alerted and warned about pollution, mercury poisoning, global warming, environmental affects on fish populations, etc. Sometimes we get one point of view about these issues as if they were "sacred". You will find some different points of view here where some of the most widely accepted environmental issues are debunked.

This website claims that, "'Junk Science'...is faulty scientific data and analysis used to further a special agenda." Here you will see global warming disputed, for instance. There are a number of free articles as well as publications that

can be purchased. This is definitely a website for those concerned with environmental issues.

<http://www.njsfsc.org>

This site is the website for the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. This organization includes sportsmen's clubs from all over New Jersey; including TU chapters, hunting clubs, trapper's organizations, as well as individual members. The organization claims to represent as many as 150,000 sportsmen. The Federation is responsible for nominating members to the Fish and Wildlife Council.

The Federation also publishes an excellent monthly newspaper called the New Jersey Federated Sportsmen News edited by the capable Ron Jacobsen. This newspaper plus personal liability insurance coverage of one million dollars makes Federation membership worthwhile.

The Federation's mission statement is twofold; "to protect sportsmen's interests in the responsible management of New Jersey's fish and wildlife resources; and, to protect fish and wildlife by preserving and enhancing habitat." These goals are addressed on the website by keeping us informed about legislation and developments impacting New Jersey sportsmen. Additionally there are many interesting and useful links on the site.

*Jim Furno*

## Stay Dry

The next time you open vitamin pills or electronic parts and find a small bag of silica gel don't toss it into the trash. Put it into your reel bag or tackle box. It will absorb moisture and protect your gear from rusting. Especially helpful if you do any salt water fishing.



## CHAPTER TRIP

We have an opportunity for six members to fish the Lehigh River in Pennsylvania. It's with Wilderness Treker Outfitters. The dates are May 19th and 20th. Lodging will be at the Inn at Jim Thorpe.

We will arrive at the Inn on Sunday afternoon and check in. Float the Lehigh on Monday and Tuesday, leave for home Tuesday evening. Driving distance to Jim Thorpe is one and a half hours.

The cost for the two nights lodging at the Jim Thorpe Inn with continental breakfast Monday and Tuesday, dinner Sunday and Monday, and two days float on the Lehigh is \$382.00 per person based on double occupancy.

To make your reservation contact, John Roetman (201) 447-1810

## Fish Story of the Month

If you've driven down Glen Gray Road you may have noticed a chained dirt road on the right just before the bridge. This road, Drenth's Drive, leads to a secluded and beautiful section of the Ramapo that meanders past brush covered banks and grassy meadows. I often fish here on spring mornings, more often just to escape to this slice of heaven not one mile from my house than to actually catch fish. Having a trout stream in my back yard has a value beyond measure.

One morning last spring I was having terrific luck with my yellow and gold Rooster tail on this section of the river, having caught and released four beautiful Brook trout within the first hour. My luck, however, was short lived. After trying a pinpoint cast into a deep pocket next to a downed tree my lure drifted momentarily then snagged on the end of the stump. After many tugs and gyrations the lure still would not budge and finally a loud snap signaled the separation of line from lure.

Seeing the Rooster tail on the end of that log was too much for me so I waded across to retrieve my treasure. As I approached the stump I found that it was barricaded by thick brush and that my lure could only be reached by wading back out into the water and around to the end that protruded into the stream. I couldn't see the bottom of the riverbed so I took two light steps and was relieved to see the water was fairly shallow.

But, on my third step I lunged downward sharply and would have completely submerged had I not grabbed onto small branches sticking out from the side of the stump! The deep pocket that looked so enticing to cast to was exactly that and I was submerged to the top of my waders with my lure just out of arms reach and my body hanging by a few bent twigs while the current pulled on me.

While the safety of land was now my main concern I would not be turned away from my mission so I grabbed harder at the twigs and branches and shimmied down the stump to my prized booty dangling at its end. I had now placed the value of a gold bar on that \$2.29 lure.

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## Ramapo Ramblin'

By the time you read this trout season will be just a few days away. I wish everyone a lot of tight lines this year, however, please remember safety first. Tell your wife or friend where you intend to go and approximately when you will return. Take along a fully charged cell phone and if possible a buddy. If you go alone try to remain within shouting distance of other people or at least carry a whistle or something that will attract attention if you get into trouble. I purposely put Mike Petty's fish story in this month to demonstrate what can go wrong and to remind everyone to be careful as the water is usually high, cold and unforgiving in the spring. Bob Papson, from N.J. Fish and Wildlife has received our request to make a 1.2 mile stretch of the Ramapo a conservation area. This would make the stretch catch and release for fly fishing and spin fishing, artificial lures only, and a limit of one trout over 15 inches per day from the last stocking in Spring to the following March closing. Before making the decision he plans to electric shock the section in August to check if trout can survive the summer. We must try to keep as many trout in the river as possible this year.

There is a possibility that the state will run a river bank restoration class along the Ramapo this fall, thanks to the efforts of Bill Borowski.

It appears that the parking lot at Potash Lake off Colfax Avenue will be open this year. A boat launching ramp is in place and Bob Papson told me that they will be stocking the original Ramapo stream that runs along Colfax Avenue to Doty Road provided the parking lot is open. You can launch your boat and fish Potash Lake and also run down to the Pompton. Please note that there is a limit on horsepower so please check with the Oakland or Pompton Lakes police. Colfax Road is on the west shore of Potash Lake and runs from Skyline Drive to Pompton Lakes.

This year's stocking will once again be on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM starting on April 17. We will once again use two boats to float stock above and below the Glen Gray bridge and we will also bucket stock the section across from Britts' Tackle Shop. If you would like to help at Britts' please be there at 9 AM. Ramapo Day will be on June 14 this

year. Please plan on helping out at this event. There will be over 100 kids at the event so we will have seven stations set up to teach them conservation, fly tying and casting, water testing, biological surveying of stream life, etc. To do this properly we need about 25 volunteers helping from 9 AM to about 2 PM. Can we count on you? Please sign up at the membership meeting or EMAIL me at [hermaril@aol.com](mailto:hermaril@aol.com) or call me at 201-797-9043.

Please keep the fish stories coming. They will be placed in Riffles as space is available and once again the story that is selected as the winner will receive a dozen flies at the dinner next year. The winner this year was Bob Hresko.

Why not plan on attending the dinner next year? It is one way that money is raised to pay for the meeting hall, speakers and Riffles mailing. The cost of operations for these three expenses is about \$7,000, (my estimate). Another way to help out is to pay your National dues through the chapter as we get a \$5 credit for each application we submit. East Jersey Trout Unlimited is one of the most active chapters in the country and we need everyone pulling together to keep it that way.

Until next time, Tight lines and remember, we all live down stream!

*Herman Drenth  
Conservation Chairman*

### Fish Story

*(Continued from page 3)*

I freed the lure, heaved myself back around the stump against the current and then made my way back to dry land.

As I sat on the bank and reflected on the sheer stupidity of what I had just done I remember thinking to myself, "MAN, I LOVE TO FISH."

*Mike Petty*



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

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## Ramapo River Day

exposes inner-city kids to an environment that many never see. And, we expect to have the participation of Mahwah students to give them a better understanding of what exists in their "backyard".

This is the largest manpower (womanpower) requirement for the Chapter for a one-day program that I am aware of, but I am sure we can do it. You need no special skills to participate nor will you have to commit the entire day. You can come early to help setup or at 1 PM to help takedown. Or you can spend the day. Why such a big project? How better to reach so many young people with our message of environmental stewardship? They are future voters and leaders. If they gain an understanding of what we are about, fishing and outdoor activities may remain attractive alternatives for kids who are not drawn to ball fields or skate parks. PLEASE HELP!

To volunteer, please contact me at 973-304-0789, e-mail [remqcp@peoplepc.com](mailto:remqcp@peoplepc.com) or see me at the next EJTU meeting.

*Rich Malizia*

## Correction

Jim Furno wrote a great article about PETA for the March Riffles but his name was devoured by an ad for the EJTU Fly Casting and Fly Fishing Course. Undaunted, Jim returns this month with information about interesting Internet sites.

And, due to some confusion in relaying the March Fish Story of the Month, Herm Drenth's name was substituted for the actual author - Ken Vander Pyle.

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