



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 33

May 2003

Issue 5

President's Beat

Writing this month's president beat while listening to the weather forecast telling of an impending nor'easter for opening day, dampens my enthusiasm just a bit. Hopefully the weather will not be as dire as they predict.

Many of our members contribute flies to the "Fly of the Month" drawing held at our meetings. Unfortunately, they remain unsung volunteers. They do earn points, and a chance to win tying materials if their name is drawn. April's tiers were Bill Canning, Richard Hudak, and Rich Malizia. The name withdrawn from the hat was Richard Malizia, and he won a Metz #1 ginger neck. The monthly prize varies but it is certainly worth more than a dozen flies. So, get out your vise and tie up a dozen or two, and bring them to the next meeting to get into the drawing.

When you read this, trout season will have been underway for three or four weeks. East Jersey has been float stocking the Ramapo to spread out the fish and give everyone a fair chance to catch their limit. Unfortunately, some fishermen do not observe regulations, and take more than their fair share. This has been evident to the regulars who fish the Ramapo, and until recently, no recourse was available to thwart these "poachers". Chuck Fletcher the new conservation officer assigned to our area has recently ticketed several offenders, and I hope the word spreads to others who are inclined to kill over the limit. Honest fishermen are encouraged to call CO Chuck Fletcher at 908-735-8240 or the 24 hr. hotline 1-877-927-6337 to report infractions. Give the license plate number of the vehicle, if available, and the location where the offender may be found.

We would like to try something different to get Riffles into the hands of our mem-

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Meeting Notice

When: May 14 at 7:30 PM

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

**May 14th
No Speaker
Chapter Auction**

Mark Your Calendars!

Future Guest Speakers

**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.



An Outstanding Achievement

John Roetman with the fleece jacket and brook trout carving he earned by accumulating 12,000 points. John has worked unceasingly to help make EJTU an exemplary chapter. The reward presented to him for all his hardwork is only a symbol our appreciation. Nothing we could give John would adequately compensate for his generosity and the time devoted to TU. Thank you John.

Poachers Beware!

Herm Drenth reports that the new Conservation Officer for our region, Chuck Fletcher, will be at the Ramapo every Thursday. His E-mail address is

chrlsfletcher@aol.com.

If you see someone breaking fishing laws, call Fletcher (908-735-8240) or the 24 hour hotline (1-877-927-6337) and give the description of the person you are reporting and the location. You will not have to leave your



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East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

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

For Membership Information call Ed Sikorski at:

201-337-6396 or email to: 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 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

bers more quickly. Bruce Seiden is assembling a list of email addresses for the purpose of disseminating Riffles as a PDF file. Members may sign up to receive Riffles on line by sending an email with "Subscription-Riffles" as the subject. Nothing else has to be added. Email Bruce at: seidenb@optonline.net.

Don't forget May 14! Our general membership meeting will be an auction to raise money for our general fund. There are a number of great items to be sold—Several rods, tying benches, tying materials, and other miscellaneous items related to fishing. There will be merchandise unrelated to fishing as well. It will be a time to obtain some longed for, or necessary item and support our chapter. If you have something to donate, we will accept items at any time, even the day of the auction.

So come out and help make this the most successful auction ever.

Bill Borowski

PS. I just received a letter and a check from TU membership services. The check is a rebate from national for thirteen new members and nineteen memberships renewed through the chapter. The amount of the check is \$225. I would like to thank everyone who recruited a new member or renewed through the chapter. If every member of record would renew through our chapter we could get a rebate check in excess of \$4000 next year.

Bruce Seiden

Fly of the Month

May – A glorious time to be alive and on the stream. The first major hatches should be in full swing: Hendricksons, Blue Quills, Quill Gordons, Sulphurs.

These are the flies that made the Catskills famous, and defined the "Catskill Style" of dry fly. So as you prepare for the next day on the stream and tie up a few of your favorites, 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.

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Beware

name.

All of our members should keep a copy of these telephone numbers in their cars. Herm also says that after EJTU members reported a poacher who was catching and keeping trout over the limit at Patriot's Way, Fletcher caught the fellow with nine trout, six in his creel and three more that he had passed to his uncle. The fine is \$40 for the first trout over the limit and \$20 for each additional fish, plus court costs - usually about \$100! He also caught another fisherman over the limit somewhere else along the river.

Ray Cappock

Ramapo Critters

Add a new resident. Although I have seen beaver signs over the last few years I always assumed that it was washing down from up river. But last night, while tying on a fly as it was getting dark, I heard a splash that sounded like Moby trout. Of course, since I had my magnifying glasses on, I could not see beyond my fingers. When I changed to my regular glasses I saw that there was a little brown face looking up at me. Then it was off after an even louder tail slap.

I have concluded that we make them into coats not because they have great fur but to get even with them for scaring the hell out of people.

Rich Malizia



Quote of the Month

"The allure of fishing, like golf or body piercing, may mystify the uninitiated, but it leaves the smitten unable to stop."

Mathew Purdy

New York Times, 2003

Ramapo River Day Saturday June 14, 2003

First, I would like to thank the dozen volunteers who signed up at our last meeting. We are off to a great start but we still need a few more hands, especially to help return equipment to the college at the end of the day.

The program will end at about 1:30 PM after we release fish into Henry Lake. I hope to have four volunteers who will be able to come at (or stay for) the end of the program.

Those of you who will help set up should plan to be at the Halifax Road site at 8:30 AM. The program will run from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

If you can help with even a few hours please see me at the next meeting, call me at 973-304-0789 or e-mail me at remqcp@peoplepc.com.

Thanks for your help. We expect this 2003 program to be bigger and better than last year's.

Rich Malizia



East Jersey's annual conservation rod raffle was won by Al Szigathy accepting the rods and congratulations. From left: Bill Tomiello representing Ramsey Outdoor who donated the rods and reels; Bill Borowski president of EJTU; Al Szigathy the winner, being congratulated by John Roetman of Ramsey Outdoor. Al purchased his ticket at the Suffern show and drove from Long Island to Paramus to pick up his prizes. Congratulation Al and good luck catching fish with your new rods and reels.

Good Work

EJTU awards points to members for participating in volunteer activities, for tying flies, and for a variety of other activities. Congratulations to the following members who recently earned more than 150 points: Ron Fletcher, Carl Hoetzel, Roger Law, Ed Marshak, John Szep and Ken Vander Pyle. East Jersey Trout Unlimited polo shirts will be awarded to them at the May 14th meeting.

George Petersen

The "Moral" Flyfisher

Are we flyfishers carried away by a belief that we have seized and monopolized the moral high ground, implying that all other fishermen are savages? Are we the "ethical" giants of fishing?

That is one of the themes in a brilliant article by William C. Parlasca, a columnist for *Salt Water Fly Fishing*, in the Oct/Nov/Dec. 1997 issue. His article, entitled, "Catch and Relax", is must reading especially for those who believe that they have a manifest destiny, a spiritual calling if you will, to practice catch-and-release and enforce it upon others.

While he acknowledges that catch and release has been conducive to preserving some fisheries he asks, "...are we doing it to help the resource, or to feel warm and fuzzy?" In the past people released fish because they had the common sense to take only what they needed or what they could keep legally.

People do take fish in other parts of the country and in other parts of the world.

Catch-and-release is a foreign concept to some. Fishing for steelhead in the Utihuina River in New Zealand, the Kiwis fishing the stream looked upon this writer with anger when they saw me releasing fish.

The New Zealander friend I was fishing with told me that they had immediately identified me as an American and he politely asked if I would please throw any fish I did not want on the bank for later collec-

tion.

A similar situation took place some years ago in British Columbia. It was diplo-

matically explained to me that the only fish kept were those needed and if everyone followed that rule the resource would be preserved. They were concerned about the mortality of released fish.

Some studies have shown that in put-and-take fisheries (such as we have in New Jersey) as many as 30% of hooked hatchery trout will not survive even though we see them vigorously swim away. Flyfishermen are spending precious time extricating the size #18 nymph from a trout's maw, handling the fish and causing tissue damage. Are we so sure we are morally superior to the worm dunker who keeps his trout?

That's one of the points that Parlasca makes in his article; i.e., that the real motive for catch and release should be understood. In Parlasca's own words, "In any fishery, there is a scientific justification for the release or harvest of fish, the determination of which must be made on a case-by-case basis. And that is where catch-and-release zealots often go wrong. Whatever these ideal catch-and-release applications might be, the reasons have everything to do with the renewability and preservation of the natural resource and NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH MORALITY" (emphasis mine). "Too many anglers use the practice as a standard of moral or ethical superiority. That is intellectually dishonest."

Parlasca points out that usually the same sanctimonious fishers will buy fish to eat; is that moral? It is morally inconsequential but it is hypocritical. Catch-and-release is a fisheries management tool...period!

Jim Furno

Volunteer Opportunities

When	What	Contact
May 8 - Thu 9:00 AM	Stocking - Britt's	Herm Drenth
May 8 - Thu 9:30 AM	Stocking - Glen Gray	Herm Drenth
May 15 - Thu 9:00 AM	Stocking - Britt's	Herm Drenth
May 15 - Thu 9:30 AM	Stocking - Glen Gray	Herm Drenth
May 17 - Sat 9:30 AM	Tree Planting with Ramapo Students at the Ramapo Reservation	Herm Drenth
May 22 - Thu 9:00 AM	Stocking - Britt's	Herm Drenth
May 22 - Thu 9:30 AM	Stocking - Glen Gray	Herm Drenth
May 29 - Thu 9:00 AM	Stocking - Britt's	Herm Drenth
May 29 - Thu 9:30 AM	Stocking - Glen Gray	Herm Drenth
June 7 - Sat 10:00 AM	Stocking - Singac Brook	George Petersen
June 14 - Sat 9:00 AM	Ramapo River Day	Rich Malizia

Herm Drenth 201-797-9043
 Rich Malizia 973-304-0789
 George Petersen 973-772-6311

hermaril@aol.com
remqcp@peoplepc.com
GPetern1@aol.com

Ramapo Ramblin'

Opening day this year began with rain, high cold water and a lot of fishermen with high expectations. The water was at a stage where it threatened to spill over the banks in many places and it definitely was not a day for the fly rod. I do not begin the season until the river goes down and the temperature goes up. As I traveled along the river and talked with the fishermen, I found that many were impressed with the work that EJTU accomplishes along the river.

As I write this article, we are preparing for another season of assisting the state with their stocking of the Ramapo. Starting on April 17, on Thursday mornings at 9AM some volunteers meet at Britt's Tackle Shop in Oakland and, lead by our member Rich Hudak, they bucket stock downstream from the bridge. Most of our volunteers meet at Glen Gray Road at 9:30 where they assist in launching the boats, drink coffee and tell tales of the big one that got away while they wait for the stocking truck that usually arrives about 10AM. We have added a new wrinkle this year - having some volunteers go to Halifax Road to bucket stock the riffles upstream from the bridge after helping at Glen Gray. This is really a fun event and we can always use more help. You earn ten points for each week and you will also receive a volunteer's Tee shirt!

On May 17, we will assist Dr. Angela Cristini and Ramapo College plant shrubs and trees at the lower lake in the Ramapo Reservation Park. George Petersen advises that he has arranged for the stocking of Singac Brook in Wayne on Saturday, June 7. We assist the town of Wayne and the Wayne Boy/Cub Scouts stocking the brook each year and it's another fun time. We meet at the Municipal building on Valley Road. The request has been made to make the Glen Gray stretch of the Ramapo a Conservation Area. If approved, this would make 1.2 miles of river a catch and release zone for fly and spin fishermen only with no type of bait fishing allowed from the last stocking date in May through the rest of the season. One fish over 15 inches could be kept per day. The usual limit of 6 would be allowed during April and May.

Rich Malizia has been working on the big event of the year, Ramapo River Day! We expect up to 150 kids to come to Halifax Road on June 14 to learn about

the various things that are offered by a river - from studying the bugs that live in the river, to nature walks, to problems of pollution, fly tying and casting, etc. We hope that from a membership of 900 we can get 25 volunteers to help. The kids will come at 10 AM and stay until 2 PM and we need help working with them. In the morning we need help putting up the tent, tables, etc. After the kids leave, we need help tearing it all down. If you can help even for some of the day, please contact Rich at remqcp@peoplepc.com or 973-304-0789.

I will be running a fish story contest again this year, with the best story receiving a dozen flies! Send your story to me at hermaril@aol.com or send it to Herm Drenth, 235 Roosevelt Ave. Elmwood Park, NJ 07407. The article will also be placed in Riffles unless you request otherwise.

That is it for this month. Remember we all live downstream!

Herman Drenth

boat into the water. While Mike cursed and screamed about how he had lost a brand new rod and reel that he had never used before we stopped the boat and looked around for a short time but found nothing. We then proceeded to our fishing location and fished for a good part of the day.

Later, as we headed back to the boat ramp we were again trolling when suddenly my rod bent and started to vibrate. I immediately thought, "Fish on"! As I reeled the fish in I could not figure out what I had caught because it felt like nothing that I had ever caught before. I finally got my catch to the boat and lo and behold it was Mike's rod and reel! Unbelievable! The beers he bought afterwards went down real good!

Bob Hresko

Send your stories for the 2003 contest, 500 words or less, to Herm Drenth, 235 Roosevelt Ave. Elmwood Park, NJ 07407, or by Email to hermaril@aol.com.

Winning Fish Story 2002

This year our members submitted nine great stories, any one of which could easily have been chosen as the best of the year. We finally selected this story by Bob Hresko as the winner.

Lost and Found!

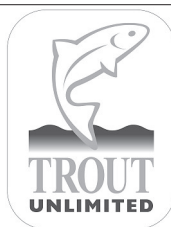
My son-in-law Mike and I were on his boat on Goose Pond in Massachusetts' Berkshire Mountains, and as we traveled to the location on the pond where we intended to fish we did some trolling. At one point Mike's line caught on something and his rod and reel flew from the

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via email!

Members may sign up to receive *Riffles* on line by sending an email with "Subscription-Riffles" as the subject. Nothing else has to be added. Email Bruce at:

seidenb@optonline.net



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