



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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Issue 9

President's Beat

The controversy caused by articles submitted and printed in Riffles is an example of the diversity of opinions regarding catch and release. One must look at the history of fishing and note that catch and release is a rather modern phenomenon. Native American Indians practiced limiting their catch in order to sustain their food supply long before their land was "settled". Unfortunately, moderation was not adopted by the settlers of our country, as evidenced by the demise of the buffalo and other species. Lee Wulff stated that "a game fish is too valuable to be caught only once", and it is believed that statement led to the beginning of "catch and release" as we practice it today. To kill a fish is not necessarily a crime. Every fisherman must make his own decision regarding this concept. Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect, and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Trout Unlimited accomplishes this mission on local, state and national levels with an extensive and dedicated volunteer network. TU's national office and regional offices employ professionals who testify before Congress, publish a quarterly magazine, intervene in federal legal proceedings and work with the organization's 125,000 volunteers in 500 chapters nationwide to keep them active and involved in conservation issues.

Recently a comment was made that we (East Jersey) should not participate in politicking. However, to continue TU's mission to "conserve, protect, and restore" in most cases there is no other alternative than political involvement that is feasible. The builders, developers and other interests pay lobbyists to sell their plans to the politicians that run local, state and national governments. Unless we get involved by campaigning

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Meeting Notice

When: September 10 at 7:30 PM
Where: American Legion Hall
33 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

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

Mark Your Calendars!

Future Guest Speakers

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

**November 12
Bob Levitson
Montana**

**December 10
Bob Demarest
Author/Artist**

**January 14
Fishy Fullum
Fly Fishing for Trout**

All programs have a slide show.

The board and members of EJTU give their sympathy to Fred Schmitt and family in the passing of Fred's son Fred Jr.

Fight Back

Most of us realize that we're seeing an increase in attacks on the rights and activities of New Jersey's hunters, fishers and outdoorsmen by elected and appointed officials, legislators, and various, well funded "humane" groups. PETA wants to eliminate fishing. Senate and Assembly bills would add humane groups to the Fish and Wildlife Council and give the Commissioner of Environmental Protection the power to make all wildlife decisions, 33 acres of Pequest Hatchery "Greenacres" land is in danger of being sold to a local college, and politicians want to build a truck-weighing station next to the Ramapo River. These are only a few of the on-going attacks.

We know that if there is no response to these and future attacks, hunting and fishing rights will be severely reduced. But we also know that, because New Jersey's sportsmen do not have access to the large amounts of money that the anti-fishing/hunting groups have, there has to be a different approach to combating them. For this reason, the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs has formed a Legislative Action Committee and is now forming local county committees.

The aim of the new Legislative Committee and the county committees is to keep New Jersey's Assemblymen and Senators aware of the fact that there is a large group of voters who are opposed to attacks on their activities. In order to do this, volunteers in each Legislative District will take part in a number of activities: volunteers will relay information about new anti-Federation activities and proposed laws to sportsmen in the district via E-mail; sample letters in opposition to onerous new bills will be E-mailed to sportsmen in the district; and, volunteer(s) will visit the offices of local

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East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

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Hodine: (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.

Fly Fishing with Wet Flies at the Pequest Hatchery

Saturday, September 14 at 10 a.m. Wildlife Conservation Corps members Jim Flatley and Pierre Benoist will conduct a seminar for fly fishers with some experience. Topics include reading a trout stream, how to fish wet flies and a review of wet fly patterns. The Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center is located on Rt. 46 nine miles west of Hacketts-town in Warren County. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily; admission is free.

East Jersey Fly Tying Paramus and Clifton begin in September

Where: Paramus (West Brook Middle School)

When: Tuesday, September 30th
7:00-10:00 PM

Contact: Bob Ribar at 201-995-0107

Where: Clifton (Clifton High School)

When: Monday, September 15th
7:00-10:00 PM

Contact: Doug Penna at 201-288-4409

Beginners will learn the techniques and materials needed to tie trout flies. Patterns will include a selection of nymphs, streamers, wet and dry flies. You will gain the basic understanding of the basic materials and techniques learned in the beginners course. Beginners will be supplied with tools, all materials, and EJTU fly tying book. Beginner's material fee is \$15, which can be made payable to the instructor at the first class. Intermediates must supply their own materials. All instructors are volunteers from East Jersey Trout Unlimited with many years of experience in the art of fly tying. The class is divided into small groups of two to four people per instructor.

Bob Ribar

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representatives to get to know them and to make themselves and the sportsmen's positions known.

With the exception of in-person visits to legislators, the primary tool of the committees will be E-mail. If you are interested in protecting your fishing and hunting rights and want to join the committee, contact Frank Dara, Chairman of the NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc. at fdar9@aol.com

Ray Cappock

Don't Forget! Frank Hall Memorial Fly Tying Award

The Letort Hopper is a traditional summertime pattern, originated by Ernie Schwiebert for Pennsylvania trout. His creation of the pattern is described in the story "Grasshopper Wind" in *Remembrances of Rivers Past*. Entries will be judged by a panel of five judges. The original pattern follows:

Hook: Sizes 6 through 16,
2X long down eye
Thread: 00 Yellow
Tails: None
Body: Yellow nylon wool
dubbed on yellow silk
Wings: Brown-mottled turkey
glazed with lacquer
Legs: Brown deer body hair
Head: Trimmed deer body
hair butts

Flies may be submitted to any director prior to the judging, which will take place the week before the November meeting.

Bill Borowski

(Continued from page 1) President's Beat

against zoning changes and variances granted to accommodate developers, we will lose more and more open space. We will lose land that recharges rivers, streams and aquifers that provide drinking water for millions of people, as well as habitat for fish and game. Several requests are pending to utilize county property, green acres property, and state owned property for commercial use. With land becoming scarce, many builders look at wetlands and steep slopes that are currently protected by local and state ordinances, and too often get variances to build on them. Our only defense is to convince politicians of the need to preserve land and not cover it with concrete and asphalt or build on steep slopes or in wetlands. We can only do that with letter writing campaigns, phone calls, and attending open forums to voice our opinions.

To continue to "conserve, protect, and

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To the Editors:

To Gary & Ray,
Bravo to Stan Holuba for responding to Fred Lauffer's "Lifetime Reward" story in the July Riffles and speaking his mind (and probably sharing the sentiments of the remainder of EJTU). A standing ovation to you guys for printing this well-deserved rebuttal.

I too was terribly disturbed that Mr Lauffer, an angler of many, many years experience, found it "rewarding" to murder a trophy-sized fish he sought his whole life on a local NJ stream. Not that the remainder of JTU (and all other anglers) only subscribe to Catch & Release, but it seems that Fred took out a lifetime's frustration and went and took the life of this huge trout. The rest of us won't ever have the joy of trying to hook that great fish as a result. Too bad. Two years ago I landed the largest and most spectacular trout of my 19 years of fly-fishing: a 23 inch rainbow on the East Branch of the Delaware. I quickly measured it, and then watched it swim out of my trembling hands. It resided upstream of the Fish's Eddy bridge. Hopefully, it is still trying to elude others who might consider it is more valuable to them dead or for dinner. I kept the fly instead of this magnificent fish as a keepsake: a Size 6 golden stonefly nymph.

Brad Wild

*1st VP Ray Bergman Chapter TU
and past board member of EJTU*

(Continued from page 2)) **President's Beat**
restore", we must all become proactive politically. If we don't, we will lose everything.

While writing this column I received word that the Ramapo River will be electro shocked to determine the trout population. Needless to say East Jersey members have done a great deal of work to restore the Ramapo. The results of the shocking will help determine our future course regarding the river. We have all seen evidence of what sprawl and pollution have done and hope that our efforts have not been in vain. To curtail future degradation we must oppose vociferously any projects that will impact, degrade, and destroy this valuable resource.

Tight Lines.

Bill Borowski

Free Money for EJTU!

Do you know that you can give \$5.00 to our EJTU chapter without any cost to you? The next time you get a TU renewal notice from the national office pay your dues through the EJTU chapter instead of mailing it to the national office and the chapter will get \$5.00! You can also save the EJTU chapter a few dollars by getting your Riffles via E-mail instead of by regular mail. You'll get your copy about a week earlier and, as a bonus, any pictures will be in color! Send an E-mail to seidenb@optonline.net with "Subscribe - Riffles" in the subject. You can cancel at any time, so you have nothing to lose.

Ray Cappock

Fly of the Month

TRICOS, any style— with poly wings, hackle wings or wonder wings, or if you have a special dun pattern that works.

Bruce Seiden

National Hunting & Fishing Day Saturday, Sept. 27, 2003

Sportsmen and women are invited to help celebrate NH&F Day by making a special effort to help others understand their role in conservation and their ongoing contributions to the well-being of our natural resources. Individuals are asked to take at least one friend, family member, neighbor, business associate or other acquaintance with them on some type of outdoor activity.

Quote of the Month

"No sport affords a greater field for observation and study than fly fishing, and it is the close attention paid to the minor happenings upon the stream that marks the finished angler."

George M. L. La Branche
The Dry Fly and Fast Water 1914

Fish Story of the Month

One spring semester while I was working to earn my graduate degree, my professor assigned a 25 page paper that would be due in May. I mentioned to her that this would leave me with limited opportunity to catch any of the rainbow trout that would be stocked that April and May but I did not receive her sympathy. She even told me, in time, to stop with the rainbow trout.

But I found a day in March, before I was immersed in the assignment, when the temperature was a little above freezing and I was able to fish in the segment of the Passaic River that contained trout. I have a rule to fish ultralight in brooks and it was warm enough for the trout to chase my small spinner attached to the 2 pound line. I had only fished the stretch once before and I wandered further upstream than I had been before. I was surprised at my luck when I caught a dozen trout at or bigger than 7 inches, with some even in the 10 to 12 inch class. But it was mostly smaller trout with a handful of fingerling rainbows and browns. On occasion I found deeper runs which tended to yield bigger fish.

Then I found an unusually long run which was likely four feet deep and two casts in length where I expected that I might to catch something notable. After a dozen casts yielded nothing I gazed at the run in dismay. Then, after a few more casts I hooked a log or something on the bottom. When the log began to pull against the flimsy rod I thought I may have snagged a sucker since the fish moved slowly and would not quickly come in when I tried to retrieve line. After several minutes I finally saw a brown trout that was hooked on the outside of his mouth. I felt that in the half murky water he was unable to clearly see the artificial and that was the reason why he had hit. I finally beached the fish after failing to grab him by the gills. I stepped out of the stream onto the bank to hold up and look at a 17.5 inch native brown which may have been six years old. I felt lucky. The brown weighed 2 pounds and 2.5 ounces and had a 5 inch fingerling brown in its stomach. There was nothing else biting in that big pool but the large brown - it had cannibalized and chased everything away.

David Molaris

Instructor Needed

Clifton fly tying class is in need of an instructor for their Monday night fly tying classes. If you can help please call Doug Penna at (201) 288-4409

Ramapo Ramblin'

It seems like only yesterday that we were assisting the state with float stocking trout for the spring season, doing clean ups, Biological Assessment Team Surveys (BATS), co-hosting the Ramapo Day event for 150 kids, etc. Now we look ahead to the fall season, possibly the best time of the year for trout fishing. We will once again assist the state with stocking the Ramapo in October and of course the EJTU private stocking in November. We are planning a possible cleanup and tree planting at Bear Swamp Brook, a BATS survey in November, a possible fishing derby for kids, and retrieving and checking water monitors. About 4 years ago the N.J. State Department of Environmental Protection divided the state into 20 watershed areas and designated them as Watershed Management Areas [WMA]. The object was to try to improve lakes and streams by educating the public to the need for conservation and clean water and to make proposals and suggestions to the Public Advisory Committee [PAC] which in turn analyzes the suggestions and passes them to the DEP for consideration. Our main concern is with WMA3 which includes the Ramapo, Wanaque, Pequannock and Pompton Rivers. Rich Malizia is our representative and I am chairman of the Education and Outreach Committee. If, during your fishing trips, you come across something that is causing pollution or if you see a situation that you would like to have checked out, please let us know and we will follow up. Our concern is the rivers and ponds in Bergen and Passaic counties. At the time of this writing the Bergen County Freeholders have made no decision concerning the request by Ramsey to install two well heads at the Ramapo Reservation. One well would be within fifty feet of the Scarlet Oak Pond and in a drought year it could draw down the pond about twenty five feet and also effect the flow of the Ramapo river. Ramsey wants the wells because they claim the water tastes better than water from United Water whose pipes lay next to Ramsey's existing pipes and could easily be hooked into! Rich Malizia made a presentation in opposition to the wells for the EJTU board. I have been receiving excellent reports from fishermen who have been fishing various sections of the Ramapo. One fisherman who keeps a journal of each

trip tells me that he has not been to the Flat Brook or other streams this year because of his successes on the Ramapo only fifteen minutes from home. He told me that he caught and released one hundred twenty five trout in one week this spring! He said that three years ago he was a member of the "Chain Gang" but then he met an EJTU member who introduced him to fly fishing and the rest is history.

I am still in need of fish stories. EJTU has about 800 members so I am sure that many of you have stories to tell. Your story may go back many years or it may have happened yesterday, and it can be funny or serious. The story will be used in Riffles so it should be five hundred words or less. It may be hand written if legible. It may be modified to fit into the available space if necessary. Send your story to me at hermaril@aol.com or snail mail it to Herm Drenth, 235 Roosevelt Ave. Elmwood Park NJ 07407. The winning story for the year will win a dozen flies.

There are now about one hundred members on my E-mail list. If you would also like to be on the list and receive notices of coming activities, information on conservation, some points of interest, etc., please send your name and address and your E-mail address to me at hermaril@aol.com. This information will not be given to anyone else.

Because of all the rain we have been having the rivers have been high so be sure to fish with a buddy, carry a fully charged cell phone or at least carry a good police type whistle to alert others if you are in trouble. Bill Borowski informs me that there is a whistle available that works even when full of water! To alert others if you get in trouble, give three blasts on the whistle as this is the universal signal that someone needs help.

Until next time, bend back the barbs, keep the lines tight and remember that we all live downstream, See you there!

God Bless America

Herm Drenth

Connetquot Trip

On November 14, East Jersey Trout Unlimited will have a trip to the Connetquot River State Park on Long Island. This is the time of the year when the sea run brook trout start to show up. The cost for the day's fishing 8 AM - 5 PM is \$40.00. A director will be available at our monthly meetings to take your reservation and payment. Full payment must be made when signing up for this trip.

The trip is limited to thirty fishermen.

John Roetman

Riffles by Email

We have been emailing Riffles for a few months now and those who have signed up for email delivery seem to be quite happy with it. Besides getting Riffles earlier, they have been getting it in color. If you haven't signed up yet, give it a try.

Upon receiving your request, we will send you the last issue along with instructions for opening it. You can read it on your screen or if you prefer a paper copy, print it. If you are not happy with it, you can cancel at any time.

Just send an email to:

seidenb@optonline.net

with "Subscribe - Riffles" in the subject. Be sure to include your full name and if possible your TU membership number. Not only will you receive Riffles earlier, you will help the chapter save money on postage.

Bruce Seiden



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