



Riffler

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 34

April 2004

Issue 4

President's Beat

In his *Essay on Man*, Alexander Pope wrote: "Hope springs eternal in the human breast: man never is, but always to be blest." Winter has finally loosened its grip and Spring is upon us. Back on Sunday March 14th, Elmer Hopper and I spotted our first robins of the year. Look carefully at those that you see; they are bound for northern latitudes and are larger than the later arrivals which will take up residence here during the summer.

My sincerest thanks to everyone who helped make the Annual Dinner a success -- the sponsors, merchants, participants and especially the Dinner Committee: Karen and Bill Canning, Barbara and David Wedlick. These four dedicated people have worked the past eleven and a half months making sure each of the many pieces to the puzzle fit together.

I would also like to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation of the entire Chapter to Basil Santamaria and all of the folks who helped him with the myriad jobs at the Outdoor Expo in Suffern. These people put in many hours not only during the Expo, but also with all of the needed preparation and follow-through tending to the minutia; as the Dinner Committee will attest, "the devil is in the details." (N.B. Basil and his team were able to surpass last year's profits even though most of the vendors noted that the foot traffic at the Expo was much lighter than in the past.)

Without these events, East Jersey TU would not be able to function. We would not be able to pay for the rental of the meeting hall, the speakers, the mailing of *Riffler* and the countless other expenses we incur each year. Please be sure to patronize all the merchants and sponsors who were kind enough to do-

Meeting Notice

When: April 14 at 7:30 PM
Where: American Legion Hall
33 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

April 14
Rod Rourbach
Fishing the Little Lehigh in
Allentown, Pa.

Mark Your Calendars!

May 12
Pete Jacques
Prime Time in the Catskills
June 9
Don Bastian, Ray Bergman
"The Dr. Spook of Fly Fishing"
July 14
Open
August 11
Rich Kustich
Steelhead and Salmon in N.Y.
September 8
Joe Petrella
Lost Art of Wet Fly Fishing

nate to our efforts.

The fun isn't over yet. We will need your assistance for many activities coming up soon. Each Monday evening, the Education Committee is currently (no pun intended) running their annual Fly Fishing for Beginners course in Paramus and they need you to teach students fly-casting and knot tying. (Some experience in either or both is required.) April 24 and 25 is Open House weekend at the

(Continued on page 2)

Help The Highlands!

New Jersey's portion of the national Highlands Region, nearly 800,000 acres covering portions of 90 municipalities in seven counties, needs our help. The area is only 13 percent of New Jersey's land area but it supplies clean drinking water to half of our population, and it contains exceptional natural resources, historical sites, and abundant recreational opportunities.

Senate Bill S1 and its identical Assembly Bill A2635 are designed toward "setting forth a comprehensive approach to the protection of the water and other natural resources of the New Jersey Highlands". Please call your local State Senator and Assemblyperson and express your support for this important legislation. The bills are moving quickly in an attempt to get them passed by Earth Day - April 22 - but developers are trying hard to kill them.

For full text of the bill go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/> and type in S1 in the "Bill Search" box in the upper right corner of the page.

Rich Malizia

Public Programs at the Pequest Trout Hatchery for April

Programs requiring registration are marked with an asterisk (*). Registration opens two weeks prior to program date. To register call 908-637-4125. For updates, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com
***Fly Fishing With Streamers** - Saturday, April 17 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 streamers and a review of different

(Continued on page 3)

Quote of the Month "... the sporting qualities of a fish are dependent neither on its size nor its weight, but on the effort of concentration, the skill and mastery it demands from the fisherman." *Charles Ritz, A Fly Fisher's Life (1959)*

East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

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Don Ecker

President's Beat (Continued from page 1)

Pequest Hatchery and we need representatives at our table to talk to visitors about the work we do at EJTU.

April 15 through May 21, the Conservation Committee is in need of "angler power" as they assist the State in the trout stocking of the Ramapo. They meet at Glen Gray Road each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. for coffee, set-up and fish tales.

Ramapo Day, in conjunction with Ramapo College, will be held in June. The Committee is expecting 120 students from schools in the surrounding area. EJTU will be doing a B.A.T.S. as well as demonstrating fly tying and fly-casting, and members are needed for these and other stations.

It is important that we interest and encourage new people, especially the youngsters, to join us in the sport of trout fishing and, moreover, conservation. For these and other events and activities, please check in *Riffles* or, better yet, at our website: www.eastjerseytu.org.

George Petersen

Joan Wulff Fly Fishers

The May 2004 meeting will be at 7 PM on May 6, 2004 in the backroom of the Paramus Ramsey Outdoors Store. Andrea and Glenn Van Benschoten will give a talk on Lakes & Ponds on the Fly.

Karen Canning

Thank You

The EJTU Dinner Committee -- the Wedlick's and Canning's, would like to thank all members, friends and contributors who attended our Annual Dinner on March 19th and made it the success that it was this year.

Looking forward to seeing more of our members at the 2005 EJTU Dinner!

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

EJTU at the Library

The Hackensack Library, located on Main Street in Hackensack, is currently displaying an exhibit from EJTU. Included in the exhibit are displays of various chapter activities including conservation, fishing days and clean ups of local stream banks. Also on display are vintage fly fishing tackle and photos. The exhibit is free and viewing is available during regular library hours.

Larry Hill

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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 so we invite and encourage every member to contribute articles, tips, and stories. The articles may relate to trout, trout fishing, fishing in general or, conservation but, all articles are published at the discretion of the editors and should meet EJTU standards regarding protecting our environment and the merits of 'catch and release' techniques. Pseudonyms may be used but the editors must be informed of the name of the member who writes the article. Email to either:

tu@cataloguepublishers.com or raycapp@optonline.net. Each piece of material that is published 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.

Paul Dahlie

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of Paul Dahlie, a good friend and supporter of East Jersey T.U. Paul addressed our membership in the past and was always available as a resource to us.

He was the Executive Director of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum and an expert on the history of fly fishing in America.

He will be sorely missed.

Fish Way The ABC's of Fly-Fishing Fly Lines

Fly lines come in many shapes, called tapers. These can include weight forward (the most popular), double taper, bass taper, rocket taper and so forth.

Don't be confused. The most useful tool for all around trout fishing is the weight forward, floating line. These are from 90 to 105 feet in length, with the front (or head) section thicker than the rest of the line so that the angler may cast the fly more easily. Look at the box and you will see a designation WF5F. This reads: weight forward, 5 weight, floating fly line. Double taper lines will appear as DT5F; a sinking line will be WF5S and so forth. These are special use items.

Remember that the day in and day out workhorse is the weight forward floating fly line. With this you will be able to make both the standard and roll casts of 15 to 50 feet which are needed in fishing the streams of the Northeast.

Fly lines are expensive. Expect to pay from \$44 to \$62. However with a reasonable amount of care, they will last you a long time. There are less expensive lines on the market but they are strictly entry-level and you will soon become frustrated with them. These are shorter than the standard lines and the coatings are prone to premature wear. Remember the adage: "You get what you pay for".

To check a line for excessive wear, peel off 15 feet of line and starting with the following section, which gets the most wear and tear from casting, run the line between the joint of a finger (the most sensitive part). If you detect any rough spots, the line will need to be replaced as these reveal weak areas in the line.

If the line seems to lose its ability to float or does not cast as easily as it once did, the line is probably dirty (and you have been fishing it for many hours, lucky you). Cleaning modern fly lines is an easy task. Simply remove the line from the reel (N.B. there is no reason to disconnect it from the backing) and drop it into a basin with some luke warm water and a drop or two of any mild liquid dish detergent. Remove the line and rinse in clear, cold water; wipe dry and you are finished. As the line ages, you may want to use any of the line cleaners, which are on the market today. These

Frank Hall Memorial Fly Tying Award

EJTU's panel of experts has voted that Elmer Hopper is the winner of the Frank Hall Memorial Fly Tying Award for the year 2004. Congratulations to Elmer and to all of the participants in this year's event.



George Petersen

Pequest (Continued from page 1)

streamer patterns. Equipment and registration required.

***Living In Venomous Snake Country** - Wednesday Evening, April 21 at 7 p.m. Learn how to identify venomous snakes. Join Senior Zoologist Kris Schantz from the Endangered and Nongame Species Program who will discuss the biology, behavior and research being conducted on the endangered timber rattlesnake. Kris will also teach you how to properly identify species that are often mistaken for venomous snakes. For ages 8 and up and not recommended for the very young. Registration is required.

Plant A Tree For Wildlife - Weekend of April 24. Mark Earth Day and Arbor Day by planting a tree for wildlife. Visitors to Pequest will receive a seedling grown in the N.J. Bureau of Forest Management's nursery while supplies last.

***Earth Day Program - Pequest Tree Hike** - Saturday, April 24 at 1 p.m. Hit

(Continued on page 4)

are applied by dabbing a small amount on a clean cloth and running the line through as you put the line back onto the reel.

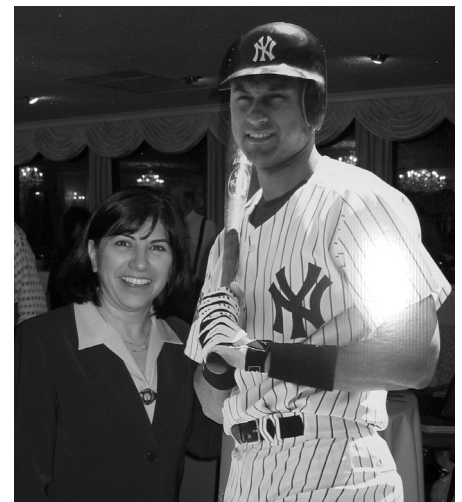
As you gain in ability and expertise, you will want to experiment with the other tapers. For example, in still water conditions, i.e. lakes and ponds, or the faster flows when fish go deeper, a sink tip line will be the tool of choice. (WF5S/F.) The running part of the line floats but the first 15 feet, the tip, sinks.) However most anglers find that they need only a weight forward, floating line matched to the size designated on the rod.

George Petersen

Again and Again...



Ron Gherardi wins the BIG prize again! (and again, and again, and again.....) Linda Gherardi gets to take home Derek Jeter two years in a row!



Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Rendezvous

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild is holding its 2nd annual Fly Tyers Rendezvous on Saturday, April 17, 2004 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Rockland House Restaurant in Roscoe, NY. Free admission.

Elmer Hopper

NJ State Trout Stamp Art Contest

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Partnership for Youth and Wildlife Conservation, and **Trout Unlimited** are cosponsoring the first trout stamp art contest for young artists between the ages of 13 and 18.

Each young artist will receive a certificate in recognition of his or her participation and the winning entry will receive a \$1,000 cash prize.

Selection of the winning entry, to be judged by representatives of the three cosponsors and members of the wildlife art community, will be based upon origi-

(Continued on page 4)

Ramapo Ramblin'

As I write this article it is snowing but when you read it you will be anxiously awaiting the opening day of trout season. As in past years, EJTU will assist the state in stocking the Ramapo. The state will do all of the pre-season stocking from bridges because they want fishermen to have plenty of trout on opening day, and we will join the stocking on April 15 and continue every Thursday until the end of May.

We will bucket stock both at Britts' Tackle Shop on West Oakland Avenue in Oakland and on a section upstream from Halifax Road, but our main thrust will be at Glen Gray Road where we meet at 9:30 AM for coffee, donuts and tall fish tales. There, through the courtesy of Bruce Seiden and Ed Sikorski, we will use two boats to float stock about 2 miles of the river, upstream and downstream from the bridge. On average we receive about 350 trout each week, depending on the amount available. It is extremely important that we have good turnouts for the stocking to demonstrate our interest to the state. The new sign-in sheet will have a statement attesting that you are in good enough health to do the project and that neither Trout Unlimited, EJTU, nor its officers and members can be held responsible for any injury or death.

Representatives from towns and counties

Art Contest (Continued from page 3)
nality, execution and relevance to New Jersey trout fishing. Entries can be, but are not limited to, New Jersey trout fishing scenes, species of trout found in New Jersey, and pictures of equipment used in trout fishing (fishing flies, tackle, etc.). Entries must be submitted to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife office no later than June 1, 2004, so go to <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/> for full details.

Upper Delaware Trip June 4, 5, 6, 2004

We will be staying at Lee Hartman's Indian Springs Camp on the Upper Delaware River. Arrive Friday evening; float trip on Saturday; walk waded on Sunday. Price per person is \$400.00, which includes two nights lodging, all meals, float trip, and guided fishing on Sunday. To make a reservation call John Roetman (201) 447-1810

in New Jersey and New York are holding meetings to try to reduce the feces coliform in the Ramapo. In all probability every river has some feces in the water because there are three major sources of it. The first is from animals such as deer, cattle, horse farms, and house pets (a new law requires that every town must have a law requiring people to pick up after their pets). The second is from birds; e.g., geese deposit one pound of feces per day per goose. Because of this a new law in Bergen County may be in effect by the time you read this. It prohibits feeding geese and fines violators \$50. The third is from man, primarily by seepage from septic systems and antiquated sewage plants that overflow after heavy rains. The State of New York now pumps much of their sewage over land to the Hudson River. They now plan to build a "state of the art" sewage plant on the Ramapo about a half-mile from the New Jersey border with clean but warm water being returned to the Ramapo. We are waiting for one of the officials to fill a glass and drink it! This is also the general area where United Water and the local towns have their wells!

New storm water laws mandating that storm sewers have "Do not dump" messages on them will soon be mandatory in all towns. We have all heard of acid rain, but fertilizer washed into rivers via storm sewers and from golf courses, farms and lawns provides a greater amount of chemicals that cause algae to flourish. Trout need clean cold water! Rich Malizia and I will be attending the meetings of a new organization called the Cold Water Forum. It is geared to making the rivers clean and cool for trout.

The Hackensack River Coalition announced its ECO program for this year with ECO walks scheduled for April 24, May 22, Sept. 25, Oct. 16 and Nov. 13.

A donation of \$10 per adult and \$5 for children under 12 is requested. They rent kayaks and canoes at Laurel Park in the Meadowlands and also have guided paddle tours. Anyone interested should call 201-968-0808 or EMAIL kathyu@hackensackriverkeeper.org.

You can now get Riffles via Email! Contact Bruce Seiden at seidenb@optonline.net and you will help save the club a buck or two in mailing expense. If you would like to get on my EMAIL list, send your name and EMAIL address to me at hermaril@aol.com.

It looks like it is time to close up the old store for this month. God Bless America.

Herman Drenth

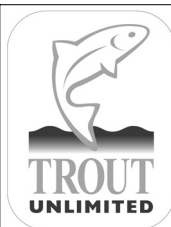
Pequest (Continued from page 3)

the trail with Pequest staff and learn how to identify some common trees of the Pequest W.M.A. This program will also include a discussion of how we use this valuable natural resource. Make sure you wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. For ages 8 and up. Registration is required.

***Fly Fishing For Beginners** - Sunday, April 25 at 10 a.m. Wildlife Conservation Corps members of the East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited return for another five-hour fly fishing workshop. Topics include equipment, knot tying, entomology, stream tactics and casting techniques. For ages 12 and up. Registration required.

Coming in May -- **Open House/Fish Festival** -- May 22 & 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Kids' activities, casting, conservation groups, research and management tools demonstrations, wildlife artists and taxidermists, fish cleaning and cooking. Save the date!

The Pequest Hatchery Center is located on Rt. 46 nine miles west of Hacketts-town in scenic Warren County. Open 10 am to 4 p.m. daily and admission is free.



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