

# Riffler

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 34

June 2004

Issue 6

## President's Beat

The Chairman of our Conservation Committee, Herman Drenth, uses the succinct reminder, "We all live downstream." He means that everything we do affects someone and some place else. Not one of us lives in a vacuum. What we do now reverberates and sometimes multiplies, whether it is in the use of salt on roads in ecologically sensitive areas (now banned in many states in New England) or a homeowner's use of pesticides and herbicides. Consider the common battery: physicists tell us that the average dry cell takes seven times the amount of energy to manufacture than it will ever produce.

Another case in point is the knuckleheads who have released exotics from their aquariums into fresh water environments because the fish were too much trouble or the owners were simply tired of the care and feeding these creatures required. (I'm referring particularly to the snakefish, which have infested the streams, rivers, ponds and lakes in Maryland.) These few people are impacting many others by these acts of unthinking carelessness.

While we can't change that situation, we can act in other ways. By acting responsibly, we can all be better stewards of this world in which we live. As a career educator, I know that actions bear the most effective witness to our beliefs.

In the same light, consider volunteering for one or more of the Chapter's conservation events: June 5 Ramapo Day, in conjunction with Ramapo College at Halifax Road; June 12 at the Meadowlands Water Festival; Verona Enviro Day on July 25; or at any of the clean-up days, tree plantings or the events at the Pequest Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center. It is important that

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Meeting Notice

**When:** June 9 at 7:30 PM  
**Where:** American Legion Hall  
33 West Passaic Street  
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

**June 9**  
**Don Bastian & Ray Bergman**

**The Dr. Spook of  
Fly Fishing**

### Mark Your Calendars!

**July 14**  
**Swap - Trade - Sell - Tie**  
See Page 2 for Details

**August 11**  
**Rich Kustich**  
**Steelhead and Salmon**  
**in New York State**

**September 8**  
**Joe Petrella**  
**Lost Art of**  
**Wet Fly Fishing**

*All programs include a slide presentation*

### Quote of the Month

"With the exception of painting, nothing in this life has held my interest as much as fishing. Fishing with a fly, bait, a handline; I don't much care. Fishing, in my estimation, is not a hobby, a diversion, a pastime, a sport, an interest, a challenge or an escape. It is a necessary passion."

**Russell Chatham**  
**Dark Waters (1988)**

## Meadowlands Festival June 12, 2004

The organizers of the Meadowlands Festival expect 10,000 people to attend this year's event in Laurel Hill Park and EJTU is one of the groups that will be there.

We will show visitors how to tie flies and how to use a fly rod, we will have tables in a booth where we will distribute information and sell a few caps and cups - and, we will sell ice cream.

What? Ice cream? Yes, that's right, we will sell ice cream. The event organizers have given us a separate location at which we will satisfy the sweet tooth of visitors while bolstering the chapter's treasury.

This annual festival is a popular, fun, family activity with a variety of exhibitors. It's located in the same park where the Hackensack Riverkeeper operates his tours, where there is a boat launch ramp and where canoes can be rented.

EJTU will be at the event from 9 AM until 5 PM so we can use all the help we can get. We would like to have two shifts so, if you can help out only in the morning or the afternoon or for a few hours, that's fine. You will have a great time at the event so why not come out and help your chapter?

If you can spare a few hours contact Rich Malizia at our June 9 general meeting or by Email to [remqcp@peoplepc.com](mailto:remqcp@peoplepc.com)



## East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

### Board of Directors

#### President

George Petersen

#### 1st Vice-President/Treasurer

Bruce Seiden

#### 2nd Vice-President

Bob Ribar

#### Recording Secretary

Bill Canning

#### Membership Secretary

Ed Sikorski

#### Conservation Chairman

Herman Drenth

#### Education Director

Doug Penna

#### Trips/Pequest Programs

Bob Novak

#### Speakers

John Roetman

#### Merchandise

Basil Santamaria

#### Riffles Editors

Gary Heger

Ray Cappock

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

#### Points

Ken Vander Pyl

#### Dinner

Dave & Barbara Wedlick

#### Shows

Basil Santamaria

#### Publicity

Larry Hill

#### Director at Large

Karen Canning

#### Web Master

Bill Borowski

#### Federation of Sportsmen's Rep

Ray Cappock

#### Founding President

Don Ecker

#### President's Beat (Continued from page 1)

EJTU be a visible force in the important issues of environmental awareness. Please make it a habit to check our web-site ([www.eastjerseytu.org](http://www.eastjerseytu.org)) on a regular basis. These kinds of activities make surrounding communities aware of the goals of Trout Unlimited in general and the East Jersey Chapter in specific. Many times during these events we are able to explain to passersby not only what we are trying to accomplish on that particular day, but also our general missions.

As a bonus, we can usually sign up new members, if not for our Chapter, then for T.U. National. In the past, you all joined Trout Unlimited for very good reasons; now is the time to put those ideas and ideals into action. Our committees need you to assist them in their various tasks.

By your actions and deeds, help us to spread the good word. Together we can and will make a difference.

*George Petersen*

## September in Maine

Once again it's time to plan for our fall trip to Maine where we will be fishing the West Branch of the Penobscot River for Landlock Salmon and Brook Trout. The dates are September 11th - 18th, and the cost is \$250 per person, plus overnight lodging in Freeport. Lodging will be at Prays Cottages on the West Branch of the Penobscot River. We will drive to Freeport Maine on Saturday the 11th and stay overnight, then drive to the camp on Sunday the 12th. For further information or to make a reservation call Elmer Hopper (973) 256-1368

*John Roetman*

## Fly of the Month

June - Things are getting hot, and I don't mean the weather. The hatches we dreamed of all winter are in full swing.

The Mayflies both large and small have got our attention. March Browns, Green Drakes, Sulfurs, & Olives have all been getting the trout's attention as well.

The next time you come home from a day's fishing and sit down at your vise to refill your fly box, how about tying a dozen extra for your 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 is still quite lean, and we need your help in getting it rebuilt. 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*

## Swap - Trade - Sell - Tie

The July general membership meeting will feature three special events.

Any member who brings fishing related or fly tying items will have the opportunity to swap, trade or sell the items at tables that will be available.

We will have members tying flies and answering your questions about tying. So, if you want to know how to tie a particular fly, come to the meeting and an experienced tyer will show you how it's done.

There will also be a special, one-night raffle of an Aurora Headlamp and a selection of flies tied by Fishy Fullum in a box signed by Fishy. The proceeds will be used to aid the chapter's general fund.

*John Roetman*

How to contact us:

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

Mailing Address:

East Jersey Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Box 366 HoHoKus, NJ 07423-0366

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

## What's New for EJTU's 2005 Annual Dinner & Fundraiser?

**New Location**

Wayne Manor

**New Day**

Saturday, March 19, 2005

**New Time**

Hospitality Hour: 6:30pm

Dinner: 7:30pm

Additional detail to follow!

*The Dinner Committee*

## Fish Ways -The ABC's of Fly Fishing – Take Me to Your Leader

We cannot tie a fly directly to the fly line; that line is merely our weight, helping us to deliver the fly to the fish. Our final connection is the leader and tippet system.

Energy must be transferred from the thick fly line to the thinner and more delicate tippet. In order to accomplish this the leader is either tied in sections, which gradually diminish in diameter, or the monofilament is tapered at the factory. In the early stages of your fly-fishing, stay with the factory (or knotless) tapers, the fewer the knots, the better.

Leaders come in various lengths, from seven and a half to 15 feet; stay with the shorter lengths of seven and a half to nine feet. The longer lengths are for specialized applications, e.g. clear spring creeks.

Here's why: leaders are actually elongated monofilament (picture a needle-shaped nylon, thicker at one end). If you were to begin the day's fishing with a leader tapered to 5x (more about the 'x system' below), each time you tied on a new fly you would gradually work your way up the taper. By lunch break, you might be

forced to use a new leader. (As the day gets progressively warmer, the flies tend to be smaller.)

There is a better solution to the tapering problem, though. Begin by attaching a three-foot piece of tippet to the end of the leader. Tippet material comes in spools of 25 to 30 meters in length. The important fact is that this monofilament is level; the diameter stays the same. Moreover, you can add a piece (12" to 18") of either thicker or thinner material, thus lengthening the life of your leader. These spools cost about the same as the leader. Most anglers carry at least three of these spools of tippet material, the same diameter as the end of the leader, one size larger and one smaller.

You can see why it is wiser to begin using leaders of shorter length. If you add a three-foot section of tippet, you're beginning the day with a monofilament connection of ten and a half feet from the fly line to the fly. That's a difficult situation when you're first trying to catch trout with a fly rod, contending with winds of different

speeds and directions as well as avoiding the alders and willows that just sprang up behind you while you were concentrating on that brown trout sipping light cahills 30 feet upstream.

Allow me to demystify the "x system." This system came into use two centuries ago when leaders were made from a material called "silkworm gut," which actually had nothing to do with the worm's intestines or fortitude but was actually an excretion of the worm. This material had to be drawn through a device called an extruder in order to make it thinner. Thus, a 3x strand was extruded three times. Modern monofilament is not made in this fashion, but we continue to use the 'x' designation. Since you probably have referred to line by its pound test, simply remember the number nine. Subtract the x number from nine and you will have an approximation of the pound test (3x is six pound test).

More on tippets, leaders and materials next month.

*George Petersen*

## Stalking The Skylands' Wildlife Management Area

*(This is a condensed version of an article by Paul Tarlowe, Senior Biologist-Education at Pequest Trout Hatchery,*

*that can be found on the*

*"New Jersey's Great Northwest Highlands" web site, [www.njskylands.com](http://www.njskylands.com))*

There are parcels of state land scattered throughout the Skylands region that are often overlooked by folks seeking wild places to explore. These multiple-use public lands, which are administered by the state Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, are designated Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's). They are managed primarily for hunting and fishing but WMA's are also prime locations for birding, wildlife viewing and photography, cross country skiing, hiking and mountain biking.

Purchased with funds from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and through the Green Acres Program, the Wildlife Management Area System encompasses 27,213 acres in the Skylands and over

237,000 acres statewide. The Division works closely with Green Acres, as well as non-profit conservation organizations, to acquire and manage these lands to benefit both people and wildlife. In addition to providing recreation, the areas safeguard water supplies, preserve open space and provide habitat for endangered as well as common wildlife and plant species.

One reason hunting and fishing enthusiasts find WMA's ideal for their use is that parking areas provide access to prime hunting and fishing grounds. Thriving herds of deer, flocks of wild turkeys and small game provide hunters with thousands of recreation-days. For anglers, some of New Jersey's most fabled trout streams flow through these lands; the Flatbrook, South Branch of the Raritan, Rockaway, Paulinskill, Pequest and Musconetcong rivers are all accessible from WMA's. In partnership with Trout Unlimited and Ramsey Outdoor Stores, the Division has developed accessible sites for people with disabilities in the Flatbrook-Roy and Pequest WMA's.

One of the jewels of the Wildlife Management Area System is the Pequest

WMA off Rt. 46 in Warren County. Here you will find the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, a state of the art facility that produces 600,000 trout for public waters every year. The center, which is open seven days a week (excluding holidays) from 10 AM to 4 PM, caters to schools, organized groups and the general public, presenting programs about a wide range of natural resource topics. Visitors can enjoy a video about the trout rearing operation, a self-guided tour, exhibits, picnic areas and a marked trail network that features a self-guided interpretive Natural Resource Trail.

You can also pursue other activities in the WMA's. Birders, nature photographers and wildlife viewers will find habitats from wetlands to mountain ridges to seek out species. Cross country skiers will find many woods roads suitable for exploration, as will hikers and mountain bikers but, users should be aware of when hunting seasons are in effect. Since hunting is not allowed on Sundays it is probably the best day to enjoy the areas during any of the hunting seasons.

Mountain biking is allowed on existing

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Ramapo Ramblin'

By the time you read this the spring trout stocking season will be history. The 3000 trout we stocked this year were exceptionally nice with many breeder size trout stocked in the first weeks. We want to thank Bruce Seiden for allowing us to use his boat and Ed Sikorski for using his boat in the float stocking operation. Thanks to the following volunteers who made it possible: *Ray Bonte, Ray Cappock, Martin J. Corsano, Herm Drenth, Ron Fletcher, Michael Gallart, Rich Hudak, Herb Janusic, Stewart Lampe, Bill Latham, Roger W. Law, Marty Matuson, Joe McCourt, Toska Mersim, Al Morel, Walter Nahadil, Bob Novak, George Petersen, Andy Preziosi, Ken Vander Pyl, John Rice, Bob Ribar, Frank Schmidlapp, Bob Schneider, Ed Sikorski, John Szep and, Paul Warga.*

If I missed a name please let me know and I will list it next month.

As you know, EJTU is very active. One of the best ways to keep up with all of our activities is to check [www.eastjerseytu.org](http://www.eastjerseytu.org). Bill Borowski does a great job keeping our web page up to date.

There are about 113 members on my EMAIL list where I try to keep everyone apprised of information concerning our up-coming conservation events, reports from DEP concerning NJ fish and wildlife activities, Bergen Sportsmen's reports from our representative, Ray Cappock, and other conservation activities. I do not send out information that is political in nature or information that advertises a fishing lodge or equipment. I do send announcements as requested by our board of directors. I do not give out anyone's EMAIL address except to a board member for EJTU business. My

EMAIL address is [hermaril@aol.com](mailto:hermaril@aol.com) if you would like to be added to my list.

Upcoming events include Ramapo Day on June 5<sup>th</sup>, The Hackensack Riverkeeper's festival on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and Enviro Day, which will be similar to the Ramapo Day event, to be held at the Verona Park Conservatory in Verona, NJ on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Other events planned but not dated are a summer BATS survey, rebuilding the Weir dam upstream from Glen Gray Bridge, and an August electro-shocking.

The town of Mahwah is building bridges over the stream at Henry Lake. When they finish we will begin to work with them on plans to build a handicap platform on the lake.

Various organizations are working on improving the Ramapo by making it a category one river, thereby providing maximum protection from pollution and also requiring that future construction be at least 300 feet from the river. Our goal is to have the stretch along the Glen Gray area designated a conservation stretch. This would allow regular fishing before the last stocking in May and then restrict fishing to catch and release with a limit of one trout over 15 inches per day for the rest of the year.

Rich Malizia informs us that Ramsey's request to install two wells on the reservation has been denied by the Freeholders. Rich worked hard on this because the effect on the Ramapo would have been disastrous. A special thanks to Rich for all of the work he has been doing for conservation. He also reports that two of the bushes planted two and a half miles up the mountain at Bear Swamp brook were stolen!

Ed Sikorski will soon place our temperature monitors in the Ramapo and Bear Swamp Brook. If you see one - a pipe

about 7 inches long capped at both ends with a chain attached - we request that you leave it alone.

Got to go, the white cahills are hatching on the Ramapo! Tight lines and leak free boots! God Bless America.

*Herm Drenth*

### **Stalking** (Continued from page 3)

trails and secondary roads in the WMA's from March 1 to April 15 and from June 1 to September 15, as well as all Sundays throughout the year. Bikes may be used on major designated trails, like the Highlands Trail that passes through Berkshire Valley and Wildcat Ridge WMA's, year round. However, they are prohibited from riding over any dam, wildlife food area, cultivated field, lawn, garden and fire break plow-line. Bikers are also prohibited from establishing any new trails through the destruction of existing vegetation.

WMA's vary from extremely rugged terrain (Wildcat Ridge WMA) to a level wooded road (along the South Branch of the Raritan through Ken Lockwood Gorge WMA). You can locate the areas by studying the Official Transportation Map and Guide available from the Division of Travel and Tourism (call 1-800-JERSEY-7) but, because the existing areas continually expand and new areas continue to be added, WMA land is hard to keep up with. So, for information and for maps of specific areas, contact the Division's Pequest office at 908-637-4125.

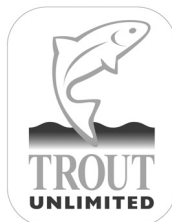
For more information about wildlife management areas contact the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, 605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863-9748, or call 908-637-4125.

## Joan Wulff Fly Fishers

The JWFF's June meeting will be our annual picnic, to be held on Sunday, June 6th. This year it will be at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, and Joan Wulff will be attending.

There will be no general meetings in July or August. Our next general meeting (as always, the first Thursday of the month) will be on Thursday, September 2, 2004.

*Karen Canning*



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

First Class  
Postage Paid  
Permit  
76  
Fair Lawn NJ  
07410