



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 34

July 2004

Issue 7

President's Beat

In the Book of Isaiah, a passage reads, "A voice of one crying out in the wilderness." In 21st Century America we need the voices of many, crying out for the wilderness.

Allow me to extend my sincerest thanks and congratulations to all those who pressured our politicians to pass the legislation protecting the Highlands from rampant development. Congratulations also to Governor McGreevey and all the members of the State Senate and Assembly who voted for the passage of this important law. These are the types of actions we need as our population and our need for clean water and open spaces continues to expand.



On June 23, I and other members of the EJTU's Conservation Committee were fortunate to be able to take a trip through the Hackensack Meadowlands with the Riverkeeper, Captain Bill Sheehan. Captain Sheehan showed us examples of what one person, along with a group of dedicated personnel, are able to accomplish. The lower Hackensack River, at one time almost devoid of fish life, is now home to over 60 species of fish and 265 bird species. All of this has been accomplished while the tract that comprised 21,000 acres of wetlands less than 50 years ago was reduced to the 8,400 acres remaining today.

(Continued on page 2)

Meeting Notice

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

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

Mark Your Calendars!

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

"I waded to shore where I sat and considered the inconsistency of anglers in general and the dumbness of one in particular."

Ray Bergman
Trout 1949

Congratulations

Congratulations and thanks to the following EJTU members who volunteered time and effort in support of our chapter and its activities.

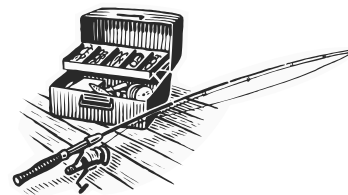
150 points <i>Polo shirt</i>	Herb Janusee and Bill Latham
500 points <i>Green Jacket</i>	Carl Hoetzel, Ed Marshak and Ken Vander Pyl
750 points <i>License</i>	Ray Adam and Ray Cappock
1,000 points <i>Beer stein</i>	Barbara Wedlick and Dave Wedlick
2,500 points <i>Fleece jacket</i>	George Petersen
6,000 points <i>Trout carving</i>	Bruce Seiden
8,000 points <i>Life membership</i>	Bill Borowski

Ken Vander Pyl

Hurry! Hurry!

Remember those EJTU raffle tickets that you got in the mail and were planning on sending back with a check? Well, the drawing for that great fishing outfit - rod, reel and even the line - will take place at the general membership meeting on July 14th.

So fill out your tickets and send them along with your money to the chapter as soon as you can. How often are you given a chance to win a \$975 fishing outfit for tickets that only cost five bucks?



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Don Ecker

President's Beat (Continued from page 1)

The Hackensack Riverkeeper Organization performs the valuable task of patrolling the river and reporting problems and possible sources of pollution. It also takes an active political role in protecting these valuable wetlands, which are the nursery of many marine species and an asset in the early stages of the food chain upon which we all ultimately depend. In that same vein, I would like to thank the members of East Jersey Trout Unlimited who volunteered their time at the Meadowlands Water Festival on Saturday, June 12 and at Ramapo Day on the previous Saturday, June 5. These good people were instrumental in spreading the message of what we do as a conservation organization, making people aware of the value of protecting our watersheds and their inherent values. Last month I ended my column by saying: "Together we can and will make a difference."

Let us always keep in mind the words of Henry David Thoreau who wrote: "In wildness is the preservation of the earth."

George Petersen

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

Fly of the Month

The major hatches of spring are winding down. The hatches that are taking place are getting later and later in the day. The middle of the day is void of insect activity, or is it?

It's TERRESTRIAL TIME, time to find yourself a stretch of river with overhanging branches and put on that ant or beetle pattern you prefer.

Whether it's the quick site ant, fur ant, crowe beetle, simple foam beetle, or a fancy hopper pattern, now is the time. These are some of the easiest patterns to tie, and some of the most deadly. If you don't fish them all summer, you are missing some great opportunities.

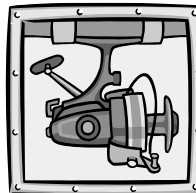
Tie up one of these, or any other pattern, and turn them in at the next meeting. You will receive 10 points and an entry into the monthly drawing for every dozen flies you turn in. More importantly, you will be helping your chapter raise funds for our various projects. The chapter's fly inventory is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

Catskill Flea Market

How about tying up a dozen fleas for the chapter - oops, wrong column! But, if you have any excess fishing or fishing-related equipment that we can sell at the Saturday, August 28 Catskill Flea

Market please get it to Doug Penna. Doug will be representing EJTU at the flea market and he will need donated items to sell. He will use any equipment that is not sold at the Chapter's July 14th Sell/Swap meeting but he can use a lot more.



How to contact us:

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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 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.

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 details to follow!

The Dinner Committee

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

Last month I wrote about monofilament, but we have another player in the game, flourocarbon. This looks like monofilament, but its properties allow it to virtually disappear under water, making it popular with anglers fishing underwater flies, e.g. nymphs or streamers. Flourocarbon is more abrasion resistant than mono, though its diameter is also greater for the same pound test.

A note of caution at this point: flourocarbon has a higher specific gravity than water. In other words, it sinks. Consequently it might drag your dry fly under water. The remedy for this is to use a smaller diameter (and hence a lower pound test) when using flourocarbon with dry fly applications.

Be careful when tying knots with this material. Most standard knots will work, but they might need an additional turn or two. (One example is the Surgeon's knot which needs three rather than the standard two turns to be secure.) Knots in flourocarbon must be well lubricated and tightened s-l-o-w-l-y.

Ninety-five percent of a trout's meals are found on or near the stream bottom and that's where we must get our fly. We accomplish this by adding weight to the body of the fly when it is tied. Another deadly method is to use an unweighted nymph or streamer with a short section (6"-8") of weighted leader. According to prevailing conditions, the angler can customize these sections.

There is no need to get too elaborate with these set-ups, just keep the final section of mono short so that it follows the lead of the weighted section. Otherwise you will have a situation where the weighted leader is on the stream bottom (where you want it) and the fly is floating merrily much higher in the water column.

The time-honored method of sinking flies is to attach various weights to the leader/tippet. There are lead substitutes for sale, which are more environmentally sound and hence preferable alternatives. Companies such as Loon Products market various pastes which will sink flies. These same pastes may be applied to leaders and tippets

to make them sink farther. N.B. All leader/tippet lengths mentioned will vary according to current speed and water clarity.

One last observation: books and videos usually show a cast wherein the fly lands on the end of a perfectly straight tippet. This is the last thing you want. The fly should arrive at the fish's lie naturally, floating at the same speed as the sticks, leaves and other detritus. Streams are not like tabletops, i.e. smooth, but rather laced with currents of varying speeds. In order to have the artificial appear natural, we must throw some curves (or slack) into our terminal tackle. To accomplish this, use the softest or limpest tippet you can. The currents will gradually straighten the line, but your fly will float longer without unnatural motion or drag caused by the tippet pulling on the fly.

(Previously I mentioned the "fish's lie," actually fish don't lie; fishermen do.)

George Petersen

IMPORTANT NOTICE The Maine Trip Updates

Our fall trip will be a little earlier than we had originally planned. We will still fish the West Branch of the Penobscot River for Landlock Salmon and Brook Trout but, the dates have changed.

**The new dates are
August 15th - 21st.**

Lodging will be at Prays Cottages on the West Branch of the Penobscot River, where we will have a cottage with room for six people. The cost is \$300 per person, plus overnight lodging in Freeport. We will drive to Freeport, Maine on Saturday the 14th and stay overnight, then drive to the camp on Sunday the 15th.

For further information or to make a reservation call Elmer Hopper (973) 256-1368

Joan Wulff Fly Fishers (Gone fishin')

The members of the JWFF are out fishing during July and August so there will be no general meetings in those months. Our next general meeting (as always, the first Thursday of the month) will be on Thursday, September 2nd.

Karen Canning

Summertime Fishing

I had the opportunity to fish one of my favorite sections of the Willow for a few hours in the evening last week. Water was low and clear. Three fishers were in the big pool so I settled for a riffle down stream. It was after 7 when I arrived and there were several different bugs about. No real hatch but enough to keep the fish interested. I had several fish follow and a few solid takes. Darkness closed me out a little after 9 after having caught a half dozen browns and one brookie.

The next night I was able to return to the same place. As I approached I realized the big pool was open. Several fish were rising but with little consistency. My bug of choice was one that worked the night before. The first "take" resulted in the fly popping back at me. Was I too fast? The next "take" resulted in a hook up on the outside of the fish's mouth. Several other hook-ups were in the very tip of the upper jaw. What was happening is not unusual when the water is slow and crystal clear. I experimented on a few close fish and watched as they opened their mouths, took the fly in, but kept their mouths open and simply let the fly float right out. The fish were actually taking the fly but not closing their mouths on the fly because it was not exactly what they wanted. This type of refusal is most frustrating. My ego was supported a bit when two gents fishing downstream came by and lamented the same experience.

The moral is that the clearer the water the more precise you have to be in matching the hatch. Riffled water allows for a greater margin of error because visibility is not as good for the fish. Otherwise wait for the next rain and some stained water. Tight lines. Limp Leader.

Rich Malizia

Riverfest 2004

Thank you to all who participated at our booth at the Riverfest. Attendees gathered around our fly tyers and were amazed at the creatures and critters that were created with thread and fuzz. Fly casting instruction attracted both young and old. And we even sold some ice cream. I regret that we did not have enough help to enable those who were there to take a break and visit the other Riverfest activities.

Rich Malizia

Ramapo Ramblin'

There have been a lot of activities for EJTU's conservation volunteers this year. We had a very successful stocking of NJ Fish and Wildlife trout during the seven-week stocking period. We bucket stocked approximately 500 trout at West Oakland Avenue, we float and bucket stocked 2000 more at Glen Gray Bridge, and bucket stocked another 500 at Halifax Road. Some fishermen don't seem to realize that this is in addition to the trout that are tossed off the bridges by the State workers as they always have done!

Over the Memorial Day weekend, there was a large hatch of Light Cahill's and white flies in the evenings. Some of our members said they were catching trout on virtually every cast! One told me that the "poor" bait fishermen couldn't seem to get a hit.

One of our most important activities was Ramapo Day when we invited 120 middle school kids to the field at Halifax Road. The kids were separated into small groups where they learned about non point-source pollution in the environment, they watched fly tying, they had hands-on fly casting practice, they watched our members do a BATS, collecting various nymphs and pupa which the kids then inspected under microscopes. They also witnessed water testing and for a grand finale they released warm water fish into Henry Lake. A special thanks to Dr. Angela Cristini for her work in arranging for the kids who come from Paterson schools and for supplying the microscopes, tables, etc. It was a wet, cold, and dreary day but the kids made it special. This is an annual program that Rich Malizia and Dr. Cristini work on all year long with the assistance of your conservation committee.

We attended the Meadowlands festival

on Saturday June 12. The day was ideal, weather-wise, so about 10,000 people attended. Rich Malizia arranged for EJTU to sell ice cream and we did quite well; a special thanks to Terry Grisoni who was kept busy all day selling ice cream along with Bruce Seiden, Rich Malizia and Don Sirota. Thanks to Doug Penna and George Petersen for their fly tying. Ray Cappock, Ken Vander Pyl, Bruce Seiden and John Grisoni were kept busy teaching kids and adults how to cast a fly. All in all, a great day.

Our coming attraction for July will be a conservation day to be held on Sunday, July 25th at a park in Verona NJ. We will be doing many of the same presentations that we did at Ramapo Day. Again we need people to volunteer their services.

Every volunteer receives 10 points for each participation in an activity. When you get 150 points, you get a neat EJTU shirt and there are other gifts as you accumulate more points. Check this issue of Riffles for a list of members who are being awarded gifts for reaching various levels of participation. So far EJTU's leader in points is John Roetman with over 12,000!

During August we will conduct another BATS and we will rebuild the weir above the Glen Gray Bridge if the water is low enough. We will also help the N.J. Fish and Wildlife do an electro-shocking to try to ascertain whether trout can survive in the Ramapo during the summer.

Contact me at hermaril@aol.com to get on my email list.

Many members are going on vacation to various streams from here to Alaska. Be careful, be safe and tight lines. And remember, we all live downstream.

Herm Drenth

Conservation Committee Chairman

The Electric Fisherman

Not many people know that Thomas Edison, inventor of the light bulb, was an avid fisherman and usually included some trout fishing in his infrequent vacations.

During one such vacation trip to the west he was befriended by an Indian tribe. They provided free room and board, as well as expert fishing guides for his stay.

But on the first night that he stayed with the tribe he discovered that the only sanitary facility was an old-fashioned outhouse. To make things worse, it had no light even though the village had electricity in its homes.

As a thank-you gift for their kindness, Edison purchased the necessary materials and personally installed lighting in the Indians' privy.

He thus became the first person to wire a head for a reservation.



Ugh!

Verona Park Conservation Day

We need a few volunteers for fly tying, fly casting and promoting EJTU on Sunday July 25th from 10 AM to 3 PM. It should be an easy day but we need about 8 volunteers.

This is a great opportunity for those of you looking to get involved with one of our projects. See me at the meeting, call me at 973-304-0789 or e-mail at remqcp@peoplepc.com

Rich Malizia



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