



Riffler

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 35

February 2005

Issue 2

President's Beat

Last month I wrote about issues on the Federal level. This President's Beat needs to address the Home Front (a.k.a. the New Jersey State Legislature). I have some good news and some bad news.

Let's begin with the latter: The State Assembly is considering two bills (A2642 and A2852) which will reorganize the State Fish and Wildlife Council. These bills propose allowing seats on the Council to be held by people whose views are anti hunting and anti fishing. I personally believe that these are ways for Commissioner Bradley Campbell to curry votes from members of these groups. Previously, members of the Council were hunters, anglers and farmers, people who have a vested interest in the preservation of our resources in this, the most densely populated state in the Union. As you are aware, Fish and Wildlife monies come solely from the sales of licenses for fishing and hunting, and not from general State coffers. Why should we allow non-licensed people to hold seats and vote on this important Council? I can't imagine a Town or Borough Council having seats for non residents of their areas. Following this logic (?) we should permit residents of other states to vote for our Governor and State Senators and Representatives.

The other bill, A2634, would put a ban on bear hunting, despite the scientific findings. Once again it appears that logic and even common sense take a back seat to political needs. (Lefty Kreh once said: "Common sense ain't too common.")

On the bright side, S2134 seeks to clarify that the Fish and Game Council has the sole authority to regulate hunting, trapping and fresh water fishing. S1863 and

(Continued on page 2)

Meeting Notice

When: February 9 at 7:30 PM

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

February 9
Marty Iannone
Fishing the Four Seasons of
the Housatonic in Conn

Mark Your Calendars!

March 9
Jerry Stercho,
Fishing the Catskill Rivers

April 13
Dwight landis
Fishing for Wild Trout in
the Forested Streams of
Pennsylvania

May 11
Joe Petrella
Micro Nymphing

June 8
Jerry Stercho
Midge Fishing

Quote of the Month
I must go back to the great
sweet mother, Mother and
lover of men, the sea.

The Sea
by
Algernon Charles Swineburne

The Suffern Show

EJTU will once again have a booth at the March 3 to March 6 Suffern Show, and once again help will be needed. This is an enjoyable event at which we just need some friendly faces and some tiers. So if you can spare even a few hours it will be a big help to the chapter, you will have fun - and you'll get into the show free.

Check the chapter website (www.eastjerseytu.org) or contact Basil Santamaria at Flyfishoutfitter@cs.com or phone him at: (201) 368-7885.

EJTU Fly Fishing and Fly Casting School

Starts: Monday, March 14, 2005

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Westbrook Middle School
Roosevelt Blvd., Paramus

Cost: \$75

This is the acclaimed 8 week course. All materials and equipment will be provided by EJTU

Learn basic casting, equipment, fly selection, entomology, knots, how to fish, where to fish.

For registration call the Paramus Community School, 201-261-7800, (course # SR12)

or call Bob Ribar, 201-995-0107

email RIBBB3@aol.com

The Display is Moving

Doug Penna will move the EJTU display to the Fair Lawn Library on February 1, so stop in and take a look at it. If you can't get to Fair Lawn during February, Doug will have the display in the Mahwah Library during March and April.



East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

Board of Directors

President

George Petersen

1st Vice-President

Bob Ribar

2nd Vice-President

Karen Canning

Treasurer

Bruce Seiden

Recording Secretary

Bill Canning

Membership Secretary

Ed Sikorski

Conservation Chairman

Herman Drenth

Education/Pequest Programs

Doug Penna

Speakers

Mike Gallart

Merchandise

Basil Santamaria

Riffles Editors

Gary Heger Ray Cappock

tu@cataloguepublishers.com / raycapp@optonline.net

Points

Ken Vander Pyl

Dinner

Dave & Barbara Wedlick

Shows

Basil Santamaria

Web Master

Bill Borowski

Federation of Sportsmen's Rep

Ray Cappock

Founding President

Don Ecker

(Continued from page 1)

President's Beat

A3345 provide for matching funds from Trenton to compensate Fish and Wildlife for work done for the Department of Environmental Protection. Isn't it amazing that Commissioner Campbell will ignore the findings of State employed scientists when it fits his political agenda but will utilize the same personnel to do his bidding (providing that the DEP does not pay directly for their services)?

Lastly, some truly good news. As you may already know, the antis have formed an umbrella group to lobby for their causes. Now we sportsmen and recreational anglers have our own such group. I am referring to the newly constituted New Jersey Outdoor Congress (www.njoutdoorcongress.org), whose stated mission is "to fight the serious and ongoing threat to scientific management of New Jersey's fish and wildlife". The New Jersey Outdoor Congress has already been backed by eight national organizations such as Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Quail Unlimited, the N.R.A. and the Safari Club International. 15 State Chapters of these organizations and others (e.g. Jersey Coast Anglers, Bergen Bowmen, Hudson River Anglers' Association, North Jersey Bass Busters) have been pledging their support to the efforts of this group. At the first meeting of the various organizations, an estimated one million sportsmen in our state were represented. This is not an answer but one very good solution. Please visit their website and keep informed of the legislative threats posed to us all.

In *The Liberty Song* (1768) John Dickinson wrote: Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall."

George Petersen

Fly of the Month

The Suffern Show is just around the corner and the chapter's fly inventory is still quite low. The fly sale at the Suffern Show is one of the major fundraisers for our conservation fund, and the main reason for the chapter's fly of the month program.

In light of these facts, February's Fly of the Month will be the *Hot Sellers*. The best selling flies that Basil always runs out of. These include Classic Nymphs, Bead Heads, Standard Catskill Dry Flies, and Streamers.

Tie up a dozen of your favorite pattern and turn it in at the 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. 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

Learn To Tie

As John Roetman writes in another section of this Riffles, "Winter is a great time to learn how to tie flies." So why not learn at the EJ TU classes in Clifton?

The course begins on February 7th at the Clifton High School on Colfax Avenue but, if you can't make the first class you will still learn everything if you start at the February 28th class. The fee is only \$60 for techniques that will last a lifetime.

To sign up, or for more information, call Doug Penna at 201-288-4409

Doug Penna

Be Modern

If you want up-to-date information about EJ TU activities and photos of chapter events, go to www.eastjerseytu.org. Bill Borowski maintains our site, so if you want to send items to him, you can contact him at wsb1@hotmail.com.

To get your copy of Riffles early instead of via snail mail contact Bruce Seiden at seidenb@optonline.net

Herm Drenth

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

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 EJ TU 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.

Fish Ways - The ABC's of Fly-Fishing/Getting Started Tying Flies

Winter is a great time to learn how to tie flies. The fishing seasons have come to an end and the cold winter months lie ahead.

When you decide to start, don't hesitate to ask a fly tier for instruction or advice. Not only about fly tying techniques, but also about what books to purchase to help you get started. Attending a fly tying course such as East Jersey's is one of the best ways to learn how to tie flies.

Here are some ideas on setting up your fly tying area. A tier must have a proper

work area that includes two basics: a table or desk and good light to illuminate the tying area.

Tools needed to tie flies include a good tying vice with either a clamp to attach the vise to the table or a pedestal (pedestal being the most versatile), bobbin, scissors with fine points, tweezers, hackle pliers, and bobbin. Other handy tools to help with fly tying are whip finisher, bobbin cleaner, threader and hair stacker, just to name a few.

Materials that are commonly used include feathers, animal hair, yarns, chenilles, hooks, crazy glue, head cement and tying wax. You can buy all the necessary tools and materials from your local fly shops.

Fly tying is a relaxing, fun filled hobby. A hobby that a fly fisherman can enjoy twice, first when creating the fly and second when catching a fish with the fly he or she tied.

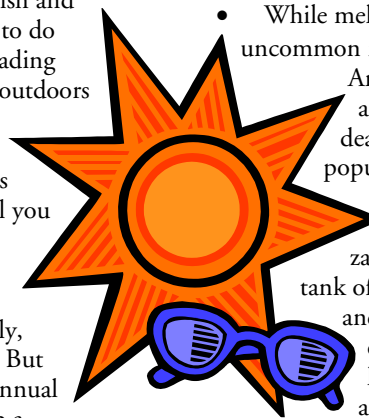
John Roetman

Fishermen Lead Dangerous Lives

I had cancer - specifically melanoma, or skin cancer. OK, so what? Maybe too many days on the beaches in Avon and Belmar came back to bite my Irish and Scotch skin but what's that got to do with you? Well, since you're reading Riffles you probably like to get outdoors a lot. When you do, life-giving Sol - our sun - smiles down on you, keeps you warm, engenders growth in plants and tries to kill you with UV radiation.

My melanoma, located in a place on my body that I couldn't see, was discovered early, removed and has not returned. But after that lucky scare my semi-annual full-body checks have turned up a squamous cell carcinoma and numerous keratoses, all of which might have turned into something more dangerous. I could use the trite phrase, "I don't want to worry you", but, in this case I do want to worry you, so let me list some statistics from www.skincancer.org:

- UV radiation can penetrate many types of clothing.
- UV radiation passes through auto and residential windows.
- More than half of all new cancers are skin cancers
- One person dies every hour from skin cancer.
- The risk of developing melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, has more than doubled in the past decade
- In national skin cancer screenings, 44% of those found to have melanoma are white men over 50 years of age.



- Over 90% of skin cancers are caused by sun exposure.
- Eye melanoma increased 295% between 1973 and 1999.
- Melanoma kills more young women than any other cancer.

- While melanoma is uncommon in African-Americans, Latinos and Asians it is most deadly for these populations.

My dermatologist chats while he zaps keratoses with his tank of liquid nitrogen, and it was during one of these sessions that he first warned me about not depending on clothing to shield me from the sun and about the failure of window glass to absorb UV rays. In fact, he says that the latest research indicates that there are more varieties of UV radiation than was originally thought and that some forms penetrate many of the defenses that we had relied on.

Most scary is that he says that some sunscreens may prevent burning but still pass harmful UV rays. It's felt that this might be the reason for the doubling of melanoma in the past ten years - people are smearing on the sunscreen and then sitting in the sun thinking that they are protected but unknowingly absorbing UV.

The next time you venture out into the sun, wear protective clothing, a broad brimmed hat and UV protective sunglasses. Try to copy those people who must exist in the sun. Did you ever see a farmer or an Bedouin in shorts and Tee shirt?

Ray Cappock

Killer Worms

The House and Home section of the Thursday, October 28, 2004 New York Times carried an article by Ken Druse titled, *Garden Variety Myths* (Page F1). Druse discusses the value of poison ivy (stabilizing sand dunes) and then devotes a section of the article to the supposed beneficial activities of earthworms. These are the last two paragraphs of the article.

It is easy to imagine that earthworms populated the land before humans, but aside from some indigenous species in the Southeast and Northwest, the worms in American gardens generally originated in Asia and Europe. Most of them probably arrived as stowaways in the soil of imported plants.

Other worms, perhaps introduced by fishermen who discarded live bait on stream banks, are causing serious damage to woodlands. They wreak havoc by consuming the leaf litter where tree seeds germinate. The worms process the leaf litter quickly, generating nitrogen at a faster rate than usual decomposition, and they also neutralize the acid in the soil. These conditions favor weeds over woodland plants, which evolved in nutrient-poor and acidic ground."

Welcome to January's New EJTU Members

Tony Cotugno..... Englewood
 Roy Dixon..... Lodi
 Don Fiscella..... Hewitt
 Louis Laneve..... Hackensack
 Richard Lerner..... Alpine
 Frank Maniaci Rivervale
 David Mengle..... Upper Montclair
 David Perthold Bloomfield
 Eugene Schweikert..... Verona
 Seiko Yoshida Tenafly

Ramapo Ramblin'

These are cabin fever days for many of us and during these times it's fun to put our feet up and take a look at how fishing evolved over the years

William Radcliffe's 1926 book, "Fishing From The Earliest Times", states that fishing was well under way in Egypt in 2000 BC, in China as early as 1500 BC and in Greece in 1100 BC.

Joe Brooks' 1972 book, "Trout Fishing", quotes the Greek writer Aelian as writing, "I have heard of a Macedonian way of catching fish between Beroea and Thessilonica. They fasten red wool around a hook and fix on the wool two feathers...", thus describing the first fly.

Leonard Mascall, who wrote, "A Booke of Fishing with Hooke and Line" in 1590, was probably one of the first conservationists when he admonished fishermen to neither kill too many trout, nor fish out of season or for your pleasure and enjoyment when they are spawning.

In 1676, Cotton wrote that fishing was done with a horse hair leader attached to an eye at the end of the "rod". The leader was made of long horse tail hairs, starting with many and tapering down to just one or two at the tippet. White hairs were preferred so they could be dyed easily.

Then, in 1706 R. Howlett wrote, "Angler's Sure Guide", where for the first time running guides were mentioned.

I am including some advice from Dame

Juliana Berner's 1496 book, "A Treatyse of Fysshynge Wyth an Angle", as it still is good advice today. "Then yf Ye wyll be crafte yn angelyng ye muste furst lurne to mak yowr harness that ys to sey your rod your lynys of dy (uers) colors & your hokes after that ye must know how ye schall angel & yn wat places of the watur how depe & wat tyme of the daye for wat maner of fyssche in wat wedur how many Impediments (ts) ther ben yn angling and especially with wat bayt to euery dyuerse fysche yn yche monthe in the yer... and for the most crafty thyng how ye schall make your hokes of steyl of Osmond (Swedish steel) som for to dub & som for the flote". She also described a fly pattern called the cow dung which is still available.

Dame Juliana's book was considered so complete that there never would be need for another fishing book. In fact, Walton was accused of copying parts when he wrote his book, "The Compleat Angler", 150 years later.

In 1848, Samuel Phillipe, a gunsmith from Easton, PA, created the first all bamboo split rod. During the 1865 period, a 13 foot, 12 ounce or more rod was recommended for big fish and a 12 foot, 9

ounce rod for smaller fish. It was said that with this light rod, you could fish all day and not get tired.

Two piece rods with the butt end hollowed out so that the tip end could slide in were also made very early. It was said that this was first invented so the fisherman could slide it inside his pants leg on Sunday mornings so that no one would

know that he was going fishing instead of to church.

The reel was first mentioned in 1651 by T. Barker in, "The Art of Angling", and in 1655 Walton spoke of a "wheele" attached to the middle or closer to the butt on the rod. The first reels were large, crude and made of wood, and had handles to crank them. The Nottingham reel, made in England, was the first "modern" reel.

The first hooks were made from animal bones, eagle's claws and cactus thorns. Is this where the present Eagle Claw hooks gets its name?

Looks like it's time to put away the history books and go find a white horse to get three long hairs from its tail to make a leader!

I want to thank everyone for sending packages and cards to Gwen Harding in Afghanistan over the holidays. She said to thank everyone.

You can also send packages to Chaplain (CPT) Farley, 1-128 IN, OIF, FOB ORYAN, APO, AE 09392. He is in Baghdad, Iraq. Also, in Cuba we have 1SG Sylvia Dean JTF-GITMO 367th MP CO APO,AE 09360. I also have a list of facilities in NJ where items can be sent to our wounded heroes. Contact me at hermaril@aol.com for the list.

If you would like to get on my EMAIL list, just send your name and EMAIL address.

So long for now and remember, safety first when fishing this year!

See you downstream where we all live!

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Herm Drenth



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

First Class
Postage Paid
Permit
76
Fair Lawn NJ
07410