



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 35

September 2005

Issue 9

President's Beat

"It's not nice to fool Mother Nature" went the old commercial for Chiffon Margarine. Maybe we should adopt the more appropriate, "Don't fool with Mother Nature". As we look around the world today, we see ample evidence of this. Hurricanes and tsunamis are teaching us hard lessons.



In the future, Hurricane Katrina will probably be called the worst natural disaster in the history of our Country, having demonstrated how fragile a grip we humans have on our environment.

We have building codes to protect our populations and then think we can erect structures on flood plains, barrier islands and other "delicate" areas. One storm surge and this is all wiped out. (Officials in Atlantic City are looking at the tragedy in Gulfport and realizing that their income is primarily based on casino revenue and these casinos are protected from the Atlantic Ocean by a few yards of sand. What would a twenty foot storm surge do there?)

Each year we witness destruction caused by northeasterly storms, not hurricanes, to homes built on barrier islands in our region (Fire Island for example). Yet state, county and municipal officials allow these structures to be rebuilt time and again. I cannot help but be reminded of the tragedies of ancient Greek Literature wherein the main characters meet their ultimate downfall through "hubris" or pride. Are we guilty of the same fault when we make our vain attempts to hold back the tides or the flood waters?

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Meeting Notice

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

September 14 Floyd Franke

Guide, Head Instructor at The Joan Wulff School of Fly Fishing and Author of "Fish On! A Guide to Playing and Landing Big Fish on a Fly"

Mark Your Calendars!

Future Guest Speakers

October 12 Dave Brandt

Guide and FF Instructor will present "How to Read a Stream" + A Tribute to Lee Wulff, Dave will hand tie a Royal Wulff without a vise

November 9 Don Bastian

Guide, Author and Master Flytyer - program TBD

All programs have a slide show.

Save The Date

2006 EJTU Annual Dinner/Fund Raiser

Location: Wayne Manor
Date: Saturday, March 11, 2006
Time: Hospitality Hour, 6:30 PM
Dinner, 7:30 PM

Connetquot Trip

EJTU is planning a trip to the Connetquot on Tuesday, November 22, 2005.

The \$70 fee for the trip includes the park's fishing fee and also the cost of a bus that the chapter will charter. \$45 for the park alone.

If you would like to reserve a place on the trip please see Karen Canning at the Chapter General Meeting. Please keep in mind that fees are not refundable.

Volunteers Needed

On Saturday, September 17 from 1:30 to 5 PM we will make a presentation at the **Wayne Boy Scout Festival** that will be held at the North Cove Beach in Wayne. We will also need fly tiers and volunteers who can assist with a fly-casting demonstration. The location is off Route 23 North (Service Road to Parrish Dr.) If you can help, contact Rich Malizia at remqcp@peoplepc.com or call him at 973-427-6140.

The **Pequest Hatchery Wildlife Heritage Festival** will be held on Sunday, September 25 from 9:30AM to 4:00PM. Volunteers will be needed to help children fish the hatchery pond with worms and spinning gear. EJTU will also need some help demonstrating fly-tying and selling flies.

This is a good opportunity to help the next generation learn about New Jersey's wildlife and, the event is FREE so tell your friends to come out to the hatchery. If you would like to volunteer please contact George Petersen, grpetersen44@verizon.net, or Bob Ribar, RIBBB3@aol.com, or at our 14 September members meeting.

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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.

How to contact us:

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

Mailing Address:

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

For Membership Information call Ed Sikorski at: 201-337-6396 or email to: dored100@hotmail.com

For Information on trips and other Chapter Activities go to www.eastjersevtu.org

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

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President's Beat

Another example of our tenuous hold is the present situation regarding precipitation or lack thereof. Despite the heavy rains of the first week of April, on Labor Day, September 5, our area is almost ten inches below normal for the year. We are witnessing trees on roadsides and rocky slopes dropping their leaves due to the lack of moisture in the soil. Stream levels



are at extreme lows. (E.g. when EJTU assists the State in its spring stocking, the Ramapo River runs between 200 and 300 cubic feet per second. Much of the flow for the past six to eight weeks has been ten c.f.s.) With all of our present day technological advances, we cannot make it rain.

But we can cause disasters. According to a September 6 release from the Associated Press, a recent edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reports that we are giving our watersheds a high sodium diet. Scientists have been studying streams in New Hampshire, Maryland and upstate New York and all of these areas are experiencing a dramatic rise in the amount of salt in the water, in both streams and reservoirs. This is runoff from salt used to de-ice roadways. One conclusion is that there has been a significant increase in the amount of pavement e.g. roads, parking lots and driveways. Overall there are 2.6 million miles of paved roads in the U.S. This is enough black top to completely pave Ohio (and we're not done yet).

To paraphrase the refrain from the song "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" when will we ever learn?

George Petersen

Fly of the Month

Hopefully the dog days of summer are behind us, the weather will start to cool off and the fishing will improve!

Early in the month we should still see Tricos in the morning and have plenty of action on Terrestrials. Isonychias and a few different Blue Wing Olives should also be around.

With this summer's low water levels many of us didn't get to fish the Trico hatch yet and are still hoping to do so.

This month's *Fly of the Month* will be **TRICOS**, any style. Whether you prefer your Trico spinners with poly wings, hackle wings or wonder wings, or have a special dun pattern that works before the spinners start to fall.

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

Hurricane Katrina

I am pleased to announce that, at its September Meeting, the EJTU Conservation Committee voted unanimously to send a donation to the Red Cross to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. In addition, one of the members works for a large company which will double the amount. Making the donation through him will triple the amount sent for this worthy cause.



**American
Red Cross**

My thanks and congratulations go to the members of the committee for their generosity and thoughtfulness at this time when so many of our fellow citizens are in dire need.

George Petersen

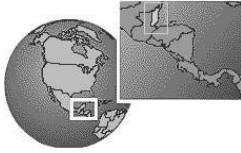
Fishing Turneffe Flats of Belize

On Saturday September 17th at 10:00 AM Ramsey

Outdoors (Paramus) will have a special

program by Jim and Debby Kaye: Fishing Turneffe Flats, Belize.

Turneffe Flats Atoll is noted for its variety of saltwater fly fishing and is one of the rare spots in the world for a legitimate shot at a grand slam - a bonefish, a permit and tarpon. The coffee pot will be on. Plan to join us.



John Roetman

Wildlife Heritage Festival

Make a note on your calendar - this year's Wildlife Heritage Festival will be held at the Pequest Hatchery on Sunday, September 25, 2005

There will be activities for the kids, a falconry demonstration, shotgun range, trout fishing for the kids, and much more. If you know people who might like to attend, have them visit www.fishandwildlife.com or call the Hatchery at 908-637-4125.

The event is sponsored by TU so we would like to have a good showing of EJTU volunteers. If you would like to help out, contact Bob Ribar at 201-995-0107 or RIBBB3@aol.com

Bob Ribar

Fall Fly Tying Classes

EJTU's Fall Fly tying classes will begin soon - and you will once again have two locations to choose from.

The **Clifton High School** program will start on Monday, September 26. The fee for this ten-session program is \$60. For further information call Doug Penna at 201-288-4409.

The classes to be held at **Paramus' Westbrook Middle School** will begin Tuesday, October 11. Details about this program can be obtained by contacting Bob Ribar at 201-995-0107 or ribbb3@aol.com.

Think You Caught A Whopper?

Friday, August 26, 2005; NY Times. Five fishermen in a boat on the Mekong River in Thailand, near Laos hooked a fish that took an hour to land and took ten men to lift when the boat reached shore.

It was a rare giant catfish the size of a grizzly bear. Length - nine feet; weight - 646 pounds. Possibly the largest freshwater fish ever recorded.

Zeb S. Hogan, a National Geographic Society biologist who is conducting a study of the world's largest freshwater fish in hopes of slowing their extinction was quoted as saying that this species (*Pangasianodon gigas*) may be the first to disappear from the Mekong River.

The fishermen who caught this huge, freshwater cat chopped it up and sold it.

Mr. Hogan is trying to identify and study the world's largest freshwater fish, so if you happen to catch one that weighs more than 200 pounds, please contact him.

C. Cerberus

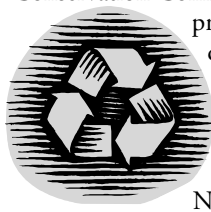
Magazines for Veterans

Herman Drenth, Chairman of EJTU's Conservation Committee is organizing a program that aims to donate fishing, hunting and other outdoors type magazines to the wounded warriors in New Jersey's Veterans

Administration hospitals.

This is a very simple project so our members don't have to go out of their way to participate. Simply put aside those magazines that you usually have to put at the curb with other recyclable material and bring them to membership meetings. Herm will have volunteers pick up the magazines that are collected and then drop them off at local hospitals.

If you have recent magazines that you have read, bring them to our membership meetings (if it's a subscription, cut out your name and address). Remember that it must get awfully boring lying around in a hospital after you've been shot at.



Warm Water Fishing

Did you enjoy this summer's fishing conditions? The water that was flowing sluggishly in our streams in the northeast had the crayfish sweating; NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center reported on August 30 that the ocean temperature at their Atlantic City station was 80.4 degrees; NJ DEP cancelled the Fall 2005 flounder season; and, NJ Fish and wildlife will only stock trout once at each location this October. Is there anywhere nearby to fish?

One place that is close, easy to get to, and usually forgotten is the Hackensack River. Most people think of it as a ribbon of sludge that oozes along next to the NJ Turnpike but, while our freshwater streams have been warm and low, the old Hacky keeps refreshing itself by blending spurts of fresh water from upstream with the salt water that sloshes in and out with each tide.

There are schools of baitfish (along with watchful herons) and many carp in the sections in Riveredge and New Milford that are just below the Oradell dams but the more interesting areas begin downstream from Route 4. This stretch near Fairleigh Dickensen University is where fishermen have been reporting catching white perch for the past few years. And when predatory fish like perch congregate in an area there must be a continuing food source, so the river now seems to be able to sustain a variety of wildlife.

Another area that is becoming known for its fishing is the stretch in the Meadowlands that is near the Turnpike. A number of creeks meet the river here and these probably supply food for predators as tidal action fills then empties them. It was in this area, near Mill Creek, that a fisherman caught a 37-inch striped bass last October.

There is a public and free boat launch in Laurel Hill Park (behind Snake Hill in Secaucus) not far from Mill Creek. It's large and has ample parking area for trailers and other vehicles. If you don't have a boat, you can rent a canoe or kayak from the Hackensack Riverkeeper (www.hackensackriverkeeper.org) also located in Laurel Hill Park.

One health note: the Hackensack may be getting cleaner and capable of supporting a variety of wildlife but, it still has layers of chemicals in the muck on the bottom so the fish are not edible.

S. Charon

Ramapo Ramblin'

Now that dog and cat days are past you can dust off your fly rod, check your fly box to be sure that you have enough of those special flies that you secretly tied, and get ready for one of the greatest trout fishing times of the year.

While the State will only stock the Ramapo once this Fall, on Friday, October 7, EJTU will once again do a fall stocking with 13 to 16 inch rainbows. Twenty-five of the trout will be tagged and we ask that they be released when caught so that we can check for holdovers. As usual, please bend back the barbs on your hooks.

The low water and high temperatures that we experienced in the months of July and August have been especially tortuous for trout. The water temperatures hovered around 78 to 80 degrees, a temperature range in which no respectable trout can stay for very long or move out to find springs with cooler water and sufficient oxygen.

In July Bob Papson from New Jersey Fish and Wildlife contacted me and said that they would do an electro shocking of the Ramapo in three places on August 2nd and 3rd. With just a couple of day's notice, we were able to get some volunteers together and we met with Bob on the first day to do the section below Glen Gray bridge. In 2003 we found 14 brown trout in this area but this year the weather was extremely hot and the water was very low. As we feared, we found no trout but we found suckers and small mouth bass along with some sunfish, and there were crayfish in abundance.

On the second day we went up Drenth's Drive and, starting below the bend in the river known as Ed's elbow, the electro shocking went upstream to the first riffle. We expected better results because the water temperature was 75 to 76 degrees and there were some deep pools that were almost over the waders. Much to our surprise we found no trout, although, as at Glen Gray, there were some nice smallmouth bass and plenty of crayfish and bait fish. The weather was hot and humid and, because no trout were found, the last electro shocking was called off.

When I spoke to Bob the next day he acknowledged that the weather and drought conditions were extremely bad and in all probability they would not find

trout in many of the streams where they normally would be. He agreed that the norm in the Ramapo would be somewhere between our findings in 2003 and 2005.

At our August membership meeting I suggested that we collect fishing and hunting magazines for the wounded veterans in East Orange VA Hospital. I spoke to Mrs. Arnold at the Hospital and she suggests that we bring about a dozen magazines as a trial run. We will also try bringing about a dozen to the Paramus VA nursing home. If it works out we can do this on a regular basis with volunteers hopefully willing to take turns dropping off the magazines. We will collect them at the September meeting for the trial run. Please keep in mind that we need only 2 dozen and if members bring in a couple each, we will have more than enough.

I am also on a NJ State Chess Federation committee that raised donations that allowed us to purchase 300 Braille chess sets for the 146 VA Medical Centers across the country. During the last year we also raised \$14,000 that we used to purchase 1,100 chess sets and 158 computer games. We sent the chess sets to soldiers and marines in Baghdad and in hospitals, and delivered the computer games to the wounded heroes in hospitals.

Looks like I got off of the trout fishing track this month, however I am concerned that these warriors should never be forgotten. Perhaps one day, after we have completed the handicap deck we can take them fishing.

Time for me to bend back some hook barbs and pray for rain!

Herman Drenth

NY License Time Again

Remember, if you intend to do some Fall fishing in New York State, or if you will go on EJTU's November 22 Connetquot trip, you will need a new 2005-2006 New York State fishing license. Yes, their fishing year still runs from October 1 through September 30.

You can get your new NY license on-line at: <https://nyfgisales.vansis.wcom.com/fgnyia/html/welcome.jsp>. If you're like me and have trouble with long, complicated URL's, just go to www.dec.state.ny.us (NY State Department of Environmental Conservation) and look for "Online sporting license sales" in the panel on the left.

You can also go to most town clerks' offices or sporting goods stores for a license, or you can get a license by phone at 1-866-933-2257. Finally you can mail an application that you can download from the above web site.

Quote of the Month

**If fishing is a religion,
fly fishing is high church.**

Tom Brokaw
International
Herald Tribune
Sept. 10, 1991



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