



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 36

July 2006

Issue 7

President's Beat

On July the Fourth each year, we celebrate our Nation's birthday. It is more properly called Independence Day. Idea: how about the remainder of the year we observe Interdependence Days.

I realize that breaking away from Great Britain was a courageous move on the part of the colonists and we all applaud and thank them. But this was a political movement. I am thinking more of an environmental movement wherein we all try to remain conscious of the fact that we are not alone on this planet. Whether we think of ourselves as a country or as individuals, we are not alone and our actions have effects on others. As Conservation Director, Herman Drenth, reminds us: "We all live down stream".

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has launched a campaign to educate the public on this topic. For example, the D.E.P. has issued a series of posters with images of people superimposed on the waters of a lake or ocean bay. These people are acting out what many consider to be normal routines but above them are these captions:

1. "When your pet goes on the lawn, remember it doesn't just go on the lawn."
2. "When your car is leaking oil on the street, remember it's not just leaking oil on the street."
3. "When fertilizing your lawn, remember you're not just fertilizing your lawn."
4. "When you're washing your car in the driveway, remember you're not just washing your car in the driveway."

Each one of these seemingly ordinary activities has an impact on our waters and their cleanliness and purity. We are not talking about pouring old paint or other

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When: July 12 at 7:30 PM
Where: American Legion Hall
33 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

July Speaker Rod Rohrbach

who will take us on a tour of
Pennsylvania's famous

Little Lehigh

a limestone river that contains the most intense population of wild trout in Pennsylvania. Rod will present an explanation of the Little Lehigh's food organisms. He will discuss how their life cycles affect the angler's choice of patterns and what tackle is needed for bottom fishing. Another aspect Rod will cover is "fishing the film". By the end of Rod's presentation we will have a clear understanding of the tackle, tactics and fly selection necessary to catch surface and bottom feeders during hatch and non hatch periods.

Welcome to May and June's New EJTU Members

Daniel Argenti	Rivervale
Teddy Barbukov	Clifton
Joseph Chiapetta	Glen Rock
Gary Cordovano	Verona
Lewis Dickenson	Ridgewood
Joanie Genirs Harrington	Hoboken
Richard Hands	Hewitt
Jason Holgren	Haskell
James Healey	Woodcliff Lk
Erik Leogrande	Paterson
Martin Leogrande	Paterson
Thomas Lenehan	Park Ridge
Andrew Matheson	Hoboken
Glen Moyer	Ridgewood
Vincent Parropta	Fort Lee
William Poch	Hillsborough
Jim Thompson	Closter
Russell Wall	Clifton

The Suffern Show

Get ready for all the heavy traffic at the NY Thruway's exit 14B and the slow line of SUV's that crawls along Airmont Road. The Suffern Show is coming!

No, I'm not lying. It is coming...in nine months. We just thought that we would let you know that we will need some help from Thursday, March 1 through Sunday, March 4, 2007. Please don't schedule anything else that week.

Summer Education

If you feel that teaching others how to fly fish is like teaching your spouse how to drive a shift car, here's the answer.

EJTU will run a one-day fly fishing course at the Pequest Hatchery this summer. The date is Sunday, August 13, and (drum roll) there is no charge for the course.

If you know of anyone who would like to learn about fly fishing tell them to get in touch with Bob Hresko our Pequest programs coordinator. His contact info is on page two of Riffles. If you would like to assist the chapter and have some fun at the same time, tell Bob that you will be one of the members who will help out on the day of the course.

Annual Dinner

Our hard working Annual Dinner Committee, the Canning/Wedlick crew, has found a wonderful new location for the 2007 dinner. They have made the initial arrangements, so now you can enter the data on your scheduler, calendar, wall, or computer.

EJTU's 2007 Annual Dinner will be held at the Grand Chalet, 1377 Route 23 South, Wayne, NJ on March 10, 2007. See you there.



East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited Board of Directors

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Ray Cappock

Founding President

Don Ecker

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.eastjerseytu.org>

Mailing Address:

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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 go to www.eastjerseytu.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 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.

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hazardous wastes down storm drains, but rather simple tasks like washing our vehicles and fertilizing our lawns.

Some of our local communities are presently taking steps to help in this public awareness campaign. Ringwood, home to Wanaque Reservoir, has distributed fliers entitled "Pet waste pollutes our waters". Other towns and boroughs have chosen to take more drastic measures to drive the points home, such as increased fines for not cleaning up after dogs which can range up to \$500 and 90 days' community service as well as banning charitable organizations from holding fund raising car washes in parking lots which empty into storm drainage systems.

We all need to do our part no matter how small that may seem. Remember the adage: "Think globally and act locally".

For more information, contact your county or municipal recycling center or visit the State's website at: cleanwater.nj.gov, njhazwaste.com.

George Petersen

Points

Most of you know that when you help at any EJTU function you are awarded points and that the points accumulate until, at various levels, you are awarded tokens of appreciation. The awards include shirts, mugs, jackets, etc.

During the month of June our point maven, Ken Vander Pyle, recorded 1,435 points. Looks like a lot of our members are doing a lot to help the chapter.

Thank you to all.

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

Who Are They All?

When I help out at the trout stocking on the Ramapo I notice that the same people show up almost every week. Then I go to a membership meeting and see another group that always seems to be there – but it's not the same group that stocks on Thursday mornings in spring. Those who assist with our programs at the Pequest seem to be still another EJTU sub-species. Of course, there a few members who move from activity to activity but on the whole each activity seems to attract a core of people who participate in that activity to the exclusion of other activities.

If you also have noticed this grouping of volunteers, you might also have thought that EJTU must have a couple of hundred members in order to segregate duties while keeping everything going. Well it's not a couple of hundred members. Try 800.

That's right your EJTU chapter has a lot of members. There are around 700 paid-

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NJ State Park Pass

If you are a frequent user of any of New Jersey's 39 state parks, 11 forests, 4



recreation areas, 43 natural areas or 57 historic sites you should think about getting an annual State Park Pass. To quote the DEP, "For \$50, state park users can realize substantial savings over the payment of daily

walk-in or parking fees.

And, if you are one of the older residents of the Garden State (62 and up) or a disabled resident, you can get a Senior Citizen Pass or a Disabled Pass. Senior passes are valid for your lifetime and Disabled passes are valid for the term of your disability.

All of the State Park offices have applications for the NJ State Park Pass. But, if you prefer, you can write to the New Jersey DEP, Division of Parks and Forestry, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ, 08625, or you can make a quick telephone call for one. Being a treacherous old codger* – excuse me – a senior citizen, I called 1-800-843-6420 and told the young lady that I'd like an application for a Pass. She copied my name and address and said, "I'll get that right out to you". The application arrived in a day. I didn't know that dealing with a State agency could be so easy!

*Remember the old-timer motto, "Old age and treachery will defeat youth and skill".

(Continued from page 2) Who Are They All?

up members and another 100 or so who are on the books but who are in TU limbo.

So, if anyone asks about this club that you belong to, you can tell them that you belong to a group of 800 cold-water conservationists who also like to tantalize trout by putting artificial flies in their paths.

Ray Cappock

Ramapo Ramblin'

After several years and many Ramapo Ramblin' columns, Herman Drenth has asked for a few months off. The nerve! We will attempt to fill the space with some timely and topical information that we hope you will find helpful and enjoyable reading.

I would like to start with an appeal to each of you for information relating to conservation issues or potential problems. Our conservation committee members perform various types of monitoring activities – much of it visual observation – but the committee is limited in the number of available man hours. Our EJTU members, however, spend many hours on our local waters. So if you observe anything out of the ordinary or see anything that you think might deserve further investigation, please let the conservation committee know (Herman, who chairs the committee is always at EJTU member meetings and can also be reached at hermaril@aol.com). We promise to be very discreet and not disclose your favorite fishing hole. It was through our members' observations that the committee became aware of the illegal alteration of Saddle River, the location of chemical drums on the Ramapo and the wetlands encroachment on the Ramapo. In each case the committee took action to bring these matters to the attention of the proper authorities and in most cases some form of remediation was done. We need your eyes and ears to make EJTU more effective in protecting our waters.

For several years we have been trying to get a section of the Ramapo designated as

a "trout conservation" area. This would limit fishing to artificials only and introduce a 15", one fish limit from the end of May until the following year's opening day. It would also effectively create a catch and release fishery and eliminate bait fishing in the designated area. To date our efforts have been unsuccessful primarily because we have not been able to prove that the water quality in that area will support trout through the warmer months. The State has done two electroshock surveys over the last few years with mixed results. Several EJTU members and Bob Papson (NJ DEP Principal Fisheries Biologist) have suggested we look at the Wanaque River as an alternative site. The problem we have encountered is that few of our committee members are very familiar with the Wanaque. In particular, we need more information on access points and on areas of the river that might provide adequate water quality from a fishing perspective to warrant further specific and detailed evaluations. One item of interest is the recent announcement that the State has acquired property along the river previously owned by DuPont and will provide public access to parts of the river. At this time the committee has no specifics. Do you fish the Wanaque and would you be willing to share your knowledge of the river? If you can provide any information that would help in our evaluation, please share it with the committee. We will do our best not to disclose your honey holes to the general public but will use the information to evaluate the river. If we are able to have a section reclassified as "trout conservation"



(Continued from page 3) *Ramapo Ramblin'*

it will enable us to increase the number of fish available, and admittedly the number of fishermen; but if we do it right the overall fishing quality will improve.

With gasoline prices at \$3.00 a gallon there is a strong economic incentive not to drive long distances in search of a few fish that may or may not cooperate. Therefore, many members are staying close to home and not making that long drive to the West Branch or similar destinations. One alternative is to look to local waters. By the time you read this the Ramapo will have warmed to a point where the fishing is slow. But if you will settle for some warm water species, the fishing is just getting good. Most of the ponds along the river in Mahwah offer bass and sunfish with a mix of other species thrown in and are on county or town property. Early morning and evening are best but on a cool or cloudy day the action can continue all day. If you like surface action, a sunfish on a small popper will bring a smile to your face. The Pequannock holds some fish and, if the water releases are maintained, the section within the Newark Reservoir can be worth the short drive. You must get a day permit at the office on Echo Lake Road, which is open on Saturday from about 8 to noon, but you can't find a nicer place for \$1.00 a day. You can get permits for up to a week

in advance. Remember, the fish in this section are wild and tough to catch, the riverbanks are overgrown and you have to be willing to get a few mosquito bites but a 10" wild brown can make your day. The section of the river below the



reservoir is also worth your time. Once the water level drops and the water clears, fishing gets a little tougher, but there is a lot of water from Kinnelon down. Driving a little farther will get you to the upper Rockaway where the waters north of route 80 are small but can be fun to fish, and access through the Berkshire Valley WMA is fairly easy. A few more miles will bring you to Big Flatbrook. One thing that always surprises me is that you can go to the fly stretch and find lots of fishermen all summer long. It is as if the only fish in the river are in that area. Although many fly fishermen release their

fish, I am willing to bet that there are more fish per fishermen in the bait fishing areas than there are in the fly stretch. The areas below the Roy bridge, where the fly stretch ends, all the way down to below Walpack Bridge offer some good fishing but, stay away from the bridges and parking areas and walk a little distance. Evenings often bring good hatches and more often than not you will be one of only a few people there. These fish have been hit hard all season and the stupid ones were dinner long ago. Be careful, use a little stealth and observe the river from a distance where you can. Watch for rising fish and have at it.

Want to get your spouse and kids or grandkids involved in the outdoors? The State is offering several programs designed for families or specifically women

throughout the summer. Consult the Fish and Wildlife web site. Programs are free and several allow you to fish the infamous education pond where the trout are as long as your arm. We should help promote these programs because their success will keep Fish and Wildlife an important part of the State's recreational opportunities. Lots of participation usually means more money to do more things. So spread the word.

As Herman would say, "tight lines", "we all live down stream", "play chess" and "thank a Vet". Herm, did I leave anything out? Enjoy your summer.

Rich Malizia



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