



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

President's Beat

In the past I have often written and proposed that we each take small steps to improve the quality of our environment, i.e. conservation, recycling and so forth. Together these "baby steps" will add up and make a difference.

On a much larger scale it would appear that some of the bigger companies are beginning to take their self-initiated "giant steps". I realize that these measures are primarily motivated by the bean counters in order to save money and not necessarily for the purposes of conservation of energy and resources, but the end result is the same.

In a recent press release, Wal-Mart's chief executive H. Lee Scott declared that the company would double the energy efficiency of its fleet of 7,000 trucks in a decade, design a store that will reduce greenhouse emissions by some 30 percent and reduce store waste by 25 percent within three years. It has already reduced the fuel which its trucks use by eight percent by insisting that its drivers not idle their engines. That amounts to a savings of \$25 million dollars and slashing emissions by 100,000 metric tons. Mr. Scott also pointed out that all of Wal-Marts' 3,700 stores will be utilizing energy efficient light bulbs and purchasing organic cotton.

It should be mentioned that Wal-Mart is the largest consumer of electricity on Earth. The chain is so large that even a slight reduction of the packaging of one of its toy lines saved the company \$2.4 million last year, 1,000 barrels of oil in trucking costs and 3,800 trees.

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When: September 13 at 7:30 PM
Where: American Legion Hall
33 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

September's Guest Speaker will be Don Freiday

The program is "Birds for the Trout Fisherman" – avian companions (and sometimes competitors) along the stream.

Don Freiday is Director of New Jersey Audubon Society's Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary in Bernardsville. A New Jersey native who enjoys birding, fishing, hunting, cycling, canoeing, gardening and cooking, Don's degree in Natural Resource Management and Applied Ecology is from Rutgers University, where for several years he taught Wildlife Ecology to undergraduates.

Don has worked in the field of nature interpretation and/or wildlife biology for over 20 years, during which time he has led numerous nature tours to Arizona, Colorado, California, Montana, Newfoundland, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming, among others. He has also sought and studied birds and other wildlife in Mexico, Costa Rica, and Kenya. A regional coordinator for the New Jersey Breeding Bird Atlas, Don is also a past member of the New Jersey Bird Records Committee and a present member of the executive board of the NJ Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Don is an author and columnist on nature, with two books to his credit: *A Precious Place: a Naturalist Explores New Jersey*, and *Wild Journeys: Migration in New Jersey*, which he co-authored with Brian Vernachio and Dale Rosselet.

The Suffern Show

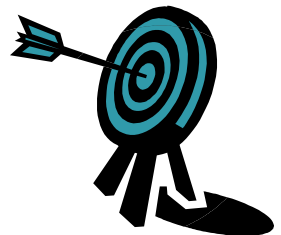
Get ready for all the heavy traffic at the NY Thruway's exit 14B and the slow line of SUV's that crawls along Airmont Road. The Suffern Show is coming!

No, I'm not lying. It is coming...in six 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.

Wildlife Heritage Festival

Join us in celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center on Sunday, September 24, 2006 from 10:00 - 4:00. The hatchery is located 9 miles west of Hackettstown on Route 46 in scenic Warren County.

Each year, the annual Wildlife Heritage Festival draws thousands of people. This great family event includes a fishing, hunting and outdoor equipment flea market, wildlife artists and taxidermists, conservation groups, Division displays, fishing for kids, shotgun and archery ranges and much more*.



*Much more means EJTU! Yes, we'll be there and we would like to get a few members out there to help. This is a fun event, rain or shine, and we will need people in a number of places. If you have never helped at an EJTU event, this would be a great day on which to start. Contact Bob Hresko and he can give you all the information that you will need.

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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:

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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.

(Continued from page 1) *Presidents Beat*

I am not a fan of the big box establishments but those are some impressive numbers.

On a completely different subject, The August issue of *Fly Fishing Guide* contains an article entitled, "Observation of Trout and Their Habitat", written by Michael Snody from Halifax, Pennsylvania. His basic premise is good: we should all be more aware of the habitats, insect life and trout behavior in order to become not only better anglers but better stewards of our natural resources. However I will take him to task on some of his conclusions. Mr. Snody keeps referring to how much trout have learned in our heavily fished waters. He refers to them as "humanized" trout and writes of one trout that came up to his caddis dry and pupa imitation and "At the very last second, the fish forgot about the energy wasted for the nutritional value of the food."

I would submit that there was something wrong in the presentation (micro drag or whatever). Trout can't learn; they evolve. If they could learn, how is it possible to go every day to the Heritage Stretch of the Little Lehigh or to the Connetquot and catch fish? Each of these bodies of water is pounded every day of the year and yet we are still able to catch fish.

We should all be more aware of our surroundings but beware of faulty conclusions, especially when they anthropomorphize the natural world.

George Petersen

Get Ready, Oakland

The EJTU display that is usually located in a local library has been resting in Doug Penna's house for the summer but it will be on the move again very soon. Doug will have the display set up in the Oakland library for the month of September. Why don't you stop by and take a look at it?

Fly of the Month

Now that the dog days of summer are behind us, the weather is starting to cool off and the fishing should 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

Coming Soon Fly-tying Courses

Tell the truth, wouldn't you really like to learn how to tie a decent looking fly? Would you like to master this skill and at the same time be able to spend enjoyable evenings with fellow fishermen? You can't say no, so why not sign up for one of the EJTU fly-tying classes that will begin in September.

The classes at Clifton High School will start on September 25, 2006. Classes begin at 7:00 pm and end at 9:00 pm. Instruction will be tailored to the student's experience, whether beginner, intermediate or advanced. Contact Doug Penna at 201-288-4409 for more information.

The Paramus classes will be held at the Paramus West Brook Middle School and will start on Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00pm. Walk in registrations are welcome. Beginners will learn the techniques and materials needed to tie trout flies. Intermediate tyers will learn advanced techniques and patterns. For more info call Bob Ribar at 201-995-0107 or RIBBB3@aol.com

Storm Damage

During the last week of July, for the first time since the floods, I was in the Hancock, New York area.

There were places along every river that looked like war zones. Houses in Cadonia that were along the East Branch were gone. The right lane of Route 17 was washed out in two places near Hancock. In its rush to repair damage, the mouth of Shehawken Creek had been bulldozed closed so the creek no longer flows above ground into the Delaware.

But the most egregious thing of all is that the town of Deposit has been permitted to dump untreated sewerage into the Delaware. Their treatment plant was damaged by the flood but instead of requiring Deposit to retain its sewerage and repair the treatment plant immediately, New York State, showing its continuing disregard for water quality in the Delaware, gave Deposit the open-ended right to dump into the river. They are also adding chlorine to the discharge which will kill lots of beneficial plants and bugs while allowing the powers-that-be to believe they are doing something good.

So it is time to put some pressure on the DEC to stop the discharge now and get the treatment plant repaired. If you go to www.fudr.org which is the website for



Friends of the Upper Delaware River, you can get email addresses for the New York State DEC and various elected officials. Send a brief letter or email expressing your concern about this outrageous action.

To compound the problem, the releases from Cannonsville are from both top and bottom. Water temperature below Hancock bridge was 68 degrees on the evening of July 27. If they keep this up the river will become a sunfish fishery. So please write some letters or send some emails. The whole watershed has suffered enough; don't let the politicians make it worse.

Rich Malizia

Letters to Congress

In mid-July I happened to be at a meeting that was chaired by a north-Jersey Congressman, and during a conversation with one of his congressional aides I found an interesting bit of information.

If you write to your congressman you should address the letter to his/her local office. It might seem that sending your complaint/request/whatever directly to the Washington, DC office would be faster but it is not.

Because of the screening procedures that are now in effect, letters to Congressional offices in Washington take at least a month to arrive at the desks of the staffers. If you mail your letter to the local office it will get there within a day or two via normal mail and they will forward it, or your request or information, to Washington.

Ray Cappock

Suddenly It's 1970

Are we heading for another ice age? The NY Times thought so in 1975 when NASA reported that the earth's temperature had been cooling since 1940. Now, after last year's panic over alleged global warming, we find that the 2006 tropical storm season is below normal and that there have been only three named storms so far this year compared to nine last year.

The reason might be that sea surface temperatures in the western Atlantic are normal or slightly below normal. In fact, according to *Geophysical Research Letters*, between 2003 and 2005 upper ocean temperatures cooled and erased 20% of the previous 48 year's warming.

A. U. Contraire



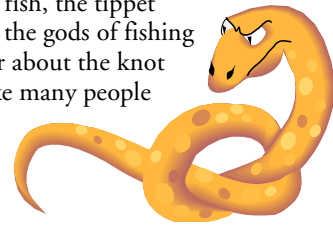
In Memoriam

With sadness we mourn the passing of
 Pete Schelheimer
 of Lyndhurst,
 former member
 and fly tying instructor.
 Rest in Peace

Bunny Ears!

The big fish that you hooked was placidly swimming away before you had a chance to bring it close to you. And, the end of your tippet was now a series of little curls.

Did you curse the fish, the tippet manufacturer and the gods of fishing or did you wonder about the knot that you tied? Like many people you might have a problem deciphering those



jumbled illustrations that seem to be in all knot books but, are you also too embarrassed to ask someone how to tie better knots? Here's the answer to your prayers – Animated Knots By Grog. No, it's not a sci-fi movie about how aliens tie up half-naked, writhing college coeds. It's a web site that presents animated displays of knots; fast, in slow motion, or in stop motion – however you desire.

You'll probably start with the improved clinch knot or the blood knot but if you want to be the first one on your block to be able to tie the Munter Mule Combination you can easily learn how to do it. The site's URL is www.animatedknots.com. I'll bet that you find it interesting, fun and informative. At the next EJTU meeting you may even want to see who can be the quickest to tie a Bunny Ears (Double Figure Eight Loop).

Ray Cappock

Get Lost

I want to pass along a source for maps of areas that many of us fish. Go to www.jimapco.com. They offer maps of Northeast PA, Catskills, Adirondacks, etc. at about \$5.00 each. They are road maps and NOT fishing maps but the detail is good. The company is almost 40 years old and maintains over 100 of its own titles, and sells and distributes hundreds more from such publishers as Rand McNally, Delorme, Michelin, and USGS.

Limp Leader

Safe Citizen

Here are two interesting items from the September 2006 *Outdoor Life* magazine. One. The Department of Treasury reported that sales of firearms and ammunition rose 2.6 percent in 2005 for a total volume of \$2.1 billion Two. The FBI reported that gun crimes decreased 7 percent since 1998.

Ramapo Ramblin'

Well, Herman Drenth is extending his relaxing summer so here's another amateur about to try to put together a presentable Ramapo Ramblin'. Maybe by next month Herm will have removed his thong, wiped off his layer of tanning lotion and substituted a typing chair for the beach chair that he's been using for the last few months. Then we can get back to talks about river stocking and conservation projects.

In the *President's Beat* George Petersen writes about conservation and specifically about the actions that Wal-Mart and other companies are taking. But, he also reminds us that everyone should improve the quality of our environment by taking small, individual steps. This, of course, brings to mind the oft quoted Chinese saying about long journeys beginning with one step (But, I kind of like Steven Wright's comment that, "Everyplace is within walking distance if you've got enough time).

In another column Rich Malizia describes problems on the Delaware that were caused by the summer's floods and compounded by thoughtless government actions. Rich suggests that we contact the New York State DEC and put pressure on them to stop the discharge of chlorine-laced sewage into the Delaware.

When I first read these pieces I, like many people, felt frustrated. How can I fight the bureaucrats who work in those huge governmental machines that seem to have their thumbs on average people? Will my letter to NY DEC really have any effect? Then I happened to read something that reminded me of Tocks Island – that damnable dam that never happened. Congress finally deauthorized the entire project in July 1992 but the major battles took place in the 1960's and early 1970's so some younger EJTU members may not be familiar with the story. Here's what happened.

Pennsylvania had considered building a dam upstream of the Delaware Water Gap that would have supplied water to Philadelphia and North Jersey, but in 1955 massive flooding in towns along the Delaware brought the federal government into the picture. The Army Corps of Engineers completed a study of the basin in 1961 and, as a result, Congress passed a bill that called for building 11 dams in the Delaware River Basin, the largest of which would be the Tocks Island Dam. The bill

also established the Delaware River Basin Commission (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the Federal government) and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. A need for water had grown into a multi-purpose project featuring a 160 foot high dam six miles upstream from the Gap that would have created a forty mile long lake with a maximum depth of 140 feet. Work was to begin in 1967 and the dam was to be operational in 1975.

A project of this magnitude had many backers, Newark wanted the water, everyone wanted the power that would be generated, some wanted the 47,000 acre recreation area, businesses and organized labor saw dollar signs, boaters and fishermen wanted the enormous lake, and some property owners liked the idea that their land was suddenly going to be within spitting distance of a major playground. Initially the people who were against the project were those who would lose their homes (Organized as the Delaware Valley Conservation Association) and a few people who had relatives in cemeteries that would be flooded.

In the late 1960's opposition to the project stirred when it was learned that a pond on the Appalachian Trail had to be destroyed. Then at the start of the 1970's the concept of environmentalism began to catch on, and small groups (EJTU included) worked together to fight what was now generally referred to as, "Tocks Island".

The apparently one-sided battle continued for a few years until July 1971 when the Delaware River Basin Commission voted three to one against the construction of the dam. Enormous cost over-runs and budgetary problems

caused by the Viet Nam war can be said to have caused the end of the project but, how often have cost over-runs stopped other projects in which the Federal Government was interested? Finally, in 1978 the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system added the Tocks Island area on the Delaware to its list of protected waters.

If you feel that "taking small steps" as George Petersen recommends, or writing to the NY DEC as Rich Malizia requests are useless actions and that no one will listen to you, read what Bill Adams wrote in Riffles' September 1975 President's Beat:

"It looks like Tocks is dead. At least in the form as had been proposed. What the future for the area holds now is uncertain. Most likely a national recreation area will be built but without destroying the Delaware River.

Trout Unlimited members have been active in the fight against the dam as have a number of other conservation organizations. The odds seemed to favor the dam. Millions of dollars were poured into the project by the federal government. Numerous costly feasibility studies were made. There was pressure from the business community and labor interests.

Still, those who believed it was a mistake to go ahead with the dam stuck to their guns. They attended conferences and public hearings. They served on committees. Many gave lectures and wrote reports. Many took the time to write to public officials expressing their views. Point by point they challenged the plan. And now it has paid off."

So, lets take a few small steps. Writing a letter to NY DEC might be one.

Ray Cappock



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