



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

President's Beat

John Contrino, a former colleague of mine, would often say: "Nothing is forever". We need to be mindful of this whenever we consider the natural world. Ask surf anglers and they will tell you that one nor'easter will rearrange sand bars and troughs that have been in place all season. Somehow we humans lose track of the basic principles of existence on our planet. Philosophers tell us that change is a sign of life. Just as the tides ebb and flow so does our environment. These changes may be drastic and dramatic as is the case with floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. Other times the alterations are so slow and subtle as to be almost imperceptible, at least to us as individuals.

This past spring the Catskill Region was the unwilling host to what has been termed a "one hundred year flood". Concerns are now being raised as to how to prevent this in the future. One plan calls for the channelization of sections of the Delaware. Why are we so foolish as to think that our petty efforts can really make a difference against the forces of nature?

Homo sapiens have been in existence for only the past 28,000 years. This is but the blink of an eye when we consider that Neanderthals roamed the Earth for over 500,000 years. How long have there been trout?

Perhaps it is phrased better by Paul Schullery in his wonderful collection of essays entitled *Royal Coachman, The Lore and Legends of Fly-fishing* (Simon and Schuster 1999). He wrote: "Our sense of scale as fishermen is pretty short. We become impatient with nature, which has no sympathy for our short lives. Therefore we do many things to trout ecosystems. We often have to do them to restore the fishing, but we sometimes go beyond

(Continued on page 2)

When: October 11 at 7:30 PM

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

The Speaker for October 11th Dave Brandt "Fly Tyers I've Known"



Dave has been teaching flytying for over 25 years and casting for about 30 years, the last 15 at Joan Wulff's School. He is a contributing illustrator for the Garrison/ Carmichael Masters Guide to Building a

Bamboo Rod and has been mentioned in numerous books and magazine articles. A founding member of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum and The Catskill Fly Tying Guild, Dave takes pride in continuing the traditions of the Catskills.

Whip Your Land

Do you own land in New Jersey that is eligible for farmland tax assessment rates? If so, and if your land is not already enrolled in a USDA Farm Bill conservation program, you may be able to enhance the land for local wildlife species by receiving funds from USDA's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

WHIP is part of the US Department of Agriculture's Farm Bill. Through WHIP, qualified landowners can receive technical and financial assistance for creating, enhancing and maintaining wildlife habitat on non-federal lands. The Natural

(Continued on page 2)

Take A Walk

If you want to get out of the house and just stretch your legs but are tired of walking around your neighborhood or the Ramapo Reservation why not head out to one of the many walking/hiking/biking trails in New Jersey? You can get some exercise and fresh air and while you're enjoying the scenery you might also find a little stream that no one else thinks is worth fishing.

Most of us have spent time wandering around New Jersey so we don't assume that Jersey is all concrete; we know that there are large tracts of open land in the state. But, how many of us can make a list of trails that are more than animal paths in the woods? Surprisingly, there are a lot of maintained trails and, as usual, the web can help us find them.

There is a site called Trail Link (maintained by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (and supported by American Express) that includes an easy to use search function. You can search for a trail by state, region within a state, surface of the trail (e.g., stone, asphalt, wood chips, etc.), use (biking, fishing, skiing, etc.), length, and other criteria.

I did a simple search based on northern New Jersey trails and the site came up with a list of 29 trails. They are in cities, parks, and wildlife management areas, and they cover uses from fishing or horseback riding to use by those in wheelchairs. The shortest trails were one mile long (Karamac and Landsdowne, for example) and the longest was 68 miles long - The Delaware and Raritan State Park Trail.

My search turned up an interesting trail that I had forgotten about even though it is very near of many of us, the trail(s) that parallel the Hudson River in Bergen county. Here is how Trail Link described

(Continued on page 3)

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

Doug Penna Bob Ribar

Pequest Programs

Bob Hresko

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

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:

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.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*

what nature would do if nature were in charge again. We take a trout stream and reshape it to our purposes with bulldozers and diversions and all sorts of architectural intrusions. Often nature comes back through and "corrects" our changes, blowing out our little dams and rolled rocks and other habitat alterations. It is common human vanity to assume that the earth as we know it, is a finished product. All the processes that shaped our modern American landscape, whether geological, biological or climatic are still acting today. Nature isn't done with us or our trout streams. Trout, as well as the streams, rivers and lakes which they inhabit, exist in a state of change. Sometimes the change is subtle, sometimes it is spectacular, but however it occurs, it is the rule without exception in the wild."

Maybe we need to keep these words in mind the next time we complain that our favorite stretch of a stream or river has been rearranged.

George Petersen

Peripatetic Penna

Well, shifty ol' Doug Penna has done it again! Turn your back for two seconds and he grabs the EJTU exhibit and runs.



We were told that a couple of people were looking at the exhibit at the Oakland library when Doug came zipping through and grabbed it. They were left looking at a blank wall while Doug took off down Route 202.

He was later seen heading east on Route 46 so, if you want to visit the exhibit during October you'll have to hurry over to the Clifton library that is just off Rt. 46.

Fly of the Month

Now that the hatches of summer are winding down, it's time to think subsurface. October's fly of the month will be bead head nymphs. Bead heads currently dominate the nymph category and for good reason. The patterns have the weight and flash necessary to provide some action when nothing seems to be happening. Tie up your favorite bead head pattern, or better yet, an assortment of your favorites, 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. If you can't make the meeting, mail your flies to the chapter P.O. Box or turn them in to any director. With all the excellent fly tiers in the chapter and all the rainy weather we've had, I expect to see lots of excellent flies.

Bruce Seiden

Learn To Tie

The fly-tying classes have begun but don't feel that it's too late for you to join them. Doug Penna and Bob Ribar say that there is no problem if late-comers want to start now.

At Clifton High School classes begin at 7:00 pm and end at 9:00 pm. Instruction is tailored to the student's experience, whether beginner, intermediate or advanced. Contact Doug Penna at 201-288-4409 if you have any questions.

The Paramus classes also start at 7:00pm and 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

(Continued from page 1) *Whip*

Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers WHIP. Local NRCS soil conservationists at NRCS's six field offices, and regional biologists in New Jersey, are available to work with interested landowners to develop and implement management plans for the property they manage.

Since 1998 WHIP has provided New Jersey landowners with more than \$3 million in financial assistance as well as valuable technical assistance from NRCS biologists and conservationists. In addition biological assistance is available

(Continued on page 4)

Let There Be Light!

It's getting dark earlier and earlier isn't it? During the last few weeks have you found yourself stumbling over roots and rocks while trying to find that stupid path that leads from the stream to your car?

Fishermen have tried mini-mag lights, Cyalume light sticks, lanterns, and all sorts of devices that usually burn out, get wet and die, or need batteries just when you need them. But now, according to a review in *The Wall Street Journal*, there are small, dependable, flashlights that throw more light than a four-battery Mag-Lite.

These flashlights started out as tactical lights that were meant to be used by the military and police and were extremely expensive. But now they are available to the general public and, while still costly compared to a plastic Ray-O-Vac, they are coming down in price. The main advantages (aside from throwing a blinding light beam) of these lights are durability and long shelf life. Because they were designed to go into battle and still be able to signal friendly forces from miles away, they are waterproof and built of industrial aluminum so they are capable of withstanding a lot of abuse. And, while regular D batteries have to be replaced every year or two even if you don't use them, the lithium batteries in these tactical lights should last for ten years or more if you're only keeping the light for emergency use.

There are a number of companies selling these lights, so you shouldn't have a problem finding them. *The Wall Street Journal* seemed to like SureFire's "Outdoorsman" (5.25 inches long; 3.5 oz weight; six hours run-time on high power;) but, look at others because the \$130 price may be a little much.

As I said, they are readily available now. Cabela's has a few pages of them in the camping section of their winter catalog but I saw a rack of SureFires in Ramsey Outdoors, so how about going there and using your TU membership card to get one at a discount?

Archimedes

Ten Tips For Backyard Habitat

Select Wildlife Food Plants: Provide nuts, berries, buds, catkins, fruits, nectar, and seeds that mature in different seasons. Plants that attract insects attract birds! Each species of butterfly and moth requires a specific plant on which to raise its caterpillar.

Increase Diversity: A diverse habitat is a healthy habitat. Plant a variety of food plants to provide a variety of food throughout the year.

Reduce Lawn Areas: Lawns provide virtually NO wildlife benefit except to deer and Canada Geese. Reduce lawn areas to the minimum required for human needs.

Plant Natives: It is a fact; native birds and butterflies prefer native plants! A number of non-native flowering plants compliment a native garden, but absolutely avoid invasives, like Purple Loosestrife!

Provide Water: Provide water year-round for birds; wet soil in summer for butterflies.

Provide Shelter: Evergreens and dense shrubs are best. Supplement live shelter with brush and rock piles for the winter.

Love Bugs: No insecticides; minimize the use of all chemicals. Birds and bats require insects to survive. In turn, they are our best insect controls. Very few insects are pests; learn to embrace beneficial insects and to tolerate a few of the pests. "Bug zappers" kill far more beneficial insects than nuisance ones.

Go Wild: Let part of your yard grow as it wishes, removing only those plants considered to be "invasive." Many "weeds" provide seeds for birds. This is especially true of annuals. Help *New Jersey Audubon Society* educate the public and push to overturn restrictive "weed" ordinances.

Reduce Fall Cleanup: Many butterflies and moths spend the winter as eggs, caterpillars, or pupa in leaf litter or on "dead" plant materials -- a lovely excuse not to be too tidy. Raking leaves and removing flower stalks removes next year's butterflies and moths.

Relax And Enjoy! The less mowing, weeding, pruning, and fussing with your yard you do, the more wildlife will love it. Use the time you save to watch your wild friends. Invite your neighbors over, maybe they will follow your lead and develop more backyard habitat.

Copyright © 2006 New Jersey Audubon Society

(Continued from page 1) **Take a Walk**

the Palisades Historic Trails:

Trail Surface(s): Dirt

Trail Description:

The Palisades Historic Trails are made up of portions of the Long Path, on top of the cliffs, and the Shore Trail, under the cliffs, by the Hudson River. Both stretch from Fort Lee Historic Park to Camp Alpine in Alpine, NJ. They are connected at the south and north ends by other trails.

The Long Path (Fort Lee - Camp Alpine) is 11.3 miles long and requires at least 5¼ hours of hiking, not including stops.

The Shore Trail (Fort Lee - Camp Alpine) is 12.5 miles long and requires at least 6¼ hours of hiking, not including stops.

Hikers should be equipped with proper hiking shoes, canteens filled with water and appropriate clothes. The trails are more than just a stroll.

Some of us know the Landsdowne Trail that I mentioned above since, as Trail Links describes it: *The trail provides access to the South Branch of the Raritan River for fishing. The river is stocked with Rainbow, Brook, and Brown Trout. A state fishing license must be displayed.*

Directions to the trails and information on parking is listed for each of the trails that I looked at. The site's URL is: <http://www.trailink.com/>

Ray Cappock

Killer Teddy Bear Behind Deaths Of 2,500 Fish

MILFORD, N.H. - A teddy bear has been implicated in 2,500 deaths. Of trout, that is. State officials say a teddy bear dropped into a pool at a Fish and Game Department hatchery earlier this month clogged a drain. The clog blocked the flow of oxygen to the pool and suffocated the fish.

Hatcheries supervisor Robert Fawcett said the bear — a Paddington Bear dressed in yellow raincoat and hat — is believed to be the first stuffed bear to cause fatalities at the facility.

"We've had pipes get clogged, but it's usually with more naturally occurring things like a frog or even a dead muskrat," he said. "This one turned out to be a teddy bear, and we don't know how it got there."

"It's kind of a cute little teddy bear and people wouldn't think that a cute little teddy bear would be able to kill fish."

© 2006 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Ramapo Ramblin'

I want to thank Rich Malizia and Ray Cappock for writing great articles for this column. In fact, they did such a good job that I will be asking them to do more columns in the future.

The Conservation Committee also took a two month vacation but we are back in full swing with some of the following items on the agenda:

During the first week of October Ed Sikorski will retrieve the water temperature monitors from the Ramapo. We have nine monitors that record water temperatures in the Ramapo and in Bear Swamp Brook.

The State will stock the Ramapo on Friday, October 13th and our crew will meet at Glen Gray Road at 9:30 am for coffee, tall tales and to assist in float and bucket stocking. Bob Papson informs me that the number of trout will be about half the usual number, but they will be in the thirteen to fifteen inch range with some breeders included. The entire Ramapo River will get nine hundred fifty trout, so this means that every station will get about fifty fish. Glen Gray has two stations listed and, because we also stock by the Patriots Way Bridge, Bob might include it in our float stocking. We will have about one hundred to one hundred fifty trout to stock.

In November we will stock in the Glen Gray and Halifax Road areas. Please practice catch and release as these trout cost us about \$4.00 each and they are purchased to provide our members with good fishing during the winter months and not to fill someone's freezer. Ken Vander Pyl reports that the Eden hatchery, where we usually get our trout, is closed and that he has ordered them from the Musky Hatchery.

We use a one hundred fifty quart cooler to transport trout for bucket stocking. Bruce Seiden reports that the cooler has a strong fish smell and we wonder if anyone has an idea about how to eliminate the odor. Contact me at hermaril@aol.com if you have a suggestion.

You may have heard about Trout In the Classroom – a program that we have wanted to enter for a few years. George Petersen was contacted by a teacher in the Pequannock school system and, with assistance of EJTU members Ed Sikorski, Ken Vander Pyl and Bill Latham,

installed a TIC system in his class. EJTU purchased the necessary equipment and will rent it to the school for \$1. This is your membership money at work, teaching kids about conservation. They will watch and care for the trout from the time that trout eggs are received from the hatchery until they release the fry in a local river.

Rich Malizia reports that Ramapo Day is set for Saturday, June 9th 2007. If anyone knows of groups such as Boy or Girl Scouts that might like to participate, please contact him at remqcp@optonline.net. Rich also says that the Appalachian Trail group will hold a conference at Ramapo College in the spring and has asked us to participate. He was also contacted by the group in charge of the old water works in Oradell inviting us to participate in a conservation day next year. The date has not been set.

Your conservation committee is like the Marines in that we are always looking for a few good men or women to join us. We meet at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the Bergen County Department of Health Services, 327 E. Ridgewood Ave, Paramus. If you would like to join our team, please contact me at my email address - hermaril@aol.com.

I can't use any more magazines for the VA hospitals at this time as the NJ hospitals have a lot, due to your contributions. There are 146 VA hospitals in the country that could use them. Please go to www.uschess.org/setsforvets.php where you will find the mailing addresses of the hospitals to which you can send magazines. They usually have a cart with books and magazines that they take around to the patients. If you feel free to read this, thank a Vet.

Until next time, I will look for you downstream where we all live and that big lunger awaits!

Herman Drenth

(Continued from page 2) Whip

to landowners from partners like the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife.

In 2006 alone, thirty contracts totaling \$780,000 were awarded to individual landowners. In addition NRCS established five cooperative agreements with conservation organizations. Through these cooperative agreements, NRCS will contribute \$540,000 toward activities that will enhance over 3,223 acres of grassland, riparian lands, and other habitat throughout New Jersey.

If you hunt, fish, hike or go birding on state WMA's you may have already seen some of the work being accomplished. But, private lands are also a primary target of WHIP efforts in New Jersey and individual landowners and hunting clubs have also received financial and technical assistance. Projects such as habitat enhancements for the federally threatened bog turtle, control of invasive exotic plant species, stream restoration and grassland management have all been accomplished on thousands of acres of private lands since WHIP's inception in 1998.

Cooperative projects continue to increase with help from non-governmental groups such as Pheasants Forever and Trout Unlimited.

The application period for WHIP 2007 will close on October 27, 2006. NRCS is attempting to streamline the sometimes difficult process of planning, ranking, and contracting with this deadline in October in order to facilitate habitat management project starts in early spring 2007.

For more information on WHIP contact Janice Reid, Assistant State Conservationist, Programs 732-537-6042, go to the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service site at <http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>, or go to the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife's site at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/> and look for the information on WHIP grants.

Ray Cappock



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

