



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 37

July/August 2007

Issue 8

Ramblin' On

As we prepare to enter next month's doldrums, with hot weather and warm streams causing local trout fishing to be restricted to the cool evenings or early mornings, I would like to look back on our 2007 activities.

The conservation committee held a clean-up and repaired the Glen Gray parking area and then, when their work was destroyed by the flood of '07, the volunteers returned and filled in holes and made repairs again.

Fly tying classes were presented in Paramus and Clifton, and fly fishing was taught in Paramus. The final week of fly fishing instruction included a trip to the hatchery where everybody caught fish.

We had fly tiers and other volunteers at the Pequest Hatchery for the annual open house and for other events.

EJTU members helped with a new program for wounded military veterans called Healing Waters. Some of our members visited a veteran's hospital to teach the wounded vets how to tie and cast flies, and later they took the vets to the hatchery for a day of fishing.

Doug Penna continued to install our EJTU display in a different library every month.

Trout in the Classroom ended for this year when children from the Pequannock School released their trout into the Pequannock River. Schools in Paterson and Jersey City also participated but we have not received reports about their fish releases.

We were fortunate that most of our stocking dates were cool and dry. The State seemed to supply more trout than in past years and there were many in the 18 inch class mixed in. I think that many of the volunteers are sorry that the stocking weeks have concluded as a comradeship

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

September Speaker
Dr. Dickson Despommier
Professor at Columbia University
Extreme trout fishing:
The Rangitiki River
North Island of New Zealand

October
Dick Talleur
Renowned Tyer, Program TBD
Tying class before meeting
Fee to participants. TBD

November
Tom Gilmore

seems to develop during this period.

This year's Ramapo Day was the best ever. The weather was hot but more than one hundred enthused kids and quite a few adults participated. Dr. Angela Cristini, of Ramapo College, and our own Rich Malizia deserve a 21 gun salute.

In June one group of volunteers represented EJTU at the Meadowlands Fair while another-assisted the Scouts who stocked Wayne, NJ's Singac Brook. These events rounded out the events of the first half of the year.

We got a lot done but, we need to have more members participating in future activities since it seems that the same faces now appear at every event. So, I would like to ask each of you to pick at least one event to attend this year. You will find that you will have a great time and will

Mono Recycling

In the May issue of Riffles we described the problems that both land and aquatic wildlife have with the monofilament that people thoughtlessly discard. In that article we suggested that each of us carry a little bag in which to put the mono that either we have clipped from a line or that we find while we are outdoors. Our EJTU chapter is now starting a more formal project that we hope will help everyone, even people whom we don't know, properly dispose of mono.

We have constructed PVC receptacles that we will mount near the most used locations on Monksville Reservoir, Green Turtle Pond and the Ramapo River. These receptacles, or bins, based on the design used throughout their state by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, are simply vertical tubes, capped at the bottom and topped by an opening in a ninety degree elbow. People can place excess mono into the bin's open top and an EJTU volunteer will retrieve it and send it to the Berkeley line company for recycling.

The managers of Monksville Reservoir and Green Turtle Pond have graciously given us permission to place bins where mono is frequently used, so we plan beginning installation very soon. Then, if the project is successful, we would like to expand the program by installing additional bins near ponds and streams where mono is heavily used. However, we foresee a problem.

The EJTU Conservation Committee, which is handling the project, does not have enough people with sufficient time to routinely collect the mono from all of the bins that we would like to install. In other words, we would like to find some volunteers to assist us. This would not be heavy, laborious or time consuming work. It would simply require that the volunteer visit his/her bin to routinely collect the discarded mono. During warmer months when most fishing is takes place, the visits would probably be every week or two, depending on experience with the bin; when it gets colder, visits would be less frequent.

This is an important project for the chapter. If you would like to be part of it please call Ray Cappock at 201-265-0908 or via email at raycapp@optonline.net.

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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 St, 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.

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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.

Catskill Fair

On Saturday August 25 Doug Penna will represent EJTU in the Catskills where he will once again sell fishing and non-fishing items at the Catskill Flea Market. All proceeds of Doug's work will go into EJTU's treasury but, if we want to make some money, someone will have to supply the things that Doug will sell.

If you have any old fishing equipment that you no longer want, pass it on to Doug and he will add it to his inventory.

If you have something that you would like Doug to sell for you, he will try to get a good price for you.

If you have non-fishing items, he will also sell those. So if you have one of those fish-net stocking lamps like the one in "A Christmas Story", or kitchen gadgets, tools, or other suitable flea market stuff, contact Doug. He can be reached at (201) 288-4409

EJTU Display Schedule

EJTU's display will be at Lodi's Library in August.

If you know of a local library that might want to host our display, please contact Doug Penna at (201) 288-4409.

Beware of Flying

Recently one of our members was leaving to fish in Montana. Going through the security check the inspectors found his Regal vise in his carryon. They would not allow him to take it on board and offered him the option of putting it in his checked luggage or throwing it away. Needless to say, his luggage had been checked and not available so his only recourse was to toss it out. Seems they will allow cigarette lighters on board (where smoking is not allowed) yet they wouldn't let a fly tying vise be carried on.

*From the EJTU web page -
www.eastjerseytu.org*

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

Fleas for Doug

Doug Penna will once again sell fishing and non-fishing items at the Catskill Flea Market. All proceeds of Doug's work will go into EJTU's treasury but, if we want to make some money, someone will have to supply the things that Doug will sell.

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Coddle Don't Kill

When the water temperatures get above 68 degrees, trout can't survive a fight no matter how they are treated.

If you still want to pursue our favorite species but do not want to stress them, here's a tip: cut the fly's hook off. This way you get the rise but no hook-up will occur.

George Petersen

Don't Be a Bottle Baby

Some times I do things with my brain on autopilot and it is not until I get wacked by some bit of otherwise obvious information that I come to my senses. This was the case recently when the President of the New York State TU council addressed the participants of a Casting for Recovery retreat. He spoke

about the current battle to stop Nestle from building water bottling plants, one in Tug Hill and two at the headwaters of Catskill streams. We all know that when you draw millions of gallons of water per day from an aquifer it has an adverse effect on ground water and thus an adverse effect on stream flows.

Of course, I was sitting there knowing that I had about 6 bottles of water in my cooler.

Here is the big picture. Every gallon of water put into plastic bottles is one less gallon for the fish. Plastic bottles are made from petrochemicals which is another use of oil. Once empty they are a disposal problem. Because we have no bottle bill in New Jersey they may get recycled or else they go to the landfill where they will remain for hundreds of years. Fuel oil used to transport the water by truck to the stores hits us again. And of course the coal, oil or natural gas used to generate the electricity to run the pumps hurts us by consuming fuel and polluting the air. So as convenient as they may be it is time for me (and you) to stop or at least reduce purchases of bottled water.

You might also consider a letter to NY DEC voicing opposition to the pumping plants. If these companies have to use our water sources, why not focus on the outflow of a watershed rather than its source. Great Bear bottles water from wells in Teterboro. It has to be filtered and purified but they are drawing it before it gets to the ocean. I think that makes more sense than taking water from the sources of our often abused trout streams.

So go out and buy yourself a reusable water bottle, fill it at home and save some fish.

Limp Leader

Chinese Invaders

If you happen to catch a light brown or olive colored crab with hairy claws, you've probably caught another one of the animals that are on the growing list of invasive species that are found in New Jersey – the Chinese mitten crab. And you don't have to be fishing in salt water when you find one of these invaders because mitten crabs are the only crabs that can live in fresh water in the northern hemisphere.

Young mittens spend 2-5 years in freshwater tributaries and can extend over 50 miles inland, potentially above fall lines. Then the mature male and female crabs migrate downstream to mate and spawn in salt water estuaries.

Mitten crabs have a few identifying characteristics: they are the only crabs to be found in fresh water, the light brown or olive colored carapace is up to four inches wide, the claws are equal in size with white tips and hair, and they have no swimming legs but instead have eight sharp tipped walking legs. You might feel that this is another alarmist report about a strange creature that can only be found in remote locations but, while sightings of mittens have been limited, they have been caught in Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay and the Delaware River and recently in the Hudson River near the Tappan Zee Bridge. So, they are in bodies of water on both sides of New Jersey. If you happen to find one of these crabs, note the exact location and the date that you caught it, and preserve it by icing or freezing it or, as a last resort, by putting it in rubbing alcohol. If you can, take a photo of it and email the photo to sercmittencrab@si.edu. This will go to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, Maryland, which is spearheading the investigation of mitten crabs. If you can't take a photo, call the Mitten Crab Hotline at 443-482-2222. Do not throw the crab back into the water.

For more information on mitten crabs and how you can help in the SERC investigation, visit <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/news/2007/mittencrab.htm> on the NJ DEP's Web site.



Speed in the Wild

Fishermen wander through little traveled areas while getting to streams, looking for new places to fish, and just because they enjoy being outdoors. However, there are other people who frequent the same areas, not because they enjoy the wild, but because they are attempting to avoid detection.

At a recent meeting of representatives of New Jersey's Trout Unlimited Chapters participants were advised of what to do if anyone comes upon a methamphetamine lab in a remote area: immediately contact the local police, don't touch anything and get away from the area. If a meth lab is found the first thing to do is to get away from the area because the chemicals that are used can be volatile and they are not the best things to come into contact with. And of course, the people who have been cooking the meth can be described in the same way, and they might be nearby. The Minnesota Department of Health has posted the following comments about meth production on its web site, "Meth can be made from common household chemicals and products, including the now restricted ephedrine and pseudoephedrine-containing medications. These ingredients are mixed and "cooked" to make this dangerous drug. The cooking process can also create potentially harmful chemical residues that can remain on household surfaces for months or years after "cooking" is over. There may be adverse health effects in people exposed to lab chemicals before, during and after the production process". While the equipment for a meth lab can be small enough to fit in a duffel bag, a cardboard box or the trunk of a car there are some identifying characteristics such as: unusual, strong odors (like cat urine, ether, ammonia, acetone or other chemicals), buildings with windows blacked out or covered by aluminum foil, plywood, sheets, blankets, etc., excessive trash including large amounts of items such as antifreeze containers, lantern fuel cans, red chemically stained coffee filters, drain cleaner and duct tape.

Ray Cappock

(Continued from page 1) *Ramblin' On* also enjoy the comradeship. In addition, you will accumulate points because you will be credited with 10 points for each four hours that you volunteer. As you reach various point levels you will be awarded an EJ TU knit shirt, a jacket and other items.

To keep up with current EJ TU events and to view photos of past events, please visit the EJ TU web site - www.eastjerseytu.org.

We still need a place to put a shed to hold the pieces of EJ TU equipment that some of our members are keeping in their cellars, attics and garages. If anyone knows where we can place a 12X12 shed please contact me. We prefer a location on municipal land or business property and not on private property.

Have you ever wondered how the streamer got its name? Here is the version that I heard and it seems logical to me. In the early eighteen hundreds women wore hats with long flowing feathers and those feathers were called streamers. The streamer fly also used long feathers and, as the name streamer seemed to fit the fly, it was adopted. Hold on, did I call it a fly? There has been controversy over the name because technically the streamer represents a minnow or small fish and not a fly with some long Latin name that I can never remember. So from the eighteen hundreds until this day there are late night arguments about whether the streamer should be classified as a fly. This is the question of the day, do you think of the streamer as a fly?

This requires some deep thinking, so I will sign off until next month.

Remember that we all live downstream so please report any pollution.

God Bless America

Herman Drenth

Conservation Notes

In May a member of the State's Fish and Wildlife Commission told me about large coyotes that are now found throughout north Jersey. On Tuesday, June 26, 2007, the Wall Street Journal carried an article about the proliferation and increasing potency of poison ivy. Then, during the following weekend, I attended a weekend meeting with representatives of the NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs where a few of the discussions outlined problems with bears and the number of them that have been killed because they insisted on repeatedly breaking into people's homes and rummaging around for food. Most of us, even those born on farms, have become "city people" and have forgotten that there are threats in the outdoors so perhaps it's time to address outdoor safety in New Jersey.

There is coyote information generated by the Fish and Wildlife Council but some readers might feel that they only have to be wary when they are "out in the wild". Remember, coyotes don't think about "wild" or civilized. If there's a possibility of finding food, no matter where it is they will come. The son of a friend discovered a coyote in his suburban driveway when he returned home and tried to scare it by beeping his horn and flashing his lights. The coyote merely growled and stood his ground, before slowly walking off to greener pastures. This aggressive behavior caused the homeowner to feel threatened enough to be very wary when he finally got out of his car.

Anyone who's walked along the banks of the Ramapo must have noticed that there seems to be a lot of poison ivy growing there this year. In fact I, with an all-knowing smirk, pointed some out and said that the heavy, early season rains must have caused the unusually lush crop this year. Wrong! According to Tara Parker-Pope's Wall St. Journal article, studies by a plant physiologist from Maryland's Department of Agriculture and by Duke University indicate that an increase in atmospheric CO2 is causing poison ivy to proliferate, to increase its growth rate, to grow larger, and to produce a greater volume of a more potent urushiol – the oil that causes the rash. Lewis Ziska, the plant physiologist is quoted as saying, "If it's producing a more virulent form of the oil, then even a small or more casual contact will result in a rash". Thirty percent of the population is not affected by urushiol's nasty rashes

but, if you are in that thirty percent, you may lose your immunity so watch out. If you've never seen what poison ivy can do, if you aren't sure what it looks like, or if you want recommendations for relief, you should visit www.poison-ivy.org. The site does, however, recommend that you don't view the photos of sufferers of poison ivy rashes before dinner.

Tyrolean hills may abound with the sound of music but the Ramapo Mountains abound with rattlesnakes. And Copperheads. I was talking to a policeman from the area who is a member of a group that studies rattlesnakes, and when I asked him where the snakes can be found, he just waved his arm around, and said, "Oh, just about anywhere in these hills." We were standing in the middle of Glen Gray Road at the time. This doesn't mean that you have to be afraid of everything when you leave concrete and macadam; just be aware and be careful. And of course, don't stick your hand into rock piles.

There's not much more that can be said about bear problems. We should know by now that these are not furry Disney characters; they are hairy, wild animals that, despite weighing a few hundred pounds, can outrun and outclimb you. One was in a tree in a backyard in highly-populated Westwood last year and one of our members met one in the area of Monkville and Green Turtle Pond, so be on the alert.

So now you're in the middle of a stream, feeling safe because you've avoided plant and animal threats, when a slippery rock attacks your foot and knocks you head over heels into the current. Where was your wading stick, or ski pole, or anything strong enough to provide a steady, tripod stance? They're easy to carry, can be as cheap as dirt, and might prevent a broken bone.

If that fall broke, twisted or strained something that made you immobile, can you immediately pull out a whistle and give the universal signal for help – three blasts? Cell phones are nice if there's a tower nearby but you can't depend on one safety device, and besides, whistles are small, light and don't need batteries. And, you'd better make that a loud whistle that will still make noise if it's winter and the little ball is frozen.

Have fun in the outdoors this summer, but don't forget sunscreen!