



Riffles

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

Volume 39

March 2009

Issue 3

President's Beat

Many people don't like to involve themselves in new activities when they are not sure what they will be doing; many people do not think that they are capable of contributing much if they join activities that have been taking place for a while; many people don't like to join on-going activities because they feel that they will be a stranger intruding on cliques; and, many people don't want to volunteer – perhaps a carryover from the military where people were advised to never volunteer for anything (ask me sometime about how I ended up in a twenty-six foot whale boat in the middle of the Pacific on a very dark night).

Maybe some of the reasons that are cited above are causing you to hold back from joining in some of EJTU's volunteer events. If so, I'd like to give you a brief rundown on what you are missing if you don't attend some of the events that you can find in our Calendar of Events.

On Sunday, March 1 we gathered at Dunkerhook Park to clean the area around the Saddle River and HoHoKus Brook. After milling around with cups of coffee at ten AM, small groups walked the riverbanks with garbage bags, picking up anything that did not grow there and putting it into the bags, then returning with the bags to our meeting place. Work gloves were supplied, as were garbage bags and pick-up tongs

During the March 5 to March 8 Suffern Show EJTU volunteers will be at our booth selling raffle tickets, answering questions about TU, tying flies, handing out TU literature, selling flies, and eating the bagels that Basil always brings. You can choose both what you would like to do and the day and hours that you prefer to help.

Saturday, March 14 brings the EJTU Annual Dinner. There will be bucket raffles

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When: March 11 at 7:30 PM
Where: American Legion Hall
33 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

March Speaker

Agust Gudmundsson Trout Streams of New Jersey

On March 11, 2009, Agust Gudmundsson will present a lecture and slide show on The Trout Streams of New Jersey. Agust is a fountain of first-hand knowledge about our trout streams so any members planning on fishing in New Jersey on or after opening day would be wise to bring a note book to record the information about the streams that Agust will mention.

In 1975, while in the 8th grade, Agust took a fly-fishing course with TU's North Jersey chapter and joined TU several years later. Since then Agust has been a leader in Trout Unlimited's cause in New Jersey, and has been instrumental in setting up Trout Conservation Areas (TCAs) at Point Mountain on the Musconetcong, and Ken Lockwood Gorge on the South Branch of the Raritan.

Welcome to EJTU's February New Members

P. Jeff DiPaola
Paul Ellerisick
Paul Kennedy
Fred Levitan
John W. Moran
Barry Nathans
Tom Norkus
Claudio A. Osorio
John Osterman
Joseph Paolillo III
A Sansiveri
Meghan VanDyk

Montvale
Jersey City
Ocean View
Fair Lawn
Paramus
Bayonne
Lyndhurst
Ridgewood
Norwood
Hewitt
Cedar Grove
Clifton

Monofilament Recycling

Our monofilament recycling program has been quiet during the winter months but as the days lengthen and more people come out to fish our volunteers will soon be active again.

If you are not familiar with our program here is a brief explanation. We have mounted monofilament recycling bins in a number of north Jersey locations that are near fishing areas. The bins - two and a half foot, vertical pieces of five inch PVC pipe with a ninety degree ell on top, into which discarded mono can be placed, and a cap at the bottom – are now at Glen Gray Road and Halifax Road on the Ramapo River, near East Shore Road on the Wanaque River, at two locations on Point View Reservoir, next to the boat ramp on Green Turtle Pond, next to two of Monksville Reservoir's boat ramps, and at the boat ramps servicing the four reservoirs (Canistear, Clinton, Echo Lake, and Oak Ridge) managed by the Newark Watershed Commission. The bins at the Newark Watershed's reservoirs are checked and emptied by an employee of the Commission but all of the others are the responsibility of EJTU member volunteers.

The monofilament that is retrieved from the bins is put into boxes with pre-paid

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Early start for March Meeting

Our March Monthly General Member's Meeting will begin one-half hour earlier than usual. We will start at 7 PM rather than at 7:30 PM.

The time from 7 PM until 7:30 PM will be devoted to a description of the terminal gear usually used for early season trout. Get to the meeting a little earlier than usual and learn about terminal gear, or refresh your memory after the long winter.

East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited Board of Directors

President

Ray Cappock

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Bob Hresko

Membership Secretary

Ed Sikorski

Conservation Chairman

Ray Cappock

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Bob Hresko

Speakers

Ed Higgins

Merchandise

Basil Santamaria

Riffles Editors

Gary Heger/Ray Cappock

Points

Jason Tillery

Publicity Chair

John Grisoni

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 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.

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 raycapp@optonline.net.

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and silent auctions plus a nice dinner with equally nice people.

Possibly in the last week of March and definitely during the weeks after the April 11 opening day of trout season we will meet the truck that carries trout to the streams in north Jersey. At the now-closed Britt's Tackle location and at Halifax Road on the Ramapo we distribute buckets of trout up and down stream; at Glen Gray Road we do the same but from a boat heading downstream and via cooler on a truck upstream. Every week the trout stocking is preceded by coffee, chatting and fish stories.

On Saturday, March 28 we will assemble at Glen Gray Road, next to the Ramapo River, clean up any trash, and rake wood chips over the area where fishermen park. It's similar to the Dunkerhook clean-up with coffee, unlimited chatting, and working with diligent but friendly people but, on this day we will also plant willow shoots along the Ramapo's banks.

On Saturday/Sunday, April 4/5 we will be at the Pequest Trout Hatchery. Inside the hall we will tie flies, hand out information and talk to the many visitors. Outside, at the trout pond, we will assist children who fish the pond (help bait hooks, unhook fish, etc.) Another fun day, rain or shine, at an event that has attracted thousands of visitors.

Another Saturday, this one on April 25, and EJTU will be represented at the Hudson River Fishermen's "Hooked On The Hudson". Tying flies, telling people about TU, and some very rudimentary fly casting instruction keep us busy at Ross Dock – in the shadow of the GW Bridge.

As you can see, anyone can be a big help at any of the EJTU events. There is no need for special talent or training; all you need is a desire to help and to meet friendly people. If you, like me, tie flies that look worse than road-kill you don't have to volunteer to tie; attend the event, pitch in where you can, and have fun.

Ray Cappock

March Fly of the Month

Spring is less than a month away, opening day is just around the corner, and it's time to restock those fly boxes. Early season fishing usually means streamers and nymphs.

Whether it's little black stones or big white streamers for the West Branch, it's time to get busy at the vice. While you're at it, how about whipping up an extra dozen for the chapter.

Bruce Seiden

2009 Pequest Open House

Getting set for spring? Anxiously waiting for the opening day of the trout season? Get in the mood by attending the Pequest Open House held on April 4th and April 5th.

This free, two day event is held each year at the Pequest Trout Hatchery on Route 46 in Oxford, NJ. This is an excellent family event for all ages. Events include: purchasing products from merchants in a flea market environment; learning about fisheries management, kids fishing the Educational Pond; watching various fly tying demonstrations.

Looking to volunteer? Every year our chapter has a table in the main hall where we promote conservation, hold fly tying demonstrations and sell raffle tickets for our annual fund raiser (all proceeds going to conservation). Our volunteers also assist at the Educational Pond where they work with children as they try and land that fish of a lifetime.

So bring the whole family for a day of fun and education. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Bob Hresko at hreskor@gmail.com.

Bob Hresko

EJTU Display

EJTU's migratory display has returned! The ominous prediction by Punxsutawney Phil does not seem to have frightened our display as it has emerged from Doug Penna's basement and will reside in the Hackensack Library during March and April.



EJTU Calendar

Advise Rich Malizia of changes to calendar events (E) at remqcp@optonline.net or 973-304-0789.

Ed Higgins (easyedh@verizon.net) is planning fishing trips (F) to a number of locations in 2009. Let Ed know if you are interested in these trips well in advance because in many cases openings are limited and reservations for a firm number of participants must be made. Get your money in as soon as possible or someone else will take your place. Please consult EJTU's web site's "Upcoming Events" for the most up-to-date details.

March:

Thursday, March 5 through Sunday March 8: (E) Suffern Show; Need set-up and take-down help, fly tyers, raffle sellers and EJTU promoters.

Saturday, March 7: (E) Ramsey Outdoor 'Cast and Blast Day'.

Wednesday, March 11; Speaker, Agust Gudmundsson – NJ Trout Streams

Saturday, March 14: (E) The EJTU annual dinner.

Saturday, March 28: (E) EJTU Ramapo Clean-up and parking area maintenance at Glen Gray Road

April:

Saturday, April 4 and Sunday April 5: (E) Pequest Open House; Assist with youth fishing program, promote EJTU

Wednesday, April 8: Speaker, John Punola – Delaware Shad fishing

Saturday, April 25: (F) Trip to the Musconetcong Trout Conservation Area

Saturday, April 25: (E) Hudson River Fisherman's Association; Demonstrate fly tying, provide fly casting instruction promote EJTU

May:

Friday, May 1 through Sunday May 3: (F) Two nights at Frost Valley, Claryville, NY

Wednesday, May 13: Meeting speakers Andrea & Glenn VanBenschoten - Fishing Close to Home

Saturday, May 16: (F) Shad trip to Worthington State Forest, NJ

Saturday, May 23 (tentative): (E) Mahwah Recreation Dept. Fishing Derby; Assist kids fishing

June:

Friday, June 5 through Sunday June 7: (F) Picnic, plus a possible two night stay at Catskill Fly Museum, Livingston Manor, N.Y. They have two nice bunkhouses that we can rent.

Saturday, June 6: (E) EJTU one-day fly fishing course at the Pequest.

Wednesday, June 10: Speaker, Don Baylor – Insects of a Trout Stream

Saturday, June 13 (tentative): (E) Meadowfest; Demonstrate fly tying, provide fly casting instruction promote EJTU

Saturday, June 13 through Saturday, June 20: (F) Block Island trip. This has to be arranged soon; we must have confirmation from members who will be interested in the trip so we can book the ferry, and rooms on the island in January, 2009. The trip may include a couple of classes for tying flies that are appropriate for the area

Sunday, June 28: (E) Clean-up on the Wanaque River along East Shore Road – and for those new to this river, an introduction to the river.

July & August: No scheduled events

September:

Saturday, September 12: (E) Ramapo River Day 2009; Same program as in prior years
Contact: Rich Malizia for Calendar Events (E) at remqcp@optonline.net or 973-304-0789.

Here Come the Bugs

If you have a clear view of the sky near tree tops and you lie back in a chaise lounge at around the time of the evening twilight you will probably see strange birds silhouetted against the darkening sky. They don't appear to be going from one tree to the next as birds do, and their flight patterns are not the steady, rhythmic patterns of birds. Instead, they circle, dart, dive and flit around in what seems to be an aimless and nervous circus act. As you try to determine why these evening birds display such erratic behavior, try to remember the time of day; you are not watching martins or swallows feeding before heading to roost but bats that are beginning their nightly sky-dance in search of flying insects.

I have watched this early evening display of acrobatics many times from my patio but this year I am afraid that it may be missing from my neighborhood. And, since the bats may be missing, the bugs that they would have fed on will flourish because every night each of these aerial insectivores would have consumed 50 to 75 percent of its weight in insects.

As the bats disappear from the sky, scientists are not blaming humans for the disappearance of a wildlife form as they are sometimes prone to do, but are instead admitting that they don't know what is to

Check Your Outboard Gas

Spring will be here soon so boats are coming out of back yards and outboard motors are being prepared for use. But everything is not the same as it always has been; most gas now has ethanol added to it.

On page 26 of the March 2009 issue of Outdoor Life there is an article about ethanol that will interest outboard motor users. The article describes how the ethanol that is mixed in gas easily separates and can cause problems in outboards if precautions are not taken. At one point in the article ethanol is described as "a varnish that dissolves any gunk in the tank, including rust caused by condensation. Ethanol even dissolves fiberglass tanks..."

I have not looked into all of Outdoor Life's claims but anyone who depends on an outboard motor should take the time to look for information on ethanol's effects and to look for a good fuel stabilizer.

Now, if the five hundred thirty five experts in Washington, DC would throw out their ethanol requirements and let people use corn for its proper purpose – bourbon – we would all be happier.

blame. They see what is happening but they don't know the cause or how it is spread.

What is happening is that large numbers of hibernating bats are dying. Those that have been examined have been emaciated, lacking in body fat, and in generally poor condition. The outward sign of the illness, a white fungus growing on their muzzles and other body parts, gives the malady its name – White-Nose Syndrome.

White-Nose Syndrome was first noted among dead and hibernating bats in caves near Albany, New York in 2007. Since then tens of thousands of dead and dying bats have been found in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. And now the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that the syndrome has surfaced in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

It is well known that many people regard bats in much the same way that they regard snakes, i.e., with strong aversion. The aversion to snakes may originate from teachings about the Garden of Eden and the dread of bats might have originated with Bram Stoker's Dracula but no one is being urged to fondle these creatures. However, as with the raptors – that we admire - we should try to protect them so they can go about their business of keeping

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mailing labels and sent to Pure Fishing's Berkley Corporation where it is processed and made into pellets that are then used for toys, tackle boxes and other plastic items.

In a few weeks new bins will be mounted near the Patriot's Way bridge on the Ramapo River and near the site of where Britt's Tackle shop was located. In addition, we will probably also add a bin at Old Tappan Road.

If you know of a place that could use a monofilament recycling bin, and if you know of someone who will check and empty it every week or so, please tell one of the board members or send a message to raycapp@optonline.net.

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populations of troublesome life forms under control.

If the many other world problems cause you to forget White Nose Syndrome and its effect on bat colonies, I think that you might remember it and the resulting lack of bats next summer when you are looking for something to put on mosquito bites.

Annual Picnic

EJTU's Annual Picnic at the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum will take place on Saturday, June 6 this year. There may also be a sleep over at the Museum on the nights of Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6

If you have never been to the Museum, it is in Livingston Manor, on one of the most productive sections of the Willowemoc Creek. The Museum's web site, with full information can be found at http://www.cffcm.net/index.htm, and directions are at http://www.cffcm.net/contact.htm

The picnic will consist of hamburgers, hot dogs, dessert, and refreshments. Like last year's picnic, the cost will be \$5 per person and children under 12 will be admitted at no charge. Also like last year, we will probably have a raffle/door prize.

The cost of the sleep over will be determined by the number of people who sleep over. There are 2 bunkhouses. Each sleeps 11 people and costs \$200 per night, so if 5 people sleep over, it will cost \$40 per person, per night, and if 10 people sleep over, the cost will be \$20 per person per night.



East Jersey Trout Unlimited



Annual Dinner March 14, 2009

This year the dinner will be held at the: Grand Chalet, 1377 Route 23 South, Wayne, NJ, 07407; Tel (973) 633-5111.

This dinner recognizes the members who sacrifice their time and energy to make the programs we support a success. Conservation to Education, to State Hatchery Programs for both children and adults, to the Suffern Show, stockings, clean-ups, as well as many more. Please come and join us, as the proceeds from this affair fund our programs and help keep the club active.

In addition to the awards to our outstanding members, the evening will consist of bucket raffles, silent auctions, and drawing for many great prizes, including fly rod, reels, and other fishing and non fishing items. A good time is guaranteed to all that attend.

The evening will begin with a cash cocktail hour from 6:30 pm to 7:30pm. Dinner will be from 7:30pm to 11:30pm. The menu includes: fresh fruit of the season, Caesar salad, ziti, stuffed potato, mixed vegetables, a choice of entrée, and beer, wine or soda.

Entrée Choice: A-Chicken Francais, B-Prime Rib, or C-Salmon in Dill Sauce

Payment of \$50.00 per person is due by 2/28/09. Please make checks payable to: EJTU and mail completed form in the mail to:

East Jersey TU, PO Box 366, Hohokus, NJ 07423

OR BRING TO THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

East Jersey Trout Unlimited Annual Dinner March 14, 2009

Please enter the letter of your meal choice on the line after your name:

Name _____
Guest _____
Guest _____
Guest _____
Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Please do your best to sit me with the following members:

To sign up for the picnic, see Ed Higgins with your \$5 per person by the May 13 Membership meeting. If you cannot attend one of the member meetings, we can make arrangements for you to mail your payment.

If you wish to stay over at the Museum, please let Ed know so we can reserve one or both of the bunkhouses.

Contact Ed Higgins at: easyedh@verizon.net or 201-791-4635

Ed Higgins