



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

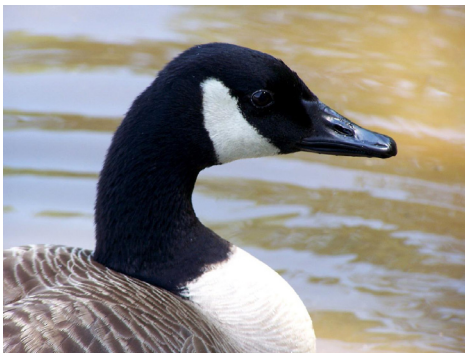
Volume 39

May 2009

Issue 5

President's Beat

We are now in the middle of Spring, watching the magic tricks that earth performs. Leaves suddenly spread from bare twigs, hyacinths and crocus crack the surface of the soil, forsythia and narcissus form yellow borders, and the migratory birds that stayed with us during the winter have moved north to nest so they can be replaced by the not-so sturdy types that went south for the colder months. Robins have taken the places of the dark-eyed Juncos, hummingbirds and even Monarch butterflies are making their astounding, annual trips, but where are those majestic vee formations of Canada geese? Some can be seen as they make their way to hockeysland but in most of north Jersey our resident geese yawn and don't even watch as their brethren expend all that energy migrating. They're a close to home example of the result of man tinkering with nature. Last month I took a GeesePeace (they are the egg oiling group) training course and learned why we have such a large population of resident geese. It didn't happen



because of goose laziness, it was caused. The first residents were those that were caught by hunters, both commercial and sport, and used as living decoys. The decoys worked so well that the migratory geese were almost completely eliminated,

(Continued on page 2)

When: May 13 at 7:30 PM

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

May Speaker

Andrea & Glenn Van Benschoten
Fishing the local ponds, lakes
and streams

Andrea & Glenn VanBenschoten are experts on fishing the local ponds, lakes, and streams in our area. Rather than going on about fishing the more distant famous streams, they stress fishing the local water that we can reach with a short drive or even a short walk. With the price of gas, and the way the economy has been, being able to drive 10 – 20 minutes and go fishing for the evening after work could be just what we need to get out of our rut and maybe relieve some our stress.

Close to home fishing is the best way to introduce our children and/or grandchildren to fishing. When they get bored, it is only a short trip home.

Andrea & Glenn have a new book called "Simple Ten Flies Ties" of which they'll have copies of with them.

The couple is also knowledgeable in buying used cane fly rods at garage sales and on EBay. Who among us hasn't dreamed of walking into a garage sale and finding a bamboo fly rod. Or who hasn't thought of buying one of the cheaper bamboo fly rods on EBay? Well Glenn and Andrea do just that with some regularity. Find out how they find quality bamboo rods.



June Speaker Don Baylor

On June 10, 2009, East Jersey Trout Unlimited will have Don Baylor as a guest speaker. Don has given presentations to East Jersey TU and at Ramsey Outdoor Store several times in the past.

His main profession was teaching English at Stroudsburg High School in Pennsylvania. But, since 1980, in his secondary profession, as an M.S. in aquatic biology, he has worked as a biologist with Aquatic Resource Consulting where he is helping to build better trout fisheries throughout the Northeast.

Don is a fly fisherman and tier since the age of 11. He published the booklet, Pocono Hatches, an article in Rod & Reel magazine and over 60 technical reports for Aquatic Resource Consulting.

Don has taught Entomology for fly fisherman at East Stroudsburg University, numerous fly fishing seminars at Kettle Creek Lodge, the International Fly Tying Symposium, and is presently teaching at Indian Springs on the upper Delaware River.

If you want to know about hatches, don't miss the June 10 meeting

Welcome to March's New Members

Justin Arabadjief	Hoboken
Bruce Barglowski	Hillsborough
Dean Blumetti	North Arlington
Doug Boydston	Prospect Park
Damiel M. Drucker	Hoboken
Arthur A. Erickson	Wayne
Steve Focht	Teaneck
Kenneth Gacek	Lyndhurst
Louanne Kacmarik	Long Valley
John A Legrande	Washington
Zander Oldendorp	Hoboken
Vincent Parrotta	Fort Lee
Mark Parsons	Edgewater
Fred Petrone	Clifton
James Tafaro	Mahwah
Gustav J. Von Roth	Brooklyn

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Merchandise

Basil Santamaria

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Points

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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.

(Continued from page 1) President

so goose hunting was severely restricted. But, then the US and State Fish and Wildlife agencies acted to re-populate wild Canada geese by requiring the release of the live decoys. They also removed eggs from nesting pairs and artificially incubated them so the geese would lay another clutch. Nesting tubs that protected geese from predators were also used. The result was an explosion of resident geese that have no drive to nest in Canada because they were born here.

Our resident geese might migrate in what is known as a molt-migration but, once they have goslings, they must stay to raise them; un-mated, one to three year old juveniles do not nest but may also hang around to help out. By the time the newly hatched gosling are capable of living on their own the mated pairs and the juveniles have molted and are incapable of flying until mid August.



Even the resident geese without goslings and the juveniles may fly north to find safe places to molt before they lose their flight feathers. Cornell University and Michigan studied this early June molt migration and found that the geese left local areas, molted in James Bay, and then did not return until late September. No one is certain of why the molt migration takes place but the most likely theory is that geese have a built in drive to fly north in spring.

Getting rid of our resident geese and reinstating the natural migratory system will take a long time but, it seems that when our efforts to improve things go awry repairing the resulting damage is always a long process. On May 3 the TimesOnLine reported the following: *Large numbers of Chinese workers have been poisoned by mercury, which forms part of the compact fluorescent lightbulbs. A surge in foreign demand, set off by a European Union directive making these bulbs compulsory within three years, has also led to the reopening of mercury mines that have ruined the environment.*

Ray Cappock

Fly of the Month

A glorious time to be alive and knee deep in a Trout stream. The first major hatches should be in full swing: Hendricksons, Blue Quills, Quill Gordons, Sulphurs.

These are the flies that made the Catskills famous, and defined the "Catskill Style" of dry fly. So as you prepare for the next day on the stream and tie up a few of your favorites, how about whipping up an extra dozen for the chapter.

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 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 got wiped clean during the Suffern show and Basil could have sold a lot more if we had them. Now is the time to start rebuilding our inventory for next year. 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

Frank B. Hall Memorial Fly Tying Contest

The pattern for this year's Frank Hall Memorial Fly Tying Award is the **Henryville Special**, a classic caddis dry fly in size 14. The official pattern for the contest will be as listed in Eric Leiser's "The Book of Fly Patterns".

Tyers may submit as many entries as they wish. Please bring the flies to a Chapter Meeting, mail them to the chapter PO Box, or drop them off at the Ramsey Outdoor Store fishing department in Paramus marked "Attention John R.". The deadline for submissions is the June 10th General Meeting. Be sure to include your name with your entries.

The recipe is: Henryville Special

Hook:	Mustad 94840 or equivalent size 14
Thread:	Gray 6/0
Palmer Rib:	Grizzly Hackle palmered through body (hackle size slightly less than that of hackle collar)
Body:	Olive floss
Under Wing:	Wood duck flank fibers
Wing:	Mallard quill sections (tied to flare outward from body)
Hackle:	Brown

The winner will be announced at our regular meeting on July 8th. Good luck to all entrants

Bruce Seiden

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.

May

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

Thursday May 14; trout float stocking at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

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

Thursday May 21; trout float stocking at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

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

Thursday May 28; final trout float stocking at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

June

Saturday, June 6: EJTU picnic at the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum in Livingston Manor, NY. Cost \$5

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

Wednesday, June 10: Meeting -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

July

Wednesday, July 8: Meeting - in open pavilion, with hot dogs and a swap meet.

Sunday, July 12: (E) Clean-up on the Wanaque River along East Shore Road - and for those new to this river, an introduction to the river.

August

Wednesday, August 12: Meeting - speaker Hackensack River guide Jay Angrick

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.

Contact: Ed Higgins for Fishing Trips (F) at (easyedh@verizon.net)

Knots

Everyone has experienced it. You were fighting a fish, the line went limp and when you reeled in the line you found a little, curly, flower-like bit of monofilament where the hook used to be. Another bad knot.

Knots can give way because the one that was used weakened the line, because you did not tie it properly, or because you used the wrong knot. Some knots will maintain nearly one hundred percent of a line's strength but if the knot is in monofilament and you jerk it tight without lubricating it you may heat the mono enough to weaken it, and some wonderful knots will not be worth anything if you use them for the wrong purpose.

The Ashley Book of Knots presents drawings and descriptions of how to tie more than 3,900 knots, and learning to tie them might be a wonderful hobby but for the average fisherman learning to tie a dozen might be overkill. If you fish offshore, you may want to learn the Bimini Twist and some heavy-duty knots, while the fly fisherman who spends time on streams and ponds only has to know how to tie backing to the reel, fly-line to the backing, leader to the fly-line, tippet to the leader, and the fly to the tippet. Add a little time learning how to tie a loop on the end of a line and dropper loop in the middle and you are prepared for almost anything.

If you have attended one of EJTU's fly fishing courses you have seen how simple it is to tie the most used knots. However, if you need a refresher or if you would like to experiment with some alternative knots, the following web sites can help you with their clear presentations:

At EJTU we have used the CD version of Grog's Automated Knots in our presentations. If you go to the web site, www.animatedknots.com, you can select the knots that you want to learn, and then play the animation rapidly, slowly or step by step until you have mastered them. Grog has animations for 119 knots.

A short time ago Morten Kjems, a Danish fisherman opened a nice web site with video presentations of 55 knots. The site is a hobby project but Kjems shows a video of his hands and explains each step as he slowly ties knots. Like most Danes he speaks beautiful English so don't worry about needing a translator. The url of the site is www.videofishing.com.

The site, reelreports.com, only lists twenty-two knots but they present more than one video of each knot so I don't know how many actual instructions videos are available. One that everyone should watch is the first video showing hook removal. A fisherman named Derek who has one tine of a salt-water treble hook imbedded in the base of his thumb sits swigging from a large bottle of Maker's Mark Whisky while the captain of the fishing boat prepares the line and then jerks the hook free. The home url is <http://www.reelreports.com/fishing-knots.php>

Troutlet.com not only lists twenty-seven knots but it tells where to use them and then has clear animations showing how to tie each. The rest of the site seems to be devoted to discounted sales of fishing equipment. The url is <http://www.troutlet.com/Fishing-Knots-W21C54.aspx>

Orvis also has a useful animated knot site that presents eight knots. Go to http://www.orvis.com/orvis_assets/files/index.html for this site.

Other sites you may want to look at are www.steelheader.com where knots' breaking strengths are given but the instructions are only the standard drawings with explanations, www.netknots.com that has good animations but for only a few of the knot that are covered, and Kilroy's Fly Tying, <http://www.killroys.com/knots/knots.htm>, where you will find large scale drawings of fly fishing knots accompanied by good explanations and advice.

No trout left behind in NJ classrooms

Nothing beats dirt and water for getting kids interested in nature. The state's "Trout in the Classroom" program is a great hands-on example of how kids can learn about the environment and how it connects to their own homes and communities.

Over the last century, eastern brook trout populations from Maine to Georgia have declined. The brook trout thrives in cold, clean water, and is an aquatic version of the proverbial "canary in the coal mine." They are native to New Jersey, but most of New Jersey's rivers and streams no longer support reproducing populations.

"Trout in the Classroom" gives K-12 students a chance to help. Kids raise trout from eggs, monitor water quality and study stream habitats. During the year, teachers can tailor the program to fit their own school plans. The program has interdisciplinary applications in science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, fine arts, and physical education. Students learn to appreciate water, understand ecosystems and develop a conservation ethic.

"Trout in the Classroom" programs have been operating across the United States for over 20 years. The first one in New Jersey started in 1991 at Hopatcong Middle School in Morris County. Students from that first class successfully lobbied to make the brook trout our official state fish! Even though the brook trout (*salvelinus fontinalis*) is really a member of the salmon family, it's the only "trout" native to this state we're in.

This year, about 80 schools are participating in the program, including kids from rural counties to urban centers. The current New Jersey curriculum is aimed at 6th to 9th grade science classes, though there are some older and younger classes participating. Interested teachers can contact the N.J. Division of Fish & Wildlife for an activity guide, set-up instructions and lists of supplies and sources. Members of Trout Unlimited, the nonprofit conservation group, will work with them to set up the aquaria in their classrooms. On a case-by-case basis, Trout Unlimited may also provide financial support.

In October, the Division of Fish & Wildlife will provide free brook trout eggs from its Pequest Fish Hatchery in Warren County. Over the course of the school year, students can watch eggs hatch and fish grow into fingerlings. They observe

the trout rearing process, wrestle with real-life water quality issues, and use their knowledge and creativity to seek solutions. The brook trout "graduate" in the spring when students release them into approved streams.

Currently, New Jersey has 123 streams where brook trout naturally reproduce. With the help of "Trout in the Classroom," young conservationists are learning the value of protecting these habitats!

Learn more about the "Trout in the Classroom" program from the Division of Fish & Wildlife website at www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/tic.htm. You can even read some of the kids' firsthand observations at the New Jersey Trout in the Classroom Journal at www.njtroutintheclassroom.org.

By Michele S. Byers, Executive Director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation (www.njconservation.org)

Hunter Education

During conversations with EJTU members it becomes clear that when they are not hunting fish or hunting trash along the banks of rivers many of them are real hunters – gunners or bowmen.

If you would like to join the hunting community and have not had a license in the past you will first have to attend a hunter education class. Classes are held at various times throughout the year but as the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife tells us, spring is a great time to attend the class. The following F&W announcement should help you get started:



The NJ DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife reminds anyone interested in completing the hunter education course that the month of May normally has the smallest hunter education class sizes of the entire year. Short lines and low student to instructor ratios make May the best bet for students to attend the one-day testing and field session. Home study materials for the course are entirely online, including the video. Printed course material and DVDs are also available from license agents throughout the state.

No Hunter Education classes are scheduled during the summer and classes fill quickly in the fall. Don't delay, take the course in May. For more information go to <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/hunted.htm>

What would you like?

Is there a topic that you would like speakers at our monthly meetings to cover? Are there projects that you would like to see EJTU get involved in?

If you want to give us some input on these topics or on anything else, tell one of the board members at the next monthly meeting, send an email to raycapptu@gmail.com or write to EJTU at P.O. Box 366 Hohokus, NJ 07423-0366. We would like to know what you think

No Photos, Please!

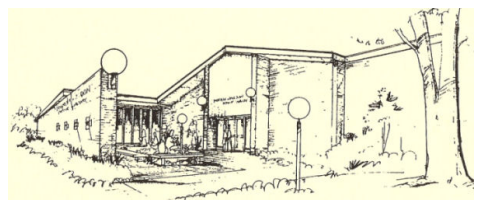
Most fishing publications feature photos of people holding a fish that they have just caught. Some are standing in the water while others kneel near the water but you can see that they intend to keep the fish out of the water for as short a period as possible. And, most of us have been told or have read someplace that we should limit the time that our newly caught fish are out of the water but that thirty seconds of "air time" does little harm.

According to the May 2009 issue of Outdoor Life, scientists at Utah State University disagree. After testing fish, they say the following, "Our results confirm the results of previous studies. Pre-release air exposure and handling cause more physiological stress than either hooking or playing time."

The EJTU Library Exhibit

Hooray, Hooray, it's the First of May and we're off to North Haledon today!

Someone heard Doug Penna singing this as he moved the EJTU exhibit to the North Haledon library where it will reside for the month of May.



For Sale

Sage Graphite III, 6100-3 RPL, 10', 6 wt, 3.5 oz, three piece rod, for \$350; used once for float tubing! Includes sock and carrying case.

Montague - used 8.5ft, three piece bamboo rod, converts to a 6ft (in two pieces) rod, for \$250; made years ago but in excellent condition. Includes carrying case.

Call Tom Kieren at 973-214-6473