



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of
East Jersey Trout Unlimited

September 2019
Volume 50, Issue 9
Please Consider The Environment Before Printing Riffles



September General Membership Meeting



EJTU's August general membership meeting will be held on September 11th. Doors open at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Our special guest speaker will be Bob Lindquist.

Bob is well known as a master fly tier and photographer and has fished extensively throughout the Northeast in both fresh and salt water. Bob will give us a presentation on Atlantic Salmon fishing in Labrador and his several trips out of the Big River Camp.

He will show us some very professional and exciting video that was taken by the New Flyfisher Show while Bob was there last year. Bob will educate us on the area and the fishing in one of Canada's best Atlantic Salmon rivers. Come and Join Us!



Bob Lindquist

Inside this issue of Riffles

- Upcoming Events..... 1
- President's Beat..... 2
- Tongass Forest..... 2
- EJTU Photo of The Month..... 3
- Housatonic Trip 3
- Conservation Notes 4
- The Big IDEA 4
- Ramapo Weir Repair 5
- Hexagenia Happenings 6
- Higa To The Rescue 7
- The Fishermen..... 7

Other Fun Upcoming EJTU Events

- September 11th: General Chapter Meeting
- September 27th-29th: Housatonic Trip
- October 9th: General Chapter Meeting
- October 19th: Paulinskill Tree Planting
- November 13th: General Chapter Meeting
- December 11th: General Chapter Meeting - Holiday Party.
- January 8th: General Chapter Meeting
- January 24th-26th: EJTU Booth At The Edison Show

A full list of upcoming events is available on EJTU's calendar.



Volunteers Needed

- Board of Directors Members
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Bergen County Federation of Sportsmen's Representative
- Fishing Trips Director
- Conservation Committee Chair

EJTU Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President / Webmaster

Chris Henrickson - Westwood

1st Vice President

Greg Koch - Hoboken

2nd Vice President / Membership

Elio Chiavola - Lincoln Park

Treasurer

Ray Tannberg - Washington Township

Secretary

Justin Fuller - Park Ridge

DIRECTORS

President Emeritus

Bruce Seiden - Fair Lawn

Conservation Chairman

Rich Malizia - Hawthorne

Trips

Dino Eftychiou - Montvale

Publicity

Bruce Halstater - Norwood

Speakers

Ed Janiga - Franklin Lakes

Merchandise

Charlie Maccia - Verona

Education

Doug Penna - Hasbrouck Heights

Points

Paul Reithmeier - Ringwood

Director At Large

Igor Zaretsky - Fair Lawn

Additional EJTU Leaders

Strategic Planning

Ken Barile - Montvale

Diversity Initiative

Jon Daffron - Ridgewood

Veterans Services

Vic Mignoli - Little Silver

Trout In The Classroom

Jim Piombino - Fair Lawn

President's Beat

By Chris Henrickson



I just returned from a very nice week long vacation with my extended family in the Moosehead Lake region of Maine. Fishing is interesting at this time of year in this area of Maine and in particular the rivers that are connected to massive Moosehead Lake - either the Lake's tributaries or outlets. Many of the larger Landlocked Atlantic Salmon and Brook Trout leave the rivers and either descend into the lake (Tributaries) or ascend into the lake (Outlets with fish ladders).

Yet, many fish remain in the rivers and the fishing was still quite good while I was vacationing in the area this year, but the river fish in late August are typically smaller and younger. The larger fish will

not return to the rivers until the fall when both river flows increase and the water temperature drops.

My friends and family members remarked how cold the water in Moosehead Lake was and most of us that did swim only took ones with a short duration of about 5 minutes or less. After a couple of these short and chilly swims, I had convinced myself that both the lake water and the water in the connected rivers was still cold enough for safe catch and release fly fishing.

Most of the fish I caught were around 8 inches in size, came to net pretty easily and were subsequently quickly released and swam away. However, one fish that I hooked on a caddis dry fly in the Moose River was a bit more sporty and was more difficult to bring to net. By the time I had landed the fish and removed the fly, it was totally spent. I tried to revive the fish in the usual manner (holding the fish upstream in fast water) and was I really shocked to see it start to float away belly up! After all, I had been swimming all week and the water was cool, I was way up north close to Canada and it was not a particularly hot day or week. It took me three attempts to successfully revive this salmon and watch it tiredly swim off.

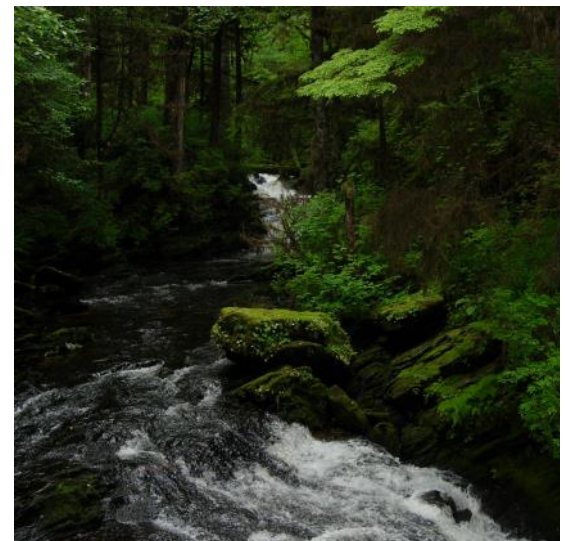
After this incident, I pulled out my thermometer and checked the temperature in the Moose River. It was 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the middle of the water column. I put away my fly fishing tackle and was done fishing for the day. The water that feeds the Moose River comes from Brassua Lake - which is a top release dam. I later checked the water in Moosehead Lake at the dock along which we had been swimming and it was 72 degrees Fahrenheit in the upper water of the shallows and 70 degrees in the upper water of the deeper water. I was very surprised at the temperature reading because the water had felt so cold (maybe I am just getting old).

The moral of the story is to ALWAYS check water temperature multiple times a day when fishing in the summer months and early fall in order to verify safe fishing conditions exist - regardless of whether the day is cool, how the water feels to the touch or the location of where you are angling. Better safe than sorry.

Tongass National Forest Under Seige

By Rich Malizia

The latest attack on the environment is the Administration's efforts to remove roadless rule protections from the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass is a unique intact temperate rainforest in southeast Alaska. Elimination of the roadless rules would expose thousands of acres of forest to commercial logging. Loss of these forestlands will adversely affect the salmon populations which are the healthiest in the region. The forest service will be forced to spend millions of dollars constructing roads, the cost of which will exceed the market value of timber to be harvested. Simply, the entire idea is absurd. It is another "Pebble Mine" type environmental disaster. To borrow a phrase from another, the Administration continues to ignore the outcome for the sake of the income. This deserves an e-mail, letter or phone call to your federal government representatives.



The Tongass



Photograph of the Month: Jonathan Daffron - "Mackenzie Erler having a blast during the first ever EJTU Family Day on July 27th, 2019"

Upcoming Housatonic River Trip

By Ken Barile

Do you enjoy sitting around a campfire with friends, recounting the day's catch and lamenting the one that got away? Fishing a storied river that holds giant browns and acrobatic rainbows. . . well, then the East Jersey Trout Unlimited camping/fishing trip to the Housatonic river in Sharon Connecticut is for you.

This three-day trip will take place September 27th through 29th. We will be camping at the beautiful Housatonic Meadows State Park campgrounds. We will pre-plan campsites to combine tent locations and save members money. The three-day inland non-resident fishing license cost is \$22.00.

For more information, visit the East Jersey Trout Unlimited website, or contact trip coordinator Ken Barile at: (phone) 201 316-6965 (email) kenbarile@me.com

Food tastes better around a campfire after a day of fishing, and you'll sleep like a baby in the woods nestled amidst the fir trees. Come spend an inexpensive and memorable weekend with us.



The Housatonic is always beautiful, but particularly so in the Fall!

Contact EJTU

Website: www.eastjerseytu.org
Email: eastjerseytu@gmail.com
Instagram: [@eastjerseytu](https://www.instagram.com/eastjerseytu)
Facebook: [eastjerseytu](https://www.facebook.com/eastjerseytu)
Twitter: [@EJTU1](https://twitter.com/EJTU1)
YouTube: [EJTU](https://www.youtube.com/EJTU)

Mailing Address:

East Jersey Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 366 Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423

General Membership Meetings:

Second Wednesday of the month.
Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM

The American Legion Hall

33 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

[Directions](#)

Board of Director's Meetings:

Last Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM

Fair Lawn Athletic Club

14-19 Parmelee Ave
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
201-796-9771

[Directions](#)

Conservation Committee Meetings:

Second Thursday of the month at
7:00 PM

Louis Bay 2nd Public Library

345 Lafayette Avenue
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

[Directions](#)

About EJTU

East Jersey Trout Unlimited (EJTU) is a community of more than 750 anglers in the greater northeastern New Jersey region who are dedicated to cold water conservation and the stewardship of our local watersheds.

Our members work to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain trout habitat for anglers today and for the next generations of sportsmen and women who value the relationship between clean, healthy waterways and sustainable fishing.

Conservation Notes

By Rich Malizia



On Saturday, August 17th, a dozen hard-working volunteers reinforced the cross vane that we built upstream of the Glen Gray Bridge on the Ramapo River. To my surprise, it was exactly six years since we did the initial work. The cross vane is doing exactly what it was designed to do. When the river is running high, the cross vane has little effect on the direction of flow. However, at lower water levels the flow is directed away from the riverbank. As the river's main

flow is directed towards the middle of the river, areas along the banks gradually fill with silt and sediment. Eventually that area will be narrower and deeper, providing more fish friendly habitat. Thank you to all the volunteers.

This week a young Swedish environmental activist, Greta Thunberg, arrived in the US. She made the trip via a sailing vessel which was powered by wind and sun. Her arrival garnered very little attention. Unfortunately, except for some recognition from the environmental community, media outlets all but ignored the event. This seems to be the attitude of many. I find it difficult to accept that so very few people seem to care. Maybe this is why those in Washington have been so successful in dismantling many hard fought environmental protections which have taken the environmental community many years to implement. Greta Thunberg; you have my support.

The Endangered Species Act is, itself, endangered. Now it appears that the most "endangered species" of all are those individuals in the current administration with common sense. The only purpose served by the proposals to gut the Act is to make it easier for the extractive industries and industrial polluters to return to 1970's era of business as usual. One would expect an outcry from those more environmentally conscience member of Congress, but the silence has been deafening. The excuse used for these changes is that the Administration wants to make it "easier" to follow the requirements of the Act. However, it also includes the measurement of the economic

costs associated with the application of the provisions of the Act in determining how or if it will be enforced. But, nowhere is there any mention of the cost of NOT complying with the Act. How much is a dead polar bear worth, or a wolf, or a few million salmon? Shouldn't these costs be part of the calculation? This is a matter that should get everyone's attention. We need e-mails, phone calls and letters sent to those who are charged with administering the Act or making these changes.

Harmful algal blooms continue to plague several of our local lakes. While limited improvements have been noted in some areas of Lake Hopatcong, much of the lake is still off limits. Please check on the status of any body of water where you plan to fish or boat. Several potentially life threatening events have been reported recently. Once the water cools, the bacteria should die off. However, we must remain willing to address the sources of pollution which give rise to the development of these harmful algal blooms. Otherwise, it will repeat again next year when the waters warm.

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife is expected to continue its annual fall stocking program. Although the schedule has not been announced at this time, historically stocking is done during the first half of the month of October. We plan to assist with the stocking, so please watch for an email announcing the date. We will need a dozen volunteers to successfully bucket and float stock throughout the Mahwah/Oakland drainage of the Ramapo. Usually, the Ramapo is the only river in our area that is stocked. So please plan to participate as this stocking will provide fish that can be caught and released throughout the fall and winter months.

We have scheduled an event with The Nature Conservancy to continue efforts to plant trees and shrubs along the Paulins Kill in the area of the old Columbia Dam. With the removal of the dam many acres of riparian lands are in need of stabilization. These plantings are designed to accomplish that. The date is Saturday, October 19, 2019 with a rain date of October 26th. Further details will be announced closer to the date of the project. This is a great opportunity to introduce your children or grandchildren to a conservation project as much of the work can be accomplished by young workers. Specific details will be announced as plans develop closer to the date of the project.

TAKE TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

The Big IDEA (IDEA = Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Awareness)

By Jonathan Daffron

Last year my wife, Kristen, and I went away for our anniversary to a great spot in the Poconos called The Lodge at Woodloch. The place has great food, tons of outdoor activities (archery, hiking, paddle-boarding, etc), a spa, and arts and craft classes galore. It's awesome – like a high-end summer camp for adults. As we perused the schedule of activities for the upcoming day, we noticed that there was an intro to fly fishing class. The Lodge provides all the gear and an instructor, and the attendees get a fly casting lesson and then a chance to test what they've learned on a stocked pond. I encouraged Kristen to give it a try. A professional instructor taught her a basic cast within 15 minutes, and she was catching blue gill out of the pond within 30 minutes of stepping on the dock! And just like that, our chapter of anglers got a little bit stronger and more diverse. Kristen has already had a positive impact on EJTU: she was instrumental in helping to pull off our first Family Day in July. Her quick lesson at Woodloch was also a major impetus for suggesting that we develop a women's fly fishing class. We're currently working on setting one up, so if you are interested in attending, or know someone who might like to find out more, please [send JD an email](#).



Kristen giving our son, Henry, some pointers at the Glen Rock Arboretum.

New EJTU Members

**Joseph Bevacqua, Bob Finnen,
Lukas Politis and Daniel Thompson**

Welcome and thank you for helping us to protect northeastern NJ's cold-water resources. We look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming conservation projects, meetings or fly fishing trips!

To Join EJTU or Renew Your EJTU Membership

Visit TU National's membership page at gifts.tu.org. Remember to choose to be assigned to the "East Jersey Chapter - 091".

Ramapo River Weir Repair

By Justin Fuller

With bath towels, bed sheets, and a bottle of Aleve between them, a dedicated group of conservationists met at the Glen Gray Bridge on August 17th. They relocated rocks and boulders in an effort to repair and reinforce the cross vein located immediately north of the bridge. The cross vane will continue to help to alleviate erosion along the bank, directing water flow back the center of the stream. In the coming years the section below should deepen, regulating water temperatures and make aquatic species passage easier.

A thank you to all the volunteers who came out and worked incredibly hard to finish the job. And a special thanks to the new faces. We really appreciated you getting involved and hope to see you again soon.



Hexagenia Happenings on The Ramapo

By Ed Janiga

I have been fishing the Ramapo River for I guess about 30 years now and I am still surprised and shocked by the diversity that I find in this river. In mid August this year I took to lower end of the river to fish for smallmouth bass out of my kayak and I noticed a few spinners in the air as dusk approached. Not all that unusual, but its pretty late in the summer and not the time I would expect much mayfly activity. And these spinners where huge!

They were doing the up and down dance and gliding down to the surface thing. I almost thought they were damsel flies due to the size of these guys but they were definitely mayflies. After a few attempts I managed to catch one and later that night I took these photos and started to do some research. I grabbed my well worn copy of Hatches and started to try to ID these spinners

which had bodies over an inch long and long tails which made the entire mayfly over 3 inches in length!

They were not brown drakes as they have three tails on the spinner and the patterns and coloration on the abdomen were not that of the green drake. The coloration, hatching period and substrate of the stream (silty slow moving water) was a perfect match to the Hexagenia Genus.

I have heard of these massive hatches of Hexagenia in places like the AuSable in Michigan but never any mention of them around here. The species was a bit more difficult to identify but probably Limbata. This genus supposedly is almost every state and more common than one would think. Anyway, it was cool to find North America's largest mayfly right in our backyard!



About Riffles

Riffles Editors: Dino Eftychiou, Justin Fuller and Chris Henrickson.

[Subscribe to and Download Back Issues of Riffles](#)

Riffles is your publication; we encourage all members to contribute articles, tips and stories. Articles may relate to trout, trout fishing, fishing in general or conservation. All articles are published, edited and may be condensed at the discretion of the editors and should meet EJTU standards regarding protecting our environment and the merits of "catch and release." Pseudonyms may be used, but the editors must be informed of the name of the member who writes the article.

Questions, Comments and How to Submit Articles

Any suggestions you may have to improve Riffles are greatly appreciated. If you have any articles or content you would like to submit, please email the Editors at eastjerseytu@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

About Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited is a national organization with about 300,000 members and supporters organized into over 400 chapters and councils from Maine to Montana to Alaska.

This dedicated grassroots army is matched by a respected staff of lawyers, policy experts and scientists, who work out of more than 30 offices nationwide.

Looking to Buy, Sell, Swap or Donate a Fishing Related item?

EJTU can help! Chapter members are welcome to list items they are looking to buy sell or swap on either our online [website forum](#) or on our [Facebook Page](#).

All chapter members are welcome to attend our annual tackle swap and BBQ at our July regular membership meeting. At the meeting you can display all of the items you want to sell or swap.

EJTU also accepts donations (which are tax deductible) of items, which we will sell to raise funds for chapter activities and conservation projects.

Higa to the Rescue.....

By Ken Barile

Fishing during the recent Ausable trip was not like prior years. The catch numbers were not there for most fishermen. I myself was one of the anglers that came up empty on Friday during the day. I was fishing with my buddy, Dino. We decided to give the Saranac river a try for the evening hatch. I had thrown every fly I could think of during the day, so I decided to try a new fly I picked up at the local fly shop, Higa's S.O.S.

The Higa is a Baetis Emerger nymph that was developed by the famed Utah guide Spencer Higa of the Falcon's Ledge lodge. The S.O.S. part of the name in this case means "Save our Skins" as it was popular with guides whose customers were not catching fish. It was their "go to" fly.

I used the Higa as a dropper behind a larger nymph. On my first cast I got a strike but did not set the hook. On the second cast to the same area, I hooked up. It was a feisty Rainbow about 12 inches. He put up a good fight but I landed him. Two or three casts later, I again hooked up. This time it was a beautiful brown about the same size. I thought to myself, now I have the formula for success.

It is usually at this point that the fishing gods intervene to deflate your ego and return you to earth. The water was shallow with ripples and a rocky bottom. In no time my Higa was hooked on the bottom, and despite my laudable efforts to free it, it is now a permanent fixture on the bottom of the Saranac River. If I had known it was such an effective fly, I would have bought more than one at the fly shop.

Since that time, I learned how to tie Higa's S.O.S. fly and have tied several dozen. Below you will find the recipe. I hope it brings you good luck.

By the way, if you want to learn how to tie this and other effective flies, sign up for one of our two EJTU fly tying courses In Paramus or Wayne [on our website here](#).

Higa's S.O.S. Recipe (Tightline Productions version)

Hook:	2X-short Emerger Hook (here a Dai-Riki #125), sizes 16-20
Bead:	Nickel, 5/64-inch
Thread:	Black, 70-denier or 8/0
Rib:	Silver Ultra Wire, small
Tail:	Black pheasant tail
Wingcase:	Red Holo Tinsel, medium (or red floss as in the original pattern)
Thorax:	Black Australian-possum dubbing
Legs:	Black Krystal Flash, two strands
Adhesive:	Head cement



The Fishermen

By Dino Eftychiou

A few months ago I read that Dan Robbins, the man credited with the success of Paint by Numbers kits, had passed away at the age of 93. The story goes that Dan was working for the Palmer Show Card Paint Company when the founder of that company asked him to come up with a new product. He did, and that product was a paint kit that back in the 50s and 60s seemed to be in every household in America. Of interest to us is that his first commercially successful kit was entitled "The Fishermen." I did some research hoping it was a painting of some fly fishers on a stream somewhere, but discovered instead it depicts ocean fishermen. I wasn't disappointed especially after I read what inspired him.



According to Robbins himself, "I ran across an article and photo in the National Geographic about the hard life of the fishermen off the coast of New England. I was particularly impressed by the way the craft was silhouetted by the sky, while the fishermen were almost lost in the rough sea. I tried to capture that mood with my painting." By the way, I did manage to find one Paint by Numbers fly fisherman painting online that had been already finished, framed, and sold, but I couldn't find the actual kit itself anywhere. If I do, I might order it.