



The Riffle



VOLUME 1

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ISSUE 1

AN INTRODUCTION TO RIFFLES

Conservation News and Views

Welcome to The East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited! You are now reading the first issue of RIFFLES, a newsletter written by and for our members.

President Don Ecker is the editor of our monthly "Conservation News and Views" column. He will present various conservation issues and how we stand on them. Don is always on the lookout for new material, so if you see or hear something of interest pertaining to conservation, drop him a line.

Don and I co-edit the "poop" column henceforth known as "The President's Beat". This will furnish information on up-and-coming meetings, as well as other programs we plan. Don't fail to read this, as we want as many members as possible to attend all meetings and activities.

"Try This One", is a fly tying column edited by Alan Reich. Alan will approach a different member each month, asking him (or her) to divulge a favorite pattern along with details on its use and tying. This feature is a good way to swap ideas, and it should appeal to both the novice and advanced tyer.

Speaking of swapping, Barry Bloomfield is the editor of our "Swap Shop" column. He is interested in hearing from members having tackle they wish to trade or sell. Drop him a line, giving full details, and he will be happy to insert your ad.

Barry is also editor of "The Hot Spot" of the Month feature. He will approach someone each month asking for a short story on his or her favorite fishing stream or lake. This should include details on what to use, travel directions and anything else the member thinks is helpful.

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As this edition of Riffles is our first, we thought it important to give our members some idea of what the monthly section on conservation would be all about. As dedicated trout fishermen, we realize that our efforts to improve trout habitat and trout management provide direct benefits in increasing our enjoyment of the sport. We should also remember, that by scientific definition, trout water, that is water in which trout may live and survive, is water suitable for use (with some treatment when necessary) as a source for drinking water. So, when we work for better trout water, we are working for cleaner water for everyone. It will be the purpose of this column to report on the various conservation projects of this Chapter, and other TU Chapters around the country. We will suggest new projects for study by our Chapter, and report on work in progress. We will also report on conservation problems in our area and others, and when immediate action is called for, we will issue CONSERVATION ALERTS. These ALERTS will call for either direct action on the part of our members, or indirect actions such as studies of the problem or letter writing to pertinent authorities, elected officials, etc. to focus attention when and where needed. It is our hope, that through this column, our Chapter will be an Action group-actively seeking solutions to our many pollution problems and trout management difficulties.

PHOSPHATES IN THE MUSKY

Your Chapter, together with the North Jersey TUers, has gone on record with the Corps of Engineers in opposing the plan of the Cooke Color and Chemical Co. to empty industrial cooling water into the Musconetcong River. It seems that New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection approved the Chemical Company's

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Con't. from page 1 Conservation News plans without having full disclosure of all the facts. When the truth became known, it turned out that the plan called for the water to contain phosphates. We feel that if this fact was known before, approval might not have been given. It is also a fact that no apparent effort made to have the effluent of the Chemical Co. emptied into the trunk lines of the Hackettstown Utilities Authority, which is now in the process of completing the construction of a large tertiary treatment sewage plant,

located down-stream from the Cooke Color and Chemical Co. plant. A typical case of a company willing to pollute and damage a natural resource belonging to all of us in order to avoid additional cost to themselves. By keeping our eyes and ears always tuned in we can catch similar abuses and alert public officials to the problems and THE TRUTH ABOUT THEM.

THE FIGHT AGAINST TOCKS GOES ON

On December 18th, the North and East Jersey Chapters of TU issued a reply to the preliminary draft of the environmental statement for the Tocks Island Project prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers. A copy of the preliminary statement and our reply is available to anyone by contacting Don Ecker. At this writing, more and more concerned Citizen Conservation and Sportsmen's Groups are joining in the battle. Although the project has received Congressional approval, the money necessary to begin full scale work has not been provided. One of the best chances we have to stop this wanton destruction of our beautiful Delaware is by convincing the members of Congress responsible for appropriating the necessary money, that this project as planned, is wrong - DEAD WRONG!

In next months issue, we hope to have a list of key Members of Congress to write to, and we urge all members and their friends and families to write letters opposing the TOCKS ISLAND PLAN.

Many members may have already seen the "TOCKS SPELLS POISON" Bumper Stickers that are being made available by the North Jersey Chapter. Anyone wishing to have one or more please contact George P

Nimmo, 86 Mt. Bethel Rd., Warren, N.J. 07060. We could use about a hundred more like George who is doing the work of ten men in fighting to save our Delaware.

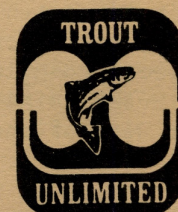
The biggest job we have, and the hardest by far, is our conservation effort. Remember, a wild river, stream, or forest once destroyed can never be created again in our lifetime or at all as far as we know, so let's fight with all we have to save the precious little we have left. ■

Con't. from page 2 Try This One drop of cement in the wing position and tie in a sparse amount of natural polar-bear on top of the white hair to simulate the black stripe in the minnow. Finally secure the brown bucktail on top of the black hair. The white and brown hair should extend about the same distance from the head; the black hair should be just a bit shorter.

For early spring fishing, this bucktail is most effective weighted in hook sizes 4 - 6. Later in the season when the water level drops, the smaller hook sizes are considerably more effective. ■

Con't. from page 1 RIFFLES Last, but certainly not least, we have a "Tricks and Tips" column. Since I work for a tackle company, this is an easy job for me. However, this is YOUR newsletter and I welcome contributions.

We have made RIFFLES into a handy, note book size publication so you can save each copy. The editors and myself hope you enjoy our efforts, and hope you will help us make future issues even better. ■



THE HOT SPOT OF THE MONTH

The Big Flat Brook by Andrew A. Gennaro

Out of all the trout streams in this state I've fished, I believe the Big Flat Brook to be the finest and most picturesque. My favorite section is the Fly Stretch, approximately 4 miles of classic calendar picture water.

The easiest way to find the Flat Brook, is to ride North on State Route #206. A few miles past the Stokes State Forest entrance, a concrete bridge carries the road over the stream. The Highway Department has thoughtfully marked the crossing, so you can't miss it.

Route #206 marks the uppermost boundary of the Fly Stretch. Here, the Flat Brook is a typical mountain stream flowing through stately hemlocks and mountain laurel. There are several nice pockets and pools in this section, the deepest of which is Warner Pool. Legend says this beautiful and popular pool carries the name of a man found dead on its banks many years ago.

A short distance below Warner Pool, the Flat Brook enters a swamp appropriately named the "Jungle". The stream is heavily overgrown and splits into several channels here. Fishing is tough in the "Jungle", and it is the only section of the stretch not readily accessible by road or trail.

Upon leaving the "Jungle", the stream enters The Blewett Tract. This is the only part of the Fly Stretch on private property and it is governed by a special set of regulations. Consult your Compendium or take time to read the signs before fishing this tract.

In Blewett Tract, the Flat Brook takes on the characteristics of a meadow stream. There are pastures on the banks, and you may encounter horses or a herd of beef cattle. Here, the pools are long and flat separated by insect producing riffles. The Little Flat Brook joins its Big brother here at the head of the popular Mud Hole.

From the end of the Blewett Tract, to the Roy Bridge, the brook is shaded with several smaller pools, pockets and riffles.

One of the largest, deepest pools in the stream lies below the bridge, after which the water is very flat, slow moving and weedy. The extreme lower part of the Fly Stretch is somewhat reminiscent of a limestone stream and the trout are selective.

Generally speaking, any fly will take fish on the Flat Brook at one time or another. Early season dry fly fishermen find the Quill Gordon, Hendrickson and Blue Dun match most hatches. As the season progresses, these are followed by Light Cahills and Pale Evening Duns. Dark Caddis imitations are also good, as are ant and beetle patterns later in the season.

Nymph fishermen do well with grey, tan, olive, black and brown flies in sizes #12 to 16. The same colors apply to wet flies, and favorites include the Black Gnat, Quill Gordon, Hendrickson, Hare's Ear and Lead Wing Coachman. Any streamer or bucktail will produce, but white and yellow patterns or the famous Muddler Minnow are most popular.

The Flat Brook is a heavily fished stream, so you may have trouble finding a parking place or pool of your own on weekends. It holds some fish all year round and fishing it can be a challenge. However, like any other trout stream in New Jersey the quality of fishing depends on weekly stockings. If Hackettstown has been good, so will be the fishing.

Good luck, and remember to limit your kill. A good fisherman doesn't need a creel full of dead fish to prove his effectiveness. ■

TRICKS & TIPS

Thinking of purchasing some new tackle this year? Running low on tinsel or Ginger Grizzley hackle?

A new year means new catalogs are available from tackle companies and fly tying supply houses. Just about everyone has something new this year, and a post card will bring the details.

Send for your copies now, they often provide fishing hints and make interesting, unhurried reading during long winter evenings. ■

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President's Beat

Hope you're enjoying this first Riffles; in the months to come, all of our members will be able to contribute their favorite tips, trips, hot spots, and fly patterns so that by sharing with each other, we all can increase our trouting skills and pleasure. This poop-sheet is produced by your fellow members, for TU Jersey Chapter Members only. It's free - included in your annual dues - and we hope the information that it contains will be worth the reading and the keeping. But don't give away your copy. It's a very limited edition FOR MEMBERS ONLY! If one of your non-member Fishing Buddies wants a subscription, tell him it's free, to Jersey TU Chapter members only - and not available anywhere else. Then get him to join up, it's as simple as that! ■

"TRY THIS ONE!"

SPECIAL FOR THE ONE MINNOW MAN: RHINICHTHYS ATRATULUS

Alan R. Reich

If you are one of that rare breed of "desert-island", "survival-pack" trout nuts who carry only a relatively few flies in your vest, then by all means read on. Although large trout feed on just about any minnow they can catch, there is ample evidence that these lunkers are partial to *Rhinichthys atratulus*, commonly referred to as Black-Nose Dace. Black-Nose Dace rarely exceed three and a half inches in length, travel in schools, and are found in fast water as well as in pools.

A good imitation of the Black-Nose Dace is very simple to tie. Having had such excellent luck with this simple tie, I find it difficult to understand why so many of my fishing buddies don't even own one. Possibly its simplicity does not appeal to the eye of the fisherman, even though it does to the eye of a large trout. I would suggest that those of you who enjoy bucktail fishing make up a couple, or have them made by your fly-tyer. I doubt if you will ever be caught without them after giving them a fair trial.

The dressing that I have found most effective for the Black-Nose Dace follows:

- Body: Flat silver tinsel (medium)
- Ribbing: Oval silver tinsel (medium)
- Tag: Red yarn (very short)
- Wing: Natural polar bear, black bear hair or black hair from a skunk tail, and brown bucktail
- Head: Black thread with black-dotted yellow eye (painted)
- Hook: No. 4, 6, 8, or 10

The oval tinsel is stripped bare about the length of the hook shank and then secured to the top of the shank with the tying thread from near the hook eye to the bend. Spiral the tying thread in large loops back to the point behind the hook eye. Secure the flat tinsel at that point and wrap back to the bend or barb. The tinsel will be wound over itself now, forward, toward the hook eye. Tie off the tinsel near the hook eye. Now wind the oval tinsel ribbing in an even, open spiral toward the hook eye, covering the seams of the flat tinsel along the way. Secure the ribbing with tying thread near the hook eye. Place a

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