



# Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 43

August 2012

Number 8

## Let There Be NO Light

Until recently it was mainly astronomers who complained about light pollution. Now, however, a growing body of scientific research suggests that light pollution can have lasting adverse effects on both human and wildlife health. One new study linked light pollution with an increase in a major depressive disorder and also noted that it suppressed melatonin, an antioxidant and synchronizer of our biological clocks

Perhaps you think that our light pollution is caused by proximity to New York and its ever-burning lights but have you ever looked around your neighborhood and noticed the number of spotlights over garage doors, mushroom lights along sidewalks and around homes, powerful security spotlights and “decorative” lights in and around trees? And, of course, streetlights that stay on throughout the night. Each of these lights contribute to the unneeded glow of light pollution.

I dislike using the old codger line, “When I was a kid...” but, for once, I will. Growing up in Hoboken we were obviously very close to Manhattan. However, as children we could look up to the night sky and see the Milky Way. Can you do that now? Also, one of my friends decided to perform a Boy Scout experiment and left a camera on its back with an open shutter on the roof of our apartment building after dark. When the photo was printed it was not washed out from excessive light and he had a photo of arcs of light formed as earth rotated under the stars.

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**When:** August 8 at 7:30 PM

**Where:** American Legion Hall  
33 West Passaic Street  
Rochelle Park, NJ

### August 8 Speaker

**Ted Patlen**

### Fly Tying Innovations

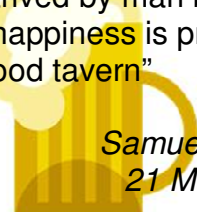
Ted Patlen, renowned fly tyer who has won seven world fly tying championships, will be our speaker. Ted's topic will be Fly Tying Innovations. After his recent trip to Italy Ted will probably have some interesting stories as well as tying information.



Ted is well known for his full dressed salmon flies and he is also an expert framer of the tying art. As a result, his flies and frames have become collectible and sought after among fly fishermen.

“There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern”

*Samuel Johnson*  
21 March 1776



## EJTU Calendar

If you wish to go on one of the fishing trips contact Ed Higgins at (easiedh@gmail.com) well in advance. If the trip requires reservations or other arrangements openings are often limited and the reservations must be made in advance.

Other events marked with an M are being sheperded by Rich Malizia. If you have questions or wish to volunteer contact Rich at 973-304-0789 or [remqcp@optonline.net](mailto:remqcp@optonline.net)

Please consult EJTU's web site's "Upcoming Events" for the most up-to-date information and details.



### Aug 8

[Wed]  
Members meeting  
Speaker:

Ted Patlen

**Aug 11 [Sat]** Ramapo boulder propping

**Sep 12 [Wed]** Members meeting  
Speaker: Joe Fusco (Alaska on a budget)

**Sep 12 [Wed]** Members meeting  
Speaker: Joe Fusco

**Sep 22 [Sat]** Nat's Hunting/Fishing Day—Congers Lake, NY

**Sep 28/30** Camping/fishing trip  
Housatonic River

**Oct [Dates TBA]** Ramapo Trout Stocking

**Fall [Dates TBA]** planting along  
Cresskill Brook

**East Jersey Chapter  
Trout Unlimited  
Board of Directors**

**President/Conservation Chair**  
Ray Cappock

**1st Vice President/Webmaster**  
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**2nd Vice President/Treasurer**  
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**Speakers**  
Ed Higgins

**Merchandise**  
Elio Chiavola

**Trout in the Classroom**  
George Petersen

**Points**  
Paul Reithmeier

**Publicity Chair**  
John Grisoni

**Riffles Editor**  
Ray Cappock

**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:** Board Members of East Jersey Trout Unlimited 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 Ken Barile at: 201-391-9214 or email to: [kenbrile@optonline.net](mailto:kenbrile@optonline.net).  
For Information on trips and other Chapter Activities go to [www.eastjerseytu.org](http://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](mailto:raycapp@optonline.net)

**July's New Members**



Andres Bernal	Midland Park
Evelyn Gonzalez	Hackensack
Chris Hensley	W. New York
Perry Koplik	Hillsborough
David Plotzker	Teaneck
Alan Rosenbloom	Demarest
Bartosz Roznadonski	Carlstadt

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If you awakened at night in fully enclosed room you would need a flashlight or other artificial light in order to see. But, if you awaken during the night of August 17, the date of the next new moon, will you need artificial light in order to see? Doubtful!



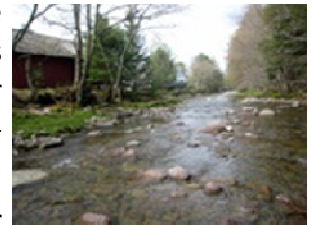
Sea turtle hatchling head to sea from their nests on the beach by orienting themselves away from the dark land silhouette. Except that bright shore lights now confuse them and they either don't make it to the water or predation is increased because they have tired themselves by confused wandering. Light attracts birds and confuses them so in New York City alone about 10,000 migratory birds die or are injured when they crash onto lighted high-rises.

The estimates as to the number of birds dying from light induced collisions across North America annually range from 98 million to close to a billion. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates 5-50 million birds die each year from collisions with communication towers. What is excessive light doing to you?

**Frost Valley Trip**

At our Chapter barbecue I must have had at least a dozen members asking me about our coming trip to Frost Valley this fall. East Jersey TU has booked the Stroud Center at Frost Valley on the East Branch of the Neversink River for the weekend of September 14 to 16, 2012.

This will be East Jersey's fourth year at Frost Valley.



The cost per person is \$307...which includes hot snack, coffee and cookies Friday night, semi-private room with bath for Friday and Saturday night, 3 full meals Saturday, and 2 meals Sunday.

The Stroud Center has a maximum capacity of 22 people and this trip usually fills up pretty fast.

Anyone who thinks they may be interested, but is unsure if it's worth it...try to come to our August meeting and ask someone who has made the trip in the past.

PS: check out pictures from past trips in the Gallery.

Ed Higgins

**New Jersey State Fair  
August 3 – 12, 2012**

Bees, horses, oxen, rabbits, clog dancers, carnival rides of all sorts and the greatest selection of that delicious junk food that everyone likes.

An old-fashioned State Fair at the Sussex County Fairgrounds.

<http://www.newjerseystatefair.org/>



## Boulder Propping Saturday, August 11, 2012

Two years ago a few EJTU members decided to meet on the Ramapo River and try their hands at boulder propping. They wanted to see if could be done and, more importantly, they wanted to see if the propped boulders would remain upright through winter freezes, spring floods and the general turmoil caused by flowing water and fishermen's boots.

These rock proppers were not descendents of Sisyphus performing a penitential exercise (it was a hot day and splashing around in a river on a hot day can be pleasurable when your fingers are not between two rocks). They were seeing if they could provide permanent hiding places for trout.

We know that trout lie behind boulders so they don't have to constantly fight the current in the stream in which they live and we also know that many streams, like the Ramapo, do not have large, upright boulders behind which trout can find refuge. So, why not take large rocks that are found in the stream, lift the downstream ends and prop them up with smaller rocks? That's the concept behind boulder propping and that's what the 2010 test involved.

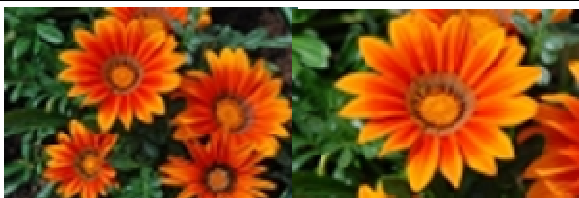
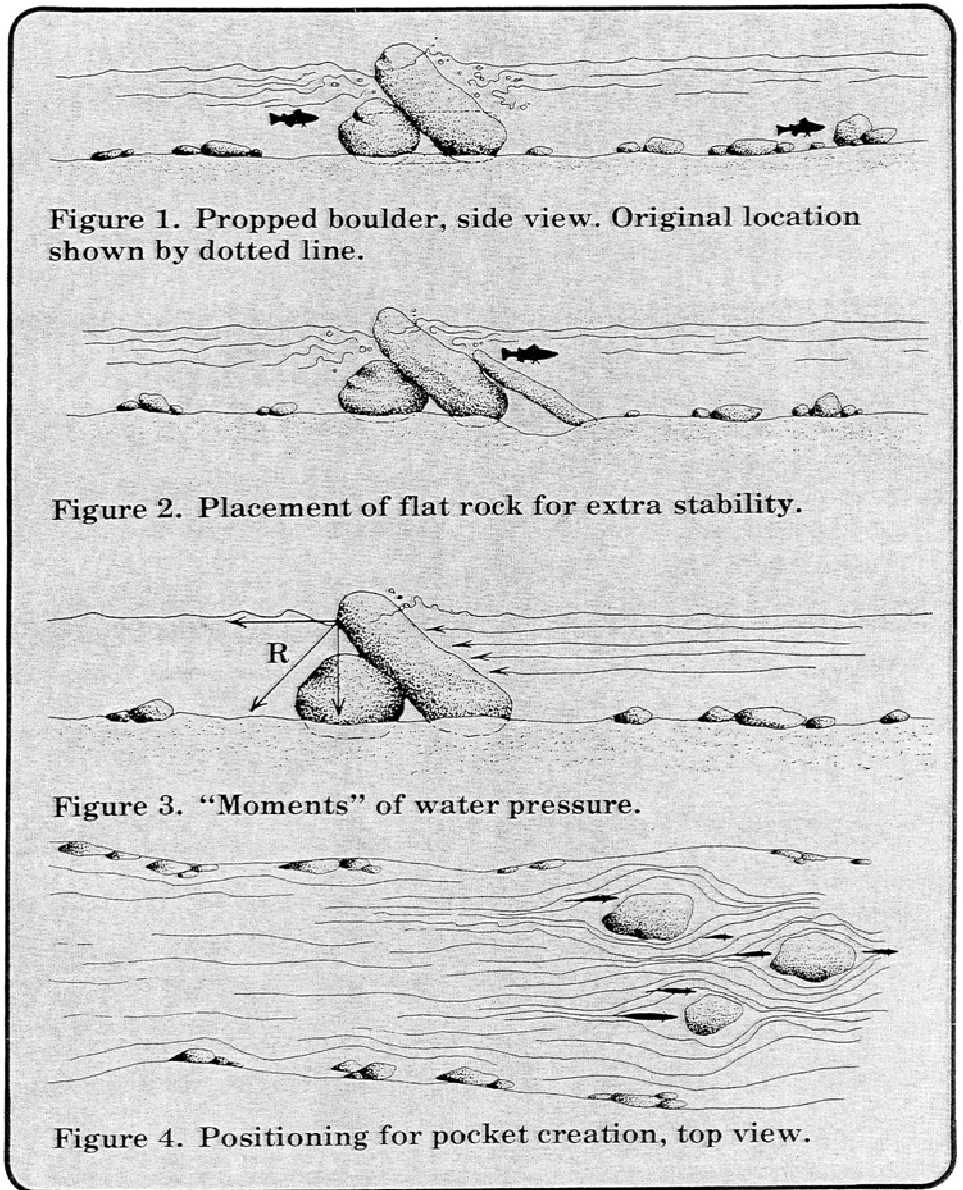
Most of the propped boulders have remained upright (it's reported that at least one of our EJTU members, while wading across areas that were once flat,

has tripped over many of them) so we are scheduling another propping.

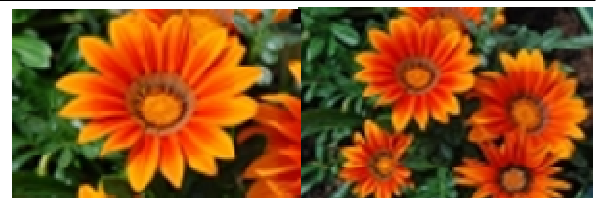
We will meet at Glen Gray Road at 9 AM on Saturday, August 11, 2012 for coffee and then proceed into the river. Studded boots for stability and a crowbar, pickaxe or other sturdy tool for lifting the

end of large rocks will be needed.

The drawings below show how the rocks should be place to provide shelter for trout. If you happen to be fishing a stream where you notice that there is a lack of adequate shelter, you might want to prop up a few rocks on your own.



Congratulations to Fred Levitan who spent many hours studying and now has the title Master Gardener!





*What the Robin Knows* is the title of a new book by Jon Young, a Jersey boy from the Pine Barrens who now lives “in the woods near Santa Clara, California”. The subtitle of the book is, “*How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World*”.

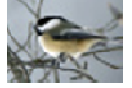
Young describes the life of birds, how they keep up a continuous conversation with each other by repeated calling and, more importantly, how they alert each other and all other animals to threats. His aim is not just to tell us what the birds are doing but to convince us to learn their language, something that all birders and most fishermen that I've known would enjoy doing.

Visit the East Jersey TU  
web site for  
up-to-the-minute  
Information and photos  
:  
[www.eastjerseytu.org](http://www.eastjerseytu.org)

## What the Robin Knows

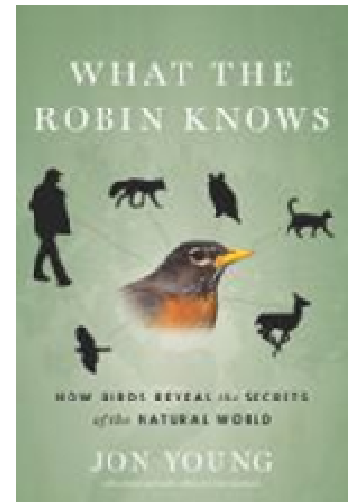
His method is relatively simple. Find what he calls a Sit Spot; this can be in the woods, in your backyard or any place where you can sit quietly and both watch and listen to groups of birds. Next, after the birds have become accustomed to seeing you, listen to the everyday chirps and calls that they use to keep in touch with each other, and watch their posture; this is what Young calls the Baseline. Once you are familiar with the Baseline sounds and activity if a hawk flies over head or if a neighbor's cat comes near you will notice the bird's calls change to warning sounds and you will see changes in posture. The idea is to learn not only the Baseline chatter but also the alarm signals.

Young writes that other animals also listen to the birds and when alarm calls are given, squirrels, chipmunks and even deer will heed them. He also describes how American Indians knew of approaching troops; they did not rely on faithful Tonto with his ear



to the ground, they watched birds scattering ahead of the coming threat and listened to the alarm calls.

There are samples of bird's calls at [www.birdlanguage.com](http://www.birdlanguage.com) – follow the link to the What the Robin Knows online audio library. We have all heard Chickadees calls; here you can listen to their song and to their alarm calls. But, beware! Young writes that Chickadees will make fake alarm calls so other birds leave the area – leaving more food for the Chickadees.



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