



Riffles



The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Volume 40

March 2010

Number 3

Snow, more snow, then snow interspersed with cold rain. This is not ideal fishing weather except for those who enjoy chopping holes in ice, the exceedingly robust, or people who live on seal meat. So what can you do besides tie flies and stare out of the window?

How about some volunteering? There are opportunities such as delivering Meals on Wheels and assisting at local hospitals but, if you want to contribute time to projects that are closer to your "outdoorsy" life, there are many appropriate avenues.

Within our own group you can help at the Pequest Open House (March 27 and 28), and at our weekly Ramapo stockings.

However, if you want to get involved in something completely different, perhaps you should look at becoming a Merit Badge Counsellor and helping Boy Scouts who are working toward earning enough Merit Badges to reach a higher rank.

In addition to Fishing and Fly Fishing, there are Merit Badges in Insect Study, Canoeing, Motorboating, Fish and Wildlife Management and other areas that you may be very familiar with. Moreover, each Merit Badge has a study guide for the scouts, so before you start you will know the extent of the requirements.

When you decide to become a Counselor go to www.nnjbsa.org and download the application or visit the Northern NJ BSA office at 25 Ramapo Valley Road in Oakland.

When: March 10 at 7:30 PM

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

March Speaker

February's meeting was cancelled because of snow but our speaker agreed to attend March's meeting

Ken Tutalo

Ken Tutalo, is a fishing guide from the Baxter House, Roscoe, NY.

His presentation will be on Secrets of the Delaware's East Branch. Many of us have been skunked on the East Branch a number of times, but there are a number of people who regularly catch really nice fish there, thanks to Ken.

April Speaker

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Tom Gilmore

Tom will present information about fly fishing for shad on the Delaware River.

Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught

Author Unknown

**Visit the East Jersey TU web site for up-to-the-minute Information:
www.eastjerseytu.org**

EJTU Calendar

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

Ed Higgins (easyedh@gmail.com) plans fishing trips (F) to a number of locations. Let Ed know if you are interested in these trips well in advance because 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/April - (Dates TBA) (E)

Spring trout stocking

March 30 - Seven week Fly Fishing Course

April 3 (E) Glen Gray Clean-up and woodchip spreading

April 14 - Member Mtng; Speaker Tom Gilmore on Fly fishing for Delaware Shad

April 30/May 2 - (F) Frost Valley on East Branch of Neversink River

May 1 - HRFA (E) Hooked on the Hudson

May 8 - (F) Shad fishing on the Delaware River

May 12 - Membership Meeting; Speaker Ryan Bunn on High Mountain Trout of the West

May 16/22 - (F) overnight fishing trip to either Penns Creek or Big Pine Creek in Central PA

May 29 - (E) Mahwah Fishing Derby

June 5/6 - (F) Picnic/fishing at Catskill Fly Fishing Museum

June 12 - (E) Ramapo River day

June 12/19 - (F) Twin Maples, Block Island, RI

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Trout Unlimited
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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 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

The Suffern Show

EJTU will again have a booth at the World Fishing and Outdoor Expo (Rockland Community College, Suffern NY). The show runs from Thursday, March 4 to Sunday, March 7.

Hours are Thursday – 2PM to 9PM; Friday – 1PM to 9PM; Saturday - 9:30AM to 7PM and Sunday - 9:30AM to 5PM.

Go to www.sportshows.com for all the details about the show

We will need volunteers to promote our conservation and education programs, sell raffle tickets, sell flies, recruit membership, demonstrate fly tying and distribute our literature.

A minimum of four hours is requested but you can stay at the show as long as you want to. Remember that you will have free exhibitor admission to the show

We also need help in setting up our display on Wednesday evening, March 3, and Thursday morning, March 4 and, at 5 PM on Sunday, March 7, we will need help taking down the display.

Contact Basil Santamaria at Fly-fishoutfitter@verizon.net or (201)747-0772

Thanks to all of our Chapter members! *Basil*

EJTU Library Display

The EJTU Library Display is without a home this March because Doug Penna discovered that all of the libraries had prior arrangements for their display areas.

However, in April Doug will move the display into the Riveredge Library.

Ask your local library if they would like to house a nice display sometime. If they do, contact Doug Penna.

Welcome

February's New Members

Paul Adamec	Saddle Brook
Anne Aglione	Teaneck
Sean Beddiges	Park Ridge
Brian A. Dodd	Mahwah
Vincent Fabano	Park Ridge
Michael Frayne	Hawthorne
Todd Gallagher	Montvale
Mark Giegerich	Mahwah
Brian Glasser	Woodland Park
Michael Grabowski	Bloomfield
Todd Green	Westwood
James Johnson	Montville
Michael Kricko	Rutherford
John Lucas	Hillsborough
Glenn Majestic	Ramsey
Jim Om	Cresskill
Fred Petrone	Clifton
Witol Rubel	Closter
Haris Sose	Lyndhurst
Michael Wallace	Midland Park
Asher Wolfsmith	Bloomfield

Pequest Open House

The New Jersey DEP's Division of Fish and wildlife will hold its annual Pequest Open House on Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28. Note: the dates in the 2010 Freshwater Fishing Digest are not correct.

This free event is usually held the week before the opening of trout season (April 10, 2010) but has been moved up a week to avoid conflicts with Easter weekend.

EJTU members will be at the Pequest to assist children who will be allowed to fish in the Education Pond or in the Kiddie Fishing Tank. If you can help at this event, please contact Bob Hresko at (hreskor@gmail.com)

Tell Your Friends

EJTU's Fly Fishing Course will start on Tuesday, March 30 at the Westbrook Middle School (Roosevelt Blvd., Paramus).

The seven week course covers everything that a beginner should



New Jersey Freshwater Fisheries biologists were surveying Round Valley Reservoir's Lake Trout population on November 18, 2009 when they gillnetted the monster shown in the accompanying photo.

The trout weighed 32 lbs. 11 oz, surpassing by three ounces the state record fish that was caught in 2002. The old state record is still on the books, however, since this larger fish was

gillnetted by the bureau of Freshwater Fisheries.

More than 30 Lake Trout that exceeded 3 pounds were caught during the survey, and among them were six that weighed fifteen pounds or more.

If you would like a shot at setting a new state record you should fish Round Valley. The fisheries biologists said that the fish in the photo was, "returned to the reservoir alive and well".

Fly of the Month

Spring is less than a month away. Opening day is just around the corner so 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?



Tie up your favorite spring pattern, or better yet, an assortment of your favorites, 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. If you can't make the meeting, mail your flies to the chapter P.O. Box or turn them in to any director.

There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot.

~Steven Wright

Fish & Wildlife Hot Lines

Trout Stocking (609) 633-6765

The computerized message is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week seasonally, or visit this Web site: www.NJFishandWildlife.com.



Shad Run (610) 954-0577 or (610) 954-0578 In April, the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association provides a mes-

sage on the shad run in the Delaware 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Information on river conditions and the status of the shad run is offered. Call in late evening or early morning to avoid a busy signal.

Environmental Alert

(877) WARNDPEP Contact this 24-hour hotline to report a fish kill, illegal waterbody drawdown, pollution or other environmental offense.



Operation Game Thief

(800) 222-0456 Call this number to anonymously report a fish or wildlife violation.

Learn Egg Oiling - Free!

Egg Oiling is used to control intrusive populations of Canada Geese. It's a simple process but, before you go out and begin your own goose population stabilization project, you must enroll in a two hour Geese-Peace training course.

The concept of egg oiling is very simple. Paint or spray food grade corn oil on goose eggs during the nesting period and the developing embryos are asphyxiated because this blocks the pores in the eggshells. Since nesting geese will continue incubation until the hatching date is reached, they are usually prevented from re-nesting.



This description of the process sounds simple but the actual process requires at least two people; one who holds off the geese with open umbrellas and the other who first tests the eggs and then oils them.

If you are interested in helping hold down the resident Canada goose population you can attend a Geese-Peace training session to be held in the Essex County Environmental Center. The two hour training sessions cover egg oiling, geese biology, Federal and State regulations, how to safely interact with geese, and record keeping requirements. Wednesday, March 24, 9 to 11 AM, or 7 to 9 PM

The Essex County Environmental Center: 621-B Eagle Rock Avenue Roseland, NJ 07068. For information contact Tara M. Casella, Environmental Center Manager, County of Essex, Department of Parks; Phone: 973-228-8776 tcasella@parks.essexcountynj.org

Boulder Propping

How would you like to improve trout habitat in a stream with one simple activity? That's pretty much the proposition put forth in an article, "A One-Man Stream Improvement Program", by Fred Johnson, that EJTU member Walter Nahadil loaned to me.

Johnson first admits that a fisherman working alone can't have much success in correcting water temperature problems or in forcing polluters to improve their performance. And, while he suggests that people work with TU and other larger groups if they want to get involved in these large-scale projects, he goes on to write that one person can still have a positive effect on a stream.

Johnson explains that there are three factors that determine the carrying capacity of a stream: depth, velocity and cover. Two of these three, depth and velocity, are difficult to improve without involving many people, heavy equipment and governmental permission but the third, cover, can be improved by individuals. As he writes, "All that's required is the willingness to lay your rod aside for 10 to 15 minutes when you come across a candidate location for improvement".

He first advises against trying to build any sort of dam because they cause silting and impede trout's mobility. He also writes that one of the best deeds that an angler can perform is to remove small rock dams built by children or well meaning but misguided adults.

So, what does he suggest that we do?

First, Johnson suggests that we look for areas in streams where there is suitable depth and velocity but where cover is lacking. That is, there are no large protruding rocks, logs, roots, overhanging banks or pockets where trout can hide. Water that he describes as "uninteresting"

Then look around for large rocks whose larger side is at least one square foot or larger. Pry up the *downstream* side of the rock to about a 45 degree angle and prop it up with another good sized rock. Ideally, the top of the "propped" rock will protrude above the surface of the water during normal flow conditions.

After you have propped up the rock make sure that it is stable by stepping on it. The bottom of the rock should also be flush with the stream bed so the current cannot dig under it; if it is not flush, put a smaller, flat rock over the base of the propped rock, as in Figure 2.

Johnson also gives some precautions:

- Prop but do not remove rocks that already break up the current or give cover.
- Avoid directing the current against an unprotected bank.
- Don't prop rocks too close together; a three foot separation seems best.
- Check your improvements the following season; if they have been knocked down, re-prop them with larger rocks.

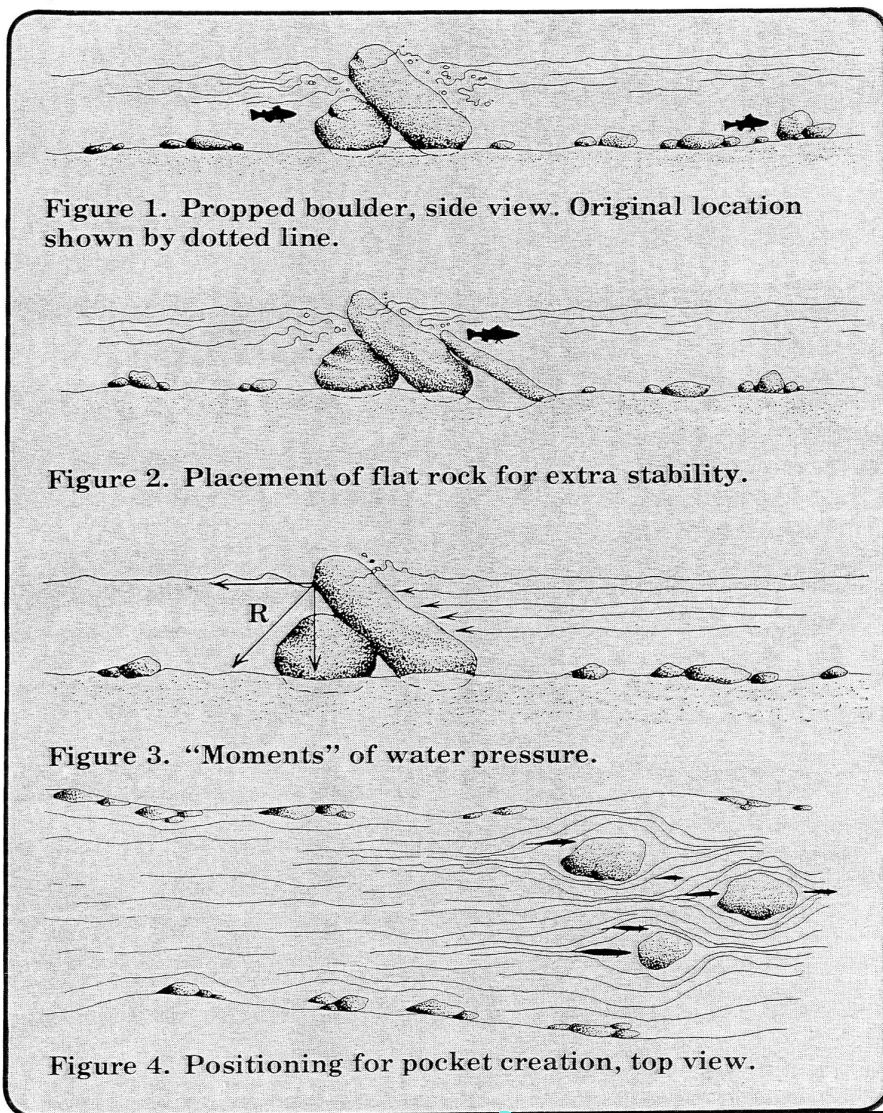


Figure 1. Propped boulder, side view. Original location shown by dotted line.

Figure 2. Placement of flat rock for extra stability.

Figure 3. "Moments" of water pressure.

Figure 4. Positioning for pocket creation, top view.



(Continued from on Page 2)

know about the sport including the techniques needed to cast with a fly rod as well as fly selection, tackle for fly fishing, lines and leaders, knots, entomology and how to read a stream. All equipment will be provided. Students with their own rods and reels are encouraged to use them in class

That's seven, three-hour sessions, or twenty-one hours of instruction, for \$70. Where else can you get great fly fishing lessons for a little more than three dollars per hour?