



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited



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October 2009

Number 10

I Don't Know

Even though Trout Unlimited's national organization features photos of people fishing for trout on its calendars Trout Unlimited is a coldwater conservation organization.

Fishing is fun and, even if a person has not had guidance from an experienced fisherman. there are many sources of information about techniques, equipment and fishable waters that enable a newcomer to the sport to get started. Then, with enough experience, the tyro can become proficient.

But what about conservation, satisfying but rarely fun? How can the average person become proficient in diverse areas of science so he/she can decide which side to take when presented with opposing arguments about what is best for our planet?

Fishermen argue about what fly is best for particular situations but these arguments do not compare to the heated, high-level disagreements based on science, statistics, politics and sometimes pseudo-science that seem to envelop many conservation activities. And, since selecting a fly has little long-term impact while working on or providing backing for a particular conservation movement can have long-term effects on our surroundings, how can the average person decide how to promote sound conservation activities? What is a non-scientist to do when there is a desire to take part in "conservation" activities but there are two or more opposing ideas about how to proceed – both of which appear to be backed by

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When: October 13 at 7:30 PM

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

October's Speaker George Petersen

Most of us have a mental picture of Ireland, clear streams, lush countryside, picturesque inns, inhabited by people with acrobatic English language skills. And many of us think about what it must be like to fish for trout in these surroundings.

Our own George Petersen thought about this then did it during the summer.

George, who is an experienced and colorful speaker, will present a program on fly fishing in Ireland at our October meeting. You will enjoy George's description of his experiences and his accompanying photos.

Welcome to September's New Members

Michael Biviano	Watchung
Nick D'Amico	Harrington Park
Matthew Hoyda	Hillsborough
Michael Lombardi	Jersey City

Fall Stocking

The State will stock the Ramapo River with trout on Friday, October 15.

Fish and Wildlife changed their original schedule by delaying it a week because in many places the water was too low and in most places the water was too warm.

EJTU will, as usual, assist the State with the fall stocking at Glen Gray Road.

EJTU Calendar

Advise Rich Malizia (973-304-0789 or remqcp@optonline.net) of changes to calendar events; let Ed Higgins (easyedh@gmail.com) know if you are interested in fishing trips well in advance because openings are limited and reservations must be made in advance. Get your money in as soon as possible or someone else will take your place.

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

Oct 13, 2010 - Members Meeting, George Petersen, Brown Trout Fishing in Ireland's County Meath

Oct. 15, 2010 - Ramapo trout stocking

Oct 20, 2010 - Fishing Trip Stevens State Park, Musconnetcong, Hackettstown, NJ

October 30; EJTU trout stocking

Nov 10, 2010 - Members Meeting, John Shaner, Hardy Rep,

Nov 13, 2010 - Fishing Trip Esopus Creek, Mt Pleasant, NY

Dec 8, 2010 - Members Meeting, Animal talk by Jerry Zalenka or his daughter

2011

Apr. 30, 2011 – Hooked on the Hudson

May 28, 2011 – Mahwah Fishing Derby

June 11, 2011 – Ramapo River Day



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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 Ken Barile at 201-391-9214 or email to: kenbrile@optonline.net.
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 EJ TU 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

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valid scientific evidence?

As an example, the Fall issue of Trout Magazine lists "11 Must Have Books for the Cold Water Conservationist"; one of them is Rachel Carlson's "*Silent Spring*". But there are writers who blame Carlson for the malaria-caused deaths of more than 50 million people because of her fight against the use of DDT. I haven't re-read *Silent Spring* since my first reading forty-five years ago so I don't remember many details but do mosquito nets prevent malaria as efficiently as using DDT inside of living spaces and will wildlife, birds in particular, be harmed by indoor use of DDT? I don't know!



Locally, the Hackensack Riverkeeper is trying to convince the NJ DEP to allow the Riverkeeper's organization to continue an oyster research project aimed at reintroducing oysters to the Hackensack River and eventually making use of the oyster's ability to filter water. The DEP, on the other hand, fears that if, through poaching, people eat any of the Riverkeeper's oysters they might become ill (the entire New York Harbor estuary complex is "uncertified" and closed to shellfish harvesting) and have a negative effect on New Jersey's shellfishing and crabbing industry. Who is right? Once again, I don't know!

Let's not go into any of the pro and anti claims about whether or not earth is warming and, if so, whether it is caused by the activities of Homo sapiens. That has become a religious war and again – I don't know.

What to do? I don't know!



The gods do not deduct from man's allotted span the hours spent in fishing

Babylonian Proverb

**Help Wanted
Assistant Trip Coordinator**

Ed Higgins plans the fishing trips that EJ TU sponsors throughout the year and he also arranges for the speakers who appear at the EJ TU monthly members meetings. He has been doing a perfect job in both areas but, after doing two jobs for a long time, he would like to have some help with our trips.



If you have a little spare time and would like to assist in this interesting function, contact Ed. His email address is easyedh@gmail.com

**The Flatbrook (from
December 1976 Riffles)**

The Flatbrook starts in High Point State Park and empties into the Delaware at Flatbrookville. It has a drainage of approximately twenty-eight miles, and for most of its length is a stream flowing in the forest.

In its beginnings, it is a small rushing brook in lush evergreen with riffles, small shaped pockets and midget pools. This type of water continues until it cuts across Route 206. After which the riffles grow larger and the pools deeper and more appealing. This part of the Flatbrook flows through lush evergreens and rhododendron covered banks. Some of the larger pools are in this section.

Upstream from the Blewet Tract the main stream disappears into many small rivelets and streams. This section is known as the "Jungle" to the Flatbrook's regular anglers.

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Reusable Grocery Bags Breed Bacteria

From ABC's Channel 7 News (The DenverChannel.com)

DENVER -- They are good for the environment, but reusable grocery bags are also a breeding ground for bacteria.

Many responsible shoppers carefully choose their groceries and put them into the same cloth or plastic bags over and over again on every trip to the store.

"Did you ever wash your grocery bags?" asked Call7 Investigator

Theresa Marchetta.

"Um, no! I never wash my plastic bags or my paper bags," responded a 7NEWS colleague.



Marchetta could not find anyone who regularly cleaned their reusable bags.

"Do you ever think to wash the bags?" Marchetta asked another colleague.

"No. Not really," the other worker replied, laughing.

The CALL7 Investigators tested several reusable bags used by 7NEWS colleagues and another from a woman going into a Denver grocery store.

Marchetta brought the lab results to Dr. Michelle Barron, the infectious disease expert at the University of Colorado Hospital.

"Wow. Wow. That is pretty impressive," said Barron. Barron examines lab results for a living.

"Oh my goodness! This is definitely the highest count," Barron commented while looking at the bacteria count numbers.

She admitted she was shocked at what was found at the bottom of the bags. "We're talking in the million range of bacteria," she said.

Marchetta used swabs provided by a

local lab to test several grocery bags for bacteria, mold and yeast.

Three of the samples had relatively low bacteria counts, posing little risk of causing illness. Two were in the moderate range, posing some risk, according to Barron. Two other bags had extremely high counts -- 330,000 to nearly 1 million colonies of bacteria. Four of the samples also had relatively high levels of yeast and mold.

"It would be a level of concern getting on your food, on your hands, too," said Barron. "Digging in there, you touch, rub your eyes ...all that good stuff."

"Um, yeah, that's gross. Good to know," said a 7News employee whose bags were tested. It is not only gross, but also painful if you get sick. "You can have a terrible diarrhea, stomach ache, vomiting. Not a fun thing to have," said Barron.

To demonstrate the risk, Marchetta dusted grocery bags with a substance that glows in the dark to see how harmful germs can travel. With the lights off, it was clear the Glo-Germ had not only stuck to our groceries, it was also on Marchetta's hands, the counter top, and in the cupboard and refrigerator.



"They like porous surfaces and live longer on plastic," said Barron, about the bacteria. Fortunately, it is a problem that is easy to fix. Wash reusable bags or wipe them out with a bleach wipe after each use.

"We're trying to be environmental. I fully support that. But not at the cost of your health," said Barron.

Another suggestion -- designate one bag for each type of food to prevent germs from spreading.

Egg Delivery Day!

Every year a greater number of New Jersey schools take part in the Trout in the Classroom program, caring for fertilized trout eggs, tending the fingerlings as they mature, hovering like worried parents, releasing them into local streams in the spring.

But the above

sequence must have a beginning -- and this year the beginning will be on Wednesday, October 27



when EJTV volunteers will deliver the trout eggs to local schools.

As in the past we will meet at the Willowbrook Mall parking lot and wait for the eggs to be brought from the Pequest Hatchery. Then we will bring the bags of eggs to the schools in our area that are in the program. By late morning we have completed another enjoyable delivery.

If you want to help, contact our coordinator, George Petersen (grpetersen44@verizon.net), and he will tell you the school to which you can deliver eggs and answer any of your questions.

Our web site has been completely revamped.



Have you seen it?

www.eastjerseytu.org

The Housatonic Trip



Ken Vander Pyl



Ed Higgins (in the latest in smuggler's vests)



John Rice claiming the Housatonic for the State of New Jersey



Rich Koblitz building energy for the next day's fishing.

On the weekend of September 24 – 26 a group of EJTU fishermen went on a camping/fishing trip to Housatonic Meadows State Park in Connecticut. The water in the Housatonic was low, making for hard fishing, but our ambassadors to Connecticut seemed to enjoy themselves nevertheless. Some of the participants are shown above.

The Flatbrook (Continued from page 2)

These small streams join again just above the Blewet Line.

In the Blewet Tract, Little Flatbrook, another jewel, joins the Big Flatbrook. The stream gets about a third again as large after this marriage. From here downstream for a mile is probably the richest and nicest part of the stream. There are pools interspersed with runs and sparkling riffles. The banks are more open now, and it continues get-

ting slightly wider and with some slower sections from here to the Delaware.

Anywhere on the Flatbrook is a pleasure to be. It is a beauty from beginning to end.

The waters of this stream have almost all of the Eastern mayflies, plus caddis and stonefly hatches in fairly good quantity. The Quill Gordon, Grey Fox, Sulphur, Light Cahill, Grey or

Slate Drake and even Green Drakes are present here.

The waters are almost always clear, for the most part running over gravelly and sand bottom. This stream can run relatively clear even in very high water. Its run-off is quick after high water.

It offers fishing water to anyone's taste. Fast pocket water, deeps runs, small pools and a few large ones. It is a comfortable size stream to fish.

It has native brook & browns and rainbows in its waters. I have seen beaver and otter playing. Some friends have also seen bear tracks on its banks in the past few seasons.

The stream receives a lot of fishing pressure, especially in the fly fishing only section. This continues well into the season.

One could expect to catch trout at all times of the year. The diligent angler can even catch fish in the winter when there is snow on the ground

The Flatbrook is our finest trout stream. It has the insect life, the water quality and even the look of classic trout water.

Ed. Petrosky



Dick Despommier's Vertical Farming

Readers of the Review Section of the Wall St. Journal's Saturday/Sunday, September 25 – 26 edition may have seen the article entitled, "The Farm of the Future: Harvesting the Sky" and not associated it with anyone in EJTU. However, the article was about a new book by Dickson Despommier, an EJTU member, a speaker at past EJTU meetings, a Columbia professor working on methods of feeding cities of the future.

As the Wall St. Journal writes, "In his new book "The Vertical Farm" (St. Martin's, 2010), Dickson Despommier ... argues that in order to feed the cities of the future, we will need to learn to conduct agriculture in a new way—vertically. Specifically, he proposes building farms in skyscrapers, so as to use less land and to waste fewer resources."

