



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 45

July 2014

Number 7

President's Beat

Earlier this month I attended the Trout Unlimited Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting in State College, PA. This is the first year that there has been a Mid-Atlantic meeting. In prior years the Northeast meeting covered the area from Maine to Washington, DC and was held during the summer.

In an attempt to get greater participation from the northernmost and southernmost states, the meeting was split in two with the Northeast meeting held a week later. It seems to have paid off because we had attendance from the State Councils and some chapters in Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and the Maryland/District of Columbia area. Obviously, the greatest participation was from Pennsylvania which has the most chapters of any state and were the closest to the event.

If you never attended a TU National or Regional meeting, they are a mix of meetings/workshops, networking opportunities and fishing. Our own Kelly Buchta was one of the presenters in two different meetings that covered the Women's Initiative and Marketing/Branding. She did a great job representing New Jersey.

In addition to the two topics mentioned above, some of the workshop topics available were TU

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When: July 9 at 7:30 PM

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

July's Meeting

This month, as in past years, the meeting will be a "flea market/swap meet". Bring the fishing gear that you no longer need and place it for sale. EJTU supplies the tables.

Even if you don't want to buy or sell anything, come along for the free food and a chance to sit and chat.

Welcome to June and July's New Members



- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Richard Blauvel | Glen Rock |
| Michael Kazil | Paramus |
| Chris Kojanis | Tenafly |
| Mark Koscielny | Wayne |
| Christine O'Donnell | Elmwood Pk |
| John Rafti | Dumont |
| Lisa Radonis | Edgewater |
| Beatrice Ricciardi | Leonia |
| William Madison | Hawthorne |
| Robert Wiczore | Cliffside Park |

EJTU Calendar

If you wish to go on one of the fishing trips, contact the trip coordinator well in advance. If the trip requires reservations or other arrangements, openings are often limited and the reservations must be made in advance.

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



- July 18/20 Farmington River trip
- August (TBD) Kayak/Fishing, Swartswood Lake
- September 26—28, Housatonic trip

Visit the East Jersey TU
web site: www.ejtu.org

for the latest Information!

And

don't forget to visit us on Facebook

<http://tinyurl.com/n5xr2n>

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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 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

Conservation Notes

It has been a busy spring. Our activities included parking area maintenance on Glen Gray Road, stream improvements in Oakland, Earthfest at Overpeck Park, Hooked on Hudson, fishing derbies at Mahwah, Glen Rock and Indian Field, fishing instruction for Glen Rock Girl Scouts and our annual Ramapo River Day. I offer my thanks to all who volunteered their time.

Ramapo River Day is certainly the most important event and it is an EJTU creation which has evolved into a significant environmental program. The challenge is getting participants at a time of year when there are many competing activities. Baseball, softball, dance recitals, scout events, school events, and community picnics all seem to take place at the same time of year. But, despite that, we have 50 or more participants each year. This is far less than the years when we had over 100 kids, but that was when communities funded enrichment programs for their school children. I usually start promoting the event in September in order to get it on to the calendars of potential participant groups. If any of you have a contact for a group that might be interested, please let me know.

All the other events have two purposes. First is to help the sponsoring organization execute a successful event. The kids that we work with represent the future of the sport we all love. The second and equally important purpose is to promote EJTU. We want to be the "go to" organization for sponsors of environmental/conservation events and we want to use these opportunities to build our own membership. We continue to adjust our approach in order to improve our visibility. Whether it is by wearing EJTU branded attire or hanging an EJTU sign, we want people to know that we are there. Our volunteers are the key. When we don't have enough hands, we must focus on the event and promotion of EJTU suffers.

You can help by coming to these events to talk about EJTU. In business we call it an "elevator speech". It is a way to introduce yourself and EJTU to someone new. Offer a brief and concise explanation of what EJTU is about and hopefully get a positive response which will enable you to continue the conversation. Most of the adults that attend these events have some interest in conservation or at least have kids that do. We don't do a hard sell! We simply offer the opportunity to learn more. So as we set our calendar for next spring, please consider giving a few hours of your time at one of these events.

In July or August we will schedule a day to make some adjustments to the work we did last year on the weir on the Ramapo. Nothing big but it will be easier with many hands. Please watch for an email announcing the date that will be dictated by water levels.

Rich Malizia



Sign a Petition Save Striped Bass

<https://tinyurl.com/qfjv8no>

Save Striped Bass from another crash by reducing the recreational bag limit to one fish over 32" for all anglers in all regions of the fishery and reduce total fishing mortality by 50% in 2015.

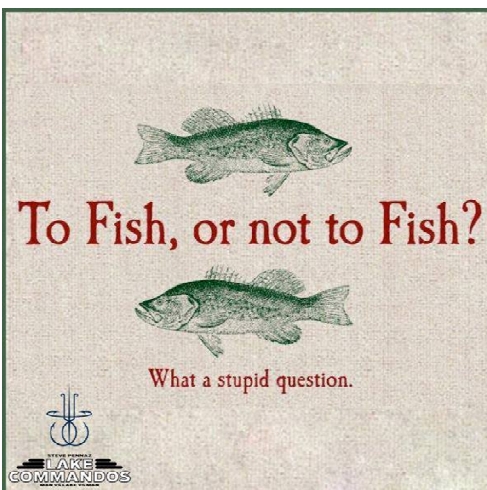
Striped bass are a northeast cultural icon and important for both recreational and commercial fishermen. They neared extinction in the 80's only to be saved by strict regulation and a shutdown of the commercial fishery. The cycle looks ready to repeat itself if action is not taken now.

Striped bass numbers have dipped dramatically since 2009 and the ASMFC, the body that manages the striped bass fishery, has presented a plan to reduce the pressure on these fish over the next three years, but, by then it may be too little too late.



The saving grace for striped bass is the 2011 year class along with a few older ones that have survived the pollution and dead zones in Chesapeake Bay. These older stripers are of current commercial and recreational keeper size and are being fished hard. The larger reproducing fish that make up the spawning stock biomass (SSB) will continue to decrease until the 2011 class can reach spawning age in a few years. We must protect these fish by eliminating current rules allowing the taking of juveniles in Chesapeake Bay. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission striped bass website states: "Although the stock is not over-fished, female SSB has continued to decline since 2004 and is estimated at 128 million pounds just above the SSB threshold of 127 million pounds, and below the SSB target of 159 million pounds. Additionally, total fishing mortality is estimated at 0.20, a value that is between the proposed new fishing mortality threshold (0.219) and fishing mortality target (0.18)."

This means if the trend continues the stock numbers will force the commission to act. Striped bass generate billions of dollars to the economy when stocks are healthy. When they decline, thousands of jobs and hundreds of small tackle businesses will be lost along with the taxes and ripple effect dollars that go with them. Please help protect this vitally important species.



Even eminent chartered accountants are known, in their capacity as fishermen, blissfully to ignore the difference between seven and ten inches, half a pound and two pounds, three fish and a dozen fish.

William Sherwood Fox,
Silken Lines and Silver Hooks,
1954

Fly Reel Found

On the Saturday evening during the weekend when EJ TU held its pig roast one of our members found a fly reel. The reel was found at the parking lot by Sunoco Pool.



If you lost the reel and can identify it contact:

david.tiene@gmail.com

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101: For New and Emerging Chapter Leaders, Delaware River, Marcellus Shale, Engaging TU's Teen and College Aged Members, Maps to Monitoring: Using TU's Science to Advance Your Programs, and many more. These workshops were all interactive giving chapters and councils a chance to share their best practices.

The meals, breaks between sessions and, of course, informal gatherings in the lounge after the day's activities gave us a chance to meet other participants from both the National Office and the Mid-Atlantic Region. This was a great chance to discuss the day's topics, other issues and, of course, the fishing.

Speaking of fishing, everything was running about two weeks behind schedule and we were in the middle of the sulphur hatch. Everyone had opportunities to cast to rising fish, and the sulphur hatch in that area is always one of the major events. If this continued, the Green Drakes would probably still be coming off on Father's Day.

These meetings, as well as the National Meetings, can be really inspirational. Meeting and talking to that large a group of dedicated TUsers is always motivating and sends you back home with new found enthusiasm for TU's mission.

My only regret was missing our chapter's picnic/pig roast at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center. However, it already had been scheduled when the Regional Meeting dates were announced. Hopefully, next year I can attend both.

Bruce Seiden

Acarina

According to Ira Gershwin, this is the time of year when "the livin' is easy, fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high". It's also the time when we are most likely to wander through vegetation either heading to or from streams or just because it's nice to be out enjoying what nature has to offer. But it's also the time when little bloodsuckers are hiding in that vegetation waiting to drop on us for a bit of our blood. It's tick season!



We all know what ticks are and that they can cause disease but are you aware of the variety of illnesses that you can get from them? The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) lists the following tick-borne illnesses and their carriers occurring from Maine to Georgia:

Lyme Disease (Flu-like symptoms); Black Legged Deer Tick
Babesiosis* (parasites infect red blood cells); Black Legged Deer Tick

Ehrlichiosis (Confusion, flu-like symptoms) Lone Star Tick
Rocky Mountain Spotted fever (Confusion; flu-like symptoms); American Dog Tick and Brown Dog Tick

Southern Tick Associated Rash (Flu-like symptoms); Lone Star Tick

Anaplasmosis* (Flu-like symptoms); Black Legged Deer Tick

*The highest risk for Babesiosis and Anaplasmosis is in NY and NJ

If you do happen to be infected by a tick, ATC says it will most likely be a nymph; these are about the size of a poppy seed.

So, do you have to stay indoors until cold weather returns? Perhaps while sipping a Mai Tai in a cool cocktail lounge? My vote may cause you to lose your driver's license so let's see what the experts advise.



Light colored clothing (so you can spot any ticks), pants tucked into socks and long sleeved shirts are still recommended. To add chemical defense, permethrin is the chosen preventive.

State-employed, outdoors workers volunteered for a permethrin study by the University of North Carolina in which half of the workers wore uniforms, including socks and hats, that had been treated with permethrin. The study lasted for six months but the permethrin was expected to remain tick-repellant for 70 washes.

During the study period, all of the participants experienced tick bites but those with non-treated uniforms were bitten almost six times more than those with permethrin-treated clothing.

Fish Ways - The ABC's of Fly Fishing

Take Me to Your Leader

We cannot tie a fly directly to the fly line; that line is merely our weight, helping us to deliver the fly to the fish. Our final connection is the leader and tippet system.

Energy must be transferred from the thick fly line to the thinner and more delicate tippet. In order to accomplish this the leader is either tied in sections, which gradually diminish in diameter, or the monofilament is tapered at the factory. In the early stages of your fly-fishing, stay with the factory (or knotless) tapers, the fewer the knots, the better.

Leaders come in various lengths, from seven and a half to 15 feet; stay with the shorter lengths of seven and a half to nine feet. The longer lengths are for specialized applications, e.g. clear spring creeks. Here's why: leaders are actually elongated monofilament (picture a needle-shaped nylon, thicker at one end). If you were to begin the day's fishing with a leader tapered to 5x (more about the 'x system' below), each time you tied on a new fly you would gradually work your way up the taper. By lunch break, you might be forced to use a new leader. (As the day gets progressively warmer, the flies tend to be smaller.)

There is a better solution to the tapering problem, though. Begin by attaching a three-foot piece of tippet to the end of the leader. Tippet material comes in spools of 25 to 30 meters in length. The important fact is that this monofilament is level; the diameter stays the same. Moreover, you can add a piece (12" to 18") of either thicker or thinner material, thus lengthening the life of your leader. These spools cost about the same as the leader. Most anglers carry at least three of these spools of tippet material, the same diameter as the end of the leader, one size larger and one smaller.

You can see why it is wiser to begin using leaders of shorter length. If you add a three-foot section of tippet, you're beginning the day with a monofilament connection of ten and a half feet from the fly line to the fly. That's a difficult situation when you're first trying to catch trout with a fly rod, contending with winds of different speeds and directions as well as avoiding the alders and willows that just sprang up behind you while you were concentrating on that brown trout sipping light cahills 30 feet upstream.

Allow me to demystify the "x system." This system came into use two centuries ago when leaders were made from a material called "silkworm gut," which actually had nothing to do with the worm's intestines or fortitude but was actually an excretion of the worm. This material had to be drawn through a device called an extruder in order to make it thinner. Thus, a 3x strand was extruded three times. Modern monofilament is not made in this fashion, but we continue to use the 'x' designation. Since you probably have referred to line by its pound test, simply remember the number nine. Subtract the x number from nine and you will have an approximation of the pound test (3x is six pound test).

More on tippets, leaders and materials next month.

George Petersen

Block Island—2014



Ken Vander Pyle staying up late at night



The flies to use