



# Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 47

June 2016

Number 6

## President's Beat



I was finally able to attend the EJTU Cast and Blast this year. The idea for these events came up a couple of years ago and Ken Barile worked hard to make them very successful outings. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that the chapter held this event, but the first one that I could work into my schedule.

I used to do a lot of hunting and trapshooting when I was younger and lived down in Ocean County. However, after moving to North Jersey, I have not hunted and, with the exception of a few days at the range, I have not really shot very often. The idea of shooting sporting clays always appealed to me, but this is the first time I got to try it, so I broke out my shotgun, which I have not shot in over 25 years, picked up shells locally and was all set.

The Cast part of weekend started slowly as the fishing was tough on the Willow and Beaverkill. We had a good group of fisherman with plenty of experience but were only able to come up with a small number of fish most of the day. Luckily that changed as it got close to sunset when we had some large sulphurs hatch to get the fish moving. Some of the group came up to fish with us on Saturday but did not stay to shoot on Sunday. After a great dinner with the group at Riverside Cafe, we drove to Catskill Pheasantry for our overnight lodging.

When: June 8 at 7:30 PM

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

## June's Speaker David "Rock" Rockwell

Rock Will talk about the seasons of the Salmon River.

He will describe the river's watershed and a history of the fishery.

He will cover the fish available, the equipment needed, fly fishing techniques and recommended fly patterns during: late summer - early fall, late fall - early winter, winter, spring and summer.

The next morning started with a good breakfast at Catskill Pheasantry followed by the sporting clays shoot. As I mentioned, this was my first time doing this and I found the course exciting and difficult at the same time. The clay targets went at every height and angle you could imagined including coming straight at you. You needed to be quick with the gun and have the timing down. Neither of which I did very well.

I wound up with the lowest number of broken targets of the group and saw that we have some good shooters in EJTU. Everyone was very helpful at the range, offering insight and pointers along the way, and I had a great time and hope to do it again soon. If you shoot but have never tried sporting clays, make it a point to join in next year's Cast and Blast. You will not be disappointed!

Bruce Seiden

## Schedule



- Jun 10 - 17 Block Island trip
- Jun 24 - 6 Ausable River trip
- Jul 13 [Wed] BBQ and tackle swap
- Aug Lake Aeroflex trip
- Aug 10 [Wed] Fly tying night
- Sep 14 [Wed] Speaker: Andy Still
- Sep 23 - 25 Housatonic River trip
- Oct Paulinskill trip
- Oct 12 [Wed] Movie night
- Nov (TBD) Salmon River steel head trip
- Nov 9 [Wed] Speaker Tim Flagler
- Dec 14 [Wed] Christmas Party

## Welcome to May's New Members

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Said Bounouk      | Prospect Park      |
| Nick Cyprus       | Mahwah             |
| Patrick Delehanty | Park Ridge         |
| Ian Ericksen      | Westwood           |
| Walter Fallucca   | Hackensack         |
| Robert Gardella   | Ridgewood          |
| Peter Kilman      | Ramsey             |
| Alan Kurth        | Tenably            |
| Steven Palmieri   | Hawthorne          |
| Walter Pihoda     | Bergenfield        |
| Keith Samson      | Bloomfield         |
| Steve Sherman     | Paterson           |
| Mark Sonzogni     | Hasbrouck Heights  |
| Claus Sorge       | Franklin Lks Union |
| Angel Souto       |                    |

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Trout Unlimited  
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Rich Malizia

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**Monthly General Member Meeting:**

the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM.

Location: The American Legion Hall,

33 West Passaic St, Rochelle Park, NJ. 07662.

Board Members of East Jersey Trout Unlimited meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30PM.

How to contact us: Website: [ejtu.org](http://ejtu.org)

Mailing Address:

East Jersey Chapter, Trout Unlimited Box 366

HoHoKus, NJ 07423-0366

Membership Info: G. Inwood at: 201-489-7182 or email [inwoodgale@aol.com](mailto:inwoodgale@aol.com)

For East Jersey and National Trout Unlimited information, visit [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org). Go to chapter number 091 for the latest information about our chapter.

Riffles is your publication; we encourage all members to contribute articles, tips, and stories. 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'. 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)

**Conservation Notes**

We were forced to cancel Ramapo River Day when Ramapo College scheduled an event which prevented us from accessing the needed facilities and grounds. It was then impractical to reschedule on such short notice, so, to those of you who were planning to volunteer, and, to all the participants, please accept our apologies. We will consider rescheduling for this fall.

There is a little good news on the environmental front. NJDEP has withdrawn plans to develop the waterfront at Liberty State Park. This, in part, was in response to public opinion which overwhelmingly opposed the plan. The Governor will have to find another way to patch the hole in his revenue projections. The EPA has agreed to take another look at the proposal to hide the toxic waste under a cap in Ringwood. Both Ford Motor Co. and the Borough of Ringwood may again have to face the prospect of doing the right thing by cleaning up that mess. Unfortunately, the toxic waste dumped in the Peter's Mine is still being ignored.

Last month I commented on the potential changes in the septic density standards. Watch for news reports on this topic as there will finally be public forums to discuss the changes in the law. More septic systems in the Highlands Preservation area can only bring more development and threaten the quality of the water that most of us drink. As I see it, increasing septic density can offer no benefits to the public.

Voters overwhelmingly approved Open Space Funding in last year's election. But, while the legislature and the public favor dedicating funds for this pur-

pose, Governor Christie has issued a conditional veto. He has not yet offered an explanation.

Our in-season stocking of the Ramapo

River is done. Several thousand rainbow trout, many in the 14 to 18 inch range, were released into the river. However, low water conditions and a drop off in volunteers made it a tough task during the last few weeks. Our members managed to distribute fish from Riverview Terrace in Mahwah to Lenape Avenue in Oakland, so I hope you all enjoy the quality fishing that result from our efforts. Consider joining the "regulars" next year. We are not getting any younger and can always use more help.

The contract to do the restoration work on the Ramapo River has been awarded by the Borough of Oakland, but, to our surprise and contrary to our understanding of the proposal, a company with NO experience in performing stream restoration work was selected as the low bidder. Because we have serious concerns about the company's ability to do the work without doing irreparable harm to the river, I have recommended and the Board has approved our withdrawal from this project. I cannot support having East Jersey Trout Unlimited linked to work which could damage the eco-system of the river. There is also the possibility that NJDEP will not issue



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the required permits to this entity because of its lack of experience. If the project is rebid and the contract awarded to a company with the requisite stream restoration experience, we may reconsider our decision to withdraw from the project.

While there are still a few more fishing derbies and programs looking for the guiding hands of our members, at this time of year our activities are winding down a little. Please watch for events listed on the EJTU calendar and consider giving a few hours of your time.

Rich Malizia

Visit our web site, [EJTU.org](http://EJTU.org) for schedule updates, photos, issues of Riffles and the latest news and links.

**EJTU.org**

## Project healing Waters



Last November, EJTU partnered with Project Healing Waters (PHW) to form a new group based at the Midland Park VFW. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30PM.

PHW focuses on various aspects of fly fishing including fly tying, fly casting and rod building. And we will soon venture out to actually do some fishing.

While volunteer support has been excellent, PHW is still searching for more disabled veterans to join our group. We are particularly focused on those young women and men returning from Iraq, Afghanistan and other recent combat locations. New Jersey Fish & Wildlife makes available free fishing licenses to any disabled Vet and we can assist in getting the paperwork done.

Do you know a neighbor, friend or family member who is a disabled veteran? If so, Vic Mignoli is our lead for this program, but you can contact me as well. Please help us grow this very worthwhile endeavor.

Rich Malizia

## Ausable Fishing Trip

June 24-26

Once again EJTU is sponsoring a trip to the fabled Ausable River in the New York Adirondacks.

If you're planning on going, check out our website for information and notify Dino Eftychiou, the trip coordinator, at [defty7@gmail.com](mailto:defty7@gmail.com).

Last year, we had success with a number of Fran Betters flies including the Ausable Wulff, the Haystack, and the Usual. Also successful was the Ausable Ugly, created by river guide, Rich Garfield. Other late June flies are the Green Drake, Golden Stone, and Light Cahill. Patterns for all these flies are readily available on the internet.

But, don't worry if you don't tie your own flies. We usually stop at the local fly shop, The Two Fly Shop, in Wilmington, NY, before we head to the water. Hope you can join us!



**Ausable Wulff**

**Hook:** Dry fly hook, sizes 12-16, 1XL  
**Thread:** Fluorescent Orange, 8/0 or 70-denier  
**Tail:** Woodchuck guard hairs, cleaned and stacked  
**Wing:** White kiptail (or calftail), cleaned and stacked  
**Body:** Cinnamon-color Australian possum  
**Hackle:** Brown and grizzly  
**Head:** Tying thread and head cement



**Ausable Ugly**

**Hook:** Nymph hook, sizes 8-12, 2XL-3XL  
**Thread:** Grey  
**Tail:** Muskrat, 2/3 length of shank  
**Ribbing:** Silver wire  
**Body:** Mix of muskrat-raccoon-coyote dubbing  
**Bead:** Nickel sized to hook  
**Hackle:** Hen grizzly



If hot and dry conditions persist, it might be time to look for new places to fish. A favorite pastime of mine in the warm weather is to target those mighty little sunfish. You know, the same ones you used to catch as a kid. And there is no need to dig for garden worms or other things that soil your fingers. Just look in your fly box and use some old, beaten up beetle or floating ant patterns. Larger hooks will not deter these little guys, so use flies on larger hooks like a size 8 so that the voracious little critters don't suck your fly down to their tonsils.

Our local ponds are full of sunfish and at this time of year they seem to be on the feed. Visit any of the ponds in the county parks where, in addition to sunfish, you may be surprised by a largemouth bass.

Most of these impoundments are under-fished or improperly fished. I often see little kids with their non-fishing parents tossing 6 inch rubber worms impaled on bluefish hooks at sunfish half the size of the bait. When I can, I first ask the parent if I can intervene and, after gaining permission, I try to coax the kid into using a bait or lure that offers the kid a chance to catch something. If you only have flies, try this rig: place a split shot or two directly above a float (the extra weight makes it easier to

## Summer Fishing

cast). Tie on a dry fly about 24 inches below the float. Make sure the kid watches the fly and not the float because sunfish will take the fly without ever moving the float. However, some kids are intent on staying with their choice of bait and they wind up getting some casting practice, so respect their tenacity. Those willing to listen and learn are often rewarded by catching their first fish. Have any of you forgotten what it felt like when you caught your first fish? It is an



experience that you can share with a kid who may someday be a major advocate for the sport we love. But I digress!

Another warm water target is carp. Yes, those ugly fish with the inferior mouths will take a fly. Some anglers don't think they will and that is because they are darn tough to get to eat your fly. You have to be willing to cheat (a little). Find a place which harbors some carp that are not disturbed by other anglers. If a kid has been bouncing a bobber on its head, you can bet that carp has lockjaw. They will just sit on the bottom mumbling profanities at you as you cast again and again. Instead, invest in a can of cat food. Do some scouting in advance of your fishing trip so you can find a likely spot where you have seen carp and "salt" the area with the cat food. Return the next day, offer some

additional cat food to top off the scent and gently cast your fly slightly ahead of the fish. A variety of flies like nymphs and wooly buggers will work. Small hooks are better than large ones because that big inferior mouth is as sensitive as the tip of your nose and if the fish feels the hook it will



likely drop the fly. If it takes your bug, hang on because you are in for a game of tug-of-war. Did I mention that your tippet should be as light as possible? Carp are frequently found in small slow moving streams and there are several such places in nearby communities. You just have to scout them out. One more thing. Don't "salt" the water in any places which harbor trout as it is against F&W regulations.

If you still want to pursue some trout, limit your fishing to early mornings. The water will have had all night to cool from the late afternoon heat of the prior day and you may be rewarded by spinners on the water. Just be careful not to stress the fish. Use a net to land the fish quickly and leave it in the water while you remove the hook. Then be sure it is well revived before you release it. Many trout use their last burst of



energy to swim out of your hand only to go belly up a few feet down river, so try to release the fish facing upstream. That forces water over its gills and if it starts to go belly up, it will float back to you so you can spend more time properly reviving it.

Whatever you choose to do, be safe and have fun.

*Limp Leader*

## The Davidson River, North Carolina

For the last year fellow EJTU member, Stuart Berson, has been telling me about the great fishing in the Davidson River in North Carolina. Trout fishing in the South? I was somewhat skeptical; however a quick internet search showed me he was onto something. This river is listed in Trout Unlimited's book, "America's 100 Best Trout Streams to Fish in the US."



Stuart Berson

Hendersonville, NC, so we had a place to stay for the week since she and husband were at their Florida home. And in April North Carolina was about a month ahead of us as its flies had started hatching while the water was only beginning to warm up here in New Jersey, so it was not hard to convince me to go.

Naturally, I did my internet research, reading everything I could about where and how to fish, and also printed topographical maps of the rivers. Of course Stuart co-opted my efforts at coming up the learning curve by engaging a guide whom he had used in the past. We contracted to use the guide for two and a half days.

First day: despite my research, we fished near the hatchery where 90% of all fishermen go. Supposedly the fish are all over,

unintimidated by fisherman, and impossible to catch. Well, it is true. I guess we did catch one fish each so we did well. There is nothing like sitting on a bank tossing out parts of sandwiches to fish only a rod's length away that are not the slightest bit interested in your size 22 flies with 7X tippet (that is the recommendation). Amazingly, these are not stocked fish despite being within walking distance from the hatchery. They are wild, but obviously tame around people and almost un-catchable.

On the second day we went out of with Davidson Outfitters' guide, Nathaniel "Thane" Axtell who took us to the Public Waters of the East



"Thane" Axtell

Interestingly from my research I had concluded that this would be a good place to fish given its status as "delayed harvest waters". That classification means they stock it heavily in October and December, but it is catch and release until June 1<sup>st</sup> when



anything goes. The river is a little bigger and deeper than the Ramapo with great structure, and full of fish of all sizes. We basically nymphed. The setup we used was indicator, the "mop fly", about two feet down, some micro split shot, and a size 18 -

20 bottom nymph. We would repeatedly flip them and retrieve them while trying to get a good drag free float. It was not too exciting except for those twitches of the indicators at which time you had to set the hook. Together we caught about 30 fish



up  
to  
16

inches. That day was capped off by Stuart's hooking into a brown trout that made a run like a bonefish, but that then went into a stream side's branches terminating the connection.

The third day saw us fishing the private waters that Davidson Outfitters leases on the Davidson River. Although this three mile stretch can be fished with or without a guide, we had Thane guide us again. One would think that private, stocked waters would be easy for fishing, but there are only so many prime runs that are fishable and the guides know them all. So before you arrive at a run, a different guide may have just taken his clients through it and beaten it to death before you got there. Nevertheless we had a 20 fish day with the average size about 16 inches and a number of break offs even using 5X.

Next day we explored one of the streams in the Northern part of the Pisgah National Forest that Thane had suggested as being more of a mountain stream with great scenery. Of course I did

Davidson River, Continued from

more of the exploring while Stuart fished. Hiking around I found a nice run for him and earned my nap while he cleaned out the run (not literally).

It rained on the following day which meant that we had to spend most of the day at the Sierra Nevada Brewery- we felt that needed a break anyway.

Since we did not stay in a motel, I cannot tell you about local accommodations.

We were about 10 miles from Asheville and about 10 miles from Brevard and I am sure there are reasonable accommodations within a short distance. In Hendersonville we had our daily breakfast at Mike's, a 1950s drug store that looks like a movie set. Moe's Original BBQ is on Main Street, offering smoked chicken and turkey, and the Black Rose Pub that served steak

sandwiches for \$9, and also beers for \$3 - 4. There are also lots of antique stores with all kinds of stuff that were fun to explore.



**Greg Tarris**

I might point out that there were a number of other trout streams/rivers that we never visited. So if you do your research, you will find lots of places to explore.

There is even a tail water, the Tuckaseegee River, about an hour away. Also, one hour north of where we stayed in Hendersonville is the South Holston River in Tennessee, a tail water written up in Tom Gilmore's book *Flyfisher's Guide to Eastern Trophy Tailwaters*.

I highly recommend a trip to North Carolina if you want to try a different fly fishing scene and cultural experience.

*Greg Tarris*

**June Fly of the Month**

The hatches we dreamed of all winter are in full swing. The Mayflies, both large and small, have gotten our attention. March Browns, Green Drakes, Sulfurs, & Olives have all been getting the trout's attention as well.

The next time you come home from a day of fishing and sit down at your vise to refill your fly box, how about tying a dozen extra for your chapter?



**Was He an Angler?**

Perhaps not factual, but there are many stories and jokes about anglers purchasing expensive (to non-anglers) fishing equipment and later telling spouses that the new gear was cheap. A quote from Oscar Wilde, the brilliant Irish novelist, playwright and poet, might indicate that he also went a little overboard in his spending.

"I shall have to die as I have lived, beyond my means."

Wilde was prophetic; after great literary success and a few years in prison, he died destitute.

Be careful how many rods you accumulate!



**Slip, Slap, Slop**

It's nice to feel the sun warming you and you may be one of the people who still likes to sport a tan, but remember that the same sun that makes you feel good today has a good chance of leaving you with skin cancer a number of years from now. So follow the advice of the Australians, who, when melanoma rates began to climb, gave this advice: Slip on a shirt, slop on sunscreen and slap on a hat



You will notice that the Aussies have gone a little further and added "Seek" and "Slide" to their anti-cancer arsenal. They are telling us to also Seek shade and to Slide on sunglasses to prevent eye damage.