



Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 33

June 2003

Issue 6

President's Beat

Reading the newspaper every day is an enlightening experience, however much of the enlightenment is upsetting. The environment is one of our main concerns as fishermen because when the air, land, and water are degraded the fishing declines. Unfortunately pollution is not the only enemy of the environment. Because man is at the top of the food chain he is accountable for the loss of open space, and responsible for the diminishing of a variety of species of fish and animals. He is also a wastrel of water, the one thing we cannot live without.

Recent articles I have read deal with the fact that the oceans are being decimated. A recent study going back many years has compared fish size, quantity caught, and reproduction rates to present times. It revealed that the fish are generally smaller, available in smaller quantities and cannot reproduce as fast as they are being caught. The efficiency of the modern commercial fisherman is phenomenal. If unchecked, more species of fish will become extinct. The study points out that the ramifications of depleted fish stocks could cause severe problems for many countries that rely on the oceans as a food supplier. It is recommended that areas of the oceans be put off limits for commercial fishing or enforce strict limits on the numbers of fish being harvested.

Evidence that regulations can improve fish numbers is documented by the tremendous resurgence of the striped bass. Very strict regulations for several years allowed them to proliferate. With the lifting of the ban on stripers and the enforcement of size limits, the striper will continue to be available. On the other hand I read an article predicting that swordfish will be extinct by 2005.

(Continued on page 2)

Meeting Notice

When: June 11 at 7:30 PM
Where: American Legion Hall
33 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

June 11th
Glenn & Anderea
Van Benschoten
Lake Fishing with a Fly Rod

Mark Your Calendars!

Future Guest Speakers

July 9th
Dick Despommie
Songs of the River

August 13th
Mickey Goshen
Fishing N.J. Streams

September 10th
Mark Sadatti
Saltwater Fly Fishing

October 8th
John Roetman
Fly Fishing either
New Zealand or Chile

All programs have a slide show.

Quote of the Month
" Skill at the riverside, or at the fly-table never came, nor ever will come to us by any road than that of practice. "

George M. Kelson
The Salmon Fly (1895)

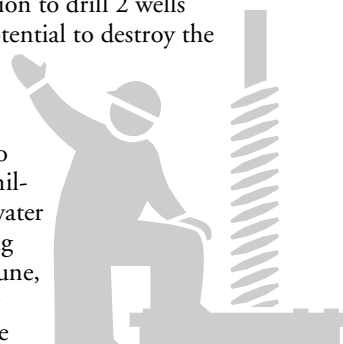
Ramapo River Day Saturday June 14, 2003

You will probably get this edition of Riffles just days before the June 14th Ramapo River Day event. Thanks to all who have already volunteered to help. We're almost ready but we still need a few hands to help set up at 8:30 AM and to clean up at 1:30 PM. Even if you can help for just a few hours call Rich Malizia [973-427-6140 or 973-304-0789 at work] or e-mail to remqcp@peoplepc.com or see Rich at the June 11th membership meeting This truly is a rewarding experience.

Rich Malizia

More Water Problems

Recently the Borough of Ramsey requested permission to drill 2 wells that have the potential to destroy the fishery we have worked so hard to protect. Ramsey wants to pump up to 2 million gallons of water every day during the months of June, July and August from wells in the Ramapo River Reservation - one next to Scarlet Oak Pond and the second in the wetlands just South of the pond. Because the wells will be in the County Park the Bergen County Freeholders will determine if they will be allowed. A hearing is planned for some time in June. I will provide more details when they are available but, we should be prepared to fight this one both with letters and by our presence at the hearing. The first question should be why the Bergen County Freeholders are even entertaining this proposal. More information will follow.



Rich Malizia

East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

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For Membership Information call Ed Sikorski at:

201-337-6396 or email to: dored100@hotmail.com

For Information on trips and other Chapter

Activities call our hotline: (201) 445-3902 (24 hrs.)

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. We invite

and encourage every member to contribute articles, tips,

etc., relating to trout or trout fishing in general. Email to:

tu@cataloguepublishers.com attention Riffles. Each

piece of material submitted earns you 10 points towards

your next goal in the points program.

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 Street, Rochelle Park, NJ. 07662.

Monthly Board Meeting: The East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board Members meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30PM. **Location:** The Bergen County Community Center, 327 East Ridgewood Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652.

(Continued from page 1) **President's Beat**

It's too bad that we don't have advocates as powerful and concerned about the environment and open spaces as President Theodore Roosevelt was. If only a few of our politicians would follow his lead we wouldn't have to worry about the world our children and grandchildren will inherit.

Theodore Roosevelt was a far-sighted individual and realized that land must be set aside to protect animal life. One hundred years ago he signed an executive order creating Pelican Island Reservation a federal preserve. This action led to the development and establishment of the National Wildlife Refuge System, which totals nearly 95 million acres.

It is important that we as a nation behave in a manner that will insure the preservation of wildlife and open spaces. We must all have the courage to work and follow Roosevelt's lead. Trout Unlimited members are doing their best, but we must make the politicians understand the importance of Theodore Roosevelt's following statement: "The nation behaves well if it treats resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value."

Bill Borowski

Stray Hooks

While fishing the Ramapo last spring I noticed unusual rises under an overhanging bush across the stream. After unsuccessfully attempting casts to the area of the rises, I decided to get close and see what the rises were and why they were continuing.

I found a place to cross and when I neared the bush I saw a baby duckling hooked in the bill by a spinning lure and bouncing up and down just trying to keep his head above water. He had probably seen the shiny lure caught on the bush, bit it and was hooked.

I picked him up, freed him from the hook, enjoyed holding him in my hand for a moment and then released him. Out of nowhere came mama duck to get the duckling and led him away, quacking her gratitude as she led the baby downstream!

Moral: watch for hanging lures and discarded line and remove them if at all possible.

Herb Janusec

Special Raffle

EJTU is conducting a special fund raising raffle starting this month. There will be only one grand prize with an estimated value of \$700. The prize is a one of kind display of flies tied by Bill Logan and framed by Ted Patlen. It is magnificent and will be a valuable addition to any collection of fly tier art. The piece consists of a striking photograph of Bill Logan surrounded by fifteen of his flies and a signature card.

Bill Logan is a world-renowned fly tier of ultra realistic flies and has done presentations here in the US from coast to coast. His flies have been exhibited in museums and art galleries, and the ultra realistic flies have sold for as much as \$4000 each. Bill also writes articles for magazines here in the US, and Japan. And he has generously contributed a number of "fishing" flies to be used to raise money for EJTU.

Ted Patlen is also a famous fly tier known throughout the USA and Europe. Ted is highly recognized for his superb framing techniques. For our grand prize Ted created an oak frame with an aesthetic quintuple mat.

The raffle is limited to 100 tickets and the price per ticket is \$10. The drawing will be held at our October meeting.

Bill Borowski



Landlocked Salmon Trip September 13 to 20

The chapter has made arrangements to once again take a trip to Maine, fishing for Landlocked Salmon and Brook Trout. We reserved a cottage at Prays Camps for six guests. The cost per person for the week's lodging is \$300.00, plus Maine fishing license, and one night stay in Freeport. For more information please call Elmer Hopper (973) 256-1368 or John Roetman (201) 447-1810.

Twelve Thousand Thank You's

I was quite surprised at the April membership meeting when points chairman George Peterson announced that I had earned 12,000 points, and asked me to



come forward. George and our President, Bill Borowski, then presented me with a beautiful brook trout carving along with a fleece chapter jacket. You might ask how a member earns 12,000 points.

In my case it all started thirty years ago when I took a beginner's fly tying course at the Ramsey Outdoor Store in Paramus. My instructor was Andy Gennaro who suggested that I check out this new organization called Trout Unlimited. At that time EJTU meetings were held at the Rustic Lodge in Elmwood Park, the same lodge where we now have our annual dinner.

I began to earn ten points at each monthly membership meeting by setting up and taking down the chairs. The rest is history.

I would like to thank the board and members of EJTU and Andy Gennaro for this great award and I look forward to serving in our chapter for another thirty years and earning 24,000 points.

John Roetman

Get Riffles Faster

If you would like to receive your copy of Riffles earlier, you now can.

Sign up to receive your copy of Riffles via email and get it days before the snail mail version is delivered. Not only will you receive Riffles earlier, you will help the chapter save money on postage. Just send an email to: scideb@optonline.net with "Subscribe - Riffles" in the subject. Be sure to include your full name and if possible your TU membership number. You will receive a sample copy immediately with instructions on how to open it. Give it a try - you can always cancel if you don't like it!

Bruce Seiden

Response to The Moral Fly Fisher

I am one of those fly fishermen who practices catch-and-release and I always thought that it was the right thing to do until I read that recent article in Riffles about The "Moral" fly fisher. (May 2003 Issue). According to the author, it seems that by releasing all my trout I am a "zealot, morally superior, ethically superior, intellectually dishonest, hypocritical, sanctimonious, etc." By golly, it was like a blizzard of nasty names straight out of a thesaurus.

But the line that bowled me over was that too many fly fishermen like me are suffering from a "manifest destiny, a spiritual calling if you will, to practice catch-and-release and enforce it upon others." A manifest destiny? That is going too far, and I am obliged to fire back

The author was quoting a "brilliant article" written by a saltwater fishing writer. So I will counter with another brilliant article that was written by Don Ecker, EJTU founder, in The Record. It was about a joint study conducted by Fish & Game and a bass fishermen's club on the Delaware River. The goal of the study was to learn whether black bass migrated up and down the Delaware. To find out, they tagged a bunch of bass in one particular bay and the bass club kept a record of each time they caught and released one of them.

The conclusion of the study was that all the bass stuck close to home, but the real surprise was the fact that the tagged bass were caught and released an average of three times. One bass, in particular, was caught and released five times! Think about it for a while, because whether it is bass or trout, that is what catch-and-release is all about. The more fish you release, the more fish are available to catch. And as Lee Wulff used to say, "a trout is too valuable to catch only once." The article in Riffles also said that 30% of all released trout will die anyway, and it cites as an example a fly fisherman manhandling a trout in a struggle to remove a #18 nymph from its mouth. That's not a problem for those of us who bend down our barbs or use barbless hooks. That way we can gently release a trout without even taking it from the water or getting our hands smelly.

Until EJTU began improving the

Ramapo, I used to fish for trout only in the Catskills where they stock just twice a year. Up there, the unregulated pools get cleaned out in a matter of days. But in the catch-and-release sections of the Willowemoc and the Beaverkill, the trout season never ends - not even in winter. And you guessed it - the diehard put-and-take fishermen are furious because they cannot take trout at any time from the catch-and-release pools.

Don't get me wrong. I do not look down my nose at put-and-take fishermen here in New Jersey. I am one of their best friends. Every time I release a fish, that is one more they can take home. But there is one thing that does bother me, and that is the outlaw fishermen described in this e-mail I got the other day from Herman Drenth:

"Chuck Fletcher, the conservation officer continues to patrol the Ramapo and caught more people catching over the limit, including one at Britts Tackle Shop area who caught 6, put them in his car and came back and caught more!"

Whether we practice catch-and release or put-and take, I think we all can feel "morally superior" to folks like that.

Rusty Bodkin

Fly of the Month

June - Things are getting hot, and I don't mean the weather. The hatches we dreamed of all winter are in full swing. The Mayflies both large and small have got 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 days fishing and sit

down at your vise to refill your fly box, how about tying a dozen extra for your chapter.

Tie up one of these, or any other pattern, and turn them in at the next meeting. You will receive 10 points and an entry into the monthly drawing for every dozen flies you turn in. More importantly, you will be helping your chapter raise funds for our various projects.

The chapter's fly inventory is still quite lean, and we need your help in getting it rebuilt. If you can't make the meeting, mail your flies to the chapter P.O. Box or turn them in to any director.

Bruce Seiden

Ramapo Ramblin'

It's hard to believe that by the time you read this the stocking season will be over and dry fly fishing will be at its peak! We had a real good season with over 3000 trout being stocked by our members.

This year we expanded our stocking to include the section above the Halifax Road Bridge, and I estimate that about 400 trout were bucket stocked from the riffle above the bridge to about 300 feet past the pond section. Walt Nahadil led the drive to do this section with the help of Fred Lauffer.

The section downstream at Britts' Tackle Shop was supervised by Rick Hudak or by Walt Nahadil when Rich was away.

Ed Sikorski was always there, doing his thing, getting permission from Mr. Baxter to launch his boat from his property, supervising the launching of both boats and using his boat to stock the upstream section. Thanks to Bruce Seiden for letting us use his boat to stock the section below the Glen Gray Bridge and to George Petersen for using his truck every week to carry the fish upstream from Glen Gray Bridge. Thanks to Cindy for letting us keep the boat on her property.

To Bob Papsen we are grateful for his assistance and to Mark and the guys on the stocking truck, thanks. Last but not least, I want to give a special tip of the hat to the members who came week after week to make the stocking such a success! I'm not going to name you as I am sure that I would miss someone, however, your names were listed each week and you can be proud of a job well done!!

Chuck Fletcher, the new conservation officer who patrols Bergen, Passaic and part of Morris County, attended the May membership meeting. He has been paying particular attention to the Ramapo on Thursdays and has caught some lawbreakers. The fine is \$40 for the first trout over the limit and \$20 for each trout thereafter plus court cost, usually about \$100. Call him at 908-735-8240. Ed Sikorski spotted a 55 gallon barrel caught in the bushes while stocking above Glen Gray Bridge. This was reported to Chuck Fletcher who contacted



the DEP. When they came to retrieve it they brought 3 fire engines, many police cars and blocked off Glen Gray Road for over an hour! About 5 years ago when we reported another barrel, it was retrieved with no incident. Things have changed since 9/11.

There is a boat launch open at Potash Lake off Colfax Avenue in Oakland. Go past Britts on West Oakland Avenue and after the bridge go left; this is Colfax

Avenue. A short way past the railroad crossing you will see the parking area. The launch is just a bank cutout at this time, but you can travel to Pompton Lakes from there. I think there is a limit on the engine horsepower and

speed so check with the police for rules, etc.

In July or August the state will do an electric shock of the Ramapo to check on the number of trout surviving. This is another step toward having it made into a conservation stretch!

Herm Drenth

WMA 3

For several years EJTU has maintained a presence as a stakeholder in the Public Advisory Committee for Watershed Management Area 3 which includes the Ramapo, Pompton, Wanaque and Pequannock Rivers. After a very slow start, WMA 3 is trying to identify sensitive areas within the watershed for protection or remediation.

If you know of an area that fits this description WMA 3 is looking for your input. Contact me or Herman Drenth and we will forward your concerns and suggestion to the PAC.

Rich Malizia



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Another Reason to Fish Barbles

I was having a decent day fishing on Friday, November 9, having caught seven nice trout including some of the State's nine to eleven inchers and a couple of our stocked browns in the twelve to thirteen inch class.

Near the end of the afternoon I was fishing in the run just below Mansion pool when I finally hooked a much better trout, a rainbow in the fourteen inch range. While playing the fish and trying to bring him in as quickly as possible I managed to get him into the shallow edge on three occasions but each time I thought he was ready for release he would swim back into the faster water. On the fourth attempt I managed to get him in again and, thinking he was tired I elected not to use the net but to reach down, hold the leader, and remove the fly with my hemostats.

I always fish with a dropper and tail fly, so I reached down and held the tail fly leader in my left hand while I tried to remove the fly with my right hand. Little did I know that the trout still had enough energy left to make another run. When he did so the dropper fly ended up embedded in the palm of my left hand and the short leader broke off at the knot. The rainbow entered back into the fast water, the remainder of my knot parted, and the trout and my tail fly went on their merry way!

Because I have all of my barbs pinched it was much easier to remove the hook myself instead of going to the doctor.

Rich Hudak

Ten Dollars - Free!

Do you know how to give \$5.00 to the chapter without any cost to you? Instead of paying your T.U. dues directly to the national office, pay it through the EJTU chapter and the chapter will get \$5.00!

You can also save the EJTU chapter about \$5.00 a year by receiving Riffles via email. As a bonus the pictures will be in color! Contact Bruce Seiden at seideb@optonline.net

Herm Drenth