



Riffler

The Monthly Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 33

August 2003

Issue 8

President's Beat

We have had a very different fishing season than those of recent years. Spring seemed to last forever and provided us with a great deal of rain which dampened our fishing but did not dissuade us. We then had several weeks of very hot weather interspersed with thunderstorms and often, short torrential downpours. The erratic weather may be uncomfortable but the rain will hopefully prolong our season well into the fall. Reservoirs are full so tail water fisheries will continue to be the best bet on hot days. The abundant water we are receiving should not dim our perspective or shorten our memories of the drought conditions we suffered last season.

Please keep apprised of the problems created by urban sprawl, reclaiming wetlands, drawing down rivers, encroachment on green acres property, and drilling wells in public parks. All of these could and probably will adversely affect the recharging of underground aquifers that provide water for millions of people in New Jersey.

East Jersey is in need of a representative to attend Bergen Federation of Sportsmen meetings. This is an important position that gives us insight into the operations of the Division of Fish and Game, and the machinations of the antis. Anyone interested in acting as our representative should contact any board member. East Jersey has also received a request from the Citizens Advisory Committee of the New York – New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program (HEP). They are asking us to provide a representative in order to create a network of stewardship organizations. Information about the HEP may be found on their website www.harborestuary.org. Again interested members may contact any board member.

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Meeting Notice

When: August 13 at 7:30 PM
Where: American Legion Hall
33 West Passaic Street
Rochelle Park, New Jersey

**August 13h
Mickey Goshen
Fishing N.J. Streams**

Mark Your Calendars!

Future Guest Speakers

**September 10th
Mark Sadatti
Saltwater Fly Fishing**

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

**November 12
Bob Levitson
Montana**

**December 10
Bob Demarest
Author/Artist**

**January 14
Fisly Fullum
Fly Fishing for Trout**

All programs have a slide show.

Quote of the Month

"There are as many reasons why
and ways to fish as there are people
who do it."

Russell Chatham
Dark Waters (1988)

Wells in the Park

Efforts to prevent the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders from allowing the Town of Ramsey to put production wells in the Ramapo River Reservation continue. If you value the park and its resources and want to keep as much water as possible in Scarlet Oak Pond and the Ramapo River, you have to voice your opposition to this proposal. If Ramsey is allowed to draw 2 million gallons of water **every day** from the Ramapo aquifer, the effects could bring an end to the fishery and will have adverse effects on the park. Several environmental organizations have voiced their opposition to the wells but our voices are very important.

Most of our members live in Bergen County and **vote**. Please call or write to the Freeholders and tell them you oppose the plan. Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Valerie Huttle, Chairwoman, One Bergen Plaza, Hackensack, NJ 07601 Telephone 201-336-6200.

If you want more information, please contact me at 973-304-0789.

Rich Malizia

Summer Hatches

Last week a large trout rose about twenty-five feet from me then continued to feed while paying no attention to any of the dry or wet flies that I floated over and under him. He was still happily rising when I left the pool, so the following day I returned only to find another fly fisher crouched over the same pool - and having the same lack of luck that I had had.

So I went to the Orvis site to see what they recommend for this time of year. Here's what they say we should be using

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East Jersey Chapter Trout Unlimited

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Bill Canning

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Box 366 HoHoKus, NJ 07423-0366
Hotline: (201) 445-3902 (24 hrs.)
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**
Candidates for either position or anyone interested in attending a Board of Directors Meeting will be welcome. Board meetings are held the last Thursday of every month except December. Tight lines.

Bill Borowski

Feedback on "Lifetime Reward"

The saddest news I have read was the article "Lifetime Reward." It was sadder than "No Fishing....." We can see our enemy in Assemblyman Reed Gusciora. Fred Lauffer revealed a boastful enemy within. Even if the author didn't know 4 weight line from 4 pound test, didn't he know the reward was the catch not the kill? I'm happy for him that those who caught that trophy fish in the past released it unharmed. I'm sorry for those that follow that a void exists in the "typical feeding area" downstream from the "Iron Truss Bridge." I'm sorry Riffles published "Lifetime Reward" and awarded Mr. Lauffer 10 points.

Stan Holuba

Fly of the Month

This time of year the fishing is at first and last light. The middle of the day can be hot and slow.

Instead of driving 2 hours to your favorite Catskill stream with the hope of an hour or two of good fishing, how about a 15 minute trip to your local bass or pan fish pond.

Whether you prefer bass or pan fish, a hot summer day seems appropriate for this type of fishing.

This month's *Fly of the Month* will be Warm Water Patterns: bass bugs, pan fish poppers, streamers, dragonflies, leeches, or whatever pattern you prefer.

Tie up a dozen 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

Don't Forget! Frank Hall Memorial Fly Tying Award

The summer doldrums is a good time to relax and practice your fly tying skills. Try tying this summer time fish catching pattern, most effective when hoppers cause big fish to rise. Tying this pattern will not only fill your fly box with an excellent hopper imitation, but offers you a chance to have your name added to the list of East Jersey's Frank Hall award winners. The contest began in 1989 and was started by Frank Hall who initiated our fly tying programs. It is an annual tradition and has been carried on for the past fourteen years. Winners will receive a plaque and their names will be added to a larger plaque maintained by EJTU. The winner will be presented with his/her plaque at the November meeting.

The Letort Hopper is a traditional summer time pattern, originated by Ernie Schwiebert for Pennsylvania trout. His creation of the pattern is described in the story "Grasshopper Wind" in *Remembrances of Rivers Past*. Entries will be judged by a panel of five judges. The original pattern follows:

Hook:	Sizes 6 through 16, 2X long down eye
Thread:	00 Yellow
Tails:	None
Body:	Yellow nylon wool dubbed on yellow silk
Wings:	Brown-mottled turkey glazed with lacquer
Legs:	Brown deer body hair
Head:	Trimmed deer body hair butts

Flies may be submitted to any director prior to the judging, which will take place the week before the November meeting.

Bill Borowski

Connetquot Trip

On November 14, East Jersey Trout Unlimited will have a trip to the Connetquot River State Park on Long Island. This is the time of the year when the sea run brook trout start to show up. The cost for the day's fishing 8 AM - 5 PM is \$40.00. A director will be available at our monthly meetings to take your reservation and payment. Full payment must be made when signing up for this trip. The trip is limited to thirty fishermen.

John Roetman

Sandy Hook Sighting

As soon as I walked onto the beach the voracious Sandy Hook flies spotted my bare legs, rang a dinner bell, and began to bite. But I was wearing old shorts and had all of my fishing gear in a shoulder bag so I walked straight into the cool surf to avoid them.

It was a comfortable day with moderate temperature, a slight, low-lying haze, and very little humidity but the ocean looked lifeless. There was no bird activity and the few bottom fishermen who were sitting on stools under their arched rods looked like statues.

With a Kastmaster clipped onto one side of my leader and a salt-water fly on the other I began to cast. Cast after cast; long - short - slow - fast - skip it over the surface - bump it along the bottom - occasional lure changes. But all I got was exercise and a couple of foul-hooked sand fleas.

I waded northward, stopping every few yards to cast and retrieve, concentrating on the water to see if there was any sign of life and never really paying any attention to the beach behind me or to where I was. Every now and then joggers, some with accompanying dogs, would pass but I had seen very few people as I beat the water to a froth with a variety of lures.

After still another lure change I was about to cast when I heard that awful question from the beach behind me, "Catching anything?" I detest this question because it seems that the only times I'm asked is when I'm drenched and gasping for breath after falling in a river or just after I've tumbled to the bottom of my boat in a cursing heap. Maybe it was because I was arm weary and welcomed the interruption but this time I decided to be sociable. So I was turning toward the beach with a cheery smile when I became aware of where I was. The middle aged man who had questioned me was barefoot up to his eyebrows. He wore only a baseball cap. And that was more than most of the other sun-bathers on the beach wore because I had wandered up to the middle of Sandy Hook's nude bathing beach. I explained to my questioner that I had had no luck and then after exchanging normal pleasantries (in an abnormal situation) I again walked northward and continued fishing. But until I made my way back to my car I found that I was being very careful because my mind insisted on presenting frightening pictures of what I might snag-hook on a back cast.

Ray Cappock

Riffles by Email

We have been emailing Riffles for a few months now and those who have signed up for email delivery seem to be quite happy with it. Besides getting Riffles earlier, they have been getting it in color. If you haven't signed up yet, give it a try.

Upon receiving your request, we will send you the last issue along with instructions for opening it. You can read it on your screen or if you prefer a paper copy, print it. If you are not happy with it, you can cancel at any time.

Just send an email to: seidenb@optonline.net with

"Subscribe - Riffles" in the subject. Be sure to include your full name and if possible your TU membership number.

Not only will you receive Riffles earlier, you will help the chapter save money on postage.

Bruce Seiden

Spin or Fly

Tom Yuille, a member of the EJTCU conservation committee, brought up an interesting subject when he asked why we do not try to recruit spin fishermen into being members of EJTCU. He said that when he fishes, he always wears a TU hat and spin fishermen ask, "Why should I join that fly fishing club?" Tom then explains to them that EJTCU is not a fly fishing club but rather a conservation and education organization dedicated to improving streams and trout habitat and educating the public in the need to avoid polluting streams.

Fly fishing is traced back to 1,000 years before Christ, where records show that people were using horse tail hair and bird feathers to make flies. There was no catch and release then and fly fishing was considered the best way to fill the frying pan. Down through the years, fly fishing was fine tuned to the point where it is today, a fine sport where many fishermen truly enjoy being on a stream where they can catch and then release trout so that fish will be there when he or she returns.

More Feedback

Attached is my response to Environmentalism vs. Conservationism. I tried to tone down my anger and offer a measured response to such a biased article. I think TU must be ever vigilant and I wonder whether there is any policy about printing such unsound opinions as expressed by Mr. Furno?

July 16, 2003

Dear Editors:

One of the things that is so appealing about fishing, whether it is on a stream, a lake, or the ocean is that it is a relief from so many of life's concerns. Not the least of these concerns is politics.

Yet when I read *Environmentalism vs. Conservationism*, in the July issue, I found the politics glaring and the science suspect.

I don't know the author, but I surely know his politics.

If we as fishermen are going to advocate conservation of our resources, that will of necessity spill over into politically controversial areas. Clean water should not be controversial. Clean air should not be controversial. I for one, don't want the government drilling for oil in many of our wilderness areas. Global warming is not something the liberals dreamed up. The melting of our glaciers is a fact, one that I have seen. The oceans are rising. Animal and fish species are being adversely affected.

Voices that run counter to such advocacy hurt our cause. Is *Riffles* a forum for various political voices or is it a force for sound government policies that protect our natural resources...resources that are quickly disappearing?

Sincerely,

Robert J. Demarest

In all probability a great percentage of present day fly fishermen started out with a spinning rod, some hooks and a can of bait. Some of us older people can remember an old metal casting rod or perhaps a bamboo pole with line attached! The spinning rod made its first appearance after WW2, when GI's brought this new fangled way to fish back from France! My first reel was a French model that was on back order and I had to wait a month to get it. A glass rod, mono line and a few French spinning lures and you were king of the stream!

The spinning rod became the rod of choice because it was easy to learn and you could cast a mile. There was not very much attention paid to conservation and catch and release was something done on

(Continued on page 4)

Ramapo Ramblin'

As we look back over the first six months of 2003, there is much to be proud of. We assisted the state by float and bucket stocking more than three thousand trout in the Ramapo from the Susquehanna Railroad in Oakland to Halifax Road in Mahwah. We helped the cub scouts in Wayne stock 300 trout, and we had the DEP remove a 55 gallon drum from the Ramapo. We installed six water monitors and did a biological survey (BATS) in the Ramapo. The Ramapo Day event held in conjunction with Dr. Angela Cristini of Ramapo College was a resounding success with 150 middle school kids attending. We also assisted Dr. Cristini in planting 200 bushes at the Scarlet Oak Pond at the Ramapo Reservation in Mahwah. A record number of volunteers turned out to assist with the projects and a record number of points was awarded. This was just the conservation projects; in addition people worked on shows, projects at the hatchery, teaching fly tying and casting, arranging a successful dinner, organizing membership meetings, attending state and national TU meetings, WMA3 meetings, and many other activities. I am sure that there are more activities and I apologize in advance if any were missed.

The rest of this year will also be a time of much activity for the conservation committee. We will do another biological assessment survey in August with the amount and class of the critters found in the river telling us the quality of the water. We also plan to assist the N.J. Fish and Wildlife in electric shocking sections of the Ramapo to check on how many trout survive the summer. Only EJTU members who are approved as state volunteers may assist due to insurance reasons. I suggest that they check their boots for leaks! The committee is looking into the feasibility of putting a handicap platform at Henry Lake. The Bear Swamp Brook will also be checked out for the possibility of a clean up and tree planting. We will keep an eye on the proposed work that the Army Engineers plan on doing on the upper Ramapo. The Wanaque River below the Wanaque dam will be checked for possible upgrading and testing. We plan on purchasing 300 trout for stocking in the Ramapo in November to supplement the state stocking in October. The trout cost about \$4.00 each and are stocked to

provide fishing for fun, not food, so please practice catch and release.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist on various projects and invite you to come out and help.

More fish stories are needed, whether they are, "the joy of victory or the agony of defeat." Please send them to me at hermaril@aol.com or, if you wish, mail the story to me at Herm Drenth, 235 Roosevelt Ave. Elmwood Park NJ 07407 and I will type it up for you. A dozen flies will be awarded for the best story of the year.

If you would like to be put on my EMAIL list let me know that also.

You can now receive your Riffles in color via EMAIL! Contact Bruce Seiden at seidenb@optonline.net.

EJTU can save a buck or two in postage over the year.

Check out the EJTU website at eastjerseytu.org. Click on the trout to get in!

Guess it is time to be moseying along, (at 74 I can say moseying!)

I will be looking for you down stream where we all live.

God Bless America.

Herman Drenth

(Continued from page 1)

Summer Hatches

in August in the Northeast and Midwest: Midges, Little Yellow Stoneflies, Isonychia (early in the month), Slate Wing Olives (again, early in the month), Tricos, Tiny Blue Winged Olive, and White Mayflies.

By the way, the pool was someplace on the Ramapo and as far as I know that @#%&^ fish is still making fools of us locals.

Ray Cappock

(Continued from page 3) **Spin or Fly**

the flat brook by a few guys with expensive fly fishing gear.

Now comes TU into the mix. The National Trout Unlimited came into being and the attitude of the average spin fisherman, including myself at the time, was that this was an elitist fly fishing club. I remember talking to an EJTU member concerning TU and all that he talked about was the trips they went on and how he released his trout while I tried to discuss the pros and cons of spinning because I was already practicing catch and release, using small spinners, etc. Later, I began fly casting, learning by the biblical method of seek and ye shall find how to do it.

I believe that it is time to make efforts to include the spin fisherman into EJTU's activities. Perhaps we could create booklets, post fliers, and invite spin fishers to our activities. Whenever we give casting lessons we could include the spinning rod, trips could be arranged to include the spinners, and we could ask companies that make spinning lures to create a catch and release line of lures (single hooks, etc). We might invite spin fishers to our membership meetings and perhaps have a spin fishing speaker on occasion, with no sarcastic comments hopefully.

I notice that many spin fishermen today do practice catch and release and must be encouraged. The next step with a little encouragement would be the fly! Yes our membership has fallen and many of our members are getting up in age, perhaps because we are missing the fishermen and ladies who are in transition and still in the stages of molting from a nymph to a beautiful mayfly. They are the younger group that we so desperately want to carry on the work of EJTU.

Herman Drenth



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