



Ripples

The Occasional Newsletter of the
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unspeakable

Volume 39

April 2009

Issue 4

President's Bleat

You might notice something strange about large sections of this month's publication. It appears that some high school pranksters must have hacked into the files as they were bring prepared for publishing and prepared their own spurious version of the normally elite and stuffy Riffles. When the distortions were discovered, the elves who composed the original newsletter had left for a tuna fishing trip off beautiful Machu Picchu so it was too late to correct the juvenile litter that was left by the hackers. Therefore, we are sending a few sensible items along with the mangled April 1 version.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Most of our members are well aware of the fact that opening day of the trout season will be on Saturday, April 11. This year, however, we will begin assisting in the State's trout stocking program by float stocking the Ramapo River before the season begins. On Tuesday, April 7 we will meet at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM for this pre-season stocking. During the following weeks of the State's program, if water conditions permit, we will, as usual, float stock on each of the Thursdays from April 16 through May 28. We will meet at Glen Gray Road for coffee and tall fish stories at 10 AM as we wait for the stocking truck. If you have never been to the stocking you should try to get to one as they are enjoyable and you will get a chance to see what kind of fish are being put into the water. If you have children or grandchildren bring them; they seem to enjoy the morning even more than our older members.

In the above paragraph, when I used the phrase, "...if water conditions permit..." I was not thinking about the danger of a roaring cataract but the opposite, a lack of sufficient water to float our boat and our stocking box. The Ramapo normally begins the spring months with a nice depth and flow of water but it rapidly becomes

When: April 8 at 7:30 PM

Where: American Legion Hall

33 West Passaic Street

Rochelle Park, New Jersey

April Speaker John Punola Fishing For Shad in the Delaware River

On April 8, 2009, John Punola will give EJTU a slide show and lecture on fishing for shad in the Delaware River. John has been giving these talks since 1983. I think he first lectured EJTU not long after that. When Googling John's name for a background biography I came across this mention of John in the NJ Successful Angler awards in 2007:

American Shad - 26½ inches caught by **John Punola** of Madison on May 2. John was fishing from the shore of the Delaware River in Worthington State Forest when he reeled in the fish at 4:00 PM. Six-pound test was used with a St. Croix rod and a Daiwa reel. A shad spoon served as the lure. Girth was unavailable.

John wrote the 1993 book, "Fishing Delaware River". He not only writes and fishes for shad, but also guides for shad and smallmouth bass. It would be wise for any members interested in fishing the Delaware River bring a notebook.

shallow and slow moving as less rain falls and nearby wells drain the aquifer. We see this every year and we feel that there is nothing that we can do to better the situation but what if it gets worse? What will happen if heavy summer usage combines with a prolonged drought? If the Ramapo becomes dry what is to prevent the wells from following suit?

In the past, when New Jersey suffered from long periods of drought, our politicians proposed all sorts of remedies; as I remember it, the primary remedy was to be large water mains that could move water to

Fun On The Musconetcong!

The State of New Jersey, Trout Limited, and the Walt Disney Corporation, after months of negotiations, have agreed on a pact that will provide New Jersey with a stimulus package centered on the Musconetcong River. The finished project, titled "The Merry Muskie", was initiated at the highest levels of government in New Jersey. When the work, that is expected to take at least three years to accomplish, is completed the Muskie will offer miles of thrills to New Jersey's citizens as well as to hordes of tourists that are expected to visit the redesigned stream. Although surveys have been largely completed, the main work on the riverbed must wait until a wide swath of interfering greenery is removed. Informed sources, who wish to remain anonymous, have said that the initial stage of this removal - spraying high potency herbicides along a path two hundred yards wide on each side of the entire length of the stream - was begun even as negotiations were taking place.

Philomena Plonk, the newly appointed project spokesperson, says that once the intruding trees and other flora have died

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New From TU

Want to help Trout Unspeakable and at the same time get a great new tool? Get one of the great new TU fish fillet knives! A ten inch, super-sharp blade with deer antler handle will let you flip that trout right out of the water, slap it on a board and start filleting. If your trout is thrashing around, the handle is heavy enough to allow you to whack it on the head and immediately get back to cutting the meat away from the bones. The knives, which come in two sizes, are decorated with the TU logo and our motto, "Catch and Roast".

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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: The East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board Members 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 Ed Sikorski at: 201-337-6396 or email to: dored100@hotmail.com

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.

(Continued from page 1) President

drought suffering areas from places that still had sufficient supplies. However, when nature once again brought rain to parched areas, the politicians' attention drifted to other, more vote-getting subjects. But the basic problems have never drifted far.

Although it's difficult to keep all of the world's problems in mind, if you keep a list of them water should be near the top because without it we cannot exist. Someday the Ramapo and its surroundings will probably remind us of this.

Ray Cappock

Lisbon, Here We Come!

Those Jerseyites who have tried to get to work in New York City or to visit relatives in the Poconos are already aware of the State's situation but, for any Garden State residents who wonder why Governor Corzine's press Secretary, Emma Hamilton, begins announcements with a loud "Yo Ho Ho!," New Jersey is at sea and is bound for Portugal.

The three small earthquakes that occurred in North Jersey in February apparently formed a secondary fault line running from the Hudson River near Alpine northwest to the Delaware River near Matamoras, Pennsylvania. April's more destructive quake then split the earth along this fault and set the entire state adrift.

Once free of its feeble ties to surrounding land areas, New Jersey drifted eastward into the Gulf Stream where we now find ourselves. Some experts had predicted that New Jersey would come to rest against the southern shore of Greenland but Princeton's Chester Agar, renowned for his oceanography and plate tectonics studies, analyzed New Jersey's movement and claims that the Garden State will not end its journey until it comes to rest on Portugal's coast just west of Lisbon.

While some people are bemoaning the sudden lack of easy access to Broadway shows and the Poconos, others are reveling in the wonderful saltwater fishing now available on what was Jersey's western boundary. Elmer Frink, Mayor of Frenchtown, who at first frowned on the "ugly" section of bridge that is all that remains of a span that had crossed the Delaware River, now smiles as he watches the hordes of fishermen who pay to visit the Frenchtown

April Fly of the Month

After a long snowy winter, opening day has finally arrived. The first hatch of the year will usually be the early brown Marmota monax. You will often see these brown beauties emerging near the water and crawling into the sun after their long period of winter inactivity.

As the first visitors of the year they will usually be rather small compared to later arrivals but they are harbingers of what will come in the following months. So don't worry; the larger *Canis latrans* and *Vulpes* are only a few weeks away.

So why not surprise everyone at the next members' meeting by showing up with a dozen Marmotas that you have just whipped up.

BS

Fishing Pier and fish for cod as we pass Georges Bank.

Admittedly, the reenactment of Washington crossing the Delaware will require quite a bit of rowing this year but, the other side of the coin is that the Governor's surf tournament will be held in Worthington State Park this year and is scheduled for Montvale in the coming year.

New Jersey's international status is still undecided but our local politicians are working to develop a new constitution. They will first decide whether we are a country or a continent and then construct a new form of government. Jon Corzine initially insisted that we are a new country and that he should be called King Jon but his claim was not well received. Senate Leader Cody, on the other hand, appears to tend toward the nautical as he prefers to be called Commodore Cody by his constituents. Some Trenton watchers feel that Cody's new title is the first step toward increasing his power by moving his office to the battleship New Jersey and retrofitting the big ship.

The political status of New Jersey will have to be decided when we join Portugal but in the meantime the lives of our citizens are changing dramatically. Many of those of Irish descent intend to visit the Ould Sod as we pass the British Isles and then travel by train to meet New Jersey in Lisbon, and the large Portuguese speaking population of Newark's Ironbound section has spawned hundreds of language schools throughout the State.

EJTU Calendar

Advise Rich Malizia of changes to calendar events (E) at remqcp@optonline.net or 973-304-0789.

Ed Higgins (easyedh@verizon.net) is planning fishing trips (F) to a number of locations in 2009. Let Ed know if you are interested in these trips well in advance because in many cases openings are limited and reservations for a firm number of participants must be made. Get your money in as soon as possible or someone else will take your place.

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

April:

Saturday, April 4 and Sunday April 5: (E) Pequest Open House; Assist with youth fishing program, promote EJTU

Tuesday, April 7; pre-season trout float stocking starts at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

Wednesday, April 8: General meeting - speaker, John Punola - Delaware Shad fishing

Thursday, April 16; trout float stocking at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

Thursday, April 23; trout float stocking at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

Saturday, April 25: (F) Trip to the Musconetcong Trout Conservation Area

Saturday, April 25: (E) Hudson River Fisherman's Association; Demonstrate fly tying, provide fly casting instruction promote EJTU

Thursday April 30; trout float stocking at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

May:

Friday, May 1 through Sunday May 3: (F) Two nights at Frost Valley, Claryville, NY

Thursday May 7; trout float stocking at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

Wednesday, May 13: Meeting - speakers Andrea & Glenn VanBenschoten - Fishing Close to Home

Thursday May 14; trout float stocking at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

Saturday, May 16: (F) Shad trip to Worthington State Forest, NJ

Thursday May 21; trout float stocking at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

Saturday, May 23 (tentative): (E) Mahwah Recreation Dept. Fishing Derby; Assist kids fishing

Thursday May 28; final trout float stocking at Glen Gray Road at 10 AM

June:

Friday, June 5 through Sunday June 7: (F) Picnic, plus a possible two night stay at Catskill Fly Museum, Livingston Manor, N.Y. They have two nice bunkhouses that we can rent.

Saturday, June 6: (E) EJTU one-day fly fishing course at the Pequest.

Wednesday, June 10: Speaker, Don Baylor - Insects of a Trout Stream

Saturday, June 13 (tentative): (E) Meadowfest; Demonstrate fly tying, provide fly casting instruction promote EJTU

Saturday, June 13 through Saturday, June 20: (F) Block Island trip. This has to be arranged soon; we must have confirmation from members who will be interested in the trip so we can book the ferry, and rooms on the island in January, 2009. The trip may include a couple of classes for tying flies that are appropriate for the area

July:

Sunday, July 12: (E) Clean-up on the Wanaque River along East Shore Road - and for those new to this river, an introduction to the river.

August:

No scheduled events

September:

Saturday, September 12: (E) Ramapo River Day 2009; Same program as in prior years

Contact: Rich Malizia for Calendar Events (E) at remqcp@optonline.net or 973-304-0789.

Contact: Ed Higgins for Fishing Trips (F) at (easyedh@verizon.net)

Check Your Outboard Gas

Spring will be here soon so boats are coming out of back yards and outboard motors are being prepared for use. But everything is not the same as it always has been; most gas now has ethanol added to it.

On page 26 of the March 2009 issue of Outdoor Life there is an article about ethanol that will interest outboard motor users. The article describes how the ethanol that is mixed in gas easily separates and can cause problems in outboards if precautions are not taken. At one point in the article ethanol is described as "a varnish that dissolves any gunk in the tank, including rust caused by condensation. Ethanol even dissolves fiberglass tanks..."

I have not looked into all of Outdoor Life's claims but anyone who depends on an outboard motor should take the time to look for information on ethanol's effects and to look for a good fuel stabilizer.

Now, if the five hundred thirty five experts in Washington, DC would throw out their ethanol requirements and let people use corn for its proper purpose - bourbon - we would all be happier.

Old is Still Good

We tend to think that with the exception of bamboo rods our newer equipment is better than the old stuff. But those of you who occasionally like to break out your spinning or bait casting gear will be happy to hear that a favorite old lure is now available again.

Lear's Runcible spoon, long a favorite of fishermen, is now on the market again and Don Ente of Spotted Frog tours tells us that in the water the lure moves like "poetry in motion".

Fish Green

The fishing public wants to go green and Loony's Fly Rods is listening. Gaia Loony, matriarch of the famous family of fly fishing fanatics, has announced that the Loonys will start shipping their new, Living Loony rods next week.

As most Loony devotees know, each Living Loony is made from a single bamboo plant that has been grown to specific dimensions. This Loony idea results in bamboo plants of various lengths and internal structures that can replicate any of the variety of actions available in man-made, non-green rods. The Loonys, under the watchful eye of Director of Operations Guada Loony, harvest the rod blanks, tie on guides, attach a reel seat, and the rod is ready to go.

As with any bamboo rod, the Living Loonys require some special care. Each rod will be shipped with a special trimming tool that can be used to remove any shoots that begin to grow from the rod. This tool it is reportedly also excellent for trimming monofilament, moustaches or small house plants. Gustavo, Uncle Gus Loony, father of Gaia and progenitor of the entire clan of Loonys also suggests that the Living Loony should be stored upright in a pot of water and turned daily in order to prevent the rod from bending toward any nearby light source.

Pricing of the Living Loony rods has not as yet been announced but the fly fishing community knows that Loony prices are at the upper end of the spectrum and these will likely be no different.

(Continued from page 1) *Fun on the*

back bulldozers will be brought in to create level areas on each bank. Following this, explosives engineers will begin the grueling task of straightening long stretches of the Muskie and removing shallow gravel beds, rocks and other impediments to the project. These engineers along with experts in creating hydro-tunnels will also be responsible for creating caverns that will hold high velocity pumps needed at various points along the stream's new path.

When completed the Merry Muskie will be a miles-long flume with high-speed, banked curves of smooth concrete that flow into a combination of straight sections and gentle curves. At various locations, where the water might have become sluggish, the high velocity pumps will add speed and a challenging wave action. This means that an outdoorsman will be able to make a thrill laden trip from the headwaters of the Muskie all the way to the Delaware River. All in all this bubbling slalom will be a kayaker's delight.

Action-oriented outdoorsmen, children, and scores of environmentalists are cheering the project because the Muskie, while providing enjoyment to thousands of visitors, will also at last be ridded of the many objectionable creatures that have for years dwelled in its depths. "Look", says Marybeth Merde-Hinterbacke, a Trout Un-speakable representative, "those creatures are filthy. They lay around on the bottom of that water eating each other and then they defecate in the same water. How clean can it be?"

As the project reaches its final stages, those who initiated the concept are expected to offer their services to other states that have streams flowing into the Delaware River. If the many streams in southeastern New York and eastern Pennsylvania that drain into the Delaware are improved as the Muskie soon will be, some envision water races similar to the famed Monte Carlo road race, with entrants zooming down their local streams, entering the Delaware River and heading to Chesapeake Bay in clouds of spray. Then, when the bed of the Delaware River itself is properly reformed and lined, larger water craft will also be able to join in.

For Sale

Twelve foot car-topper Umiak. Finest seal hides, cedar paddle; two lightly used harpoons. For right price will throw in four-foot baby seal bat.

Call mrglnaak soon; this won't last!

New Trout on the Horizon

For months, rumors about extraordinary activity at the Pequest Hatchery have swirled around this Warren County site. Now, informed sources tell us that breeders in the Pequest Hatchery's nursery sheds are working overtime on an exciting new breed of trout. The major effort comes about after political leaders in Trenton insisted that the hatchery do something to enliven trout fishing so more voters would be interested in taking part in the sport.

Following the suggestion of one of the staffers of a well known Trenton figure, the hatchery first tried to breed a two-headed brook trout. Hatchery personnel were told that if healthy, two-headed brook trout were stocked in all New Jersey streams, fishermen would have twice the chance of hooking a fish, and as a result license sales were expected to skyrocket. However, after tests were conducted on a few streams, Conservation Officers complained that most of their time was being consumed in resolving arguments between pairs of anglers who had each hooked half of one fish. In addition, it was found that a relative of the staffer who made the suggestion to the hatchery was manufacturing and packaging unusual tandem hook combinations with spacing suspiciously like the spacing between the heads of the dual-headed fish. An investigation found that this was entirely coincidental but the project was quietly dropped by the hatchery.

The hatchery's newest R & D project was begun when a staffer returned from a vacation at his original home on Tonga with a large packet of flying fish eggs that his grandmother had given to him as snack food. He and another staffer began to fertilize the flying fish eggs with semen extracted from rainbow trout and, after some experimentation, a strain of rainbows with small, horizontal dorsal fins resulted. When hatchery management saw the new fingerlings, Trenton was asked for enough funding to staff what quickly became a major project. Trenton acquiesced, and even sent a large number of people who were charged with recording the project's day-to-day results and reporting back to various political leaders.

The project is no longer experimental and is now producing large numbers of winged rainbows, called Flybows, that have bright red racing stripes on their sides and are capable of flying up to forty yards. While traditional trout fishermen might wonder why flying rainbow trout are an improvement, how they will cause an increase in

fishing license sales, and even how to catch a fish that rapidly passes over your head, Trenton sees the fish differently.

As envisioned now, equipment similar to that used in electro-shocking will be placed in the streams where the Flybows will be stocked. Rather than issuing fishing licenses, the State intends to charge admission to these streams and rent 28 gauge shotguns to visitors. A slight jolt of electricity and the shooters will be challenged by slim, silvery targets that are deemed to be more difficult to hit than the usual clay skeet birds. Moreover, the Flybows are biodegradable, so environmental impact will be minimal.

While the Flybow project was underway, Fish and Wildlife staffers were quietly using the flying fish eggs to pursue other potential uses. We are told, however, that most of these experiments were shelved after unforeseen results surfaced. Particularly troubling were complaints arising after the introduction of a new strain of flying fish/muskellunge into Monksville reservoir. While boaters in larger craft enjoyed watching the large flyers, claims for crushed canoes and kayaks were becoming unmanageable. Officials finally pulled the plug on the experiment after the Audubon Society reported that their field representatives could find no birds on or near the reservoir but that a strange combination of feathers and large fish scales could be found on many shoreline trees.

It is unlikely that all experimentation in these areas will cease, so it is probable that outdoorsmen will be seeing unusual fauna in the future because, once again, New Jersey is on the forefront of game management!

The Mystery is Solved!

Since early last September, when a group of fishermen went to the Ken Lockwood Gorge and found that it had disappeared, theories about what had happened abounded. Some claimed that minor enhancements by New Jersey's EPA had gone awry, others blamed extra-terrestrials, and some people claimed that the Gorge had been stolen by Pennsylvania and moved to a hidden valley in the Poconos. But, while every diner had groups of coffee drinkers who "knew" where the Gorge had gone, no one was ever able to prove his theory.

Now, the mystery has been solved. Acting on a tip, Conservation Officers raided a home in Clifton, New Jersey and found the Gorge hidden in a basement corner. Authorities refuse to respond to any queries but it was rumored late yesterday that a lone fisherman had taken the Gorge simply because he wanted it all for himself.

