

East Jersey Trout Unlimited

New Member Information Packet



About Trout Unlimited:

www.tu.org

Trout Unlimited (TU) is a national organization with more than 150,000 volunteers organized into about 400 chapters from Maine to Montana to Alaska. This dedicated grassroots army is matched by a respected staff of lawyers, policy experts and scientists, who work out of more than 30 offices nationwide. These conservation professionals ensure that TU is at the forefront of fisheries restoration work at the local, state and national levels.

The organization remains committed to applying "the very best information and thinking available" in its conservation work and has developed cutting-edge tools such as the Conservation Success Index (CSI), a sophisticated framework for assessing the health of coldwater fish species throughout their native range. The CSI helps the organization target its efforts toward those populations most in need of protection or restoration.

The CSI also enables TU to measure its progress in achieving the bold goals laid out in its mission and vision. These goals require the organization to work at increasingly larger scales, and to collaborate with other conservation interests, local communities and state and federal partners to begin to rebuild the natural resiliency of watersheds. Such efforts are crucial if North America's trout and salmon are to survive climate change and the host of threats facing them at the start of the 21st century.

Nearly 50 years after its founding, no other conservation organization is as well placed as TU to make a difference for the nation's coldwater fisheries.

From its hundreds of local stream restoration projects, to helping lead the way to remove the Edwards Dam on the Kennebec River in Maine, to compelling Congress to strengthen the Clean Water Act, TU has a strong 50 year track record of conservation achievements. Perhaps TU's greatest strength is that it works at multiple levels of society and government to achieve its mission. From the landowner on the stream bank, to the state fisheries agency, to the Halls of Congress, TU is working to achieve its vision.

Our Mission

"To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds."

Our Vision

By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.

The East Jersey chapter of Trout Unlimited (EJTU) is one of eleven chapters in our state. Our home river is the New Jersey section of the Ramapo River, and many of our conservation and volunteering efforts take place on the Ramapo.

People join EJTU because of their love of fishing and spending time in the outdoors, but find that the experiences they have with EJTU and the friendships they form are the reason they stay members.

In addition to our fishing activities, EJTU is involved in volunteer programs that give back to the community and educate the public about the issues facing our cold water fisheries. Details about these programs can be found later in this guide.

What we have to offer to you:

Whether you are an experienced fly fisherman or are new to the sport, we offer you a place to come and mingle with people sharing your interest. Through interaction with our “greybeard members” you can get valuable advice on fishing locations, flies, tackle, and conservation issues not available anywhere, at any price.

What do we expect from you? We want you to help make the East Jersey chapter of Trout Unlimited the best chapter it can be. How do you do that? By getting involved. Come to the monthly meetings, attend the fishing trips, share your knowledge and interest about fishing. But also, actively participate in our stream clean-up, conservation, and volunteer programs throughout the year. They take little of your time, and they give back much in satisfaction and joy .

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. . . . “ *M. Gandhi*

How we are Organized:

EJTU has a board of directors that oversees the functioning of the club and ensures that we meet the requirements of the charter given us by Trout Unlimited National. Elections are held annually to select the board that will serve the chapter for the coming year. The current board includes:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| President..... | Chris Henrickson |
| First Vice President | Greg Koch |
| Second Vice President | Elio Chiavola |
| Treasurer..... | Ray Tannberg |
| Secretary..... | Justin Fuller |
| Past President | Bruce Seiden |
| Membership Secretary | Elio Chiavola |
| Conservation Chair | Rich Malizia |
| Riffles Editor/Federation of Sportsmen Rep..... | Ray Cappock |
| Education | Doug Penna |
| Trips Coordinator | Dino Eftychiou |
| Speaker Coordinator | Ed Janiga |
| Publicity Chair | Bruce Halstater |
| Volunteer Points..... | Paul Reithmeier |
| Merchandise/Shows | Charlie Maccia |
| Director at Large | Igor Zaretsky |
| Trout in the Classroom..... | Jim Piombino |
| Veteran's Program..... | Vic Mignoli |
| Strategic Plan..... | Ken Barile |

Member Discounts:

A number of local merchants offer a discount to members of EJTU to thank them for their patronage.

A list of these vendors is on our website. We are continually trying to add to this list to enhance the value of your membership to our chapter. Make sure to bring your Trout Unlimited membership card with you and show it to the cashier when paying for your purchases.

The Point System:

While the board of directors are important to the functioning of the chapter, it is volunteers from the membership that make our activities and programs a success. To encourage members to volunteer for our conservation, education, and service activities, a point reward system was created whereby members earn points through volunteering which can earn them awards and gifts.

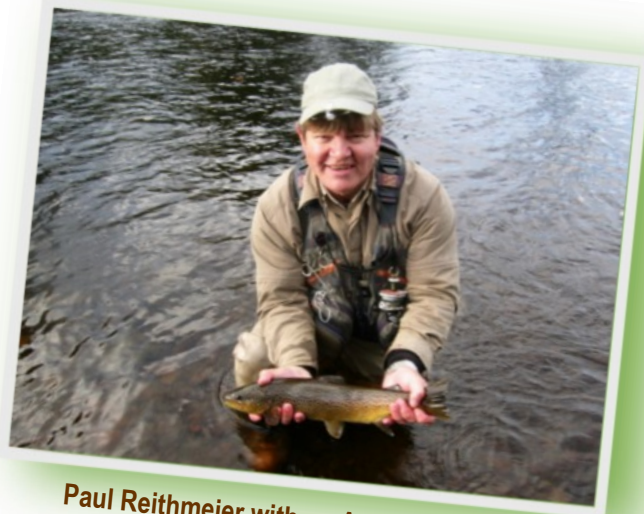
Monthly Meetings:

EJTU meets the second Wednesday of every month @ 7:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662. Members and interested parties are invited to attend. The meeting lasts approximately 90 minutes with time before and after for mixing with other members. We invite a guest speaker who gives a presentation on a topic related to fishing, conservation, or other interests of the group to every meeting. This is a great way to expand your knowledge of our sport.

Trips:

Fishing trips are planned throughout the year. They provide members with an opportunity to fish new rivers and streams, share fishing knowledge and experiences with other members, and socialize with people having the same interests.

Some trips are day trips, but many are overnight. A trip coordinator handles most of the planning and logistics for the trip including providing driving directions, making reservations for lodging, and arranging common meals.



Paul Reithmeier with an Ausable River brown

Trout Stocking Program:

In the spring and fall of the year EJTU members assist the New Jersey state hatchery in stocking our home river, the Ramapo. Volunteers show up in the morning to meet the State stocking truck.

Trout are transferred from the hatchery truck to a stocking rowboat using buckets. The rowboat has a wooden holding tank affixed to the stern of the boat. We distribute the trout in the river by what is called “float stocking”. This spreads out the fish throughout the river instead of having them clustered at the bridges and other points accessible to the hatchery truck. One member rows the boat and another nets the fish and releases them in the river.

This is a worthwhile and fun activity for members. Volunteers are awarded 10 points for assisting in stocking.



The hatchery truck arrives



Preparing to float stock the Ramapo River

Skills & Knowledge Exchange:

Perhaps the biggest reason for joining East Jersey Trout Unlimited and remaining a member is the opportunity it provides to access the wealth of knowledge and experience about fishing in general, and fly fishing in particular. With a membership of over 700, many of whom have 20 + years of experience in fly fishing, there is no end to what you can learn from our members. Ample time is always provided during monthly meetings, scheduled fishing trips, and events for members to share experiences and pass on their knowledge.

Another great way that EJTU members new and old gain knowledge about fly fishing is through the presentations from guest speakers at our monthly meetings. These speakers usually discuss fishing opportunities in specific parts of the country, including lodging, guide services, tackle, techniques, and any other bits of advice that can enhance our fishing experiences.

Education Programs for the Public:

Public Classes in Fly Fishing and Fly Tying:

Expert members of EJTU provide classes to the public in Fly Fishing technique (casting, etc.) and Fly tying through adult education classes in Paramus and Clifton. These classes are given in the spring and fall of the year. People attending these classes often develop a lasting interest in our sport and become EJTU members



Fly tying class in Clifton



Fly casting instruction in Paramus

Trout in the Classroom Program:

In this program, fertilized trout eggs are collected at the Pequest Hatchery and stored in cold-pack containers for transport.

Volunteer EJTU members take the eggs to select schools where they are deposited in aquariums environmentally suited for raising trout. In science classes, students study the environmental needs and life-cycle of the trout as they grow, which highlights issues such as water purity, temperature, and oxygenation. This is a fun and interesting way to teach students about the importance of environmental issues.



Setting up the tank in the classroom



A TU member helps get things started

Pequest Hatchery Programs:

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife holds two events in which East Jersey Trout Unlimited participates. The Pequest Open House is held in the early spring at the Pequest Trout Hatchery in Oxford, NJ, and the NJ Wild Outdoor Expo is held in the fall at the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area in Upper Freehold Township.

Pequest Hatchery Open House

The public is invited to participate in the various hunting and fishing activities. The event will be hosting a number of fish and wildlife exhibits and presentations, conservation organizations, including our East Jersey chapter, the ever popular Sportsmen's Flea market and an opportunity for children to fish the educational pond. Hunter Education courses are offered for interested hunters.



Support of Local Fishing Derbys:

EJTU receives help throughout the year from several municipalities. To thank them for their support of our chapter, we volunteer to support their local fishing derbies for the children of their town. Volunteers show children how to bait and cast, they untangle lines and tie on new gear if needed, and they take fish off the hook if asked. This activity helps introduce a new generation of boys and girls to our sport.

EJTU also provides support to local scout troops by providing demonstrations of fly casting and fly tying to help the scouts earn their merit badges.

Other Volunteering Initiatives:

We show our support for other worthy causes through volunteering our time and talents for such programs as *Project Healing Waters* and *Casting For Recovery*.

Project Healing Waters:

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and veterans through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings.



Helping a veteran to the water

Casting for Recovery:

Casting for Recovery® (CFR), a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, supports breast cancer survivors through a program that combines fly-fishing, counseling, and medical information to build a focus on wellness instead of illness.



Success at the stream



Preparing to fish



Her first Trout on a fly

Library Display Program:

The library display program is a mobile information and picture display showing facts about the sport of fly fishing and the history and activities of the East Jersey chapter of Trout Unlimited. The display is offered to public libraries in the area and stays on display for a prescribed period of time, then moves on.



Picking up trash on the stream

Conservation Efforts:

One key area of focus of Trout Unlimited is preservation and conservation of our cold water fisheries.

Throughout the year our members participate in activities designed to maintain and even improve our rivers and streams. One such activity is the planting of Willow trees to shade the river, keeping the water cooler during hot summer days and providing a better habitat for trout.

We also participate in stream cleanup efforts, removing garbage and clutter from the water to aid in streams flows, and spreading woodchips in the parking areas for fishermen. In addition, we create better trout habitat through something called “Boulder propping”, which is laying boulders on the stream bed on top of one another to create places for trout to rest and wait for food.



Planting willow trees for shade

We have placed receptacles for used monofilament line along many popular river and streams to encourage fisherman to recycle their used line instead of discarding it in the river or on land where it will become a liability to wildlife and man. We empty these receptacles regularly.

EJTU also supports conservation efforts at the governmental and municipal levels. We work with state agencies and other chapters to advance environmental causes that are in line with the mission of TU. These could include the removal of dams or opposing construction projects that are judged to be harmful to our rivers and streams.



Ray Cappock empties bins

Special Events:

But it isn't all work and no play at EJTU. Throughout the year we have special activities for the benefit of our members. These often include spouses as well. In the summer we have an annual Picnic at the Fly Fishing Museum in Livingston Manor, NY, where we socialize, feast, and also find time to fly fish.

We also have an annual barbeque and swap during one of our meetings where members can bring fishing gear they no longer want or need and swap it with another member for something they do want or need.



Members swap gear at an outdoor meeting



The gala annual formal EJTU dinner

prizes which raise money for our chapter. This is a formal affair and generally includes spouses.

In March of the year, EJTU has its annual dinner, which is a catered affair held at a local reception hall. In addition to the great food there are

numerous raffles held for valuable

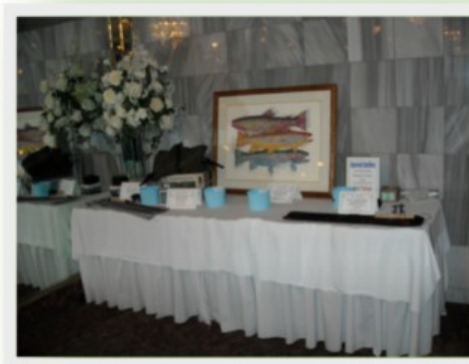


Hamburgers at the annual picnic

Publications:

As a member of Trout Unlimited you will receive four issues per year of the award-winning color magazine "Trout". This magazine describes the activities and issues facing the Trout Unlimited organization on a national level, documents some grassroots success stories, and highlights some fishing destinations.

In addition to this, EJTU has its own monthly newsletter "Riffles", a sample of which is at the back of this information packet. Riffles discusses our local conservation efforts, educates members on issues of importance to them, recaps our recent activities, and provides a calendar of upcoming events of interest.



Some of the many raffle prizes at our annual dinner

Contact names and information:

Please refer to the East Jersey Trout Unlimited website, under the Board of Directors section, for up to date contact information on how to reach our experts that can answer your specific questions. You can find us at <http://www.eastjerseytu.org/>