



# Riffles

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
East Jersey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 46

October 2015

Number 10

### President's Beat

Bruce Seiden was traveling and, as a result, unable to complete his President's Beat. A shortened version of an Important study of the Ramapo River's invertebrate life is being substituted. Bruce's column will return in November

### Macroinvertebrate Survey of Ramapo River

Michael J. Sebetich, Ph.D.

In 2015 we sampled macroinvertebrates at two locations on the Ramapo River, twice. We used the kick net method for sampling. One location was in the riffle approximately 200 meters upstream of the Halifax Road Bridge in Mahwah. The other location was approximately 100 meters downstream of the Glen Gray Bridge in Oakland.

On May 22 the Ramapo River discharge and temperature were normal. However, prior to the August sampling, there had been no precipitation in northern New Jersey for weeks, and the river discharge was very low and the water temperature was 74F.

### May 22, 2015

Mayfly nymphs were prominent at both sites. Mayflies comprised 41.6% of the total at Halifax Road and 31.8% at Glen Gray Bridge.

Caddisfly larvae dominated at Glen Gray (41.5%), but

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When: October 14 at 7:30 PM

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

### October's Speaker Robert Kecskes

Kecskes will talk about protecting aquatic resources in the trout streams of New Jersey, with emphasis on northern New Jersey. The presentation will focus on how anglers could use existing information to protect these streams.

Robert Kecskes has 40 years of experience managing environmental projects and programs, including 25 years as Chief of the Water Supply Planning Section at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

### Welcome To September's New Members



Robert Bildner	Upper Montclair
Art Carpenter	Fair Lawn
Arik Haikin	Leonia
T O'Neill	Englewood
John Stickely	Hackensack

### Calendar

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

Trips: contact Chris Henrickson  
C.henrickson@icloud.com

Other events: Rich Malizia at  
973-304-0789 or  
remqcp@optonline.net



- Oct 7 [Wed] Trout in Classroom egg delivery
- Oct. [TBD] Musconetcong Trip
- Oct. 16 [Fri] NJ DEP Ramapo trout stocking
- Oct 24 [Sat] Clean-up Halifax & Riverview Terr.
- Nov. 7 [Sat] EJTU Ramapo trout stocking
- Nov. 14 Sat] Salmon River trip
- Nov. 11 [Wed] Speaker: Pat Hamilton, NJ F&W
- Dec. 9 [Wed] Christmas Party
- Jan. 13 [Wed] Speakers: the Van Puts, hatchery vs wild trout
- Jun. 11 [Sat] Ramapo River Day



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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:** Board Members of East Jersey Trout Unlimited 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 Ken Barile at 201-391-9214 or email: [kenbarile@optonline.net](mailto:kenbarile@optonline.net).  
For Information on trips and other Chapter Activities go to [www.eastjerseytu.org](http://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](mailto:raycapp@optonline.net)

**Conservation Notes**

NJ F&W will stock the Ramapo River on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, conditions permitting. Right now the river is extremely low so, unless we get several inches of rain between now and the 13th, we will be limited to bucket stocking. This is one time when the storms that usually coincide with the activities I schedule would be welcome. If the water levels do not improve, the State may cancel or reschedule. Watch for an e-mail from me closer to the date. You can get the complete stocking schedule at [www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw). Please let me know by e-mail or phone if you plan to attend.

We are planning a cleanups along the Ramapo River at Riverview Terrace and Halifax Road on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Plan to meet at Halifax Road at 9:00AM for coffee. If we have enough volunteers, we will split into two groups. I expect we will be done by Noon or shortly thereafter. Please dress appropriately. Please let me know by e-mail or phone if you plan to attend.

C.A.P.P. was actively involved in getting the Bergen County Freeholds to pass a resolution opposing the construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline. It may be a hollow victory since the Freeholders have not withdrawn permission for Pilgrim to survey the Ramapo Reservation. Why would they permit the survey if they will oppose the project? Only a politician knows. On the brighter side, every community through which the proposed pipeline would go has passed resolutions opposing the pipeline. The next step is getting these communities to pass regulations limiting the construction of oil pipe-

lines. It appears that authority over oil pipeline construction is controlled by each State and not the Federal government.

If you are interested in supporting C.A.P.P. please contact me. The organization would like to expand its base so it can do more outreach. Eventually, the construction of the pipeline may come down to a battle in the courts. If you go to any of the local farmers' markets or community events, look for C.A.P.P. volunteers and take a few minutes to get some of their information and sign their petition to express your opposition to the pipeline.

On October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>, The Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum will hold the Art of the Angler show at the Ethan Allen Inn right off Route 84 in Danbury, CT. The show features many of the best fly tyers in the country. You can sit and tie with them and perfect your skills. There will also be a variety of vendors, some offering collectible items, and several speakers. If you want to spend a day in interesting surroundings, consider taking a ride to Danbury.

EJTU will be doing its own fall stocking on November 7<sup>th</sup>. We will purchase some trout with our conservation funds to stock in the Ramapo. If you would like to





## EJTU Volunteer Biographies

This month we have the biography of the Secretary of EJTU's Board of Directors

### Dino Eftychiou

I can remember sitting in a rowboat fishing for porgies off the shore of Bayville, Long Island. No rod, just holding onto a piece of wood with a fishing line attached to it and some kind of bait on the hook, probably clam or squid. My uncle always had a saltwater rod. We fished for porgies, nothing else, and it seems that we always caught fish. This is my earliest memory of fishing. It was the late 1950's.

My dad died in 1955 and my mom had to rely on our uncles and aunts to take her family to the beach. Fortunately, we grew up in a tight little Greek community in Bergenfield and there were a number of "theos" and "theas", not all of them actual relatives, who would pile their own families and us into their cars to drive to Bayville. That was the designated beach where Greeks from all over New Jersey and New York would gather on Sunday mornings.

I didn't start going to the Jersey Shore until my friends and I started driving in the late 60's. By that time, I hadn't fished for about a decade. During my high school and college years, my priorities were classes, sports, part time jobs and socializing. I don't remember any of my friends

ever expressing any interest in fishing.



In 1971 I got a job teaching at Bergenfield High School, my alma mater, where my youngest brother, Chris, was a junior. Fortunately for me, Chris, had by that time become a very good fisherman, pretty much through his own initiative. One day he invited me to go fishing with him at Lake Stahahe in Harriman State Park. From a dock at an old campground, fishing mostly with Mepps spinners, we caught largemouth bass, one after another. It was the first time since my Bayville days that I was catching fish. And with no bait! I loved it! It was the first of many trips to that dock.

Sadly my brother Chris passed away in 1978, the same year that I got married. I didn't fish again until my older son, Jonathan, was in elementary school. By that time I discovered some of the local ponds and streams near our home and we fished mostly for sunfish with worms dug up in our backyard. By the time my younger son, Christopher, was old enough to fish, I discovered trout fishing. Like probably a lot of trout fishermen, I started with mealworms and then progressed to lures.

For me, fly fishing was not a consideration in those days. It just seemed too rarefied a world

with its arcane language of rod and line weights, its own specialized taxonomy of flies, convoluted knots, casting techniques, on and on. Like skiing and golf, two other sports that I eventually took up, it just seemed too much effort to master.

All that changed. One day, Christopher and I were heading to one of the rivers in northwest New Jersey to do some trout fishing. (Jonathan had lost interest in fishing. His focus was music.) Like most of our trips, we drove to a river using a map and maybe directions we got from one of the bait shops (no GPS in those days). That day I remember Christopher saying that we had just passed a road on our left that seemed to go down to a bridge. I did a U-turn, went over an iron bridge, and made a right into the Ken Lockwood Gorge. We couldn't believe what we saw: possibly the most scenic river in New Jersey and certainly one of the best trout fisheries, with its cold water rapids, riffles, and pools. And fly fishermen only. I started to get a sense that I was missing out on something.

On other trips, we kept discovering other fly fishing only stretches, such as the Blewitt Tract that the Big Flat Brook runs through. In fact, I recall a fly fisherman there telling me that if I started fly fishing, I probably would never touch bait again and would hardly every use any other types of artificial lures. He was right.

My first fly rod came out of a discount barrel at the annual

## NJ Fish and Game Council

New Jersey's Fish and Game Council met on September 15 to discuss and vote on a number of items. Two of the topics were particularly interesting to anglers:

- The Council approved the fall and winter trout stocking schedules. Freshwater Fisheries Chief, Lisa Barno, reported that 20,000 two-pound trout measuring fourteen inches or more will be stocked.
- Fish Hatchery Superintendent, Jeff Matthews, reported that the Hackettstown Hatchery was certified to be disease free and that the Pequest Hatchery had begun the certification process.

Visit the East Jersey TU web site for up-to-the-minute information, the photo gallery, links to fishing sites and much more:

[www.ejtu.org](http://www.ejtu.org)

But don't forget to also check out EJTU on Facebook

<http://tinyurl.com/ptq2u3t>

## The Library Display

Doug has done it again! Turn your back for a minute or two and he's moved the EJTU Library Display to a different library.

This time he hauled everything to the Maywood library.



**MAYWOOD  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

459 Maywood Ave, Maywood, NJ 07607

(201) 845-2915

Dino Eftychiou - Continued from page 3

Suffern Fishing and Outdoor Exposition, a no name brand that, I think, cost \$12. I bought one for me and one for Christopher. I took the rods to Ramsey Outdoor and had one of the salesmen set us up with reels and line that, I'm sure, cost a heck of a lot more than the rods. If I recall correctly, they were Pflueger reels. Then he picked out some flies for us, a mix of dries and nymphs, and gave us some instructions on how to fish them. The first chance we had, we drove to the Gorge. We fished for hours and caught nothing, not really knowing what we were doing. Meanwhile, of course, guys were catching fish all around us, mostly nymphing. It took a few more trips before we caught our first trout on a fly, probably with just some luck and a little bit of acquired skill. Like all such activities, the more you do it and the more you're willing to learn about it, the better you become.

So, over twenty years later and with better, albeit more expensive gear, I'm still fly fishing and still learning. When I retired from my second teaching job at Ridgewood High School 7 years ago, I became an active member of East Jersey Trout Unlimited. Nothing else improved my fishing skills more than being around people who have the same pas-

sion for the sport as I do. Going to meetings and listening to professionals share their knowledge and going on EJTU fishing trips with veteran fishermen to practice both previously proven and newly acquired skills have made me a much better fly fisherman. As important, EJTU has afforded me the opportunity to make some very good friends.

A number of years ago, I took one of the EJTU fly tying courses, one of the best things I ever did. I have been attending those classes regularly ever since and consider myself a decent fly tyer. I enjoy the hours I spend at home at my vice tying flies on a workbench that I built specifically for my hobby. Nothing beats catching that first fish on a fly that you tied, as I did on a hare's ear, fittingly, at the Gorge.

Currently I'm the secretary of EJTU. My other responsibilities include facilitating the annual holiday party, helping with the annual chapter dinner, and coordinating the annual Adirondacks trip. You can find me at most membership meetings sitting at the greetings table. You also might bump into me at one of my favorite rivers fishing with one of my EJTU buddies or accompanied by my wonderful wife Victoria who loves the outdoors as much as I do.

Conservation - continued from page 23

help, plan to meet at the Glen Gray Bridge in Mahwah at 9:00AM. If you handle these fish with care and release them properly, they will provide us with months of good fishing throughout the Fall and Winter months. Please let me know by e-mail or phone if you plan to attend.

We are always looking for new conservation projects. If you have an idea or know of allocation which needs some attention, please let me know. Trout Unlimited is a Conservation organization. I can be reached at 973-304-0789 or [remqcp@optonline.net](mailto:remqcp@optonline.net).

*Rich Malizia*

## A Fish by Any Other Name

I rarely order fish at a restaurant unless it's something off the Specials menu and it's usually a Chilean sea bass dish that sounds so tantalizing that I have to try it. You know, the kind that comes pecan encrusted, honey glazed, blackened, topped with mango salsa, or whatever other way the chef has devised to appeal to diners and to jack up the price. And even though it is often the most expensive item on the menu, I figure that if I don't order it, I'll miss out on something exclusive that has to be worth the money.

I confess that I've known for years that much of the Chilean sea bass that's caught throughout the world is done so illegally. But I seem to placate my conscience by convincing myself that the restaurant buys its seafood from a legitimate wholesaler. However, after having read a number of recent newspaper articles and done some follow-up research about the Chilean sea bass industry, I'm not so sure.

More than half the world's major ocean fisheries have been depleted and it's estimated that over 90% of the most popular fish such as marlin, tuna and swordfish might have disappeared. Much, if not most, of this depletion is a result of the estimated \$10 billion illegal fishing industry. Currently, the most popular and most lucrative fish is the Chilean sea bass, often referred to as "white gold" by fishermen.

Until 1997 this fish was known as the Patagonian toothfish and, although it was widely commercially fished, it was never

a high demand consumer item. But that year, a Los Angeles seafood wholesaler came up with an idea. Why not change the name of this fish from the unappetizing toothfish to the more appealing Chilean sea bass? As they say, the rest is history. By 1994, the fish had become so popular that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration accepted this name as an alternative to toothfish, and in 2013 it accepted the same label for the Antarctic toothfish, a close relative to the Patagonian toothfish.

Although this fish can be



found throughout the southern hemisphere waters from the coasts of South America eastward through the South Indian Ocean into the southern Australian and New Zealand seas, by the 21<sup>st</sup> century illegal fishing had nearly destroyed this fishery. Nations and the fishing industry itself realized that something had to be done before it was too late. Fortunately, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) had been established back in 1982 with the objective of conserving Antarctic marine life. The 24 member nations of this organization began to make concerted efforts to stop illegal harvesting of the toothfish. Laws were passed, catch limits were set, government patrol boats went after poachers, arrests were made, and fines were imposed. The media expo-

sure to this problem helped educate the public. The fishing industry created its own organization, the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators, whose members represent over 90% of the legal toothfish caught worldwide.

If you buy Chilean sea bass or any seafood from a retailer, look for an MSC label. This means that the seafood has been approved by the Marine Stewardship Council, an organization that works closely with fisheries and the world's seafood markets to promote healthful and sustainable fishing practices.

Their vision is for "the world's oceans teeming with life, and seafood supplies safeguarded for this and future generations." In fact, Whole Foods had banned Chilean sea bass in 1999, but after MSC started giving its seal of approval to select catches of this fish, Whole Foods brought it back to its markets in 2006. (You can learn more about MSC at [msc.org](http://msc.org).)

The CCAMLR requires that all Chilean sea bass imported into a country must have a document verifying that it was legally caught. The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that about 10,000 tons of fresh and frozen Chilean sea bass are imported into our country each year and most of it has been documented. However, although much of the illegal fishing has been curtailed, Chilean sea bass is still a very valuable fish, a great deal of poaching still occurs, and illegally caught fish still winds up at wholesalers throughout the world.

Continued on page 6



Chilean sea bass  
Continued

So what happens the next time my restaurant server starts telling our table about the exceptionally prepared Chilean sea bass special? Do I ask him to show me the Marine Stewardship Council seal of approval or the CCAMLR document? I don't think so, but I might ask the restaurateur where it was bought and whether he can assure me it's legal. Of course, the restaurateur is certainly not going to tell me it's illegal. But the fact that I'm asking does send a message that consumers are aware of the problem. And regardless of his answer and how tempted I am to try it, maybe I'll just order something else.

*Dino Eftychiou*

## Macroinvertebrate Report

Mike Sebetich's report on his bug sampling at two sites on the Ramapo River, as presented in Riffles on pages one and nine, is a shortened version.

The full report is will soon be posted on the EJTU web site.



The report is valuable to those interested in the health of the river and also to anglers, Mike points out both the types of food that are available to fish and the flies that may fool the fish into thinking that they are getting a meal.

## Angler Survey

Southwick Associates conducted a survey of anglers for the American Sportfishing Association and got some surprising results. For instance, while the number of Americans who enjoy fishing remains fairly constant at thirty-three million people, only four percent of that number bought a license in ten consecutive years.



Highlights from the report's Executive Summary are:

- Die-hard anglers are a small group: Out of the pool of roughly 33 million people who fish each year, only four percent of the licensed anglers purchase a fishing license every year (10 out of 10 years). The largest proportion of anglers—49 percent—purchases a license only one out of 10 years. Almost as many—47 percent—purchase a license in more than one year but lapse in between purchases.
- Participation fluctuates greatly year-to-year: Close to half of all licensed anglers (46%) do not renew their licenses in any given year. The typical angler buys a license about three out of every 10 years throughout his or her fishing lifetime. For resident license holders, 41 percent do not renew, while 63 percent of non-residents do not renew.
- "R3" numbers: Retained anglers, those who purchased a license in a given year and

the previous one, are about 52 percent of the angling population. Recruited anglers, those who bought a license in a given year but not in at least five of the preceding years, are about 28 percent. The number of reactivated anglers is about 18 percent, with two percent of records unidentifiable. These are anglers who bought a license in a given year and at least one of the previous five years, but not the immediate preceding year.

- Female anglers lapse more: In recent years, the growing number of female anglers has received a great deal of attention, but the churn rate for women is still about 13 percent higher than the rate for men.
- Younger anglers lapse even more: Annual churn rates are lowest, about 39 percent, among the 55-64 age group and are highest, about 55 percent, among anglers 18-24 years of age.
- Urban residents lapse the most: The churn rate among residents of urban communities, who make up about 10 percent of the angling population, is about 13 percent higher than those anglers living in rural communities and about seven percent higher than those living in suburban communities.



The full report can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/on7q15v>

## Appalachian Tenkara Jam 2015

On July 11 & 12, 2015 I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Appalachian Tenkara Jam held in Monkton MD and hosted by Great Feathers Fly Shop. In attendance were 9 Tenkara vendors, 4 organizations, a reporter from the Baltimore Sun and 90 attendees. On Saturday one of the attendees was Lefty Kreh. Yes that Lefty!

### Presentations

During the 2 day event, there were a number of key note speakers covering a range of topics:

#### Event Kick-off and the History of Tenkara

Jason Sparks – Appalachian Tenkara

#### Sakasa Kebari Flies

Daniel Galhardo – Founder Tenkara USA

#### Japanese Lessons (Tenkara lessons from Tenkara Masters)

Daniel Galhardo – Founder Tenkara USA

#### Keiryu Techniques for the Tenkara Angler

Chris Stewart – Tenkara Bum

#### Fishing the Gunpowder River

Rob Lepczyk – Great Feathers Fly Shop

#### Fixed Line Fishing for Big Fish

Rob Worthington – Tenkara Guides

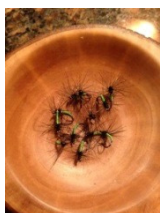
#### Small Water Tactics

Matt Sment – Badger Tenkara

There were also presentations from The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Project Healing Waters Quantico Chapter, Casting for Recovery, Chesapeake Women Anglers and a new project initiative Casting for Recovery for Men. Throughout the 2 days, Tenkara Customs provided Tenkara rod building demonstrations and Project Healing Waters ran the fly tying station. There was also a fly swap. Tenkara USA donated a Tenkara rod for a raffle where the proceeds were split between Casting for Recovery and Project Healing Waters.



13 Presentations



Fly Swap



Rod Building



Fly Tying Station



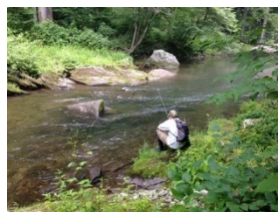
Vendors

Each day concluded with fishing the Gunpowder River. During Sunday's session, guides from Great Feathers along with seasoned Tenkara fisherman were on the river providing assistance to new Tenkara anglers and those wanting a few pointers.



Gunpowder River

Fish on!



the Gunpowder River



Fishing the

This was a great event because there was so much information to pick up from the 13 presentations, the various demonstrations and from talking with vendors and representatives from the various organizations. With over 60 Tenkara rods available to try and buy at the Jam, you would have had to fly to Japan to see that many rods under one roof!

So, if you want to learn more about Tenkara, you should plan on attending next year's Appalachian Jam.

Bob Hresko

## Trip Summary

### 2015 Housatonic River Fishing/Camping Trip

On September 25<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> fifteen members of EJTU were rewarded with another great fishing trip to the Housatonic River in Connecticut. In addition to our fifteen members, we were joined by two members, Joe and Christina, from Central Jersey TU, who found out about the trip from our website. The seventeen participants were housed in three campsites and two cabins, nestled among oak trees along the river bank.

The weather gods smiled on us as we had three days of great weather (although on Sunday morning it was only 39 degrees, but by 9:00AM rose to 60).

While the river was running low, below 200 cfs, it was very fishable, with many deep pools and runs that were chock full of Housatonic browns and rainbows. The challenge, as usual, was figuring out what fly they wanted. The good news is that everyone caught fish, some people caught many, many fish. Chris Henrickson got the brass ring landing a 20" holdover Brown trout that did not fit in his net. I was lucky enough to get the *Housatonic "Grand Slam,"* which is Brown trout, Rainbow trout, Smallmouth Bass, and Chub (just kidding).

Our evenings were spent together around the campfire, sharing our fishing experiences of the day, or exchanging views on world events.

On Sunday morning I witnessed another reason why I love this trip so much. It is the spirit of camaraderie. We had a communal breakfast, with Elio Chiavola making scrambled eggs, Dave Tiene making pancakes, and Allan Adel making coffee for all. At the heart of this sharing of food is the fact that we sincerely enjoy each other's company, which at the end of the day, may be the most important benefit of any trip. I am grateful to all who attended and helped to make this trip a great and lasting memory.

Pictures from our trip are available on our website @ <http://eastjerseytu.org>

*Ken Barile*

## Whaling in the Faroes

The September issue of Riffles carried a piece titled Whaling Slaughter in the Faroes, that was written by Richard Corbett, Labour MEP for Yorkshire & Humber. There is apparently another side to the story that can be found via a couple of internet links.

The following links shine a differing light on the question of how the inhabitants of the Faroe Islands are acting and the number of whales killed versus their overall population

<http://www.whaling.fo/>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/599187/We-kill-whales-because-communal-natural-and-sustainable-Faroe-Islands-officials> [or <http://tinyurl.com/o9hf8hf> ]

This site indicates that the harvest is sustainable. If the science does support the harvest then how is this any different than any other hunting that involves driving the game?

## Simplicity

Bob Romano, our speaker at September's meeting, was entertaining and enlightening as he described the many streams in Maine's Rangely Lakes area, but one of the more important ideas, particularly for newcomers to fly-fishing, was mentioned only briefly: the rod that Bob uses. One would think that after thirty years of fishing large and small streams and lakes and writing books about western Maine's Rangely Lakes area he would have a car stuffed with expensive rods of all sizes and weights, but Bob said that for thirty years he has used one of LL Bean's five weight fly rods, the same type of rod that EJTU uses to teach fly-casting.

Moreover, Bob's description of his choice of flies was another example of learning what you are best at using and what is best for the local area. Rather than carry around boxes filled with feathers and fur, he limits his flies to the ones with which he is successful, mainly some streamers and wet flies.

Romano, a local Paramus lawyer, has been a member of Trout Unlimited for more than twenty years. His books can be found on Amazon.

## Acorns



Pennsylvania authorities have found that, in bad years, a stand of red oaks can drop 7,000 acorns per acre. But, in a good year, that number jumps to 273,000.





Macroinvertebrate Survey of Ramapo River Continued from page 1



made up only 11.3% of the total at Halifax Road.

Crustaceans, scuds and sowbugs were a major component of the samples at Both Halifax and Glen Gray. Amphipod scuds comprised 30.8% (Halifax) and 19.8% (Glen Gray) of the total number of organisms sampled. Sowbugs made up 12.4% of total at Halifax, but zero percentage in the Glen Gray samples.

Midges (Diptera) larvae were also present in substantial numbers, but no attempt was made to quantify, because it was too difficult to sample them properly. Their small size enables them to pass through the mesh openings of the net, and even when observed, they are too tiny to pick up with forceps or fingers. As you fish, keep in mind that tiny midge larvae are always present on rocks in Ramapo River (as well as all other rivers in New Jersey), and that they provide a major diet for trout.

### August 25, 2015

Two samples taken at each site on August 25. A comparison of data shows that approximately twice as many individual organisms were collected in May.

Caddisfly larvae dominated at both Halifax Road and at Glen Gray Bridge. At Halifax

Road, 93 individuals were dark (greenish) and 38 light (cream). At Glen Gray Bridge, 53 were dark and 61 light. This information may be useful in selecting fly patterns for fishing. Caddisfly larvae tolerate moderate water pollution and they are found in all streams that this author has investigated.

Mayfly larvae were the second most numerous group sampled. At Halifax Road mayflies made up 16.2% and at Glen Gray Bridge they comprised 28.3% of the total individuals sampled. Based on size and shape there were probably two or three species in the collections. This suggests that nymph imitations of various hook sizes (20 – 14) should be considered when fly-fishing the Ramapo. Mayfly larvae have a wide range of pollution tolerance depending on species, and it is common to observe several species in the Ramapo River.

Water penny beetle larvae, indicative of moderate water quality, were common to both sampling sites.

Diptera (midges) also populate all of our local streams, and are a major source of food for trout. We probably saw more midge larvae than any other type of insect in our sampling. Notably, we saw and actually picked

up a few red midges, the kind that we have patterns of in our fly boxes. Based on our observations, a fly fisherman should have an assortment of small midge patterns, and this goes for all streams.

Three major kinds of crustaceans were sampled: Scuds (amphipods), sowbugs (isopods) and crayfish. All of these organisms are eaten by trout and other fish. Crustacean patterns and wooly buggers fished near the bottom may attract fish.

Twelve leeches were collected at the Halifax Road site and none at Glen Gray Bridge. Wooly bugger patterns, some of which imitate leeches, have been fished successfully on the Ramapo River.

Stoneflies are the most sensitive macroinvertebrates to water pollution and are the best indicators of high water quality, but no stonefly larvae were collected during our samplings.

Based on these results, the water quality of Ramapo River is fair. We will continue to sample macroinvertebrates in the Ramapo River in 2016. If you are interested in helping, contact Mike Sebetich (551-206-2453 or [msebetich@optonline.net](mailto:msebetich@optonline.net)). This is a good way to learn more about the stream ecosystem and perhaps to indirectly increase your ability to catch trout.



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