



# The Streamer - October 2011



Newsletter of the Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## President's Message October 2011 - by Rich Balak

### President's Message.....

Welcome back! We have had one hell of a ride this summer. Too much heat...too much water. I hope the trout survived better than some of us.

Mark it on your calendar now! The March Gala Dinner is March 24, 2012. Look for the invitation in the February newsletter. We have Tom Gilmore, President of the NJ Audubon Society as our guest speaker. Tom is an accomplished fly fisherman, charter captain, and author who will donate one of his signed books as a Gala prize.

The Fall stocking of the Gorge will be October 14th provided we can gain access to the Gorge following Irene and Lee. We will keep you posted via emails and chapter website postings.

The Raritan Inn grant project that was scheduled to start in August will be begin next year, due to a delay, again by the DEP. It has finally been approved and is scheduled for an August start, unless a waiver is granted by Fish & Wildlife.

The Chapter purchased four (4) landing nets to be used in conjunction with the Pequest Hatchery's youth educational program, which KLTU adopted as its own, by committing both material and volunteer support.

Bill Silvia will be defending his "one fly contest" victory at the Raritan Inn on Saturday, November 12, 2011. Let's all show up to support him.

Please send us your email address to [ken.lockwood.tu@att.net](mailto:ken.lockwood.tu@att.net) so we can update you on schedules, workdays, activities, and the schedule for the youth education program at the Pequest Hatchery.

See you at the meetings!

Rich Balak, President

Ken Lockwood Chapter, Trout Unlimited

**P.S. Remember our meetings start at 7:30 PM, the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the American Legion, Route 22, Whitehouse, NJ (across from the Wal-Mart).**

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## Coming Events - by Dennis Concannon

### Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Monthly general membership meeting of the Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Whitehouse American Legion Post, located on Route 22 East, directly across from the Wal-Mart, meeting starts promptly at 7:30 PM.

### Saturday, November 12, 2011, 7:00 AM - 8:30 PM

Second annual 'New Jersey Fly Fisherman of the Year Contest', hosted by The Raritan Inn and Shannon's Fly and Tackle. Registration begins at 7:00 AM. New Jersey Trout Unlimited chapters and local watershed associations are invited to nominate one angler from each group to compete in the one-fly contest. The winner will be named "NJ Fly Fisherman of the Year" at the banquet in the evening.

### Saturday, November 12, 2011, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Results of the **Raritan Headwater Association** (merger of South Branch Watershed Association and Upper Raritan Watershed Association) 2011 river monitoring program will be presented. Meeting will be held at the Echo Hill Environmental Area, 41 Lilac Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822.

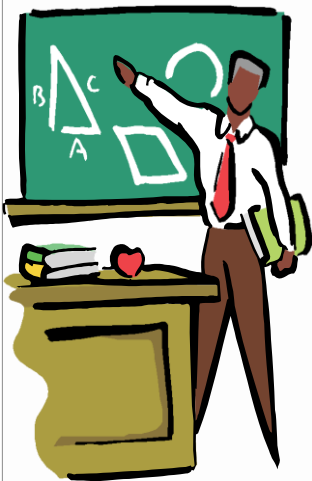
### Tuesday, November 14, 2011, 7:30-09:30 PM

Monthly general membership meeting of the Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Whitehouse American Legion Post, located on Route 22 East, directly across from the Wal-Mart, meeting starts promptly at 7:30 PM.

### Tuesday, December, 13, 2011, 7:30 AM - 9:30 PM

Monthly general membership meeting of the Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Rather than having a guest speaker, with usual and customary business out of the way, the remainder of the meeting will be dedicated to having a Christmas party. Whitehouse American Legion Post, located on Route 22 East, directly across from the Wal-Mart, meeting starts promptly at 7:30 PM.

## 2011 Walter Scheuerer Academic Achievement Award for Environmental Studies - by Dennis Concannon



Applications for awarding the 2011 **Walter Scheuerer** Memorial Scholarship for Environmental Studies are hereby solicited. Consideration for the \$400 scholarship will be granted to matriculating college students who have selected Environmental Studies or a closely related academic curriculum as their academic major.

Application must be accompanied by a written endorsement from a chapter member and include a personal statement of the applicant's academic goals, achievements, as well as a statement of how the recipient will use the funds. Interested applicants are instructed to contact **Rich Balak**, by telephone, at 908.782.5174. Closing date for receipt of applications is December 31, 2011.

## South Branch Beat - by James Holland, Proprietor, Shannon's Fly & Tackle Shop

"The wildness and adventure that are in fishing still recommend it to me." Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*, 1854

As of this writing, our area is still recovering from the onslaught of Hurricane Irene and the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee, two storms which brought rain that drove area streams and rivers to historic flow rates and heights.

Locals reported never having seen area rivers like either the South Branch of the Raritan or the Musconetcong ever reaching such levels. Smaller streams bore the brunt of flash floods and longstanding structures were swept away. Many of us experienced water damage and the loss of property. Our thoughts go out to those who suffered more. Still, a week after the storms many anglers were back out on the river and the trout were where they were before the storm. Irene's angry waters damaged the recently repaired Raritan River Road in the Ken Lockwood Gorge. Repairs may be made before winter but it is always humbling to witness the power of a river in full flood.

As the season changes, days shorten and evenings lengthen, time for fishing grows short. Native Brook Trout and wild Brown Trout will spawn from late October through early December. There is often a bustle of activity before and during the holidays. Still, if you can find some time afield, whether for hunting or fishing, the mood is very different. It is the end of the year and a time of contemplation and assessment. There is a quiet stillness that offers a respite from the demands of our busy schedules. The opportunity to steal time on the water, at the expense of Old Man Winter, is a delight.

Many anglers eagerly anticipate a relatively new phenomenon. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will have concluded its Fall Stocking by mid-October. About 20,000 large, two year old Brook, Brown and Rainbow Trout along with 1,000 broodstock Rainbows averaging about 20 inches will have been liberated in the larger streams such as the Black River, Musconetcong, Pequest, Big Flatbrook, Paulinskill as well as the North and South Branch of the Raritan rivers in our area, beginning the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Shannon's will once again, along with GBW Insurance of Flanders, NJ, sponsor our annual Fall Fishing Contest, featuring the return of Bubba. Bubba is a large trout carrying a jaw tag. Catch and release Bubba and bring the tag to Shannon's and we will award the lucky angler with a new Grey's fly rod.

Shannon's and the Raritan Inn will once again host The New Jersey Fly Fisherman of the Year contest and banquet at the Raritan Inn on Saturday November 12, 2011. Contestants are nominated by statewide Trout Unlimited Chapters as well as local watershed associations. Last year, Bill Silvia of the Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited was the winner. The event is co-sponsored by Hardy/ Grey's of North America and St. Croix Rods of Park Falls Wisconsin. The banquet will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the creation of the New Jersey State Council of Trout Unlimited and Rich Thomas; incoming President is very excited about the upcoming event. Joseph Urbani, of Urbani Associates, a river restoration firm which is handling a number of stream projects and dam removals will be the keynote speaker. Banquet tickets can be purchased ahead of the event by calling Shannon's at (908) 832-5736. Proceeds from the auction to follow dinner will benefit TU as well as the local watershed associations.

Shannon's will once again be offering our **Free Sunday Morning Fly Tying, beginning the second Sunday of November, the 13th. Classes will be offered at 9:30am and 11:30am. This year classes will not be held on the first Sunday of the month as this is the Califon Volunteer Fire Company's monthly breakfast and parking is impossible.** All are welcome and we will have an elite group of local expert tyers leading the sessions. Participants are asked to bring a vise and tools. Materials will be supplied.

There is a lot of news on the conservation front. Brian Cowden of TU has been working to remove dams

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## South Branch Beat (cont.) - by James Holland

on the Musconetcong and rehabilitate this important resource. Late this summer, TU and the Musconetcong Watershed Association hired Joe Urbani to help remove two remnant dams (wood frames filled with rock) near Riegelsville on the lower Musky. The Finesville Dam is also slated for removal. Numerous other projects are ongoing including improving a section of the Point Mountain Trout Conservation Area. High water may delay some of these projects but river restoration is definitely gaining steam and New Jersey will be seen as a national leader in this area. Small tributaries are also getting help as these provide critical spawning habitat for native Brookies and wild Browns. Landowners are seeing the benefit of stream restoration on their properties and they ought to be commended for their stewardship.

Another major news item is the consolidation of two important local watershed groups. The Upper Raritan Watershed Association (URWA) and the South Branch Watershed Association (SBWA) are merging to form one group which will be known as the Raritan Headwaters Association. Cindy Ehrenclou will be the Executive Director and Bill Kibler will become the Director of Policy and Science. By combining the assets and programs of both groups, a single, more powerful advocate for the critical headwater region of New Jersey's largest self contained watershed. Look for the new organization to continue the programs of their predecessors including stream cleanups and monitoring.

As the days grow short in November and December many anglers hang up their rods for the year. While the months of May and June are behind us, fishing can be very productive. Trout like cold water the combination of the aforementioned Fall Stocking as well as annual Shannon's Bubba Contest stocking, fishing conditions should be create sufficient heat to keep anglers warm.

Although the major hatches of the year are over, fishing can still be quite productive. The river is always alive even as winter approaches. On many days midges will be hatching. These tiny insects form a major part of the trout's diet especially during the colder months. The Zebra Midge in black, olive or red is a great pattern in sizes 18-22. This is also the time when many trout will also be spawning. Glo Bug and Sucker Spawn patterns catch quite a few fish in sizes 14-18. I always enjoy fishing scuds this time of year and one of my favorite tandem rigs is a Hare's Ear Beadhead size 14 trailed by a Size 14-16 Grey or Tan Scud. Scuds are aquatic insect, available as a food source, all year round. They are surprisingly good swimmers so they can be fished singly as well. This time of year late morning through late afternoon are often the best times to fish. Dress in layers and have a selection of nymphs including the aforementioned Hare's Ear, Scud, Pheasant Tail, Prince, Copper John and Zug Bug. I think size 14-18 covers the sizes on these flies. Fish these nymphs low and slow for the best results. If I see the midges hatching and trout working them, I will try a very small #20-22 Adams Midge or an RS2 in size 18-22. Sometimes I will actually use a slow retrieve on he RS2 and I find that trout often are attracted to the movement of the fly. Another great pattern is Walt's worm in sizes 12-16. It is a simple pattern dressed essentially with Hare's Ear dubbing wound on the hook in a simple cigar shape. This imitates a Crane fly larva, another common but often under-appreciated aquatic insect.

All of us at Shannon's would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season. George, Eric, Don, Chally, Dan, Lenny, Brian and I want to thank you for another wonderful and interesting year on the water and in the shop. We are open seven days and offer gift certificates for tackle or materials and accessories as well as guided fishing trips.

Fly of the month: Sucker Spawn

Hook: Mustad C49S size 12-16

Thread: Orange or Red Uni-Thread 8/0

Body: Angora Yarn (Cream, Flesh, Pink)

Wing: None



## Catch and Bait - Daniel Knauer

When I was a kid, home water, and for that matter the only water, was the Rahway River. In the Spring, the Rahway was stocked heavy and it drew a fair number of fishermen in April and May. From the time I caught my first trout at about 8 years old until I was in my teens, I fished mostly with bait. Salmon eggs and worms were the staples, but when things got tough I tried other things.

One of those other baits was crayfish tails, and catching crayfish was a sport in itself, kind of like crabbing. My brother Eddie, Louie Ditzel, Donald Delikat, and I would scout for places where there were plenty of rocks. That is where the crayfish lived. We would put a piece of meat or a dead minnow on a hook with a good size split shot and lower it down between the rocks. If a crayfish was close by, it would quickly get on top of the bait and start eating. Next, you would carefully lift the line until the crayfish was out of the water and you could let the crayfish drop into a coffee can. Then we would pull off the tail, remove the shell, and put the tail meat in a jar. Fresh crayfish tails worked great on trout that had seen everything else. But, if you forget about a jar of tails in your vest for a few days, don't open it!

Another 'go-to' bait were shiners. We caught them in a seine net when we needed to get a bunch of them quickly, but as summer approached, fewer trout available, the gang would switch over to fishing for shiners, as a competitive sport.

There were a couple areas where the shiner schools hung out and we would move in on them, sometimes with hip boots and sometimes from the rocks on the bank. You could find them and concentrate them by throwing out bits of bread. Then we would put a little bit of bread or dough on a #20 dry fly hook, and with our little spin rods loaded with 2lb test, cast it out into the fray. We'd watch the floating portion of the mono line like a bobber and when it moved, set the hook. A 4 or 5 inch shiner would draw comments like, "big one" or "nice fight". But, mostly we would compete with each other and go for numbers. Fifty to a hundred shiners was a normal total for someone who had the knack. You wouldn't go shiner fishing by yourself, because the competition was the thing.

Sometimes our neighbor, Mr. Drool, would join us. He would bring his bait bucket catch a couple dozen shiners, and head home. He had a flat bottom boat on a trailer and he and his buddy would go bass fishing. He was in the big time.

One day a younger boy on our block, Joey Speck, was watching us. He paid attention to what tackle was needed and must have gone home and begged his grandmother to get him geared up. The next day he showed up with his grandmother. Grandma Speck was a little bossy and very protective of her grandkids. Since Joey was known to get into trouble in the absence of adult supervision, Mrs. Speck was not about to let him go shiner fishing with the older boys without someone keeping a watchful eye Joey. So, there she was in her spotted dress, standing up on the sloped bank behind Joey, making sure he didn't fall in the foot deep water or get roughed up by the older kids.

Joey was just starting to get into it, when, on the wind-up, he hooked his grandmother right in the edge of her nostril. "Oh, oh," Mrs. Speck howled. "Joey, don't pull, don't pull". (I guess the edge of the nostril is a pretty sensitive area). Those little barbed hooks hold pretty well once they get through the skin. I clipped the line a couple inches from the hook and Joey and grandma hustled home. Mrs. Speck said she was going to go the doctor when her daughter-in-law came home. I would have liked to have been a fly on the wall that afternoon.

The next week Joey was allowed to join us shiner fishing, without a chaperone.

## 2011 Spring Raffle Results - Wes Boyce

Many thanks for supporting chapter activities and congratulations to the lucky winners:

First Prize - Winston Rod combo, won by Roger Locandro

Second Prize - Scott Rod combo, won by Fred Puelle

Third Prize - Echo Rod combo, won by George Landgraf

## New Jersey Trout Unlimited State Council News - Rick Axt, Chairman, New Jersey Trout Unlimited State Council

On January 15, 2012, my term, as chair for the New Jersey State Council of Trout Unlimited, will conclude. Also, as many of you know, I retired last March, and Sharon and I will be moving to a new residence, located on the East Branch of the Delaware River, and close to Hancock, New York.

For me, it's a bitter sweet time of my life, as I leave a fun and rewarding career as a Land Surveyor and my many friends in NJTU.

My term as your council chair came at a time when NJTU had the opportunity to advance a collective agenda to the next level. With a strong foundation and a passionate board, participation in the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program rose from 3 schools to 38 schools, in 2009. The next year, approximately 70 schools enrolled and it was clear the program was off to an excellent start. The degree of support was well above what NJTU could easily provide, on a volunteer basis, and the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife capitalized on the opportunity to expand their youth education program. Working through a partnership, where the division devoted full time administrative staff and NJTU and chapters representative provided the manpower to keep the program advancing. Today, NJTU is supporting 119 tanks, in schools, from as far North as Sussex County to as far South as Cape May.

As an extension to the success of the TIC program, in 2011, NJTU State Council and 10 chapters sponsored the second annual Cold Water Conservation School, in Stokes State Forest, for students interested in fisheries, habitat, forestry, and clean water. Fly fishing and tying were high on favorite student activities comments so please consider devoting time next year!

We are now in our third year of a Home Rivers Initiative project, on the Musconetcong River. With the assistance of TU National and the chapters of NJ, NJTU now has a full time staff person, on the ground and in the stream. Our own, Brian Cowden is actively engaged working with various watershed associations, land owners, and state agencies to breach dams, restore river banks, and sponsor in-stream habitat restoration. The progress is nothing short of amazing. Nonetheless, NJTU is always looking for volunteers, so please visit the NJTU website for upcoming projects.

NJTU now consists of ten chapters. The Rahway River Chapter evolved out of a trout fishing club located in Cranford. Club members approached the NJTU and requested being chartered. Through negotiations with both East Jersey TU and Central Jersey TU, an independent jurisdiction area was created for the new chapter. Membership in the Rahway River chapter membership is growing and involvement, at the state level, is evolving. In addition, formation of Ridge and Valley, our newest chapter, was inspired by NJTU's Home Rivers Initiative program and provided the impetus for Warren County area anglers to petition to form a chapter. Ridge and Valley geographical sphere of influence stretches from Lockwood in Central New Jersey and the outer boundary of North Jersey.

Ridge and Valley meets at the Pequest Hatchery and consists of a young and energized group. They will grow to become a formidable asset to NJTU.

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## New Jersey Trout Unlimited State Council News (cont.)

Our partnership on regional issues with Pennsylvania, New York State council, and other groups concerning flow regimes on the upper Delaware River is a model of what a strong coalition can achieve. The NJTU and TU's National Leadership Council are jointly involved in efforts to adopt Marcellus Shale regulations to ensure adoption of responsible energy development.

On the national level, Brian Cowden received the first youth education award in Boise Idaho for his involvement with TIC. The NJTU council was voted council of the year and Rick Ege received a lifetime achievement award at the 50<sup>th</sup> annual TU National meeting, in Michigan.

These events are not just fun, they provide the opportunity for chapter and council leaders from around the nation to network with our national trustees and staff.

I am amazed at how proficient and effective we, the grassroots, can truly be.

We would not be where we are today without dedicated members.

Please join me in welcoming and supporting Rich Thomas as the newly elected Chairman of the NJTU.

Rick Axt

Chair, NJTU State Council

## Monthly Streak Intact, 46 and Counting - Dennis Concannon

The title of this article underwent revision since yesterday evening. In that the number 45 was changed to 46. As earlier today, while fishing on the Pohatcong Creek, I caught and released two trout, one rainbow and one brown trout.

Not that many people reading this item will recall, in the President's Message of the January 2004 issue of 'The Streamer', I mused about 'December being the cruelest month'. Because on 31December2003, I concluded the year without catching my 2003 December trout.

Earlier in 2003, during the July quarterly NJTU meeting, a fellow TU member mentioned a personal goal and objective of her own. Namely, to catch and release, at least, one trout, per month, on a fly that she tied, and in waters bounded by the State on New Jersey. Since I was at a loss to turn back time to January 2003, I opted to accept the goal and objective, beginning in July, and moving forward.

In 2003, my streak of consecutive months concluded 31December2003, after 5 consecutive months. Beginning again in January 2004, I was able to keep a second streak running until December 2007, or 48 consecutive months, before it ended. Since January 2008, the current monthly streak remains intact at 46 consecutive months, and counting.

As many individuals are familiar with the term 'Corporate Goals and Objectives' and their professional careers are governed by such concepts as 'Management by Objective' and 'semi-annual review of established goals and objectives', I invite readers to consider adopting a personal but nonetheless rigorous goal and objective of getting out every month, catching and releasing, at least, one trout per month, on a fly they have tied, and in waters bounded by the State of New Jersey.

While I have a bit of a head start with my current streak, you too can begin a monthly streak of your own. However, be advised, in two instances, December 2003 and 2007, proved to be the cruelest months for me, streamside.



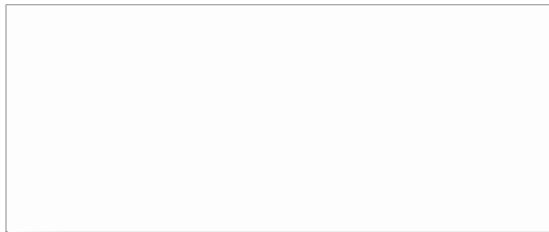
# The Streamer - October 2011



## Newsletter of the Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited

c/o 639 Old York Road  
Neshanic Station, NJ 08853

[ken.lockwood.tu@att.net](mailto:ken.lockwood.tu@att.net)



## 2011-2012 Chapter eMail Address and Administration Fee Submission Form:

Kindly complete the form and mail Dan Knauer your email address and administration fee check, in the amount of \$10 USD, and made payable to: Ken Lockwood Chapter TU.

Send check to: Dan Knauer, 17 Coleman Road, Long Valley, NJ 07853

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 USD

## 2011-2012 Chapter Officers and Directors

Rich Balak - President, March Gala

Jerry Cook - Vice President

Dan Knauer - Treasurer

Wes Boyce - Secretary

Rick Axt - State Council

Bill Silvia - Resources

Dennis Concannon - Newsletter Editor