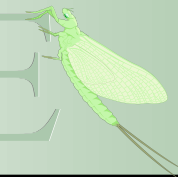


STREAMSIDE

40th Anniversary Issue
1971-2011

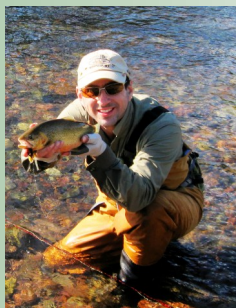


Volume 17 Issue 1

Periodical Newsletter of the Dame Juliana League

Summer 2011

View from Kennedy Bridge *by Troy Dunn, President*



The fishing this spring and summer has been interesting, to say the least. There has been no year in recent memory where we have had so much water over such a widespread area of the United States. My normal spring fishing routine in Central PA was a total wash-out. No grannoms, no sulphurs, no march browns...

Perhaps the highlight of my spring was not the fishing, but the presentation at our April DJL meeting by Ohio steelhead guide, George Douglas. George's presentation on Steelhead Alley in Ohio was an outstanding mix of multimedia presentations as well as interesting discussion on tips and techniques for hooking these monster fish. I slept soundly for several nights dreaming of catching these silvery beasts.

There are many numerous "thank yous" I owe to the membership and the board of directors. As many of you are aware,

PENNDOT rehabilitated the bridge on Sheeder Mill Road over French Creek. Many club members, led by John Burgos, assisted afterward in repairing the deflectors that prevent the bridge scour from destroying the bank stabilization efforts along the north side of the creek below the bridge. Thanks to everyone who participated it was a great morning, and I'm happy to report the deflectors are still there after a full year and working perfectly.

Unfortunately, new laws enacted by the state require guardrails to be added to all PA bridges. In the case of Sheeder Mill Road, this had the effect of significantly reducing the number of safe parking spaces near the bridge. Dick Allebach has tirelessly worked with landowners and community officials to identify and advertise good parking spaces along and nearby the creek. Dick's efforts are critical to maintaining C&R FFO reach of French Creek since lack of stream access has been one of the reasons the fish commission has cited for no longer stocking certain reaches of a stream.

Dick Allebach organized this year's trout

stocking. Emerson Cannon was our on-stream coordinator, and the stocking went very well. Although I did not have an opportunity this spring to fish it, I hear that the creek fished quite nicely until the heat wave in July.

Although turnout was lighter than recent years, the annual Learn-to-Fly-Fish course organized by Bob Molzahn was a big hit amongst the students. Thanks Bob!

The Kimberton Fire Co. had their annual fair at the end of July and DJL spent three nights Monday-Wednesday collecting parking donations for the fire company, which allows us to use their facilities for another year without cost. John Burgos headed up the organization of this effort and things went quite smoothly. As John mentioned in his various pleas for help, next to our Learn-to-Fly-Fish course and dues, this is our most important "fund raiser" of the year. Although we receive no cash from the Kimberton Fire Co. the free use of facilities for general member meetings, board meetings, and other activities is a huge benefit to the club. Our coffers would rapidly empty if we had to pay to use these facilities. I would like to personally thank everyone that participated in this event. Thank you for a job well done!

The fall lineup of speakers is almost complete. We will kick off in September with a presentation by Bob Ballantyne on "Fisheries Biology and Species Restoration in Yellowstone." We will have a central PA guide here in October to give us the latest tips and techniques for fishing some of the more difficult south-central PA trout streams. John Burgos will be giving a presentation on his summer trip to the NakNek River in Alaska, and we'll try something a little different in December, swapping our usual fly tying for a "movie night." If you have some thoughts for a good movie, let us know. Tight lines...

-Troy

Announcing Our 2011 Fall Meetings & Events

Make a plan and come to our meeting on **September 26** and learn all about the Fish, the Fisherman, and the Native Fisheries Restoration Programs in Yellowstone National Park. Our September 26 guest speaker will be our old friend **Bob Ballantyne**. Bob has been a freelance writer for 30 years and is a member of the Pennsylvania Writers Association. As a lifelong outdoorsman, Bob has fly-fished in Pennsylvania, New York, Colorado, Arkansas, Utah, Washington State, New Hampshire, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Key West, and British Columbia, and, for 23 continuous years, in **Yellowstone National Park**.

- September 26, 2011 -

"Fisheries Biology and Species Restoration in Yellowstone"

featuring Bob Ballantyne

October 3- East Branch Brandywine Creek Fishing Trip

with Emerson Cannon

October 31- "Trout Streams of Southcentral Pennsylvania"

featuring Mike Heck

November 28- "Alaska Adventure: Fly Fishing the NakNek"

featuring John Burgos

December 26- DJL Movie Night (details to be announced)



Valley Creek



Now here is a stream that is close, has no stocked trout and is easy to fish. The trout act like the trout you read about. They prefer bugs not green weenies. They will eat minnows not just wooly buggers and are not interested in salmon eggs! The nymphs they like happen to occur naturally in the stream. The brown trout have seen and eaten these their entire lives. Since it is a nice, clear stream, you must use skinny tippet and walk gently. One problem is that you might not be the only person fishing or enjoying the great outdoors. Be prepared for joggers, hikers, dog walkers without

leashes, lovers of all sorts and the constant drone of model airplanes.

You can fish this stream all year round. It stays warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer due to its spring creek make-up. Some of the hatches that occur are blue winged olives in the spring and fall as well as a great sulphur hatch in May and June. Midges will be coming off most days as well. It is a stream in which you would swear that there are no fish...then all of a sudden a BWO hatch starts and every pool and ripple erupts with fish eating.



In the summer you can use terrestrials and have a ton of action. You must be quick as the fish eat rapidly. Ants, beetles and hoppers work well. As the fish get picky and tired of seeing that same ole ant overhead, try adding a dropper. Tie an 18" 7x piece of tippet to your top floater and put a size 20 pheasant tail nymph on. Cast it to the head of a pool, even up to the riffles that start the flow into the pool. As soon as that hopper twitches, set the hook!



Not only does Valley Creek have great fishing, it gives off beautiful glimpses of its stream born fish. The gorgeous buttery yellow of their bellies and the red tips on their tails.

This is a stream too close to pass up!



Contributed by Emerson Cannon

Catch & Release ~ Catch and release is the practice of hooking, landing, many times photographing and then releasing fish alive and presumably unharmed. Except for the photographing, it is not a modern concept. It has been recommended, championed and practiced especially by fly fishermen since the early century. That's right. Dame Juliana Berners spoke of it in her *The Treatyse of Fishing with an Angle* written around 1420 (sic). *source: Ed Quigley's - Fly Fishing Advice from an Old Timer.

The 2011 Fly Fishing Show in Valley Forge

Jack's Perspective

For those who couldn't go to the Show on March 5-6, you missed a good one. Bob Clouser gave a demo on casting faults. There were several bamboo rod makers and numerous shop displays. One shop had 25-packs of hooks for \$2.00. Outfitters were there in force. Collins had necks at give-away prices. As usual, I bought more than I will ever live to use up. And it wasn't crowded on Sunday so you could get to talk with the tiers and watch them tie.

I personally thought it was nearly as good as Somerset - not quite as big but a lot of new people displaying. The promoter indicated that next year would be bigger. The floor space was actually oversold so the show was more than sold out.

We have long needed a show like this in our area.

Emerson Cannon's Perspective

The DJL booth had a lot of visitors with about 60 taking booklets and expressing an interest in joining the club, as well as about 20-25 taking the brochure for the fly fishing course. As it turned out a few folks did actually register for the course.

The show seemed to be a success, at least from my perspective. Jack could probably give a business perspective as to how good it was or was not for him. I do not know. The people nearby selling items were doing well.

We set up the booth Friday after 6 PM. It took longer than expected because the preceding show was not totally dismantled. In fact, Jack could not get his booth up until Saturday morning. We got there Saturday around 8 AM and got the things ready for business. The doors opened at 9 AM. Most of the crowd was gone by 4:30 PM and the doors closed at 5:30. Helping on Saturday were Joe King, Dick Allebach, Ted Nawalinski, Bob Molzahn and me. Sunday, I got there around 8:30 AM and it was raining. Joe and Regina King were both there as was John Burgos, Mike Costello, Don Bennyhoff, Troy Dunn and me. We closed up around 4 PM

and the doors closed at 4:30. It made for a long weekend but we certainly hope we get some business.

The organizer and others that present at shows said that it was second in size only to Somerset. There was a great crowd Saturday and a bit less of a crowd Sunday. I saw lots of people stop and talk and it was also good to get our name out there. We also got some good tips on future speakers.



2011 Pre-Season Stocking of French Creek

by Emerson Cannon

Once again the members of Dame Juliana League helped the PA Fish & Boat Commission in the float stocking of the Catch and Release Fly Fishing Only section of French Creek. Dick Allebach coordinated the event by obtaining the float boxes, insuring that we had enough helpers, and in coordinating the effort with WCO Bob Bonney.

Folks that helped included Ed Nugent and Jerry Knepp who transported people back and forth from beginning and ending points; Troy Dunn, Jim Shaughnessy, Michael 'Phelps' Flott, and Charlie Wagner manned our upstream float. from the upper wire down to the dam above the Sheeder Bridge; Matt Romano ferried the fish to the stream via the road to the old camp site on the upper end of the fly stretch; he and Emerson Cannon floated the section from the Sheeder Mill Bridge down stream to "The Bend"; Jack Waters helped distributing fish all about the Sheeder Bridge area; Gail Osborne and Judith Kramer took the small float box and marched it upstream from Sheeder Bridge to the dam. A

big thank you goes to the people from Progressive Machine who allowed us to park our vehicles in their parking lot and use it as a staging area.

Now for numbers.

The upper stretch got twelve buckets. If it is possible next time we need to use our buckets as well to speed up the process. The upper stretch started at the top wire and ended at the dam.

Some of the helpers dumped buckets in near the bridge, a few too many as I only had five buckets in my float to distribute downstream. The smaller float was given five buckets and towed upstream to the dam...dispensing fish. For the float box going downstream, they ran out of fish just above the bend. The truck did not stop anywhere else on French, due to having to stock two other streams. The bottom line was that we put in maybe 24 to 26 buckets from the wire to above the Pughtown Road bend. This comes out to about 700 trout.

Thanks again to all who participated.

We hope to see you there again next year.

Editors Note- Due to timing difficulties with the Spring edition of the newsletter these two articles were delayed. Nevertheless, we wanted to be sure all those who helped out were acknowledged for their efforts.



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Letters to Jack

How about lead on the line compared with weighted flies? It always seemed to me that lead separated by a foot or two from the fly would cause a different drift pattern and create its own kind of drag. Think it makes any difference?

-Ted Nawalinski

Jack's Reply: I have heard just about every argument on this issue over the years. The most common is the idea that your nymph or streamer won't swim naturally if you put weight in the fly. Time for a reality check guys, nymphs can't swim in the first place. Those that can are going someplace,

The *Isonychias* are darting from place to place looking for food. During a hatch the burrowers and *Baetis* species are swimming to the top with their heads up, not being pulled down by shot. The minnows are darting around looking for food or running from bigger fish that want to make them dinner.

Also, if you really need to be on the bottom, as is often the case in the high water of spring, by putting the weight a foot or two above the fly, you insure that the shot is on the bottom, not the fly. The fly will be bobbing somewhere above the shot, but if you have enough weight to get the fly near the bottom the shot goes under a rock.

Now consider this. Your line is going at a downward angle to the shot. Then it goes upward to the fly, this creates a degree of slack that works against you. When a fish takes the fly you don't feel it until that slack is taken up and by then the trout is already spitting it out because it knows its not real food and it feels the resistance of the weight of the shot. You get a bump but no hookup. If the hook does catch some skin you also stand a chance of shocking the leader enough to break off. However, if the weight is in the fly and it's down where it needs to be, when the fish feels the

resistance it's too late to spit it out and the hook sets.

Another annoying feature of weight on the line is the bolo effect caused by the fly whipping around the shot. This is almost impossible to control and makes casting accuracy difficult. That's why they call it chuck and duck.

On the flip side, if you weight a streamer or wet fly you will notice an uncanny tendency for the fly to track upside down. You've put considerable effort into tying the fly with various colors in a specific order and to have your fly keel upside down is annoying, to say the least. This is caused by the down-eye hook: things don't

“Nothing grows faster than a fish from the time he bites until the time he gets away.”

hang up, they hang down. Unfortunately, no one makes up-eye streamer hooks. Down-eye wet hooks are available but at a considerable added cost. Ring-eye hooks seem to cure the problem but are available only in medium-long shanks (4 XL but not 5 XL nor 6 XL). These would generally be good enough for all but the classic tier. I guess it all boils down to whatever

bothers you the most.

Editor's Note— Jack is better known as Jack Mickievicz. Jack is not only a founding member of the League but used to own Jack's Tackle in Phoenixville. And was a regular contributor to American Angler magazine. He is also our local expert on fly tying materials and fly fishing equipment. More often than not you will see him working behind the fishing counter at French Creek Outfitters. Jack is always good for a story or some good advice or help with a problem so stop by and see him soon.



The Mighty Serendipity

Next to the Green Weenie this imitation of a midge pupae could be the best nymphing fly ever invented. Try it as a dropper on 8 inches of 6X off the hook bend and your catch rate will increase. Be sure to use a strike indicator.

- Hook:** TMC 2487 #20-#24
- Thread:** Brown
- Rib:** Fine Copper Wire-Palmered
- Body:** Brown-Thread or Antron Floss
- Head:** Spun Deer Hair Clipped Flat and Close

Contributed by Bob Molzahn



A New Fly to Try

When I was 9 or 10 I learned to tie flies courtesy of a man in Kimberton named Harry Fischer. He had a small fly shop in the back of his house. The most popular pattern he had me tying was the McGee. It was touted to be very effective for both smallies and trout on French Creek.

McGee—“A Classic Wet Fly”

- Tail:** Brown
- Tag:** Yellow, green or red-your choice
- Body:** Peacock hurl
- Hackle:** Brown wet hackle-collar style
- Wing:** Spotted Guinea

Contributed by Jack Mickievicz



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This comes from Gil Padovani, our webmaster:

“I thought your club or individual members might be interested in this website. It belongs to the “Baghdad Anglers Club and School of Fly Fishing,” a club made up of our military serving in Iraq (www.baghdadflyfishing.com/index.html). Please note that they are looking for donations of fishing-related gear such as terminal tackle, hooks, reels, lines, etc. Also, note that they have an on-line store (tee shirts, hats, mugs, etc).”

Parking on French Creek's Catch and Release Fly Fishing Only Area

For those of you who have fished French Creek this year you are well aware that the parking situation has changed since the new bridge was finished. Board member Dick Allebach has spent considerable time developing relationships with the adjacent landowners to establish several parking locations for fly fishermen to access this section of stream. DJL members are encouraged to use **ONLY** those areas marked on the map and try to make sure other fishermen do the same. Remember also to keep the noise down.

Designated Only Parking Areas Near French Creek CR-FFO

Indicates potential car parking areas

1..... Please parallel park on right side of trail between signs. Do not block trail as we are sharing this right of way with horses (3 spaces)

2..... Please parallel park on road by upper barn, but do not block entrance to field by the barn (2 spaces)

3..... Please parallel park as close to fence as possible but do not park in front of gate (2 spaces)

4..... Please parallel park on north side of road but do not park in front of, or past mailboxes (3 spaces)

5..... Please park off Pughtown Road on the shoulder by guardrail (2 spaces)

6..... Please parallel park on shoulder off Hollow Rd (2 spaces)

7..... Please park in designated area (3 spaces)

8..... Please parallel park on shoulder of Hollow Rd (2 spaces)

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ARTICLES WANTED!!

The next edition of **STREAMSIDE** is due out in January 2012. If you would like to write an article, story, share a fly pattern or write a poem please do so and send it in MS Word format to

Bob Molzahn at
rjm1949@comcast.net.

All articles received will be published.



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The Parting Cast: Trout Porn

Pictures compliments of Emerson Cannon
Trout compliments of Spruce Creek, PA

