



# STREAMSIDE

Volume 15 Issue 2

the Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers' Quarterly Newsletter

April 2009

## Local artist lends talent to DJL project

Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers is very fortunate to have developed a close relationship with local artist, Bernadette Andrews. At the behest of DJL president Troy and his wife Kim Dunn, Ms. Andrews set about rendering a very fine drawing of the Sheeder Mill Bridge, one of the most recognizable landmarks on French Creek. The bridge is the first iron bridge erected in East Vincent Township. The drawing has been made into prints which the club intends to use for service awards and perhaps as a form of income.

### View from Kennedy Bridge

By Troy Dunn, DJL President



The deer are wrapping up their annual decimation of our shrubs. The Chickadee's have begun to investigate and clean up the bird house out back, and I watch them flit back and forth removing debris that the family of wrens left last summer and making fresh

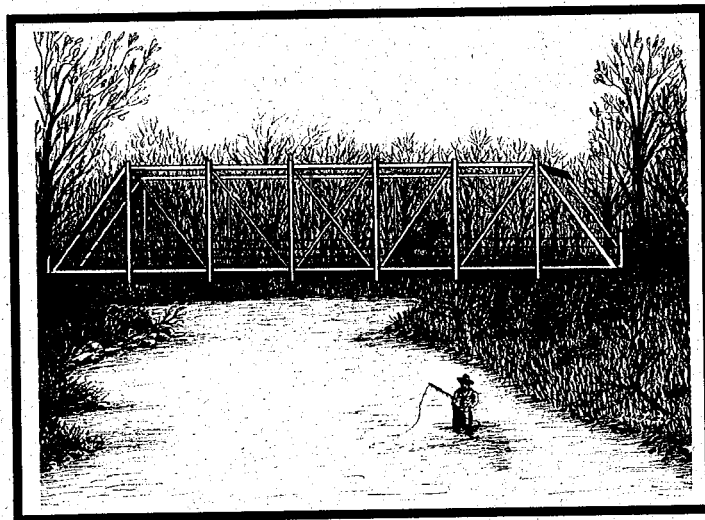
nesting material. I am reminded how busy the club is wrapping up with our final guest speakers, and getting ready in anticipation of the mayflies and caddis that will surely set sail along the pools and riffles of French Creek. We had a much earlier stocking of the creek this year; I was beginning to worry that the slower pools would be iced over preventing us from floating the creek. Fortunately, the weather warmed just prior to the week we stocked, and we were able to float the entire length. I would like to thank everyone who made it out to the creek to stock, especially Dick Allebach for volunteering to coordinate the stocking efforts. Also, a very special thanks to the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust who allowed us to access the C&R FFO reach from their property at the old tri-town sportsmen camp. The use of that location greatly reduced the difficulty of stocking the upper reach. I have heard several reports of good fishing on the creek, but unfortunately have found no time to fish my home waters as of this writing.

On a slightly less upbeat note, the board has voted to remove our affiliation from the Federation of Fly Fishers

*Continued, page 2*

Andrews attended Philadelphia College of Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art. She has worked in a variety of media, including pen and ink, oil, and acrylic, on various surfaces. Now retired, she keeps her hand in the arts and enjoys stitchery. In that field, her work has been featured in a number of venues including the Embroiderers' Guild of America and the Bucks County Chapter's Exhibit of Fine Needlework.

Members of DJL's Board of Directors are still working on the proper procedure for presenting this print for sale, and they have already decided that the print will make a perfect award for individuals whose contributions to the club deserve special recognition. All who have seen the work are enthusiastic about it, and at the point where the board develops the correct approach to offering it for sale, members will be notified. Below is a copy of the print. Whether offered signed, numbered and matted, or simply as a print, we believe that all who consider the FFO section of the French as their "home stream" will want a copy of this fine artist's interpretation of the Sheeder Mill Bridge. ♦



## View from Kennedy Bridge

By Troy Dunn, DJL President


(Continued from page 1)

Although the FFF and DJL have very similar charters, the Mid-Atlantic Council (our local representation) has fallen into complete disarray, and the board felt that the substantial dues payment could be put to better use through other local conservation organizations until the MAC-FFF gets better organized. This decision was not made lightly, and there was much debate on this topic. In the end it was fairly clear that, given limited options, this is the best way for our collective voices to be heard.

Another disturbing event...someone has deliberately cut the cable which demarcates the lower end of the C&R Fly Fishing Only section of French Creek. Bob Bonney, our local waterways conservation officer, as well as some other club members, have informed me that this is not the first time this has happened. John Burgos and I personally inspected the cable to see if anything was salvageable, but the cable had been cut at both ends approximately 10 ft. from the tie points, and the rest of the cable is gone (probably lying in the pool beneath Sheeder Hollow Covered Bridge). We are currently working with Officer Bonney to figure out how to rapidly replace the cable, but unfortunately it does not appear we will have this resolved prior to opening day.

The annual DJL Learn to Fly Fish Course will be held on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> at the usual location at the Phoenixville YMCA. As always we need volunteers to come out to lend a hand with the casting instruction portion of the class. Please let us know if you can help. As of this writing, the course is already half full, and it is highly likely that the course will fill up prior to the 25<sup>th</sup>. If you know someone who is thinking about signing up, tell them to hustle before it's too late.

Our guest speakers so far this spring have been outstanding, and I am disappointed that I had to miss the presentation by the Voigts on The Yellowstone Volunteer program. ♦



Orvis Downingtown  
Brandywine Square Shopping Center  
70 Quarry Road, Unit 1  
Downingtown, PA 19340  
Manager: Gene Pantan

# Orvis Downingtown

Hours:  
Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri  
10AM - 6PM  
Thurs 10AM - 8PM  
Sat 9AM - 6PM  
Sun 12PM - 5PM

610-873-8400

## Make your photo ops count

I will bet that you have seen a photo of a person proudly holding a prize fish and thought to yourself, "That looks like every other fish photo I have ever seen." Here are some hints on producing fish photos that will be both original and interesting. First, try to take the picture in a natural setting. Fish live in the water, so the stream should be an important ingredient in your shot. Avoid taking a photo which has the subject holding the fish while standing on the front porch of his home, or in the parking lot next to his car.

In an attempt to get a little originality in your shot, try holding the camera vertically. This will avoid having too much sky or too much dead space on either side of the subject. Stand close to your subject and aim so that the photo is from the waist up. Whether you hold the camera horizontally or vertically, have the fisher stand to one side or the other, and he/she should hold the fish out to the side so that the fish is not lost in a background of a plaid shirt or waders. Remind the subject not to stare at the camera. He/she should be looking at the fish. The light source (probably the sun) should be behind the photographer to provide maximum illumination on both the fish and the fisher. The subject should not be in the shade, as such positioning tends to make everything too dark when the photo is developed. Also, make very sure that the photographer's shadow is not in the shot. If the individual in the intended shot is squinting because of the light, have him/her turn slightly, but make sure that the fish is still well lighted. The fish won't mind, at least I have never seen one squinting in the light.

It is a good rule to take a number of shots with the subject in a variety of stances. The subject can kneel in one shot, stand up in another, or have the fish on one side or the other. The fish may be held higher or lower. When a number of prints are available, you will have choices as to which ones are keepers.

Photos go a long way to preserving memories, especially for youngsters. Take outdoor photos often but remember, there is no way to get a great photo if you left the camera at home or in your truck. ♦

**DJL Meeting**  
Monday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.

**"Flyfishing New York's Salmon River"**  
Presenter: Mike Dadd

## On stream ethics? Apply the golden rule

Fishing is like many other endeavors in that there are certain behaviors which are considered ethical and certain behaviors which are considered unethical. The term most fishers use to describe these acceptable behaviors is "stream etiquette." Good manners on the stream are based on the same basic rule which governs all civilized situations: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Needless to say, stream ethics often depend on where you are, and when you are there. If you are in Pulaski, New York fishing the Salmon River during the salmon run, there is a good chance that fishers will be standing hip to hip along the stream. In such a situation, you are welcome to join the mob, but you still have some rules which apply: Do not cast over another's line. If you do snag another fisher's line, it will quickly be decided whether you or he/she will reel in to undo the snag. Of course, if someone in your vicinity hooks onto a fish, all lines in that area are to be taken in so that the lucky fisher can play and land the fish without worrying about where others' lines are.

If, however, you are fishing on a stream where there are few others around, the ethics change somewhat. Suppose you have just come on the stream, and there is another fisher in your entry area. Ask if he/she is fishing up or down. Once you learn in which direction the other fisher is moving, you should go the other way. On small local streams, if you decide to move in the same direction, move at least a five minute wade away. On large western streams, a half hour wade is recommended.

If you are already on the stream moving up or down, and you come upon another fisher who is "on a spot," you should, if at all possible, leave the stream, move onto the bank and go around the other fisher. A wave or a quiet "Hello," is fine, but it would be wrong to enter the stream and stand beside him/her and engage in conversation. How far up or down stream should you go before you begin fishing again? Use the five minute rule on a small stream.

If you are fishing, and someone violates your space, be understanding but make sure that YOU practice good stream etiquette when your path comes across other fishers. Remember, the basic rule for all behavior is, act as you would hope others would act. ♦



**TCO Fly Shop**  
Tulpehocken Creek Outfitters

2229 Penn Ave • Reading, PA 19609  
610.678.1899 - voice • 610.678.4029 - fax  
[www.tcoflyfishing.com](http://www.tcoflyfishing.com)

**Downingtown Bicycle Shop**  
833 W. Lancaster Ave.



Cannondale  
Giro  
NightPro  
Hoffman  
Continental  
Profile  
Hollywood  
Shimano  
Blackburn

Raleigh  
Thule  
Park  
Haro  
Bell  
CateEye  
Terry  
Lake  
Primo

610-269-5626    [Downingtownbike.com](http://Downingtownbike.com)

## Buy your DJL raffle tickets now

Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers is currently conducting its annual raffle with the drawing scheduled for the April 27, 2009 meeting. Joe King, the raffle coordinator, has come up with some fabulous prizes which include, a Mojave 2.0 mountain bike for first prize, an Orvis t3 905 two-piece fly rod as second prize, and a third prize of an antique fly fishing poster, matted and framed.

Chances are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Only 500 chances will be sold, so buy lots of chances as soon as possible. Tickets may be obtained from club members or by calling Joe at (610) 764-5904. ♦

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Jim and Jeanette Agrian  
Greg Boone  
Todd Bowersox  
Christopher Carr  
Michael Flott  
Mike Keppel  
John Tudo



## Voigts explain Yellowstone Park's volunteer program

The presentation for the March 30, 2009 meeting of the Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers featured Bill and Joann Voigt. Bill and Joann, residents of Pennsylvania, are coordinators for the Yellowstone Park Volunteer Fly Fishing Program. The concept utilizes fly fishers from around the world to carry out a number of research projects involving fish which are found in the park's vast water resources.

According to Mr. Voigt, narrator of a very nice slide show, the park boasts 500 streams and 150 lakes covering 5% of the park land. The volunteers are, in effect, carrying out the research which would cost thousands of dollars if it were done by professional fish experts. There are many individual studies being performed by the volunteers, but one of the most important goals of the project is to find ways to restore pure (as opposed to hybrid) native Greyling trout and Cutthroat trout to the areas where they were originally found, if such a result is feasible.

Individuals who are interested in participating in this very important and satisfying project may obtain additional information by going to [wfv100@psu.edu](mailto:wfv100@psu.edu). The slides were beautiful and the content of the presentation was outstanding. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Voigt for joining us and for introducing us to the Yellowstone Park Volunteer Fly Fishing Program. ♦

## DJL offers "Learn to Fly Fish" course on April 25

Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers is the premier fly fishing club in the area, and as such it has a large number of very accomplished, skillful, and experienced fishers. Many of these men and ladies will come together for the club's annual Learn to Fly Fish course on Saturday, April 25, rain or shine. This is an intensive (but relaxed and informal) program that will be of value to the entire family. The course offers all the basic skills required for the novice to feel comfortable on the stream casting a fly in an attempt to lure the elusive trout into a strike. The location of the course will be the Phoenixville YMCA. Directions are available.

The all-day course will cover such areas as fly casting; basic equipment; lines, leaders and knots; trout food; fly patterns; and on-stream techniques. A lunch is provided. The number of openings is limited, and preregistration is required to allow us to plan for instructors and food. Necessary equipment will be available to all students. Cost for pre-registrants is \$40. Registration at the door is \$50.

Additional information and a printable registration form may be found by calling (610) 524-1911 or on the DJL website [www.djlflyfishers.org](http://www.djlflyfishers.org). If you think you may be interested in participating in this fun-filled day, sign up as soon as possible, space is limited. ♦

## Fly fishing trip to Yellow Breeches planned

Under the careful supervision of trip planner Emerson Cannon, participating members of DJL will spend a day plying the water of one of Pennsylvania's most famous trout streams, The Yellow Breeches in Boiling Springs, PA. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2009.


The logistics involve meeting at 8 o'clock a.m. at Hoss's restaurant at the intersection of routes 100 and 113. The group will car pool to Boiling Springs and fish until departure in time to arrive back at Hoss's at around 5 o'clock p.m. Participants may brown bag it or buy lunch at a local restaurant. In addition, some will certainly want to spend a portion of their time at Yellow Breeches Outfitters, an enjoyable respite for fishers of every kind.

Those who take part in this trip must sign a waiver which holds DJL harmless in matters involving insurance. Emerson will have the waiver forms on hand for signing before the anglers depart for the venture. Total driving time to the stream and back is approximately 3.5 hours.

All members are invited. For more information, contact Emerson at [Rexcannon@comcast.net](mailto:Rexcannon@comcast.net) for details and suggestions on types of flies which should probably be in your fly box. ♦

It is not easy to tell one how to cast. The art must be acquired by practice.

*Charles Orvis (1883)*



## The first casts

By Roy Cubbler

I consider myself to be a novice when it comes to fly fishing for trout and that is because there are so many things to learn before one may consider himself an expert. Learning knots, casting, how to fish dry flies or nymphs or wet flies and presentation are just a few of the things that we work on early in our fly fishing experience. Those things are important, but even more vital is learning to read the water, recognizing insects, and figuring out the "thought process" that makes a fish accept or reject the offering that we place before it. I have a library of books on the process of fly fishing, and I refer to them often. Needless to say, attending a fly fishing course where we come in contact with experts is a much more satisfying way to learn than by reading a book. However, it is by reading these books that one begins to refine his approach to our sport. As an example, I learned a method of nymph fishing from a magazine article I read a few seasons ago, and I have found that this method has served me well when I have tried it.

It came to me that *Streamside* should have at least one regular column dedicated to those fishers who fall into a category other than "expert." I envision a series of articles which could serve as sources of information on a variety of topics. The information will be gleaned from a myriad of sources, including conversations with experts, from books, magazines, and from personal experience. I will also try to get experienced fishers to provide us with some tips and suggestions that they have found to be useful to them over the years.

The column will be entitled "The First Casts." ♦  
*Gone Fishin'*

## Fewer fish for us

A recent decision by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission means that trout fishers will have fewer fish to catch this year. The commission voted to stop purchasing outsourced trout from Tellico Fish Farm in North Carolina. Five years ago when the Big Spring hatchery in Pennsylvania closed, the decision was made to go out of state to make up the difference in the number of trout available for stocking. Tellico had been

charging an average of \$1.15 per fish. The cost of fish raised at a Pennsylvania facility averaged \$2.14 per fish, so outsourcing seemed like a good idea at the time. Recently, however, Tellico indicated that they would charge our state \$3.38 per trout supplied. The commission decided that such an increase was far more than their budget could stand, so it was decided to rely on Pennsylvania raised fish for stocking. The change means that up to 130,000 fewer trout will be available out of an annual total of 3.3 million stocked trout. The hope is to spread the cutbacks across many lakes and streams to minimize the impact on fishing.

The commission is currently reevaluating the stocking program and will develop a totally new trout management plan in the fall of the year. The study involves both stocked and wild fish as the group endeavors to create the best coldwater fisheries in the state and come up with a viable plan on how to get the most use from the commission's most expensive program. In the past the commission simply looked at hatchery operating costs, but the new calculations will include every aspect of trout stocking, from capital costs to staffing. Look for some major changes in the near future. ♦

## Club purchases ten Reddington rods

At a recent DJL board meeting it was decided that the club would purchase a number of fly rods and reels to be used by attendees at the annual fly fishing course and to be available for borrow by members of the club. The rods are of different lengths and weights in the hope that such a variety would satisfy the greatest number of possible uses. Emerson Cannon and Dick Allebach carried out the task of locating the best rods and reels at the best prices, and they purchased 10 Reddington rods ranging from 9 to 7 ½ feet and weight from 8 to 4.

The club owes thanks to Emerson and Dick for putting the time in to research the types and prices of rods which will provide the best selection and price for our members and the participants in the fly fishing course. ♦

Christine Sharbaugh

Barry Staats

### The Sporting Gentleman ORVIS.

300 W. State Street, Suite 100  
Media, PA 19063

610.565.6140 fax 610.565.0428

[www.sportinggentleman.com](http://www.sportinggentleman.com)

**Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers**

President.....Troy Dunn  
 Vice President.....Larry Heimes  
 Treasurer.....Joe Vasilie  
 Secretary.....Rick Stevens  
 Membership.....Lance Morten  
 Sponsor Relations.....Joe King  
 Outreach.....Ted Nawalinski  
 Fly Fishing Course.....Bob Molzahn  
 Stream Improvements.....Larry Heimes  
 Board of Directors.....Dick Allebach  
 Joe King, Bob Moser, Jr.  
 Troy Dunn, Ted Nawalinski, Lance Morten  
 Roy Cubbler, Ed Nugent  
 Streamside Editor.....Roy Cubbler  
 Cubblers@AOL.com or 610-326-4073

**Membership:** Dues per calendar year are \$15 per individual or \$20 per family. New members, please add \$5.00.

**Meetings:** DJL meets the last Monday of each month, September through April, at the Kimberton Fargrounds Fire Co. Meeting Hall, Rt. 113, just south of Phoenixville, Pa.

**610-933-7200**  
 www.frenchcreekoutfitters.com

**ORVIS**  
 • Books & Videos • Fly Tying Classes  
 • Knowledgeable Staff


Wide Variety of Flies & Fly Tying Material

**EXOFFICIO & BUZZ OFF CLOTHING**  
 • St. Croix • Loomis • Okuma • Air-Flo  
 • Rio • Temple Fork Outfitters  
 • Cortland • Ross Reels • Renzetti  
 • Dr. Slick • Fishpond • J.P. Ross Rods  
 • Flymaster • Sunrise And More!

**Chester County's Largest Fly Fishing Specialist**

**FRENCH CREEK**  
 HUNTING & TRAPPING  
 OUTFITTERS

Open 7 Days  
 A Week  
 Visa • MC  
 Dis • Amex



Located on Rt. 22, just West of Phoenixville, Next to Staples



**STREAMSIDE**  
 April 2009 Newsletter  
 Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers  
 P.O. Box 178  
 Kimberton, PA 19442

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**To:**