



STREAMSIDE

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the Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers' Quarterly Newsletter

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More women getting hooked on fly fishing

How many times have you been on the stream and come across a female fly fisher? Sadly, it is not a usual occurrence. The times they are a' changing, however. More and more women are discovering the joys of fly fishing. Briget Shields, of Squirrel Hill, PA, is totally taken by the technique, the grace, and the movement of this form of angling. She calls it "the tai chi of fishing."

View from Kennedy Bridge

By Troy Dunn, DJL President



Happy New Year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Many folks made it to our fly tying meeting in December. We added a segment to the meeting where folks give a brief talk on any recent fishing

they've done (where, what kind of trout, what types of patterns, etc.). John Burgos had some excellent pictures of some nice rainbows and browns taken on Spruce Creek. We will try to do this at every meeting, so if you've done some fishing between meetings, come prepared to discuss and to give others some tips on where and how to fish.

Bob Bonney, our local waterways conservation officer, has informed me that the first stocking of French Creek will occur on February 18th. Dick Allebach has volunteered to coordinate the efforts of our club. Everyone who is interested in participating in this activity, please contact me or Dick.

As many of you know, the annual Fly Fishing Show in Somerset is the weekend of the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of January. We are organizing car pools for those who are interested in attending. At this

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Women account for just one-quarter of the 30 million anglers in the United States, according to a 2006 survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and females who fish with flies instead of bait or artificial lures are scarcer still. But women who have given fly fishing an honest try, often become quite avid about it.

Unlike most men, women seem to lack for angling mentors, and it can be intimidating to try something new without a few friends to share in the experience. In addition, ladies often have added responsibilities such as child care or maintaining the home. To compensate, women tend to come to fly fishing after having taken a course which is specifically designed for them. Instructors of such classes find that women are anxious to learn and are very observant; two attributes which are essential in mastering the delicate dance of precision and rhythm fly fishing demands.

One needs to have patience, of course, because fish are smarter than many of us imagine. It is also necessary to have a sense of balance because the sport often involves standing on slippery rocks while water is flowing past you. But fly fishing is an outstanding way for women to get out and enjoy nature. It is also a beautiful way, to confirm Ms. Shields' belief that the sport is akin to tai chi, to relieve some of the stress that women face during their busy day.

This story is a loose compendium of an article which appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Sunday, October 5, 2008. ♦

Beauty without grace is like a hook without the fly.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1860)

View from Kennedy Bridge

By Troy Dunn, DJL President

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point, it appears that most folks will be going on Saturday the 24th. If you are interested in carpooling, please send me an e-mail and I'll get back to you on where and when to meet. I anticipate we will want to leave the area around 7 a.m. in order to get there around 9 a.m.

The DJL Board of Directors held a meeting in early December to set our course for the spring. By now you should have received your first meeting notice for the spring line up. I think we have an excellent slate of speakers for the spring. Visit our web site, www.djlflyfishers.org for a complete listing if you missed the postcard. The board had another marathon session which lasted over 3 hours, we discussed having a spring outing to Yellow Breeches near Carlisle sometime after the Fly Fishing course in April. Look for further details soon. We are still working on the possibility of a DJL sponsored stream clean up along the Catch and Release section of French Creek. We will be seeking volunteers from the club (as well as from other local organizations) to participate in this event. We are still hopeful that we can schedule this to occur prior to spring leaf out when there is maximum visibility of garbage (and of course minimum fishing opportunities).

We have selected a large number of new DVDs for the club's library, you'll want to be sure to have a look at them at the January meeting. We've gotten a great new selection that has something for everyone. I've begun working on the fall lineup of speakers. If you have ideas for speakers or topics that you would like to hear about, please drop me a line and let me know your thoughts. I've already gotten some suggestions, but I would like to strike the right balance as always between outing ideas, fishing techniques, and other speakers.

Until then... Tight lines-Troy

Next DJL meeting is January 26, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
Brian Horsley and Sarah Gardner will present
"Summer on the Outer Banks."

DJL Member Update

By Bob Molzahn

When I first met Katie Moser, she was 7 years old. At the time, Bob Moser Jr. was the incoming president of DJL and he was holding a board meeting at his home on French Creek. Katie greeted me at the door, introduced herself and escorted me to their family room. Katie did this for each member attending. Instead of watching TV somewhere else during the meeting, she sat with us and listened attentively. I found that unusual, if not remarkable, for a child of her age.

Over the ensuing years, Katie attended several more meetings and regularly helped out at our annual "Learn to Fly Fish Course." For about ten years, she assumed the hostess and registration duties and other needed functions with her usual beaming smile, while Joe Flather, Ed Nugent, her Dad and I scurried around trying to get ourselves organized. She faithfully performed these functions every year through her senior year in high school. Bob tells me that she even fished with him a few times a year during this time.

Once she entered high school, we didn't get to see Katie as often as she was busy being the student representative to the Phoenixville Area School District Board of Education, and the captain of the track team. After becoming a National Merit Scholar in high school, Katie went on to attend American University in Washington to pursue a degree in International Relations and Studies, with a minor in Spanish. She graduated last May and now works for Congressman Jim Gerlach in Washington as a legislative consultant. Interestingly, her language skills are very important in her work as Chester County has a large Hispanic population. According to Bob, she loves her work; but I am sure she misses home and her Mom and Dad.

I for one appreciate Katie's accomplishments and wish her all the best in her future pursuits. However, I sure wish she would come back the last Saturday in April to help straighten us out at the course. ♦



Fishing Media: An Occasional Review

By Ted Nawalinski

DVD Details: (What You Don't Know about Our DVD Collection)

Title: *San Juan Snowrise* (#94)

Venue: San Juan River.

Fly Tie: Halo Nymph. Imitates a struggling mayfly on the surface; made with a closed-cell foam collar and CDC floating a body of ribbed dubbing below the surface. Uses lots of different items but not too difficult a tie. Could be an interesting addition to your collection.

Extra: Kelly Galloup wades through a couple of sections of the Madison at the head end of the river.

Overall Grade: C. Might be of interest to the hard core who have no (other) life: two guys drifting a river in a snowstorm on Easter Sunday! Skip track 1. Track 2 is OK for those planning a trip to the San Juan for the guide information given. Track 3 is important for its lesson on mending a drifting line; if you've been doing it wrong for years like I have (but then, how would you know...?) this short track is worth the price of rental for the simple lesson correcting a common mistake.

Title: *Winnipeg Pike Patrol* (#95)

Venue: some river in Winnipeg.

Fly Tie: Weedman's Slider. Tied a little smaller, looks like a great bass bug, too. Not a difficult tie.

Extra: Kelly Galloup wades through a section of the Madison with real fast water. Good section.

Overall Grade: D. A real loser, except for the fly. Too much time talking about nothing with close focus on the heads, little on the casting, and not enough instructional stuff.

Title: *Lees Ferry Tales* (#90) (I keep wanting to make that possessive [Lee's Ferry], but, like Chadds Ford [extra D, no apostrophe], right or wrong, that's the way it's done...)

Venue: The Colorado, below Glen Canyon Dam. Incidental to the fishing, since it is incidental to the minimal instructional value of their fishing an Oregon Cheese Glo Bug below a large indicator fly, or two dries: Stimulator + Elk Hair Caddis. Nice fish, but little in the way of detail on how to approach and strategize the river.

Fly Tie: Davy Wotten teaches the simple wet fly, Copper and Grouse.

Extra: A preview (?) of *Wet Fly Ways* where Wotten talks us through short-line wet-fly fishing in detail good enough to get us well started on indicator-free sub-surface fishing. This makes it worth the rental fee.

Bonus: Wotten displays and explains a dozen classic wet flies.

Overall Grade: C-, saved by the nice-and-easy wet pattern and the-wet fishing instruction.

Title: *Frog Holler Hogs* (#92)

Venue: Chestatee River, northern Georgia.

Fly Tie: Red Headed Stepchild – looks like a nice attractor and easy to tie; also, Savage Stonefly, done by a young (17?) tyer named Tom Savage, but not an easy tie – quite realistic and needs many steps, though possible if you want to have something for a small diorama.

Extra: Davy Wotten takes us partway through his *Wet Fly Ways*; in this installment he shows an easy know to keep your flies apart, and how to construct your 'cast' of flies with two or three nymphs.

Overall Grade: I'd give this one a B, if only for the beautiful fish they catch. This is private water, and despite what you or I may think of privatizing waters, the lodge owners do provide a nice ambiance and big lunkers. Not much instruction here, as seems to be the case with the Fly-Fish TV DVDs I've seen so far. Tendency with this series seems to be camera on the speaker describing something, instead of showing that cast or lie or knot, etc. being described. This annoying characteristic happens here with the fly selection so we don't get a good shot of the fly while they're talking about what to tie on. ♦



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Christmas Fishing Pole

By Lance Morien

Several years ago when I was in to collecting fly fishing equipment, I had a local antique shop that I frequented to see what old fishing items may be available. During one visit, the sales person said the owner has a bunch of fishing rods not on display that he may be interested in selling. My curiosity peaked. I stopped back when the owner was there, and asked to see the stash. Wow, what a find! There was a mix of some nice cane rods and some miscellaneous cane rod parts of little value. I ended up buying the entire stash for a very reasonable price.

When going through my purchase, I came across an unusual wooden rod that had an old envelope attached. I opened it and it reads:

"West Chester, PA"

"My Dear Son"

"William I am giving you this pole today because it has always been giving on Christmas first by Mary McElwain to her husband William McElwain your great grand parents on Christmas Day Dec 25, 1872. On the next Christmas Dec 25, 1873 she gave him this little brass reel and shiner hook which you have. Following his death he said this pole was to go to his grand son W. A. Ingram and was given to me by his daughters Ella R. and Amanda McElwain on Dec 25, 1904. The wood in this pole is bass wood and came from England will not crack or split. William when you are through with it I want it to go to my grand son William Archie Ingram 3rd."

*"Lovingly your Father
William A. Ingram
Dec 25, 1942"*

The 3-piece, 9 1/2 ft rod has spike style ferules and only 3 eyes. A sliding band is on the handle for attaching the reel. Unfortunately, the reel was not with the rod when I bought it. Although clearly not a fly fishing rod it reminds me of the rods I have seen in the Netherlands used to fish in the canals for minnows.

How interesting to be able to know a bit of the history behind the rod. Maybe we should all attach some notes to our favorite rods when they are retired and ready to be passed on to the next grateful owner. ♦

Preserving Trout

By Lance Morien

Don't try this at the stream!

"Trout carefully dressed may be preserved several days fresh and sweet, without ice or salt, by wrapping them in the long white moss found in the swamps in the vicinity of the lakes and streams where trout are caught, and placing them in a cool shady place; a hole in the ground covered over with a foot or more of earth is a good place."

From: Forest and Stream Sportsman's Encyclopedia. 1923. ♦

The Fishing Trip

By Lance Morien

"Most fisherman deal with their trout-chasing afflictions by forming self-help groups with others of similar financial and social constraints. Such therapy groups meet several times a year on what are generally known as "fishing trips." On these occasions, group members reinforce their valid but fragile conviction that it is *they* who have things in perspective and the rest of the world is out of touch."

From, Trout Chasers Journal, Tully Stroud ♦


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To the Dame Juliana Club:

In the summer of 2008, I attended the Chester County Conservation Camp because of Dame Juliana sponsorship. It was an unforgettable experience, and I hope that this summer I will be able to attend again.

Every day and every night there was something new and exciting to do, and throughout the entire week there was never a boring moment. One day in particular I'm pretty certain nobody wanted to end: it started getting on a bus right after breakfast and heading to a shooting range, where anybody 12 or older could shoot at targets, and then, if they wanted to, they could use a shotgun and try to hit the pigeons as they flew through the air (I was really bad at that). Afterwards, we headed down to the Brandywine, where we went on a two hour long canoe trip that consisted of canoes being tipped over consistently. Right after this we went to a park, where we had pizza for dinner, though everybody really missed the dinner cooked for us by these too really amazing chefs (which was surprising, considering food from camps and schools is expected to be terrible and sick). And to think that was only one day! During the other days of week, we also went fishing, orienteering, helped clean out a dam, went on a night hike, played tons of games- the list goes on and on.

Attending CCCC was definitely the highlight of my summer. I experienced tons of new things and made a bunch of new friends, and I am very grateful I was able to attend. Once again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Natalie Burgos

Etymology basics means fly fishing success

"The hatch" is a very important term to fly fishers. To a fly fisher, a hatch refers to a specific time when a specific insect becomes available to the trout as food. In actuality, biologically speaking, the term "hatch" means that something is emerging from an egg. But to a fly fisher, a hatch is the moment when an insect comes to the surface of the water and flies off. This occurs, not when the insect comes out of the egg, but when it changes from a nymph or pupa stage into the adult stage.

In most cases, just before the hatch, the pupa or nymph begins to display some sort of activity. They may move from mid-stream toward the shore or from fast to slower current. In some cases, the nymphs simply begin to drift with the current. This, of course, is a perfect time to fish nymph or pupa patterns. While most fishers enjoy watching their quarry rise to take a surface fly, it must be pointed out that the preponderance of a trout's food comes from insects in this stage.

Once the insect is ready to "emerge" from the nymph or pupa stage and become an adult, one of three different actions occur, depending on the insect. Some nymphs or pupa, such as the stonefly, move to the land so that the adult can emerge there. Some, such as the western green drake, emerge beneath the surface. Others, including may flies and caddis, emerge on the surface of the water. Once the fly fisher knows the phase and type of hatch he/she is dealing with, the decision is made on whether to use a nymph, dun, emerger, or dry fly pattern.

Becoming aware of some basic etymology will go a long way to make one a more skillful and successful fly fisher. ♦



A page from our history



Recently, while getting his fly fishing gear in order, Lance Morien came upon this VFTU postcard advertising their December 20th meeting. Although the year is not known, the card is reprinted here for member's enjoyment. Bring back any memories?