



STREAMSIDE

Volume 15 Issue 4

the Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers' Quarterly Newsletter

October 2009

Austin gets the hook at PA Fish and Boat Commission

The executive director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PF&BC) has been, for a want of a better term, summarily demoted. With little notice or fanfare, Doug Austen was advised by the commission that he was being relieved of his responsibilities and functions as director and would, instead, be given the task of handling federal programming.

Interestingly, before Austin's demotion, there was no position which involved federal programming. Austin will retain his title, salary, and benefits for now, or until he finds another job. The commission president is Tom Shetterly, and according to reports, Shetterly gave no reason for the axing. He did indicate that at some point members would name an individual whose job it will be to carry out

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View from Kennedy Bridge

By Troy Dunn, DJL President



Ah fall, cool crisp nights, sunny blue skies, spawning brown trout and the start of the Dame Juliana fall meeting schedule. We have a great line up of speakers this fall so be sure to mark your calendars.

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 co. which allows us to use their facilities for another year. Many thanks to those who came out to support this effort, Jerry Knepp, Ted Nawalinski, Rich Uhlig, Bob Moser, Roy Cubbler, Bill Daly, Joe King, Barbara Hove, Ray Horwitz, Michael Edelman and Emerson Cannon. This minimal investment in time saves the club thousands of dollars in fees we would otherwise be required to pay in order to have our meetings, and everyone as usual has a good time.

This summer, we tried something new. Mike Costello offered his services as a certified fly casting instructor to provide ten lucky DJL members with a four evening casting clinic. This intermediate clinic covered more advanced fly casting techniques such as distance and presentation casts. The class was an overwhelming success, and we are hoping to do something similar in the spring for the less experienced members of the club. My special thanks to Mike for offering his services and doing such a fine job.

Emerson Cannon recently organized a smallmouth bass fishing trip to the Schuylkill River. Fourteen

League honors two helpers

The Dame Juliana League and the PA Fish Commission are fortunate to have many people who help give and protect access rights to the many trout streams in the state. DJL, at the September meeting, honored two of these individuals who provide access rights to the FFO Catch and Release Section of French Creek. John Hockstra and Dorie Wade have supported our efforts to preserve French Creek, and President Troy Dunn presented each with a specially framed print of Sheeder Bridge in appreciation for their active involvement. Thanks again Dorie and John for your support. ♦



Troy Dunn and John Hockstra

Photo and story by Dick Allebach

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View from Kennedy Bridge

By Troy Dunn, DJL President

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members turned out for this event and we had fun plying the waters of the Schuylkill in search of fish. Although the fish refused to cooperate, we still managed to have a great time. Thanks Emerson!

As of this writing, I have received several enquiries on how to purchase the artwork that was presented at our April and September meetings as gifts to awardees. The club has all copies of this limited edition print and although some of the lower numbered prints will be held in reserve for awards, we fully intend to make prints (framed and unframed) available to the general membership at a reasonable cost. Look for more information on this topic soon.

The spring line up of speakers is almost complete, look for an announcement in December for what should be a great line up. ♦

Tight lines-Troy

Need a rod to try???... Borrow the club's

By Emerson Cannon

Our club recently purchased eight rod outfits (rod, reel, line, case) primarily for use in our DJL LEARN TO FLYFISH COURSE. These rods cannot be borrowed during the months of March or April, due to getting them ready for the class. However, the rest of the year, you, as a club member, may borrow them for one month at a time.

The rules for borrowing are easy:

You fill out a form with name, phone and email numbers, address, and the date you are using the rod. From the date you receive the rod, you have one month of use before returning it to me.

If you borrow something from a person...isn't it your responsibility to return it in the same shape as you received it and in a timely manner? The answer is YES. I do not want to do the "calling thing" and try and find you. It is your responsibility to get the rod back to me!

No, this is not a delivery service; remember...You are doing the borrowing.

Of course, if you break or damage the rod, you are responsible to fix or replace it. These rods were purchased at French Creek Outfitters. I am merely the club's rod liaison. So, please be a responsible member and take care of the rod and get it back to me so others can enjoy the rod as well. This can be a fantastic free experience. Say you have a 4 weight and want to try a 6 weight...no problem. Maybe you have a trip to upstate New York and want a 6 weight 9 foot rod to fish the Delaware...no problem! Maybe you would like to try small mouth or large mouth bass fishing with our 8 weight...great...no problem.

We have two piece 4 weights (7'6"). We have four piece 5 weights (8'6"), 6 weights (9 ft) and 8 weights (9 ft). The four piece rods are great to use while on a trip. All rods, reels and lines are made by Redington. They all cast very well and each has its own case. We also have some older Orvis rods that were top of the line a few years ago, and which cast very very well.

Call me if you are interested, and we can set up a meeting time to use the rod. ♦

Emerson Cannon - Home phone: 610-363-8928

Austin gets the hook...

(Continued from page 1)

the duties normally assigned to the executive director.

Various news articles on the web report that Austin joined the commission in 2004, after having served as an administrator with the state Department of Natural Resources in Illinois. There are hints that the commission felt that Austin was not good at seeking or accepting recommendations from the board. Austin and the members of the commission have clashed in the past, and Austin was saved once before from being fired when Governor Rendell stepped in on his behalf.

The Board's mission is to protect, conserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities. It will strive to fulfill this mission by developing, adopting, and enforcing policies that are proactive, aggressive, and focused on the long-term health, protection, and development of the Commonwealth's aquatic resources. ♦

A western fishing trip does not have to break the bank

By Dick Allebach

Have you wanted to go on a trip out west, but never seem to be able to make it happen? Have you thought it would be too expensive or too daunting a task? Too expensive? Maybe not! Two people can make the trip far less expensive. Last year a friend and I went on a 13-day unguided trip to Montana for \$1,400 each. The amount covered lodging, food, licenses, car rental, and fuel (1,200 miles), and airfare. We fished Rock Creek, the Madison, and the Missouri and had a great time. This trip was planned well in advance and was taken in July during some of Montana's best dry fly fishing seasons.

A trip like this is possible if you are willing to do your homework and research the possibilities. Some things to know:

- Choose your time to go and try to make sure it ISN'T during run-off season.
- Select the rivers you want to fish.
- Choose the airport to fly into based on the best price.
- Rent your car ahead of time and do so at each airport. You can always cancel the car if you don't need it once you choose your destination.
- Ascertain places you stay based on the area you are fishing. The Internet is a big help here.
- To learn the best areas to fish, talk to others who know.

If this article gets your juices flowing, then go for it. Once you plan such a trip, the next one will be easier because you should, as they say, "know the ropes." ♦

"There is no taking trout with dry breeches."

--Cervantes

Presenter donates casting gift certificate

Along with his willingness to present a program at our February, 22, 2010 general meeting, Tom Btralik will donate a gift certificate to our club for two hours of individual casting instruction. Tom is a Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructor. Members who may want to take advantage of any of Tom's services (which range from stream guiding to fishing skills) may contact him as follows:

Tom Btralik
Tom's Fly Fishing Service
717-770-0796
www.tomsflyfishing.com

Downingtown Bicycle Shop
833 W. Lancaster Ave.

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|--------------|--|---------|--|
| Cannondale |  | Raleigh | |
| Giro | | Thule | |
| NightPro | | Park | |
| Hoffman | | Haro | |
| Continental | | Bell | |
| Profile | | CateEye | |
| Hollywood | | Terry | |
| Shimano | | Lake | |
| Blackburn | | Primo | |
| 610-269-5626 | | | Downingtownbike.com |


TCO Fly Shop
Tulpehocken Creek Outfitters
2229 Penn Ave • Reading, PA 19609
610.678.1899 - voice • 610.678.4029 - fax
www.tcoflyfishing.com

Upcoming DJL Meetings

- October 26 – Monday – 7:30 p.m.
"Fly Fishing the Yukon Territory" featuring Joe King
- November 30 – Monday – 7:30 p.m.
"Bone Fishing on Amergris Key in Belize" with Dick Allebach
- December 28 – Monday – 7:30 p.m.
Learn to tie flies

Important projects could affect FFO section of French Creek

Thanks to John Burgos and Troy Dunn for supplying information contained in this article.

Dame Juliana members are actively involved in a number of projects which will certainly impact the way we access our outdoor resources in the future. The following information is relevant to some of those projects:

President Troy Dunn and Stream Improvement Chairman John Burgos recently attended a streamside meeting with representatives of the French and Pickering Trust, East Vincent Township, and the East Vincent Planning Engineer to discuss the possibility of converting the Tri-Town campsite into a community park with access for disabled individuals. The meeting was held at the upstream terminus of the fly fishing only section of French Creek. As would be expected in planning such a far-reaching project, there are many concerns and obstacles. Troy and John, representing DJL, offered opinions for the best use of the facility for the promotion of fly fishing and conservation.

John also attended a meeting at the Warwick Township building which was hosted by the Federation of Northern Chester County. This early September meeting was, in reality, a fact-finding exercise. Coming together were representatives of the township, French and Pickering Trust, and DJL. Those individuals offered suggestions for land use for the park which ranged from "dark spots" to allow nighttime star viewing, to sporting fields and exercise facilities. Needless to say, the main concerns centered on how the project could be funded, supported, completed, and used.

Both events demonstrate potential development projects of interest to DJL members. John Burgos ensures DJL members that "We will remain active with these community organizations as future actions occur." ♦

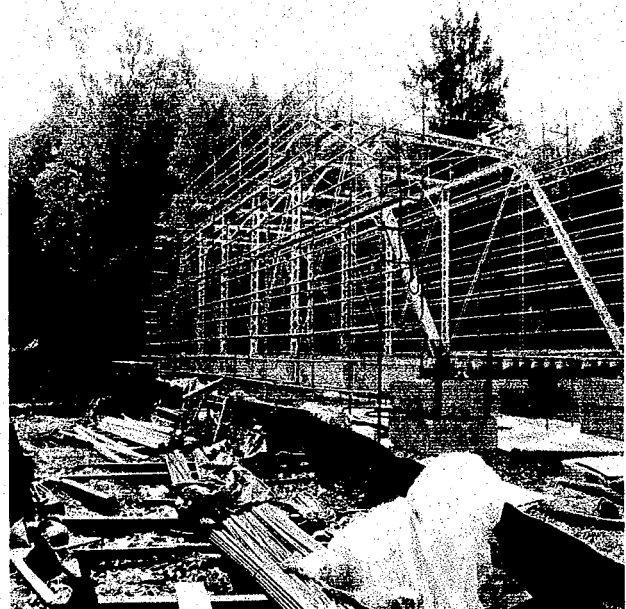
Allebach gives report on Sheeder Bridge work

By Dick Allebach

Before the September Dame Juliana League meeting, I spoke to John Hockstra about the work on Sheeder Bridge on the FFOCR section of French Creek. John informed me that the bridge itself will not be replaced, but rather be repaired and refurbished with new approaches. The bridge was lifted off its foundation and set to the side while the approaches are being redone (see picture below). The new ones will be wider, but John told me he is trying to get PennDot to agree not to take away all the previously used parking area on the north side. He has been in contact with our politicians and officials in Harrisburg to try to keep as much parking as possible, especially on the approach to the bridge.

John has also been working with landowners and local officials to remedy the run-off problems on the south side of the bridge to prevent future washouts that damage the road and which also cause excessive sediment to run into the creek.

Thanks for your efforts, John. Hopefully the bridge will be finished in time for our first float stocking in March. ♦





The first casts

By Roy Cubbler

Remember, this column is written for the "newbie." The novice fisher who is trying to figure out just how this sport of fly fishing will create the most pleasure and a modicum of success. The last time, I wrote about the necessity of observing the stream before you start to fish. This will allow you to notice whether the fish are present, feeding on the surface or below, and a hint of what fly may be working at that particular time.

There are basically four categories of flies: dry, wet, nymph, and streamer. Streamers were developed to imitate small bait fish which trout go after. They are most successful early in the season when spring rains have caused high, discolored water. Try casting them to the upstream quarter. Allow the streamer to sweep downstream, and then retrieve it in short, erratic jerks. Occasionally move your rod tip on the horizontal, to left or right. Do not give up on a cast until the fly is nearly retrieved to your position.

Wet flies usually imitate insects. They are best fished when you have observed no surface feeding. Again, cast slightly upstream. Allow the fly to drift downstream naturally. When you notice drag on your line, begin to retrieve by gently twitching the rod tip. Remember, beneath the surface are several different levels of water, and you should use various size weight to search all of the levels. Strike indicators are a very important aid until the fisher begins to recognize the "feel" of a fish taking the fly.

Nymphs are the most effective lure for all seasons. Nymph imitations are always fished near the bottom of the stream. Use sufficient weight to get your fly near the bottom, and a good indication of that is, you should get snagged on bottom debris from time to time. If you don't, add a bit of weight. Unless you really know your stuff, I seriously recommend a strike indicator. When that indicator makes any unusual move, or stops drifting, raise the rod tip to set the hook.

Finally, the dry fly is best used when you have observed trout feeding on the surface. You have already tried to ascertain what the trout are feeding on, and you have searched your fly box for as close a match as possible in size and color. Drop the fly several feet upstream from the place where the fish are feeding. Fish close to you

first, and after a few unsuccessful casts, drop your fly a bit further out. Allow the drifting fly to pass over the place where the fish are feeding. Mend your line when drag develops. Trout will take the fly by sucking it off the surface or whacking it in a swirl of motion. Be ready, set the hook, and you are in for a wonderful experience. ♦

Gone Fishin'

Camper thanks DJL members

Dear Members of Dame Juliana,

Hi, my name is Jordan Anderson, and I just finished my second year at the Chester County Conservation Camp. I had a wonderful time and I was honored to get the chance to go. I had a lot of fun doing all the great activities designed for us. It is a very educational program that has taught me many things about the outdoors and about life. I want to thank all of you for giving me this experience. All efforts are greatly appreciated, and I hope to return to the camp again next year. Thank you.

Jordan Anderson



Welcome!

DJL welcomes the following new members:

Jack Chmielowiec
David Creagan
Rick Harris
Chuck Hodgson
Jeff Kasdras
Ron Kasdras
Glen Murphy
Briton L. Parker
Guy Briton L.
Mel Spencer
Jack Spencer

Christine Sharbaugh

Barry Staats

The Sporting Gentleman

ORVIS.

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