



STREAMSIDE

Volume 16 Issue 2

the Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers' Quarterly Newsletter

April 2010

Fishing outings on Yellow Breeches and Brandywine planned

DJL's own Emerson Cannon is a regular Globe Trekker kind of guy. He is elbow deep in arranging two more fishing trips which will surely be of interest to DJL members. Pennsylvania's famed Yellow Breeches Creek is the destination of the first trip, scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2010. The second trip aims for an evening of fly fishing on the Brandywine Creek and is set for Monday, May 24, 2010.

View from Kennedy Bridge

By Troy Dunn, DJL President



"The Grannoms are hatching on Penn's Creek and the fish are looking up." This is a phrase I look forward to hearing each April. Today... I got the news...it's on! If you can't make the trip to Penn's, don't fret, the fishing on French Creek this spring has been phenomenal. The

cooperative fish combined with near perfect water levels has led to some fantastic early spring fishing. Several club members have told me that ten fish in an afternoon outing is easily achievable.

As you might have guessed from the information in the previous paragraph; this year's stocking of the C&R FFO reach on French Creek, although delayed once due to heavy snowfalls was a complete success. Thanks to Dick Allebach and all of those who volunteered to help out with DJL's stocking efforts.

Our Learn to Fly Fish Course is scheduled for Saturday the 24th of April. If you are interested in the course, be sure to sign up soon as we often fill out prior to the date. For those in the club who can give us a hand with casting instruction in the afternoon, please send us an e-mail letting us know you are interested in helping out.

We have one last spring meeting to go which will feature a local Delaware River Club guide who will talk about "Fishing Big Water" using the Delaware as an example of this type of water. This presentation will provide useful information that you can use on any large river where the trout may be harder to find.

Yellow Breeches is located in Boiling Spring, PA, which involves total round trip driving time of about 3.5 hours. As usual, Emerson has gone a long way to provide participants the information required to take the worry out of the venture. The sections of the creek which we will fish are known as "The Run," which maintains a constant temperature of 55 degrees, and the Catch and Release section down to the dam at the playhouse. If you wish to bring your own lunch, picnic tables are available, or there is a very nice restaurant convenient to our planned venue.

Participants will meet at Hoss's Restaurant at the intersection of routes 100 and 113, and we will car pool from the parking lot to Boiling Springs. We will fish until 3:30 p.m., and return to Hoss's by 5 p.m. If you would like some ideas about weights and lengths of rods, line types, and/or recommended flies, Emerson may be reached at rexcannon@comcast.net.

The Brandywine trip is set for May 24. This popular site is located in Downingtown. The creek features a large Catch and Release, Artificial Only section. The stream, which runs along the Struble Trail and route 282, is very accessible. Participants will fish near route 282 and Dowlin Forge Road. Those wishing to be involved should meet in the parking lot on Dowlin Forge Road off route 282. We will fish from 6 p.m. until dark. Again, you may bring your own dinner or join those who will surely want to go out for a bite after we finish fishing.

As before, info on rods, lines, and flies may be obtained by emailing Emerson. Emerson will bring some extra rods. Waivers will be required for both trips. Those waivers will be provided by Emerson at our meeting places.

You will enjoy either or both of these ventures. Emerson makes the experience easy and fun. Catching trout is up to you. ♦

Continued, page 3



Tying one on

Where members share their favorite flies

Burgos recommends sulfur

By John Burgos

It has come to my attention, after so many years of neglect that, above all others, there is one terrific and dependable hatch in central Pennsylvania that, though you should, you do not need to rush out for. Why? I'll speak to what I most recently have encountered, and that will be on the streams of Centre and Huntington Counties, specifically Spring Creek, Penn's Creek and the Little Juniata. However, this is a widespread hatch which is available even on French Creek. The hatch is commonly known as the Sulfur. The Latin name of this guy, I believe, is Ephemerella dorothea.

Take your pick; each of these streams boasts a terrific sulfur hatch. Last year I first encountered this hatch before Mother's Day fishing on Spring Creek. Fish were actively rising to the dun and emerger patterns.

Throughout the month of May, almost nightly, even into June, the sulfurs emerge and provide great dry fly action. Even when other flies are on the water, trout seem to appreciate this fly. I did not taste them myself, but I'm guessing flavor may be the answer. The duration of this hatch makes it the longest lasting event of the fishing season, though, there are always exceptions.

What's great about fishing the sulfur hatch is that it tends to occur in very moderate conditions (mid-May) with stream levels at perfect wading levels, though, there are always exceptions (I say that a lot).

What patterns should you use? Well that depends. My fishing partners in State College swear by the cut-wing patterns. These are lovely flies that really produce. But if tied wrong, or used with too light a tippet they can lead to twisted leaders. Traditional Catskill patterns work as well as emergers and spinners.

My personal favorite, though, is the sulfur comparadun and its modern day sister the sparkledun. The main reason for my preference is threefold: ease of tying, durability, and most of all, trout love them.

The comparadun patterns were created by Caucci and Nastasi and written about in their "Comparahatch" book. These patterns can be used with different colors to

represent basically any of the mayfly family.

This is the recipe for both the comparadun and sparkledun, as I tie it. There are many variations. The recipe is listed in the order of the steps I use to tie.

Hook: Mustad 94840: Size 14-18

Thread: 6/0 or 8/0, lemon color

Tail:

Comparadun: Light dun hackle fibers

The classic pattern calls for hackle fibers tied splayed. This is usually difficult for all but the best tyers. So I've generally just tied tails same as catskill dry flies.

Sparkle Dun: Brown or dun antron or zelon

Tie is a sparse length of material slightly longer than the body.

Wing: Fine elk hair, tied points forward and spread across.

Body: Lemon (pastel) yellow natural rabbit fur.

Many pictures and tutorials are available online. Here is a link to one of my favorites:

www.troutflies.com/tutorials/sparkledun/index.shtml

Either pattern, used for the sulfurs is very effective. But don't stop there. This pattern works great for all the upcoming hatches. Just modify the material colors and tie one on. ♦



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View from Kennedy Bridge

By Troy Dunn, DJL President

(Continued from page 1)

We have added two fishing trips for the spring. Emerson Cannon will be leading a trip to the Yellow Breeches on Saturday May 8th, and we will also have an evening outing on Monday May 24th to fish Brandywine Creek. Contact Emerson at rexcannon@comcast.net to get more information or to sign-up.

We will be collecting parking donations this year again at the Kimberton Fair Mon 26th -Wed 28th July. We need a minimum of four club members each night to work from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Our support for these three nights allows us to continue to use the Kimberton Fire Company facilities for our meetings. We need volunteers for this activity. If you could please send me an e-mail at djlff@comcast.net letting me know your availability to support I would greatly appreciate it. ♦

Tight lines-
Troy

Spring brings Learn to Fly Fish Course

The annual Learn to Fly Fish Course will take place on Saturday, April 24 at the Phoenixville YMCA. We are always optimistic, but we pray for good weather since the event will go on, rain or shine. If my figures are correct, this will be the 19th edition of this popular program, and better than 500 individuals have taken advantage of the opportunity. Veteran fishers will demonstrate, mentor, and explain every aspect of fly fishing, and will remove the enigma which many associate with the sport. The day begins with registration and donuts and coffee. Once the program begins, everything necessary will be supplied, except for your hat, your sunglasses, and your lawn chair, all of which are recommended. Instruction will include all phases of fly fishing, ranging from equipment, knots, insect identification, casting, and more. A portion of the instruction will be on the stream. Lunch is provided in the cost of the day which is \$40 for registrants; \$50 at the door. Interested individuals may register by visiting the DJL website at <http://www.djflvfishers.org/> or by calling Bob Molzahn at 610-524-1911. ♦

Brook trout have a friend in Pennsylvania

The March 2010 general meeting of DJL featured Mr. Ken Undercoffer, an expert on the topic of Pennsylvania brook trout, and the 2009 National Trout Unlimited Distinguished Service Award winner. Undercoffer spoke of his work as an advocate for native brook trout. He has devoted much of his life to studying native brook trout in their natural habitats, and speaking out about his concerns for their loss of habitat.

His presentation to the forty members who were present dealt mainly with what brookies need to survive, and the effect that outside influences have on their continued presence in Pennsylvania streams. Brookies, according to Undercoffer, need clean, cold water with a suitable pH level. They need proper habitat which calls for pools and riffles, and the proper distribution of stream side trees. They also require places to reproduce which includes proper oxygenation and the presence of gravel.

Negative influences on the survival of brook trout include indiscriminate logging, coal mine runoff, poor land use, urbanization, and the intrusion of exotic species into streams which hold brookies. Undercoffer's research has shown that approximately 90% of Pennsylvania brook trout may be found in only one percent of our streams.

There are currently a number of projects which, if continued, will help to ensure that we will have brook trout in our streams in the future. Education and outreach methods are vital to the success of any efforts to improve conditions for these beautiful native trout. ♦

Next DJL meeting is April 26. 7:30 p.m.

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
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610-269-5626 Downingtownbike.com

Tri-town project shows progress

The Tri-Town Trust has secured \$30,000 in funding to develop a master plan for the concept which will, if followed through to fruition, result in a park which would include an ADA accessible trail, a dock, parking area, picnic facilities, and areas suitable for angling.

The first phase of developing that plan involves surveying, and as of March 29, nearly all of the boundary and topographical surveys were completed. The continuation of more specific surveying has been delayed by the heavy winter snows and an excess of wet weather. Once the survey phase is completed, the information gained will be used to create an accurate plan for the property. There is also the glitch of a requirement for a bog turtle survey to gather information on that species, ascertain its presence, and determine what (if any) effect the program may have on this endangered non-game species.

Actual site design will follow, which hopefully will include a fishing pier, storm water plans, layout, grading, etc. Also needed is coordination with East Vincent and PADEP. ♦

DJL volunteers stock French

Judging from the amount of snow on the ground, the spring stocking of the FFO/C &R section of the French Creek could have been mistaken for a winter stocking. The date, however indicated that were closer to April showers than one might imagine.

Under the watchful eyes of Bob Bonney, State Fish and Boat Officer, and Dick Allebach, DJL stocking coordinator, a good turnout of volunteers took on the task of restocking our home stream with trout. The impression of DJL vice president, Emerson Cannon, was that the fish were mostly rainbows with a number of nice browns included. He reports that the fish which went into the French seemed considerably larger than those which went into the Brandywine. Emerson was very impressed with the stream from the Cooks Glen Bridge down to the start of the "fly fishing only" section. He indicates that that area has good cover, nice depth, and is very scenic.

Cannon reports that the workers put in eleven buckets from the top of the stretch to the breast of the dam just above Sheeder, and six buckets were floated up from the bridge (where Sheeder used to be) upstream to the dam. In addition six more buckets were floated downstream from the bridge to the bend. Another couple of buckets were inserted at the bend.

Dick Allebach did his usual fine job of ensuring sufficient numbers of volunteers were on hand and that the float boxes were available and in good repair. Conditions were excellent, the water cool and of suitable depth for the work to be accomplished. The only real problem was finding parking spots for those who were involved. This problem will not solve itself, and according to Cannon, has the potential to become a major issue.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to assist in this event. ♦

Marcellus gas extraction: an environmental challenge

By Owen D. Owens

Marcellus Shale potentially holds enough gas to fully supply the nation for 10 or more years, but leasing of state forest lands for drilling to increase revenues for the state budget is fragmenting our forests, reducing recreational opportunities, and destroying wildlife habitat. Providing permits for gas drilling, moreover, without having adequate inspection procedures, technologies, and regulations in place results in risks to drinking water sources and aquatic life. Gas drilling may have many negative consequences for hunting, fishing, and recreation (Pennsylvania's number two source of income).

Those of us who live in Chester County care about gas drilling because we hunt, fish and enjoy the recreational opportunities afforded by our state lands. We also care about the quality of waters and land throughout the state and are concerned with the risks to drinking water, wildlife and aquatic life. These issues have no county boundaries and our children and grandchildren are depending on us to protect these gifts of nature for all generations. New drilling

Continued, page 5



The first casts

By Roy Cubbler

This column is dedicated to those fly fishers who are relatively new to the sport, and are seeking information and ideas on how to become more proficient. There is no doubt in my mind that the best way to learn how to fish by any method is to ask those who know. I recall some years ago when I first learned about Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers on the Internet. I had been fishing for a number of years, but my success on catching trout was underwhelming at best. I sent an email to (then) League President, Bob Molzhan. He suggested that I attend a meeting of the League, which I did. My next step was to attend the annual Learn to Fly Fish course sponsored by the club. I recall specifically the on-stream demonstrations by Molzhan, Bob Moser, and Joe King. King demonstrated some ways to fish streamers, and the next day I gave one of his methods a try, and I caught my first trout on a fly. That was it! I was "hooked."

Since that day, I have attended lots of DJL meetings, and I have asked lots of questions. Never has any member given me the impression that he did not have time to discuss a point with me. I have been on a few fishing trips with "veteran" members, and always one has taken the time to point out something I was doing wrong, or something which would improve my presentation. Books, magazines, and video tapes are fine, but there is nothing like that personal contact with an expert to get you over a issue. One of my best learning experiences was fishing with a guide on the Yellow Breeches. It was an incredible experience, and even better, it was a birthday gift from my son.

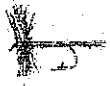
Never pass up a visit to a fly shop without asking the salesman for his opinion on what flies are working in area streams at a specific time. Ask questions about types of lines, rods, reels. I am still at a loss over which is the best type of wader, boot or stocking foot, and I always ask for an opinion from those with whom I fish.

Ask the experts. They are usually very forthcoming, and unless you run across the village grump, they are very willing to give you some pointers. Just don't expect them to reveal the location of their favorite spot. They probably "ain't" tellin'.

Gone Fishin'

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Marcellus gas extraction: an environmental challenge

By Owen D. Owens
(Continued from page 4)

and the expanded availability of gas as an energy source to the Northeast also brings with it the potential expansion of gas pipelines into this county.

Citizens must understand the issues, speak up to their legislators, and seek just and sustainable solutions. Write to your state legislator and express your concerns. ♦

Editor's note:

Marcellus shale is a type of Devonian black shale. It is named after the town of Marcellus, New York. The area known as The Marcellus Shale Play is located in New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio, and is believed to hold a huge amount of natural gas. New drilling and extraction methods seem to have made these areas very attractive to companies seeking the rights to locate, drill, and extract that gas.

I get all the truth I need in the newspaper every morning, and every chance I get I go fishing to swap stories with fisherman, to get the taste of it out of my mouth.

Ed Zern (1977)