



# STREAMSIDE

Volume 16 Issue 1

the Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers' Quarterly Newsletter

January 2010

## DJL seeks float stocking volunteers for February and April

The question arises as to why Dame Juliana members are so involved with the Pennsylvania State Fish and Boat Commission's trout stocking process. The answer is simple; we appreciate the opportunity to assist, and we like to have the process done in a way that places minimum stress on the fish being placed into the stream.

### View from Kennedy Bridge

By Troy Dunn, DJL President



You might think that winter would be a quiet time for the club. Au contraire! If I had to pick one time of year where I could shirk my responsibilities as president and head to warmer climates, it would be December and January. In addition to sending out dues notices, meet-

ing reminders, and new membership cards for 2010, the board of directors is very busy planning the activities we have lined up for the spring. Read on to find out about the various things we will be doing, and how you can get involved.

This year's stocking of the C&R FFO reach on French Creek, will occur even earlier than last. At the moment it is scheduled to be stocked on Wednesday, February 17 and again on Tuesday, April 6. Dick Allebach has volunteered once again to coordinate DJL's stocking efforts. If you are interested in helping out, please send an e-mail to Dick and let him know you are available. His e-mail address is [rsallebach@verizon.net](mailto:rsallebach@verizon.net)

Emerson Cannon had offered to organize another fishing trip to the Yellow Breeches in December, but a deluge of rain on the heels of an early season snowstorm filled most local creeks to their banks and so we had to cancel the trip. Emerson is mulling options for something later this winter if the weather cooperates. Stay tuned!

I'm very excited about our line up of guest speakers for this spring. We've got several interesting speakers lined up. Capt. Bob Beighley will be giving a seminar on saltwater fly fishing in January. Tom Brtalik, a local PA

*Continued, page 2*

Traditionally, buckets of stocked trout are placed into the stream at one or two spots along the stream. Statistics show that 75% of larger trout stocked by this method are caught within two weeks of the time that they are placed in the stream. Stocked fish often stay very close to where they are originally placed. A small percentage of the stocked trout find "holes" which are close to the spot where they were introduced to the water. Fishers tend to concentrate on these areas immediately after the stocked fish are placed in the water.

Dame Juliana participates in a method of stocking called, "float stocking." This means that the fish are placed in wooden floats which have a mesh bottom. The boxes are floated down the stream and fish released at many places along the stream. Because the fish are not all located in one or two spots, float stocking provides for longer and fairer fishing opportunities over the entire length of the stream than does the traditional bucket and truck stocking method. Of course, the state has neither the financial nor the man power requirements to stock via the float box method. As a result of these considerations, our club feels it worth our time and effort to employ the float box method of stocking.

DJL owns three float boxes which we use when assisting the Fish and Boat Commission personnel in stocking the C&RFFO section of the French Creek. The most efficient method calls for at least four individuals manning each box. Dick Allebach has volunteered his time to be the point man for DJL's involvement. Currently, the date for the first "spring" stocking is Wednesday, February 17, 2010. Another is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6. These dates are seldom firm, but as of now; it is the date we have been provided. Volunteers should contact Dick at:

[rsalleach@verizon.net](mailto:rsalleach@verizon.net).

To remove liability problems, all volunteers will be asked to sign a waiver provided by the club. Give Dick a shout if you are available on one or both of the stocking dates. ♦

By Troy Dunn, DJL President

(Continued from page 1)

guide, will be giving an interesting presentation on "Prospecting for Trout: A Guide's Perspective." We also have PATU brook trout expert, Ken Undercoffer, coming to give a presentation on Pennsylvania Brook Trout in March.

We recently finalized the date for our annual "Learn to Fly Fish" course. The date will be Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. If you are new to the sport, this is an excellent full day course. If you've been fishing for a while, we can always use a hand with the casting instruction. Please drop us a quick e-mail at [djlff@comcast.net](mailto:djlff@comcast.net) if you are interested in helping out or signing up for the course.

Hope your new year is filled with memorable fishing! ♦

Tight lines-  
Troy

## CVTU sponsors Pennsylvania State Fly Tying Championship

Here is an opportunity for DJL members to shine. We know that we have some of the best fly tyers in the area and the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is providing those individuals with a chance to show off their skills.

That chapter is sponsoring a Pennsylvania State Fly Tying Championship at the Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show in the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. The date is February 13, and entrants must submit previously tied flies to be pre-judged in order to qualify for the contest. Trophies will be awarded to winners in the youth and amateur category, and a cash award will go to the winner in the open category. Three categories will be contested: Youth, Amateur, and Open. A twenty dollar, non-refundable entrance fee is required. Application forms and rules may be obtained at the Cumberland Valley Chapter website,

<http://cvtu.homestead.com>

or at the sports show website,

<http://www.easternsportsshow.com>.

Check it out. DJL would love to bask in the reflected light of your winning effort in one of these categories. ♦

To the Dame Juliana Club:

*Once again I was lucky to attend this year's Chester County Conservation Camp, thanks to a generous scholarship donated by the Dame Juliana Club.*

*It was so nice to see friends I made from camp last year, as well as make new ones who hadn't come the year before. Once more there was a mix of activities, many new but (thankfully) still many from last year. We hiked, canoed, cleaned up around a park, played tons of games, made music, danced, showered in under two minutes (a lot easier than you would think), oriented, made shelters in the woods, and much, much more. Quite simply, there was never a dull moment and when it all came to an end it was, to put it dramatically, devastating. It's sad to know that next year is the very last I can attend this camp, unless I'm lucky and get accepted as an LIT (leader in training) in years to come.*

*Needless to say this was again the greatest week of my summer, and I probably did more in a single day than I did a full week any other time. I am forever grateful for being able to have these experiences, and I will never forget my days at this camp. Thanks is hardly enough to repay you for the fantastic times I've had at CCCC 2009. ♦*

Sincerely,  
Natalie Burgos

Christine Sharbaugh Barry Staats

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### Learn to Fly Fish Course

April 24, 2010 (rain or shine)

8:00 a.m.

Phoenixville YMCA

*An intensive but relaxed and informal program for the entire family.*



# Tying one on

## Offer for members to share favorite flies

DJL charter member, Dick Allebach, has come up with a very fine idea designed to help fly fishers make wise decisions concerning their choices for flies to fill their fly boxes while fishing in south eastern Pennsylvania. Here it is for your consideration:

*Almost every fly fisher has his or her favorite flies for trout fishing. They may be favorites for numerous reasons other than catching success. Some other reasons may include versatility, ease in fishing, and ease in tying. I am going to share my favorites with you, and request that you send Streamside editor, Roy Cubbler, your favorites (via email at [cubblers@aol.com](mailto:cubblers@aol.com)) to share with other readers of our newsletter. This is a fine opportunity for you to share information with other members of DJL and to see your name in print without having to write an article.*

*The categories will include dry flies, wet flies, streamers, and nymphs. You can be specific or just categorize what you report. Of course, if you want to write an article to explain your choices or to provide recipes or tying hints, that would be most acceptable.*

*My favorites by category include:*

*Dry Fly – Elk Hair Caddis, Wet Fly – soft hackles, Streamer – Woolly Buggers, Nymphs – Hare's Ear*

*Dick Allenbach*

Note: As editor, I will include in future issues, a column entitled, "Tying One On." This column will contain any submissions of favorite flies sent to me for inclusion in *Streamside*.

Emerson Cannon, DJL vice president, has answered the call for members to submit information on their favorite flies. These are his choices for use in southeastern Pennsylvania. He has even included the best months for their use:

December, January, February

Midges, really small, #26 black. If fish seem to be eating almost on the surface (you see their bodies and tail) it's a good chance they are eating just below the surface. There is nothing better than to have a dry fly with a trailer being Al's Rat. Al's Rat can be any size from #18 on down. Click on the following for the recipe.

<http://www.littlelehighflyshop.com/FlyPatterns.aspx>

Other flies that can work are a White Sculpin or other minnow/streamer patterns.

### March, April, May

As soon as fish are stocked, we can use the "match the hatch" philosophy, i.e., match what they have been eating!

#1 fly by far is a black wooly bugger. I tie them on a #4 hook using only black marabou with lots of weight! If I find fish in a hole, time for green weenies size #14 or sucker spawn in a pale yellow, also on a #14...both with bead heads.

Certain streams can have BWO's. If the stream does, these can provide a fantastic time. I will use a #18 dry olive BWO and follow it with an emerger of the same size. Fish will eat the emerger 9 out of ten times.

Once the fish get a bit acclimated, it's time for real bugs. It is still early so on the surface I will use a gray body with a thick gray piece of CDC. This can imitate a

*Continued, page 4*



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## Tying one on

*Continued from page 3*

caddis, a slate drake, crane fly..lots of things. Might also be good to tie on a trailer using a black zebra nymph in a size 20. Again, if fish are picky on the surface, Al's rat usually takes them.

Later on the caddis will start and I will use a caddis emerger pattern. I tie these in 14, 16, 18 and even 20. They will have a trailing antron shuck with a body of the colors of caddis...green, tan, gray and a puff of CDC. These will float on the surface and maybe trailed by a brown or black zebra. Depending upon the stream, lots of flies will work now but the gray body with CDC can be a super prospecting fly!

### June, July, August

We can start here with ants, crickets just to prospect and when the tricos come out...game on. I will tie these putting the hackle near the bend and tie all black #26 with black and whites #24. This pattern was gotten from the Little Lehigh website I referred to earlier. After the tricos...usually the #18 tan caddis take over.

August starts full tilt terrestrials. These will be #16 black ants, #18 cinnamon ants, #14 or #18 foam beetles and #14 inch worms. I just keep switching to see what works. As the season progresses, the ants tend to get smaller but then you can use larger hoppers as well.

### September, October and November

September will still see tricos. They will come off later in the day but still there and not as many people. The entire month is good for terrestrials. As things cool down, try caddis and BWO's...both small..like #18 or even 20's. Wooly buggers will be used to prospect as well as olive and white marabou streamers. ♦

### **Learn tricks for using multiple flies**

A second fly tied to your line is usually called a "dropper." It should be tied on to at least a 12 inch piece of tippet material that is lighter than the leader material. It can be added to the hook bend of the main fly or by using the tag end of your knot material where you tied on your tippet to the leader.

### **2010 DJL Meetings**

January 25 – Monday – 7:30 p.m.

"Salt Water Fishing Techniques" presented by Bob Beighley of Double Haul Charters

February 22 – Monday – 7:30 p.m.

"Prospecting for Trout, a Guide's Perspective" presented by Tom Btralik

March 29 – Monday – 7:30 p.m.

"Brook Trout in PA" featuring Ken Undercoffer of PATU

### **2010 trout regulations listed on website**

A quick look at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission webpage provides a myriad of interesting information for trout fishers, including the fact that the regular opening day for trout in 2010 is Saturday, April 17. The regular opening day is always the first Saturday after April 11. Regional opening day is April 3, and this date applies to all streams in south eastern Pennsylvania including Montgomery, Berks, and Chester County (among others). Starting time is, of course, 8 a.m. Minimum size is 7 inches. Daily creel limit during the regular season is five of any combination of trout. Trout anglers sixteen years of age and older must possess a trout/salmon stamp (\$9.70 added to cost of license). Additional information on Pennsylvania fishing regs may be obtained at:

<http://www.fish.state.pa.us/mpag1.htm> ♦

### **Organize your fly tying work space**

It is very important that you work to organize your work space when you begin to tie. An important item is a comfortable, height-adjustable chair with rollers and allows you to swivel. This will help prevent back strain.

Place a 12 inch by 24 inch piece of green felt on the fly tying surface to prevent eye strain and protect your workspace from spills. It will also allow you to see your material better.

Use a bright goose neck lamp to help reduce eye strain.

Keep tools clean and readily available. Also keep a box of moist towelettes close by to clean cement and dye from your fingers. ♦



## The first casts

By Roy Cubbler

This issue of *Streamside* seems to be concentrating quite a bit on flies, so I thought it would be a good time to include some specific information for newer fishers on those little bits of fluff, feathers and fur that hold such an important place in our sport.

Fishing is one of those sports for which the enjoyment can be expanded considerably by branching out into another phase of that pastime. I refer here to the art of tying your own flies. Of course, flies can be purchased at any fishing store for only a modest outlay of cash, but there is no thrill that matches that of catching a trout on a fly that you have tied yourself. It makes the glow of success even more intense than simply catching a nice fish on a "store bought" fly.

Your membership in DJL provides you with an excellent way to investigate the art of fly tying. Several times a year, members who are expert at tying will come together at a meeting. They sit down with their equipment and material and tie beautiful examples. Other members, ranging from novices to people who are expert in their own right, simply sit and observe. Not only do they learn, perhaps, a new technique, but they learn to tie flies which they have not tried before.

In addition, there are a zillion books and videos out there which will assist the novice tyer in getting started and in turning out some pretty serviceable examples. My first effort came from a video showing how to tie a Woolly Bugger. That fly is particularly easy to tie, and it is one that can provide success in its use, even if the fly is not quite up to the standards of one tied by an experienced tyer.

In his very fine book, The Flytier's Manual, Mike Dawes points to another benefit of tying your own flies: "The more flies you tie, the more you learn about the natural fly, and the better you are able to pick an artificial fly to match the flies that are active on the stream you are fishing."


Want to expand your enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing? Come to a meeting where our fly tyers set up shop for an evening. You will soon get the hang of some of the methods. You do not have to have the hands of a

surgeon to tie exquisite lures. All you need do is remember the old adage: Practice makes perfect. ♦

Gone Fishin'

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## Take a kid fishing

Recent statistics compiled by a national group show that fewer Pennsylvania youngsters are fishing today than five years ago. In 1995, 41% of young Pennsylvanians (6 - 15 years of age) went fishing. In 2000, that number had dropped to 35%. State officials have long sought ways to get more kids involved in our sport, and perhaps they have offered one without realizing it. On Saturday, May 22, 2010 and Sunday, June 6, anyone (resident or non-resident) may "Fish for Free," with no license required.

Wouldn't be wonderful if every member of DJL dedicated himself to taking one or two kids fishing on one of those days? What a fabulous opportunity to introduce the beauty and serenity of Pennsylvania's out-of-doors to someone who has never cast a line in an attempt to catch a fish. Perhaps this is the year to give it a try. ♦

**All good fishermen stay young until they die,  
for fishing is the only dream of youth that doth  
not grow stale with age.**

*J. W. Muller (1909)*