


STREAMSIDE

Volume 16 Issue 3

The Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers' Periodical Newsletter

November 2010



Since you are reading this, I will assume that you survived this summer. There is a lot to Inform you about. Firstly; the newsletter is now being published by an illiterate, I may not be able to spell, but I can get the message across.

The reason is quite simple, it's a bit too much for one person to manage, and, the publisher resigned. The reason for that is also simple; he did not get any help from the membership. Articles, pics, and anything of interest was requested but not forthcoming.

Sooo,,what you are saying is that no-one went anyplace; no-one has a favorite pattern! No-one has a fish story! Well; lie a little, what's the difference, I don't believe what you are saying now.

While the rest of you were doing nothing, some of the members were doing stream improvement at the new bridge in the fly stretch. Speaking of stream improvement, has everyone been out to the fly stretch to see the new bridge and the deflectors put in by club members? Kudos to those members that helped with this, a very nice job.

Bridge view, from on top.



If we do more of this we can restore the fly stretch
To what it was 20 years ago when it held its fish
Nearly all year.



Stream side view



Downstream view



Christine Sharbaugh

Barry Staats

The Sporting Gentleman ORVIS.

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HOT TOPIC!

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has announced that the initial stocking of the French Creek FFO-CR section will take place the afternoon of Wednesday, February 16, 2011. In order to plan the float stocking the Club normally does in this section, it is important to have approximately 6-10 volunteers willing to help. Please contact Emerson Cannon, 610-291-3893, rexcannon@comcast.net or Dick Allebach, 610-933-1846, rsallebach@verizon.net if you can help or for more information. Please keep in mind that if there is snow, etc. the stocking could be postponed until later. Last year it was postponed until the following Wednesday.

Item of Interest

You may be interested in knowing the Manatawny has fished fairly well right through the summer. There are still some trout to be caught in the upper reaches.

Directions

The roads that run to and fro along the Manatawny are an absolute mess, the best way to get directions is to phone the Tiki Bar, ask them for the directions. The stream is cold from there upstream.

A good stretch can also be reached by going out 662 to Old Airport Rd. Turn right till you get to the stream.

You can pick your way upstream from there

The water is very low but fairly cold, around 65 deg.

New Comments Column

Have any of you been following the Crabby Creek articles in the T.U. publication? There has been a major restoration project going for some time now. The Crabby creek has native trout in it now. The rumor is that the fish comm. has OK'd bolstering that population with Brook Trout. Further, the rumor has it the Brook Trout were taken from 6 Penny Creek in Hopewell, French Creek State Park, 50 in all. Now another rumor has it that more larger Brook Trout will be stocked; gotten from another source; because the small ones didn't make it.

????????????????????????????????

Dame Juliana's Streamside goes GREEN

In the near future the news letter will be available through the internet. Some logistical problems have to be dealt with, like delivery to those who don't have internet connections, but, in the long run it will save us a lot of money that can be used for guest speakers or other benefits.

One of the big complications is a roster of names and associated e-mail addresses. Another question is what format would work best. One suggestion was to see about having it put into the web site. This would give access to it most conveniently in respect to the time element. You could view it at your leisure when you have time. Another way would be to send it as an e-mail attachment; this would have problems with spam filters. You would have to exempt me on your filter making you subject to my sale flyers.

This also brings privacy arguments up and really there is no argument here. If you don't want it simply block it with your spam filter.

If you have any suggestions, please do let us hear from you. E-mail or call one of the board members or me at jackm@ptdprolog.net or jackmrods@gmail.com

NEWS ALERT!!

While typing this ; the water came up !



Fishing the Pere Marquette

By John Burgos

Years ago, and I'm talking lots of them, the state of Michigan was showcased much more in our fly fishing books and magazines. Interestingly, you don't hear so much about Michigan these days. I'm not sure why. It's not that the fishing is any less than it used to be. Think of these names: The Manistee, The Ausable, Swisher & Richards, Paul Young, Robert Traver. The history and ties to fly fishing has very long roots.

This October I had the fortunate opportunity to fish on one of the fabled rivers. I visited the Pere Marquette in Baldwin, Michigan. The PM, as it is known to locals, is where Ernest Schweibert learned to fly fish. The PM is a moderate river. The water flows clear, but with a tannic brown much like our Pocono streams. The river is windy with fantastic "big fish" habitat at each bend. The gravel river bed and moderate currents make it comfortable for wading. All these attributes also attract a lot of canoe and kayak traffic. At one point, on the very pleasant Saturday afternoon that I was there, I had to stop fishing for about ten minutes as the canoes passed by.

In October, however, the king salmon take center stage on the PM. Still being fairly new to salmon, these fish provide a real awakening to those of us used to chasing stocked rainbows and browns. For those who've never tangled with a king salmon, they are something to behold. Forget a really nice average size of 15 inches, a small one here is two feet long with freight train strength.

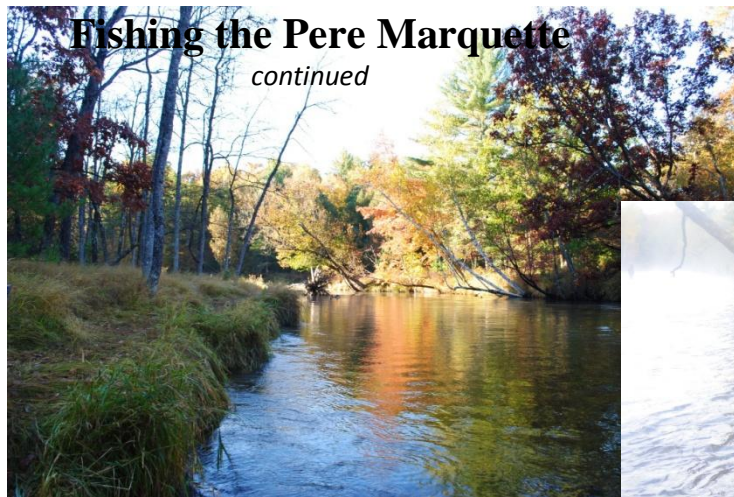
Oh. Did I mention that it is not that crowded? I have never been to Erie or Pulaski but have seen plenty of pictures. You are not likely to be alone on the PM, but you will always find plenty of room.

I had an interesting experience on this trip that demonstrates just how powerful these fish are. One morning I was fishing a beautiful gravel bed. Salmon were constantly moving onto this bed. I targeted one fish that looked "fresher" and larger than the others. I cast my line towards the fish. The fish took my fly and I set the hook. Well this fish took exception to my aggression and decided to let me know it. This fish shot downstream so fast my reel just spun. After showing me it was a capable jumper, the fish renewed his commitment to get back to Lake Michigan. I looked at my reel and saw that I was now well into my backing. It was time to run. I started moving downstream while applying pressure to the fish the whole time. All of a sudden I heard a noise and everything just stopped. I looked to my rod, sure it was broken. From the end of my fly rod all I saw was a dangling piece of backing. Now, I'm slow at processing this stuff. In the meantime, there goes my fly line downstream with this beast of a fish. In desperation, through deep water, I tried to run towards my quickly disappearing line, finally having to give up when the water almost went over the tops of my waders.

At this point I had no other choice but to attempt to find that line. How far could that fish go? And how hard could it be to find a 90 foot piece of floating fly line? Typically, once the pressure is off the salmon, they will go back to holding in the deeper water. Well I ran down that stream for quite a distance; saw lovely water and lots of big salmon, but no fly line. Despondent and resolved to visiting my favorite local fly shop, I decided to look one more time just below where I hooked the fish. As I waded back across the stream, there it was, stuck on the bottom of the stream, my fly line. I grabbed my line and found the knot end. My knot, my first ever Albright knot, failed. Here I am on the stream with a fly line and backing. I've only tied a handful of nail knots in my days. Never without a nail. Never on the stream. Well, I managed to get the line reattached. I'd love to say that after I reattached my line I was able to yell "Fish on". Not to be.

A lesson learned here: no experiments with your equipment with these tackle busters. Have a reel with a good drag and check your knots. Otherwise they will make you pay. They probably will anyway.

Continued on page 4



with

But the PM has much more too. The PM is loaded resident brown trout and sporadic rainbows and steelhead smolt. One day, I specifically targeted the trout. The trout settle in just behind the salmon. What they are after is varied. It is clear they look for eggs.

But they also gobble up all the loose nymphs as the big hen salmon fan the gravel. Traditional nymphing techniques with eggs and sucker spawn are very effective along with standard nymph patterns.

In early October, even an occasional adult steelhead shows up. They are not really due to show up for about another month, and stay all winter. It was on this trip that I caught my very first steelhead. While nymphing for trout, my line hesitated, and I was very happy to meet a 22 inch acrobatic chromed beauty making quite a commotion before finally coming to hand.

There are so many facets to the fishing opportunities of the Pere Marquette. Great hatches occur all spring. There's the summer Hex hatch. How about fishing mouse patterns in the dark of night? I want to try them all! For a sampling of the scenery and prospective quarry, here are a few pictures from the trip:

<http://s580.photobucket.com/albums/ss241/troutbitten/PM%202010/>

For more information: stream maps, fishing reports and various other stuff, I started with these links:

<http://www.fishbaldwin.com/LocalInfo/PMMaps/PMMaps.cfm>

http://www.trailstotrout.com/pm_info.html

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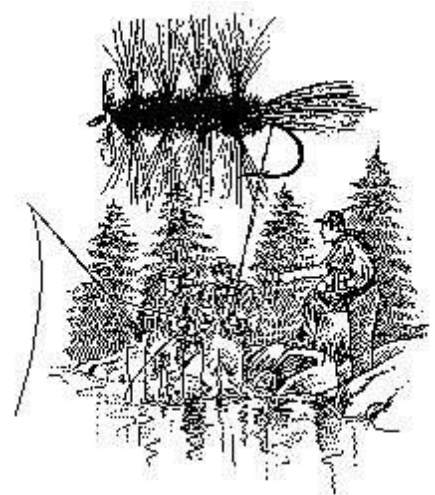


Illustration from Another Living Day in Paradise.

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jackmrods@gmail.com or 610-323-3017

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 Fairgrounds Fire Co. Meeting Hall, Rt. 113, just south of Phoenixville, Pa.



STREAMSIDE

April 2010 Newsletter
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