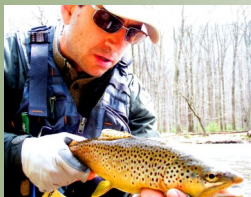

STREAMSIDE

Volume 18 Issue 3

Periodical Newsletter of the Dame Juliana League

Fall 2012

View from Kennedy Bridge *by Troy Dunn, President*



The long hot summer appears to be coming to a wet and drizzly end. While many folks had their Labor Day weekend plans al-

tered by the recent rains, the cooler nights and higher water levels mean that fall fishing should be swinging into high gear soon. I am looking forward to getting out and fishing this fall after a couple months away from the sport.

With several of the usual suspects unavailable this year to head up the Kimberton Fair parking donation collection effort I was back at the helm organizing another three nights of volunteers. The annual Fair occurs at the end of July and DJL spends three nights Monday–Wednesday, collecting parking donations for the Fire Co. which allows us to use their facilities for another year. Thank you to all who were able to show up for this our most important “fund raiser” of the year. Although we

receive no cash from the Kimberton Fire Company, the free use of their room is indeed a huge benefit to the club.

We have several interesting guest speakers lined up through early next year. The Downingtown Orvis Fishing Manager, Dan Ogren, will be doing a presentation on Fly Fishing for Pike (Pike on the Fly!) If Emerson’s teaser article doesn’t have you chompin’ at the bit to go chasing after these toothy critters then perhaps a full-up presentation will do the trick. In October we have Rick Nyles from Sky Blue Outfitters coming to give a presentation on Manatawny Creek. This local trout stream is a favorite haunt for several of our members. Check out our website for updates on guest speakers and other club activities.

Speaking of our website, our members love to see those fishing pictures. If you’ve had a recent fishing adventure please send us a few pictures for the website. See you at an upcoming meeting!

Tight lines-Troy

Chester County Conservation Camp: An Adventure in the Making

We are Sierra Nawalinski, and Abigail Johnson, and in the summer of 2012 we received scholarships to go to Chester County Conservation Camp (CCCC). We had an amazingly wonderful time at this one week sleep over camp in the heart of French creek state park. The two of us hope that others can pull themselves away from our modern world of electronics to experience and embrace the outdoors in the many wonderful ways that we did. We would love to share how amazing and educational the best week of our summer was.

We would like to thank the Dame Juliana League who made it possible for us to attend CCCC for free this year. It was a great experience in which we were able to learn a lot of useful information and skills.

When we first arrived at camp we participated in a plethora of teambuilding activities and get-to-know you games. We knew from the previous year that the week would be filled with lots of fun activities and couldn’t wait to get started. We practiced orienteering, brushing up on our map reading skills and learned how to orient ourselves by using the sun’s position. This is a useful skill because it is important to know how to read a map even though it may not be something you do on a daily basis. On other days we learned boating safety, which is essential knowledge when on the water, and we had the pleasure of learning about Pennsylvania’s small mammals and large predators. As the week went on, more opportunities to learn popped up. We learned gun safety and archery, how to identify animal tracks and some of the identifying features of some Pennsylvania trees. Every day was different and exciting and every night we went to bed

Adventure is continued on Page 5

Fall 2012 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held at the Kimberton Fire Co. Fairgrounds Meeting Hall.
Doors open at 7:15 PM. Meeting begins at 7:30PM.

September 24 (Monday)

Featuring Downingtown Orvis Fishing Manager, Dan Ogren

“Pike on the Fly”

October 29 (Monday)

Featuring Sky Blue Outfitter’s, Rick Nyles

“Fishing the Manatawny Creek”

November 26 (Monday)

Program to Be Announced

December 26 (Wednesday)

Learn to Tie Flies!

In addition to our normal fly tying round-up, we will have instructors, equipment and plenty of tying supplies available for beginners.

“Bring a Friend”

Winter Fishing in the Keys: The Other Species

by Bob Ballantyne

Most of the members of DJL know me as a fan of Yellowstone National Park and its great trout angling waters. Perhaps you have been present in past years for the two PowerPoint® programs I presented at monthly DJL meetings, one on fishing in Yellowstone and the other on fisheries biology and species preservation in the Park.

A new forte has crept into my inventory of things to do, to wit: an annual fishing trip to the lower Florida Keys. These trips in the past four years have taken place in January and February, an excellent escape – at least for a little while – from the cold of Pennsylvania's winters.

You may be immediately thinking bonefish, permit, and tarpon - those great "flats fish" that have gained in popularity with tropical salt water fly-anglers in recent decades. Those species, however, are not present in the winter around the lower Keys, except perhaps some tarpon. But if an angler just wants a winter getaway and has to stay in the eastern United States there is a myriad of *other* species to be taken by fly rod and light tackle at the southwestern end of the Keys.

Key West is my destination, and January through March can provide that escape from the cold north and some excellent angling.



Grouper



Cuda Fly

Species that one can expect to encounter and take with a fly rod or light tackle include Ladyfish, a species known as the "poor man's Tarpon," and which is abundant in winter time in the lower keys, as well as Crevalle Jack (a.k.a. Jack Crevalle) and Pompano, all of which give the flyrodder and light tackle

angler a healthy fight. There are also Sea Trout, mistakenly equated with Weakfish, but a separate species that provides good sport, and, for the larger tackle, the massive Barracuda, a fighter of some magnitude and which requires a different technique for "setting the hook."

While the above species are usually sought in the flats on the Gulf side of the keys, on the ocean-side flats there is the "Gag" Grouper and the black grouper, as tough a fighting fish as anyone can experience with a fly rod or light tackle. Then, among others, there are sharks, snappers, and even bluefish.

Our group uses both guides with Carolina skiffs and wade fishing, and there are quite a few places from Big Pine Key down through Key West where there is public access to the flats. I recommend at least an 8-weight fly rod with a large arbor reel and flats wading boots. You can search online and find a myriad of books and websites on Keys fishing with suggestions for flies, equipment, and places to stay. If you choose to use a guide with a skiff, be sure to have white soled deck shoes or sneakers for wear aboard the craft.



Sea Trout

As for me, I am hoping that following my January, 2013 excursion (along with two sons) I'll have enough additional photo images to finish a new PowerPoint® program on this aspect of fly fishing. Meantime I invite you to visit www.woodlandsandwaterways.com.



ARTICLES WANTED!!

The next edition of **STREAMSIDE** is due out in January 2013. If you would like to write an article, story, share a fly pattern or write a poem please do so and send it by December 15, 2012 in MS Word format to

rjm1949@comcast.net.

All articles received will be published.



"Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or find it not." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Pike on a Fly: Another Angling Adventure

by Emerson Cannon

A friend called me last December and asked me if I would be interested in a trophy pike fly fishing trip to Alaska this summer. Four anglers would go with two guides leading the way. I said sure! We left Philadelphia five hours late due to a thunderstorm on a Thursday night this August. We missed our connection in Seattle but were rebooked on the 6 AM flight. This gave us a nice four-hour nap lying across the seats in the Seattle airport...fun fun fun! We arrived in Anchorage mid-day Friday time. This gave us enough time to try and get used to the new time and get some rest. We boarded a small, 28 passenger plane bound for the town of Aniak, 300 miles west of Anchorage. As the door was closing the one attendant made an announcement that 10 bags were chosen at random to be sent on the next flight. The next flight was one day later. My friend had his medicine in his carry-on but was not allowed to place it in the smaller plane so it was checked right there. A baggage person came inside, as the passengers were rightfully grumbling. He assured us that the bags would be on the next flight or maybe even later that day (huge lie). My friend asked if he could see the bags as he had his heart medicine in the one bag. The person said no and closed the door.

We arrived in Aniak and our group of 4 were missing one bag-the small carry-on of my friend with the heart medicine inside! We asked at the desk if there would be another that day...they looked and said....NO, only ONE flight comes in. So we spent the night at Three River Lodge, taking a boat ferry across the river. It was nice but we were losing a day of fishing. We returned to the airport on Sunday. The plane came in, bag was on, packed our bags on a charter to Holy Cross, a town of 250 natives. We arrived in about 30 minutes after flying over tundra seeing arctic swans and moose....gorgeous. Next leg was a one and a half hour boat ride to the 65 foot houseboat on an arm of a river that meanders into the Yukon.

Check out this quick video of us coming back to our houseboat:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdYLRU_dSvU&feature=g-all-u

Fishing began at last at 2:30 PM Sunday. I left my house at 2:30 PM Thursday...life in the Alaska bush is not always the way you want it. However, sometimes you see Bullwinkle's girlfriend:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfzflVNBrc0&feature=g-all-u>

Northern pike are some of the hardest hitters and make the most awesome bite I have ever seen. We used 9- and 10-weights or Sage Bass rods with Rio Outbound cold water lines.

We had either six-inch orange or red and white flies to start. All worked. Of course we also used five feet of 64-lb mono and two feet of 50-lb titanium with a huge safety snap swivel for a leader. It was one large fish after the other. A trophy pike is one that is 40 inches or more. The four of us in 4.5 days took 62 trophy fish. A "tanker" is a fish 47 inches or more. We had four 47 inchers and one 48 inch fish. A 40-inch fish is 20 years old and each inch gives another year of life. The 48-inch fish was 30 lbs. They do not run like a saltwater fish but do not come in right away either-to say the least. The last few days we switched over to a 14 inch Black Monster Fly. The attacks on this fly were nothing short of

spectacular. We fished from 10 AM until 7 PM. Each day we switched partners and went out on the two 50-hp custom metal boats totally set up for fly fishing. Real nice front and back decks with a trolling motor up front. We ate lunch on the boats and arrived back at the houseboat at 7 PM. Then it was snacks and dinner and then usually bed. The sunlight dissipates around 1 AM.

One night two of us went out from 9:30 PM until 11PM in search of sheefish. We managed around six of them, all caught on a red and white flashtail whistler. These fish are found in only four river drainages in the

world. It was really a big check on our list of fish caught on a fly!

Here is a quick, non-fancy video of a place we went to and a smaller pike that we caught. You can also see the boats from which we fished:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cs8cjYixM0&feature=g-all-u>

The trip was a trip of a lifetime. Sure we had difficulties getting there but all four of us signed up for 2014. The only reason is that 2013 is totally booked. Our return trip back to our homes was long but uneventful. We all were day dreaming or maybe night dreaming of pike attacking our flies.



The Virtue of Mobility

by John Burgos

"I just bought a float boat. When are you coming out?"

That's what my friend Pat said to me one particular afternoon earlier this spring. Pretty neat I thought. But where are we going to float. We're in Pennsylvania. Water had been high all springtime. We were shut out from getting on the water many days and weekends. We had to do something to feed our addiction.

All I've ever float-fished in the past with was a canoe. But this was a cool boat, a two-person pontoon boat, sturdy and stable.

So we made a date. It was a little bit after Memorial Day. We decided to float Penn's Creek. Most of the famous hatches were long gone. But the water was still flowing very well. We chose a popular section from Coburn to Poe Paddy, a stretch of over six miles. At almost 900 cfs most people consider this flow too high to fish.

For any of you who've not been on this section, it truly beautiful water with native brown

trout everywhere they should be. We started at first light, which at this time of year is VERY early. The configuration of the boat allows for one person to fish while the other controls the boat with oars. Pat had some previous experience. For me it would be on-the-job training.

For this day we each brought two rods. One strung for throwing streamers, the other for nymphs or dries. What's nice about this boat is that there was plenty of room to bring ample gear.

Once on the water Pat took the oars and I took my place at the casting platform. I started the day chucking streamers at the banks. The morning was cool and the sunlight was just starting to get through the trees to the water. It didn't take long for that first fish. I think the truck was still in sight at the parking area. Oh yes, the streamer bite was on! The fishing was so good for the first half hour or so that I had to yield to my friend and took over the oars.

Our strategy was to float through much of the stream allowing the fisherman to choose his favorite banks and holes. Since

we are familiar with Penn's we had several stretches in mind where we beached the boat and tried our luck with nymphs. The rest of the day wasn't as productive as the morning, but we did catch fish through the entire length of our float.

The logistics of executing a float trip can be quite complex. For this particular trip we had to allow extra time before the trip to drop off a vehicle at the terminal end. Fortunately, my vehicle

had an ample luggage rack with cross bars. These attributes became very important as we planned to disassemble the boat and lash it to my roof.

This method worked perfectly. However, it is important to note that if you try this you must allow time at both ends to transfer the boat back.

If you plan to float, you also must be aware of the season and anticipate

other anglers on the water. As with our day, we floated on a day with high water after all major hatches. I believe we encountered only

a couple of other fishermen and did our best to not be disruptive. Though streams like Penns Creek or the Little Juniata may seem large when you are the only one on them, during major hatches the abundance of fishermen make them seem much smaller. Floating may be a bad idea. I'm pretty sure confrontations with other anglers will diminish this great experience. Plan wisely.

Since that day, the boat has floated the Little Juniata, the Youghiogheny River, and other

large streams. Some of the fish that we have been able to get to have been quite impressive. This spring we're hoping to get an opportunity to float the upper Delaware.

If you do plan a day, please remember to research your water. Honestly evaluate your ability to handle your boat and prepare accordingly. Get ready to see the stream in a new way. But above all, stay safe, have a great time and tell us about it.



Top: Building the Boat; Left: Built and ready to go; Right: Rigging up on the Yough; Bottom: Boats get you into nice fish that are otherwise inaccessible



Adventure *continued from page 1*
wondering what the next day had in store.

Not for a moment in the entire week were we ever bored; there was always something to do. The whole week whizzed by as if time was set on fast forward. We loved each and every moment, and as the week went by, we found ourselves wishing it would never end.

We hope that we could influence some younger minds to take an interest in the world around them and take the chance we did, to change their view on nature forever. Sleep away camp is a great experience and

a wonderful way to make new friends. We look forward to going back to CCCC next year and hope some new smiling faces. As we always say, life can be an adventure, but only you can make it that way.

Editors Note— For the past dozen or so years the Dame Juliana League has provided financial support to the Chester County Conservation Camp. This year, two young people were afforded the opportunity to attend the camp using our sponsorship. There are only a few camps of this type in Pennsylvania and we are truly

fortunate to have one here in Chester County. Sierra and Abigail's experiences are a testimony to the value of this camp to our young people and our community. The proceeds from our raffles and annual fly fishing course make this sponsorship possible. Many thanks go out to Margaret and Ken Van Gilder, members of the club, for coordinating and running the camp. We are looking forward to sponsoring the camp again next year so if you have some kids that may be interested in attending let us know.



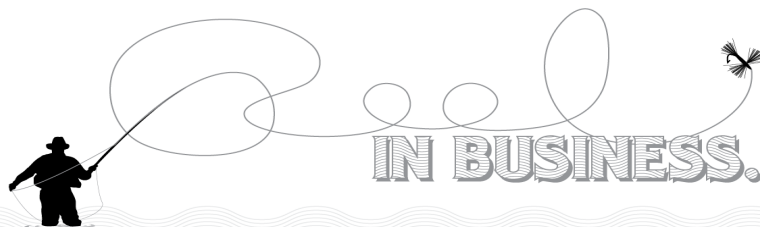
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