

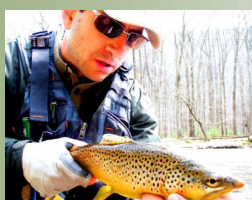
STREAMSIDE

Volume 19 Issue 1

Periodical Newsletter of the Dame Juliana League

Winter 2013

View from Kennedy Bridge *by Troy Dunn, President*



As predicted, the early fall rain resulted in some great fishing days throughout the fall. I managed to get out with a few club members this fall

and really had a great time. If you missed the presentation at the end of the meeting in November, I outlined several great streams that aren't too far away from Kimberton. I headed out to one of those spots in early December with another club member and we each managed quite a few really nice trout.

Can you believe it? In another month the club will be float stocking the Catch and Release Fly Fishing Only section of French Creek. As of press time the details are not yet available, but expect the call to go out very shortly for all able bodies to assist. If you are interested and would like us to contact you as information becomes available, please send me an e-mail at djlff@comcast.net with the topic of "Float Stocking".

Our fall meetings took quite a beating from the weather. We took a conservative approach on Hurricane Sandy, and canceled the October meeting. Although we anguished over this decision at the time, it turned out to be the right move as high winds and heavy rain kept all but the most foolish off the roads that evening. We have rescheduled the October guest speaker for this spring. I'm really looking forward to seeing Rick Nyles' presentation on fishing the Manatawny Creek. The great news is that the fishing will be just about ready to hit high gear right about the time he will present. If you didn't make it to our September meeting, you missed a great one. Dan Ogren's (Orvis Downingtown) presentation on fishing for monster pike in Alaska was really incredible. Emerson has already rebooked for next summer.

In addition to rebooking Rick Nyles, we have some additional guest speakers I'm sure you will not want to miss. Sarah Gardner and Brian Horsley from Outer Banks Flyfishing will be returning to DJL to present Fly Fishing in Baja. The program will feature blue water fly fishing in

Baja. Some of the targeted species will include: rooster fish, dorado, skip jack tuna, yellow fin tuna and jack cravelle. All of these fish can be taken close to the beach, fishing off a panga. Sarah and Brian will share their experiences exploring the area, the foods, the people and the fish of this paradise! Check out the video posted by Emerson Cannon on our web site for an idea of what might be in store for the Baja presentation.

Unless you've been living under a rock somewhere, by now you must have heard something about Marcellus Shale. The promise of large energy reserves and the potential for energy independence may come with a heavy price for sportsmen and especially trout fishermen in Pennsylvania. In February Mitchell Blake, TU's Marcellus Shale Project field coordinator, will be giving a presentation on TU's Marcellus Shale Project. This will be an excellent opportunity for DJL members to learn about the potential impacts of Marcellus Shale gas production on fishing in Pennsylvania and the efforts that TU is putting in place to ensure that our most important natural resource (cold, clean, fishable water) is not impacted.

Tim King is making some minor tweaks to our web site. The site now features the newsletter link more prominently in the side bar. He used the extra space in the menu bar to draw more attention to the photo gallery. The photo gallery was not as easy to find previously and we wanted to draw attention to all the great photos that members posted for 2012.

Finally, although it is still four months away, April will be here before you know it. We are already making plans for the Learn to Fly Fish Course. If you could reserve that Saturday to help out with course management, casting instruction, and general assistance, we would really appreciate it.

Until our next meeting, Tight Lines!

 -Troy

Winter-Spring 2013 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held at the Kimberton Fire Co. Fairgrounds Meeting Hall.

Doors open at 7:15 PM. Meeting begins at 7:30 PM.

January 28 (Monday)

Featuring Brian Horsey from Flat Out Charters, Outer Banks, NC

"Fly Fishing In Baja"

February 25 (Monday)

Featuring Trout Unlimited's, Mitch Blake

"TU's Marcellus Shale Project"

March 25 (Monday)

Featuring Local Guide, Rick Nyles

"Fishing Manatawny Creek"

April 27 (Saturday)

Learn to Fly Fish Course

Phoenixville YMCA

April 29 (Monday)

Program to Be Announced

"Bring a Friend"

Fly Fishing Maine: 35 Years and Counting

by Emerson Cannon

Way back in the mid 1970s a group of us including club member Jim Shaughnessy went to Maine to fish just for brook trout, some lake trout and the rare blue-back trout. We fished in a very remote area just west of the Allagash watershed called Red River Camps. We caught lots of brook trout, a few blue backs, a few salmon and one lake trout. While doing this we were getting eaten alive by a number of insects and used copious amounts of a product called Old Time Woodsmen, a toxic bug repellent. While this was fun fishing, it did not have a variety of fish which we desired and was physically tough on us and our equipment. We were young so that was part of the deal. After three years of fishing here, we searched for another place in Maine and found Weatherby's in Grand Lake Stream <http://weatherbys.com>



This current year will be our 35th straight year going to Grand Lake Stream, Maine <http://grandlakesstream.org> at Weatherby's. We knew the people that bought the camp from the Weatherbys and became friends with them, visiting them in their winter home while skiing. Their name is Sassi. We were part of the group of people that interviewed the new owners, 10 years ago after the Sassis retired. The new owners, Jeff McEvoy and Beth Rankin have continued the fine Weatherby's traditions and we have become friends with them as well. We are part of the history of Weatherby's and proud of that ourselves.



Years ago, we began fishing on our own with only a *Gazetteer* and a desire to find remote lakes. We would bushwhack looking for brook trout streams and drive to remote lakes looking for 4 lb smallmouths. We found them but as we got older, we actually got wiser. We progressed into fishing lakes we have known, either in our own canoes or in rented semi-v 10 hp boats. We stopped looking for brook trout streams, since in southern Maine they really do not exist in this area. We learned to fish for landlocked salmon in the famous Grand Lake Stream. It took us a long time but we know the hatches and what the fish eat and where the fish reside. We have learned the lakes, where to go on the lakes and what to use on the lakes. We have fished for large pickerel and have loved it. All of this took a long time but in 35 years of fishing the same lakes, maybe adding a new one here and there, we actually can say we have learned to fly

fish areas with success. As other areas both in fresh water and salt water that we fish have changed, Maine has stayed as consistent as any other place we fish. The only change has been the introduction of largemouth bass which is a controversial topic in itself.

The next progression for us has been an introduction to using guides. We knew the guides in the area as we were one of the very few groups that went out on our own. They knew us. We fished so many different and remote lakes, guides asked us

how we did, how we got there, what we used. A few years ago, we started using guides for part of our stay. Now we are being taken to some of the same lakes and some different lakes and rivers. We sit back and have the guides paddle us around instead of our paddling. We do not need to carry canoes over long tracks of ground...the guides take us in their faster canoes via water. This has turned out great. We go in their "Grand Lakers", a canoe made right in town at the beginning of the 1920's. <http://troutunderground.com/2006/09/the-grand-lake-canoe-an-essay-with-images/> Yes...we are using 75- to 100-year-old boats...they



are comfortable, fun and we still get lots of fish. We are staying in cabins, fishing and using canoes the way it was done 100 years ago. People like Ted Williams, Curt Gowdy and Joe Brooks have all fished and stayed in the cabins and canoes we use.

So if you like fly fishing for a great fighting fish in the salmon/trout family, try land-locked salmon.

Using a size 18 Caddis, watching the salmon sip the fly then jump 5 times...WOW! The fish are in Grand Lake Stream, a fly-fishing-only stream that you walk to from the cabins. Do you like using poppers for smallmouth bass and having a 4 lb bass take a heart-stopping jump? Or do you like fishing for 20"-24" pickerel that will give eat as viciously as you have ever seen? Add in unbelievable beauty in both wildlife and spring wildflowers that people drive hours to see just to take their pictures, this area is the place for you!



ARTICLES WANTED!!

The next edition of **STREAMSIDE** is due out in May, 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 April 30, 2013, in MS Word format to

rjm1949@comcast.net.

All articles received will be published.



Little Salmon River Adventure

by Dick Allebach

During the fourth week of October last year I was scheduled to spend some time in New York intending to fish for early-run steelhead. A few days before I was to go I received a call from my host, guide and fishing buddy of over 45 years, Dave Kohr, announcing that a late run of Cohos was taking place on the Little Salmon River, about 20 minutes from his home in Port Ontario. (I don't normally like to fly-fish for salmon, as I tend to foul hook too many when there are a lot congregating in a river, and seldom legally hook any if there are only a few present.) But since Dave said there were also some steelhead running, I decided to go anyway. I'm sure glad I did, even though neither of us caught any of the steelhead we knew were there.

The weather was perfect, overcast and cool with some rain showers all three days that I was there. Each day Dave and I took turns fishing, hooking and

26 lb. Coho? Salmon



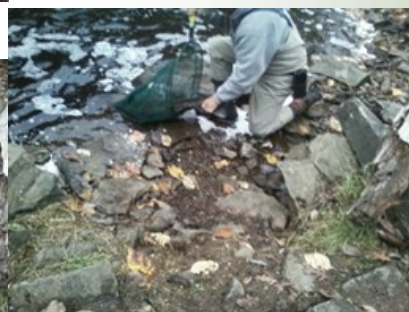
I'll put you back now!



Look at those teeth!



Wow! That's another big one.



Come here girl.



Can you see the fly?



landing some of the largest Cohos I have ever seen. Using various wooly buggers size 4 to 8, we caught and released many legal fish. Foul hooking was a problem until we started using size #8 flies exclusively. I weighed five of the fish I caught and they were 12, 18, 24, 24 and 26 lbs. Most were stocked fish (clipped adipose fin), but some, including the 26-pounder were wild.

We identified every fish as a Coho, but based on a recent Newscasts article in the February-March, 2013 issue of Fly Fisherman, they may have been Chinook-Coho hybrids that have been caught in the Salmon River. In order to determine if they are hybrids the fish must be killed and tested, but we released all our fish so we will never know, but who cares!

The One Minute Fly by John Burgos

Often times we, as fly tiers, tie up offerings for trout with elaborate patterns. There are many reasons for this I suppose. The one that comes to mind for me personally, is that I like to tie flies.

Now, this is not a suggestion not to tie complicated flies. But over the last couple of years I've had the opportunity to fish a lot more. It is tough keeping that fly box filled with all that quality time spent on the water. But even more importantly, the more I fished, the more I found that I caught just as many, or more fish on very simple flies.

Take, for instance, the simple Sucker Spawn. This is nothing more than simple yarn, preferably angora that can be found in any knitting supply store. I doubt yarn suppliers call it this but a great color is "Oregon Cheese". This is a very basic yellow color. Other colors work too. My favorites,



in no particular order are yellow, tangerine, cream and white.

This is a very simple fly to tie. Charlie Meck has included the Sucker Spawn in an article titled "One Minute Flies". The following video link (not Meck) demonstrates the ease in tying this effective pattern: YouTube : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QExjGi-0MI0>

Use the fly anywhere that fish of any kind spawn. Pretty general, right. Though I haven't used sucker spawn much in French Creek, it is a killer pattern in the Central PA streams. And don't

think you need to fish it only while fish are spawning. Whatever it imitates, the fish love. Though I generally fish sucker spawn from October through March, fish will look for this stuff nearly year round.



“Rock Snot” Discovered in the Delaware River

Last year, a Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) staff scientist found extensive mats of the aquatic alga *Didymosphenia geminata* (also known as Didymo or “Rock Snot”), an invasive species, in the Delaware River.

Dr. Erik Silldorff, an aquatic biologist with the commission, on April 18, 2012, discovered large Didymo blooms in the Delaware River over a 40-mile stretch extending from the area near the confluence with the Lackawaxen River (river mile 279) downstream to the vicinity of Dingmans Ferry Bridge (river mile 239). This section of river includes portions of two National Park units: the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

“We knew Didymo occurred in the river,” Dr. Silldorff said, “but the spatial extent and intensity of this bloom is alarming given its potentially detrimental effect on ecosystems and the ease in which it can be spread to nearby tributaries.”

Didymo covers rock surfaces in cold, moderate to fast flowing water. Since 2007, Didymo has been found at low concentrations during the summer months from around Hancock, NY, downstream to the area around Dingmans Ferry, PA, with high-density patches frequently observed in the cold-water zones of the East and West branches of the Delaware River, as well as in the colder zones of the upper main stem river.

Following the recent discovery, scientists with the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection over this past week independently documented Didymo blooms extending north of the area discovered by Silldorff to Callicoon, NY (river mile 303) as well as from Long Eddy, NY (river mile 315) upstream into the East and West branches of the Delaware River (upstream of river mile 330). Each biologist noted that the intensity was variable, with some areas having

dense coverage, while other sites or locations only having relatively small patches. Regardless, these findings indicate that the blooms of Didymo now extend across more than 100 miles of river.

While Didymo is not a public health hazard, there is great ecological concern with discovering the invasive alga to this extent and in these concentrations. Thick mats of Didymo can crowd out or smother more biologically valuable algae growing on the riverbed, thereby significantly altering the physical and biological conditions within a stream.



Additionally, Didymo can easily attach to any fishing equipment, especially felt-soled boots, and the chance of it hitchhiking its way into nearby streams or rivers that currently lack this unwanted invader is cause for alarm. The risk is compounded by the bloom's timing with the beginning of trout season, when anglers flock to the river in large numbers. This spring's warm weather and low flows are bringing out even more fishing enthusiasts, further amplifying the concern for spread.

DRBC staff are coordinating with scientists from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and the National Park Service to quickly alert the public and identify appropriate next steps. Samples already collected were sent to the laboratory at The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia where Academy scientists confirmed the identification of Didymo. Follow-up surveys to determine the actual downstream extent of the bloom are planned once river conditions improve after the weekend's rains.

For more details, including additional information on Didymo and how to prevent its spread by properly cleaning equipment before entering another stream or river, please visit www.drbc.net.

Source: DRBC News Release



Disinfection Techniques for Fishing and Boating Equipment

If your boating and fishing equipment cannot be dried before its use in another body of water, it must be disinfected. Disinfection recommendations vary depending on the type of equipment and disease of concern. Be particularly aware of bilge areas, live-wells and baitwells in a boat. These areas are difficult to dry and can harbor invasive species.

Effective disinfection techniques include:

Hot Water: Soak equipment in water kept above 140°F (hotter than most tap water) for one minute or for 20 minutes in water that is at least 110°F. Note that hot water can delaminate Gore-Tex® fabric and damage other sensitive clothing items. Household steamers may also be used for disinfection by exposing equipment to steam for 1 minute. Commercial hot-water car washes are effective for disinfecting boats and vehicles.

Bleach: Soak or spray equipment for at least one minute with

a 2% bleach solution (3 ounces of household bleach mixed with 1 gallon of water). If whirling disease is suspected, a 10% solution should be used (13 ounces of household bleach mixed with 1 gallon of water). Note that bleach is an extremely effective disinfection agent, but it is a caustic substance that can be corrosive to aluminum and other sensitive fishing and boating equipment.

Cleaning Agents: Of the materials traditionally used to disinfect for human or animal health purposes, quaternary ammonium compounds have been found to be effective in controlling fish viruses and pathogens, including whirling disease. Commercial formulations, such as Parvasol® and Kennelsol®, are available through laboratory or veterinary supply companies. Household cleansers/disinfectants, such as Formula 409® and Fantastick® are also good.

Source: NYS DEC



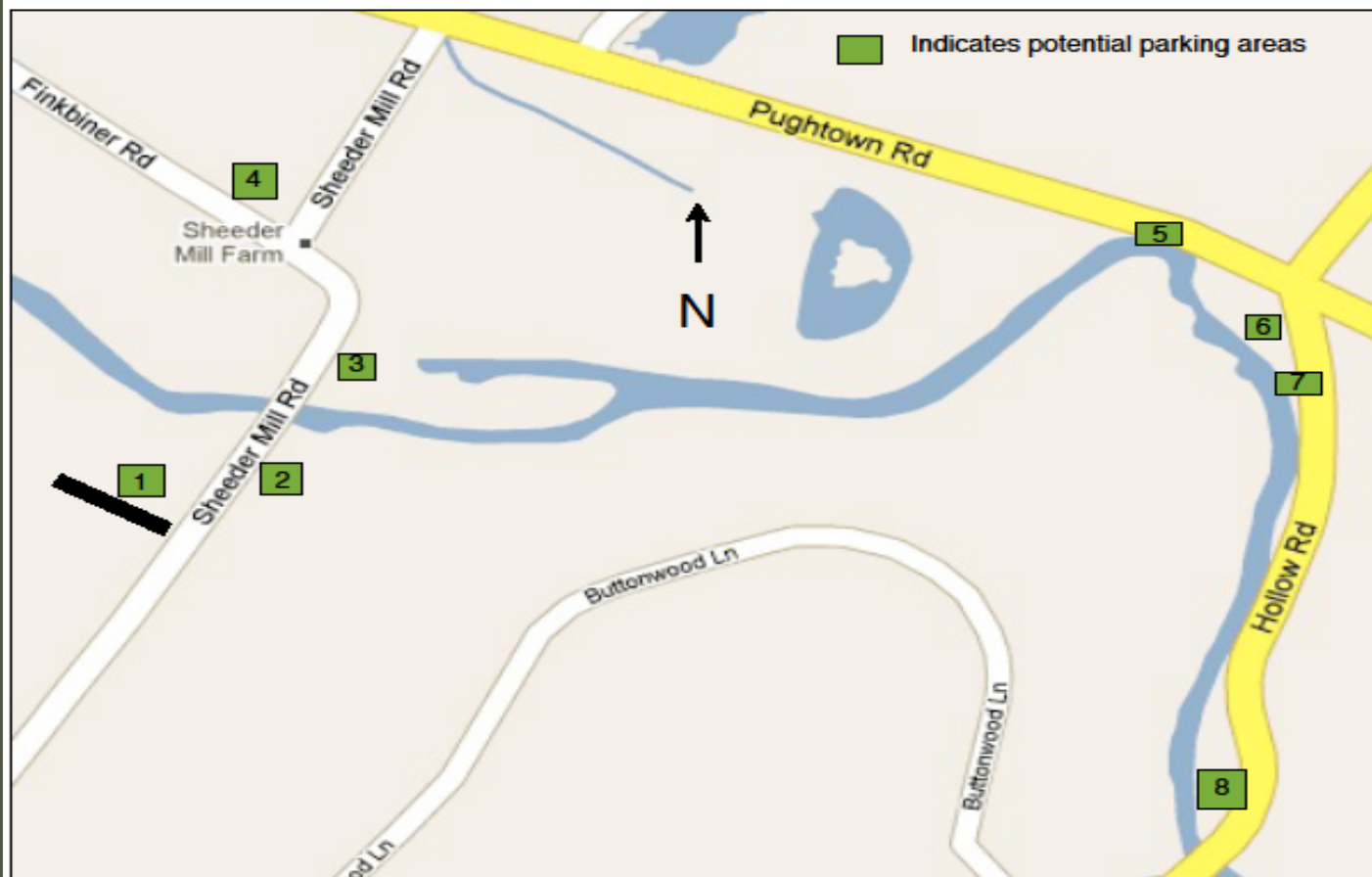
Parking on French Creek's Catch and Release Fly Fishing Only Area

For those of you who will be fishing French Creek this year you are well aware that the parking situation has changed since the new bridge was finished. Board member Dick Allebach has spent considerable time developing relationships with the adjacent landowners to establish several parking locations for fly fishermen to access this section of stream. DJL members are encouraged to use **ONLY** those areas marked on the map and try to make sure other fishermen do the same. Remember also to keep the noise down.



Designated Parking Areas Near French Creek CR-FFO

Parking rights are provided by the landowner. Please respect their privacy and need for silence. All trash needs to be carried out or parking rights may be terminated.



- 1.....Parallel park on right side of trail. Do not block horse trail. (1 space). Park on the road (1 space on either side of the trail entrance (2 spaces). This gives (3 spaces) in total at this location.
- 2.....Parallel park on road by upper barn, but do not block entrance to field by the barn (2 spaces)
- 3.....Parallel park as close to fence as possible but do not park in front of gate (2 spaces)
- 4.....Parallel park on north side of road but do not park in front of, or past mailboxes (3 spaces)
- 5.....Park off Pughtown Road on the shoulder by guardrail (2 spaces)
- 6.....Parallel park on shoulder off Hollow Rd (2 spaces)
- 7.....Park in designated area (3 spaces)
- 8.....Parallel park on shoulder of Hollow Rd (2 spaces)

Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers

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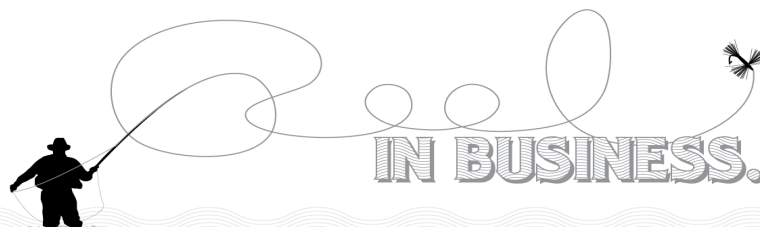
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