

# STREAMSIDE



Volume 20 Issue 1

Periodical Newsletter of the Dame Juliana League

Winter 2014

## A Reel Tail *by Emerson Cannon*



good a job as possible for the remaining six months of his term.

We have a very busy and productive schedule ahead. In January our board will meet and go over budget, election plans and just plain old business. Our January meeting will feature **Dick Allebach** telling us about his recent trip to Montana fishing the Big Horn River. Dick will let us know all the details of his trip: how to get there, where to stay, what to use and when to go. Any other questions you might have about fishing in Montana, please ask him as Dick has fished there numerous times.

Come February, we will be doing our usual stocking of French Creek. There will be a sign up sheet at the January meet-

ing or you can contact Dick through the club email [djlff@comcast.net](mailto:djlff@comcast.net) or by calling him (610-933-1846). You will need chest high waders, plenty of warm clothes and a hearty spirit. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, February 19, from about 11 AM until 2 PM. We will find out the details from our Waterways Conservation Officer **Bob Bonney** and will send out an email to all members. We like to have six members on each float box to make it easier for all. If you think you might not be up for wading the creek in the snow and ice...we have a job for you! We need to get the six people back to their cars. So....if you come out and help drive them back to the starting point, you are helping in a most desirable way. We usually have three float groups so the more the merrier!

The February meeting will have **Terry Peach** from A Marblehead Fly Fisher in Centreville, DE, speaking about fishing the Brandywine River in both Delaware and Pennsylvania. Terry runs float trips down the Brandywine primarily for small-mouth bass but will guide for trout as well. The presentation will be fascinating and you will learn all aspects of the river, good times to fish, and what flies to use. Terry is a fantastic tier and runs fly tying classes throughout the year from his shop, which is only 40 minutes away, so this will be another learning opportunity for all of us.

March brings us closer to fishing and also gives us **Jake Villwock** from TCO in Reading. Jake fly fishes the Schuylkill River for smallmouth bass and musky and runs raft trips down the river throughout the year. I saw Jake's presentation at the Somerset, NJ, Fly Fishing Show last year and was most impressed. Jake had super slides, great info and was totally entertaining in showing just what is in this river so close to us and how to get to it. What a great way to learn how to fish the Schuylkill.

April is a busy month for DJL folks. Our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Learn to Fly Fish course will again be run by **Bob Molzahn**. This will be Bob's last year in running the class so we are looking for a replacement to take this job on. The course date is Saturday, April 19. We need as much help here as we can get. The number one thing we could use are helpers with the casting portion in the afternoon. The time for casting is from 2 PM until 4 PM. You do not need to be an expert

*Tail is continued on page 3*

## Winter-Spring 2014 Meeting & Event Schedule

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

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

### January 27 (Monday)

Featuring our own **Dick Allebach**

### *Fly Fishing the Big Horn River in Montana*

February 19 (Wednesday)

### *Spring Float Stocking of French Creek's Fly Fishing Only Area*

Volunteers needed.—Date and meeting location to be determined

February 24 (Monday)

Featuring **Terry Peach** from A Marblehead Fly Fishers

### *Fly Fishing the Brandywine*

March 31 (Monday)

Featuring **Jake Villwock** from TCO Reading

### *Fly Fishing the Schuylkill River for Smallmouths and Musky*

April 19 (Saturday)

### *22nd Annual Learn to Fly Fish Course*

Phoenixville YMCA—See DJL website for details and registration information

April 28 (Monday)

### *Fly Tying Workshop*

Stations emphasizing **Caddis Flies, May Flies, Saltwater Flies and Beginning Tying** (equipment and materials provided). Bring your vises, share your techniques or just come and watch!

May 3 (Saturday)

### *Casting Clinic*

Towpath Park, Pottstown—Registration details to be announced

## January

by Beth Wilson

This is the time of seemingly endless night. The drive to work is gloomy, as is the tedious ride home. Long, lazy evenings have disappeared, replaced by quickly descending darkness. I glimpse the first peeps of sunrise, seen so promisingly early in the summer, from the parking lot fifteen minutes before I am supposed to punch in.

This is almost unbearable for the angler with a job.

It is the time to haunt the local fly shops, studying the latest in tinsels and dubbing and bug skins. The fly shop I like to frequent has not expanded its line to include other sport in need of outfitting: when you hang out there, you are hanging out only with fishermen, not buck hunters or duck men. Because this is the case, it is quiet and a bit forlorn in the winter, populated with souls who spend hundreds of dollars on stuff they imagine will make the fish bite when they can't go out and try to make the fish bite. We subvert our lust for the long day on the stream debating the varying qualities of floatant and fingering the beauty of newly stocked Wheatley boxes, peering into their little windows like innocent voyeurs. The lovely and costly rods stand in their rack, and reels, like dark jewels, lie in the folded waves of softly glimmering velvet that lines the glass showcases.

It is beautiful beyond imagining, especially since the fly shop is so warm and dark and friendly. I am understood here, and the sympathetic vibrations of the wooden walls and floors of this place are delightful.

I wander out of the cold, wet parking lot into the local K-Mart. It is January 4th, and the weather is damp but unseasonably warm, so I am heading to the sporting goods section to purchase my new fishing license, JUST IN CASE. The boy behind the counter looks at me as if I am crazy—it is January, after all. It's OK: I am doing this for me. I have been driving around for a week in a panic because, even if the weather turns perfect, even if Joan Wulff calls me on the phone and invites me for a day on the stream with her, I will not be able to go, because the life ran out of my fishing license at midnight on December 31, and nothing can turn back the clock and breathe the spirit back into it. I follow the familiar steps of the annual ritual, always the same, right down to lying about my weight on the application. I lick the trout stamp and affix it to the back of my new license and imprint my signature across it as required by the state, a little reluctant to obliterate the prettiness of it with a scrawl of ink. The boy in the red K-Mart vest hands me my Summary, and I go home to pour over it and read the names of trout streams, familiar and strange alike, like a litany of sacred places. Those names belong to me again, because I have purchased my license, and I can walk the creek banks without fear of being mistaken for a poacher.

Occasionally, when the obsession overwhelms and the chill air has not reached the point of mind-bending cold, I will dig out my waders and a good heavy sweater and go to the stream, but it is almost always a disappointment. The line freezes to the guides, and the fish sleep under the surface, without the need for food or fight, so the time spent standing in the freezing water is lonely and sad. As the sun begins to vanish in the steely afternoon sky and the frigid surface of the water reflects the winter rays, I cannot help but think about the soft warm pinkness of a summer evening, and the feel of cool dew on bare arms and the salt taste of sweat when I run my tongue over sunburnt lips.

There are no mosquitoes in January, but that is about all I can say in favor of the month.

It is the time to sit indoors and read, or tie flies or organize one's boxes, but, most of all it is the time to feel the longing that comes with being a victim of the seasons, of living in a place where there are times when it is too cold to fish. Maybe if I

was more of a die-hard, if I could reasonably see myself sitting on an overturned bucket with a line dangling through a hole in the ice, I would feel happier and less hemmed in by winter. The cold, however, is a harsh and dangerous companion, and I am not yet familiar enough with him to feel comfortable in his brittle company for any longer than an hour or two. That is not nearly long enough to satisfy the craving for the feel of a tug in my hands.

So I dream of warm breeze and cool water and the feel of the fish activated by summer and the hook. I imagine sad Persephone, while I sit by the vulcanesque form of the furnace, his one eye gleaming red. I let my fingers saunter through my tackle and along the length of my fly line as I clean and dress it in the garage. I comfort myself with the company of fellows, in the dark, hardwood nest of the fly shop or in the pages of good books. I spend time with my fishing magazines, where I can see pictures of bright rainbows and jeweled, dappled browns, and imagine the muscular weight of their bodies in my hand. I study my fishing Summary, and read over and over the lovely names of creeks and streams known and unknown, names that sing the trout song, and meld their watery voices with the music of my dreams.

*This whimsical article written by former member Beth Wilson was originally published in the Winter 1998 edition of STREAMSIDE. Beth wrote a number of articles for our newsletter. Although I haven't heard from Beth for many years I know she was considering travelling. She did tell me that she left her Dame Juliana League cap hanging on a wall in a drinking establishment somewhere half a world away.*



Upper Delaware River near Hawks Nest





## Tail *is continued from page 1*

to come over and help beginners learn how to throw a line. Please sign up with Bob so major fund raiser for the year and supports our financial sponsorship for two kids at the Chester County Conservation Camp.

Soon after this class we have our last scheduled meeting of the year. This year will be going to do a Fly Tying Workshop. We will have a group of Caddis tiers. All they will do will be to tie all forms of caddis flies...dries and nymphs. We also will have a group doing the same with mayflies. And we will also have a group doing different salt water flies. We encourage people to bring their own vises and materials. You can sit in on the group that you would like and tie, learn, or show your own flies. You can show us what flies you tie. You can move around from group to group. This should be a great time if we all participate. As usual, we will also have a beginners group and will provide vises and materials. So, with a bit of luck, you should walk away with your hand-tied fly to use on the stream!

Now with all this activity we need you! We need you to actively participate at our events such as float stocking, the Fly Fishing Course, writing stories and articles for the newsletter and just overall helping. We also need volunteers to make presentations at our meetings. Last month John Burgos did a fantastic job showing us about fishing in Michigan. We have one other member who will do a presentation next year...we just need a few more. Our club can only continue with your support. Paraphrasing a famous person from over 50 years ago....Ask not what your club can do for you, but ask what you can do for your club!



## ARTICLES WANTED!!

The next edition of **STREAMSIDE** is due out in May, 2014. If you would like to write an article, story, share a fly pattern or picture or write a poem please do so and send it by April 30, 2014 in MS Word format to [rjm1949@comcast.net](mailto:rjm1949@comcast.net). All articles received will be published.

## Why I Quit Fishing *by Emerson Cannon*

Oh.....good story today on why I quit fishing. The temperature finally was going to be over 37 degrees ....(my cut off temp for going out) and cloudy...good for local trout in Valley Creek. Problem is .....water is very, very low and clear. I decided to go out around 2:30 pm....sun going down and clouds....purrrrrfect. Or.... as good as it can be for now. First problem.....clouds blew away and bright sun appeared as I drove there. Hmmm.....I just looked at the weather forecast and it was to be cloudy! Strike 1. Oh well. Next, I pull into a spot that few people ever visit, and none during the week. I open up the tailgate, bend in and hit my head on the top...see stars. Strike 2. I get my rod out..... walk down to stream JUST as two people are going to where I was going. Stream is way too small for three people. Strike 3. Plan B.....Walk back to car.....drive to next spot. There are horses (wooden) around dirt road (Wilson Rd) that leads to area I want to fish. I drive around and see people are working in a field building something with big trucks! A guy comes over after I parked and told me the area was closed but I could be there as long as I did not drive by them again. They are building a parking lot and bathroom. Also...cannot come down this road until after mid-Jan. Strike 1 on Plan B. That sucks. Oh well, I am allowed to fish today so.....I get in creek..... walk downstream 20-25' as I get some line out to cast. My right foot gets caught in a rock as I was walking forward...put other foot down on slippery rock at an angle going away and fall in drink. Plan B strike 2. Stream is shallow but fall on both hands and both arms are soaked from hands to beyond elbows...knee hit rock but ok. Rod not broken. Stood up and tried to cast with water streaming off both arms...temp was mid 40's. I figured the temp would be going down and I would be walking away from the car...so.....I cut the losses. No strike 3...hypothermia! Walked back to the car...drove home and looked for another hobby! I quit fishing....



## In Memorium

The Dame Juliana League lost a great friend last summer. Gilbert L. Padovani, 81, passed away on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at Central State Medical Center, Freehold, NJ. Born in Padua, Italy, Gil had lived in Brooklyn before moving to Manalapan, NJ in 1965. He was an assistant vice president for Continental Insurance Company in Neptune for 26 years retiring in 1995. Gil was a US Army combat veteran serving during the Korean War. He loved hunting and fishing, and was a member of Trout Unlimited, the Long Island Fly Rodders, DJL and the NRA.

I first met Gil in the early 1990's when I went on trips with my brother and members of the Long Island Flyrodders to the Hungry Trout near Lake Placid in New York State. I spent many days with him, his brother Gian, who passed away a few years ago, and son Marco, fishing the "Miracle Mile" on the Ausable River. Gil was a great fisherman and had a quick wit. In 1999 he offered to set up and host the League's first website, which he managed for about a dozen years until he fell ill. He did the same for the Delaware Valley Woman's Fly Fishing Association and the White Clay Fly Fishers. He also gave several presentations to our club and our monthly meetings and was more than willing to share his knowledge of fly fishing with newcomers to the sport and was truly an ambassador for the Flyrodders. If you ever attended the Somerset Fly Fishing Show his booming voice could be heard over the din at the Flyrodders booth.

Gil was a good friend and worked hard to make our club a better one. He will be missed as a friend and a great fly fisherman.

-Bob Molzahn, Editor



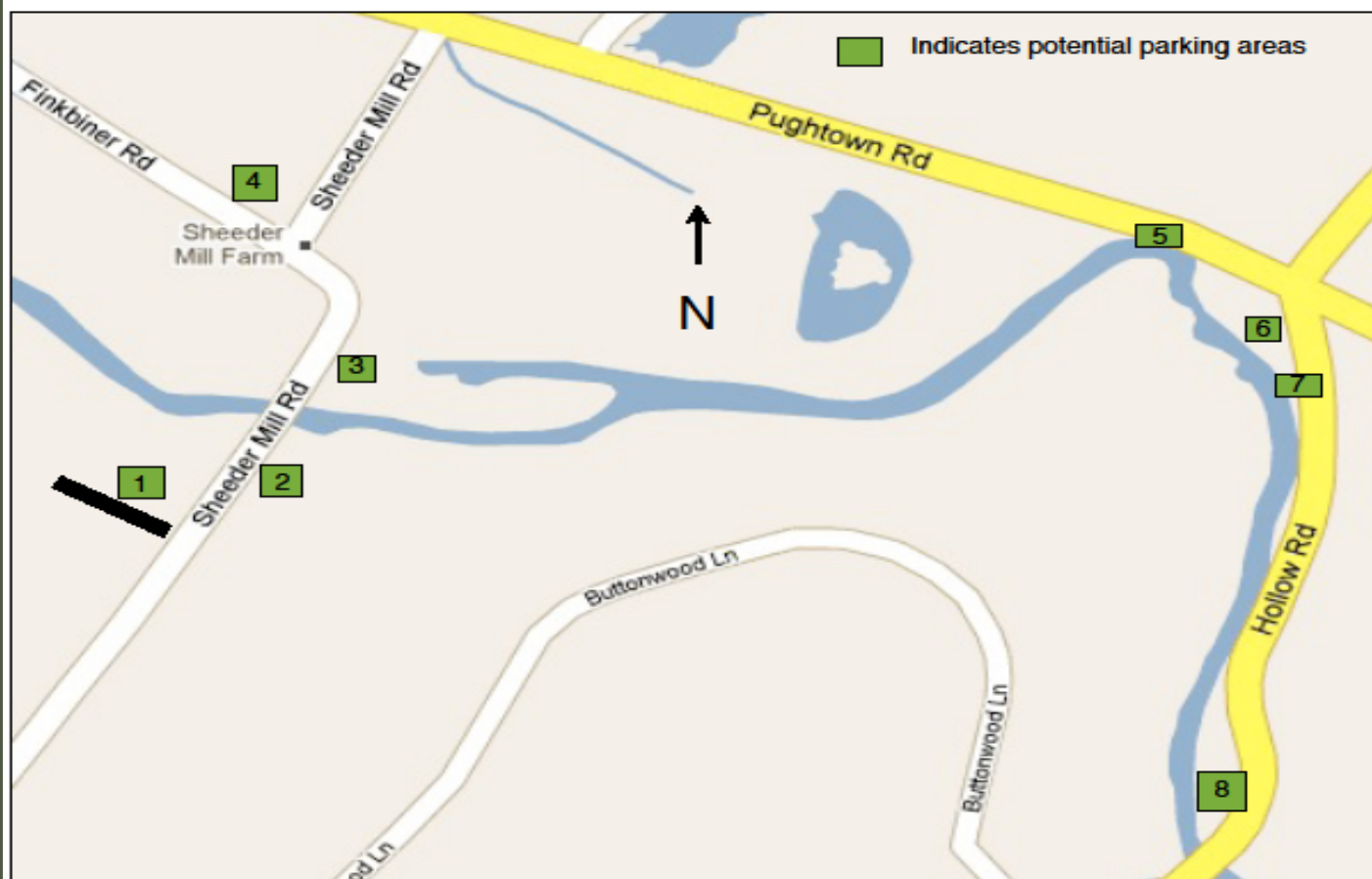
## Parking on French Creek's Catch and Release Fly Fishing Only Area

For those of you who will be fishing French Creek this year please be 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 land-owners to establish several parking locations for fly fishermen to access this section of stream. DJL members are asked to use **ONLY** those areas marked on the map and try to make sure other fishermen do the same. Remember, keep the noise down and pick up any trash you might find. Your cooperation will help to assure lasting use of the Catch & Release Fly Fishing Only area.



### 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

P.O. Box 178 Kimberton, PA 19442

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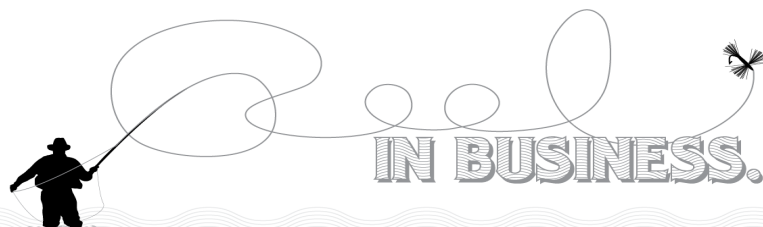
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## Coming: Our 22nd Annual Learn to Fly Fish Course

On Saturday, **April 19, 2014**, the League will be holding its **22nd Annual Learn to Fly Fish Course** at Baker Field Pavillion at the Phoenixville YMCA. We know, it seems like a long ways away, but we had such a tremendous response the past few years we wanted to be sure everyone was aware of the date now in case they knew of someone who was interested in learning how to fly fish. As of this writing we already have several people that want to sign up. It fills up quickly so don't delay.

If you know of anyone who is interested please have them visit our website [www.djlflyfishers.org](http://www.djlflyfishers.org) for more information and to **download a registration brochure**. They can also call 610-574-3503 (leave a message) or email [djlff@comcast.net](mailto:djlff@comcast.net) for a registration form. The cost of the all-day course is \$50. Please send registration information and contact information to **Dame Juliana League, P.O. Box 178, Kimberton, PA 19442**. Thanks.!

## Coming: Spring 2014 Float Stocking-Volunteers Needed

On Wednesday, **February 19, 2014**, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Dame Juliana League will be stocking the **Fly Fishing Only Catch & Release** area on French Creek. This will be the first of two stockings on French Creek for 2014. This stretch receives about 1100 trout each year, a mixture of browns and rainbows. We will be using three float boxes to cover the entire 0.9-mile stretch. Each box needs about four (4) able bodied men and/or women to handle the boxes. Chest waders and warm clothing are required. We will meet at 12 noon at the Progressive Machine Tool parking lot on Pughtown Road, about three miles east of Route 100.

This event is a lot of fun and a good experience so if you are interested in volunteering please contact our stocking coordinator, Dick Allebach. at 610-933-1846 or email him at [rsallebach@verizon.net](mailto:rsallebach@verizon.net) to sign-up or obtain additional information. We do need a headcount so don't delay.

Thanks for your participation!

*"The biggest mistake most fishermen make is that they give up too quickly. Some days I fish for four or five hours without finding how to catch the fish, then catch the limit in the next hour". -Ed Todtenbier*



## STREAMSIDE

**Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers**

**P. O. Box 178**

**Kimberton, PA 19442**

[www.djlflyfishers.org](http://www.djlflyfishers.org)

## Winter 2014 Newsletter