

STREAMSIDE



Volume 22 Issue 2

Periodical Newsletter of the Dame Juliana League

Spring 2016

A Reel Tail *by Emerson Cannon*

While reading this you might be thinking of going fishing while on your family vacation this coming summer. If you have never been saltwater fly fishing and are going to North Carolina, you might want to try out this guide service, outerbanksflyfishing.com. Go to their website and get email, phone numbers, detailed info! The guides are **Brian Horsley** and **Sarah Gardner**. They each run a 23-ft Jones Brother, center console. A more sea worthy vessel cannot be found.

You do not need any flies, rods or reels. The guides will provide everything. All you need to do is ask at home if your vacation group does not mind you leaving for a half day or all day trip. You will need to go to Oregon Inlet, just south of Nags Head by 6:45 AM if you are going out for a full day or half day morning. If that is an issue, try and set up a half day afternoon trip starting at noon.

If you are nervous about going out in the ocean, just ask to stay in the sound and try for speckled trout, croaker, bluefish, flounder or whatever is around. There might even be a red drum depending on the day!

The sound is a lot smoother and the rods are more the weight of trout rods. The speckled trout, while not actually related to a freshwater trout looks like a silver brown trout.

Now if you want to get something larger head out to the ocean. The deal is the guide will set out some chum....you do not need to touch it. Brian or Sarah will take care of that. You just sit and wait until a critter shows up. Ninety percent of the time, the critter will be a shark...maybe a 25-lb black tip that will pull very well. Or maybe a 90-lb spinner shark that is way stronger than you! Other species out there are dolphin...the fish not the mammal. These are the mahi-mahi that you have ordered in a restaurant. You might get a cobia...strong as a bull! Or who knows what could show up at the chum slick. A sail fish came in one day.

You cast out near the shark and let your fly alone. You are imitating death...so no stripping. As soon as you do not see the fly....pull with your stripping hand....DO NOT RAISE THE

ROD TIP! Do not strike the fish like you do in trout fishing. The fly will immediately come out of the fishes mouth. Pull with the stripping hand...then start reeling. If the rod bends too much...let the fish take out some line. If you get the 90-lb fish.....you better let it take some line.

So give this type of fly fishing a try. The guides are patient, knowledgeable and just plain nice people. You will have a great experience and will want to come back. Maybe you will come to Harkers Island in the fall for some albacore fishing. Once the bug bites, it is hard to stop!

Now on to other matters.

Many thanks go to **Dick Allebach** for organizing and coordinating the February stocking of **French Creek's Fly Fishing Only Catch & Release** section. Although the 23rd of February was cool and rainy, the weather was much better than previous stockings and the job was completed in a little over an hour. The trout stocked were mostly rainbows with a few browns. Stream flows were at a reasonable level and no problems were encountered according to Dick's report.

Those assisting in the effort besides Dick and myself included **Joe King, Matt Romano, Dave Capone, Chas Wagner, Ed Nugent, Mike Murray, John Krause, Bob Molzahn, and Ed Cohen**.

This year we put on a big push to better advertise our **Learn to Fly Fish Course** held this past April 23rd. Apparently this effort paid off as we had 35 students registered. As you may remember, last year were cancelled the course for insufficient enrollment. Many thanks to everyone who made this years event a huge success?

Our "Big Raffle" was also a great success with more than \$700 raised. After the smoke cleared and all the ticket stubs were pulled **Bob Molzahn** took the top prize of a mountain bike donated by Downingtown Bicycle Shop. **Kristen Cannella, Joe King's** daughter took second prize of a fly box stuffed with 100 flies donated by Jack Mickievicz. Joe reports the flies will get good use. Fittingly, **Ken Van Gilder**, owner of Downingtown

Reel Tails is continued on page 3



Top left: Emerson shows off a Cobia caught two miles off the beach

Top right: Needlefish or hound fish caught in Oregon Inlet
Left: Red Drum caught in Oregon Inlet

Stream Stealth Tactics

by Austen Dando

Last summer I started thinking a lot about what it means to have stealth on the stream. This was partially due to low water, and partially because I was fishing an area I hadn't explored as deeply. So I started thinking; how did I perceive what it meant to have "stream stealth"? When I thought of it, I'd get those classic images from the books we all first read when learning to fish.

The pencil drawn illustrations of a man crouching behind a bush or hiding his shadow from those spooky nearby trout. Truth is, I still think of it that way, I've just come to add some techniques of my own.

Observe the Water Before You Jump In

This is very important because it can easily make the difference between catching fish and not catching fish upon your point of entry. You see a sexy riffle across the stream and want to sprint over to it. Before you excitedly step into the water, hold back, observe

the current conditions and ask yourself a few questions: Can you already spot some fish from the bank? What's the water level like? How clear is the water? Are there any bugs coming off and if so, are fish rising? Where is the sun and where is it casting my shadow? These are just a few things to make a mental checklist of. The more you know about your surroundings before stepping in the water, the greater your chances of tricking a trout.

Approach, Wake and Vibrations

Some of this might be common sense, but it's a good reminder. How you move from place to place on the stream plays a crucial role in concealing your presence from the fish. The general rule of thumb is to work your way upstream as you fish. Something as simple as this can keep your whereabouts hidden. Fish are generally going to be looking upstream for food floating down to them and a strong supply of oxygen. Therefore they most likely won't notice you approaching from downstream. When traveling



upstream, always survey the stream and how it moves. Walk slowly and as low to the water as possible to avoid producing a wake that will travel across the hole. Some days it doesn't take much to send a wave of water over some selective trout only to turn 'em off (especially Senor Hog Johnson). In addition, be light on your toes. Wild trout are just as keen to vibrations as they are to visuals. Moral of the story:

Take your time!

Fashion Statements

Some may find this a bit overkill but I'm telling you it's important. Leave the bright colors at home! Sorry guys and gals, but trout don't think your neon shirts are too cool. Trout will pick up on color indicators quickly and from a distance. If you're walking along the stream with an orange hunters cap on, you could be scaring fish before you even see them. Now whenever I'm on the water I make it a priority to wear earthy subtle tones. I'll usually wear

some combination of browns, olives, and grays. Heck, flat out wear camo if that's your thing.

My focus on stealth tactics was caused by low water, tricky conditions when it was absolutely necessary to do so. However, I've come to realize the more I make these tactics routine, in ideal water conditions success rates will increase all the more. So give it some thought, trout are finicky enough as it is.

Austen Dando writes a blogspot for Keystone Flyfishing (keystoneflyfishing.blogspot.com). This article is used with their permission. Fly fishing, fly tying, backpacking, guitar playin', Christian, and proud Pennsylvanian. Austen is a Penn State student who spends his free time exploring the waters of central PA and the wild species of trout lurking beneath the surface, always looking to improve, learn from others, and have a good time along the way.



23rd Annual Learn to Fly Fish Course

It is hard to believe that this was our 23rd year for offering our Learn to Fly Fish Course at the Phoenixville YMCA this past April. Registrations totaled 35 with a few no-shows. Once again the weather cooperated with a just a few lingering showers in the morning. **Bob Moser** did another outstanding stint as our lead instructor. **Mike Costello**, an IFFF Certified Casting Instructor, did the honors again for casting. **George Christian**, an aquatic entomologist with Normandeu Associates, dredged up a few netfulls of aquatic critters to make the students squirm. **Joe King** demo'ed fly tying among other duties. **Troy Dunn** tied us up in knots and **Mike Ferraro** whipped up a bunch his famous DelHaven hoagies for lunch. Lots of other members played a tremendous supporting role with casting help, logistical support and sage advice. Many thanks to all the folks mentioned above

and members **Emerson Cannon, Jack Mickievicz, Dick Allebach, Ted Nawalinski, Tim King, John Burgos, Jim Matson, Jim Shaughnessy, and Rob Coffey** for making this event a great success.

Of the students attending, 22 evaluations were returned and 19 said that our course **EXCEEDED THEIR EXPECTATIONS**. 100% of these folks also said they would recommend the course to a friend.

Proceeds from the course are used to fund our education efforts including supporting two 11-14 year olds to attend the Chester County Conservation Camp in July.

-Bob Molzahn, LTFF Course Coordinator



A Do It Yourself Rod Rack For Your SUV

by Mike Ferraro

Many of us look for ways to carry our fly rods in our vehicles without spending a ton of money to do so. I was fortunate when six or seven years ago a friend gave me the Rod Loft as a Christmas present. This is a great device but is now pretty costly at \$139. To the left is a photo of the loft as it sits in the front of the vehicle.

The one for the rear is exactly the same. To remove a rod you unsnap the red rubber strap and slide the rod out of the front holder. The difficulties that arise with this system are that sometimes the weight of the rods bouncing unstrap the strap in the center and, two, if you wish to remove the center rod, it's necessary to unfasten an end rod as well to get access.

I was roaming the halls of Home Depot one day and in the garden tools area came across a tool holder by Unger. It's \$15 and holds five tools (or rods). I replaced the Rod Loft in the back with this and some creative nylon ties and find it's a better holder than the Rod Loft. The rods snap in and any one can be removed without affecting



the others. No rods have come loose yet in a month of testing. Additional snap in rubber grippers can be added to the aluminum extrusion which holds the rack together. A buddy of mine is going to buy two and he'll give me a gripper so I can have six total to accommodate my six holes in the rod loft in the front. I used the Rod Loft Hardware to hold it in my vehicle but you could get creative with clothes bars or 1 x 3's with loops on the end to hold it on your clothes hooks.

For the front of the vehicle, it's only necessary that you have loops or holes to pass the tip of your rod through. I can imagine loops of shock cord on a 1 x 3 or holes drilled thru a 1 x 3 on edge.

Bottom line is that for \$15 and some initiative, you can have a way to carry your rods assembled without risking damage. Hope this helps. Thanks for reading.



ARTICLES WANTED!!

The next edition of **STREAMSIDE** is due out in September, 2016 and we are in sore need of contributors. We have some good writers in the club so don't be bashful. If you would like to write an article or a story, pen a poem, share a fly pattern or send us some pictures of your fly fishing exploits and catch please do so and email it to

Bob Molzahn by August 31, 2016 at

rjm1949@comcast.net

(MS Word format preferred)

All material received will be published.

Reel Tails *is continued from page 1*

Bicycle Shop, won the third prize of a Redington fly rod and reel combo. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to everyone who participated in this important fund raising effort.

Lastly, May 7 was our **Fly Casting Clinic** at Pottstown's Tow Path Park organized and coordinated by **John Burgos** with much help from our IFFF Certified Fly Casting Instructor, **Mike Costello**. Ten members attended, including a number of new members who attended our **Learn to Fly Fish Course**. The weather cooperated, more or less, and a good time was had by all. Thanks go to John and Mike for a great job!

Stay tuned for next season's program. In the meantime, have a great summer!



**Dame Juliana League
Fly Fishers**

P.O. Box 178 Kimberton, PA 19442

Officers and Board of Directors

President- *Emerson Cannon*
Vice President- *Vacant*
Secretary- *John Burgos*
Treasurer- *Bob Molzahn*

Membership/Communications- *Mike Ferraro*
Sponsor Relations- *Joe King*
Fly Fishing Course/Newsletter- *Bob Molzahn*
Outreach- *Ted Nawalinski* Website- *Tim King*
Board Members- *Dick Allebach, Troy Dunn, Bob Moser Jr., Mike Costello, Jack Mickiewicz*

Member dues per calendar year are \$20-Individual, \$25-Family. For new members please add \$5.

Newsletter Editor- Bob Molzahn. Articles, news, and fly tying tips are gratefully accepted.

Please send them to rfm1949@comcast.net

Dame Juliana League Fly Fishers is an affiliated member club of the **International Federation of Fly Fishers**

Visit our website at

www.djflyfishers.org

Send comments, inquiries and address changes to djlfpa@gmail.com

Located on Rt. 23, Just West of Phoenixville, Next to Staples



Open 7 Days A Week
Visa • MC
Dis • Amex



**Chester County's Largest
Fly Fishing Specialist**

- EXOFFICIO & BUZZ OFF CLOTHING
- St. Croix • Loomis • Okuma • Air-Flo
- Rio • Temple Fork Outfitters
- Cortland • Ross Reels • Renzetti
- Dr. Slick • Fishpond • J.P. Ross Rods
- Flymaster • Sunrise And More!

Wide Variety of Flies & Fly Tying Material



- Books & Videos • Fly Tying Classes
- Knowledgeable Staff

610-933-7200

www.frenchcreekoutfitters.com

**ORVIS®
DOWNINGTOWN**

BRANDYWINE SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER
70 QUARRY ROAD, UNIT K (off Rt. 30)
DOWNINGTOWN, PA 19335

*Over 10,000 Flies
Extensive Selection Of Fly Rods,
Reels, And Lines
Fly Tying Materials And Supplies
Casting Lessons And Trips Available*

Tel/610-873-8400

Fax/610-873-3830

www.orvis.com

*"A Sporting Tradition
Since 1856"*

TCO Fly Shop
Tulpehocken Creek Outfitters

2229 Penn Ave • Reading, PA 19609
610.678.1899 - voice • 610.678.4029 - fax
www.tcoflyfishing.com

IN BUSINESS.

Branding / Advertising / Marketing / Web Sites / **Creative Small Business Solutions**
www.VirtualFarm.com | Cultivating Business Personalities.

THE SPORTING GENTLEMAN

128 Glen Mills Rd, Glen Mills, PA 19342
610-361-2001 gentsporting@gmail.com
www.sportinggentleman.com

Downingtown Bicycle Shop
833 W. Lancaster Ave.

Cannondale
Giro
NightPro
Hoffman
Continental
Profile
Hollywood
Shimano
Blackburn

Raleigh
Thule
Park
Haro
Bell
CateEye
Terry
Lake
Primo

610-269-5626 Downingtownbike.com