

# STREAMSIDE

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1

DAME JULIANA LEAGUE

WINTER SPRING 2019

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## Coming Soon!

### Learn To Fly Fish Course

When: Saturday April 27th, 2019  
from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: Warwick County Park, 191  
County Park Road, Pottstown, PA  
19465 on the banks of French  
Creek

Click [HERE](#) for more info

## Riffle & Runs



Finally, the spring is upon us. Today is Daylight Savings Time. Look forward to the ever lengthening evenings. Hopefully you've taken the downtime during the shorter, cold days to tie flies, check on your equipment and make sure you're ready to go. Its time to put aside those chores, pack up those recently tied flies and head out to your favorite fishing holes.

To that end, a big "shout out" for Dick Allebach and our crew of DJL volunteers who stocked French Creek (Flyfishing Only) at the end of February. There's plenty of fish out there. Get at them.

But, wait! We're not done yet! We need your help in a couple of our most important activities. First, and foremost, help us at the Learn to Fly fish Course. The course, on Saturday Apr 27, is an all day affair held at Warwick Park. We need all sorts of help to pull this course off at the level that we've had. Also, please promote this course to friends, family and others. Help them get the same enjoyment from this great sport as you do.

Lastly, we also need you to help at the Kimberton Fair this summer. Dame Juliana, for as long as I can remember, has volunteered to collect parking donations from incoming fair attendees. We are scheduled for Monday through Wednesday, July 22-24. Yes, you're available! This is a fun evening dominated by talking shop and providing a necessary service to Kimberton Fire Company (KFC). To top it off, you have the opportunity to grab a dozen of the famous Kimberton Fair donuts. Most importantly, in exchange for our help, KFC allows us, free of charge, to use their facilities. This is a deal we cannot pass up!

Tight lines,

*John Burgos*

# El Cheapo Fly Tyer

by Jim Clark

There are many reasons for learning to tie your own flies. Delusions of artistic grandeur afflict some. Despite the fact that feathered frauds have been catching fish for centuries, a percentage of rookie tyers, generally after a flurry of beginner's luck, will immediately assume that they are indeed a fly tying genius. Fish giggles on subsequent outings usually cure this condition before it gets out of hand. For others, the lack of availability of locally effective ties is what drives them to the vise.

Pennsylvania may be the cradle of American fly fishing, but see how many catalogs you can find that carry any of the still-potent wet fly patterns of Jim Leisenring, or even a common pattern like a Light Cahill wet in uncommon sizes, say large enough for night fishing, or small enough to be used as a Sulphur Nymph. With a fifteen-cent hook, a Stewart's Spider costs about sixteen cents to manufacture—just try to find one. The real reason most of us start rolling our own comes with the realization that other things besides trout eat trout flies.

Poor casting eats trout flies, and not-quite perfect knots liberate their share. Panfish are also rough on flies. Whereas a trout will spend the whole of your relationship trying to rid itself of your offering, a bluegill has a hard little head, will clamp its mouth shut, try to spike you and keep your fly. Channel cats are even worse. One 25+ inch specimen that I captured in a neighbor's pond this spring returned my bead-headed Woolly Bugger back to me in components. Then he gave my finger back. Trees, however, are the alpha predators of trout flies. Whether dormant or in full leaf, evergreen or deciduous, alive on the bank or dead lodged between boulders on the bottom of your favorite pool, all stages of this creature's existence feed on trout flies. Since trees move very slowly, barely

faster than rocks, most folks, anglers included, don't think of them as predators, or even alive for that matter, but don't be fooled. Ever notice that if you have two hundred yards of meadow trout stream, two trout and two trees, that the trees will always be perched over the feeding lies of the trout? This is no accident. They do not do this out of the goodness of their heartwood, to provide cooling shade and cover for the fish. No, they are there because that trout is going to lure you and your big, fat casting loop into delivering that buck-seventy-five Parachute Adams to feed the trees filthy habit. Trout are to trees what waterholes are to lions. Find a tree large enough to cover several lies, and you have the makings of an expensive outing, and a real good reason to tie your own.

Once you have procured a set of tools, you are ready to start gathering a collection of materials, and that too can be an expensive proposition. If you took classes, there is always the chance that another student is in the same boat as you and may want to split the cost of some of the pricier materials, namely the "glamour" items such as rooster necks and/or saddles. In any event, it won't be until after you've blown \$45 on a #2 Metz grizzly neck and a like amount on a brown neck of the same pedigree, that it will dawn on you that these pricey dry fly materials, pretty as they are, will tie only a limited variety of patterns, and worse, two-thirds or more of these feathers will be way too large for the flies you are likely to tie. It's also about the time that you find out that the vast majority of a trout's feed is in the form of subsurface items, and that your dry flies will put in most of their time doing escort duty (strike indicator) for nymphs and emergers.

Now the good news. All of the otherwise unused large grizzly and brown hackles are the main ingredient in the best nymph pattern I ever stole. I first came upon this gem back in the 1970s in a



book by the late Sam Slaymaker entitled *Tie a Fly – Catch a Trout*. Slaymaker was introduced to this pattern, the C.K. Nymph, by its creator Chuck

Kraft of Virginia. A real wizard with fly pattern names, there is also a C.K. Minnow and a C.K. Streamer by the same guy. Like the Woolly Worm and the Woolly Bugger, this pattern uses hackle palmered the length of the body, but unlike them, the hackles are trimmed to the length of the hook gap. Don't be tempted to use good micro-barb saddles for this tie. Any hackle long enough to get about six turns down the length of a 3XL hook will do, and I think that trimming the hackle gives the fly a feel in the fish's mouth that causes them to hold on to it longer than they do with other nymphs. The original C.K. is tied with a tail of lemon, wood duck flank, a body of wool yarn, and a palmered grizzly hackle on a weighted 3XL hook. I use about eighteen turns of .015" lead wire for a size 12 hook. Kraft tried about forty color combinations before settling on a black-bodied grizzly and a charcoal-gray-bodied grizzly as the most effective ties. These were tied mainly on #8 and #10 hooks, which are quite a mouthful. Two other color combos that are very effective locally, are a small (#16 1XL-2XL) all brown version and a grizzly hackled peacock herl bodied job in sizes #10, #12, #14 3XL. All have the wood duck tail found in the original. Other color combinations are no doubt effective, so experiment and get all your dry fly hackle for free.

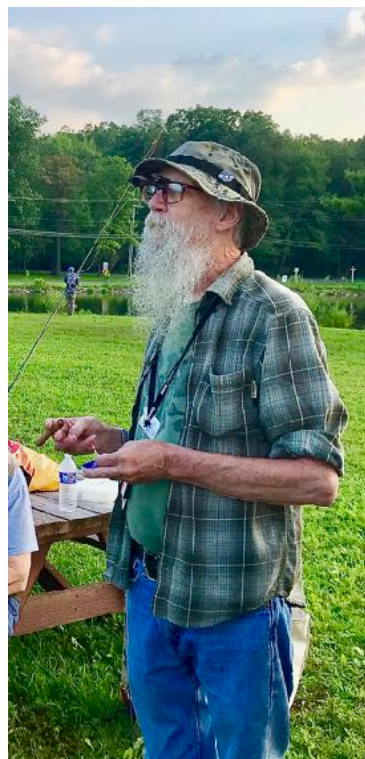
When I began using this pattern, I figured that since it was originally used on the mountain freestoners of northern Virginia, that smaller versions would probably be more appropriate for our local limestone waters. That was before a relative rookie caught a seventeen-inch brownie out from under me on a #8 peacock version from my own box on West Valley. Also, when fishing small local tribbs for wild fish, it became apparent

that casting downstream and working the nymph back up through the small pools was a very effective way to catch fish, but also tended to hook fish too deeply for my liking and going to the larger sizes minimizes this. Incidentally, fishing this way is also why spinning lures get such a bad rap for deep-hooking fish. If you fish these lures upstream only, the problem mostly goes away.

A lot of nymphers don't like to fish slow, deep pools, and concentrate on fishing faster water as it is easier to detect strikes. But since the fish seem to hang onto this fly a lot longer than other nymphs, crawling these things around the bottom of these pools gives me a lot of fish that generally only see bait. Slaymaker called this fly his "anywhere, anytime pattern," and I have heard vague rumors that one of our newer board members has found it so effective that he has

begun using it to hunt small game. But no fly works everywhere all the time. Despite this, give it a try. It is easy to tie, effective, and best of all, cheap.

I have fished this fly for over twenty years, and it is just as good now as it was when I began fishing it. Andy Leitzinger now fishes it regularly, so it is probably only a matter of time before Charlie Meck gets a hold of it and shows it to fish all over the place.



*This excerpt is taken from "Trout Tales & Watershed Heroes" by Jim Clark, Tom Prusak*



and Tom Ames. Published by Valley Forge Trout Unlimited, 2011. Copies available.

Mr. Clark is a long time member of Valley Forge Trout Unlimited and a founding member of Project Healing Waters Coatesville VAMC.



## Tweetie Bird, Most Exciting Pike Fly Ever

By Emerson Cannon

Pike fishing is my passion. I go nearly every year to Alaska to fish for the big ones.

I am always on the lookout for new and different fly tying materials. Frequently my wife goes in Michaels to purchase crafting materials and I follow to browse. Two years ago her Dad passed away and we went to the Dollar Store to get some picture frames to celebrate his life. My job was to carry the picture frames to the car. As I walked down the aisle where the frames were located, I noticed ornamental styrofoam

birdies out of the corner of my eye. As I returned back, I studied the birdies and thought....potential pike, shark, bluefish etc fly. *Anything that eats birds or will eat birds will eat this.* I bought one package.....2 birds, one dollar. Purrrrrfect! My wife just said..."fly tying?", I said..."Yup!"

Immediately, I started thinking of the details of the new fly. I figured I could use a hacksaw and saw a

1/4" deep cut running longitudinally and centered along the body. I just needed to match it up with an Owner turned up eye wide gap hook...no problem. I placed the picture frames for my wife where needed and went downstairs to my tying room. I matched the birdie to the different hooks I had. A 5/0 Owners hook fit perfectly,.... with the turned up eye coming away from the breast and the rear end of the bird, where the rear of the hook turned down. Perfect size...5/0 Owners Octopus hook. Next was putting mono thread along the hook shank, epoxy ...jam the bird down and let it dry. After drying I made more epoxy and filled the gap on top of the hook...smoothed it carefully and then used nail polish to match the epoxy covering with the bird breast.

My hot tub is perfect for fly testing. Out I went..it was ok but no invention is ever great the first time. I let it go for the rest of the night and thought

some more. I

remembered seeing Blane Chocklett placing lead wire around the top of the bend of flies to give them a keel. Great idea....I placed about 3-4 wraps of lead on the top of the bend and secured it with mono...then used some UV cement to secure lead and protect the lead from the 702 pike teeth. Back to the tub....it landed correct

side up regardless of what happened.

OK great. Now Tweetie had no hard front and I did not want it to be a popper. Young birds are not making lots of noise but they are paddling. I tied on all sorts of legs and feathers trailing...nothing looked good. Finally I decide their little feet are deeper...I just wanted something to let fish know lunch is here. I thought...small willow leaf or flicker





spoons! I had just gotten an assortment of little willow leaf spoons from Netcraft. It was way too long but it was good width. I used some sheet metal scissors and cut a willow leaf from 1" down to 1/3". It had a hole so I used some jewelry wire and attached it just above the lead wraps. I ran upstairs and tried that in the tub testing area...

PURRRRFECT!

My first fly is hung on the Midnight Sun Trophy Pike Adventure house boat hall of fame fly area. The guides loved it, major roaring every time a fish came for it..missed it or actually took it. I have others using it as well. The guides had never seen anything like it. That is until the next year when myself and my friend brought more Tweetie Birdies for pike to enjoy!



*Emerson Cannon, longtime DJL member & fishing*

*instructor, has spent over 40 years pursuing a Maclean's wish list of sport fish - all with a fly rod. He started locally with trout but in successive decades progressed to varied quarry: landlocked salmon, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, pickerel bluefish, flounder and stripers then bonefish, barracuda, amberjack, albacore, Spanish mackerel, dolphin, sharks, redfish sailfish rooster fish, dorado, yellowfin tuna and jack crevalle. And the beat goes on. His most recent trips targeted Alaskan species of salmon and arctic char, a blue marlin few muskies, then pike and shefish.*



## Stoneflies

**Skip Krause**

It wasn't what you would call a rise. It wasn't a swirl either. Bulge...a bulge in the surface that never broke through. That's what it was!

And it was big, at least as small streams go, with concentric ripples emanating outward from the center where stone flies were slipping that same surface to take panicky flight to the nearest bushes.

Hip deep at mid stream all I could do was smile as I had spent a winter's evening tying CDC stonefly dries for just a moment as this. And there was the bulge again, in the same spot in the undercut, tangled root bank just thirty feet and a little upstream from my position. Perfect!

Patiently...fumbling...I rebuilt my leader and went to 4x...bulge...big bulge.Now the fly was on, the knot was cinched and the cast rolled over gently dropping the fly three feet above the X my mind had engraved in the water's surface. A light mend, rod tip pointed at the fly, the surface still....except for the panicky stoneflies.

A perfect drift, right over my target...no take, no bulge, no nothing. Repeat cast - nothing. Repeat, repeat, repeat - nothing, nothing, nothing. Disappointed, I imagined what was going on subsurface. I knew a change was in order. I snipped the dry and tied on one too big for this little stream - a gold ribbed hare's ear and a tiny split shot two feet above. My target hadn't moved. The hare's ear hit the water three feet above.

My line tightened too quickly and the water exploded as a muscled rainbow gray-hounded upstream. Let go of the line, I thought. Let her run, I thought. Tire her out, I thought. She is the biggest fish you will ever catch in this stream, I thought. Don't make any mistakes, I thought.

I also thought I had loosened my reel's drag, the fact of which I was reminded with the snap of the 4X as that fish continued her way upstream past another wide eyed fly guy who could only shout, **"THAT, was a really BIG fish"**.

I thought, "YOU \*#!~#!". Self directed, of course.

I calmed, shook my head, laughed and thought, I'll be back. I know where you live. I know what you eat. And next time I'll be ready .....

And the other wide eyed fly guy shouted, "THAT was a good really BIG fish. **ARE YOU FINISHED FISHING IN THAT SPOT?**"

*Skip Krause is a Dame Juliana member who enjoys all types of fishing, fresh water or salt, slow or fast, shallow or deep, where the "poussin du jour" is very, very hungry.*



## One Handed Fly Tying

### - The Evergreen Hand

By Mike Ferraro

Six months ago Dave Riggio, Regional coordinator for Project Healing Waters, asked if I would help demonstrate a series of devices which would enable veterans who had the use of only one hand to tie flies. The devices are a system called "The Evergreen Hand" named for Washington, the Evergreen State, where it was invented in 2007 by Jesse Scott and Marvin Johnson.

Johnson had suffered a severe hand injury and the two friends worked to develop a way to help Johnson to continue to tie flies using only one hand. The Evergreen Hand was created. In



2012 the two men teamed up with Olympic Peninsula Fishing Innovations to produce the Evergreen Hand. Seed money for development and manufacture was provided by the International Federation of FlyFishers, an organization which we at Dame Juliana League lend support. It is available free to all who need the device.

The components of the Hand consist of a base with a cam locking device that fits the 3/8 inch stem of a tying vise. Also, there is a white steel backing plate, sometimes referred to as "the wrist" affixed to an articulating arm referred to as the "elbow" and a number of attachments (similar to fingers) affixed to magnets which are positioned on the steel plate. The attachments are an alligator



clip device for grasping hooks or materials, a variable loop device for gripping materials such as deer hair or chenille, and a "tie-in tool" to aid in various aspects of tying the fly. David had me tie a couple of wooly buggers in my demonstrations and although I succeeded in tying

them I was both humbled and frustrated by the experience.

My short explanation of the "Evergreen Hand" may pique your interest to learn more- I hope it does- and you may certainly see it in greater detail in a video at this website: <https://www.fishagain.org/evergreen-hand>

Watch that video and please continue your support of Project Healing Waters.

*Mike Ferraro is a fixture at Dame Juliana League, Project Healing Waters and creeks all over the southeastern Pennsylvania. He also relishes striper & shad fishing. Once you meet Mike, you'll never forget him!*





# War Stories #1

## The Dummy Dumper

By Bob Bonney



I was asked to write about my experiences over the past 25 years. There are so many to choose from, BUI (Boating Under the Influence), DUI (Driving Under the Influence), drug arrests dumping, poaching, and my favorite; serving arrest warrants. This particular episode has a little of each.

This was a dumping case, which occurred at the West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife trout nursery about eight years ago. I investigated a truckload of trash, which was dumped in the middle of

the night in the parking lot directly across from WCFG&W's trout nursery. I determined that the culprit lived in West Chester, so I paid him a visit one afternoon and had a heart to heart with him, which ended with me issuing the Dummy Dumper a \$4200 citation.

Two weeks later I was called back to the trout nursery for another dumping case. Trash was scattered from the top of Ravine Road to Creek Road. The evidence led me back to, wait for it - the Dummy Dumper! So I paid him another visit. This time I had a bonafide come to Jesus with him and I left him with a \$6400 citation!

Two weeks later he went to warrant. Officer Yerger and I served said warrant on Dummy Dumper in the very early morning hours one day. We hooked him up and transported him to Judge Arnold's court where he couldn't pay fast enough. Two weeks pass and .... yep you guessed it, another warrant, and another arrest. Again he paid and in record time. Both payments were in cash (there was a reason for

that, but maybe that story later. Never dull out on the range.

*Bob Bonney is Chester County's Waterways Conservation Office and valued member of The Dame Juliana League, Valley Forge Trout Unlimited and Project healing Waters. He may be a poacher's worst nightmare.*



## A Brief History of Dubbing

By Jack Mickievicz

Go in any fly shop and you will notice a large portion of a wall devoted to dubbing. Hundreds of colors, textures, natural fibers, synthetic fibers, or mixed. Some with Flash, Antron or UV sensitive fibers. Now you're in sensory overload and wondering how did this all evolve. Well here is a short history of the evolution of pre-mixed, pre-packaged dubbing.

If you ever read a fly fishing or fly-tying book written in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, you will note the author speaks of dubbing made from pieces of pelts taken from beaver, seal, rabbit, otter, possum, muskrat and different colored wool and yarn. To create a specific color the reader was given the option of mixing some of the fur with other material such as wool or silk thread to get the desired effect.

In those days most fly fishers purchased their flies from local tiers who lived around their favorite lakes and streams. Fur and feathers were hard to obtain unless you were a hunter or trapper, and information on fly construction was scarce so very few fly fishers actually tied their own flies. Also, local tiers would augment their income by tying flies and information on dubbing material and construction was considered proprietary.

Additionally, techniques and material were kept secret and rarely shared.

When did things change? Some say Earnest Schwiebert's book "Matching the Hatch" released in 1955 ushered in the concept of pre-mixed, pre-packaged dubbing. Schwiebert in his book recommended that the color of the artificial fly

should match the color of the natural fly as closely as possible. Schwiebert came up with some 34 color blends which match most mayflies. The blend recipes were cited in the text.

In 1968 I was approached by the H.L. Leonard Rod Company to come up with a series of modern blends which would match Schwiebert's 34 color blends mention in his book. The blends were sold in a 34-pack book or in individual packs. They sold for 90 cents per color. In today money this would be \$6.67 per color. The book and packs were a massive success.

The following year the Orvis Company, who did not want to lose the market, contacted me and requested their own 30 pack books, but they had to be slightly different colors than the Leonard's colors.

My dubbing production now had to increase to an industrial level to meet demands. The equipment to produce dubbing at this level required equipment which was not commercially available. So, I had to invent and build it; for instance, my blender was made from a large fiberglass pipe, large enough to mix five pounds of fur. Blending fur was done by hand carding which was time consuming and labor intensive.

The first synthetic material used in dubbing was polypropylene. In 1975 Doug Swisher introduced poly as an ideal material for dry flies. It was "lighter than water and floated like a cork" - a bit of hyperbole. Polypropylene required extensive hand carding and if these blends were to be offered commercially there would have to be a better way to blend them in bulk.

It was about that time I had the good fortune to meet two gentlemen who worked for DuPont's Textile Division and like me could forsee the sales potential of prepared dubbing. They knew DuPont had a carding machine which may be available. After some negotiation I purchased the carding machine. This machine was built in 1898 and used to card wool, but it was perfect for what I needed. With this equipment dubbing production increased several hundred-fold. We were now able to produce dubbing of all types and textures on a commercial scale. This allowed expansion into markets through out the country and eventually the world.

The second synthetic to be used in dubbing was Antron. It was introduced in 1981 by



Gary LaFontaine. Gary examined caddis emergence and noted that the emerging pupa were surrounded by a cluster of gas bubbles which sparkled in the water and acted as a trigger for trout to strike. He used Antron to imitate this sparkle. It was very successful not only as a vail for emerging caddis pupa, but also as an additive to fur dubbing to give a sparkle effect.

During the same time Antron commercial value had fallen out of favor at DuPont so production stopped. It was difficult to buy especially in small amounts which most fly tiers were looking for. Consequently, DuPont was not interested in dealing with tiers looking for a few ounces. However, with persistence I was able to convince them to sell me 800 lb. and that was an order they could deal with. A life time supply which I still used in my Antron blends today.

Over the years there had been many additional additives to dubbing which are readily apparent in any Fly Shop. But these two were the first use commercially.



In summary the evolution of pre-packaged, pre mixed dubbing took off in the late 1960's and expanded to the variety you see now. Our company was one of the pioneers of pre-mixed dubbing. Over the years we have made hundreds of thousands of commercial and custom blended packs of dubbing in hundreds of colors. They are still sold in some of the finest fly shops in the USA and even through out the world. It has been quite an experience.

*Jack Mickievicz is the owner of Jack's Tackle in Douglassville. If you need a feather, thread, fur or hook that Jack can't find it may not exist ! Visiting his lair is like wandering around in Santa's toy store. Jack is the founder of Dame Juliana League, the father of packaged dubbing, an expert bamboo rod evaluator and repairer, and the man who engineered Renzetti's first vises. If you haven't had the chance to meet him, you've missed an opportunity to visit fly fishing history.*



## Editor's Notes

### Last Cast

I've been doing this stuff a long time! Every time I attend one of our meetings, mill around and talk to members, I realize how little I know about this sport. We all have found our favorite, convenient, or comfortable niche-way to enjoy the sport. For me, I love quietly wading mountain stream and rivers throwing nymphs and dry flies for wild trout.

I'm always amazed about how wide and far this sport can take someone. But listen to the stories your members can tell. The depth of knowledge that we have show up at our meetings every month is outstanding. We have guys who regularly fish saltwater, western waters, Alaska and the tropical islands. Are you wondering how to make those types of experiences happen? Ask!

Likewise, with fly tying, rod building, equipment repair or just about any other hack to get you back on the water, the answer is in the room.



### I'm New at This

Bob Molzahn has been faithfully writing this newsletter a loooooong time. Longer than I intend. Bob has been immensely helpful in getting me started. Almost gleeful.

The newsletter format has changed. This was necessitated by my inability to take what Bob has so artfully designed in Microsoft Publisher and make it look the same in Macintosh Pages.

### Thanks, Contributors

Thanks, John, Jack, Skip, Bob, Jimmy, Emerson & Mike! Without you I'd still be selling pencils in Coatesville. You submitted great stuff - and on time.

### Comments Welcome

Let me know what you think of the format, readability and content. Chances are good I'll be calling on each of you in the near future.

*Matt Seymour*

[mseymour1128@earthlink.net](mailto:mseymour1128@earthlink.net)

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Newsletter Editor- Matt Seymour Articles,  
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accepted & are due by January 1, May 1,  
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Please send them

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