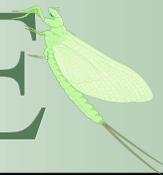


# STREAMSIDE



Volume 18 Issue 1

Periodical Newsletter of the Dame Juliana League

Winter 2012

## View from Kennedy Bridge *by Troy Dunn, President*



Happy New Year! By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have managed to survive one of the wettest years on record in Pennsylvania. Although the flooding rains of 2011 may have spoiled a fishing outing or two,

the consistent supply of cool water into our fisheries provided a heat-stress-free summer for many of our fisheries, and I am hopeful that this will be reflected by good fishing reports in 2012.

The fall of 2011 turned out to be a fairly quiet one for the club. You probably noticed that the newsletter has gone electronic, and has taken on a slightly new format. We have been making print copies available for those without e-mail addresses, and to leave at our local sponsors, but are still debating the fiscal merits of the policy. If you have an opinion on this topic we would certainly love to hear it. For now we anticipate that we will continue to make

some print copies available so long as it does not stretch our resources too thin.

Check out the spring line up of guest speakers coming to DJL. It's quite impressive. We continue to get excellent suggestions from our membership for speakers and topics. Please keep them coming!

French Creek float stocking and the annual Learn to Fly Fish Course are just around the corner. As always we need volunteers from our membership to make these events successful. Please watch your e-mail and check the website for updates on these activities. If you are interested in participating in either event let us know by sending an e-mail to [djlff@comcast.net](mailto:djlff@comcast.net).

Finally I would like to call your attention to the article on the Chester County Conservation Camp. Each year DJL solicits nominations, from membership, for the Lance Morien Scholarship to send a youth to this wonderful camp. If you have children or know of a child who would like to attend, I would encourage you to make a nomination. Tight lines...

*Troy*



## 2012 Winter Meeting & Event Schedule

Winter is about to unleash its wrath so why not make a plan to beat the doldrums of cabin fever and attend our January meeting. Craig Hull will present "Fishing Small Trout Streams from the Adirondack's to the Blue Ridge" Craig is a local guide and fly-tier from Carlisle. He is the owner of TroutGetter Flies and Guideservice. You can check out his website here <http://www.troutgetter.com/> In addition to his presentation Craig will bring his famous flies to sell at unbelievably low prices for premium hand tied commercial flies; \$10 for a dozen trout flies or a dozen saltwater flies, \$20 for a dozen of freshwater bass flies.

- January 30, 2012 -

### "Fishing Small Trout Streams from the Adirondack's to the Blue Ridge"

*featuring Craig Hull*

**February 27- DJL Movie Night!** The movie "Trout Grass" is a documentary of the journey of tonkin cane from its origins in China to the fly fishers cast.

**March 26- Speaker to be announced!** Stay tuned...

**April 28- 20th Annual Learn to Fly Fish Course,** Phoenixville YMCA

**April 30- Mid-Atlantic Saltwater fly-tier and instructor Steve Farrar** will be present a program on fly fishing the Atlantic coast.

## Featured Article: The Reach Cast

*By Mike Costello*

If you're new to fly fishing one of the challenges you will encounter is overcoming "drag". Drag is probably the number one nemesis to both beginner and expert fishermen alike. Water currents rarely flow at uniform rates and can drag your fly and / or your fly line at varying speeds. If your fly looks like it is water skiing, then it's dragging. Unwanted drag can occur while nymph fishing or streamer fishing, but it is particularly problematic in dry fly fishing. You want your fly to float naturally, as if it is not tethered to the fly line and leader.

One the most useful tactics to prevent drag and one of the easiest methods to learn is the "Reach Cast". Curiously, as in all things fly fishing we have a way of complicating things, the Reach Cast is not really a cast at all, but rather what is called an "In the air mend" or "aerial mend". Confused? (My goal here is not to write a book or put you to sleep, so I'll keep this brief) "Mending" means repositioning some or all of your fly line. There are two basic types of mends: "On the Water mends" and "In the Air" or Aerial Mends". Both types of mends are done after the completion of the cast: "On the Water Mends" after the cast has been completed and the fly line is on the water; "Aerial Mends" after the cast has been completed but the fly line is still in the air.

The purpose of the Reach Cast is to reposition the fly line at an angle, across and upstream of the fly. If there are varying current rates between the rod tip and the fly, positioning the fly line across and upstream from the fly will allow the fly to float freely before the faster moving currents affect (drag) the end of the fly line.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Saltwater Adventures: Annual Trip to Harkers Island, NC

*Contributed by Emerson Cannon*

Each year from Sept through the beginning of December, baitfish followed by false albacore invade the water around Cape Lookout, North Carolina. Weather permitting, fishing can be fast and furious. Bait will start its yearly migration followed by numerous species of fish 'puttin on the feed bag'.

Baitfish will be anywhere from 1" to 5", purrrrrfect for fly fishermen. Matching the hatch is critical. Flies, 1.5" in length, tied in all white for the early days of the run work well. As the different species of baitfish arrive, size and color change. Late October is the time for gray, tan or pink over white, brown or

chartreuse over white or pink all about 3.5" in length. Size 8 hooks for early October followed by the size 4 or even size 2 sizes in the clouser style for later on. The bait might be the schooling type like bay anchovies or the smaller non-schooling like spearing. When the bait is thick, let the games begin!

There are numerous other fish that join the Cape Lookout party seen. Some names are spanish mackerel, king mackerel, monster sharks and the huge prize, red drum!

The size of the albacore can be 7 - 20 lbs.



*Photos by Emerson Cannon*

*Time is probably more generous to the angler than to any other individual. The wind, the sun, the open air, the colors and smell, the loneliness of the sea or the solitude of the stream, work for some kind of magic. - Zane Grey*

## Dame Juliana League Sponsors Chester County Conservation Camp

Did you know that every summer, the Dame Juliana League sponsors boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 14 to attend the Chester County Conservation Camp at French Creek State Park? It is true! The club has established a permanent scholarship which allows club members to nominate deserving youths from our area to attend the camp for free! "The Lance Morien Memorial Scholarship" was established to fund this program in memory of Lance Morien a former board member a life long outdoor enthusiast.

The Camp's mission is to educate youth through experiential learning in a traditional outdoor camp setting. Through adventure-based activities, campers explore local natural resources, experience varied ecosystems and aspire toward stewardship of the environment. The camping program strives to build understanding and appreciation of local and global conservation issues.

The Camp's activity-based program uses the environment as an outdoor laboratory to experiment and discover the natural world and to explore the diversity of Chester County.

Previous DJL sponsored participants can't say enough great things about this camp as John Burgos' daughter and Joe Vasile's grandson have attested to in articles posted in this newsletter.

So what are you waiting for! Do you know a child between the ages of 11 and 14 that would enjoy a week in the outdoors in a hands-on learning environment. Send us your nomination today but no later than May 1, 2012.

For more details on the camp and dates you can check out: <http://www.chesco.org/ccparks/cwp/view.asp?a=1584&q=614750> A nomination form will be posted to our website soon, but you can email us at [djlff@comcast.net](mailto:djlff@comcast.net) and we can provide you with information on how to apply.



## The Reach Cast

*(continued from page 1)*

To execute the Reach Cast, let's assume the target is directly across or slightly across and downstream from you and the current is moving from your right to left. Make an overhead cast in the direction of your target, then after you stop the rod on the forward cast and while the line is still unrolling in the air you reach (hence the name Reach Cast) the rod upstream from you. This move will place the fly line upstream from the fly and the intended target. If the current is moving from the right to the left, you reach your rod to the right. If the current is moving left to right you reach to the left. Or more simply said: Always reach upstream. By positioning your line and fly rod tip upstream you have set yourself up for a good drift. As the line

floats downstream, follow its path with the rod to prevent the line from pulling tight. There are two key caveats you must keep

in mind. First as you reach the rod upstream you'll most likely be pulling the fly short of the target line. There are two ways to make sure the fly stays on target. Either cast enough line to overshoot the target by two feet or so, or preferably shoot some line as you execute the reach upstream. Either method will ensure that your fly remains on target. Secondly, and perhaps the most important thing to remember is to Stop the rod and then reach, not cast and reach simultaneously.

The reach cast is an easy and effective way to counter-act drag. However, a little practice won't hurt. I had to finish by saying that.

*Mike Costello has been fly fishing for over 20 years and is a Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) certified fly casting instructor. He is the lead casting instructor at the League's annual Learn to Fly Fish Course held each April.*

*"Persistence, for the fisherman, is a virtue that transcends patience." A.J McClane*



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## Favorite Fly Patterns: The Beldar Rubberlegs

By Troy Dunn

For catching big trout you need big gaudy streamers. Streamers that imitate smaller fish such as sculpins are best. Since many of these fish have no swim bladder (i.e.- they cannot equilibrate to maintain vertical position) they spend much of their time on the bottom of the streambed bouncing around between the rocks. In addition to being attractive, you need a fly that will sink fast and stay down. In bigger water, this means a fly that has some serious weight. Of course there are a variety of patterns out there you can use, some folks spend all day tying those double articulated streamers with crazy names, but if I'm tying for a big trip, I like to keep things a little



*18" Cuttbow Trout Hybrid,  
Unnamed Lake, Wind River  
Mountains, WY*



*22" West Slope Cutthroat Trout, South  
Fork Flathead River, Bob Marshall  
Wilderness, MT*



simpler than that. One of my favorite flies for getting the job done is called the Beldar Rubberlegs. It's essentially a glorified woolly buggie with a tungsten conehead (get it?) and rubberlegs. It's a piece of cake to tie, and will catch heck out of the fish! I like to fish the brown color in the freestone streams and rivers of the intermountain west, while I find the green color to be an excellent pattern for fishing high mountain lakes on a sunny day. I've included an example of the fly as well as some examples of the fish you can expect to catch!

*Troy Dunn lives adjacent to French Creek and spends his free time fishing the backcountry of Montana and Wyoming.*



*Beldar Rubberlegs Tied by  
Troy Dunn*

### Olive Color Pattern

**Hook:** #4-#8 long Streamer  
**Thread:** Olive (or Black, it's not critical)  
**Weight:** Lead Wire  
**Head:** Large tungsten conehead (you want this fly to sink fast)  
**Tail:** Olive Marabou with a bit of flash (four to six strands of midge flash or flashabou)  
**Body:** Olive Chenille  
**Hackle:** Grizzly Olive  
**Collar:** Grizzly Olive  
**Legs:** Olive rubber legs

### Brown Color Pattern

**Hook:** #4-#8 long Streamer  
**Thread:** Brown (or Black, it's not critical)  
**Weight:** Lead Wire  
**Head:** Large tungsten conehead  
**Tail:** Brown Marabou with a bit of flash (four to six strands of midge flash or flashabou)  
**Body:** Brown Chenille  
**Hackle:** Grizzly Brown  
**Collar:** Grizzly Brown  
**Legs:** Brown rubber legs

*"The time must come to all of us, who live long, when memory is more than prospect. An angler who reaches this stage and reviews the pleasure of life will be grateful and glad he has been an angler."*

*Quote by Lord Grey of Fallondon (circa 1899)*

### Membership Renewal Request

Mike Ferraro, our Membership Coordinator, is reminding all our current members to please send in their renewal dues payment to our post office box or bring it with you to one of our meetings coming up. As you know, memberships run on a calendar year basis so this is the time to do it and avoid those pesky postcards and annoying emails Mike likes to send out. We appreciate your attention to this!

**Reminder: 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 land-owners 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 Only Parking Areas Near French Creek CR-FFO**

Indicates potential car parking areas

1..... Please parallel park on right side of trail between signs. Do not block trail as we are sharing this right of way with horses (3 spaces)

2.....Please parallel park on road by upper barn, but do not block entrance to field by the barn (2 spaces)

3.....Please parallel park as close to fence as possible but do not park in front of gate (2 spaces)

4.....Please parallel park on north side of road but do not park in front of, or past mailboxes (3 spaces)

5.....Please park off Pughtown Road on the shoulder by guardrail (2 spaces)

6.....Please parallel park on shoulder off Hollow Rd (2 spaces)

7.....Please park in designated area (3 spaces)

8.....Please parallel park on shoulder of Hollow Rd (2 spaces)

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**ARTICLES WANTED!!**

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

**Bob Molzahn** at

*rfm1949@comcast.net.*

All articles received will be published.



## A Day on Spring Creek with Four Penn State Fly Fishing Legends

By John Burgos

On April 9th of this year my wife Gloria and I had the pleasure of attending a fundraising event hosted by and for the Clear Water Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania. The ClearWater Conservancy has a mission to promote conservation and restoration of natural resources in central Pennsylvania. Sounds familiar.

We participated in the program, "A Day on Spring Creek with four Penn State Fly Fishing Legends". This program featured four of the most experienced Pennsylvania anglers and was held on the banks of Spring Creek at Fisherman's Paradise. The presenters included Greg Hoover, Mark Belden, Vance McCullough and headlined by Joe Humphreys.

For any Pennsylvania angler who is unfamiliar with Joe Humphreys his biography is too long to be included here. He was the long time instructor of the Penn State University Fly Fishing program, commonly regarded as one of the finest anglers Pennsylvania has ever produced. Considering the likes of Vince Marinaro and



Joe and John sharing stories at the end of the day

George Harvey, this is no small statement! He is the author of "Trout Tactics", which even through the simplicity of the title is an indication of his pragmatic approach to this sport that many of us try to make complex.

The days leading up to the fundraiser were forecasting cold and heavy rain. The event was scheduled rain or shine. Fortunately, the heavy rain left us the day before. Saturday was a cool but dry day with none of the outdoor activities impeded.

The day's agenda was filled with topics tailored to the strengths of each of

the speakers. A casting demonstration was given by Joe. You bet this guy can cast! His approach to teaching is much different than what we generally see in books or videos. Incidentally, Dame Juliana has a copy of his casting DVD, "A Casting Approach to Fly Fishing". I strongly encourage members to view this video. The simplicity of his approach is worth your con-



The Four Legends (l to r): Vance McCullough, Mark Belden, Greg Hoover, and Joe Humphreys (Photo courtesy of Jim Strauss, ClearWater Conservancy)

sideration.

Vance McCullough and Mark Belden each followed Joe, in order, as instructors and promoters of the Penn State Fly Fishing Program. Vance gave an interesting presentation entitled "The Stealth Approach to Fly Fishing covering a wide variety of common sense

concepts that we often overlook. Mark led the group on a walk along Spring Creek offering insight for reading trout water, pointing out feeding lanes and demonstrated different

*"The great charm of fly fishing is that we are always learning."*

*Theodore Gordon*

techniques to use.

Greg Hoover, author and entomologist for Penn State, held a discussion "Trout Stream Insects and their Imita-

tions". Not only did he have a thorough slide show, but the previous day's field work yielded live specimens of many of the bugs we discussed. It was enlightening to see common stone fly patterns being nuzzled up to by actual giant yellow stones.

Afterwards, festivities continued at the Governor's Pub in Bellefonte with a happy hour where we were all able to share notes and experiences.

The day was fun. The cause was serious. The Conservancy beat their goal and raised over \$10,000. The money raised was used for the Galbraith Gap Land Acquisition Project. The goal of this project is to secure a 152 acre land tract in the headwaters of one of the few remaining brook trout streams in the Spring Creek watershed. To learn more about the ClearWater Conservancy and how it protects resources important to our sport, visit their site at [http://www.clearwater](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org)

[conservancy.org](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org).

At the happy hour I had to opportunity to talk with Joe. I asked him several questions, but my favorite was this. I asked him if the fly fishing community took exception to his teaching methodology. He shook his head in agreement.

Leaning over to me he said,

"500,000 trout can't be wrong!"

A day on the water with four of the best, doing what you love! What a memorable day it was.

John Burgos is a long time member of the League and serves on the Board of Directors as the Stream Improvement Coordinator. He has fished all over the country and is a frequent contributor to this newsletter.



## Why We Fish: One Angler's Reflection

One evening I had dinner with people I hardly knew and in the course of conversation a smiling woman turned to me and asked why I fished. I had never given the question much thought.

Fishing, after all, is a simple pleasure, and simple pleasures rarely require scrutiny. But the woman deserved an answer, so I said it was important to understand the difference between fishing as it is commonly perceived (as goofing off, a way to kill time) and fishing done with attention and passion and the belief that it offers emotional sustenance. The woman smiled like she had a tablespoon of paint thinner pooled in her mouth and asked how I could find it emotionally sustaining to impale a helpless creature with a hook and yank it from the water.

There was silence, and everyone at the table looked at their plates. I tried to lighten the mood by joking about my luck as an angler. Most days, I impale very few creatures, innocent or otherwise. But the woman was not amused. I suggested that in a world as troubled as ours fishing is among the least harmful of activities. There was another silence, longer than the first, and finally the host steered the conversation in a different direction and that was the end of it.

The incident bothered me and I was sorry that I did not have a better answer for the woman.

If I had the wit and the woman was inclined to listen I could have told her that fishing makes us alert, pulls us out of ourselves, and engages us in something bigger. It's restorative

that cleanses us when we've become muddied and makes us healthy when we've become sickened. It's a brace against pessimism.

Fishing, I should have explained, teaches us to perform small acts with care. It humbles us. It enriches our friendships. It cultivates reverence for wild things and beautiful places. It reminds us that time needs occasionally to be wasted. It makes us participants in nature instead of spectators, a crucial distinction because participants tend to be passionate and protective and spectators tend to become indifferent.

I could have said that looking down into a lake, an ocean, or a river is like looking up into the night sky; that both water and sky are filled with mysteries, and when we peer deeply into them we connect with every man and woman who has ever felt the tugging vitality of the universe. We become part of a larger community, united by mysteries so vast they make our differences of opinion and philosophy seem very small.

I wish I told her that anglers are people who want to get beneath the surface of things, and fishing is simply a way to open our hearts to the world.

*Excerpted from "The River Home: An Angler's Reflections", published by St. Martin's Press, 1998; named the best outdoor book of 1998 by the Outdoor Writers Association of America.*



## An Incredibly Beautiful Thing...

The river flowed smooth and dark beneath the fringing alders. Here and there on the surface little rings broke the reflections and occasionally a splash showed white against the bank.

A boy was lying prone, peering over the grass into the clear water. His breath came quickly as he saw a big tail appear in the center of a ring, waving slowly from side to side before it quietly sank again.

There was life in the air as well; tiny gauze-winged forms were rising and dipping over the water, sometimes lightly touching its smooth surface. The boy looked upward to watch them. He raised himself and grasped an alder branch for support. He felt a delicate touch on his hand and, turning saw the insect resting there, its wings slowly opening and closing.

It was an exquisite creature. The wings were nearly transparent, of iridescent pearly color. The up-curved body was shaded darker on the back, tapering to the slender whisks of a tail long and curved. The eyes protruded prominently and were colored a wonderful violet. It held out its long front legs in an almost supplicating attitude, and all its legs were marked with color, speckled and delicately shaded.

What an incredibly beautiful thing, he thought. No wonder trout rose to it so avidly. He looked up at the branch again. There were several of those lovely flies resting there, and one seemed different from the others. The boy stood up and looked more closely. He saw an insect, darker and duller in color, its back split down the middle, and from its body was emerging another, the delicate, bright one he had already seen.

With a sudden movement, it pulled itself clear. The wings were not erect but seemed to be folded close to the back. As he watched, he saw them begin to open. The metamorphosis took place quickly before his eyes, and in a few moments there was another fly, complete, shining, drying itself in the sun. He looked away and when his eyes

returned again it was gone. The splashes in the stream continued.

It is no wonder that, with the impact of that introduction, I became a fly fisherman. Surely, I thought, an art based on imitations of such lovely fragile creatures must offer a great deal, especially if the angler could create them after his own fashion.

*(A. Nelson Cheney, 1878)*



*Around the steel no tortur'd worm shall twine,  
No blood of living insect stain my line;  
Let me, less cruel, cast the feather'd hook,  
With pliant rod athwart the pebbled brook,  
Silent along the mazy margin stray,  
And with the fur-wrought fly delude the prey.*

*John Gay (circa 1720)*

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