

STREAMSIDE

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

DAME JULIANA LEAGUE

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

Riffle & Runs

By John Burgos



Welcome, all, to our current newsletter. The weather has changed, the streams have been stocked. We hope that everyone has been able to wet a line.

This spring has been a busy one for DJL. Let's recap. In February, members worked with the PA Fish and Game to

float stock the French Creek fly fishing only section. Thanks to Dick Allebach for coordinating with the fish commission and recruiting volunteers. The float stocking allows for the fish to be well distributed throughout the section. Those of you getting the opportunity to fish the FFO section on French Creek know what an effective job they did.

We held our annual "Learn to Fly Fish Course" on April 27th. Our new location, Warwick Park has provided a fine venue for facilities, on stream demonstrations and casting instruction. Thanks to Skip Krause for providing the necessary leg work and prodding to ensure all tasks were covered. This is the 27th year of the course. This course would never be so refined and effective without Bob Molzahn's attention to detail. Thanks to our instructors, led by Bob Moser and Joe King.

A special thanks to Dianne Tidy. Dianne is the co-President of the Chesapeake council of Fly Fishers International (FFI). She is a certified casting instructor and led our program this year.

Lastly, thanks to all of the volunteers who assisted with demonstrating knot tying, casting and especially, setup/tear down.

We have already scheduled next year's class for Saturday, April 18. The success of this course is driven by the dedicated work of our members. Pass on you knowledge!

Let's hope for dryer weather and in the meantime, enjoy the summer season.

Tight lines,



John Burgos

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Mopping Up With the Mop Fly

by Mary Kuss

While I can't say I've exactly "mopped up" with the Mop Fly, I have used it with some success. Like a lot of ugly flies that don't fit our theories of imitation, but sometimes work very well nevertheless, the Mop Fly has its detractors. If you wouldn't be caught dead with a Mop Fly on the end of your leader, of course you are under no obligation to use one. On the other hand those of us who are more open-minded are under no obligation not to. All of the wise cracks about the fine line between being open-minded and having a hole in one's head notwithstanding.

As with its cousin the Green Weenie, people who want to take advantage of the Mop Fly's effectiveness often try very hard to find something it might be "imitating." The only natural fish food item the Mop Fly remotely resembles is a Giant Crane Fly larva. On that theory, Tim Flagler has come up with "A Kinder, Gentler Mop Fly." He uses chenille fingers from a gray carwash mitt as a material source. A tying video is available on-line.

Long before I heard of the Mop Fly, I was moseying down the cleaning products aisle at my local supermarket one day when my eye was drawn to that familiar Green-Weenie-chartreuse glow among the display of mops. Upon closer inspection I was intrigued to find a mass of soft chenille fingers. As an addicted fly tyer, I recognized tying material when I saw it.

I sat down at my tying bench with the mop head and cut a finger from the backing. What to do with

such a thing? The only thing I could think of was to lash it to a hook and use a bit of dubbing or other material to cover up the tie-down. I tied a few of these "flies" and



put them into my to-try stock box. There they sat for quite some time until I began hearing about The Mop Fly. I took out my prototypes and started using them.

The chartreuse Mop Fly clearly doesn't imitate anything in nature. It functions as a sort of "Mega Green Weenie" and is a pure behavioral trigger. As with the Weenie, fish will swim over to one of these flies lying motionless on the bottom and suck it up as if it were live bait. It's almost like cheating. But when more refined and elegant flies fail, these uglies can make the difference between a successful outing and a skunking.

I wanted to try different colors of Mop Flies, but the selection among dust mops and car wash mitts was rather limited. And I wasn't anxious to buy any more entire mop heads just to tie a few flies on a whim. I found out that Mop Chenille was available on cards, in a nice array of fly-fishing-friendly shades. But how could I go about turning it into those fingers? After several failed attempts, I decided to sacrifice one of the fingers from my chartreuse supermarket mop and find out how it was made. It turns out that the material is simply furled.

To create a mop finger from carded chenille, start with a 3-inch length. Secure one end in the vise jaws and grasp the other end with hackle pliers. Twist the chenille strand until it starts to furl. Fold the strand in half over a bodkin, grab the free end and hold it against the vise jaws. Withdraw the needle and allow the furl to happen. Twist the furled finger a bit to tighten it. Remove the hackle pliers, remove the finger from the vise and twist it with your fingers to tighten it a little more. Voila!

The carded Mop Chenille is also available from J. Stockard Fly Fishing, www.jsflyfishing.com.

Note that furling is a useful technique that can be used with any sufficiently strong, stranded material to form extended bodies. Anchor the material at the tail position of the hook, furl, tie off and continue with the rest of the fly.

To my eye, the Oyster White Mop Chenille available from the Bass Pro website (<https://www.basspro.com/shop/en/white-river-fly-shop-mop-chenille>) is a good match for the color of a Giant Crane Fly larva. The naturals are 35 to 45 mm in length, and the finger you get by furling a

three-inch length of mop chenille comes in at the low end of that range. Here's my pattern recipe:

Giant Crane Fly Larva

Hook: #10 standard wet fly, or your choice

Bead: 5/32 black, brass or tungsten

Thread: Black or dark brown 3/0 Danville Monocord or equivalent

Body: Oyster White mop chenille, furred
Dubbing: 1:1 mix of dyed black rabbit and gray muskrat fur

Mary Kuss is semi-retired after a long tenure as an instructor, licensed Pennsylvania guide, and retail clerk at The Sporting Gentleman in Glen Mills, PA. She has taught countless group classes and private lessons in fly fishing and fly tying over the past 35 years. She has served on the Board of Directors for several non-profit conservation organizations, and has donated many hours of volunteer teaching. Mary is a life-member of Trout Unlimited and has served on the Board of the Ken Lockwood, Valley Forge, and Delco-Manning Chapters of T.U. She is the founder and an active member of the Delaware Valley Women's Fly Fishing Association, one of the largest clubs of its kind on the East Coast, which celebrated its 20th anniversary year 2016.



Carpe Diem!

By Thad Nowakowski

As I peer deeply into the tail of a run, on a typical Pennsylvania "crick", I look for the tell-tail sign of a tail wag, slight flash of golden thumbnail sized scales, or the hint of the yellow-white mouthpiece, I thank the manufacturers of today's high tech polarized sunglasses. Without them, the odds of connecting with my preferred quarry would be lower than a relief pitcher getting an at-bat in the era of baseball analytics. Out of the depth, I see what I'm looking for, line up for a perfect cast that will drop the "McTague McLovin" within a foot of

the fish's nose, and have at it. Like a thousand other previous attempts, I plop the heavily



weighted fly a little too close for the fish's comfort and watch 15 pounds of Golden Bonefish scurry off to a more comfortable lie.

Trash Hatch, Pennsylvania Redfish, Carp-on, are just a few of the colloquial names given to the Common Carp. Here in Southeastern PA, they are available in virtually every still water, creek, and river. I first caught the carp fever while fishing a Trico spinner fall on the Tully many years ago. I had a wonderful morning of catching trout with a size 20, double spent wing, but kept seeing these hulking shadows at the tail of the pool I'd been fishing. Once I realized they were carp, I reached way back into the vest to find anything that might entice one of these giants to eat. On that fateful day, a Clouser swimming nymph fooled an aggressive 6 pounder, which showed me the backing on my five weight for the first time since it was spooled up! From that moment on, I've never looked back.

During my relatively limited career of chasing carp with the fly, I've come to focus on 3 distinct seasons: early spring, Mulberry "hatch" (my favorite), and summer mudding.

Early Spring: I usually start checking my carp spots in mid-March. Before that, I just don't see much activity. Remember that carping with a fly rod, is purely a sight casting game. Sure, you can luck into one blind casting, but you're going to spook way more than you will ever fool doing it. Bring the polarized glasses, relish sunny days, take your time and really look *through* the water for your target. Carp are just waking up from a winter of relative inactivity, and they are hungry and on the prowl. Just yesterday, I saw a spillway that had a couple hundred suckers



preparing to spawn. Carp will scarf those egg patterns up like a lineman at McDonalds. Swimming nymphs, McLuvins, mop flies, are all good choices this time of year.



Mulberry "Hatch": Find a mulberry tree that is full of fruit, perched over carp water, and you will be a blessed individual. There is nothing that takes their usual wariness away like ripe mulberries plopping into a creek. One special mulberry tree over the

Phoenixville canal, will have 10-15 monsters under it every morning during the berry hatch, competing with the turtles, geese and ducks for those ripe morsels. This is where some specialized mulberry flies work splendidly. If you are a sloppy caster, your efforts can also be rewarded, as the sound of the fly slapping the water is an additional enticement. Two springs ago, the adult geese would reach up with their bills, and shake the overhanging branches to get more berries to fall for their goslings, and the carp underneath. Reminded me of Vince Marinaro and Charlie Fox chumming the LeTort with Japanese Beetles! The carp gorge on so many mulberries that the insides of their mouths and scales turn a purplish color.

Summer Mudding: Most often I look for a puff of mud to give away an actively feeding carp during the summer months.



This is also when you will see carp tails waving in the air as they tip up like a mudding bonefish, trying to push rocks out of the way for nymphs and crayfish. Mastering the drag-

and-drop cast is essential to catch mudders. Once spotted, stay upstream of your fish, cast across and well ahead of the carp. Lift your rod to line your fly up to the fish, and as it approaches drop the fly, so it lands within the carp's limited field of vision. I want the fish to see the descent within a two-foot half circle of their mouth. Watch for a reaction and wait to see them open and inhale. I've caught my largest carp with this technique. It's also why I love this game. Stealth, technique, sight fishing, and they fight like a freight train! Damsel nymphs and crayfish patterns are my go-to's.

There is no way I could tackle this topic fully in 700 words or less, but suffice to say there are a thousand other carp-aholics, all over the internet, who can provide additional insight. If you're on Instagram, check out @bradthompson61, @carpstalker1, @johnmontanacarp, and @flycarpin. Really innovative tiers and fellow carp addicts.



P.S. If you know of any good mulberry trees and want a private lesson, hit me up. I swear I won't go there without you

Thad started his fly fishing career chasing bluegills and bass in southern

Delaware farm ponds with a K-Mart glass 6 weight, 35 years ago. Since then, he's graduated to slinging flies to trout, stripers, mahi-mahi, bonefish, tarpon, permit, and his current addiction, Cyprinus Carpio. He is a 25 year employee of Pfizer, the Program Lead for the Royersford Project Healing Waters program, the Training Director for Bushkill NAVHDA, and husband and father of three. When he's not working, chasing carp, or watching track meets, he enjoys upland bird hunting and training his Wire-haired Pointing Griffon, Gemma.

Passionately Different

By Paul Valentine

“One more cast.”

“One more fish.”

“One more good pool.”

Do you find yourself thinking or saying those things to yourself or your fishing buddy? Have you ever had a day on the river or lakewhere the bite was hot, the weather was perfect and you just didn't want to stop? Have you ever been standing knee deep in a stream, tight to a good fish and felt a moment where you could put the busyness of life on hold and just stay in that moment forever? Always looking for what's beyond that next bend in the river. Always planning that next trip.

Contemplating what fly you are going to start with on your favorite stream and how you are going to get that perfect drift that will fool the mother of all trout that lurks deep, deep under the rippling surface.

These thoughts and many like them epitomize what it means to be passionate about something because those things you love are the things you think about most in life. These are thoughts I find myself thinking often.

Let me ask you a question. What is it about fly fishing that keeps you coming back? There are many styles of fishing, all are effective in their own ways, but what is it about fly fishing that captivates the hearts of so many? What makes fly fishing so special that organizations like Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Reel Recovery and Casting For Recovery, utilize it to help people achieve healing in mind and body? I have often wondered why fly fishing is able to touch the hearts, minds and bodies of so many and I think I have finally found part of the reason.

All of those organizations encourage and teach proper catch and release practices. Now hold on. I know that some of you have immediately gotten

your hackles ruffled, so let me say that there is nothing wrong with fishing to put meat on the table. There is so much controversy and bad blood surrounding both sides of the argument - but bear with me for a moment and I will explain.

Personally I have an intense aversion to the taste and smell of any food harvested from water. I once almost lost my dinner during a date with my girlfriend, now wife, because of the fishy smell inside our local Red Lobster. This reaction started long before I became a serious fly fisherman and makes me quite possibly the weirdest fisherman you will ever meet, but enough about that. I believe that the above organizations have achieved such profound success because they encourage

their members to practice ethical catch and release fly fishing. *They do so not because of any intolerance towards other fishing practices but because the act of releasing something you have subdued and have power over encourages compassion and peace.* Each of us has a choice and a lot of us fish far too often to ethically keep everything we catch. For these organizations the choice has already been made and keeping a fish is considered bad form and severely frowned on. This isn't because they are all tree hugging hippies but because they recognize the depth of pain in the human soul and they want to soothe that pain in the way that most fits with their beliefs and passions. Without a doubt this method has worked and the

results speak for themselves.

That isn't the only thing that makes fly fishers special. The final thing that keeps me coming back to this sport is the number of people who actively care about the environment they fish in. I don't mean the keyboard warriors who profess their compassion and share every meme that crosses the screen but the people that actively take part in improving the places they frequent.



Fly fishing forces us to slow down and observe the surrounding geography and topography in ways that conventional anglers don't. Whether that is checking over your shoulder for any trees or branches that may impede your back cast or watching a rising fish to gauge it's feeding rhythm and frequency before making the necessary cast to present your fly for its consideration. Regardless, fly fishers see things that other anglers do not and it shows. We are 1% of the fishing industry in America but we do more for our public waters than the other 99%. This makes me proud to claim the title "Fly Bum" and I hope that it makes you proud too!



Paul Valentine currently resides in Virginia and calls Mossy Creek and the South River his home waters. He is a husband and family man with two young daughters. Paul is also a 6 year U.S. Army Veteran who spent one tour in Iraq. He currently works as a production and custom fishing

rod builder and is the owner of Harbinger Rod Company. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and also loves walking the banks of streams in Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and North Carolina stalking and casting to fish or European Nymphing as the opportunity presents its self. He is actively involved in litter and trash management and is an advocate for better waste management practices. Paul is a self proclaimed Fly Bum and lover of all things fishing, especially those hard to reach hidden gems. To reach Paul send him a friend request on Facebook or follow along on one of his crazy adventures on Instagram @paul_the_fly_fisher.

War Stories #2

Pizza With New Friends

By Bob Bonney

On occasion we serve arrest warrants on individuals who don't pay the citations they had received from us. Typically warrant service is uneventful work, but it can also be very dangerous.

On foot patrol on French Creek above the Rapps Dam Bridge I was hidden behind some trees watching a 12-year-old boy fishing. I was waiting to see if the adult who accompanied him was also fishing. The youngster appeared to be afraid and called out for someone who did not answer. The more he called out the more afraid he became, so I stepped out from my hiding place and reassured him that everything would be all right.

The youngster told me he was from Philadelphia and was there with his mother's boyfriend. Then I saw the boyfriend fishing/walking downstream and yelling at the boy for being a baby. I stepped back into the woods and waited.

As he approached, he was verbally abusive to the boy, so I stepped out of my hiding place and introduced myself. Once the pleasantries were concluded I asked to see "Skinhead's" fishing license, (His head was shaved and he had tattoos all over). He didn't have a fishing license, so I issued him a citation.

A month later I received a warrant for him, which Officer Marchese and I attempted to serve. He moved two weeks prior to us getting the warrant, but I found an address for him in Philly, which turned out to be his fathers'. Dad eagerly gave us Skinhead's correct address, which was literally right down the street.

When I knocked on the door a young woman answered and when asked if Skinhead was there, she replied that he was in the shower on the second floor. I went to the bathroom and walked in.... when the suspect exited the shower imagine his surprise when I offered him a towel!

While he and his girlfriend were looking for money skinhead's dad walked in and asked, "What's going on?" Not wanting to give dad up I asked, "Who are you?" He stated, "I'm the dad". I said "Your son's going to jail, do you want to pay his fine? Dad said, "No." About that time there was another knock at the door, it was the pizza man. Not only did we get the violation fee, but dad paid for the pizza for supper. All six of us enjoyed it together!



I would have liked to have been a fly their wall after supper that night!

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.

Team Trout Fishing

By Ben Broscius



I've been a member of the US Youth Fly Fishing Team (USYFFT) for 3 years. I have been fly fishing seriously for over 5 years. I started fly fishing after taking the Boy Scout summer camp fly fishing merit badge. About a year

later I immersed myself in the sport, learning everything I possibly could after finding out there was a national fly fishing team. Ever since early 2015, I've competed every chance I had and enjoyed every second of it. Being on the Youth Team has taken me to some amazing places with the best teammates/coaches I could ask for.

To be admitted to US Youth Fly Fishing Team, an angler must represent a few qualities as well as some basic angling skills. First and foremost, you must demonstrate a "team medal mentality." "Team medal mentality" is a team-first approach. You have to be primarily focused on how the *group* scores in the competition... not yourself. Sharing every bit of stream information that worked for you, in the situation given, is a must. That attitude wins championships. Next, team members should represent a high skill level in competition. Finishing in the top half of every competition helps your chances of making the team immensely, especially Youth Nationals. The more experience you have different sizes and shapes of rivers and lakes, the better you will do in competitions. You must be willing to push yourself beyond temporary frustration on the water, and be conservation minded.

Age 12 is when you can start attending USYFFT clinics and are eligible for the team. Eligibility lasts until 19 years old, then you "age out" of the program. The US Youth Fly Fishing Team is a volunteer run non profit organization based out of State College, PA. Even though the board of directors is based in State College, we have team

members all over the country. Oregon, Texas, Colorado, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Georgia, and Alabama all have anglers belonging to the Youth Team.

For those of you not familiar with competitive fly fishing here's a brief overview of the most commonly referenced competition rules:

- No floats or split shot
- Leader can be no more than twice the length of your rod
- Flies must be a minimum of 50 cm (? Inches) apart
- Maximum of 3 flies on a rig at one time
- *Flies must be tied on a single barbless hook*
- *Beads on your fly cannot exceed 4 mm in diameter*
- *In order for a fish to be scored, it must be hooked forward of the gill plate*
- *Knots must be a minimum of 12 inches apart*
- *The angler may not touch the fish or rig before the judge scores them*

Four mentors who have been incredibly generous: Calvin Kaloz ([http:// usyouthflyfishing.com/kalvin-kaloz-team-manager-and-assistant-coach/](http://usyouthflyfishing.com/kalvin-kaloz-team-manager-and-assistant-coach/)), Josh

Miller (<http://usyouthflyfishing.com/josh-miller/>), Gordon Vanderpool (<http://usyouthflyfishing.com/gordon-vanderpool/>), and Paul Bourcq (<http://usyouthflyfishing.com/paul-bourcq/>).

These 4 coaches come to mind because they are mentors *on and off* the water. They teach me about preparedness, what it means to be on a team, and how to push to excellence. Besides being excellent anglers these gentlemen are wonderful role models.



Ben Brocius is the owner and head guide at American Standard Fly Fishing Guides LLC here in Pennsylvania. Between guiding and competing,

being on the water as much as possible is his goal. Stop in to visit while Ben's working at Orvis in Plymouth Meeting.



Fish Food

By Don Kelly

When I was first approached about writing an article about frying fish, I was a little hesitant. Fly fishing tends to be all about catch and release, and in the same regard, a good majority of the fish I catch swim free to chase another day. Let's be honest though ... fish are delicious, and when I'm wandering the grocery store looking at questionably labeled 'white fish', a slab of farm raised salmon, or some imported frozen fillets, I can't help but wonder, "why?"

Why buy pre-made fish sticks, when our waters are loaded with tasty panfish? They're abundant, highly fecund, and always willing to take a fly.

Catching them is great fun, and it's hard to beat an evening of hanging out with your fishing buddies, enjoying a few beverages, and chowing down on crispy fillets.



A perfect fish fry is about both the experience and the food. It starts with a day of catching fish. I like a foam bodied fly, like a beetle or small popper. Behind it, trail a small hare's

ear, worm pattern, or a mop fly. Any panfish will do, but bluegills in the 7-8 inch range or 10-12 inch crappies are our favorites.

Next, comes the not so fun part- cleaning the fish. A good, sharp knife is a must. Personally, I prefer a 6 or 7 inch Rapala fillet knife. Take your time and make sure every bone is removed. Run the fillets under cold water to remove any grime or scales. Nothing ruins an appetite faster than biting into some fish and picking bones out of your teeth.

Then, comes the fun part, cooking them all up. There are dozens and dozens of different recipes and commercial batters on the market, in both wet and dry options. Shore Lunch makes some of my favorite batters, offering original, cajun, and beer batter, and we'll make batches of each to enjoy. For a homemade variety, a cup of flour, a few tablespoons of garlic powder, some paprika, a little onion powder, pepper and salt does the trick. Add a little cayenne pepper or red pepper flakes for a little extra kick.



Prep your cooking area like an assembly line. When using a dry batter, start with a bowl of rinsed and dried fillets, then a bowl of beaten eggs, followed by your favorite batter. Dry batters give a thin crispy coating, that I personally prefer. Dip the fillets in the eggs, toss in the batter, making sure each fillet is completely coated, then carefully drop them into hot oil. The fillets are done when they reach a nice golden brown color. Wet batters will give you a thicker coating, and you can skip dipping them in the eggs.

After all your hard work, you'll have a plate full of delicious fish to enjoy. Remember though, the perfect fish fry isn't just about the food, it's about the people you enjoy it with and the reminiscing about great days on the water.



Don is the owner of Tackle Shack in Wellsboro, PA. He grew up in Downingtown, fishing Marsh Creek Lake and the East Branch of the Brandywine before heading to Mansfield University to study fisheries biology. Today, you can find him in the shop, fly fishing on Pine Creek, or chasing bass and panfish in any of Tioga County's lakes.



Last Cast

As we close out the Meeting calendar for the summer, remember just a few resources that we offer as you plan your season.

As a member, you have access to any our rod and reel loaner program. We have a nice inventory of Redington rods and reels, mostly in the 5wt and 8wt category. These rods make great starter

rods or a dependable backup. Don't let a broken tip top upend your trip of a lifetime.

Remember our sponsors. Your membership gets you 10% off at French Creek Outfitters on all fishing equipment.

We are actively planning an informative slate of programs for the Fall. To highlight our Fall, we are opening our season with a presentation feature noted fly fisherman and casting instructor, Ed Jaworoski. Cancel all plans and come welcome Ed on Monday, September 30.

As always, we welcome all feedback and requests. for meeting ideas.

John B

Editor's Notes

Thanks, Contributors!

Thanks, John, Mary, Thad, Bob, Paul, Ben and Don! Without you I'd still be shilling Britannicas in Oxford, NY. You submitted great stuff - and on time.

Comments Welcome

We're striving to create a newsletter that offers a diverse collection of fishing perspectives and writing styles.

The hardest work is getting writers to shed their inhibitions and make room in their schedules to write something of quality.

Hit me with some ideas.

Matt Seymour

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