



**CENTRE COUNTY PREVENTION COALITION**  
*A SAMHSA Funded Drug-Free Community Coalition*  
*Supported By Centre County Drug and Alcohol*



**July 22, 2009 – Fishing with Dad**

Jacob Knouse is a 14 year old 8th grader at Park Forest Middle School who hopes to become a member of the 2010 U.S. Youth Fly Fishing Team. He has been fishing with his father for over 12 years. This weekly column, published on Wednesdays, is a collaboration of Centre County *Communities That Care* serving Bald Eagle, Bellefonte, Penns Valley, and Philipsburg-Osceola Area School Districts, and Care Partnership: Centre Region *Communities That Care* serving the State College Area School District.

Fly fishing is a great activity to do with your dad. On May 17, 2009, I experienced one of the best fly fishing experiences I have ever had. My dad and I set off to fly fish around 6:00 PM on the Little Juanita River. We were going to the Little Juanita stream because there was supposed to be a hatch that comes off that's called a sulfur hatch. The temperature outside was about 55 degrees and my dad had his mind set on a brief fishing trip because of the cool temperatures. When we arrived we got our fishing gear on and heading into the water. I immediately identified the hatch and was able to find a fly that matched. Trout were rising everywhere. It was like "need for speed" for twenty minutes. The water was boiling with fish all over the place. I have never seen that many fish rise before in my life. As soon as I got in the water I was catching fish left and right along side my dad. After awhile it slowed down and the fish weren't rising as much as they were twenty minutes ago but being the true fishermen that we were, we couldn't let go of the excitement. I continued to fish the hatch but was eventually forced out of the water by my dad's desire to get home and realization that the hatch slowed down.

This summer I recommend that you take advantage of some of the best fly fishing locations in the world, right in your back yard, like Fishing Creek, Spring Creek, Little Juniata, Black Moshannon and/or Six mile. These creeks stay cold year round and always have an abundance of fish. Not to mention it is a great past time and will create many fun and exciting memories with family and friends.

If you choose to fly fish there are three main things every successful fly fisherman needs: casting skills, hatching knowledge and patience. There are many different types of casts and often fisherman develop there own techniques. The key is to hit your target which take a lot of practice. On the creek you need to know the seasonal bug hatches. This is important because if you don't know what is hatching you could just be throwing a fly out that doesn't come off until next month and the fish won't bite it. Sometimes a lot of patience is needed and sometimes speed. The speed of hurry can be used to get to the creek and to leave the creek but while fishing your speed is entirely controlled by the fish. Finally, I recommend that after each fishing outing you keep a log of how many fish you catch, the size of the fish, the fly or flies you used, the temperature of the water, the location on the creek, the water clarity and most importantly capture the memory of who you fished with, I have lots of great fishing memories with my dad.

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