



The BUFFER

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH

Volume 38, Issue 12

Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com>

December, 2014

Notes from the President

Ken Dixon (krjdix@outlook.com)

Thanksgiving has come and gone and we are now anticipating the Christmas Holidays closely followed by the New Year.

For many of us, the arrival of cold weather signals it is time to put up our fishing gear away until the spring thaw. But for those willing to brave the elements, fishing opportunities are still out there for the cold water species. The Mad River and the Brookville Tail Waters come to mind. And if you want to do a little traveling, the Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area southwest of Louisville would be available for a day trip. If you do hit the streams, be sure to dress appropriately and take even more than your normal care if wading. For those of us that prefer the warmer times, the late fall and winter months provides us the opportunity to check out all our gear to get it in shape for the arrival of spring. This is also a great time to tie those special flies you will want in your box when you do hit the waters.

Although our fishing has been curtailed, the Club still has a number of activities underway. Check out the BUFF calendar for upcoming events. Also, we are only two months away from the Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. The Show Committee has been active since last summer, but preparations will now be going full bore ahead. Many of you have already signed up to help, but more hands will be appreciated (and needed). Contact Bob Gustafson if you want to volunteer. I know that we need volunteers to help Jim Neckers in the Fly Tying Presentation Room, the Kids Tying Area, and to man the BUFF Tying Booth – contact Jim if you want to help in these areas.

Planning is also underway for the 2015 BUFF Banquet. The committee has been working hard to update the program to make it even better. This is our major fund raising event for the Club and your participation is critical to our success over the next year.

Election of Officers and Directors for 2015 will be held at the January meeting. We currently have 2 positions open: Membership & Assets Management. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me. We need your help. The Board of Directors meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

I want to extend my wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pearls

Steve Lilly (sjlilly@fuse.net)

Any mussel whether in saltwater or freshwater is capable of producing a pearl.

Wikipedia



In 1857 a carpenter named Jacob Quackenbush found a large 93 grain pink pearl in a New Jersey creek that he sold to Tiffany's of New York for a tidy sum. Eventually the Empress Eugenie de Montijo, Queen consort of Emperor Napoleon III ended up with it and the pearl became known as the Queen Pearl. When news about the Queen Pearl got around the resulting hunt for fresh water pearls all but decimated the New Jersey mussel population. Eventually the search spread westward to Ohio where in one year about \$25,000 worth of pearls were collected from the Little Miami River in the vicinity of Waynesville. The pearls were mostly collected at low water, and principally by boys, who would wade out in the water and feel for the mollusks with their feet, and then bob under and pick them up. Many of the pearls were purchased by the Waynesville banker Israel H. Harris who over the years accumulated several thousand pearls of every imaginable shape, size and color that made his collection the largest and best known in the country. Today as a result of silting and pollution many mussels are extinct, and Ohio has made it unlawful to take, possess, sell, barter, or trade any mussels or mussel part.

Volunteering for Buff activities – (editor's note - correction)

Sue Jones (jonesm@miamioh.edu)

This article appeared in the Nov. issue of the Buffer but Sue Jones's email was transcribed incorrectly. Her address should have appeared as: (jonesm4@miamioh.edu)

Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Preview

Bob Gustafson (j.r.gustafson@att.net)

BUFF has been hosting fly fishing shows in the greater Cincinnati area since 1989 when Tom Mench and Tony Kalbli organized the first BUFF Conclave, held at the Kings Island Inn. In subsequent years the show (and

associated banquet) moved to various venues including the Shrine Oasis, Eastgate Holiday Inn, Blue Ash Clarion Hotel, and Receptions, Fairfield. In 2003, the show and banquet were separated and the show renamed the "Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show". For 10 years the show was held annually at Receptions, until it outgrew the space and moved in 2013 to the current venue, The Oasis Conference Center in Loveland.

The Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show has grown over the years and is now the largest show in this region. Exhibitor feedback indicates that our show is a favorite, owing to the enthusiastic participation of our club volunteers. Please sign up to volunteer at an upcoming monthly meeting or email Bob Gustafson at j.r.gustafson@att.net.

This year's show will be Saturday, February 7, 2015, at The Oasis Conference Center. There will also be three fly tying clinics with Tom Rosenbauer, Orvis Fly Fishing Manager on Friday before the show. Signups for the clinics will be available soon.

Preparations for the 2015 show (the 26th?) are well underway and exhibitor booth reservation applications are arriving at a fast clip. Exhibitors committed to date include many familiar names, plus a few new ones:

- Streamside Furred Leaders
- Land of Legends Fly Club
- Elk Springs Resort
- Golden Rule Fly Shop
- Emergence Angling Services
- Canoe Kentucky
- Roads, Rivers, and Trails
- Tightlines Jewelry
- Briarwood Sporting Club
- Temple Fork Outfitters
- Hog Creek Furred Leaders
- Little Miami Conservancy
- Ripple Guide Service
- Chota Outdoor Gear
- Orvis Streamside/Orvis Michigan Fly Fishing School
- Davidson River Outfitters
- Southeastern Anglers
- Indigo Guide Service
- Float Master Products
- Orvis Kenwood
- Angler's Choice Flies
- Glenn River Fly Co
- Angling Consulting Services
- Otter Creek Bamboo Fly Rods
- McFarland Rod Company



Plus area fly fishing clubs, state wildlife organizations, and non-profit organizations.

There will be, as usual, outstanding presentations from fly fishing experts, fly tying demonstrations, and casting demonstrations. Show brochures will be available at the December and January dinner meetings. Pick up a bunch and pass them out to your friends or at work—help grow our show and the sport we all love.

Membership

Tom Agin (agin6@fuse.net)

It's that time of year, time to renew your BUFF membership for 2015. Member dues cover from January 1st of each year to December 31st. Dues need to be paid by January 1, 2015. Single memberships are still \$25.00/year and Family memberships are still \$30.00/year. There are a couple of ways you can pay your dues: Pay at the monthly dinner meeting or send your payment in the mail. If you are sending it in the mail the address is P.O. Box 42614, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242. Please make checks payable to BUFF.

Several of you have already paid your dues thru 2015. For these people I will be sending out an email letting you know that your 2015 dues have already been paid.

Dec. Meeting Program –

Pete Moore (sharonandpetem@outlook.com)

Meeting Date Change for December

December 17 is the new date

The day of the December meeting has changed from the second Wednesday of December to the third Wednesday of December. That makes the meeting date December 17. The change was made due to a conflict with the VOA hall.

Speaker – Dan Dunlap

Dan is the WAVE Foundation's Education Program Manager at Newport Aquarium. Dan is a key contributor to a great team that provides leadership and execution of WAVE's Education Programs and Curriculum. Before joining the WAVE Foundation team, Dan was a Teacher at Shriner's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio for over eight years. Dan is also a High School Golf Coach at Moeller High School, which means he will play a key role in the Annual Putt for Penguins fundraiser. In his free time, Dan enjoys playing golf, and spending time with his wife and daughter Avery. Dan's family also includes a Black Lab, a Jack Russell Terrier and a large collection of saltwater fish.

Program - Newport Aquarium

Dan Dunlap will talk about the programs and new exhibits for WAVE Foundation of the Newport Aquarium. He will bring some of their exotic animals from their outreach collection. **This will include an American Alligator, an African Spur Thigh Tortoise, and a Sea Star.** He will share thoughts on Mighty Mike (15 foot alligator) and Bravo (85 year old Galapagos Tortoise).

BUFF Library

Steve Walker (swalker@roadrunner.com)

The club is still in need of volunteers to form the Library Committee. The committee is in charge of setting up and storing the library at the club meetings next year. Bob Mackey, who is the current Librarian, will be at the BUFF dinner meeting on December 17, 2014. Anyone interested in serving on the Library Committee will have a chance to talk to Bob about the effort required to run the library. This is a very valuable and much used asset of the club. Probably every one of you reading this has borrowed a couple of books, maps, or DVDs from the library and maybe learned a thing or two in the process. Help us keep the library available to the membership next year by volunteering to be a member of the committee.

Annual Banquet

Tom Smith (tsmithconsluting@cinci.rr.com)

Next year's date for the annual banquet is April 11, 2015. In order to lower the club's cost point the format is being changed to a social hour with Hors D'Oeuvres and dessert. There will be a cash bar with no charges for soft drinks and coffee. The event will be held at the Mill Race Golf Club at Winton Woods. A sample reservation form is included with this article and we will start taking reservations at the December club meeting. The reservation form will also be available on line where you can download it and fill in the information. We do not anticipate taking reservations on line.

Please see the following page.

Date Form Received _____



Buckeye United Fly Fishers Annual

Cabin Fever Relief Banquet, Raffles and Auction

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Mill Race Golf Club, 1515 West Sharon Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45213 (513) 825-3770

6:00 Social Hour with Hors D'Ouerves and Music, Cash Bar

7:00 Program begins

9:30 Banquet Ends

		No.	Total
Banquet Reservations	\$25.00	_____	_____
Early bird (prior to Jan 30) includes 1 free Raffle Ticket and 1 free Grand Raffle ticket			
After Jan 30, price includes 1 Grand Raffle ticket			
Raffle Tickets	\$5.00	_____	_____
	or 6 for \$25.00	_____	_____
Grand Raffle Tickets	\$10.00	_____	_____
Total Enclosed		_____	
Paid with this form			

Attendees Name(s):	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		

Address		Phone #	
City		Alt #	
State	Zip	Email	

Payment Type	Cash	Check	Check #	Credit Card	Exp:
Credit Card #				Name on Card	
CC Type	Visa	Master Card	Amex	Discover	

Please make checks payable to "Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc." and mail to Thomas Smith, Banquet Reservations, 25 Evergreen Circle, Cincinnati, OH 45215

This form must accompany the reservation

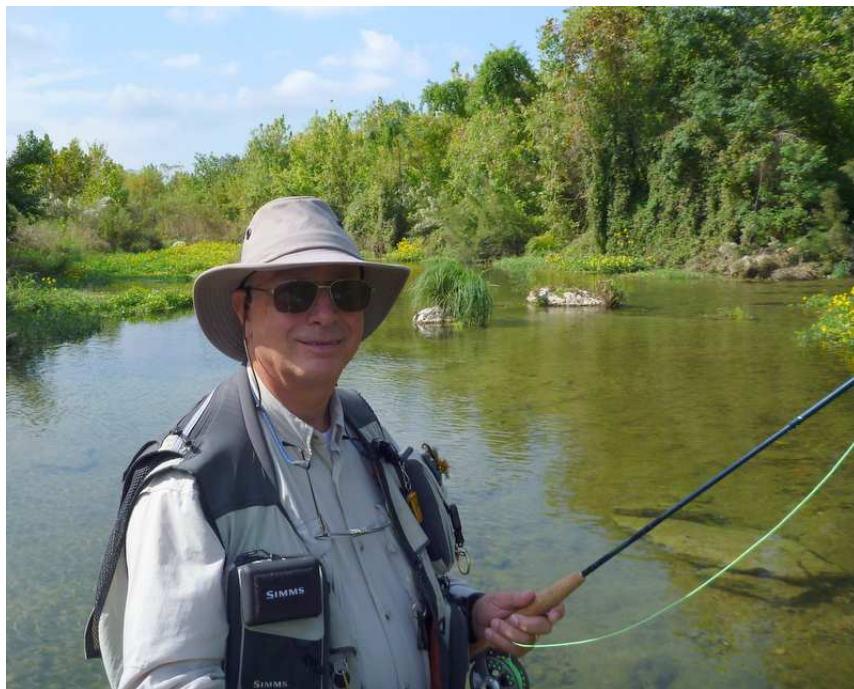
Fishing with a Snake

Duane Bentley (dbentley@fuse.net)

Have you ever gone fishing with a snake? No I don't mean those two legged ones that come splashing into the pool you're fishing, walk upstream about 30 feet and then ask you what fly you're using (had one of those recently too).

No, I'm talking about the long, skinny ones with no legs and big teeth!

I was in Central Texas for several weeks in late October - Early November visiting family, and went fishing on the San Gabriel River.



I've fished it in years past and have been very successful for Bluegills, Bass, and Sunfish. This day the weather was in the low 80's with water depths ankle to knee deep. The water was crystal clear and warm, and I had fished as I waded downstream a half mile and then back, catching and releasing nearly a dozen 8"-12" bass in the two hours. I stopped in the last deeper pool on my way back and worked a much larger bass than I had seen all day, that was hiding under some brush 20 feet in front of me. On each cast, he would come out and nibble on my streamer, but refused to hit it, before returning to his protection. There was a large boulder at my 2 o'clock location, about four feet away, and as I glanced down, I was stunned to see there was a 4' snake laying on the river bottom, pointing away from me and towards the boulder, less than

3' from my right boot. I had seen dead snakes in the river before, and this one definitely did not look like any of them.

I experienced one of those shocks that goes through you, like an adrenaline shot, giving me the impulse to jump away. But he was not moving, andneither did I. I had my wading staff locked together and next to my right hand, and for an instant thought about poking him. Maybe that was a dumb idea! (Ever want to check to see if the "Wet Paint" sign is really telling the truth?) I also have a waterproof camera with a telescoping wand mounted on the bottom of it in my waist pack, so I set the timer for auto shoot, 10 second delay, extended the wand, and stuck the camera into the water, just over the snake. The camera took the picture, and the snake never moved. So I retrieved the camera, looked at the picture, and was deciding if I wanted to move closer to get a real good close up nearer the head.



Then the action happened.

A school of four large fish came out of the shadows at 11 o'clock, swam across in front of me, and then turned to swim between the snake and the boulder. Before I could yell, "That's my fish....!", the snake struck the first one and held on. The quiet river turned into a trashing torrent. The snake brought the flailing fish to the surface, and immediately wrapped three coils around it. Within seconds, the fish quit splashing, and the snake swam with the large fish, still in the snake's mouth, towards the river bank, about 10' ahead. I tried to get another picture, but the snake wasn't interested in stopping to pose....that picture is a little blurry. Although not shown in the picture, the fish's body was easily three times larger than the snake's head, even with his jaw unhinged, and I wondered how he was going to swallow it.



So with my wading staff in my right hand, my camera in my left, and my rod and reel under my left arm, I followed the snake and prey to the river bank. I heard some further flailing in the tall grass and brush, about 5 feet ahead of me, and then it stopped.

I also stopped.

Maybe this wasn't a good idea after all....besides the snake might conclude I was more than just a casual observer, in terrain where he probably had the advantage. I backed away, and headed upstream toward my truck.

So what kind of snake was it? I'm not sure, but I did do some research afterwards. It very likely was a non-venomous Texas River Snake, but it also had similar coloring and head shape to a Diamond back. In any case it was an interesting experience (and I'm glad I decided not to poke it with my wading staff).

In Memoriam

Ken Dixon (krjdix@outlook.com)



Chris Helm, a great friend to BUFF in general, as well as being a personal friend of many of our members, passed on November 27 after a long battle with cancer. Chris was the owner of Whitetail Fly Tying Supplies in Toledo, Ohio, until the Spring of 2013, when he sold his business to give him more time for fishing, golf and writing a book. He was well-known both for his study of whitetail deer as well as for tying with deer hair. However, Chris was not limited to doing hair flies. He tied and taught all kinds of flies, ranging from the classic Atlantic Salmon flies to blue gill patterns. Chris often worked closely with BUFF members and, most recently, helped us create the Working with Hair class we provide every other year in our Advanced Tying Classes. For many years, Chris hosted Tying Workshops in his shop, featuring some of the greatest fly tiers in the Country. Chris participated in shows all over the United States, Europe, England and Scotland, had 11 videos in circulation and had written numerous articles for various fly fishing and fly tying magazines in the USA and abroad. In 2004, Chris was awarded the most prestigious Buz Buszak Memorial Award from the International Federation of Fly Fishers for his service and contributions to the art of fly tying. Chris will be missed by all that had the good fortune to know him.



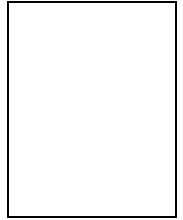
The *BUFFER*

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc.

P. O. Box 42614

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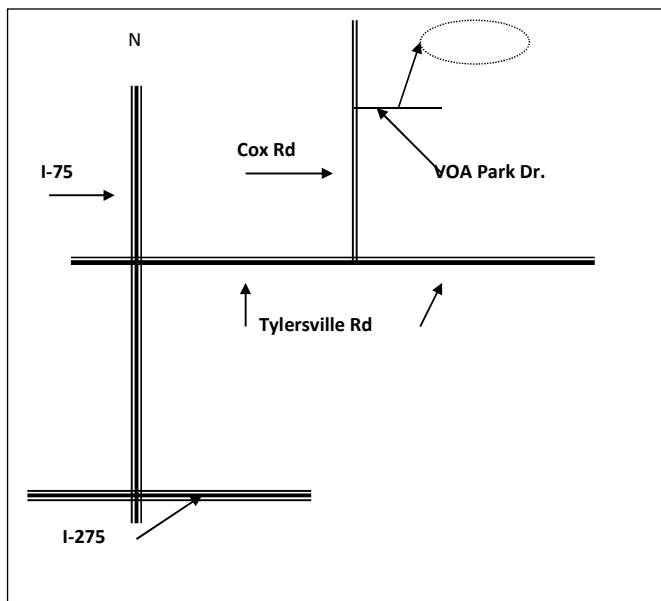
NOTICE: Dues are \$25 (Individual), \$30 (Family), with a onetime \$5 Initiation Fee for new members. New members will pay a prorated membership amount according to month of initial membership for the first year. Annual dues are due January 1. Refer to BUFF website for further information. B.U.F.F., P.O. Box 42614, Cincinnati, OH 45242

Mailing Address

Next Monthly Meeting – Dec. 17, 2014

Call (513) 683-0286 or sign up on line at WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM for reservations no later than midnight on the Sunday before the meeting. Dinners are \$15/person.

Sign up from the 20th of the November through the Sunday evening (12/14) before the monthly meeting!



Directions:

From I-75 -- Follow I-75 north to the Tylersville Road exit. Turn right off of the exit ramp onto Tylersville Road and follow to Cox Road. Turn left onto Cox Road and follow Cox Road north to VOA Park Drive. Turn right onto VOA Park Drive. Turn left onto first drive and follow roadway to Lodge.

From the Warren County area...

Follow Tylersville Road west to Cox Road. Turn right onto Cox Road and follow Cox Road north to VOA Park Drive. Turn right onto VOA Park Drive. Turn left onto first drive and follow roadway to Lodge.