



# The *BUFFER*

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

[www.BuckeyeFlyFishers.com](http://www.BuckeyeFlyFishers.com)

Volume 41, Issue 4

April 1, 2017

## LOSE YOUR PRIDE IN BIG SKY!

*Paul Juszczuk, President*

**L**ate last July – in my quest to catch the elusive giant brown trout – I found myself with my favorite fishing buddy, my 14 year old son Avery, on an airplane to Big Sky, Montana. Our quest began after hiring a guide from the awesome outfitter East Slope Outdoors. Day 1 was on the Gallatin River. We were lucky to be fishing during the spruce moth hatch. Catching rainbows was a blast. We were using an elk hair caddis fly as well as a lot of Frog’s Fanny. Avery caught over 25 rainbows that day.

Day 2 took us on the beautiful Madison River. Our guide told us to look at how many fishermen were on the bank and no one was in the middle of the river. Being in my late forties and with my son, I told myself getting into the middle of the river in the riff was going to be easy. So, with all the big bad brown trout in the middle of the river, Avery and I locked arms and headed out into the raging whitewater of the Madison. OK, because my wife will not read this column, I will share with you that was the dumbest thing I could have ever done with my youngest son. I had too much pride to take – let alone ask for – a wading staff. About two-thirds of the way to the middle, I slipped, fell in and started taking water in my waders. My son tried to keep me from going under with his whopping 120 pound frame. Both of us starting to float away in the current.

At that moment, I just keep thinking: How I was ever going to explain this to my wife? How and why our son got hurt – and possibly drowned – on a fly fishing trip?

The moral of the story is; this: lose your pride when thinking about safety while fishing! Whether it be about packing a small first aid kit with Band Aids, antibacterial ointment, finger splint, aspirin for heart conditions, a water bottle for dehydration, epi pen for bee stings, etc. Please be safe on the rivers and lakes this fishing season. As for me? I now am the proud owner of a foldable wading staff which stays in my fishing sling.

It's always a pleasure to see you at the meetings and fly fishing shows. Just don't forget: Plan ahead. Play it safe. Good luck this spring in the waters. Your President, Paul Juszczuk. ➔

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## April Presentation & Speaker

Jerry Darkes—“Modern Fly Lines - Continuing Innovation and Application of Technology”

*Phil Pursley, Program Co-Chair*

Often overlooked and misunderstood, the fly line is the single, most important part of an outfit. Recent technology has taken fly line construction and use to a level never seen before. This program will provide an in-depth look at fly line development, technology, and construction. We will also see how modern lines allow anglers to fish locations and for species long thought to be beyond the scope of fly fishing.

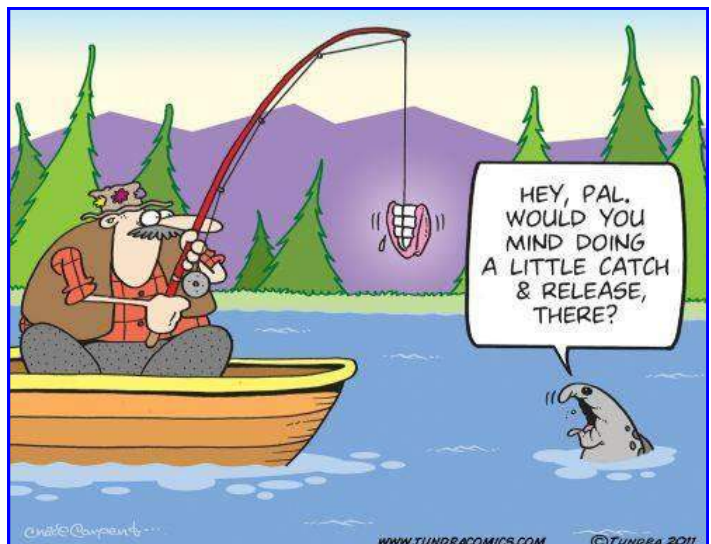
A life-long fly angler, Jerry Darkes has worked in the fly fishing industry for over 3 decades. He presently works as a sales rep for a group of major fly fishing manufacturers and is well-known as a guide, instructor, and presenter. Jerry’s angling travels have taken him across the United States, Canada and most recently to several locations in Central and South America. He has authored numerous articles and two books on a variety of fly fishing subjects and represents a group of top fly fishing manufacturers. ➔



**Don't miss this presentation to learn more Fly Fishing with Floatants.**

### **BUFF** Fly Fisher of The Year

Sue Jones



# Bob & Mimi Miller's Epic Journey in the Night

Bob Gustafson, Treasurer

Several years ago fly show exhibitors requested that BUFF provide a social gathering for the out of towners the evening before the show. That tradition has continued and we again hosted a Hospitality Mixer this year at the Hilton Garden Inn near the show venue in Loveland. At the Mixer, BUFF provides pizza and beer for the exhibitors and act as hosts responding to information requests and any booth setup problems the vendors have.

It has taken several years for us to figure out how much food and beer is needed, so that we don't run out or have a ton of leftovers. The problem has been figuring out the attendee headcount so that we order enough pizza and bring in enough beer. This year we vastly improved the event by utilizing an online reservations system developed by Don Kail and passing out certificates redeemable for beers at the Hilton Garden Inn bar to exhibitors who made reservations. This eliminated team members having to lug in six-packs (or more) to the Mixer (and the Hilton loves us!).

By mid-evening it became clear that we needed another pizza run. Bob Miller volunteered and asked the desk clerk to phone in the order to the nearby Dominoes store (about 5 minutes away). After giving the store a head start, Bob and Mimi headed out the door to get the pizza.



Meanwhile, I assured all our hospitality guests that more pizza was on the way... minutes away.

Time passed and no pizza. No Bob & Mimi. I reassured everybody that more pizza was on its way, even as we spoke.

More time passed. No pizza. No Bob & Mimi.

After a half hour, Bob called and said the order went to the wrong Dominoes and he and Mimi were headed to Maineville to get it.

I told everyone that the pizzas were at another store and Bob and Mimi were on it. Be here soon.

After an hour, Bob called and said the Maineville Dominoes had made the order, and noting that it was going to go to the Hilton Garden Inn had it delivered.... to the Hilton Garden Inn in Mason. Bob reported he and Mimi were on their way to Mason.

I reported to the restless and increasingly hungry gathering that the pizzas had been found and were on their way.

After an hour and fifteen minutes, Bob called and said he had the pizzas and was 10 minutes away.

After an hour and a half, Bob arrived, and delivered the pizzas to the cheering crowd.

Five minutes later, all the pizza was gone. ➡

## April Calendar

4/4	<b>PHW Fly Tying</b> Brent Miller
4/6	<b>Spring Steelhead</b> Hugh O'Donnell
4/10	<b>Casting Tune-Up</b> Gary Begley
4/12	<b>Women's Casting &amp; Landing Class</b> Sue Jones
4/12	<b>BUFF Meeting</b>
4/16	<b>Easter</b>
4/20	<b>Women's After-Work Outing</b> Cari Vota
4/21	<b>Tie &amp; Lie</b> Gary Begley
4/22	<b>River Cleanup—Little Miami River East Fork</b> Bryan Tudor
4/26	<b>White Bass Day Trip for Club Newcomers</b> Bob Gustafson
4/27	<b>White Bass Day Trip 1</b> Bob Gustafson
4/29	<b>White Bass Day Trip 2</b> Bob Gustafson
4/29	<b>Tree Planting</b> Bryan Tudor

**HEY YOU! Yes you.  
GOT SOMETHING  
TO SAY?  
Say it in the BUFFER  
Newsletter.**

## Spring Casting Tune-Up

**Date:** Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 6:00-8:00 PM

**Place:** Springdale Community Center

We have the gym reserved with the option of moving outside, weather permitting.

Sign-up is not required, simply bring your rod and stop in for a quick critique or stay for the entire time slot.

- ⇒ *Work with a Buff certified casting instructor for some tips/suggestions to help improve your cast.*
- ⇒ *If you wish, have your cast electronically analyzed! A graph of your cast is immediately available. A two page summary of your cast with comments and tips on how to improve can be emailed to you for your reference.*

### Contact:

Gary Begley  
[LoopDude1@hotmail.com](mailto:LoopDude1@hotmail.com)  
 BUFF & IFFF Certified Casting Instructor

## A Letter to Home

Wow, the past couple of months have been a whirlwind! I've already got six weeks under my belt at my new job here in NY (I'm working as a Process Scientist at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in Albany), and have attended two meetings of the Capital District Fly Fishers. The club here is considerably smaller than BUFF, but seems to be similar in mission and purpose. There's also an active TU chapter I plan on visiting as well, but our schedules haven't lined up yet.

My job is going well (I've mainly been training... for some reason they don't want anyone involved in producing drugs to not know what they're doing) and life in Albany has generally been good, although I

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Women's Programs for April – Come Join Us!

*Cari Vota, Director at Large*

### **April 12 - Ladies Casting and Landing Clinic, at VOA, before the BUFF monthly meeting**

This is our annual women's casting warm-up for the new fishing season. And now for something new to learn, we are adding a Landing Station to the clinic to help you pre-plan your strategy for landing a fish before making your 1st cast. We will have club rods on hand if you need one. Women members/non-members welcome. Please sign up online. As bonus for coming, each woman will be entered in a raffle for gift basket. I think someone said Chocolate...

### **April 20 - 1st Women's After-Work Fishing Outing**

New this year are our Women's after-work fishing outings, which will be the 3rd Thursday each month, April thru September. These are all wading trips. Some will be on the West-side of town and some on the East-side. This will be a good time to build basic skills, learn something new, gain confidence, expand your horizons, and make new fishing friendships. All outings will include Q&A time and mentors. Our 1st outing is at Heritage Park, in Colerain Twp. We'll meet at about 6:00 pm, answer any questions, and hit the water. Directions and more info on the registration page. ↩

*(Continued from page 4)*

miss my BUFF friends and think of you often.

New York has a closed fishing season, but they do keep certain sections of certain rivers open year-round. I've made a couple of trips to the year-round section of the Battenkill, which is only an hour from my apartment, but conditions have been tough for fishing so far. We got two feet of snow over a 24 hour period last week, which made it a nightmare to drive to work, let alone up to Vermont. I went cross country skiing instead, but used it as an excuse to scout out another river on the NY / Massachusetts line.



I'm also starting to solidify plans for a BUFF trip to upstate NY. This trip will be a pretty long haul by typical BUFF standards (Google Maps says it's roughly an 11 hour drive without stops), so I'm hoping to make it worth the trip. I'm working with the both Chief Bailey and the club up here to decide on ideal places to stay, but my thought is to make it a Nomad-style trip, split between a few days in the Adirondacks (staying close to or right on the fabled Ausable River... yes we have one of those in NY too) and a few days in the Catskills, with a day in the middle where we can visit Orvis headquarters and hopefully tour the rod factory. I am TENTATIVELY looking at the week of September 9-16 for this trip, so wanted to give you an early heads-up. From what I've seen so far, this will involve a lot of fairly technical fishing.

Thanks to all who've passed along good wishes, and I'll hope to see some of you on the water sometime soon. JR



## Finding a Guide

*Cari Vota, Director at Large*

A guide is a great investment, especially when traveling for a fly fishing trip. Time is short and you want the best chance of landing a fish for the buck. It is also a great way to learn - where they go, what they cast, and why.

- 1) Decide which style of fly fishing you want to experience and location. Are you looking to wade or is a float trip more your style? What species? Trout? Steelhead? Bass? Pike/Muskie? Redfish? Tarpon? Single-hand? Spey? How far are you willing to travel?
- 2) Determine how much you're willing to pay. With a lot of people price is usually the first consideration when hiring a guide, but be careful! You get what you pay for. Be weary of guides that charge considerably less than other local guides. Because most legitimate guides will work harder and go further to find fish for you, it may be worth your while to go with a guide that charges the average or a little more. Guides who work rivers and lakes usually limit their trips to one or two paying customers at a time.
- 3) Begin your search. The best reference for a guide, or lodge, or captain, is a recommendation from a buddy. If you don't have that, you can get a good idea of the kind of guide you'd be dealing with by spending a few hours online. While many guides rely solely on social media to book trips, smart guides, lodges and outfitters still maintain websites. Bios of an outfitter's or lodge's guides are important, as are quality photos of the accommodations.
- 4) Interview potential guides or captains. The best thing you can do with an unfamiliar outfitter or guide is ask tons of questions. E-mail is a good way to communicate, but the phone is better.
- 5) Go and have a great time. In the end, whether you catch a fish or not, you create a friendship and gain valuable local knowledge maximizing the time you have.



### Tips

- Ask for a complete price breakdown of all costs, including gratuities. Half-day vs. all day?
- What is the deposit amount to reserve the date or accommodations?
- Ask for references, and follow up with what the guide provides.
- What is the general itinerary for the day - departure time, length of time on the water, return time, etc?
- What is their cancellation policy due to inclement weather?
- If you're a novice angler - Is there a preferred level of experience? Does the guide give short fishing or casting lessons for inexperienced or first-time fishers?
- What kind of fishing does the guide specialize in? Trout? Steelhead? Bass? Pike/Muskie? Single-hand? Spey? Make sure he or she is willing to accommodate your preferred style of fishing.
- If this is a float trip, what type of boat will you fish from? Is there room for two to fish, or one at a time?
- If you are going out on larger bodies of water in a boat, is the captain licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard? Charter Captains must take a course and pass an examination to qualify for licensing by the Coast Guard. Don't be afraid to ask for proof - have it faxed or emailed to you, if possible. Do a quick inspection if you're at the boat, looking at licensing and safety features.
- If you find the fishing experience a good one, the guide will appreciate a tip. Use the same standards you would for a fine dinner - 15 to 20 percent. ➔

## More Information...

### BUFFER Newsletter

The BUFFER Newsletter is published monthly and can be downloaded from the BUFF website. Back issues are available for download too.

### Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are held the **second** Wednesday of each month. Check the website for details, including guest speaker & presentation, buffet menu, and calendar updates.

### Annual Dues

Annual dues are \$25 (Individual), \$30 (Family), plus a one-time \$5 Initiation Fee for new members. Annual dues are due January 1. Refer to BUFF website [www.BuckeyeFlyFishers.com](http://www.BuckeyeFlyFishers.com) for more information.

## Contact Us

Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 42614  
Cincinnati, OH 45242

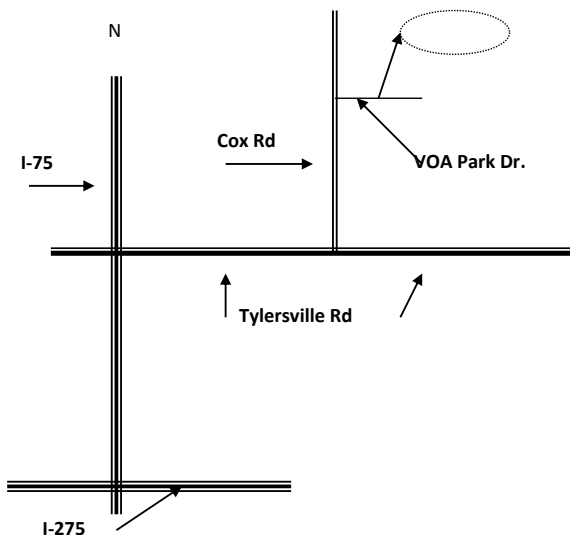
Visit us on the web at  
[www.BuckeyeFlyFishers.com](http://www.BuckeyeFlyFishers.com)

## Buckeye United Fly Fishers

*Promoting the Sport of Fly Fishing Through Education and Conservation*

## Meeting Location & Directions

Meetings are held at Voice of America Park in the Ronald Reagan Lodge. [Please register online if you would like to attend.](#)

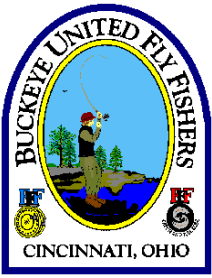


### Directions:

**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 Mason, Ohio 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.



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