



The *BUFFER*

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH
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Notes from the President

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

If you haven't noticed, not much is going on around here. For that matter, anywhere else. We are or should be practicing isolation from each other. Please don't take chances with this virus. It can be deadly. I'd like to see all of you when this is through.

I was supposed to be in North Carolina taking a casting instructor course from Mac Brown this weekend. Mac sent an article that was written using data from the WHO about the virus and it's spread. We agreed after reading this that it was not prudent or responsible to follow through with the class. That was the same day that Governor DeWine shut everything down. I cancelled all club activities that same day. Travelling to fish is not a responsible action even though you might be isolated on the stream or lake. Your encounters between home and the location are questionable. Be responsible in what you do.

I would imagine that like all of you we've been searching for things to keep busy with. Cari has a never-ending list for things to do around the house. That does not cover the full 24-hour day so I need to find things to keep busy with. Working on casting, reading, tying flies and exercising has taken up some of the time. I have been working on a couple fly patterns by Matt Grajewski in Michigan. The Devil Dancer and the Yard Sale are a couple really nice streamers that can be tied in many sizes and combinations. I've tied musky size flies (10" & 12" measured).



Devil Dancer



Yard Sale

There's an article in the BUFFER with loads of You Tube sites for several tiers and fly fishers who you might like. They range from MadRiverOutfitters to Fly vs. Jerk. By the way, Fly vs. Jerk is a reality fishing program that has been running for 11 seasons. It was started by Niklaus Bauer, a well known Scandinavian pike fly fisher, as a challenge for spin vs. fly fishing. It can be entertaining with pike of 125 cm and 10 Kg being caught. Over here, fish like that are called musky. Check out the article and take some time to view the sites.

Here's something to think about. Everything you hear about casting says that practicing to improve your form is the way to go. That is true, but what no one talks about is your fitness and how improving that will make the casting easier. The work I'm doing for my back has improved my core fitness and strength. The casting has gotten easier. It's really noticeable with large 10 to 12 weight rod setups. Take some time while you're home to improve your core strength. You won't regret it.

As soon as things settle down and we can get back together there will be lots of things happening in BUFF. We are planning on doing the pre meeting casting sessions to help improve your fishing. The intermediate/advanced fly-tying class will complete the remaining classes. The beginning fly fishing course will complete its last 2 classes. Jan Ripple's presentation will be rescheduled to later this fall. There will be monthly Thursday night fishing at local locations. Hugh O'Donnell is working on beginning fly fishing sessions on the water for the summer into the fall. All activities will be announced by BUFF E-Blasts.

I'd like to say thank you to the BUFF Banquet committee for putting together another successful banquet. We had quite a few sponsors who provided trips and prizes. Links to these sponsors can be found on our web site at the bottom of the home page. Please support them. Many, like Mad River Outfitters, Delamere and Hopkins, Reel Fly Rod, and the local Orvis shop have been impacted by the restrictions imposed to combat the spread of the virus. You can still order supplies from them (mail order). Use them first before going elsewhere.

Before I go, I'd like to congratulate our annual award recipients. Check out the article in the BUFFER for details. They are all deserving. To them, thank you for your contributions to the club.

I don't know when we'll restart BUFF activities. May? Look for announcement in the E-Blasts and online at the club website. Until I see you, stay healthy and safe.

El Prez.

Jim Vota

BUFF 2020 Banquet

For many of us, the few weeks between our successful and enjoyable Banquet and today may seem like ages. Being able to gather a group together for an enjoyable evening, be it an event like our annual Banquet, or our monthly club meeting are all on hiatus. We need to self-isolate to slow the spread of COVID-19. That is a fact and I am sure we are all doing our part.

This year's banquet was a great success. As you know, the Banquet is the club's major fund raiser for the year, and the 2020 Banquet raised \$7,000 for the club! A fantastic result. As we get back to normal activities and functions, we will be able to put those funds to good purpose.

2020 Awardees –

The Banquet is when BUFF presents its annual awards to our members. The major award is "Fly Fisher of the Year". The Fly Fisher of the Year award is BUFF's highest honor, and is voted on by the club membership. This year's winner is Cari Vota. Cari's contributions to the club are numerous and cross many categories. As the leader of BUFF's women's activities, Cari has built a great list of events and activities and built an extremely active women's group into the club. She also works to bring women fly fishers from clubs across the Ohio and Northern Kentucky area together in our and other events. Congratulations Cari!



Other awards from the 2020 Banquet –

Board of Directors Award. The recipient of the 2020 Board of Directors Award is Brent Miller. Brent is the leader of our Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing activities working with veterans. We have a very active group of volunteers and veterans who gather at least 2 monthly to fish local ponds and streams in spring through fall, and then we have fly tying classes in the winter months. Brent has also served as Midwest regional coordinator for the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing organization.



Lifetime Membership Award. Periodically, the Board of Directors can act to offer a member lifetime membership in BUFF. Lifetime membership is awarded in recognition of long-term sustained and valued service to the club. Since the inception of this award, only 19 members of BUFF have been honored with this award. This year, BUFF is proud to offer a Lifetime Membership Award to Bob Gustafson.



Bob Goldsberry Conservation Award. The 2020 Conservation Award was given to William P. Schroeder for his ongoing work for BUFF and other area clubs on water conservation. Check out his article in last month's BUFFER on iNaturalist and how it is going to be used by the Little Miami Conservancy to survey the fish population in the Little Miami River.

Lou Haynes Education Award. This year's winner of the Lou Haynes Education award is Jerry Schatzman. Jerry regularly volunteers with our Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing activities instructing fly tying classes in the colder months and working with our veterans (as well as our volunteers) on casting and fishing techniques. Jerry also is a certified instructor for BUFF's fly casting classes.



Ken Dixon Fly Tying Award. This is the first year the club is offering this award, and our first recipient is Gary Begley. Gary has been leading BUFF's "Tie and Lie" group, an informal gathering for fly tying, for several years.



President's Awards. Presidents awards are given to club members who put in efforts for the club that can often be less visible to club members, but are essential in supporting BUFF and its activities. This years President's Award recipients are Mike Rubush, Phil Pursley, and Jim Boude. Mike and Phil have been our leaders for identifying and scheduling speakers at our monthly meetings. Until this past month, Mike served on the Board of Directors as the Program Co-Chair. Jim Boude has long served as our Membership Chair, stepping down from the Board this past month. He is also involved with teaching fly fishing with the Boy Scouts for their merit badge program.



Mike Rubush



Jim Boude

The Banquet also provides us an opportunity to recognize all of the BUFF members who help the club by volunteering to assist at the many activities and events we host or participate in during this year.



Congratulations to all of our awardees!

2020 Board of Directors –

The March meeting is also when BUFF swears in the officers and Board of Directors (BOD) for this year. This year, Jim Boude (Membership) and Mike Rubush (Program Co-Chair) have stepped down from the BOD. The current Officers, and member of the BOD are:

Jim Vota, President	Harry Pass, Membership Director	Mike Redmond, Fixed Assets & Library Director
Bryan Tudor, Vice President	Jeff McElravy, Project Healing Waters Liaison	Bob Miller, Fly Show Chairperson & Club Historian
Hugh O'Donnell, Secretary	Steve Bailey, Trips Director	Jim Hampton, Raffles Director
Bob Gustafson, Treasurer	Jack Gormley, Program Director	Patrick Goddard, Director at Large
Ken Mandel, Communications Director – BUFFER	Tom Britton, Conservation Director	Dolph Greenberg, Director at Large
Tim Williamson, Club Education Director	Jim Neckers, Fly Tying Director	Jim Hunt, Director at Large
Don Kail, Communications Director – Website	Cari Vota, Women's Events Director	

April Meeting -

We hope all club members are aware that due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we have cancelled the April Meeting

Our speaker was to have been Jen Ripple. Jen is a world class angler, and the Editor-in-Chief of DUN magazine, a global women's fly fishing magazine. Hopefully, once things improve, we will be able to reschedule Jen to present at an upcoming BUFF meeting.

May Meeting –

Hopefully we will be able to gather for our meeting in May (Wednesday, May 13th). If so, Steve Coomer is our scheduled speaker, and will talk to us about fishing on the Little Miami River. More details to follow in next month's BUFFER.

Fly Fishing Entertainment for Those Down Days

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

With time to spare as I'm at home through this period of SOCIAL DISTANCING, I have found loads of interesting fly fishing videos on You Tube. They range from fly tying, to casting, to fishing. There's even a reality fishing show. Here's enough links to keep you busy for a long time.

- **Mad River Outfitters** (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8J2w-RuMBJz-aLAyJyluBw>) has been making a lot of videos for the last few years and putting them out there to help fly fishers everywhere. The subjects include gear reviews, questions from around the country, fly tying videos, subject matter videos on fishing (begging fly fishing, steelhead, carp). Check out Brian's site and support our local shops.
- **Kanalgratisdotse** (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwTrHPEglCkDz54iSg9ss9Q>) is the one with the reality fishing program. Each program covers a pike fishing tournament that takes place all over Scandinavia and comprises up to 10 teams of bait cast/spin fishers and fly fishers. There's also loads of fly tying videos on the Tie TV portion and fly fishing on the Fly TV section.
- **Hooked4lifeca** (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOMyLWuj6RFahi321qfnpQ>) is worth a shot with videos on fishing techniques and fly tying videos.
- **TheSlideinn** (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeiQJ7VQq8g54_ZS5lkbx1w), Kelly Galloups site is worth a look. It has a load of videos covering all aspects of fly fishing and tying. Be aware, Kelly can be a hard nut to chew. He does ramble a lot and even admits as much in his videos. A video of special note is his recent one on tying the Swimmy Jimmy. This is a really great fly for bass and trout fishing in our local waters.

- **Schultz Outfitters** (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6hOKDiq2y_rJB1PoOfD2QA) has quite a few tying videos from their Bar Flies tying sessions they do each winter. Lots of well known fly tiers doing their signature flies.
- **The New Fly Fisher** (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk2DJldSE7hhQTU8rjNHeYw>) has loads of videos covering fishing for fresh water species. Travel fly fishing videos and instructional videos at their best.
- **Nomad Anglers** (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCanCgfp1ogJHQacdQSoF3nw>) provide excellent tying videos for many of the midwest's best patterns.
- **Davie McPhail** (<https://www.youtube.com/user/DavieMcPhail>) is a marvelous tier and has recorded loads of tying videos for all of your trout fishing needs. From traditional spey flies to dries.
- **Flyfishingtheozarks** (<https://www.youtube.com/user/flyfishingtheozarks>), Brian Wise's streamer fest tying area. It's entertaining.

Last but not least:

- **Gunnar Brammer** (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC39CXkqNdSX98adw6YdyvdQ>) a kid from Northern Michigan and who, like me, went to Michigan Tech. He's a little geeky but has put out some truly informative tying and fishing videos. You Betcha.

For now, that should hold you until the COVID 19 virus is gone. If you have other sites that you like you can share them with other club members at the BUFF forum. I think I'm going to pour myself a dram of Highland Park and check out fishing in Scotland.

Fly Casting Skills Challenge Workshops

By Tom Scheer, VP for Casting, Ohio Council FFI (rtscheerdds@aol.com)



Fly Fishers International has long recognized the importance of the fly-casting skill component of enjoying fly fishing. A recent addition to FFI's educational offerings is the **"FLY-CASTING SKILLS CHALLENGE PROGRAM"**. The program is designed to be a fun way to comfortably and methodically advance one's casting skills. The challenge is to learn casts that you use when fly fishing, with each level adding or further developing a skill set.

Looking forward positively, and assuming we will be able in near future to meet regularly, BUFF fly-casting instructors have planned to be available to explain and help BUFF members attempt the challenge skills prior to upcoming BUFF meetings. The plan was to start in May and continue through the September meeting on the lawn at the VOA park at 4:30 PM prior to the monthly BUFF meeting.

A casting course will be provided using a 70-foot tape and orange soccer cones to gauge successful completion of the tasks described in the three (bronze, silver, gold) levels of the FFI fly casting skills challenge. More details are in the "Fly Casting Corner" on the BUFF webpage.

Perhaps we will be able to start this in May, but if not, we will put it off. You can easily recognize the casting instructors as they will be near the tape and the orange cones waving long pointy things in the air. Come out and join the fun – ***assuming and when it is safe and appropriate to do so!***

BUFF "Fly Casting Skills Challenge" Lemonade Recipe -

By Tom Scheer, VP for Casting, Ohio Council FFI (rtscheerdds@aol.com)

Here is a bit of tongue-in-cheek cheer from Tom reflecting on our current situation.

Is it lemonade time? My mom made me a bit crazy with her incessant advice encouraging that "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade".

Her point has come home to roost. We are certainly in a lemon moment.

Ingredients

- Fly rod and reel, with fly line
- 7 ½ ft leader (1x or 0x)
- Garden pea sized piece of egg yarn as a fly (hookless)
- Grassy space outdoors (great substitute for sugar)
- Follow social distancing advisory (the lemons)
- Fly casting skills challenge task of choice (example, from bronze level task B5, shooting line)
- Time off from work (more lemons)
- 1 bottle water (stay hydrated)
- Tape measure (optional, but distances are difficult to guess)
- Soccer cones ((optional) – but have something to serve as targets, and guides to distances prescribed in task)

Difficulty

- increases with progression through bronze and silver to gold

Time to completion for single serving

- Best if casting limited to 30-ish minutes per session. Longer often taxes untrained muscles leading to “sour” lemonade.
- However, feel free to hang out in the park until the street lights come on. *“YES Tommy, you must come home then. OK, OK Mom!”*

Directions

1. Remove yourself from interior of dwelling to grassy space outdoors (pleasure immediate)
2. remain 6 ft from nearest possible source of virus transmission
3. set up course for task (optional)
4. address task. For example, from bronze level task B5, shooting line.
This technique is fundamental to extending line when casting. Starting with the fly at 40 ft., the caster will strip 5-10 feet of fly line off the reel. A pick-up and lay-down cast will be performed with shooting line to 45 ft. or more on delivery with the fly landing within 4 ft. of either side of the tape. No false casting; hauling is allowed.
5. Repeat item above as needed until confidence is achieved

Cook’s notes:

- 1) Permission may be granted by Mom, to remain on grassy space outdoors after street lights come on if practicing casting mouse patterns after dark.
- 2) Original task recipes are found here: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/Education/Learning-Center/Casting/Casting-Skills-Challenge>
- 3) Life often gets in the way of practicing casting. Seize the novel coronavirus “moment” as an opportunity to expand your skills for when it passes.

A Bit of Humor – Brown Drakes in My Pajamas

By Dolph Greenberg (greenbam@miamioh.edu)

This is a piece that Dolph published some years ago in the Three Valley Conservation Trust Newsletter

Normally, I’m inclined to write a 2 word “Gone Fishin” column for the summer newsletter as I am usually “Up North” this time of year chasing trout and writing a piece for any newsletter is low on my list of priorities. I thought I might take the liberty here of recounting an event illustrating the depth of my particular affliction and the lesson found therein.

A brown drake *or Ephemera simulans* is a large mayfly that hatches at dusk or early evening from mid-June to mid-July. That hatch (and a few others) provokes a pilgrimage of anglers of epic proportions each seeking to fool trout by mimicking nature. While Michigan’s Au Sable River is normally a fairly placid stream, the drake hatch, when conditions are right, can cause the river to boil over with a feeding

frenzy of large, carnivorous brown trout gulping down bunches of these unsuspecting mayflies. A hatch of that kind can make anglers do strange things.

Two weeks ago, I was shutting down our river house for the evening, ready for bed after a long day of work on the camp. As I was closing a window blind, I noticed what looked like white caps on the river. I went outside to investigate further and found myself confronting one of the aforementioned events. I quickly grabbed my fly rod, crossed the bridge leading to our island and started casting. There are times when you cannot compete with nature and major hatches on a river are often just such times. I noticed a line of fishermen up and down stream of me, flailing away in frustration. No tight lines that night except for me. I made a cast, hooked a big brown trout, fought it for some time, brought it to the island and released it to the applause by a few of the anglers and laughter by many others. As it turns out, in my rush to intercept the hatch, I forgot I was barefooted and in my pajamas. At that point my exuberance was tempered with embarrassment and the discomfort of the numerous mosquito bites I received in this venture. I then did the only honorable thing I could do at that point. I bowed to the river and to the anglers who I amused, and went inside comforted by my success and by the fact that forward thinking people decided in the past to insure that this and many other waterways were protected.

Editor's Note - I, really enjoyed this piece when Dolph sent it to me. It made me think of the following line "One night I shot an elephant in my pajamas..... How he got in my pajamas, I'll never know." Groucho Marx, from Animal Crackers, 1930.

Local Fishing Updates –

Indiana License Expiration Extended

For those of us who have a 2019 Indiana Fishing License, the license is dated to expire on March 31st. IN is extending the expiration of the 2019 license to Friday, May 22nd. Also, the Indiana state parks, state forests, fish and wildlife areas, lakes, and nature preserves are open, though some facilities are limited or closed.

Ohio Parks

For Ohio, state parks, recreation areas lakes, etc. are open. Campgrounds, lodges, restrooms, etc., are closed. The ODNR indicates people can get use state parks for walking, hiking, biking, etc., but maintain safe distancing.

Finding Feeding Trout –

Tom Bachey (h2oguy@fuse.net) recommends a recent article by Rob Fightmaster of Fightmaster Fly Fishing in Townsend, Tennessee. The article provides some excellent advice and suggestion on what to look for when fishing trout. Rob is an Orvis-Certified guide fishing the Great Smokey Mountains National Park and surrounding areas, which are fantastic fisheries for wild rainbow, brook and brown trout. Rob has been a guest speaker at past BUFF meetings and supports our club as a sponsor. Rob posted the article to his website www.fightmasterflyfishing.com in late February. *Check it out to see the full article -*

We can have the great gear and casting skills, but knowing where trout are feeding is key to catching fish, and there are 4 things to look for –

- **Water Temperature** – Trout typically feed at water temperatures between 50 – 67 degrees, so knowing and testing water temperatures is a good point of reference and may help guide you to better areas on a stream to fish.
- **Water Depth** – A good target is water 1 – 2 feet in depth.
- **Water Current** – Most trout feed near currents, as the water current is essentially their food conveyor belt. Bringing food to them is less energy expending than seeking food. Where the fish may locate will depend on the current. They may sit right in the current if it is slow, and remain along the edges of rapid currents.
- **Structure** – Trout while seeking open areas to feed, also seek areas nearby structure (rocks, overhang, etc.) to hide if they sense a predator.

Upcoming BUFF Activities

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation all upcoming BUFF activities are cancelled or on hold.