



The **BUFFER**

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

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

April 1, 2022

The President's Fly Box

The daylight hours are growing longer, the buds on the trees are blooming, and the fish in my pond tell me that spring has come. The best time for fishing is in front of us as the water warms. After a long winter's nap, fish are hungry, and fishers are angling to get out again. Don't miss this great spring fishing opportunity. BUFF has several trips set up to get people fishing this spring.

Sign up for April's membership meeting. We will learn about fly fishing on the Great Lakes. Based on the size of Cecil Osborn's huge smallmouth on Lake Erie last year, it is on my bucket list to fish the Great Lakes. Outside the realm of fly fishing, Bassmaster tournaments are held on the Great Lakes from Lake St. Clair to the St. Lawrence River several times each year. This professional organization only goes to the best fisheries. So, you now know that we live close to one of the best fisheries in the country. Come and learn how to fish it and how to stay safe. In addition, we will vote on changes to the BUFF Bylaws. We need your vote as a member in good standing to update our rules.

If you need to refine your skills, or go fish with a group, BUFF is here to help. March was the month for Fly Fishing 101. In April, we begin with Casting Skills Development and start our series of fishing trips. The NE Ohio steelhead trip and White Bass Fishing trips are scheduled. In May, the North Carolina Smoky Mountain trip is scheduled, and the annual fly casting course will be scheduled soon. This is a great time to engage with fly fishing and BUFF.

BUFF does need help managing the local fly fishing after-work fishing sessions. We need someone to coordinate and manage the process. We also need someone to help on each trip with stream safety and reading the river for locating fish. BUFF is an all-volunteer organization. We count on your help to make it happen. Please reach out to Steve Bailey, Trip Director, for more information.

I want to end with an overdue acknowledgement. Three individuals managed and taught the BUFF Fly Casting Course for twenty years. These three individuals all achieved an internationally recognized level of proficiency, FFI Casting Instructor Certification. The BUFF course that they lead has trained hundreds of members over the years. Please thank our dedicated instructors: Gary Begley, Steve Walker, and Tom Scheer. Both Gary and Steve will be stepping down this year. We thank them for a job well done and a dedication to making others better fishers. The higher level of skill in our fishers will hopefully lead to a higher level of enjoyment in their outdoor life.

Hugh O'Donnell.

BUFF April Meeting – Wednesday, April 13th

Our April meeting will again be in-person. It will start at 6:00 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. The business meeting and announcements will start at about 7:15 PM and our invited speaker, Jeff Laskay will start his presentation at 7:45 PM

If joining us in person, please register on the BUFF website and indicate if you wish to have dinner with us. There will also be a Zoom connection available, starting at 6:30 PM. The Zoom connection is available through the BUFF website.

Please try to attend this meeting, as club members will be asked to vote on approving changes to the club's Bylaws.

Registration deadline for the in-person meeting is April 10th. Dinner cost is \$20. *Check out the menu below!*

April Speaker – Capt Jeff Liskay, Great Lakes Fly Fishing, LLC - “Fly Fishing for Warm Water Species in the Great Lakes”

Jeff started his fishing obsession in the Great Lakes at 11 years old. His foundations lie in conventional gear, but he grew a passion for fly fishing. He is widely respected for his spey casting instruction, dedication to chasing chrome, formidable multi-species knowledge, and dialing in Big H₂O fly venues like walleye & drum. He's a frequently requested presenter, podcast guest, and contributor. Jeff has spent his life supporting the fishery as a Founder of the Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders, and by spreading his passion for the Great Lakes through his relationships across the region and industry brands. Today, Jeff is not only a premier fly fish guide, instructor, host and ambassador, but also an advocate for fishing handling and Great Lakes preservation.



Jeff's website for information and booking guided outings is: <https://www.greatlakesflyfishing.com/>

April Dinner Menu –

- Chef's Choice Salad with dressings
- Grilled Chicken Maitre D' (grilled boneless chicken breast with artichoke hearts, tomatoes, and light garlic butter)
- Fresh Herb Orzo – basil, garlic, oregano, and thyme
- Seasonal Vegetable Medley – broccoli, carrots, and cauliflower
- Dinner Rolls & Butter
- Coffee (regular and decaf) & Iced Tea
- Chef's Choice Dessert

BUFF Banquet

The 2022 BUFF Banquet, held on March 9th, was a great success, with about 80 attendees. The event was also successful as the major fundraising event to support BUFF activities. This year, the banquet generated over \$6,000 for the club! A great effort by the banquet team and thank you to all the attendees!

This year's Grand Raffle winners were Patrick Goddard, who won a gift card to Jeff Ruby's and a wine basket, and Mike Wissman, who won a 7' 7" 5-wt Scott GS Fly Rod. The rod was a generous donation from our friends at the Mad River Outfitters. Congratulations to them both!

The Banquet is also the occasion when we recognize those who volunteer for club activities, and present member awards, which include Fly Fisher of the Year, Board of Directors Awards, President's Awards, and awards for Conservation, Education and Fly Tying.



Table settings for our venue at the Oasis Center



Grand Prize – wine and Jeff Ruby's gift card won by Patrick Goddard



Grand Prize – 5-wt Scott GS Rod won by Mike Wissman



Silent Auction Items



More Raffle Items



Volunteer recognition & awards



Swearing in the 2022 Board of Directors



2022 BUFF Award Winners

2022 Fly Fisher of the Year Jim Vota



President's Awards

This year's President's Awards recognize Bob Miller, Mike Redmond and Jack Gormley, all for their long-term service on our Board of Directors. All three have indicated their intention to step down from the board in 2022.



Bob Miller



Mike Redmond



Jack Gormley

Board of Directors Awards

The BOD recognized Tom Bachey & Mike Redmond for their past and on-going contributions to the club



Mike Redmond



Tom Bachey

Conservation Award



Tim Cassani

Education Award



Tom Scheer

Fly Tying Award



Larry Becker

New Club Members!

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added 4 new members –

Brian Nunes, Cincinnati, OH

Ron Mercurio, Cincinnati, OH

Karen Little, Cincinnati, OH

Michael Miller, Loveland, OH

Welcome to the club, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon! Also, check out activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some! Finally, you can use the Forum page in the BUFF website to reach out to club members for information, or even if you are just looking for someone to get out with and go fishing!

April Trips and Activities –

By Ken Mandel

April 6th Wednesday, April 6th will be the first spring session of our “Fly Casting Skills Development Program”. This is led by Tom Scheer and BUFF casting instructors. The program is designed to be a fun way to comfortably increase your casting skills. The program helps you to learn casts and skills at your own pace and as your schedule allows. We will meet at 6 PM at Cottell Park in Mason, OH. Details and directions are on the trip/outing registration page on the club website.

April 21st-24th Thursday thru Sunday, April 21st – 24th is the Spring Steelhead and Smallmouth Trip to Northern Ohio. The trip targets angling for outgoing spawned steelhead and incoming

spawning smallmouth. The main streams typically fished are Chagrin, Grand, Ashtabula, and Conneaut Rivers and tributaries. Fishing with others who have fished this area of Ohio is a great way to learn techniques and locations. Information about cost and lodging and registration is on the trip/outing page of the club website. You can also contact Hugh O'Donnell for more information.

April 23rd

Saturday, April 23rd is the annual Spring Litter Clean-Up along the Little Miami River. This is a Clermont County event that BUFF participates in and supports. We will be floating down a section of the Little Miami River, picking up trash along the banks. Canoes and PFD's will be provided. We will be getting in the water so bring waders. This is an opportunity to help take care of this beautiful stretch of water and fish afterwards if desired



The plan is to meet at 8:30 AM at the Clermont County Park Maintenance Facility at 4435 State Route 222, Batavia, Ohio 45103, with the event scheduled from 9 AM to noon. Registration and a liability waiver are required Sign up is on the BUFF website, and more information can be obtained from Tom Britton (513-520-7862).

April 26,27,28 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 26th – 28th, are scheduled for day trips for white bass on the Whitewater River in Indiana. Individual trips are being led by either Jeff Georgin or Bob Gustafson. The trips are currently listed as full, but there may be a list for alternates, if someone cancels. More information is on the BUFF website.

May Fishing Events –

By Cari Vota

Registration is now open for the following events to take place in May. Sign-up on the BUFF website on the trips page.

May 19th

Thursday May 19th is the first After-Work fishing outing for 2022. This event is open to all club members. We will fish the Little Miami River in downtown Milford. The plan is to meet up at 6 PM and fish a couple of locations downtown. We'll end the evening at the Little Miami Brewery which overlooks the river for a pint and pizza, etc., at about 8 PM. Can't make the fishing? Then plan to join us later at the Brewery.

May 7th

Saturday May 7th is the first Women's Day Trip for 2022. We will meet at Sycamore Park to fish the East Fork of the Little Miami River. We will meet at 8:30 AM, and plan to fish

upstream of the park in an area that fewer people hike. Sign up and information is on the trips page of the BUFF website.

May 12th

Thursday May 12th is our Women's After-Work Casting Warmup on the pond at Miami Meadows Park which is just east of Milford. The plan is to meet at 6PM at the park. We'll work on some casting and also do a little fishing. Sign-up and details are on the trips page of the BUFF website.

Women's Fly Fishing 101 Workshop – Something New This Year for Women's Fly Fishing Month –

By Cari Vota

This workshop will provide beginner and novice fly fishers with some general information on equipment and gear, techniques, and terminology to help them develop a quick, basic understanding of the sport.

On Saturday, June 4th, join BUFF, Ohio Women on the Fly, and FFI Women Connect for a Women's Fly Fishing 101 Workshop. The workshop will be at Lake Isabella Park, Loveland OH, from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. **Registration is now open and is on the Ohio Women on the Fly website.** The workshop is limited to 15 women, so if interested, I suggest you sign up early. More information will follow registration.

Learn how to choose proper equipment, tie a couple knots, understand freshwater aquatic insects to select the proper fly, cast a fly rod, and much more. Equipment will be available for use.

Website link for registration: <https://www.ohiowomenonthefly.com/>

Maintenance at Brookville Lake

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be conducting maintenance activities at Brookville Lake in Brookville, Indiana, which could impact downstream fishery conditions and recreation public access to the tailwater area. These activities are scheduled to begin in April and last through August 2022.

A statement issued by the Army Corps of Engineers on March 8th states "Maintenance activities will require variability in outflows that will increase the uncertainty of water volume and temperature downstream this season, which may impact the downstream fishery. We will do our best to provide outflows whenever possible during the work, but increased uncertainty in downstream conditions is to be expected."

Due to the variable tailwater conditions, the Indiana DNC is cancelling the April stocking of brown trout at the tailwater and moving the April stocking of rainbow trout at the tailwater to the fall.

A Freebie for Fly Tiers !

Skip Morris' Trout Fly Proportion Chart

By Ken Mandel

For those who may not be familiar with him, Skip Morris is among the most prolific fly-fishing and fly-tying authors alive. He has written 21 books on fly fishing and tying. Some, such as "Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple", "The Art of Tying the Bass Fly", "Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes", "Concise Handbook of Fly Tying", and "Fly Fisher's Guide to Western River Hatches", are considered classics. Skip also has many instructional videos/DVDs and has published over 300 articles in angling magazines. Skip was the headliner at our 2013 Fly Fishing Show.



The reason for this article is that Skip is offering anglers a free download of his chart which provides proportions for trout flies. Normally, there is a fee to access and download the chart. Here is the link to

Skip's webpage which brings up the fly-tying chart - <http://www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com/skip-morris-trout-fly-proportion-chart.html>

Skip Morris's
Trout-Fly Proportion Chart

The first page of Skip Morris's Trout-Fly Proportion Chart

The page that opens includes a pale-yellow overlay on the web page (shown on the left) which shows one page of what is a 3-page chart. Just scroll down the page until you find a green box which says "Click Here to Print". That opens a printable pdf file of the entire chart.

What Skip gets from this offer is more people looking at his website which has a lot of information, and access to lessons on tying and fishing techniques, as well as his books, videos, and DVDs.

Some Things of Interest –

By Ken Mandel

How about a way to keep pre-rigged tandem nymph set ups in your fly box?

The Gink and Gasoline site has an interesting blog discussing the advantages of keeping a pre-rigged tandem nymph rig ready to go. It allows you to quickly change out flies from and save you time when fishing. They're also great when you find your hot fly has turned cold, when you break your rig off on a snag or find yourself with a nasty tangled mess. By having a couple different pre-rigged tandem nymph rigs on hand, you'll find it much more efficient to try multiple fly patterns and rigs out, and that should help you dial-in quicker and start catching trout. The blog encourages this as a useful technique and habit to acquire.



One key need is a way to store these fly rigs so they remain untangled. The blog shows the use of an Orvis fly box, the Orvis Dropper Rig Fly Box (shown in the photo), which has foam inserts designed to accommodate these set ups. Here is a link to the blog:

<https://www.ginkandgasoline.com/fly-fishing-tips-technique/keep-a-backup-nymph-rig-ready/>

There are other products which serve this purpose as well. Brian Flechsig from Mad River Outfitters in Columbus, OH has a video discusses and demonstrates the Orvis as well as other nymph rig boxes and devices. This is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYw5XOSnB5g>

The Basics of Fly Fishing – Orvis Video Lessons

I found an interesting series of videos on the Orvis site, entitled “The Basics of Fly Fishing”. It is structured as a ‘video book’ and has 14 “Chapters”. Each chapter consists of a series of short – most are less than 2 minutes long – video blogs. Tom Rosenbauer is the host. An entire chapter is generally about 20 minutes of video instruction. You can watch an entire chapter or individual short segments. I’ve looked at a number of these, and typical of what Tom Rosenbauer does, they are very good and entertaining.

I really enjoyed a section in the first chapter in which Tom discusses what one needs to get started fly fishing, and does so in less than 2 minutes. He reduces all the needed ‘stuff’ to a rod and reel, a couple of commercial tapered leaders, a pair of nippers so you can change off flies, a couple of spools of appropriate sized tippet so you can maintain leader length, and a handful of flies (he has a small container with some wooly buggers in it!). That’s it!! No waders, packs, or the piles of other stuff we all accumulate – *as anglers we all know that we become enamored with ‘stuff’!* Tom’s point is to get a newcomer fishing with a minimum of outlay. If they enjoy the sport, they will likely seek additional equipment to expand their opportunities to fish.

Chapter topics include:

Chapter 1	The Basics of Fly Fishing
Chapter 2	Fishing for Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass
Chapter 3	Pike and Muskie Fishing
Chapter 4	Basics of Stream Fishing
Chapter 5	Fishing with Wet Flies and Nymphs
Chapter 6	Dry Fly Fishing
Chapter 7	Streamer Fishing
Chapter 8	Reading the Water
Chapter 9	Stillwater Trout
Chapter 10	Steelhead & Salmon Fly Fishing
Chapter 11	Fly Fishing Saltwater Inshore Flats
Chapter 12	Offshore/Nears-Shore Fly Fishing
Chapter 13	Fishing Close to Home
Chapter 14	Choosing Equipment

Here is the link to the basic fly fishing presentations: <https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/video-lessons/the-basics-of-fly-fishing>

There are other collections of ‘how to’ videos on the Orvis site. These include ‘chapters’ on “Advanced and Intermediate Fly Fishing”, “Fly Casting”, “Quick Fly Fishing Tips”. Like the above, each chapter has a number of relatively short video blogs covering topics under the broader heading, and again, Tom Rosenbauer hosts the presentations. These can all be accessed from: <https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/video-lessons>

A Few Fly Patterns

Since I am recuperating from surgery, I’ve tried tying a couple of flies this past month from patterns I’ve seen on fishing blogs.

One is the ‘**Pure Midge**’. The video is from Avid Max. This small midge larvae pattern (sizes 16 and smaller) requires only two materials, thread and micro-tubing which is wrapped to form the body and is tied on a standard curved midge hook. The thread head is finished with a bit of clear UV adhesive. The video shows it done in black, but you can do a range of color. A variation shows the fly tied with an added bit of ribbing made from thread, wire, or tinsel which is counter wrapped over the micro-tube body to add some contrast. Here is the link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MH6_UpkR6e8



A second fly I've enjoyed tying is a "Craft Fur Clouser". This video is from the folks at The Northern Anglers Fly Shop in Traverse City, MI. As the name implies, it is a variation on the classic Clouser minnow pattern, but used craft fur instead of deer hair. I've had fun with this. The fly that is tied in the demonstration uses a combination of yellow, olive and bright orange craft fur, but other color combinations are certainly appropriate.



The pattern is tied on a standard streamer hook with lead eyes to cause the fly to ride hook up in the water, just as an original Clouser does. The photo shows the pattern as tied in the video. Here is the link to this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5H7RSTgzzs>

One last fly is a stone fly pattern called "The Knuckle Dragger Golden Stone". This is another blog from Avidmax. Here is a link that will take you to the video: <https://blog.avidmax.com/2022/03/22/how-to-tie-a-knuckle-dragger-variation/>.



The pattern presented is a variation of a fly that was developed by John Newberry. The pattern as shown is tied on a 60° jig hook (Umpqua XC 400BL) with a tungsten bead, tail and legs formed from a barred rubber leg material, body from Hareline vinyl ribbing, and some dubbing materials for the thorax and collar.

Invasive Small Mouth Bass in Yellowstone National Park –

Tom Bachev shared an article from the March issue of Fly Fisherman magazine that reported an angler catching a smallmouth bass in the Gardner River, a tributary of the Yellowstone River that flows through Yellowstone National Park. The fish was caught in mid-February as the river's mouth, where it empties into the Yellowstone. The catch marked the furthest upstream that a smallmouth bass had ever been found in the Yellowstone River drainage. This fish was caught about 20 miles further upstream than any previously reported capture of a small mouth in these waters.

The timing was particularly concerning and also puzzling, since it was the coldest part of the year. The water temperature in the Gardner should have been well below what smallies tolerate and a USGS streamflow gauge nearby on the Yellowstone River recorded a peak water temperature peaked at about 40 degrees on February 19, the day that fish was hooked. Smallmouth bass typically do not live in water colder than 40° F.

In view of this finding, the Montana office for Fish Wildlife and Parks is working on emergency regulations, that could impose a 'kill' order for any small mouth caught in upper Yellowstone area. At present, anglers are being asked to remove any small mouth bass caught in the upper Yellowstone and provide them, together with information as to where the fish was captured to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks for testing.

Here is a link to the full article: <https://www.flyfisherman.com/editorial/smallmouth-bass-gardner-river/458692>

Recent Photos We've Received –

Here's one of Tom Bachey presenting a Fly Fishing 101 presentation at the Fairfield Lane Library on March 26th. We had 6 people who attended. More had signed up. We had 4 who seemed very interested and expressed strong interest in coming to a meeting and perhaps joining the club.



A couple of photos from Jim Neckers' fly tying class.



On Sunday, March 27th, BUFF hosted a 'take your kid fishing' event at the pond at Miami Meadows Park. Even though it was a cold day, we had a number of folks come out, and kids caught fish!



Upcoming BUFF Activities

Please check the BUFF Website for availability and details, or contact the trip or activity coordinator

In-person activities are limited to BUFF Members, and require Registration (online on club Website) and signing the Club's Liability Waiver

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Fly Casting Tune-Up & Skills Development Cottell Park, Mason, OH	Wednesday, April 6 th meet at park at 6 PM	Tom Scheer 513-317-4996 rtscheerdds@aol.com
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center	Wednesday, April 13 th 6 PM – 8:30 PM	
Tie & Lie Zoom Virtual Session	Friday, April 15 th 6:30 PM <i>Zoom link on Website</i>	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 loopdude1@hotmail.com
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, April 20 th 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Hugh O'Donnell 513-200-7869 odonnellhj@gmail.com
Spring Steelhead Trip Cleveland Area	Thursday April 21 st – Sunday April 24 th <i>See Website for registration and details</i>	Hugh O'Donnell 513-200-7869 odonnellhj@gmail.com
Clermont County Spring Little Miami River Cleanup Batavia, OH	Saturday, April 23 rd 9 AM – 12 PM <i>Meet 8:30 AM in Batavia, OH (details on sign up page)</i>	Tom Britton 513-520-7862 starwoodtb@gmail.com
Whitewater River Bass Trips Whitewater River Liberty IN	Tuesday, 4/26 Wednesday, Apr 27 th Thursday, Apr 28 th Monday, May 2 nd (<i>New Members Trip</i>)	Jeff Georgin (4/26 & 4/28) 513-616-4388 Bob Gustafson (4/27 & 5/2) 513-289-5250
Fly Casting Tune-Up & Skills Development Cottell Park, Mason, OH	Wednesday, May 4 th meet at park at 6 PM	Tom Scheer 513-317-4996 rtscheerdds@aol.com
Women's Day Trip East Fork, Little Miami River Batavia, OH	Saturday, May 7 th <i>See Website for registration and details</i>	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Spring North Carolina Trout Quest Bryson City, NC	Wednesday, May 11 th – Sunday May 15 th <i>See Website for registration and details</i>	Mike Redmond 937 554 2371 redmond.michael.l@gmail.com

Directions to Oasis -

Take I-275 and exit at Wards Corner Road (Exit 54). Make the first right onto Loveland-Miamiville Road and follow this. The Oasis golf course will be on your left. At the Paxton Guinea Road crossing, turn left. The clubhouse/conference center and parking lot for the Oasis facility are on the left.

