



# The BUFFER

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

Volume 48, Issue 4

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

April 1, 2024

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## The President's Fly Box

Spring is upon us. Lake water temperatures are near 50 degrees. Spawning will occur soon and white bass headwater fishing will be heating up. BUFF offers local white bass wade fishing trips for our members. It is a great time to meet other people and learn how to fly fish for bass. If you missed the sign up, I recommend you reach out to the forum to find some tips and possibly someone to go with you (safety in numbers).

If you are new to BUFF, please consider signing up for educational courses, trips, conservation activity, and membership meetings. These are great ways to learn about fly fishing, fishing locations, stream quality, and to find like-minded people for your fishing adventures. If you are an old timer, consider leading a trip to one of your favorite local streams, or to one of the many locations we dream about. For those who don't know what to dream about, consider attending the "Fly Fishing Film Tour" viewing in Milford on April 21<sup>st</sup>. See our website for more information.

With spring comes a new BUFF Board of Directors. While most people have stayed on the Board, we do have some changes. Our treasurer of 14 years has retired - yes Bob Gustofson has stepped down. Thank you, Bob, for helping steer a steady course for BUFF over the years. We are fortunate to have Barry Gummow as our new Treasurer. Barry has a long history of accounting and computer forensics experience. We also installed two new Board members who are already very active. Tim Cassani is teaming up with Tom Britton to lead and expand our conservation activities. Brent Miller is re-establishing an active Veterans group within BUFF, and already has over 60 interested veterans! We look forward to this group's involvement. We encourage anyone to reach out to me or any Board member to get more involved with the club.

March's BUFF Banquet was a great evening with an attendance of 101 people. A high mark for our Banquet. We thank all for attending, all the volunteers who made it possible, and we thank all the vendors who contributed over \$15,000 of raffle and auction items which benefit BUFF and its members.

Finally, fishing locally is one of the easiest activities for us: Just jump in the car; drive 20 minutes; step into waders and cast. At the April 10<sup>th</sup> membership meeting, Barry Puskas will present "Fly Fishing the Great Miami Riverway" our local waters! This should be of interest to all members. Consider inviting a friend to join us in learning about local fishing.

Hugh O'Donnell  
BUFF President

## **BUFF April Meeting – Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Our monthly meeting at the Oasis Center starts at 6:00 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner will be served at about 6:30 PM, the business meeting and announcements start at about 7:15 PM, and our speaker's presentation at 7:45 PM. Registration closes on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **April Speaker – Barry Puskas, Miami Conservancy District, Dayton, OH. “Fly Fishing the Great Miami Riverway”**

Barry Puskas is the Chief of Technical and Engineering Services for The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) in Dayton, Ohio, and an avid fly fisherman. Barry's role at the MCD is to provide technical expertise in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling; river survey mapping, and engineering design and analysis. Additionally, Barry supports ethical angling and conservation as the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Representative for Ohio.

Barry has fished since he was five years old. He started fishing with his father and grandfather, targeting trout, bass, catfish, and other freshwater species. Later in life, he was drawn to saltwater fishing on the Atlantic coast, and now travels frequently to Florida and the Gulf of Mexico to fly fish. Barry has two entries for the IGFA Trophy Largemouth Bass Club on fly and the IGFA Bass Grand Slam on fly. Today, Barry enjoys finding new fishable water and trying new techniques to catch game fish on flies.



### **Stream Health & Fly Fishing Opportunities in Southwest Ohio**

The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) was formed as a direct result of the Great Flood of 1913. Since then, MCD has developed the regional flood protection system of dams, levees, and channels to ensure the system's integrity for future generations. The program has collected precipitation and streamflow data for over 100 years. It also monitors stream health. Stream health ratings vary throughout the Great Miami River Watershed. Most streams are rated good to excellent.

The MCD Aquifer Preservation Subdistrict supports the preservation and stewardship of the region's water resources. Our River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict enhances public use and enjoyment of river corridors by utilizing improvements, amenities, and activities within and along the river corridors. Whether you like to fish, paddle or cycle, you'll find plenty of recreational opportunities in the region. There are numerous fish species to challenge a fly angler in southwest Ohio including smallmouth bass, catfish, northern pike, muskellunge, and other game fish.

## April Dinner Menu –

- House Salad & Dressings
- Corn Bread & Butter
- Fried Chicken
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Southern Style Green Beans
- Chef's Choice Desert
- Coffee & Iced Tea

## April 10-Minute Tech Talk

This month Tom Britton will be talking about Stream Quality Monitoring. Spring through Fall, the club conducts stream quality monitoring. The program collects data that is used to assess the health of our local streams. The data is part of an Ohio DNR program which monitors ongoing stream quality. Stop by and learn about this activity and consider joining the events.

Also, if you have an idea for a fly fishing topic and are interested in presenting it at an upcoming general meeting, please contact Bryan Tudor at 513-827-5437 or by email: [byran.tudor@yahoo.com](mailto:byran.tudor@yahoo.com)

## New Members in March 2024

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

This past month saw us gain 2 new members Here's the list –

- **Alan Brody**, Blue Ash, OH
- **Skip Doyle**, Cincinnati, OH

Welcome to the club, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon! Check out our activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some!

## BUFF Banquet –

The Buckeye United Fly Fishers Banquet held on March 20<sup>th</sup> was a resounding success. 101 people registered, which was a record attendance. There were over \$15,000 in donations for various raffle and silent auction prizes, and there was excellent participation in both.

The Banquet is also the occasion where the club installs the Board of Directors for the 2024 year. That was done and here is a photo of the board taking their oath of office.



## **Award Recognition**

The Banquet is also the occasion where the club recognizes contributions by our membership. Here are the awardees from this year's program.

### **Fly Fisher of the Year – Ken Mandel**

This is BUFF's "Highest" honor that is bestowed each year to a member in recognition of his/her extraordinary efforts in support and service to BUFF, organization priorities and activities, and to fly fishing in general. Ken came on the BUFF Board of Directors as the Editor for our Buffer newsletter. Throughout our club Covid downtime, Ken kept up with the Buffer every month with great dedication. Ken has also been active in various committees over the years, such as the planning team for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet, Fly Show Team, a big help on the Bylaws update, and the picnic team for 2021, 2022, & 2023. Ken will be Co-Chair of the 2024 Fly Fishing Show and going forward.



### **Board of Directors' Award – David Fraley**

This award is bestowed each year to an individual or individuals who have made significant contributions to the Buckeye United Fly Fishers, as voted on by the Board of Directors. Dave joined BUFF in 2021 and became an important Board member right away by taking over as Communications Webmaster from Don Kail, his mentor still. He is an active member of both the Fly Show and the Banquet teams, making sure all communications go well. He has done all of this while working full time, managing an online fly shop business, and having a young family. Congratulations to e for this recognition.



### **Life Membership Award - Tom Scheer**

The purpose of awarding Life Membership status is to recognize members who have made significant, long-term contributions to the sport of fly fishing and/or the success of Buckeye United Fly Fishers. Life Membership provides suspension of dues for life and is intended to be an especially meaningful way to recognize and reward a BUFF member.

Tom joined BUFF in 1999. Tom is a FFI Certified Casting Instructor and Club casting trainer. He began Project Healing Waters with BUFF & NKFF as sponsoring clubs and was an active volunteer for fly tying as well as fishing. Tom was also the 2010 Fly Fisher of the Year and the 2021 Lou Haynes Educator of the Year. He became our FFI Casting Skills co-leader early during Covid. This informal group is still meeting regularly with several club members now achieving all levels of the program and he continues to encourage all of us to work to improve our casting. Tom has been the FFI Ohio Council VP for Casting for several years, working with other Ohio FF clubs on the Casting Skills Development Program. He has also mentored our most recent FFI CCI, Jim Vota, in getting his certification.



**Bob Goldsberry Conservation Award** is chosen by Tom Britton, the BUFF conservation director. The 2023 awardee is Cari Vota for her long-term and ongoing work on the Stream Quality Monitoring team.



**Lou Haynes Education Award** is chosen by Jim Vota, the BUFF Education Director. The 2023 awardee is Jim Neckers who is a phenomenal educator for fly tying. Jim has educated most of the fly tyers currently in the club.



**Ken Dixon Fly Tying Award** is chosen by Jim Neckers, the BUFF Fly Tying Director. The 2023 awardee is Jeff McElravy Sr. Jeff taught Jim Neckers how to tie and continues to support our fly tying classes and represents BUFF at regional fly shows where he does fly tying.

**President's Awards are selected and presented by the BUFF President, Hugh O'Donnell.** These are in recognition of individuals for contributions made to BUFF. The 2023 winners are - Bob Gustafson, Bob Miller, Bob Cregge, Todd McGarvey, Sam Hanna, and Rylee Tudor

Bob Gustafson was recognized for his long (14 years!) and dedicated role as club Treasurer, as well as his co-chairmanship of the Fly Fishing Show planning team for over the past 10+ years.

Similarly, Bob Miller was recognized for his long role as the other co-chair of the Fly Fishing Show team. Both he and Bob Gustafson have stepped down from these roles following the 2024 show.

Bob Cregge, Todd McGarvey, and Rylee Tudor were recognized for their involvement in the Banquet planning and activities. Bob has headed the team for several years. Todd is our long-time MC at the event, and Rylee has been helping with awarding raffle items, working together with Todd.

Sam Hanna was awarded a President's Award for his contributions to both the Banquet and the Fly Fishing show. Sam has worked to get major silent auction donations for the Banquet and was instrumental in getting Susan Thrasher to be our headline presenter at the 2024 Fly Fishing Show.



## 2025 Fly Fishing Show Planning Team Volunteer Needed –

By Ken Mandel

*This is a reposting of a request from the March BUFFER – Help is Still Needed!*

Ken Dixon has been a critical team member for many years. He has managed our booth layout and assignment function for the show. What you see when you come to the show, is Ken's creation. Ken asked to step down after the 2024 show. Unfortunately, we did not find a person to take on his role during 2024 and need to fill that now. This activity requires a person with some skill using the CAD program, as that is what we use for our floor layout planning. Experience with a similar type of programming may also work. Ken will be an expert to train whoever comes on board to take on his role and activities. If you are familiar with using CAD, and I am sure we have club members who are, please give this serious consideration. The Show Planning Team is a great cooperative team and fun to work with. Our effort and dedication is evident in the year-to-year quality of the Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. Getting on board as we start planning the 2025 show will be a plus for you and a win for the team.

If you have any interest, or just questions about what is involved, please reach out to me – Ken Mandel, 2025 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Team Co-Chair –

E-mail: [kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com)

Phone: 513-675-8488.

Thank you!

## Introductory Fly Tying Class

By Jim Neckers

This one-evening class provides a hands-on overview of fly tying. NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! All tying tools and materials are provided. Participants will tie a Woolly Buzzer fly, a great fly that introduces a new tyer to basic techniques and catches fish.

Jim Neckers, our Fly Tying Director, is an excellent teacher and leads the class. There will be other volunteers to help as well. If you are new to tying, or just want to determine if this aspect of fly fishing may be of interest to you, this is the class for you! Sign up on the website so we know the number of attendees, please.



Date: Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Any questions contact Jim Neckers – [jimneckers@gmail.com](mailto:jimneckers@gmail.com)

## Veterans Corner –

By **D. Brent Miller**, *BUFF Director of Veterans Affairs*

This is the month we have been waiting for. It's time for us to start fishing. All Veterans are invited to come to Cottell Park in Mason for a couple of hours of fishing. But wait, there's more. Also at Cottell Park that morning, will be BUFF members and certified fly casting instructors giving lessons and helping fly fishers brush up on their casting. No cost for either activity. That's a great deal.

Cottell Park is at the intersection of Snyder Road and Irwin Simpson Road in Mason. Here is a link to the [map of the park](#) (*hover mouse and hold CTL and click on mouse*). The address, 5847 Irwin Simpson Rd, Mason, OH 45040.

Our first Buckeye Veterans Fly Fishing outing: Saturday, April 20, 9 to 11 a.m. Fish a little longer if you'd like. The pond has blue gill, bass, and catfish. Fishing is catch and release only. **A valid OH fishing license is required for those aged 16 – 65.** *I am working with the park to see if we can get an exemption for this event. Watch for any updates and further information.*

See you on the water.

Brent

## Fly Casting Skills Workshop – Presented by FFI Ohio Council

**From Cari Vota.**

Join us for the FFI Casting Skills Development Program. Date is Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The workshop is FREE and based on practical fishing applications. Everyone from beginners to experienced casters is welcome to come to learn or improve your fly casting. Bring your favorite fly fishing rod and reel or use one of ours.

Workshop demonstrations & instructors will be provided by FFI Certified Casters & local Buckeye Fly Fishing Club instructors. Show up any time between 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM at Cottell Park, Deerfield Twp., 5847 Irwin Simpson Rd, Mason, OH.

There is a stocked pond at the park, where you can try your skills after practicing. It is catch and release, only. *The park does require an OH fishing license if ages 16 – 65 to use the pond.*

RSVP and pre-registration is required, **even for BUFF members.** To register, email [info@ffiohc.org](mailto:info@ffiohc.org), with your contact information and any questions.



# Take a Kid Fishing – Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, Miami Meadows Park, Milford, OH

From Cari Vota.

Taking your child/grandchild fishing for the first time can result in great memories for both kids and parents or grandparents alike. The excitement of getting out on the water and catching fish along with spending time outdoors with your loved ones can be an extremely enjoyable experience.

Bring your child or grandchild out Sunday, April 28th, 1:00 to 4:00, at the pond at Miami Meadows Park in Milford. You may remember the location, as it is where we had our BUFF picnic the last few summers. Every child should have at least one adult with them. Waivers are required for you and the child. After all, we are around water.

## Tips for the day:

- **Make it about them.** It's not a daylight-to-dark marathon session (unless that's what the child wants). Please focus on their enjoyment. A big part of your day is going to be small achievements. Praise them when they make a good cast or catch a fish.
- **Keep your cool.** Expect to re-bait hooks and take out line tangles and knots all day. This is their day, not yours. The quickest way to turn children off to fishing is to get frustrated with them.
- **Keep it easy.** Choose simple tackle, bait, and techniques. Fish for a species that is plentiful (bluegill) and easy to catch. The inclination for any newcomer who may not take a long-term liking to fishing is to give them lower-end gear. That can defeat the purpose as it may limit their ability to catch fish. At the very least, make sure that your child has size-appropriate tackle and fresh line. Not only will that make casting more efficient, but it will help them bring in more fish in. On the flip side, don't go too far to the other extreme. If they're not ready for a fly rod, don't put one in their hand, no matter how much you want them to. They're going to fight it all day and it will limit their effectiveness and enjoyment.
- **Keep it short.** Plan only a couple hours. Be prepared to do other things.



- **Keep them covered.** Think about the Three Little Bears – if they're too hot or too cold they won't be having fun, and while "just right" might be a moving target think layers to ensure that they can quickly adjust. Use plenty of sunscreen and protective clothing as needed.
- **Keep them happy.** Think Snacks. And it's not necessarily a time to eat healthy. This is about bonding between a parent or grandparent and child, and you want them to want to go again.
- **Teach them what you know.** Tell them about birds, plants, or fish. Kids remember these things and find it interesting. Teach them about conservation, and respect for the environment. Try to pick up a little bit of trash that others left behind each time out.



It will be a great time for all.

## Spring Whitewater River Cleanup – Investors Needed

From Tom Britton & Tim Cassani, BUFF Conservation Co-Directors

Have we got a deal for you! A deal with multiple opportunities that provide a valuable return. Recent issues of the Buffer have shamed Forbes, the WSJ and Investor's Business Daily in the number of opportunities offered for the smart investor.

- SQM's & SQM workshops
- River clean-ups
- Water sampling
- Saturday Morning Snapshot
- Citizens Qualitative Habitat Surveys
- BUFF Board of Directors Opportunities

We're sensitized to the degeneration of habitat, but not as sensitized as the fish are. As habitat deteriorates the fish just quit. Meanwhile, we as fishermen can lapse in citizenship. Some fishermen may dunk a crawler into factory shadows, but I bet you desire a different experience. We can go home and put our feet up in the La-Z-Boy when water resources decline.....but the fish don't have that option.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 20 people from BUFF and NKFF, with assistance from the Indiana DNR, picked up trash along the banks of the Whitewater River in Indiana. This is the area where many of us fish the white bass run in the spring. The combined effort resulted in removing trash that will not end up in the water during high water events and makes for a cleaner, safer environment.

Although we collected a great quantity of items, none were too interesting this particular day. Sometimes you can find some real 'odd' items. I was once bushwhacked by a mattress floating down Todd's Fork. My back was facing upriver, and the offending Serta King snuck up on me.



Why spoil half a day with work and errands? Seize one of these opportunities and get a return on your investment. Pull things out of the fire so they don't go from bad to worse.

Much can be accomplished when we work together.

Here are a few photos from the cleanup –



## Stream Quality Monitoring

This year BUFF members will have 9 opportunities to participate in Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM) in May, July and September. You can choose two sites on the Little Miami River. One at Bass Island and one at Caesar Creek. In addition, we do SQM at Four Mile Creek in Butler County. This is a great opportunity to learn more about entomology and the connection between insects and healthy waterways.

No experience or equipment is necessary. It's also a great activity for children of all ages. You can spend an hour or two turning rocks, identifying aquatic insects, and do some fishing afterwards if you like.

Contact Tom Britton or Tim Cassani for more information or sign up for these activities on the website where times, dates, and locations are posted.

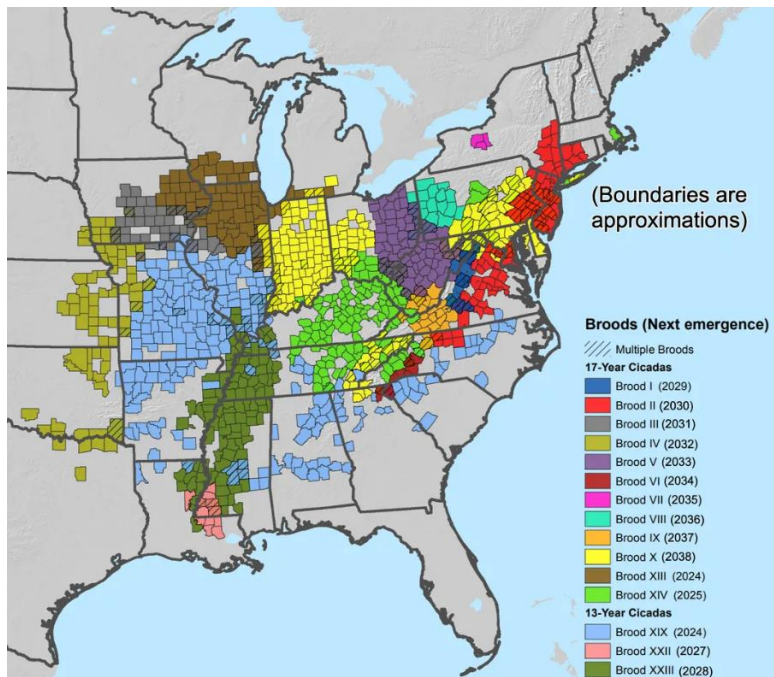
## Cicada Madness

From Hugh O'Donnell

Remember the last cicada event in Cincinnati? Explosive topwater takes occurred in any water where fish swam. Let's not wait until 2038 for the next emergence in Cincinnati. There is a hatch practically every year – somewhere in the United States.

Dave Zielinski is a fly fisher who loves these hatches and started driving each year to find the nearest hatch. He was so good at finding and fishing these cicada hatches that he decided to write a book. His process started with writing a chapter and submitting it to Stackpole Publishing for endorsement.

A selection process that normally takes half a year was quickly cut short by the CEO at Stackpole. He contacted Dave within three days and told him that he had been waiting years for someone to write a book on the topic. Now, you can find the book, *Cicada Madness*, at many bookstores or order it on Amazon. In addition, you can hear Dave's full story on an Anchored podcast with April Vokey (<https://anchoredoutdoors.com/>); it is podcast # 232. April's interview was motivating to think about fishing for them before waiting another 13 years. So, where is the nearest hatch this year? Well, it just so happens that a hatch will occur between Northern Alabama through Nashville and westward



into Missouri. The brood expands into ten states including North Carolina. It may be time to schedule a trip to North Carolina, Tennessee, or Missouri.

The map provides a view of the cicada broods or hatches. In 2025, the majority of Kentucky and eastern parts of Ohio will see the emergence of Brood XIV cicadas. Even the Smoky Mountains will have Brood XIV. Well, what are you waiting for? Start planning your fishing trips for 2024 or 2025.

Have any questions? Let me know. I'll do my best to answer them. Or better yet, check out Dave Zielinski's Cicada Madness book or the Anchored podcast.

## **BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish**

Have a few photos from Jim Vota. He and Tim Williamson got out to fish the other week in Michigan. Jim sent these of a bass, pike and a very large carp that he got –



Remember, if you get out to fish, please send photos and where you were fishing to [kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com), and I'll get it into an upcoming BUFFER. It's a great way share information and locations with the club!

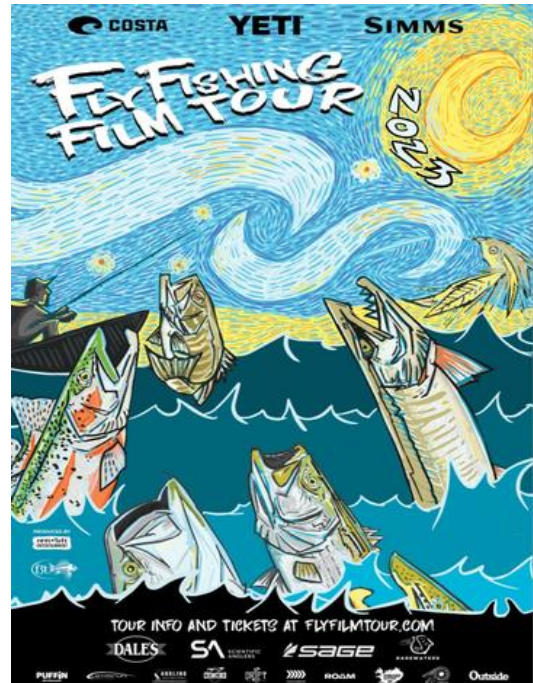
## Reminder - Fly Fishing Film Tour Coming to Cincinnati

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the 17<sup>th</sup> Fly Fishing Film Tour, (F3T) presented by Yeti, Cost, and Simms, will be in Cincinnati. The event is being hosted by Little Miami River Outfitters and will take place at the event center at the Little Miami Brewing Co., 208 Mill Street, Loveland, OH. Tickets are \$25.

The films include a series of short films from locations such as Cuba, Patagonia, Mexico, Australia, Wyoming, Alaska and other great fishing locations in the US and elsewhere.

Tickets can be purchased on line at - <https://flyfilmtour.myeventscenter.com/event/Milford-Oh-Little-Miami-River-Outfitters-89723>

Drake Perry, the owner of Little Miami River Outfitters, can be contacted for questions or more information - [littlemiamiriveroutfitters@gmail.com](mailto:littlemiamiriveroutfitters@gmail.com)



## Upcoming BUFF Activities

**As we move into the Winter months, our outdoor activities have largely ended for the year. However, check the website and watch for e-mails for indoor classes activities which become available!**

**In-person activities require registration (online on club Website)**

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM Sign up on Website	Hugh O'Donnell
<b>Mad River Day Trip</b> See Website for Location Springfield, OH	Tuesday, April 16 <sup>th</sup> meet 8 AM <b>Wait List Sign Up</b>	Bryan Tudor

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip / Activity Coordinator</u>
Spring Casting Tune-Up Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Tuesday, April 16 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM - ? Sign-up on Website	Jim Vota
<b>Introduction to Fly Tying</b> Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Tuesday, April 16 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 Sign-up on Website	Jim Neckers
<b>North Carolina Trout Trip</b> Bryson City, NC	Wednesday April 17 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday April 21 <sup>st</sup> <b>Wait List Sign Up</b>	Mike Redmond
<b>BUFF BOD Meeting</b> Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Wednesday, April 17 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
<b>Monthly Tie &amp; Lie</b> Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, April 19 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
<b>White Bass Day Trips</b> Whitewater River, Liberty, IN	Monday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday April 23 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday April 24 <sup>th</sup> Friday, April 26 <sup>th</sup> – New Members Only Monday, April 29 <sup>th</sup> – New Members Only <b>Check Website for Openings/Wait List</b>	Kathy Newsom Dan Bonham Jeff Georgin
<b>Take a Kid Fishing</b> Miami Meadows Park Milford, OH	Sunday, April 28 <sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Register and get liability waiver on Website	Cari Vota

### 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.

