



The **BUFFER**

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

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

August 1, 2021

The President's Fly Box

It was great to see so many folks at the Reunion Picnic. Nearly 60 people attended who enjoyed the food, casting, tying, fishing and especially seeing friends again. It was great to see everyone, and it was a very happy and enjoyable time. I heard that several people caught 15 or more fish in the couple of hours during the picnic. This reinforces the fun and site selection for this picnic.

All of this was not possible without a great organizing committee. My thanks to Bryan Tudor, Tom Bache, Ken Mandel, Dolph Greenberg and Jim Vota. They picked a great site next to a beautiful lake. The food was fantastic with plenty of seconds for all.

I also want to thank the fly-casting team who introduced and demonstrated FFI's casting skill course at the picnic for all to see and try. Thanks to Haruko Mizoguchi for creating trout targets to set the course up like a trout stream. One of the skills is to place the fly precisely as if presenting in front of a trout. Haruko and Jim Neckers are also thanked for demonstrating their fly tying talents at the picnic.

Special thanks to Brent Miller who demonstrated how to compact all the necessary fly-fishing gear into a 10"x12"x6" motorcycle storage box. For all those who want the wind blowing in their hair and the ability to stop and fish along any roadside, talk to Brent. I will try to highlight the pictures that I took in next month's **BUFFER** (time has run out as I pack for the Wyoming fishing trip).

Our next in-person meeting is the August membership meeting on Wednesday August 10th. We have signed a contract with the Oasis conference center to host our meetings through 2021. The meeting room will include a cash bar with high-top tables in the back, and semi-circular table sitting to provide the best view of the speakers. A Zoom link will be available for those who can't attend or when we have a remote speaker. As always, a buffet dinner will be served to those who sign up for the meetings. We hope to see you there and get your feedback on the new location.

While we know that COVID is not gone, we have some hope for restarting out-of-town trips. The Fall North Carolina trip is being planned and I am considering a late November / early December Ohio steelhead trip. We will stay abreast of the latest recommendations and adjust these trips as needed.

If you have ideas for how **BUFF** to increase fun and impact, please reach out to me or any board member. Our board is very interested in maintaining the best options and member value for **BUFF**.

Hugh O'Donnell.

BUFF August Meeting – Wednesday, August 11th

A Return to In-Person Meetings !

This month BUFF will return to in-person monthly club meetings. The location is the Oasis Conference center. We have moved there because the Reagan Lodge at VOA park remains closed, with no date or time-line for reopening. The Oasis facility is the one we use for our Fly Fishing Show, so most members will be familiar with it and its location. We will also have the meeting available on Zoom. In returning to in-person meeting, we will also return to our regular start time of 6 PM.

- Gather at 6PM with a social hour and cash bar. We hope to have our library open as well.
- A buffet meal will be served at 6:45. **Dinner cost is \$20**
- Meeting will be called to order at about 7:30 and the program presentation will start at 8 PM.

August Speaker – Nicole Watson, “Arctic Grayling – Reintroduction to Michigan Rivers”

Nicole Watson is a ‘rising star of conservation. Nicole, a graduate student at Michigan State University, in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, is pursuing her PhD degree in Fisheries Ecology and Management with dual degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. Her presentation will focus on the history of Arctic Grayling in Michigan, current Grayling research, and potential management implications of the preliminary findings.

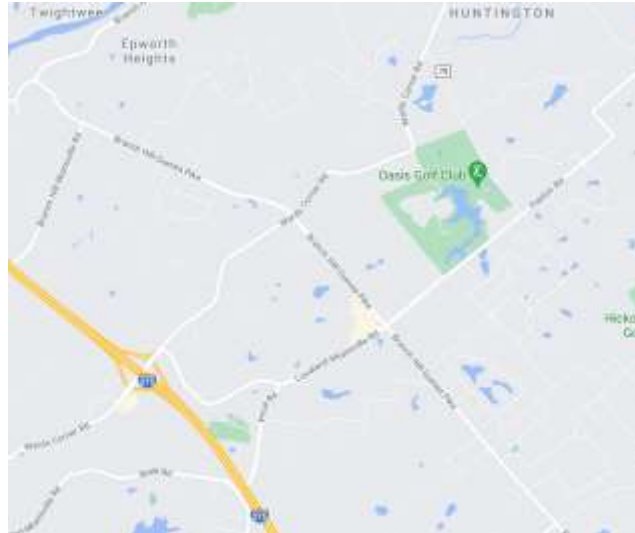
Nicole’s research examines early-life history of Arctic Grayling, and their interactions with young Brook and Brown trout. The overarching goal of this research project is to clarify uncertainties to successful Grayling reintroduction into Michigan streams. It is a multifaceted study including the following: predation of Grayling fry by resident Brook and Brown trout; competition between Grayling, Brook, and Brown trout; Grayling imprinting to home waters at early life stages; water choice; alarm cues; aspects of physiological development; predator avoidance, and predator cue recognition by juvenile Grayling. Her research takes me to Alaska each spring to transport Grayling eggs back to the lab at Michigan State University. She then spends the summer and fall running trials in the lab (with the exception of 2020 due to COVID).

When not at MSU, or at home downstate, Nicole can typically be found at her Northern MI home base, The Hideout. She enjoys fishing for Brook trout in creeks and small rivers in MI, and for Arctic Grayling in the interior waters of Alaska. She is also an avid bird hunter. Nicole is passionate about native wild salmonids and has been known to hike mountains seeking them out if needed.



Directions to Oasis -

Take I-275 and exit at Wards Corner Road (Exit 54). Make the first right onto Loveland Miami 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.



Register and plan to attend what should be a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

- **Registration deadline for the in-person meeting at Oasis is Sunday, August 8th.**
- **As in the past, registration is required for the in-person meeting and is through the BUFF Website. If you plan on attending, please indicate if you want the dinner when you register.**
- **No registration required to attend the meeting via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted on the on the BUFF website on the calendar and 'monthly meeting registration' pages.**

August Dinner Menu –

- Chef's Choice Salad
- Parmesan Encrusted Chicken topped with Tomato & Basil
 - Tuscan Mashed Potatoes with Parmesan Cheese
 - Southern Style Green Beans
 - Rolls & Butter
 - Dessert – Chef's Choice

New Club Members!

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added 3 new members., including a family membership –

Steve & Linda McElfresh, Bethel, OH

Jared Ham, Cincinnati, OH

Steve Parker, 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!

Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Update



The 2022 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show is scheduled for Saturday February 5th, 2022. The show team is very pleased and excited to announce that George Daniel will be our headliner for the 2022 show. George is from Pennsylvania. He learned to fly fish as a youngster and has remained 'addicted' to the sport ever since. George is a former competitive angler for Fly Fishing Team USA and a former coach for both the youth and adult USA fly fishing teams. He is on the faculty of Pennsylvania State University and is the lead instructor and director of the university's angling program. This program was

established by Joe Humphreys, who was George's mentor. George is a well known on-stream instructor and guide and he teaches and runs clinics across the US. He has published many articles in fly fishing magazines, and on his website (www.livinonthefly.com), along with 3 books. Finally he is a recognized expert in Euro-Nymphing techniques and will certainly be talking about this in his presentations at the show. George will also be doing tying workshops on the Friday prior to the show.

In addition to attracting George Daniel to our show, we are also pleased to let our club members know that we again will have one of Jerry Snider's bamboo rods as our main raffle item. As we have done in the past, we will offer the opportunity to club members to purchase raffle tickets at club meetings, starting in the fall, prior to the show. Jerry is a master rod builder, and his rods are highly desired and sought by anglers.

Mark your calendars for Saturday February 5th, and watch for further announcements regarding pre-show workshops on the BUFF website and in the BUFFER.

BUFF Picnic

By Ken Mandel

On Thursday, July 22nd, BUFF members reunited for our first large-group activity since the beginning of COVID restrictions put in place in early 2020. We had an outdoor picnic at the lake-side shelter at Miami Meadows Park. Over 65 of our members signed up to attend, and about 55 attended. Dinner was fried chicken from The Hitching Post on Eastern Avenue, and cole slaw and German potato salad from Jungle Jim’s catering. We also had chips, soft drinks, watermelon and desserts. It was all delicious!

Activities included a target casting area set up to demonstrate and practice FFI casting skills with several of our casting instructors. This was a popular activity. Haruko Mizoguchi and Jim Neckers did tying demonstrations, and we were able to fish the lake adjacent to the shelter (stocked with blue gill and bass). Fish were taking a range of lures, both bottom flies which targeted blue gill, and surface dry flies. Jim McElravy caught about 20 blue gill fishing a small dry fly and dropper pattern (size 20 range). Fish took both flies and he even had a couple of ‘doubles’. I had similar results using a foam beetle and later a dry fly – if the flies landed anywhere near a fish, they were hit in seconds.

Here are some photos from the event.





New Proposed Scenic River in Ohio

By Tom Bachey & Ken Mandel

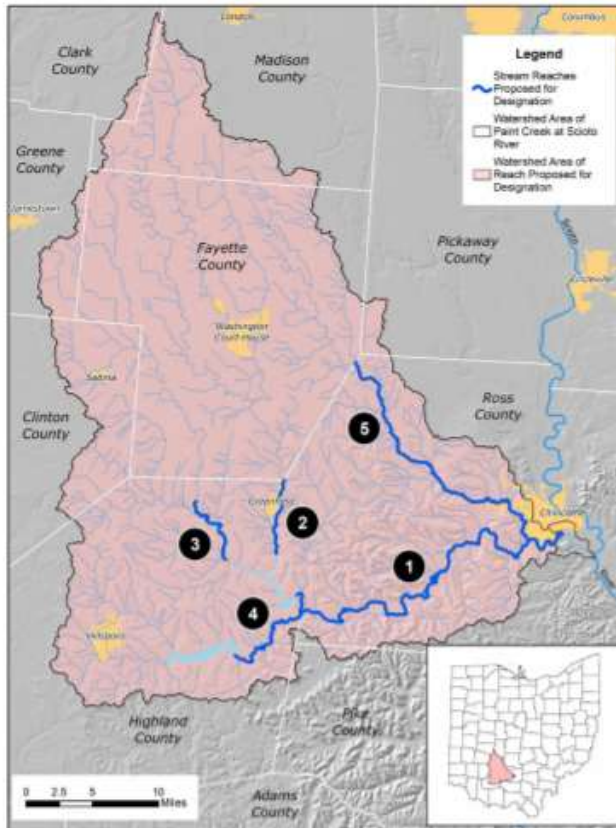


Figure 1. Location map of the Paint Creek watershed and the reaches examined for scenic river designation: 1 - Paint Creek, 2 - Upper Paint Creek, 3 - Rattlesnake Creek, 4 - Rocky Fork Creek, and 5 - North Fork Paint Creek.

This past month the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) announced the state's intent to designate portions of Paint Creek and its tributaries as Ohio's 16th state scenic river. Ohio is home to the first designated scenic river in the US; the ODNR designated and protected the Little Miami River, as the country's first scenic river, in April 1969. The Paint Creek system qualifies for designation as a scenic river because of its outstanding water quality, flows through a natural river corridor with unique geological features and a rich cultural history. The system supports approximately 118 fish species and at least 11 rare and endangered species of plants and animals including two federally endangered species of freshwater mussels: the snuffbox and rayed bean.

Adding the Paint Creek system as a scenic river will add excellent opportunities for people to enjoy one of Ohio's most natural river corridors. It is

home to scenic vistas, wildlife and excellent fishing habitat. In announcing this proposal, ODNR Director Mary Mertz said, "Paint Creek is not only a hotspot for kayakers and a place for families to enjoy a natural getaway, but this designation also means protecting clean water for communities and wildlife habitat." The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency already classifies Paint Creek and many of its tributaries as Exceptional Warmwater Habitat (EWH) streams, which is the highest aquatic life use designation that can be assigned to a river or stream.

Paint Creek arises from Paint Creek Lake (Paint Creek State Park) located east of Hillsboro, OH. It flows eastward to Chillicothe where it joins with the Scioto River. The map illustrates the proposed areas to be included in the scenic river designation.

ODNR will hold two public information sessions/open houses to receive public input regarding the proposed designations. If approved, a total of 81.7 miles of the Paint Creek system would be designated as state scenic rivers in Highland and Ross counties. Hence, the stream is local to southwest Ohio

A 2020 survey conducted by Ohio State University identified over 100 fish species which inhabit various areas of this system. These include, various sunfish, crappie, and bass (smallmouth, largemouth, rock bass). The system also supports lake and shovelnose sturgeon, pickerel, and muskellunge.

A full report of the ONDR proposal to designate this water system as a state scenic river can be found at: <https://ohiodnr.gov/static/documents/natural-areas/SR-studies/PaintCreekSRDesignationStudy.pdf>

ODNR Fly Fishing Clinics

On July 29th, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) announced 3 beginner and 2 intermediate fly-fishing clinics that will be held at the Castalia State Fish Hatchery. The hatchery is in northern Ohio, southwest of Sandusky, and raises rainbow trout and is the only steelhead hatchery for the ODNR. Castalia is a cold-water hatchery, with water is supplied from 'blue hole' aquifers, and Cold Creek. In addition to fly-fishing instruction by Division of Wildlife staff and volunteers, attendees will be able to test their skills by fishing for the abundant rainbow trout found in Cold Creek.

If you wish to attend, you need to preregister. There is not charge for the programs. Anglers may only participate once in a beginning fly fishing class, and all anglers age 16 and older are required to have a valid Ohio fishing license.

The beginning fly fishing clinics are half-day sessions, and are scheduled for Fridays on August 27th, September 3rd, and September 10th. A morning (9 AM to noon) and an afternoon session (1 PM to 4 PM) are scheduled for each day. Two full-day (9AM – 3 PM) intermediate skill clinics are scheduled for Friday September 17th and 24th. Preregistration is required. More information on the clinics, and the registration form can be found on the ONDR website:

<https://apps.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/educationregistration/>

Heat and Drought Impacting Western Angling.

The impact of the excessive heat and drought conditions in the west is impacting angling on rivers in the far west. It is impossible to not be aware of the weather extremes and drought currently plaguing the western US. In late July the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) announced a dramatic slate of fishing closures and restrictions which impacts some of the state's most iconic and sought out trout water, such as the Yellowstone, Madison, Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Missouri rivers. The closures come in response to dangerous and worsening river conditions, the result of historically low stream flows and excessive water temperatures, which threaten the survival of the state's trout and other fish species. While Montana's fisheries are regularly plagued by low flows and high water temperatures, this year's conditions have been further exacerbated by climate-change fueled drought and excessive heat blanketing much of the west. These conditions have pushed Montana's native trout fisheries to the brink and prompted the FWP action.

The **restrictions** affect rivers in throughout Montana and include full closures on the Jefferson River and portions of the Shields, Big Hole, and Gallatin rivers. Also included are "hoot owl" restrictions—which

close rivers to fishing after 2pm. This additional restriction affects the above rivers and also the Stillwater River.

This action highlights the danger that the low flows, high water temperatures and diminished water quality pose to species survival. The Montana FWP will enforce closures when flows drop below critical levels for fish, and/or when maximal daily water temperatures reach 73°F for 3 consecutive days.

Within the state, a coalition of outfitters, guides and lodges, the Orvis and Pantagonia companies, and several conservation organizations have petitioned Governor Gianforte to immediately create a “Cold Water Fisheries Task Force to address the dramatic decline in these fisheries in Montana. Fishing is over a \$7 billion of business in Montana, so the threat is a very serious economic concern.

“Fly Fishing 101 Programs”

By Ken Mandel

This is becoming a popular term!

In early July, WCPO TV news had a short segment on a Fly Fishing 101 ‘course’ offered by Delamere & Hopkins. The video link is: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/other/fly-fishing-101/vi-AALixPE?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531>. The course is an all-day, hands on casting and fishing class on the Little Miami River. This was a nice promotion for the store.



Orvis is also offering a Fly Fishing 101 program. This is a virtual program consisting of a series of short videos – setting up a rod, knots you need to know, casting basics, and selecting flies. If you sign up, you get a daily video on a topic. At the end of the course you get a longer video which puts everything together. Sign-up can be found at the following web-link:

https://subscribe.orvis.com/FF101CORP/?j=743948&sfmc_sub=14279372&l=16_HTML&u=223148720&mid=7236729&jb=5474&cm_mmc=orvisemail- -spm- -21_07_29_Retail- -2103_retail_virtual_ff101&adv=623092&et_cid=743948&et_rid=4668538&src=0

FFI Learning Center

By Jeff McElravy

The FFI website ‘Learning Center’ provides a library of useful information on many aspects of fly fishing. There are presentations, videos, and instructional guides for topics ranging from casting techniques, fishing techniques, knots, flies, fly tying, etc. The link provides a short video which introduces the page on the FFI website - <https://vimeo.com/574205143/9fe62726be>

Access to the information requires being a member of FFI, and we encourage BUFF members to consider joining this organization.

Tim Williamson's Instruction on the Hop

Recently Tim Williamson offered club members a very good presentation on the Hop, a fishing technique that is excellent for bass fishing on our local waters. The recorded presentation, along with Tim's slide set is on the BUFF website. Open the Education/Conservation menu, and then the Education Resources page. Tim's presentation is available under 'Fishing by Species'. If you missed his presentation, check out the recording and feel free to send any questions to Tim.

BUFF Members Getting out to Fish -

Pat Goddard got some fishing in on a blue line stream while on a family vacation in Pennsylvania last month. Caught some nice brook trout, and here is a photo of one.





Here's a 23" brown trout that Tom Britton landed. He caught this beauty fishing the Upper Manistee River in Michigan.

Tom Bachev got this catfish fishing at Woodland Mounds Park, which is in Anderson. He caught it on a chartreuse wooly bugger with legs.



The prize for 'fish of the month' has to go to Bob Gustafson, who caught this bass fishing in a local church pond near Loveland. It took him 30 minutes to land this guy! A number of us frequent this pond, and it does have larger fish!



Thanks to everyone who sent in photos!

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>
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Golf Club, Loveland, OH	Wednesday, August 11 th 6 PM – 9 PM Also on Zoom	
Women's After Work Fishing O'Bannon Creek, Loveland, OH	Thursday, August 12 th Meet at 6:00 PM, fish until dusk	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Buff Board Meeting	Wednesday, August 18 th Springdale Community Center 6:30 PM	
Tie & Lie Zoom Virtual Session	Friday, August 20 th 6:30 PM	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 loopdude1@hotmail.com
Women's Day Trip Mad River Dayton, OH	Saturday, August 21 st <i>see website for details</i>	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Club After Work Outing Little Miami River Milford, OH	Tuesday, September 7 th <i>see website for details</i>	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Women's After Work Fishing Little Miami River Milford, OH	Thursday, September 9 th <i>see website for details</i>	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Women's Day Trip Brookville, IN	Saturday, September 11 th <i>see website for details</i>	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Stream Quality Monitoring Caesar's Creek & Bass Island LMR	Saturday, September 18 th Arrive by 9 AM <i>see website for details</i>	Tom Britton 513-520-7862 starwoodtb@gmail.com