

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

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The President's Fly Box

My wife and I went to upstate Michigan for a ten-day vacation. We returned to hot temperatures and high humidity. Augh! The silver lining for me is that in a few days, I leave to go fishing in Wyoming. I'm certainly looking forward to going again this year. Since I'm packing for the trip, this will be a quick note.

Our August meeting brings us a nationally known fly caster and guide, Mac Brown. Mac hails from North Carolina where many of our members fish during the year. Please make every attempt to come to the meeting. Better still, if any spots remain, sign up for his casting clinic. This will occur immediately prior to the meeting.

For all those die-hard North Carolina Tar Heel fans, I'm sorry but I must disappoint you. Our speaker is Mac Brown while the North Carolina football coach who just extended his contract is Mack Brown. On the positive side, I'm sure that you can ask Mac about Mack, but don't expect a football coach to show up.

If you check the BUFF calendar, we still have local trips and stream monitoring activities. I believe that our next travel trip will be in October to North Carolina. We are always looking for members to host a trip. If you have fished an area two or three times, then you are likely our club expert. Consider bringing others with you. Setting up a BUFF trip is easy. Just ask for help.

Remember, if you have gone on a fishing trip or plan on going, then send your pictures and maybe a quick summary to Ken Mandel for the BUFFER. It is always great to see where our members have fished. Ken's phone # and e-mail are on the member area of the BUFF website.

Well, it's time for me to finish packing. I hope everyone has a great month of fishing. For the summertime, fish early and often!

Hugh O'Donnell, BUFF President

BUFF August Meeting – Wednesday August 9th

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 will start at 7:45 PM.

August Speaker – Mac Brown, "Improving Your Casting & Where to Go on Western North Carolina Waters"

Our August meeting features Mac Brown as speaker and is bound to be a special event for all attendees. Mac Brown is the owner of Mac Brown Fly-Fish and Fly-Fishing Guide School in Western NC. He is a professional guide, instructor, and educator, and over the last 40 years, has helped thousands of beginners through advanced anglers learn and improve in the art and sport of fly-fishing.



Mac has made significant contributions to the sport, and his list of accomplishments is extensive:

- He created the first full-time fly-fishing guide service in Western North Carolina.
- Led efforts for the first Delayed Harvest on the Upper Nantahala River in 1993.
- Served as Associate Professor at Western Carolina University (1994-98), teaching their Fly-Fishing Program. Several of his former students are directly responsible for bringing the competition scene back to the region, which has become a hotbed for producing some of the top anglers around the globe.
- Selected as "Angler of the Year" in *Field and Stream* in 1999.
- Authored "<u>Casting Angles</u>". This book is a handbook for those on the journey of understanding the mechanics of the cast. The ACA, FFI, and others have endorsed this text as a reference for instructors.
- Certified Master Casting Instructor through FFI and inducted into the Southern Appalachia Fly Fishing Museum Hall of Fame in 2017.
- Recipient of the Mel Kroger Fly Casting Instructor Award in 2021 from FFI, given_for his significant contributions to the FFI Casting Instructor Certification Program and his dedication to fly-casting instruction.
- His articles have appeared in *Fly Rod and Reel, Fly Fisherman, <u>Angling Report</u>, ESPN TV, <i>Outdoor Life, Field and Stream, Fly Fishing America T.V., Fly Fishing the World*, and many others.

- Is a pro staff member of <u>Ross Reels</u>, <u>Simms</u>, <u>Maxima</u>, and is an ambassador for the brands <u>Patagonia</u>, <u>G Loomis</u> rods, <u>Regal Vise</u>, <u>Richardson Chest Boxes</u>, and <u>Scientific</u> <u>Anglers</u> fishing lines.
- As an active instructor, participates in Fly-Fishing Shows, FFI Conclaves, and clubs around the country doing presentations on casting, fly tying, and fishing tactics.
- Served as one of the coaches for Fly-Fishing Youth Team USA during the past decade, where they have had remarkable successes with some World Champions and Gold medal winners.

Mac's Fly Fishing website is: <u>https://macbrownflyfish.com/</u>

Mac will also lead a casting clinic, beginning at 4:30pm at the Oasis Convention Center (specific location to be specified prior to 8/9). This is limited to 15 participants, and at the time of writing this newsletter, it is fully booked. However, you can sign up for the wait list. Alternatively, you can attend to listen and observe.

Also, please note that signing up for the casting clinic does not register you for the meeting, or for dinner at the meeting. You need to do that separately as a regular sign-up for the meeting.

August Dinner Menu

- Chef's Choice Salad & Dressings
- Taco & Fajita Bar
- Chef's Choice Desserts
- Coffee & Iced Tea

August 10-Minute Tech Talk

The topic for our August Tech Talk is "Ultra-Light Flying and Fly Fishing. It will be presented by Scott Biser. This brief presentation will be held at our general meeting during the social hour. We encourage members stop by to learn more about this from Scott, and join in on the conversation.

New Club Members! –

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added 1 New member - Eric Weinberg, Mason, 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!

2024 Fly Fishing Show – Save the Date!

Early Information for the 2024 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show

The show team is at work on the plans for our 2024 Fly Fishing Show.

The show date is Saturday, February 3rd, 2024. We are staying with a 1-day show format. As we

approach the show date, we will of course be asking club members to volunteer to help with the many activities on that day.

Importantly, we now have our 2024 headliner, Susan Thrasher. Susan is an excellent and skilled angler, guide and an FFI certified instructor. For over 15-years she has been an instructor at the Wulff Fly Fishing School in upstate NY! Some members will remember Susan doing a presentation at a BUFF meeting a few years ago when we were at the Regan Lodge. Prior to that meeting, she did a women's casting clinic. Plans are to have her do 2 presentations and a casting demonstration on the day of the show. We are hoping that she will also do a casting clinic on the Friday before the show. More details will be forthcoming in future BUFFERs. You can find out more about her on her website southernbrookies.com

(http://southernbrookies.com/index.html)

We are also planning to have hands-on fly tying classes on the Friday before the show, and are working to confirm a person to lead these programs.



BUFF Library Reminder –

From: Dave Smith

BUFFERs – While we are not regularly bringing the library boxes to our meetings, *the library remains AVAILABLE*. Finding and checking out a book or video is really easy and is done through the BUFF website.

On the BUFF website home page, click "Member Services" and login with your e-mail address. Once logged in, choose the "Browse the Library" icon to bring up the list of library books and holdings. There

is a GREEN "Reserve It" box on the right of each item. Clicking that reserves the item and it will be brought for pick up at the next club meeting. Returning books is also easy – just bring them to the next meeting.

This is an easy-to-use resource to obtain library materials and to grow and enhance your fly fishing skills and knowledge.

Fishing for Smallmouth on Four Mile Creek

By Tim Williamson

I have been fishing Four Mile Creek for a couple of years and have grown to really appreciate it. While not every day produces fish, it is a lot of fun, and even if I don't catch fish, I get to see lots of cool wildlife. I've seen a huge snapping turtle the made a splash which caused me to think that a deer had jumped into the water. I've had a doe and fawn get close enough that I could touch them with my rod. It's a beautiful creek.

Recently the creek has been up and muddy. On my last trip, I met a fellow named Ron. He's a former member of BUFF, has been fishing Four Mile for 35 years, and is a super-nice guy. We started at his house and fished upstream. Half the trip covered water that I'd seen but never really fished.

I started with a large black top water fly, and Ron pointed out spots that held fish. While the first 2 didn't produce anything, the third gave me a decent smallie, but it got off. Ron fished streamers using a floating line. He caught a 7" smallie in a



hole that I would have sworn did not have any fish, but it obviously did. On another hole in that same area, a smallie hammered his fly, but got off. The last 3 holes we fished that day were one's I know well and from which I've caught lots of fish. It's where I usually try to end my day. On this day I landed over a half dozen fish, all but one over 12 inches.

Ron mentioned that I fish my top water patterns differently than he does and was curious about my technique. So, here's my "trick". After making my cast, I wait for the rings to disappear, which can range from a few seconds to a minute or so. On this day, the wait was about 15 seconds. At that time, I give the fly its first twitch. I then wait another 10 seconds and give it another little twitch, wait ten seconds and give the rod tip a 6 - 12 inch jerk towards me causing the fly to pop. Not a large pop, but enough to generate noise to get the fish's attention. Then I'd repeat the pattern of a twitch followed by a pop with 10-second timing. Usually, I don't have to wait more than a minute or so to get a bite.

The picture is of a 4.4 pound smallie I caught that day, putting it in the 19+ inch range. I think it is the biggest smallie I've ever caught on Four Mile Creek, and rivals one I caught on the Whitewater River in Brookville.

I'm sharing this because we all know that smallmouth are numerous around here. They can be in big rivers or small, and you have to approach them differently than trout. I hardly ever fish them with bugs; I almost always use streamers or big top water flies - size 2 or 4 hooks on a popper or slider. While I rarely use something smaller than a size four, I have to say that I've had good days using a size 12 nymph. Something else to keep in mind with top waters. Most people think you need to make poppers create huge noises. I rarely do that. I like to make them twitch and after a few twitches and a pause I'll try to make it split water. The only time I depart from quiet and twitch is when the water is deep. Think 4-5 feet or deeper. The other day, the water was muddy, and I fished deep holes, so I could get away with more noise.

If you are interested in learning about methods to fish for smallmouth, I highly recommend "Smallmouth: Modern Fly-Fishing Methods, Tactics, and Techniques", by Dave Karczynski and Tim Landwehr. It will revolutionize how you fish for the warm water fish in our area

Southeastern Anglers Float Trip

By Bill DeShurko

Although I was not the winner of the float trip gift certificate Southeastern Anglers provided for the BUFF Banquet, since they are a consistent supporter of BUFF I wanted to share my experience on a recent trip I did with them. Southeastern Anglers is based out of Reliance, TN. They offer boating and wading guide trips, primarily fishing the Hiawassee, Clinch, and Holsten Rivers in Eastern Tennessee and the Cumberland River in Kentucky.

The River & Fishing

My trip was on the Holston. For perspective I have been fly fishing for 7 years now and probably average two or three guided trips a year. About half have been on various tailwaters. The Holston is a tailwater of the Cherokee Reservoir. It is located north of the Gatlinburg area.

Overall, this was one of my favorite tailwater trips yet. While most tailwater fishing consists of an indicator with a couple of nymph droppers, I spent most of the day tossing dries and soft hackle emergers to rising fish. There was a good to solid caddis hatch on the entire river during our float. Occasionally there would be a sulphur hatch in the mix as well. Early in the float, accuracy was key. The main strategy was to land a small caddis dry with an emerger dropper, about 18 inches below the dry, upstream within about two feet of where a trout recently surfaced. As the water was shallow and crystal clear, 60-foot casts were the norm. While I was happy with my percentage of hookups, my rustiness really showed as I only got 3 fish in the first couple hours. As the day went on my numbers went up considerably as the casting requirements eased. I'd guess that for the day I managed about 20 in the net.



The negative of the Holston is that these are not the

largest fish. I went through about nineteen 10'' - 14'' rainbows (and just one brown), to land one nice 18'' fatty pictured here. The positive is that 2/3 of the day was target fishing, and that made for a challenging day.

The Guide

My guide, Jeff, graded out with a solid A! I've been with many guides, and the one thing that almost always frustrates me is that we may fish with different rig setups, but almost always that involves stopping fishing while the guide ties on a new setup onto the rod I am currently using. Instead, Jeff had one rod rigged with a streamer, one with a hopper dropper setup, and rigged my rod with a dry caddis and either a caddis or sulfur emerger. When we switched tactics, I just switched rods, so we had little or no down time. We used all three setups at different stops.

Jeff was also very good at correcting a few things, and that helped as the day went on.

Conclusion

One general point I'd make to anyone taking a guided trip is to bring your own rod and use it. Even if the guide has "better" rods, touch is such a big part of success. Several fish I landed I had no idea where my dry flies were. We were facing into the sun and the flies blended into a bubble line. I had to feel the strike to be successful. It wasn't long before Jeff noticed I was having more success using my rod and would try to keep the currently successful fly combo on my rod.

Overall. I had a great trip with a fun and knowledgeable guide. If booking a trip with Southeastern Anglers, it would be best to be flexible on location. This way they can try and get you to the most productive water for your trip. I'll be using them again.

For more information, or to book an outing with Southeastern Anglers, check out their website - https://www.southeasternanglers.com/

August Fishing Events –

From Cari Vota

Here are the local events coming up in August. Register on the BUFF Website. Directions and detailed information is also on the website.

- Women's After-Work Outing Thursday August 10th is our annual Milford outing on the Little Miami River. After fishing we head to the Little Miami Brewery for a drink and snack. We will meet at the American Legion on the water then move to bottom of Elm street before heading to the brewery at about 8:15 or so. Can't make the fishing? Come meet us at the brewery!! This is always a good time and the Loaded Nacho's are great!
- Women's Day Trip on the Mad River Saturday Aug 19th we will be heading up to the Mad River for the day. We will try to fish at a couple different spots along the Mad. Bring lunch, something to drink, and a rain jacket! It poured last year.
- **Club Co-ed After Work Outing** Something new and different than the usual places we have been to before. On Thursday, August 17th, we will meet and fish upstream from the Monkey Bar on the Little Miami River. Come join us to fish at a new location. There will be a short walk along the bike path to get to our access point.

How to Submit a BUFF Check Request

From Bob Gustafson

Members sometimes purchase items for the club and pay for them out-of-pocket. An example would be the individuals who ordered and purchased food and items for our recent picnic. There is a simple process to obtain reimbursement. Since it's been a while since we've communicated on this, and as we have a number of new club and Board members, going over the process may be useful.

- There are two ways to submit a check request-and both are accessed through the website. By far, the most efficient way is by an online check request submission. The process is detailed in the following steps.
 - 1. On the BUFF Website homepage, click the "*About Us*" tab below the page header.
 - 2. The bottom two items are the check request links. For the on-line request, click "*BUFF Check Request – On-line Submission to club treasurer*".
 - 3. You will be instructed to enter your e-mail address. Once you do this, the check request form, shown below, opens. You simply enter the required information in the indicated boxes. Don't worry about the 'account number' you can put it in if you know it (some of the more common expense account numbers are shown on the bottom of the form). If you don't, the treasurer will fill it in.



4. After completing the Check Request Form, click "Next" to open the confirmation screen. Verify the information, edit if necessary, and when correct, click "Submit".

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That's it! As soon as possible, you will need to send/give me the receipts for the expense by:

- email (scan as a pdf file), or
- photo (jpg file) sent to me as a text message (513-289-5250), or
- in person the next time you see me
- The alternative is to print out a Check Request Form and mail it to me. To do this, click on the "About Us" tab. Click on "BUFF Check Request Form printable pdf form". Print the form, fill it out, and mail it, together with receipts, to the address on the form.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

I Am New to Fly Fishing. What Equipment Do I Need?

By Ken Mandel

I found a good and entertaining YouTube video from Ventures Fly Company on this topic. It is less than 9 minutes long, and if you are new to the sport, it is a good review of basic equipment to get on the water. They identify 10 items, some of which are truly 'optional'.

So what do the Venture folks suggest for getting started?

The first three are obvious – a rod, reel, and fly line. The video reommends getting a basic, wide-purpose rod (i.e., 9foot, 5-wt), a simple affordable reel, and a basic line. It's all quite affordable.

Number 4 are leaders and tippet. Another basic need to get on the water.

Number 5 – Flies and something to hold them in. Venture Fly is in the business of selling flies, so they suggest purchasing their own collection, which comes in a large, multicompartment box. Personally, I think this is overkill. A few flies that work on the water you want to start on should be fine. Tom Rosenbauer has a short video on the Orvis site on getting started in fly fishing, and his suggestion



when getting started is a few Wooly Buggers and using the plastic container they came in from the fly shop rather than buying a box at this point! If you go with that, just having a 3X leader and some matching tippet would also be adequate.

Next, **'item 6'** includes basic 'accessories'. Nippers, to cut tippet and forceps for removing a fly from the mouth of the fish are needed. A zinger to attach the nippers to clothing, pack, or vest is also useful. The video recommends several other items, but again, I'd say they are optional for getting started.

Item 7 is a net. Useful, but not absolutely needed.

Item 8 is something to hold the gear. The video recommends a fishing pack. Another alternative, at this point, is a fishing vest. Personally, I used a vest at first, and still do on occasion. An inexpensive vest can be found at places like Bass Pro or Cabella's. Whatever you use, you want something that does not interfere with casting, and gives you easy access to flies, nippers, etc.

Item 9 is a pair of sunglasses glasses. As a club, we always recommend eye protection. Polarized glasses are even better as they reduce the glare on the water surface and allow one to be able to see the fish beneath. A retainer that connects to the sides of the frame and loops behind your neck is way to keep

glasses from falling into the water. I wear prescription glasses and have dropped them into a stream. It was not fun floundering around to find them!

Item 10. Lastly the video recommends boots and waders. Boots and waders are great to have, but they are cosptly. I'd suggest holding off until you decide to be committed to pursuing the sport. To get started one can fish from the bank, a boat, or wet wade in shallow water with sneakers or sandals. Tom Rosenbauer's 'getting started' discussion does not recommend waders as a getting started need.

Here's the link - <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qfV_-cBRNU&t=35s</u> Here's the link to Tom Rosenbauer's You Tube video as well - <u>https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/video-lessons/the-basics-of-fly-fishing/chapter-one-the-basics-of-fly-fishing/228-fly-fishing-needs-to-get-started</u>

Banquet Silent Auction Trips – Reminder to Share Your Experience

From Ken Mandel & Sam Hanna

As BUFF members who won silent auction trips at our March Banquet get out with the guides who generously donated these outings, Sam Hanna and I ask you to please share your experiences with the rest of the club. These are very generous donations, and a commitment from these folks to support Buckeye United Fly Fishers. Sharing your experience is a great way to recognize and express our gratitude for this support, and encourage other BUFF members to consider an outing with these guides. We make sure that the guide service receives a copy of the BUFFER with the article, so they can read about our appreciation.

Thank you to those who have already shared their experiences! **Questions on what to do? Contact Ken Mandel, BUFFER Editor at <u>kengmandel@gmail.com</u>**

Ohio Stream Quality Monitoring Workshops

The Ohio Scenic Rivers Program has a series of workshops scheduled to learn about the macroinvertebrates (bugs) in our streams and rivers, and their relationship to river health. These are hands-on, in-river workshops. Here are the dates and locations near us –

Little Miami River, Washington Mill Bridge Canoe Access. This is NE of Bellbrook on Graf Mill Road. <u>https://goo.gl/maps/WKyauhSk5KpG7Q1w7</u>
Little Miami River, Nesbit Park, Loveland. Find parking nearby and meet at the
Little Miami Conservency Building adjacent to the park. https://goo.gl/maps/JdCHr6YggzbUa9fF9

For more information and to RSVP if interested in attending, contact – <u>bela.clutter@dnr.ohio.gov</u>

BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish –

A few photos from this month –

Here are a few photos from Dolph Greenberg. A couple of weeks back he went to the Michigan Upper Peninsula and fished the St. Mary's River. That's the river that connects Lake Superior and Lake Huron. He got over 20 Atlantic Salmon, the 28" Rainbow Trout shown in the photo, and even had a double hook up! That huge trout was on a size-16 pheasant tail nymph.

Last week, Jim and Cari Vota went to the UP and also fished the St. Mary's. Jim sent a photo of a nice Atlantic Salmon he caught and Cari a photo of another very large rainbow. She got that one on a size-16 Prince Nymph. *Think it's the same one that Dolph caught the week before?*

Both Dolph and the Votas fished with Brad Petzke. Brad guides multiple areas across the UP, and fishes for different species. He was our speaker at the February meeting.





Dolph's 28" Rainbow Trout





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

Trip/Activity & Location	Dates	Trip /Activity Coordinator
Casting Clinic with Mac Brown	Wednesday, August 9 th	Blayne Smith
Oasis Conference Center	4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	
Loveland, OH	<mark>Sign up on Website</mark>	
Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, August 9 th	Hugh O'Donnell
Oasis Conference Center	6:00PM – 8:45 PM	
Loveland, OH	<mark>Sign up on Website</mark>	
Women's After Work Outing	Thursday August 10 th	Cari Vota
Little Miami River	6:00 PM til Dusk	
Milford, OH	Register on Website	
Board of Directors Meeting	Wednesday, July 16 th	Hugh O'Donnell
Springdale Community Ctr	6:30 – 8:00 PM	
Club After Work Outing	Thursday, August 17 th	Cari Vota
Little Miami River	6:00 PM til Dusk	
Loveland, OH	Register on Website	

Trip/Activity & Location	<u>Dates</u>	Trip /Activity Coordinator
Monthly Tie & Lie Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, August 18 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM See Website for Link	Gary Begley
Women's Day Trip to the Mad River	Saturday, August 19 th Register 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.

