



# The BUFFER

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

Volume 29, Issue 12

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

December 2005

## President's Corner

Mike Bryant ([mjbryant@email.com](mailto:mjbryant@email.com))

As the weather turns colder, my level of fishing tends to slow down and my thoughts turn to tying flies, finishing a rod that I started to build over two years ago, and to continue planning for upcoming B.U.F.F. indoor activities including the Banquet and The Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Saturday, February 11, 2006 - B.U. F.F. will once again sponsor The Gr. Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, to be held on Saturday, February 11, 2006 from 9:00am – 4:30pm. The Show will again be located at The Receptions in Fairfield. Last year's Show was one of our best and we're working to make the 2006 Show even better.

Saturday, March 4, 2006 - The Cabin Fever Relief Banquet committee has been doing a great job in preparing for our next great Banquet. The Banquet will be held at The Receptions. It is a great opportunity to be with friends, have a great meal and have an opportunity to win some great prizes.

**Having Fun** - Many thanks to Bob Goldsberry for his great presentation at the November dinner meeting on fishing local ponds and lakes. Bob did a great job of discussing techniques, flies and gear. Bob's enthusiasm for fly fishing and teaching our next generation of fly fishers was evident. Thanks Bob!

We will continue to sell raffle tickets for the beautiful bamboo rod donated by Dr. Jerry Snider. The rod is a 6'3", 4/5 wt, 2 pc, 2 tip rod with rod sack and aluminum case with polished brass butt/tip caps. We will only sell a total of 100 raffles tickets @ \$20 each. The winner will be announced at the 2006 Gr. Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. This is a great opportunity to win a phenomenal fly rod. With only 100 tickets available, you have excellent odds of winning. The proceeds will be split between our education (new fly tying video camera) and conservation programs.

**Giving Back** - At the December meeting we have several important topics to address. First, the election of the 2006 Officers / Board of Directors will be conducted. We have been blessed by a very strong and productive BOD over the last several years, and I'm excited that the proposed new BOD will continue to build on our successes.

*Continued on page 2*

### *December Meeting Program*

**Randy Ratliff of Troutfishers Guide Service** will present at the December 14<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Randy will be discussing the fabulous fly fishing opportunities in his home waters of Eastern Tennessee. His presentation, titled "**Browns, Bows, Brookies, and Bronzebacks: It doesn't get any better than East Tennessee!**", will highlight the diversity of rivers and streams to be found just a few hours east of Cincinnati. You can learn more about Randy and Troutfishers Guide Service at his website, <http://www.trout-fishers.net>

We will also discuss some proposed changes to our By-Laws. If you'll recall, at the last December meeting the membership voted to modify the By-Laws pertaining to the number of Directors. Given the need to submit the modifications to the State, a BOD subcommittee has taken the opportunity to review the entire set of By-Laws to update and clarify the language, correct errors and suggest improvements. None of the proposed changes change the principles, direction or guidelines currently in place for B.U.F.F. Per our By-Laws, we will submit the proposed changes to our membership for review thirty days prior to a vote. So, the proposal changes will be discussed at the December meeting. Details will be made available at the meeting, on our website, and via email upon request. We encourage your input. We will ask the membership to vote on the proposed By-Law changes at the January meeting.

Finally, we'll be taking nominations for the 2005 Fly Fisher of the Year. This is our highest honor we award to one member every year to recognize their leadership and actions in B.U.F.F. and for the sport of fly fishing. The Fly Fisher of the Year election will be at the January 11, 2006 meeting and the award will be presented at our annual Banquet. If some reason, you cannot attend the meeting, but would still like to submit a member's name for this award, please feel free to send me an email ([mjbryant@email.com](mailto:mjbryant@email.com)).

Once again we are approaching that time of year where we stop to reflect on our blessings in life. Among the many blessings I consider is our club and the many friendships I have made through B.U.F.F. We have a truly great club, with great members who know the importance of having fun, helping each other and giving back. Thank you and may this a blessed season for you, your family and friends.

## **The Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show™**

### **Mike Bryant**

The Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show™ will be here before you know it. The Show will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2006. As in the past, the Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show™ will continue its focus on providing both experienced and prospective new fly fishers timely information on the great sport of fly fishing. Our goal is to educate, inform and to have fun. During the Show, we hope to offer and familiarize attendees with available local, regional and national fly fishing resources. Included with your admission is attendance to all presentations, both exhibitor halls, the fly tying island, fly tying demonstrations, and a chance to win some prizes!! Make sure you bring your friends, family members, and especially kids to the Show.

The Fly Fishing Show will be held at the Receptions Conference Center, located off of Route 4 in Fairfield (only minutes from I-275). This is the same facility we used last year.

**Location: Receptions Conference Center, Fairfield, OH**

**Date: Saturday, February 11, 2006**

**Time: 9:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

In addition to the presentations and the fly tying activities, there will be numerous exhibits that include fly shops, guides, outfitters, clubs, state and local resources, and much more. We plan to have new exhibitors as well as old favorites.

There's something for everyone. So mark your calendars and we will see you at the Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show™ on Saturday, February 11, 2006.

## **Boundary Waters Fishing Trip**

**July 2006**

Roger Corrado

I recently suggested we try a new type of fishing trip in 2006. Since I have been on 3 canoe fishing trips to northern Minnesota in a pristine area that is called the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) and loved each trip, I suggested we explore the possibility of creating a week long trip BUFF fishing trip there this summer, tentatively in July. This is an area where only canoes are allowed on the vast majority of the 100s of lakes in the area. Typically, a trip involves packing everything you need into canoes and traveling back into the wilderness for the length of your trip. These trips usually involve portaging your canoe and camping/fishing supplies between lakes and sometimes can be strenuous. BWCA regulations limit the size of groups to 9 people and/or 4 canoes so the trip would be limited to this size. If you are not familiar with the area do a search on the internet and do a little research. I am writing this article to see if we have enough interest in the trip. If you are interested in a trip like this please see me at the December meeting and let's discuss the possibilities. (Or send me an email at [corradohome@hotmail.com](mailto:corradohome@hotmail.com))

## **The 2005 Fall Brown Trout Trip**

**Bob Mackey**

Once again the trip to the Little Red River in Heber Springs, Arkansas, was a huge success. Nestled near the foothills of the Ozark Mountain range near Sugar Loaf Mountain, the Little Red flows as a tail water fishery that forms from the very large Greers Ferry Lake. Bob Mackey, Sam West, Roger Corrado, Donn Rubingh, Bruce James and new member, Dave Jones, all caught browns in the 15 to 23 inch range, and rainbows 12 to 17. Our most productive spots, which became our favorites, were Cowl Shoals and the Swinging Bridge. Both produced large and plentiful fish. Our main flies were the apricot or pink egg pattern with droppers such as the red ass, copper johns, pink san juan worm, bead head sow bugs and scuds and the midge. Our rookie, Dave Jones, had a fantastic trip as he caught his first big brown measuring in at 22 inches. Roger Corrado was the big producer of browns and also had the largest at 23. We stayed at a local motel in town, The Lake and River Inn, some of us sharing rooms with two queens, a refrig, and microwave for \$190 a week. The daily rate is \$38. Can't beat that! Team up, car pool and come join us next year for what I think is the best club trip of the year.

A parting story has me fishing Cowl Shoals on early Friday morning with this young fellow from Texas fishing next to me. He's tossing at this feeding fish, and yells to one of his buddies that there is a huge rainbow he's trying for. He asked me if I can see it and, with the glare of the water, I said I couldn't. After trying unsuccessfully for ten minutes he tells me it's OK to toss at it to see if I could hook up. I toss a few times with no luck. Now it's his turn again and sure enough he gets the thrill of his life with a 26 inch rainbow (almost a 16 inch girth) that gave him a huge fight. We all huddled around the shore, ood and awwed, took pictures and lost our spots at the Shoals...for awhile.

*Editor Note: Read a slightly different account of this trip written by new BUFF member, Dave Jones, on page 4.*

## **New Members**

Please welcome new members George, Judy and Emily Sutthoff, Cincinnati; Andy Sutthoff, Cincinnati; and Marty Foltz, Hillsboro, and returning members Kevin, Donna and Craig Bollmer, Cincinnati; and Bob and Karen Gustafson, Loveland, to the club. We all know how anxious we were when we first joined, so go the extra mile at the next club meeting to introduce yourself and make them feel welcomed

# Lessons Learned on the Little Red River

## (Confessions of a Greenhorn)

**Dave Jones**

Fly fishing for trout may now be second nature to many of you in the BUFF, but it was all new to me. I am fairly new to BUFF, and this was my first club sponsored trip. I joined five other Buff members for a trip to the Little Red River in north central Arkansas on November 2<sup>nd</sup> for three days of chasing Brown and Rainbow trout on this beautiful river. The trip was organized by Sam West who was joined by Roger Corrado, Bruce James, Bob Macke, Don Rubingh and I. All of these guys had been on numerous trips. I was the new guy. I was the guy who didn't know what he was doing. The guy who needed help – lots of it - and I got it from each of these fellow fishermen.

**Day 1:** We started out at one of their favorite spots – the bridge at Winkley Shoals, just below the Swinging Bridge boat dock. We got there early and Roger promptly claimed a favorite spot for us – the scoured out side of the bridge pillar. We could clearly see the browns collecting in this three foot deep depression just behind the leading edge of the bridge pier waiting for food and hopefully our flies to float by. Roger showed me how to properly rig a red-ass dropper off of a yellow egg with enough weight to get the fly down to the trout in this fast-moving water. We didn't have to wait long before we were tag-teaming the browns out of this hole.

**Lesson # 1** - I learned you have to get the fly to where the trout are and the weighted red-ass off the yellow egg attractor did the trick. The other members of the team worked the edges of the large deep pool just above the dam and the riffles in the Winkley Shoals below the bridge with some success as well, while Roger and I continued to catch the brown under the bridge. In the afternoon it was time to learn something new, fishing the shoals and small pools down stream. With the help of Don & Bob I worked to perfect my casting and mending to dead-drift a fly and started picking up 12-14" rainbows off of a small San Juan worm and gray sow bug.

**Lesson #2** - I learned patience from watching Bob work the river below me carefully and methodically. I would go to sleep that night trying to remember all that I had learned today.

**Day 2:** We took a different approach on Thursday, Bruce, Roger, Bob and Don put canoes in at Lobo and motored up to Scroncher shoals to drift fish and wade as the river permitted.

**Lesson # 3** – It's good to have an alternative way to access the river other than wading. There were only so many places a wading fisherman could get into the river. Sam & I fished at Libby shoals with some success but here I was to learn another important lesson. We wadded the shoals at Libby. Seeking access to the pool just above Libby Shoals I entered the water where the river makes a gentle left turn. I promptly sank up to my knees in the accumulated muck from years of silt deposited at the bend. My wadding staff was of marginal help in getting me out as it sank as well, but it did help steady me as I slowly worked my way back to solid ground.

**Lesson # 4 & 5** – Fish with a friend just in case (I could have been there a long time if I wasn't able to free myself), and learn to “read” the river. In hindsight, it should have been obvious that there was deep mud there. The slowly moving river at the bend, the smooth muddy bottom and the lack of rocks were telling me to be cautious. I'll take a little more time to study the river next time.

The afternoon had more lessons for me. Sam and I pulled up stakes and headed to Cow Shoals. We had heard that the browns were moving onto the spawning grounds there at Cow Shoals. When we arrived there were three other fishermen already there. The river was low, maybe 8-12 inches with small depressions of >18". Sam took me to a favorite spot of his – a deeper pool on the far bank where the fish would often collect. We fished for a while and enjoyed catching small browns in the pools and riffles. Soon there were more fisherman around us. I had been catching a few browns but the guy fishing just up-stream from me was tearing them up.

He was catching good size browns about every third cast, so after about 20 minutes of this I had had enough. I had to find out what he was doing. We were fishing in more or less the same spot but why the difference? I introduced myself as a “greenhorn” and asked for his guidance. He was incredibly nice and took me under his wing to show me what he was fishing with and how to fish it. His name was Vaughn Marsden, a Methodist minister from nearby Clinton, Arkansas and had fished this river for years.

*Continued on page 5*

**Lesson # 6** - Vaughn showed me how to “see the fish”, not just my strike indicator. He gave me a fly he had tied especially for this river and even stopped fishing briefly while he showed me how to fish it in these riffles. I started catching more fish and soon he and I were casting to the same large brown we could see in the river 10-12 feet away from us. Taking turns we tried to entice this big brown to take our fly but Vaughn was on the fish. On one cast the brown lurched to the side and nailed his fly and the fight was on.

**Lesson Number # 7** - Fighting a big fish. Don't try to land him quickly. Patiently fight him. Enjoy it. If he takes you downstream go with him. Eventually, Vaughn landed him – a beautiful 26” brown. He was 16” in girth with a big hooked lower jaw. Now this was fun!

**Lesson # 8** –Be prepared to change. Sam had provided us with a list of flies that were known to work on the Little Red River but we found ourselves in our hotel rooms at night tying new custom flies. Roger, Don & Bruce were well prepared to make up whatever kind of fly they needed each day.

**Day 3:** Friday came and I was in for another experience. Sam took me to an area just below the dam where the local trout farm outflow enters the river. It seems that the stocked rainbow trout like to swim up stream toward the scent of pools they grew up in. We would fish just below that outflow. But the river was really different here. The Corps of Engineers was letting water out of the dam generating electricity for the local communities and the water in the river had really increased from yesterday. The river was up between 2 and 2-1/2 feet above normal and really moving. We fished the river using more noticeable flies. I used a “trout magic”, a 1-1/2” pink, slit-tail rubber worm taking a clue from the success Bob Macke had the day before.

**Lesson # 9** – Learn from the success of others. Sam was on the fish at the outflow so I decided to move to another location.

**Lesson # 10** - When crossing swiftly moving water, use that wadding stick on your hip. It's there for a reason. I lost my footing and went down in the water.

**Lesson #11** - Those belts around your waist and chest really do keep the water out of your waders!

**Lesson # 12** - Remember to put you camera back into the waterproof bag after each use. (Fortunately the water didn't ruin the pictures in the disposable camera I had brought.

At noon we went to check on the rest of the group who had decided to fish Cow Shoals where Sam & I had had so much luck the day before. However, the generation at the dam had completely changed the river. Yesterday the shoals had been heavily riffled and bumpy, but today it was deeper and very fast-moving.

**Lesson #13** - The river can change quickly below a dam. Watch for changes in the water level against a fixed object. Yet Bob, Roger, Don and Bruce worked it with some success especially in the afternoon when the river had returned to more normal levels.

I look back on this trip, my first with the BUFF club, as a fantastic learning experience. I had very helpful teachers on this trip and made wonderful friends with whom I can now share “fish stories”. I learned about proper fly presentation, about mending the line in varying currents, and how to fish the fly at the proper depth. I learned to “read” and respect the river and most importantly I learned that fishing with experienced fly fishermen is a great way to make friends and become a better fly fisherman.

**But the most important lesson I learned was Lesson # 14 - If you are new to fly fishing or have been at it for a while, take a club sponsored trip. You will learn important lessons and make new friends.**

Thanks Bob, Bruce, Don & Roger for showing me how. Thank you Sam, for setting the trip up and a special long-distance thank you to my new fly fishing friend, Vaughn Marsden, who took the time to teach a new guy some important lessons in fly fishing.

# Smoky Mountain Trout Trip

## Tom Knapke

My first honest fly fishing, stream-caught trout as a member of BUFF happened on a crisp fall morning on the Nantahala River. It was a brook trout, about 10 inches or so. A new member both to the club and to the sport, I was at the shoulder of Roger Lowe, and at the time was short-stripping a bead head nymph directly upstream (gasp). While netting the creature, I recall doing some quick math---I figured this fish was worth about 600 bucks...I have the receipts. But who's counting, right?

But, I'm ahead of myself---let's back up

BUFF's Fall Trout Trip to North Carolina was guided by Roger Lowe and Staff and took place October 25-19 out of Waynesville, North Carolina. Trip coordinator Don Prince and fellow Buffers Bruce James, George and Jim Terlinden, Ken Casselman, Steve Walker, Dave French, Patti Wulff-Howell and I were all able to free ourselves from the normal day-to-day and make the trip to the streams of the eastern Smokies.

In the run-up prior to the trip, all indications were that the weather would be overcast and wet. Tuesday, a front passed thru that brought sleet and snow to the upper elevations. That evening, after some shopping at Lowe's Fly Shop, a quick dinner at Fat Betty's barbecue, and a lite "tie and lie" session in Don Prince's room the group retired at The Lodge, a converted whatever in the northern part of Waynesville.

Wednesday morning broke with a hard frost and temps in the high 20's. Most dressed for the occasion. Ken Casselman must have had bonefish dreams, and started the day in wading shorts, which made everyone feel even colder. That would not last.

The plan was to fish the upper Nantahala in the morning. Divided among Roger Lowe, his father George, guides Alvin Gilliland and Dave Clancy, we fanned out along the river. Patterns were mostly bead head or pheasant tail on the drift either with or without stimulator/indicator. The hatch was very spotty and typically Blue wings, the smaller the better. The day evolved into a picture perfect, clear fall day, and by lunch ---which was a riverside picnic with trout fishing on the side---everyone was telling fish stories.

Afternoon found most on the lower, wider stretches of the Nantahala. As the water receded from the power generating schedule, many fish were visible, but none were feeding. My group conceded defeat and retreated to the upper Nantahala for more small water fishing. We regrouped for a fine dinner at Bogart's, which coincidentally, is owned by Roger Lowe's brother. The Lowe's evidently are good at getting more than one fish from the pool, so to speak... Thursday found us again with a cold morning, and all were relieved to see Ken in a new pair of waders. The waters of the Tuckaseegee River were shrouded with rising fog. This larger water was somewhat of a relief, in that it let everyone "throw a little more line around". As the morning progressed, the haze faded to reveal yet another clear, beautiful day. Bigger water also meant bigger fish, and by lunch all were talking about the fat 18" rainbow that Dave French landed.

All in all, the two days were a success, with everyone catching fish and enjoying the fellowship.

At the assignment of this article, I was asked to comment on this trip from the perspective of a new member. Several things stand out. Early the first day, Roger had handed me his rod after tying on a bead head nymph and Dacron indicator. In ONE BACKCAST, I managed to knit the whole deal into something that resembled a small pot scrubber. His response? "Hey, Tom, that's all part of it..." He cut it all off and tied it again. Didn't blink.

The high point was that afternoon. I was alone on the Nantahala in water that, prior to this day, I would have walked past. I had set, and missed, on a fish and tangled horribly in a tree above and behind me. I lost the whole rig and had to tie on 4X, step down to some 5X, dig into my own flybox, tie a Wulff stimulator and then a pheasant tail dropper. Knots with breeze, big fingers, bad eyes, impatient anyway and hooking myself in the process... the whole thing took easily 15 minutes---after which I caught two brooks and a brown in the next 20 yards. All by my own hand. I had come a long way.

*Continued on page 7*

It was great.

And the other members? They were all fine companions and truly great company—strikingly similar in values and interests. Roger Lowe and his group are as advertised: Great people providing a high quality fishing experience in a postcard setting.

I told my wife that I know that I'm in the right place when I feel like I'm a kid again. This trip brought out that feeling. And, my cost per trout came down considerably! But, who's counting!!

## Cabin Fever Relief Banquet -- 2006 March 4, 2006

The 2006 Cabin Fever Relief Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at Receptions Conference Center in Fairfield. (See directions on web site.) The annual banquet is our organization's largest fund raising event of the year. We will once again have Professional Auctioneer, Russel Arey to help us with our live auction and provide some of the best entertainment around. This man is good, he can actually get people to bid on nothing. We will again have the Grand Prize Tables, Early Bird Raffle, Blue & Red Card Raffles, Children's Raffle and of course the General Raffle Tables; in addition we plan to have silent auctions going on and maybe some other new ideas. You will be able to purchase banquet tickets at the upcoming monthly meeting or by mail starting in December. The cost of the Banquet remains unchanged from last year at \$25/person (Early Bird registration) or \$30/person after 1/28/06. Children 16 and under are only \$15. We will once again offer "stocking stuffer tickets" at the meetings. As we stretched the capacity of the Receptions Hall last year for this event, we are going to limit the number of participants to 200 this year – so be sure to get your reservation made as soon as possible.

You can look forward to some great entertainment and an outstanding selection of prizes this year. Our banquet committee has been working very hard for you since October. Here is just a sample of their hard work providing wonderful prizes just for you:

Once again we have guides that have donated a variety of fishing excursions in several different states. The generous donations of these guides will allow the lucky winners to improve their fishing and experience some new and different areas for fishing in the local and non-local fishing waters in our region. What a great way to learn an area and get some tips from the professionals!!! We also have BUFF members who are donating some of their expertise as well with trips on the local streams. In addition to the fishing trips, we also have a pheasant hunting trip with guide and dog, skeet/trap shooting, and other surprises. As you all know, this is a great way for club members to share the fly fishing knowledge along with many other hobbies or skills they have and a great way to give back to the club and have fun!!!

PRIZE RECRUITMENT: As you know, we urgently need the help and support of all BUFF members to produce an enjoyable and successful banquet. Profits from the banquet help to fund our organizations activities throughout the upcoming year. We are asking all BUFF members to donate a raffle/action item or make a cash donation for the banquet this year. You may bring your donations to the general meetings and either give them to Roger Corrado, Bob Miller, or Donn Rubingh. As your gifts are charitable donations be sure to get a receipt and keep it to deduct on your taxes. More details about the banquet will be in the future BUFFER newsletters and on our website shortly. March will be here before you know it!!! Also, check the website to see some of the donations that have already been made.

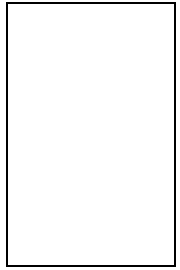
If you are interested in helping with the banquet this year please contact Roger Corrado (513-741-8411) and/or Bob Miller (513-271-2129) as they are the Banquet Co-Chairs for this years event. If you have an idea for a unique raffle/action item feel free to share that with the committee.

<b>December Menu</b>
<b>Roast Turkey &amp; Dressing</b>
<b>Baked Glazed Ham with Pineapples</b>
<b>Candied Sweet Potatoes</b>
<b>Succotash</b>
<b>Cranberry Relish</b>
<b>Rolls and Butter</b>
<b>Pumpkin &amp; Mince Meat Pies</b>

Beginning Balance	\$12145
Total Receipts	\$2076
Total Disbursements	\$1516
Ending Balance	\$12705



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 P. O. Box 42614  
 Cincinnati, OH 45242



*A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt, Charitable Corporation*

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**NOTICE:** Please check dues expiration date on lower right corner of mailing label. If dues have expired, please remit \$25.00 for an Individual Membership or \$30.00 for a Family Membership to B. U.F.F., P.O. Box 42614, Cincinnati, OH 45242

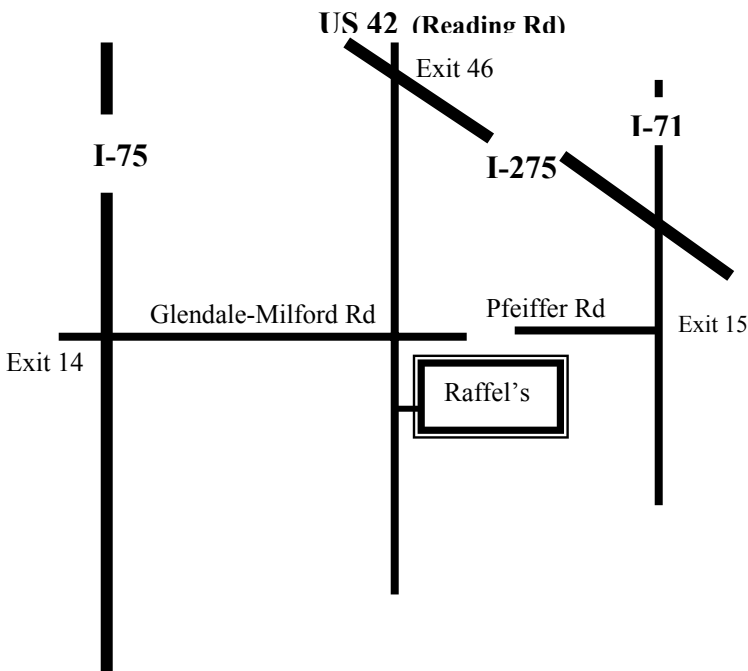
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**Inside this Issue**

President's Corner.....	1
The Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show.....	2
Boundary Waters Fishing Trip – July 2006.....	3
The 2005 Fall Brown Trout Trip.....	3
New Members.....	3
Lessons Learned on the Little Red River.....	4
Smoky Mountain Trout Trip.....	6
Cabin Fever Relief Banquet – 2006 .....	7
Financials, Menu.....	7

**Next Monthly Meeting – Wednesday – December 14**

**CALL 779-4489 OR SIGN UP ON LINE AT [WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM](http://WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM) FOR DINNER RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN 10 PM ON THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING. DINNERS ARE \$10.00/PERSON FOR A CATERED MEAL. DOORS OPEN FOR SOCIAL HOUR AT 6 PM – DINNER SERVED A 7 PM. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED – DON'T WAIT – CALL NOW! (SEE THE MENU ON PAGE 7)**



**Directions:**  
**From I-275 – Take Exit 46, (US 42), south for three miles to Glendale-Milford Rd. -- Continue south and RAFFEL'S will be on the left approximately 3/10 mile.**  
**From I-75 -- Take Exit 14, east, on Glendale-Milford Rd. until the intersection of US 42, (Reading Rd). Turn right (south) on US 42, and RAFFEL'S will be on the left approximately 3/10 mile.**  
**From I-71 -- Take Exit 15, west, Pfeiffer Rd. & this becomes Glendale-Milford Rd.. At the intersection of US 42, (Reading Rd), turn left, (south) on US 42, and RAFFEL'S will be on the left approximately 3/10 mile.**