



# The BUFFER

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The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH  
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## Notes from the President

Jim Vota – [vota@zoomtown.com](mailto:vota@zoomtown.com)

The fly show is only two months away. Preparations are going ahead full steam. I've been reviewing the Fly Fishing 101 class that I'll present the morning of the show. The show brochures are getting handed out to fly shops in the region, the public libraries, sporting goods stores and more. We have radio time scheduled. Local tourist bureaus will promote it. Blogs and on line media are promoting it. Now all we need is to do it.

This is one of the ways the club currently rounds up some of the working capital for the new year. It also promotes the sport and educates the public which is part of our charter. Each year many of you, club members, help in putting on the show. We have superb feedback from the vendors, presenters and others who come to the show. Without your help the show could not happen as it is now. Volunteer sign-ups are on the BUFF Website for the various jobs. There will also be sign-up sheets at the monthly meetings in December and January.

Many of our members have been intrigued by the latest fishing craze of Euro Nymphing. The other day I found a couple videos by a fisherman in England on **Beginners Guide: Euro Nymph - French Leader Style River Fly Fishing How To**. I must say that they were done in a clear, concise way. Equipment, rigging, casting (flopping), where to fish, landing fish and more were presented. For those of you who are interested check them out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Q-V1D62W5g>. Check them out.

When I first picked up a fly rod in 1978 (for a brief period) I remember nymphing was taught as getting the fly on the bottom and pulling it along at the speed of the current (tight line). The setup was different, but the idea was the same.

The holidays are upon us. Thanksgiving is only a few days off. Let's give thanks for rivers and lakes that we have available to us to enjoy. Have a happy Thanksgiving, and I'll see you at the December meeting. Kevin Howell will be on hand to talk about The Best North Carolina Smallmouth Fishing.

El Prez.

Jim Vota

## December Meeting

The December meeting is Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Registration deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup>, and please remember to register whether or not you plan to eat dinner with us.

### Kevin Howell, “Best North Carolina Smallmouth Fishing”

By Mike Rubush ([tenkaraguy1@yahoo.com](mailto:tenkaraguy1@yahoo.com)) & Jack Gormley ([jgormley@fuse.net](mailto:jgormley@fuse.net))

Kevin Howell is the owner of, and a guide at, Davidson River Outfitters in Pisgah Forest, North Carolina. He has been fishing and guiding the waters of North and South Carolina and East Tennessee for over 25 years and knows most of the fish on a first-name basis. Kevin grew up as the son of a nationally known fly tier and fly fisher and was fortunate enough to have fished in 38 of 50 US states and 2 foreign countries before reaching college age.



Perhaps more fortunately, Kevin has found his passion and skill in both tying and fly fishing. In the late 1990's, he helped run his fathers' tackle and fly fishing business, Dwight and Don's Custom Tackle, taking over the business when his dad passed away in 1998. In 2000, he purchased Davidson River Outfitters and merged the two businesses. Kevin is a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor and a past winner of the Fly Fishers Masters Championship. In addition, he has won the Harmon's North Fork Invitational and Rumble in the Rhododendron national fishing tournaments as well as numerous local tournaments. In addition to his fishing talents, Kevin is a nationally known fly tier. He is currently the fly tying editor for Fly Fishing the Mid-Atlantic States, and has had several of his original patterns published in fly fishing magazines and produced commercially. If being an expert angler and tier is not enough, Kevin shares his knowledge through his teaching school at Davidson River Outfitters. Finally, Kevin is also a managing partner with Andes Drifters, which guides fly fishing trips in Argentina.

More information on Davidson River Outfitters, and fishing trips, education programs, and guide services they offer can be found on their website: [www.davidsonflyfishing.com](http://www.davidsonflyfishing.com). Andes Drifters website is: <https://andesdrifters.com/about-us/>.

While trout fishing is a passion, Kevin spends much of his time fishing and guiding for smallmouth bass, and his presentation will be about the great smallmouth fishing on the rivers of southwestern North Carolina. If you are looking for a place to fish for large smallmouth, you certainly won't want to miss this presentation.

Kevin's talk should be a great presentation to wrap up the presenters at this year's meetings!

## Guest Fly Tying Demonstration

This month our 'guest' tier will be Jerry Schatzman. Jerry is an expert tier and leads tying sessions for Project Healing Waters. Stop by to see what he will be demonstrating during the meeting.

## December Dinner Menu –

Mixed Greens Salad with Candied Walnuts, Feta Cheese, Cranberries & House Vinaigrette  
Rolls & Butter  
Carved Top Round with Horseradish Sauce  
Roasted Garlic Tomato Chicken  
Sicilian Vegetable Medley  
Twice Cooked Potatoes  
Wild Rice with Mandarin Orange  
Dessert – Assorted Holiday Treats

## Line Casting (or Maybe Line Unrolling?)

Tom Bachey shared a site offering a short short video on basic casting technique. The video is presented by Brian Flechsig of Mad River Outfitters, one of our area shops. Brian gives a very nice explanation of the need to pause on the back cast long enough to let the rod fully load, but not too long so that you lose the energy in the cast. He also shows how the duration of the pause needs to fit with the length of cast – longer for a longer cast, shorter for a shorter cast.

The video is posted to Midcurrent Fly Fishing News, an online information service, and once you watch the video, you can decide to subscribe or not. The site to watch Brian's video is: <https://midcurrent.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f5a471efea51556de291f3b26&id=f7619836c2&e=d6b0365f8f>

Tom usually shares useful information, so check this out, if interested. Brian Flechsig is often a participant and presenter at our annual Fly Fishing Show as well.

## Time to Take Care of Our Waders

By Cari Vota ([vota@zoomtown.com](mailto:vota@zoomtown.com))

### Wader Care - Why wait?

**Leaks:** If your waders were leaking last summer and you do nothing, they will certainly leak again in the coming spring. So now is a good time to either box them up and send them to the manufacturer for repair, or, if your manufacturer doesn't provide repair support, see if you and/or a friend can do it.

You can check your waders for leaks by filling them with water and hanging them up in the garage or over your bathtub to see where/if water leaks out, or you can brush the outside with soap suds, insert the hose of your vacuum cleaner or a bicycle pump to fill the waders with air and see where the soap

bubbles up from the air leaks. If leaks are in just small areas, you can dry the waders completely and then cover the holes with Aqua Seal or Simms Seal. Apply this to both the inside and outside at the place of the leak. If the waders leak along the seams, it's more difficult to fix the leak with Aqua Seal, but you can try.

Your local fly shop may also do wader repairs (but not too likely), or may know someone who can help you do repairs. And if your waders have lots of leaks, or are just old, it's time to think about a new pair.

**End of Season Care and Storage:** Rinse waders completely, wiping off any dirt and mud. Then hang them to dry. Once the outside is dry, turn them inside out and allow them to hang for a while longer to air them out. You may choose to hang them by the loop on the inside of your waders (if you have one), but don't hang them long-term by the elastic suspender straps as they will stretch. Leaving your waders carelessly stored in the garage invites mice to chew and nest in them which is obviously something to avoid. You could drape them over a hanger, allowing air to circulate all around them. This way, you don't stress the suspenders or where the wader and boot material come together.

If you have a zip front wader, you want to make sure to ROLL your waders up, starting at the feet, to store properly. You never want to bend the wader zipper any other way as the zipper may come off its track.

## Fishing in the Heart of the City

By Phil Pursley ([phil.pursley@hotmail.com](mailto:phil.pursley@hotmail.com))

It was a Friday morning after the heat had broken when I walked through the house with my fishing shirt on. Alice said, "I know where you are going". She also wanted to know which stream I would fish. When I said, "the Mill Creek", I think I heard a little snicker.

Many would say why fish that polluted stream. Let me tell you why. The Mill Creek Alliance (formerly The Mill Creek Yacht Club), the EPA, and many local businesses located along Mill Creek have cleaned this waterway to the point that it is now a healthy fishery. When I went to the Mill Creek it was the first time that I had fished this stream, and I was surprised. I allowed myself two hours to fish since I had spent eight on another stream earlier in the week, and I caught more than ten fish in that short period of time.

Bruce Koehler the Commodore of the Mill Creek Yacht club gave me directions of a place to fish on this creek. I parked at the Caldwell Preserve located at 430 W. North Bend Rd. Just as Bruce had told me, there was a beautiful yet narrow trail to the creek. Once I got to the creek, I discovered that I brought



too short of a rod to fish this water. Oh well, it's not worth a trip back to the car; I only have two hours for this adventure.

Once I got to the water, I tied on a Jim-Bo fly that worked well for me on my last fishing trip (we provided directions on tying the Jim-Bo in the November BUFFER). This is a different stream, different location, different water temperature, and the Jim-Bo was not the correct fly for this water. A baseball manager puts the same starting line up into the game that won the last game played; however, a smart manager quickly makes necessary changes once he sees a different opposing pitcher and players.

I turned around and looked up stream to find that I was not alone on the Mill Creek. A loud squawking from behind me came from a great blue heron. He wanted to let me know that I had invaded his fishing spot. Good news for me, there must be fish near. There was a small riffle up stream with a deep pool below it. This must mean there is oxygen in the water from the riffle and deep water for "cover" for the fish. My wade started to this area to see if I could connect with a fish. I looked down and saw plenty of small bait fish scampering away with each step that I took in the shallow water. This was another good sign of larger fish in the pool. Looking into my fly box, I found the go-to fly for this occasion. A small bead head olive colored wooly bugger was the fly to imitate the small bait fish I had just seen.

On my second cast to the deep pool I felt a snag, no it was a fish bump. My next cast to the same part of this pool resulted in a nice hook up, but to what? It turned out to be an 11 inch smallmouth bass. This was encouraging since smallmouth bass require clean water to survive. OK, maybe I did have the right fly for this water even though my six and one half foot long rod was too short.

It was time to move on. I spotted what appeared to be a large pool and possibly a deep one just up-stream. When I got to this pool there was an EPA engineer doing some work there. After a brief conversation, the engineer cautioned me about a very deep hole in in the creek so that I wouldn't have the misfortune of slipping into it. This is exactly the spot I wanted to fish since food for fish falls to the bottom of these kinds of places. I had a couple of snags on my first few casts. No, again it was fish bumps. My next hook up was with a large smallmouth bass that must have been 20 inches long. However, I couldn't measure him since he threw the hook when he jumped out of the water. My next cast did yield a 15 inch smallie that was so broad that he had shoulders. Several other small mouth, (though not as large as the 15 incher), a couple of large mouth bass on the small side and a couple of bluegills were also caught.

Considering my 2-hour self-imposed time limit was up, it was time to head back to the car. When I passed the pool where my first fish was caught, I couldn't pass up fishing it one more time. Three more smallmouth and one largemouth bass ate my olive wooly bugger. This was the only fly that worked for me that day. My hike back to my car didn't seem to be as difficult as expected. Perhaps, catching a good number of fish made it easier for me.

What I will do next time I fish the Mill Creek:

- Take a longer rod (8 or 9 foot)
- Take just a few flies (mostly wooly buggers)
- Take more pictures of this scenic stream
- Allow up to 4 hours for fishing

Contact for information on Mill Creek: <http://www.millcreekwatershed.org/staff>



# Saving Dates for Early 2020

## Fly Fishing Show - Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### Early Raffle Sales for BUFF Members –

We provided a lot of information on the 2020 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show in last month's BUFFER. However, there is a lot going on that you can get engaged in right now.

The November BUFF meeting marked the beginning of club raffle ticket sales for the items to be offered at the 2020 show. It is a chance for BUFF members to get an early start in the raffle. We had the main raffle item – a Wintson Air Fly Rod Outfit and a Bauer SST Fly Reel with line – at the November meeting. The outfit is valued at over \$1500, and ticket sales were fairly brisk. Raffle tickets for the rod outfit are \$20 each, with only 100 to be sold. The second raffle item is a Bauer SST Fly Reel with an Orvis Pro WF line. Reel and line are 5 weight, but the reel can accommodate lines one weight lighter or heavier. Value is over \$600. Tickets for the reel are \$10 each, and again only 100 tickets will be sold. We should have the reel available at the December BUFF meeting and start ticket sales for then.

### Early Registration for Pre-Show Workshops for BUFF Members –

Registration is now ongoing for fly tying workshops on Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>. The two tying workshops on Thursday will be led by Mike Schmidt and will focus on his signature streamer flies. The two Friday tying workshops will be led by Gary Borger and will focus on some of his fly patterns. In addition, also Gary will lead a hands-on casting class on Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>.

All of the workshops will be at the Oasis center. Tying workshops are limited to 24 attendees, and the casting workshop to 12 individuals. **Currently, registration is limited to BUFF members only, but remaining slots will be opened to the general public following the December BUFF meeting. So, if you are interested, it would be a wise decision to register now!** Cost is \$30 for a single workshop, and costs are reduced when registering for multiple workshops. Costs and registration information are on the BUFF Website.

### Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers –

The fly fishing show cannot be accomplished without our volunteers. There are many activities for which volunteers are needed on the day of the show. Also, we are seeking volunteers to staff an information and fly tying demonstration booth that BUFF presents on Saturdays and Sundays throughout January at the Cincinnati Bass Pro store.

We will have more information and sign-up sheets for volunteers at the December and January BUFF meetings. Also, you can sign up on the BUFF Website. The link for that is on the main page, just below the show announcement. This success and reputation of this show greatly reflects the fantastic effort and support of the volunteers who help. Please step-up and help!

### A Special BUFFER in January –

Watch for the January 2020 BUFFER- it will be dedicated to the 2020 Show!

## **Banquet – Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Save the Date!**

The Banquet Team is hard at work planning this year's event. The Banquet is held in March in lieu of the regular BUFF meeting. It is the same day (second Wednesday of the month), time (6PM – 9PM) and location (Ronald Reagan Lodge at the VOA Park) as our regular meetings.

Plans are to have a social hour and reception with appetizers and cash bar and dinner. The program will recognize past year contributions of club members and make awards. And of course, we will have a range of raffle and silent auction items to bid on.

Watch the BUFF website, and future BUFFERS for updates and announcements.

## **Starting to Work on 2020 BUFF Fishing Trip Calendar**

By: Ken Mandel ([kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com))

Steve Bailey, the BUFF Director for fishing trips, shared an initial list of trips already planned for 2020 at the November BOD meeting. So far, these include –

- Spring Steelhead Trip (Cleveland Are) in April
- Trout Fishing in Bryson City, NC, the Spring trip to Sunnybrook in Sandusky, OH, and a Cumberland River trip in KY. Those will be in May
- The summer trip to Sunnybrook in June
- The fall trip to Sunnybrook, and the Catskill Mountains trout fishing trip to NY; both in September
- The fall Smokey Mountain Trip to Bryson City area in October.

Dates are being finalized, and additional trips are also being planned and will be added to the calendar. Watch the BUFF website and future BUFFERS for announcements.

***Also, please think about leading trips!!*** Prior to the board meeting, Steve sent out a note to past trip leaders and the board members which in part was seeking input on possible new trips. Any club member can propose and offer to lead, or perhaps co-lead a trip (perhaps get someone to help with prior experience). If you have an idea for a trip, get in touch with Steve for advice and direction. Trips can involve travel, like those listed above, or can be a local outing. As an example, Cari Vota has done several day outings to local areas with the women's group. There have also been several recent BUFFER articles describing some excellent local fishing. Perhaps the members who provided some of these articles would consider leading an outing?

If interested, Steve Bailey's contact is: [chiefrsb@fuse.net](mailto:chiefrsb@fuse.net)



## Fly of the Month

This month's suggestion, the Autumn Splendor Fly, comes from Haruko Mizoguchi. Haruko learned of it from Pat, one of our Project Healing Waters participants, who claimed it to be her 'favorite go to fly' for both pond and stream fishing. Haruko found the tying instructions in Dave Hughes' book, "Essential Trout Flies", and has been fishing it in local ponds during outings with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing with good success from summer through fall. It is a good attractant for blue gill and bass in the ponds. Haruko tied and provided some of these to several of the vets, who are also having good luck with them as well.

The Autumn Splendor fly is an orange or brown variant on a woolly bugger. The fly was developed by Tim Heng, a long-time guide in Colorado. It adds legs and a bit of flash to provide a more motion in the water. Besides the instructions in Hughes' book, a lot of on line videos are available on line demonstrating how to tie the Autumn Splendor. The approach in the videos differs a bit from how Dave Hughes suggests tying this, but results look pretty much the same.

Here are the tying instructions outlined in Dave Hughes' book –

### Materials:

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Hook:   | 3X-long streamer, sizes 4, 6, 8 or 10                    |
| Bead:   | Gold tungsten bead, or cone                              |
| Weight: | 0.02 non-lead wire                                       |
| Thread: | Color to match fly in 6-0 weight (i.e., orange or brown) |
| Tail:   | Brown or orange marabou<br>Copper or similar color flash |
| Rib:    | Fine copper wire   |
| Hackle  | Grizzly dyed orange                                      |
| Legs:   | Medium rubber legs; yellow or other visible color        |

1. Crush barb, place bead on hook behind the eye and mount in vise. Put on about 15-20 touching turns of wire and push wire to just behind the bead.
2. Start thread just behind the wire. Take a few turns behind the wire and then wrap over the wire to lock in place. Trim thread end and wrap thread along shank to the bend and wrap back to the end of the wire wraps.
3. Take one or two lengths of marabou. Dampen and measure so that the tail will extend a shank length beyond the bend. Tie in on top of hook shank to the start of the bend. Hold the marabou upwards to keep it on top of hook shank while tying in.



Autumn Splendor

4. Tie in 3 -4 strands of flash on far side of hook shank, then fold the flashback and tie in on near side of the hook. Trim to tail length or a bit longer.
5. At the tie in point of the tail, tie in the ribbing wire. Strip fuzz from a segment of chenille and tie in at same point. Prepare the hackle feather by stripping the fuzzy material from the stem base and flaring barbs out at about 90° from the stem. The feather is tied in slightly in front of the chenille by its tip, with its concave site oriented away. When it is wrapped the hackle barbs should slant to the back of the fly. Thread should still be in area of the tie-ins for these materials.
6. Two pairs of legs are tied in next. Each pair of legs consists of two pieces of rubber leg material. On the finished fly, the legs should be about a hook-shank long, but at this point it may be easier to tie them in using somewhat longer material and trimming to length once the rest of the fly is finished (**Note: in the video presentations, legs seem to be left longer**). The tie in points are about 1/3 and 2/3 the distance from the bend to the bead. Wrap thread to the first tie-in point and tie in a pair of legs by laying the material across the top of the hook shank and tying them in with a few figure-8 thread wraps. Bring thread to the second tie-in point and tie in the second pair of legs the same way. Once tied in the legs should remain on top of the hook shank, oriented at 90° across the shank. Wrap thread to just behind the bead/cone.
7. Using touching wraps, wrap the chenille body and tie in behind the bead/cone. Trim excess.
8. Wrap the hackle feather in spiral wraps. Add 2-3 touching wraps just behind bead/cone and tie in.
9. Spiral wrap the rib and tie in behind the bead/cone head. Trim excess rib wire and hackle.
10. Whip finish behind the bead. Trim the legs to desired length and add a drop of head cement to secure everything behind the bead.



Fly with rib material, chenille & hackle tied in



Fly with rubber leg material in place

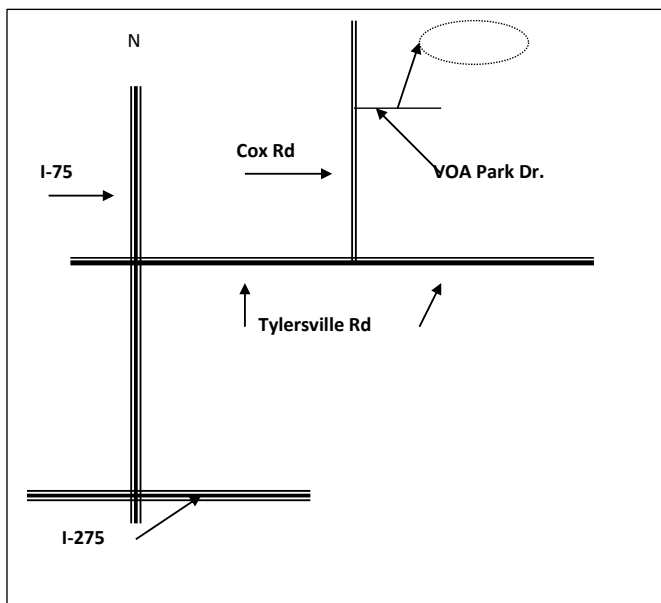
As mentioned at the beginning of this article, there are a couple of available videos demonstrating the Autumn Splendor fly. One is from InTheRiffle.com (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10LacDARWXg>). The fly tied in this presentation pretty much mimics the description above, with exception that the hackle feather is tied in behind the bead and wrapped back to the tail tie-in point. The feather is then locked in place by winding the rib material over it to the bead and tying it in at that location. A second video is from Tight Line Productions (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fM-eS9SsAf4>). This version uses some different color combinations, does not include a rib, and uses pearl chenille which adds texture and sparkle to the body. This version also ties in the feather starting behind the bead, but uses thread wraps to tie in the spiraled hackle. The image to the right is version of the Autumn Splendor fly from the Tight Line video.



**December Meeting – Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**6:00 – 9:00 PM at VOA Park – watch website for sign-up**

Register on line at [WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM](http://WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM). Please register whether you plan to eat dinner with us (\$15/person) or not.



**Directions:**

**From I-75 --** Follow 1-75 north to the Tylersville Road exit. Turn right off of the exit ramp onto Tylersville Road and follow to Cox Road. Turn left onto Cox Road and follow Cox Road north to VOA Park Drive. Turn right onto VOA Park Drive. Turn left onto first drive and follow roadway to Lodge.

**From the Warren County area...**

Follow Tylersville Road west to Cox Road. Turn right onto Cox Road and follow Cox Road north to VOA Park Drive. Turn right onto VOA Park Drive. Turn left onto first drive and follow roadway to Lodge.