



The **BUFFER**

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

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

Trying to figure out what to talk about when there's not much happening is really tough. As far as the pandemic goes there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. It's kind of hard to tell just how long the tunnel is, but sometime next year we could be back to something approximating normal club functions.

I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was good. It truly felt a little off kilter for us and most likely for many of you. All we have to do now, is get through the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Next year will surely be better.

The December online club meeting will feature Glen Penquite who will talk about the Anglers Base Camp at [Camp Buffalo Bill in Wyoming](#). The camp is just outside of Yellowstone National Park on the Shoshone River and may be a unique fly fishing opportunity (pandemic permitting) for a club trip. More details will be posted soon.

Ron Lewis's talk at the October meeting on fishing for trout on the Mad River was really good; long, but good (lots of questions and long answers). The presentation for musky and pike fishing that I've been preparing is going slowly. It will be here sooner or later! It's a primer on how to get started as well as how and where to fish for them locally and in areas relatively close. Let me know if you have any ideas for future presentations. Also, the online fly tying is moving along. It will start out with sessions for new tiers.

On the fishing front, a couple of us went to the Clearfork River in Mohican State Park for trout fishing. The park is about 3 hr. north on I-71, and Ohio DNR stocks this stream twice a year, in March and November. This year there were rainbow trout in the 14 to 16-inch range. Typically, the system will not support year-round trout fishing as most of the water gets too warm. There are a few pockets that will hold trout year-round. I watched a guy pull a 20-inch brown out of one of those. I went back the next day and tried. The results for 15 minutes of effort were three strikes (one on a Kreelix fly, two on a large light olive/grey cone head wooly bugger) and a nice fat 16-inch rainbow on the bugger. I picked up a



nice 18-inch rainbow earlier in the day below the covered bridge. The Clearwater in Mohican is a very nice place to fish. It's not difficult to wade when the water is lower and the fish are not too choosy. San Juan worms and squirmy wormies with tungsten beads seemed to work well. The cabins are directly on the river, and are very nice and sleep six. This should be worth a club trip.

The online auctions from the COVID relief program to give a little support to some of BUFF's friends and supporters in the industry are now complete. I'd like to thank Bob Gustafson and the program team for a job well done. At the time we started this it was early in the pandemic and things were shut down and uncertain. Many who we purchased the certificates from were grateful and thanked us for thinking of them. We will post the results of the auctions after Bob has put together a summary in the next Buffer.

With the pandemic in full bloom please be careful and stay safe. Many of us might not know someone who has had the COVID 19 bug but that's no reason to not take precautions. Long time TU Madmen Tom and Pam Allen came down with it. They are recovering nicely. Apparently, they contracted it from their grandchild. Please be careful over the holidays.

I'd like to wish all of you the best for the holidays.

Jim Vota, El Prez.

PS.

Don't forget about your friends in BUFF. If you need to get out fishing give someone a call to meet at a river. You can fish together safely. It is something to do to help keep the crazies away. There's a contact list on the website. If you are new to the sport and need help call someone and ask for advice. The board members are listed and are willing to help. We are all part of this community.

Nominations for club officers for 2021 are happening now. If any of you have an interest in joining the board and would like to help shape the direction of our club, please let me know. I've had the president's position for 3 years now. 2021 will be time to turn it over to someone new with different ideas. Without change nothing ever progresses. I think this pandemic is helping us to realize the need to change how we do things. Think about getting involved. We have a volunteer for Club President, but still need one for Secretary and one for Club Education.

Jim Vota, El Prez.

BUFF December Meeting – Wednesday, December 9th – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM –

December Speaker – Glen Penquite, Camp Buffalo Bill, Wyoming. “Anglers Base Camp Program”

Glen Penquite is the Fishing Director of the Camp Buffalo Bill Anglers Base Camp. Camp Buffalo Bill is owned and operated by the Wyoming Council of the Boy Scouts of America. It is located along the banks of the North Fork of the Shoshone River, just eight miles from the East entrance to Yellowstone National Park. Normally the camp serves as a boy scout camp, but in August, the camp is opened for use by anglers. Glen operates this program.

Glen grew up and maintains a residence in the Dayton/Kettering area, is a life-long angler who has fished all over the world. For the last seven years he has supervised the fishing programs at Camp Buffalo Bill. Glen’s presentation will inform us about this non-scout program available to fly fishing clubs and avid individual anglers.



More information on the camp and the fly fishing opportunity can be found on the following website link: <http://www.campbuffalobill.com/non-bsa-programs/yellowstone-anglers-basecamp/>



North Fork of the Shoshone

- Meeting time is from 7 PM – about 8:30 PM. A brief business meeting will begin at 7 PM, and the presentation around 7:15.
- Registration deadline is December 8th.
- To attend, you must register on-line, and provide your e-mail address. Registrants will receive an e-mail with instructions on joining the Zoom session. If you are not registered, you will not be able to join in.
- Registrants will be entered into our monthly raffle, with the winner announced at the meeting.

Membership Renewal Reminder

This is a reminder that membership renewal for 2021 is ongoing. You can renew on-line on the BUFF website. Membership renewal is in the “Member Services” page on the website, just need to login with your e-mail address. You can pay by credit card or simply mail a check. Payment options are on the website.

Membership dues provide funds and support the club. 2021 dues will remain the same, \$25 for single memberships, and \$30 for family memberships. While 2020 has been a difficult and challenging year due to COVID-19, and we have not been having in-person meetings, or holding group events, the club has maintained a number of activities, including providing financial support to fly fishing businesses, charitable contributions, and having invited speakers present through virtual meetings conducted as Zoom conferences.

BUFF COVID Relief Auctions – Thank You!

BUFF has completed our COVID Relief Auction Program. Thank you to the BUFF members who participated and congratulations to all of those who ‘won’ the various auctioned items. Our participation has provided some needed funds to area fly shops and services who support our club. Our members have benefited by obtaining opportunities for trips and outings or gift certificates to be used at shops. Importantly, all of the vouchers and certificates are usable through the end of 2021, so there should be adequate time to take advantage of the items.



The support from our members has allowed the club to recover the majority of the funds we provided to the shops and suppliers early in the COVID pandemic. Again, thanks and congratulations to all of our participants. We also sincerely thank Bob Gustafson for organizing and managing this program. It was a great idea and a superb effort.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Program Leader Needed

Brent Miller has led our chapter of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF), our program which works with veterans, for over 10 years. Last month, Brent announced his decision to retire from this role, and that has now taken place.

BUFF is seeking an individual to take on leadership of our club's involvement in the Project Healing Waters program. A few days ago, an e-mail with details and more information was sent to all BUFF members. Importantly, taking on leadership of the PHW program does not mean doing it all on your own. We have many volunteers who lead and participate on casting and fishing skills when we get out to fish, and on fly tying in the fall and winter months. Training for the program systems is also available at the national level, and of course Brent will help to transition the leadership of our program.

If you are possibly interested, please reach out to Jim Vota (vota@zoomtown.com) or Brent Miller directly (phone: 513-535-8735).

Club Awards Will Not Be Awarded for 2020

Cari Vota, Awards Committee Chairman

BUFF has several awards that honor hard-working men and women in our Club, such as Fly Fisher of the Year, our Board of Director Awards, as well as several special awards for Education, Conservation, and Fly Tying. This year has been tough. With the closure of club events and trips, and in-person meetings, the Club has only been active online with some great Zoom meetings once a month. More interesting online meetings are planned for 2021.

Our Board of Directors reviewed our limited activities and decided to not award any Club awards for 2020. This has never happened before and is unprecedented for our Club. Several people have stepped up this year to keep the club active and relevant. They will say they were just doing their job, and we thank all of those.

Let us all hope 2021 will allow us to continue getting out on the water. Fishing local is pretty easy. With some luck, we can look forward to reinitiating many of our Club activities later in the coming year.

Fly Fishers International

Jeff McElravy suggested we put together an article to discuss Fly Fishers International, as it should be of interest to our club. Fly Fishers International (FFI) started in 1964 with a group of 12 fly fishing clubs seeking to combine efforts to positively impact and improve our sport. Today over FFI includes over 250 clubs and thousands of members.

As an organization, FFI provides a conduit to learn skills and gain recognition for one's abilities. FFI sponsors 'casting skills' and 'fly tying skills' challenge programs where one can gain recognition by achieving certain levels of skills. For example, for casting, there are bronze, silver and gold levels of skills which can be accredited by taking a test witnessed by fellow anglers. Several BUFF members have been practicing these skills, and passing the tests. FFI also provides accreditation for casting instructors, and some of our fellow BUFFERS involved in teaching casting skills to BUFF members are FFI accredited instructors.

As most of us already know, BUFF is an affiliate club of FFI. What some of us may not realize is that BUFF has a large involvement with FFI through FFI's Ohio Council, our regional organization. BUFF members Jeff McElravy, Ken Dixon, Tom Scheer, and Tim Williamson serve as President, Secretary and VP of Fly Tying, VP of Casting Instruction, and VP of Education, respectively for the Ohio Council. Besides BUFF, 4 other Ohio-based clubs are affiliate members of FFI.

The FFI website provides a wealth of information relative to our sport. Unfortunately, right now, much of it is not accessible as the site was cyber attacked and is being rebuilt. With the COVID pandemic, FFI has initiated "Fly Fishing Online", providing weekly online programs and discussions that provide both instruction and entertainment to our fly fishing community. These are openly available to anyone who cares to participate. Current and past presentations are available for members to watch. Once the site is fixed, access to a wealth of knowledge on fishing locations, methods, tying, casting techniques, etc. will once again be available.

FFI is strongly involved in conservation efforts as well. This past November, the states of Oregon and California together with local Native American tribes announced an agreement that will remove 4 hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River restoring a major salmon fishery in the Pacific Northwest. This has been an ongoing project in which FFI has been involved for almost 2 decades. Just last week, the US Army Corp of Engineers announced refusal to grant a permit to develop what has been known as the "Pebble Mine" a massive copper and gold mine, that would have been located near Bristol Bay in Alaska. The project could not have complied with Clean Water Act standards, would have destroyed fisheries, and has been opposed for years by conservation-focused organizations, including FFI and Trout Unlimited.

While FFI is a membership organization, cost is nominal. Regular membership is \$35/year. If you are a veteran or 65 or older, the fee is \$25/year. Membership gives you access to all information and education materials, the newsletter and magazine, and various member discounts and items. As an FFI-affiliate club, we'd like to see more BUFF members consider joining this organization. Over the next few months, we'll get some of our FFI officers to pen a few items for the BUFFER providing more specific information regarding FFI.

Fishing Etiquette

I saw a short article by Louis Cahill posted in early November in the Gink and Gasoline blog on stream etiquette and sharing the water, that I felt worth mentioning. The link is:

<https://www.ginkandgasoline.com/fly-fishing-tips-technique/stream-etiquette-two-stories-about-how-to-share-the-water/>

Louis related two examples, one of etiquette and one of its lack. In the first, Louis and his buddy had hiked down to a stream in the bottom of a gorge. They had looked from above before hiking in and did not see anyone fishing. Unfortunately, as soon as they arrived at the stream, another angler, who had obviously already been there, waded up from downstream. The other person had not been visible, so Louis and his buddy apologized and offered to move on to a different spot. The person who had been fishing was fine with their company. Louis was using a tenkara outfit, which the fellow angler had never tried. He tried it and landed a trout. Overall, it was a pleasant experience with everyone catching fish.

The second story was the opposite, and occurred the very next day. Louis and his buddy parked at an empty pull out and walked a trail about 200 yards to a stream. There were no other anglers, and the location had an excellent deep hole that likely held fish. Louis was showing his friend, who was new to fly fishing, casting and drift techniques to fish the hole. Another angler came up the same trail, entered the stream and without even asking where they were fishing, began “beating a froth” on the water of the very hole they were approaching, fishing not more than 40 feet from them. He never asked if they were fishing that spot, and barely acknowledged their presence. Selfish, and a complete lack of etiquette. The outcome was rather than argue, Louis and his friend left the site.

Clearly, there is a proper etiquette when fishing on a pond or stream. If someone is there first, at least ask if it is OK to fish in the area, and understand where the first person/people there are fishing and planning to fish. That is their water to fish. If they object to you being there, it can be done politely, and one can move on to find a different place to fish. It is better to be pleasant and polite.



A Fly for the Season!

Bob Cregge sent the following photo, claiming that he finally nailed a Blue Wing Olive pattern. It is clearly olive and has blue wings! As a BWO pattern this one may be more than appropriate for the Holiday Season. Don't know if it will catch fish, but it would look good as an ornament!



Conservation Work to Restore the Gila River Trout

By Ken Mandel

The Gila River trout is found in SW New Mexico and Arizona and is native to the Gila River system. Its native population greatly depleted almost to the point of extinction by a combination of overfishing and introduction of competitive trout species, such as rainbows. For years the New Mexico DNR has been working to restore this species into streams and headwaters which feed the Gila River system, and are seeing success.



This past August, biologists from the NM Department of Wildlife restored several thousand fingerling Gila trout into Whitewater Creek, a wilderness creek in south-central NM which is part of their native habitat. This project began in 2012 after a large fire devastated the area and choked the creek with ash. The ash essentially killed most of the fish then in the creek, which at that time were primarily non-native species. Like the old adage, “if you have lemons, make lemonade”, the disaster provided an opportunity to clear the water of remaining invasive fish, and after allowing the area to naturally recover reintroduce native Gila trout into the stream.

Since the area is true wilderness, with the stream at the bottom of canyon, the wildlife scientists and crew spent hours to hike in, with the trout then arriving by helicopter! Here is a link to the article about this project - <http://magazine.wildlife.state.nm.us/gila-trout-return-to-whitewater-creek/> There is a short video within the link that I found very enjoyable and uplifting about the project, and the scenery is incredible. You get to see the helicopter delivery of the fish as well! Something pleasant to read and think about.

Holiday Wishes

Ken Mandel, BUFFER Editor

I hope that all our fellow BUFFERS have enjoyed this year’s issues of the newsletter. This issue is a bit shorter. With end of fall and colder weather we are getting out to fish less, so less to share. It has been a very trying year of managing and coping with the Covid pandemic. I hope



that the recent and positive news regarding developing vaccines will allow us, in the not-too-distant future, to put this behind us during the coming year. It will be wonderful to get back to doing activities we enjoy with people we enjoy being with.

I hope everyone had a pleasant and safe Thanksgiving holiday. Haruko and I did. We even managed to get a small (10+ lb) fresh turkey from our local butcher for a traditional dinner with no large gathering. We’ve been eating leftovers for several days, but they’ve been tasty.

I extend best wishes for Christmas, Hanukah, and end of the year holidays to all. Stay safe, and we’ll hopefully be able to reengage in club activities in the not-too-distant future.