



# The *BUFFER*

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

Volume 46, Issue 12

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

December 1, 2022

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## The President's Fly Box

The year is winding down, but BUFF is not finished yet. We have one last official trip to Steelhead Alley, where conditions look prime for fishing. So, wish us luck. Our forum lists fishing on Mill Creek. Mill Creek's health is quite good, and fish have returned in large numbers. This should be an excellent opportunity to get in one more day of fishing before the year's end.

The December meeting will also provide one more opportunity to hear about great fishing. Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.) is an unspoiled land ripe in opportunity for many outside activities, with fishing being one. Brad Petzke, owner of Rivers North Guide Service in the UP, will share his knowledge of "Fly Fishing in Michigan's Upper Peninsula". Please join us at the Oasis for this event.

It's rare when I hear that a member of a fly fishing club is a fly fishing author. It is even more rare when that person is our very own J.R. Jackson, a former BUFF President. A few years ago, J.R.'s career moved him to upstate New York where he learned to tie classic Catskill flies and fish historic trout rivers, like the Beaverkill River. He has now authored an article on fishing in hard water. Only JR could do that. Please search for his article in Fly Fisherman Magazine.

At this time of year, BUFF is active with the Fly Show and the Banquet. Our fly show keynote speaker is George Daniel from Pennsylvania. George is a competitive fly fisher, guide, author, and lead instructor and director of Penn State University's fly fishing program. We need help to execute this large fly show properly. Please consider volunteering to help. The Banquet is a fun annual event that also requires coordination of several moving parts. Your help in any way would be appreciated. As we like to say, BUFF is an all-volunteer organization. It's success and value to members depends upon all helping in some small way. Thanks for considering helping BUFF.

The holiday seasons are upon us. It's that time of year to consider others and buy them their favorite gifts. For those who have everything, I highly recommend buying them a new fly rod. The outdoors can be therapeutic for them. And when many holiday cookies and candies are challenging your weight commitments, consider a fishing alternative. Hand tie a dozen calorie-free flies as a gift. It keeps your hands away from the cookie jar and it provides a gift with a personal touch for that special someone. As they say, it is the best time of the year. I wish everyone a great holiday.

Hugh O'Donnell  
BUFF President

## **BUFF December Meeting – Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Our December 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 starts at about 7:15 PM, and our speaker's presentation will start at 7:45 PM.

### **December Speaker – Brad Petzke, “Fly Fishing in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula”**

Capt. Brad Petzke has been pioneering different fly fishing techniques and guiding anglers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula since 2001. His guide service, Rivers North Guide Service, is based in Marquette, MI and offers fly fishing outings across all of the UP, Michigan's most pristine wilderness. Brad offers his clients a very diverse variety of outings to choose from that are vastly different from what many Midwestern fly fisherman consider the norm. Brad calls the Two Hearted River, St. Mary's River, and many other U.P. jewels his home waters.



Species include, Atlantic Salmon, native Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Wild Steelhead, Pacific Salmon, Smallmouth Bass & Muskie. Clearly, fishing in the U.P. has something to offer to all interests and skill levels of fly fishers.

Rivers North Guide Service has the reputation as the U.P.'s premier authority for first class guided fly fishing adventures in "God's County". You can find a lot more information on guide services, rates, and booking trips on River North's website - <https://riversnorth.net/>

**This month's presentation will be via Zoom. A Zoom link will be available for BUFF members who chose not to attend the meeting in-person.**

**On-line registration closes on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**If you wish to join us for dinner, the cost is \$20. You do not need to purchase dinner to attend, but please register! If joining us for dinner, please register by the close of on-line registration.**

## December Dinner Menu –

- Chef's Choice Salad & Dressings
- Italian Chicken Parmesan
- Oven-Roasted Rosemary Potatoes
- Green Beans Almondine
- Dinner Rolls & Butter
- Coffee and Tea
- Chef's Choice Dessert

## December “Tech Talk”

The topic for the December 10-minute tech talk is ‘Tying a White Bass Streamer. It will be presented by Bob Gustafson. Late April is the spawning run for white bass on the Whitewater River in Indiana. BUFF hosts several day trips for this event, and Bob is a long-time trip leader for some of these outings. Who would be better to know what fly patterns work?

This brief presentation will be held at our general meeting during the social hour from 6:10 – 6:20 PM. We encourage members to stop by the table to learn more about tying this fly and joining in on the conversation with fellow Buffers.

## Check & Use the Forum Feature on the Website!

A quick reminder of the usefulness of the Forum feature on the BUFF Website. Last month, Brian Nunes posted an opportunity to meet and fish on the Mill Creek on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Brian has partnered with the Mill Creek Alliance, and has learned about the creek and recognizes its value as a local fishing site. If you've missed this opportunity, hopefully there will be others. Also, Pat Winkler, a new member, wrote to ask if others would be interested in getting together at a local brewery to hang out and tie flies. Hope this has had a positive response as well. Of course, there are questions on gear and other things.

***Bottom line – check out the Forum Page on the website and consider using it!***

## 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.

Open the BUFF web page and click on the “Member Services” icon. This area is limited to BUFF members, so you will be asked to login with your e-mail address. Once logged in, you have a series of function icons. Click on “Browse the Library”. This brings up the list of our library books and holdings. There is a GREEN “Reserve It” box on the right of each item. Click that to reserve the book/video. It will be delivered to you at the next club meeting.

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

## Volunteers Needed for the Fly Show and the Banquet

The fly show and banquet are two major BUFF activities which need support by club members. Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is the Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. BUFF has presented this show for 34 years. In March of 2023, BUFF will host its annual banquet. The banquet takes the place of the regular monthly meeting and will be Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Smaller teams of club members have been working on details for these events for several months. We are now at the time when we need volunteers to step forward for these events to be successful.

### Fly Fishing Show Volunteers

The Fly Fishing Show needs volunteers to help with a range of activities. These range from helping our exhibitors to bring their merchandise into the hall before the start of the show and taking things out after the show, helping with admissions, BUFF information and raffles, presentation support, kids activities and other things. ***You can see the specific activities and sign up to help on the BUFF website. In addition, watch for emails and announcements at upcoming meetings to volunteer.***

### Banquet Needs

The March Banquet is the major annual fundraiser for our club. Volunteers will be needed to help with activities at the banquet; however, right now we are asking members to help the club obtain donations of items we can use for raffles and auctions.

***Items DO NOT need to be fly fishing related. Some ideas for popular auction/raffle items can include:***

- Dining certificates
- Liquor or wine
- Home decoration items, artwork, jewelry
- Hand-crafted items
- Certificates for trips and/or lodging
- Services, such as photography, organizing, cleaning, etc.





**Can you help out the banquet team with a donation?** Many times, all that is needed is to just ask at places where you currently do business or support. For example, a favorite restaurant may be willing to donate a dinner for a couple. If needed, BUFF can provide a donation receipt.

For more information, please contact Bob Creege ([bcregg13@gmail.com](mailto:bcregg13@gmail.com)) or Prudence Hunt ([prudencehunt@yahoo.com](mailto:prudencehunt@yahoo.com)).

## Fly Fishing Show Update

**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - Save the Date!**

Here is the program -

	Presentations	Talk Title	Classes	Tying Demos	Casting Demo
10:00	George Daniel	<i>"Streamer Fishing Tactics"</i>			
11:00	Dustan Harley	<i>"How to Fish Like a Pro"</i>	FF101	Kevin Ramsey	Brian Flechsig
12:00	Katie Johnstone	<i>"So You're Getting Into Fly Fishing--Now What?"</i>		Glenn Weisner	George Daniel
1:00	George Daniel	<i>"Euro Nymphing Essentials"</i>	Women's Forum		BUFF Instructors
2:00	Canoe Kentucky	<i>"Kentucky Kayaking—Fly Fishing &amp; Sightseeing"</i>		Lance Kekel	
3:00					



## Fly Tying Clinics with George Daniel – Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Registration is open for 3 tying workshops led by George Daniel. These are hands-on tying workshops, and will be held on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, the day prior to the show,. Location is the Oasis Conference Center.

Seating is limited. Cost is \$30 for a single workshop, \$50 for two, and \$70 for all three. All materials are provided, but registrants need to bring their own vice and tying tools. The types of flies to be tied, times,

additional information and registration is on the BUFF Website.

**However, time is running out for BUFF member-only registration! After the December BUFF meeting, registration is opened to the general public. So..... if you are interested, now is the time to register!**

## **Buffalo Bill Bear**

From: John Newsom

Many members have asked Kathy and I about the "Bear" story. So, I feel the need to inform the members.

First, if any of you can make a future Yellowstone Angler's Base Camp trip, please do so. You will be rewarded with great fishing, beautiful venues, great fellowship, and good accommodations at a reasonable cost. We have just booked for next August's camp. It will be our third visit. Those of you who know us will know that I am not a great or even a good fly fisher. I consider this trip a great opportunity to work on my skills or lack thereof in a fantastic setting.

In 2021, our week at the Camp was met with some less-than-optimal river conditions on our main fishery - the North Fork of the Shoshone River. The river was high, badly discolored, and a bit warm for optimal trout fishing. However, the camp staff provided great information on where to find better conditions. Kathy and I spoke with them at some length and decided to try Fishhawk Creek, which is within walking distance from the Camp. We found cold, clear water up the creek towards the Yellowstone National Park (YNP) boundary. We had our backpacks, fishing gear, water and bear mace packed. We saw magnificent scenery and caught quite a few beautiful rainbows and Rocky Mountain White Fish. My largest trout was about 21-22 inches. Kathy caught a fat 25-inch monster trout.

This year (2022), conditions were great. Anglers were catching great fish both in number and size. On Thursday, Kathy and I decided to hike up the Fishhawk Creek for a combined fishing and hiking day. We got up early, skipped breakfast to get on the trail as soon as the sun came up and set out full of excitement and optimism. I need to stop here and state that we both have experience hiking and fishing in grizzly country. We have listened to bear safety talks and spoken to a lot of rangers and locals. When researching the best bear mace, I found a ton of expert information online concerning grizzlies and safety. We carry a good first aid kit and a personal locator beacon (PLB) phone in case of a back country emergency. We also carry noise makers, bear mace, and where permitted, pistols, and carry an ongoing conversation on the trail so as not to surprise a bear. While we'd never want to kill anything, we're not going to be an easy lunch either.

So, about an hour into our hike, we had to ford the creek to stay on the trail. When we cross creeks and rivers in bear country, one crosses and the other keeps watch. We reverse roles when the other crosses. You are a bit vulnerable when crossing streams because you can't hear the bears and they can't hear you. Most grizzly attacks occur because a hiker has surprised the bear. Grizzlies can't see particularly well, and their sense of hearing is not great either.



At the crossing, the creek was crystal clear and cold, but also a bit deeper and faster than last year. As Kathy was crossing and I was scanning, I noticed movement about 50 yards down-stream. Kathy was about one step from getting out of the water on the far bank of the 20-yard-wide creek. Then I saw the bear. It was on Kathy's side of the river. So I called, "Kathy, Bear!." She gave me that look that only a wife can give that says, 'Don't Mess with Me!' I repeated "Bear!", and nodded my head to the left. She then saw the bear. We were upstream and upwind. Not good. As I crossed to keep us together, Kathy started snapping photos.

We watched the grizzly stare into some rapids and then dive face first, mouth open, into the creek. It emerged on the opposite bank with a huge trout, by our estimation 29-30 inches. We watched him strip off some flesh and then pick up the rest of the fish in its mouth and trot into the forest on the opposite bank, seemingly oblivious to us. Our entire viewing may have lasted 2 minutes. It was an incredible experience. The next day, we spoke to a couple of Forest Service Rangers and showed them the photos. They said it was likely a 350-375 lb sub-adult (3-4 years old) male grizzly looking to establish territory.

Grizzlies generally only breed every 2 years. Mom kicks the boys out first and later the girls. Currently, there are approximately 800 grizzlies in Yellowstone NP. That number has stayed stable for the last 10 years, so the general belief among park naturalists is that the number may be all the ecosystem can handle. The "extra" offspring are now inhabiting the many large National Forest areas which border the park. While National Forests don't count bear populations, in the last 18 months the number of grizzly sightings has increased in the North Fork Valley. This is the territory between Cody and the east entrance of Yellowstone. The Forest Service has declared the entire valley grizzly habitat, have posted signs everywhere, and yes, this is where the Buffalo Bill Camp is located.

To conclude this story, we continued up Fishhawk Creek for maybe 4-5 miles and fished our way back. It was a great trip. When we went to cross the creek at the same ford, Kathy called me to her. She had located our morning boot tracks with grizzly tracks



on top of them. Yes, he got in behind us. Undaunted, but using additional caution, we did fish our way back down the creek and caught some additional fish. It was a great day.

This is still more of “Fish” story than “Bear” story.

Maybe for the bear, **we** were the ones that got away. Hope not.

## Op-Ed Article on Threat to the Au Sable River

From: Dolph Greenberg

*Note from Ken Mandel* – The following is an op-ed article written by Dolph Greenberg, a BUFF member. It discusses a threat to the headwaters of the Au Sable River in Michigan by a possible expansion of Camp Grayling, a US army training facility in Grayling, MI. Dolph is the President of the Au Sable River Property Owners Association, Dolph also gave a brief overview and presentation on this topic at the November membership meeting.

### Public Land Belongs to The Citizens of Michigan

#### An Opinion from the AuSable River Property Owners Association

Camp Grayling in Northern Michigan is the largest National Guard training center (148,000 acres) in America. At public forums hosted primarily by concerned local communities, Camp Grayling’s Commander, Col. Scott Meyers, and Department of Natural Resources’ spokesperson, Tom Barnes, have been engaged to convince residents Camp Grayling is suddenly undersized for the electromagnetic warfare training that it has been engaged in for years. Col. Meyers is requesting an additional 162,000 acres of public forest for training, which he acknowledged, a number arrived at arbitrarily.

Since Camp Grayling is the largest training center and other Guard installations are conducting similar training on much less land, why does Camp Grayling need to double its size? When asked (CBS news, Cadillac, MI) if the proposed land expansion area would be subleased to private industry as a testing area, Col. Meyers responded, “I won’t rule it out.” DBusiness Magazine (May-June 2022 edition) reported that in 2019, Adj. Gen. Paul Rogers, a Governor Whitmer’s cabinet appointee, began working to develop a plan to turn public land that surrounds Grayling, MI, and the restricted airspace above it into a massive, nationally recognized area to test and develop new products, weapons, and technologies. Subleases would be at inexpensive rates. Col. Meyers has failed to mention this at any public forum.

Because Col. Meyers has been unsuccessful in convincing residents of the need for additional public land, he is questioning the patriotism and support of the communities, and by extension the entire state, for not rolling over and giving the additional land to Camp Grayling. If sacrificing public land to the National Guard is the bar measuring patriotism, then Meyers must be reminded that no other state has sacrificed more of its public land in support of the National Guard than Michigan. No county has sacrificed as much public land as Crawford County, home to the Manistee and Au Sable Rivers. The communities, county, and state have demonstrated patriotism for and support of Camp Grayling for over 100 years.

Public land in Michigan belongs to its citizens, not to the DNR to give away to the National Guard and certainly not to the National Guard to sublease to private industry for testing and weapons development. The proposed expansion is a threat to the Au Sable and Manistee River ecosystems, which are world-class destinations for fishing and four-season recreation. It is also a threat to river property owners’ enjoyment



and their continued protection of this area of “Pure Michigan.” The potential for the land to be used in ways other than proposed is a final reason why military operations must not be allowed on additional Michigan public lands.

DNR Director Dan Eichinger, a Governor Whitmer’s cabinet appointee, has the final authority to approve the request for the additional state land. Thus, the DNR must be reminded of its responsibility to manage, conserve, and protect our public land for public use and enjoyment. If you oppose the proposed expansion, please e-mail Director Eichinger (DNR-Camp-Grayling@Michigan.gov).

## What Makes Euro Nymphs So Effective?

From: Ken Mandel

During the last month, I’ve seen a couple of articles on fly fishing blogs on this topic. The evolution of Euro nymphing in fly fishing is one of the most significant transformations for many anglers over the past 5 years. It is a different and exciting way to fly fish, and a highly effective stream technique. Also, with George Daniel, who is an expert on Euro Nymph fishing being the headliner at our upcoming show in February, I thought this may be of some interest.

Nymph flies are generally fished on the bottom, or perhaps in the water column, but not on the surface. Hence, they are weighted. Good nymph patterns sink quickly, and stay in the drift to attract fish. The general modification for Euro Nymphing is to add some weight, often with a tungsten bead, and tying the body thinner than standard nymph flies. These changes will get the fly down to the bottom even faster. Another adaptation is to tie these on jig hooks. This gets the hook to ride with the bead-side down and hook point up. The flies are less likely to get snagged on bottom debris.

Here are some examples of Euro nymph patterns. All can be tied in a range of colors, and there are lots of patterns which can be found in various blogs and websites as well, along with tying instructions.



## Bamboo, Glass & Graphite Rods –

From Ken Mandel

I found an article on a blog by Spencer Durrant posted on the Venture Flys Company site that discusses the basic differences between rods made from bamboo, fiberglass and graphite. This may be of interest, especially to those who may be newer to our sport. The entire article, and it is a quick read can be found at - <https://blog.venturesflyco.com/2022/10/28/bamboo-vs-glass-vs-graphite-fly-rods/>

## **Bamboo**

Bamboo is the classic material used for building fly rods. Prior to the 1950's, most fly rods were made of bamboo. Bamboo rods are hand-crafted and usually extremely expensive, starting around \$2,000. Locally, Jerry Snider (Otter Creek Bamboo Rods), a BUFF member, is a master craftsman of bamboo fly rods.

Bamboo is a heavier material than either graphite or fiberglass, and bamboo rods tend to be shorter and built for lighter weight fly lines. These rods are also slower than graphite rods. They do not generate the line speed with casts that we are more familiar with from graphite rods. This slower action makes bamboo rods ideal for fishing situations that demand delicate presentations, which is why bamboo fly rods are so often associated with dry flies. The slow, methodical action of bamboo makes it a pleasure to use for those who enjoy the art of casting, and getting casting distance when using a bamboo rod requires precise casting, so these rods can be challenging for someone new to fly fishing.

## **Fiberglass**

Starting in the 1950's fiberglass became the material which replaced bamboo for rod construction. With the introduction of graphite materials, its popularity waned, but recently has seen a comeback. Top end fiberglass rods tend to be less expensive than top tier graphite rods. Fiberglass rods are lighter than bamboo but heavier than graphite.

Fiberglass rods are slow and flex deep into the cork. Like with bamboo, glass rods are excellent to use when fishing dry flies, emergers, or smaller nymphs. Fiberglass is a very durable material, and these rods have a relatively unique feel due to the properties of this material.

## **Graphite**

Graphite rods, which are made from crystallized carbon fiber, are the most popular and most widely available rods in today's market. It is an ideal material for rod construction. For its weight, graphite is incredibly strong. The material is stiffer than the other materials but provides adequate flex to the rod. Its physical properties provides excellent ability to load and transfer energy when casting the fly line. Learning to cast using a graphite rod is generally easier than with fiberglass or bamboo.

There are various types of graphites used in rod manufacture, and this provides a broad price range for these rods. Entry level rods are quite affordable, and are an excellent option for someone just getting interested in the sport. Top tier graphite rods can be quite expensive.

In comparison to bamboo and glass, graphite rods generally have faster action. Their ability to load and transfer that energy to the cast line allows for longer casts and tighter loops. Graphite rods are excellent for all fly fishing situations – fishing dry flies, nymphing, casting streamer, etc. They also are manufactured across the full range of rod weights – from very light rods used on ponds and streams, to heavier rods used to angle for much larger game fish.

## Upcoming BUFF Activities

Please check the BUFF Website for availability and details, or contact the trip or activity coordinator. In-person activities are Limited to BUFF Members, and require Registration (online on club Website) and signing the Club's Liability Waiver

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, December 14 <sup>th</sup> 6 – 8:30 PM	
Tie-& Lie	Friday, December 16 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Virtual Session – Zoom Link</i>	Gary Begley
BUFF Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Center	Wednesday, December 21 <sup>st</sup> 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Hugh O'Donnell

### 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.

