



The BUFFER

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

Volume 47, Issue 12

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

December 1, 2023

The President's Fly Box

As the end of the year approaches, we look forward to our big events for next year - our Fly Fishing Show on February 3rd, and the BUFF Banquet on March 20th. But, before we leave this year, we still have one more big show to offer our members - Davy Wotton, our December in-person speaker. Davy is a well-known fly fisher, educator, guide, and international team coach. Anyone who has seen Davy in a video knows his predilection for wet flies – a simple yet effective technique for trout. We hope that you can join us at the December membership meeting on December 13th and learn from Davy's extensive experience.

By the time you read this note, BUFF's final 2023 fishing trip should be concluded. This last trip is a steelhead trip to NE Ohio that I am hoping are great days of fishing. Yes, it is a cold time of the year to fish but when it's cold, steelhead are in the rivers and ready to play. This is a time of year that 20 to 36" trout come into the rivers to attract fishermen from all over the region. If you can fish in cold weather, I highly recommend going at least once on a steelhead trip.

For those who want to stay warm, there are several fly tying opportunities. We have Zoom Tie n Lie every month. An intermediate tying class will be offered this winter. For experienced tyers, Davy Wotton is offering classes on Wednesday December 13th (prior to our meeting) and on Thursday, the 14th. In addition, Gary Bagley will lead the tying workshops on February 2nd, the day prior to the Fly Fishing Show. Davy's and Gary's tying workshops are for-fee programs and require pre-registration which is through the BUFF website. Finally, FFI is offering online demonstrations on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from November 28th through April 22nd. So, there is no excuse for not learning and having plenty of flies for fishing in 2024.

I will keep this note short and close by wishing everyone a great and wonderful holiday however you celebrate the time. For my family, we have already started decorating for Christmas and are looking forward to spending time together.

Merry Christmas and Enjoy the Holidays,

Hugh O'Donnell
BUFF President

BUFF December Meeting – Wednesday December 13th

Our monthly meeting at the Oasis Center starts at 6:00 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner will be served at about 6:30 PM, the business meeting and announcements start at about 7:15 PM, and our speaker's presentation at 7:45 PM. Registration closes on Sunday, December 10th.

Some Special Things to Encourage Attending the December Meeting –

- **Oasis is preparing a Holiday-themed meal for us featuring a honey-bourbon glazed baked ham as the entry, with accompanying sides.**
- Jim Hunt has obtained something a bit special for this month's raffle. **Through our friends at the Cincinnati Orvis store, Jim has obtained a Renzetti fly tying vise.** Renzetti makes excellent vises. It is a great tool for anyone who ties or is getting into tying. *Remember.....you have to attend the meeting to participate in the raffle.*
- **We have Davy Wotton as our speaker.** A person of Davy's caliber is more in line with a person we'd invite as the headliner for our fly fishing show. *Here's a chance to hear him in a more personal setting.*
- There will be important announcements that affect the club.
- We continue sales of the Winston rod Fishpond pack packages. These are the raffle items to be awarded at the close of the Fly Fishing Show in February. As we always do, the show team offers BUFF members first chance to purchase raffle tickets at our club meetings starting in November.
- We will also open sign-up for volunteers for the Fly Fishing Show at the meeting.

December Speaker – Davy Wotton, a Renown Fly Fishing Professional - “The Wonderful Wet Fly”

Davy is a world-known professional angler as a guide, teacher, and author. Davy is also the coach for the US International Fly Fishing Team. He lives and guides in the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas. You can find out more on his website: www.davywottonflyfishing.com/. Davy's bio is below -

The first time I hooked into a trout was in the early 1950's. It was not a big fish but certainly one that from that time set me on a path in my life which has taken me fishing in many distant parts of the world. Fly fishing since the 1960's has been the means by which I have made my living. No you will not make a fortune from fly fishing as a profession, but you will be involved in a world of friendship and learning like no other that I know of.



There are so many aspects involved in the fly fishing business that it would indeed be very difficult to pick one as a first choice. I have to admit that after spending many years manufacturing and selling fly fishing products, becoming a consultant to many of the fly fishing organizations that exist around the world, and being involved with many organizations that are there for the betterment of stream and river habitat and other related aspects, there is no finer place to be than on the water fishing.

No matter if the fish are little guys in a high mountain creek, or catching the big guys in a big river, it all amounts to the same thing, that you are able to come to terms with the fish's world and enjoy the pure ambiance of the surroundings that you find yourself in at that time. Fly fishing demands a number of relative skills, each one taking a period of time to perfect. Not all of you have that fortunate opportunity to spend the time on the water as I have done. That said, I too learned by making the same mistakes and figuring out the way to go. I learned many things from other fly fishers around the world, and built up my background of knowledge and skill that I am able to pass on to you. I chose to make my permanent home here in the Ozarks. I will never forget the first time I fished here with my dear friend, Dave Whitlock, who has been one of my close fly fishing friends for many years. On that day I caught the White River Grand Slam in 4 consecutive casts - that is a brown, cutthroat, rainbow, and a brook trout. I could not have asked for a better introduction to this unique part of the world.

December Dinner Menu – An Early Christmas Holiday Meal!

- Chef's Choice Salad & Dressings
- Dinner Rolls & Butter
- Honey Bourbon Brown Sugar Sliced Ham
- Mashed Potatoes
- Southern Style Green Beans
- Chef's Choice Desert
- Coffee & Iced Tea

Davy Wotton Tying Workshops

Apart from his presentation at our membership meeting, Davy will lead two 3-hour fly workshops. Both will be at the Oasis Center, and both will tie the same series of flies – *soft hackles and winged wet flies*. The first is Wednesday December 13th from 2 - 5 PM (before the meeting). The second is the day after, Thursday December 14th, from 1 - 4 PM. ***We ask that you only sign up for one workshop, as attendance is limited to 10 participants each.*** The cost for one workshop is \$50.

These workshops will be geared for more advanced fly tyers. Participants need to bring a vise, tying tools, and UTC 70 or Danville 6/0 Flymaster threads in neutral colors.

Sign-up on the BUFF Website. The workshops are listed under “Trips & Activities”, and you can see available slots, and payment instructions.

2024 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Update – Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, February 3rd

We have our full slate of presenters –

- Susan Thrasher is our 2024 headliner. She will have two presentations and will be doing a fly casting demonstration.
- Our other presenters are –
 - Mike Exl, owner of Moving Waters Outfitters fly shop in the Indianapolis area.
 - Mike Mehrle of Clarksburg, OH. Mike is known as the “Frugal Fly Rodder”. He likes fishing small creeks and streams and will present on how to do that well.
 - Tom Cross’ presentation will be on fishing Ohio Brush Creek in Adams County. This is a relatively unknown and pristine stream that is really a local water for us.
- The day of the show also includes 3 tying demonstrations led by Lance Kekel, Glenn Weisner and Kevin Ramsey. All three are excellent tyers and have done tying demonstrations at prior shows.



Help Us Promote the Show –

We will bring brochures and flyers to the December BUFF meeting. If you have a local business, or other organization you frequent, please consider taking some brochures or a couple of flyers to have them post. It’s a great way to promote this event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED –

This month we start recruiting needed volunteers for the show. Without our members’ help, the show cannot be successful. You can sign up on-line or at the December or January BUFF meetings. If you have questions, just ask any of our team members who are at the meetings.

Welcome Brent Miller to Our Board as a New Director at Large -

Brent Miller first joined BUFF in 2006, and after a couple of years of membership stepped back for a brief intermission before rejoining in 2011. He was active in Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing for 10 years, and Program Lead of PHWFF for seven. He received the BUFF President’s Award in 2016 and the BUFF Board of Director’s Award in 2019 for his work with PHWFF and Veterans. An avid motorcyclist, he has taught “Fly Fishing for the Motorcycle Traveler” at several motorcycle rallies and events. He is

“somewhat retired” living in South Lebanon, OH, and has been married to his wife, Lin for 37 years. He is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran.

10-Minute Tech Talk

By Bryan Tudor

We are looking for members who would be willing to share their knowledge at our monthly general meetings by doing a Ten Minute "Tech Talk". If you are interested in sharing your wisdom with fellow Buffers, please contact me at 513-827-5437 or bryan.tudor@yahoo.com on the topic you would like to discuss and the month. Here are some of my ideas for possible topics, but certainly not an exclusive or limited list -

<p>First Aid Kit –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First aid kit supplies (handout?)• How to remove a hook (handout?) <p>On the Stream –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stream Quality Monitoring• Kayaks/canoes on local waters• What fish are in our local waters?• Local waters – general information <p>Tying –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Types of vises• Tying tools• Threads• Glues & adhesives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Types of hooks• Types of beads <p>Stream Side –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different types of flies• Wearable gear• What to wear and when• Knots – 3 – 4 basic knots• How to set up your rod• Fast, medium, and slow rods• Choosing and working with a guide• How to choose a net• Different types of fly lines• How to make leaders• Leader and tippet set-up
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If you have an idea for a fly fishing topic, and are interested in presenting your idea, or one of the suggested ideas, at an upcoming general meeting, please contact Bryan Tudor at 513-827-5437 or byran.tudor@yahoo.com and we'll get you scheduled.

BUFF Library Reminder –

From: Dave Smith

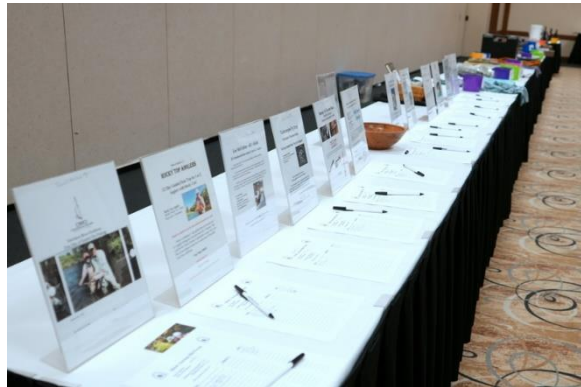
BUFFERS – While we are not regularly bringing the library boxes to our meetings, ***the library remains AVAILABLE***. Finding and checking out a book or video is really easy and is done through the BUFF website.

On the BUFF website home page, click “Member Services” and login with your e-mail address. Once logged in, choose the “Browse the Library” icon to bring up the list of library books and holdings. Click to reserve what you want, and I’ll bring it to the next meeting. Returning books is also easy – just bring them to the next meeting. This is an easy-to-use resource to obtain library materials and to grow and enhance your fly fishing skills and knowledge.

2024 BUFF Banquet- Wednesday, March 20th, 2024 – Save the Date!

By Bryan Tudor for the Banquet Committee

The 2024 Banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th at Oasis Conference Center. Please note this event is on the **third** Wednesday of the month instead of the second Wednesday which is the usual time for our monthly meeting. The change in date was necessary to obtain the large room at Oasis and which we require for the Banquet.



The banquet will be 6-9 PM, and we will start taking reservations soon. The banquet is the club’s main fundraising event for the year. Profits from the banquet allows us to support various community outreach programs and activities. Watch for more details in the near future.



The BUFF Banquet is a time where we get together to enjoy each other’s company and have fun bidding on various prizes. We also recognize those members who volunteered in 2023, and those who receive awards for their contributions and service to the club. There are chances to win trips and prizes via general raffles, a grand raffle and silent auctions. Grand and general raffle tickets are \$10 and \$5 each, respectively. They are available for purchase when you register and at the event.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Tentative Schedule for 2024 BUFF Meeting Speakers

January	Skip Morris
February	Jon Widboom (Owner - FlyMasters of Indianapolis), Topic: Saltwater Fly Fishing
March	Banquet – No Speaker
April	Barry Puskas
May	Kevin Feenstra
June	Glen Blackwood, Great Lakes Fly Fishing Co.
July	Picnic – No Speaker
August	TBD – <i>Maybe Jim & Cari Vota & 2 Other Couples for Panel Presentation</i>
September	Trip Report from BUFF Members who went on the Yellowstone Trip
October	Steve Coomer
November	Bill Carmen, Lexington, KY Guide
December	TBD - <i>Dolph or Josh Greenberg</i>

Redfish in Southern Louisiana

By Ted Grossman

I just returned from an annual pilgrimage to southern Louisiana to fish for Redfish and other species. This is the 10th season that I have been there. Redfish habitat extends from the mid-Atlantic states through southern Texas, but the largest redfish are in southern Louisiana. I fish with Kevin Morlock, a Pere Marquette salmon/steelhead guide, and long-time friend of BUFF. Let me tell you about my best week of fishing and my best day fishing ever.

The first two days down there we were weathered out. This was just after a massive cold front came through, and sadly, we are susceptible to the vagaries of wind, weather, tides, clouds and water clarity. Since our fishing is mostly sight fishing in dark stained water, low tides and wind add to silty conditions. It can be a real challenge to spot a fish and prepare a 50-foot cast. You need to be ready on the bow for a quick shot at any time. Kevin would call out a distance and clock position (i.e. 20 feet, 11 o'clock). Three seconds is all you get to find the fish, swing the fly and cast.





Kevin uses a flats skiff which is quite stealthy in the water. Easy to pole and quiet (no water slap on the hull). This is the set-up you see in Florida flats fishing. After launching the boat, we'd usually motor into the marsh for 45 minutes, weaving along shorelines of marsh islands or travelling along the beach. Sometimes you can spot a tail out of the water for a second, sometimes you can see fish belly-crawling on a mud flat in only inches of water, and sometimes you can see them making a surface commotion from 60 yards away. Kevin would position the boat to intercept the fish,

put the wind over your casting shoulder, and help guide the fly into the strike zone.

Redfish are bit, and so is the gear. I used a 9 weight rod with an 11-weight line which works for me.

Joining with our Wednesday morning group to practice casting was also a great help! Flies include shrimp, crab, and streamer patterns, are usually weighted, and long enough to create a silhouette in the water.

Enough background; let me tell you about the fishing.

– I caught 2-8 fish per day. One day we went out to the barrier islands (about 7 miles off the shore), and targeted sharks. The set up was a 10-weight rod, braided metal shock tippet, and 8' of 50 lb mono for a leader. I was able to put the fly in front of a shark, and bammmmm!.....The fish started a screaming run that took me into 200 yards of backing. I needed a pair of channel locks to tighten the drag any tighter. I had a 5 – 6 foot bull shark which we estimated to weigh about 60 pounds. Crazy!



The next day was my last day and Kevin asked, "What do you want to do today?" "Let's start in the marsh and put a couple in the boat and we'll go from there." After about 20 minutes we heard a splash. The fish had tailed giving up his position. Kevin positioned the boat, I put the fly where it needed to be and bingo.....fish in the boat. On the oceanside of the marsh we spotted a flock of birds hovering over a school of reds. I was casting a 4" black fly, (black feather tail, black chenille and a black collar on a Gamikatsu hook), and very soon I was fighting a 40", 24-lb redfish... Since we had calm conditions, we returned to the barrier Islands where I caught several black drum. Black drum are big fish that pull hard but don't take screaming runs. On our way to another island we spotted another flock of birds working the surface and you could see redfish crashing the surface with their backs out of the water. Kevin grabbed a spinning rod with just a popping cork (no hook or jig-head), and in seconds the fish were hitting the cork, crashing the surface, and pulling it under for 5-10 seconds. Kevin reeled in toward the

boat and said, “Cast behind the cork!” I did and immediately I was hooked up. By the time I landed this fish the school had moved off a bit. Kevin handed me a hard plastic surface popper which I tied on. We motored toward the school, and I cast out maybe 35 feet. Three fish lunged for the lure. One actually jumped out of the water and hit it on the way down. I can’t tell you how spectacular that take was! And that is how I finished the best day of fishing in my best week of fishing.



City Fishing – Mill Creek

By Tim Cassani

I can assure you that fishing stories are created pretty easily. Even on a late October fishless day our experiences shaped into a passable narrative. A nice little tale enjoyable to fishermen, but possibly unspectacular to others. We put ourselves out there to have things happen, but the narratives aren’t predictable.

The day warmed nicely as we launched three canoes from Salway Park with our friends from the Mill Creek Alliance. The MCA is a local environmental non-profit with some paid staff and many volunteers. The trees were turning to their fall shades but the passing trains and traffic on I-75 remind you that you’re city fishing. Water is always a matter of too little, enough, or too much. This day there was too little and despite an incredible number of gizzard shad, the hybrid stripers had not ascended from the Ohio River.



Our hosts from MCA were gracious and knowledgeable. We’re fortunate to have men and women like them that protect our resources. A fourth canoe followed us for the sole purpose of collecting trash from the creek. In 1997 Mill Creek was declared the most endangered river in North America. In March the city’s largest wastewater plant failed after losing power and millions of gallons of untreated or partially treated water flowed into the creek. Just seven months later the creek was healing itself and wildlife was abundant.



At one point of the float I wanted to exit the canoe to access a fishy looking plunge pool, but a feral dog prevented me from safely walking the concrete embankment. There was a homeless camp near our take out at Cumminsville. It was a poignant reminder that the absence of a migratory fish is not really much to worry over.

This is city fishing. Concrete, discarded tires, bulldozers, feral dogs, but still enough beauty to make it all worthwhile.

Fishing Gatlinburg Waters

By Phil Pursley

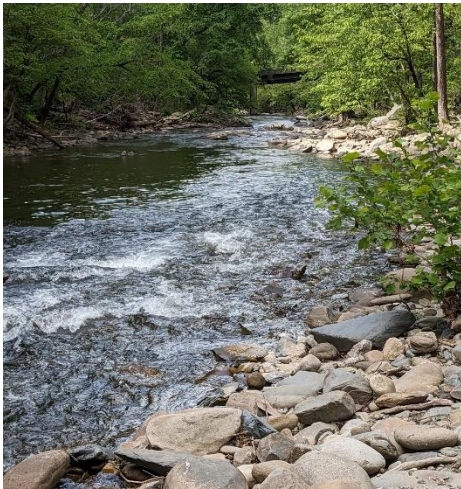
For years I've wanted to fish the Little Pigeon River along the drive from Pigeon Forge to Gatlinburg. What has kept me from doing this is that I just couldn't bring myself to buy an expensive Tennessee fishing license for just this purpose. I always buy a North Carolina license, which allows you to fish the NC waters, as well as within Great Smokey Mountain National Park. In the spring of this past year, Dave Nihiser found a nice resort condo unit just north of Gatlinburg at an affordable price. While this meant that we would be fishing Gatlinburg waters as well as park streams, we learned of very reasonable license (\$11/day) which allows fishing the "Gatlinburg Waters" of the Little Pigeon River from the end of the park to Pigeon Forge.



This photo was taken at the first pull off just south of Pigeon Forge as a person drives towards Gatlinburg. It's hard to drive past a beautiful spot on the river without pulling over to check to see if there are any fish holding there.



As it turns out there was a fishing holding in the river at this first pull-off. Yes, I know not to wear a bright blues shirt while fishing and trying to blend in with the environment, but it was the only clean shirt I had to wear that day.



Little Pigeon River north of the city of Gatlinburg. The exact spot is the first pull off as a person takes the Gatlinburg by-pass. A person needs to pull off immediately where the by-pass begins.



This 14-inch rainbow was caught in the waters pictured above. It was one of several of the stocked fish I caught at this location, but one photo is enough. Dave and I also fished in the Gatlinburg waters right in town, and we caught fish.

Gatlinburg has benches along the river. This allows people to sit, admire the beautiful river, and of course watch very talented anglers, such as ourselves, catching fish in the river.

This is my friend Dave fishing The Little Pigeon River near the Elkmont campground inside the Park. The Little River, and other streams inside the park have wild born rainbow, brook, and some brown trout. The fish in the park are all wild, as there is no stocking inside the park.

Dave an accomplished rod builder, having built over 90 rods to date. As we were beginning to put our equipment away for the day a fellow angler from Pennsylvania came up from the river. He admired Dave's rod and asked if he would sell it. It really was a beautiful custom-made rod, and Dave had caught several fish on it. Dave reluctantly agreed to and the fellow was quick to agree to Dave's asking price. With a little seller's remorse, Dave let the rod go back to Pennsylvania with this fellow angler. As soon as Dave returned home, he built a similar rod to the one that now has a new home in Pennsylvania.



Now you know that you can fish in the Gatlinburg waters without a Tennessee license and have an idea of a few places to try out. Why not give it a try? Dave has again arranged for lodging for us to stay in Gatlinburg, and we know where fish these waters, so we'll go back in 2024. There are a couple of places that I didn't share with you because a good fisherman doesn't tell everything. Part of the fun of fishing is learning new spots on your own and I don't want to take that fun away from you.

How to Catch Trout with Streamers

By Ken Mandel

Tom Bachev shared a link to a blog article on the Field & Stream website discussing fly fishing with streamer flies trout. It's a basic overview. Here is the link –

<https://www.fieldandstream.com/fishing/how-to-fly-fish-with-streamers/>

- Streamer flies most commonly mimic baitfish. Hence they differ from dry flies and nymphs which mimic floating insects and aquatic larval phases of insects.
- Fishing streamers requires a different style of presentation from fishing dry flies of nymphs. When fishing the latter, the goal is to get the fly to mimic a natural drift in the water current. In contrast, streamers need to be given "life" to mimic movements of a bait fish. This is accomplished by different retrieval (line stripping) techniques.
- Basic gear for fishing for trout with streamers is the same that we use for other flies – 5 – 6 wt rod, standard reel, floating line, etc. Some streamer techniques recommend using a sinking line, but a sink tip that can be added to the end of a floating line can work well.

- Many streamer patterns add some weight – lead eyes, cone head, wire wrapped around the hook shank – to make them sink quickly. Stripping line to retrieve these them makes them move in a jiggling motion. When you stop stripping in line, the fly will fall.
- Unweighted streamers are recommended to be used with a sink line or sink tip, as they help get the fly down in the water. They also will move differently when retrieving line and can hover in the water column when you stop your retrieve.
- Typical patterns include zonkers, sparkle minnows, Clouser minnows, Wooly Buggers, and brushy baitfish patterns. Some patterns combine features of more than one of the above.
- Fishing techniques include 1) stripping and retrieving fly line to make the fly move in the water; 2) twitching the rod tip to add other movement to the fly’s action; 3) keeping the tip of the rod low (or even in the water) to keep the fly from rising too high or coming out of the water entirely. Also, setting the hook is best done by stripping, rather than raising the rod tip. The latter is more likely to just pull the fly away from the fish. There are other techniques as well.

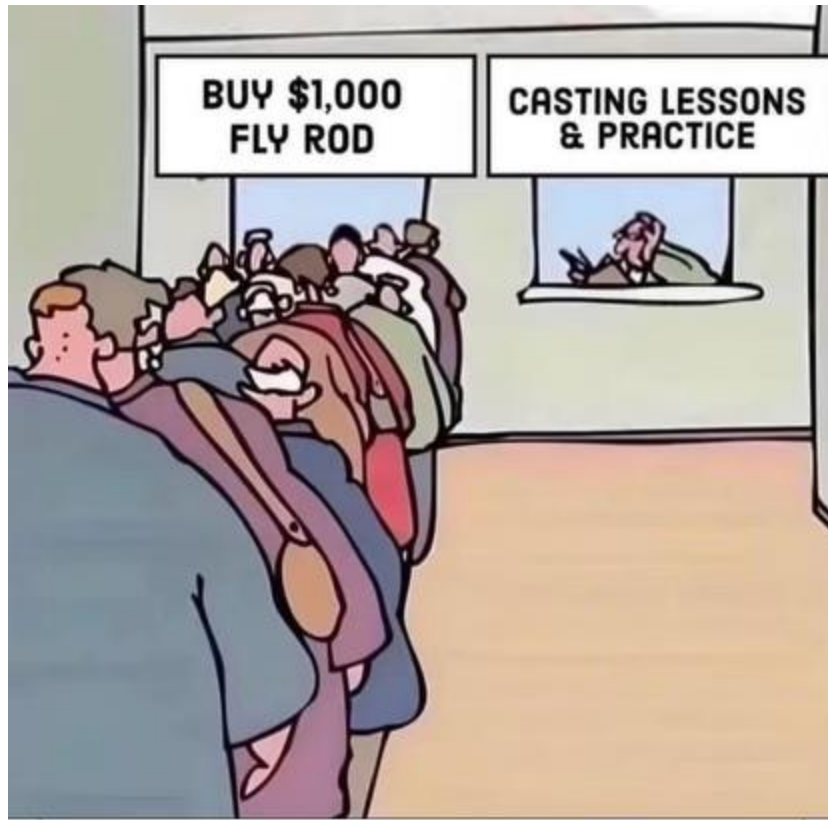
Check out the article for more details.

Upcoming BUFF Activities

As we move into the Winter months, our outdoor activities have largely ended for the year. However, check the website and watch for e-mails for indoor classes & activities which become available!

In-person activities require registration (online on club Website)

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Davy Wotton Fly Tying Workshop Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, December 13 th 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM Thursday, December 14 th 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Register on Website	Dolph Greenberg
Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, December 13 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM Sign up on Website	Hugh O’Donnell
Monthly Tie & Lie Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, December 15 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, December 20 th 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Hugh O’Donnell



***A THOUGHT FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON
HAPPY HOLIDAYS***

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.

