



# The BUFFER

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

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## The President's Fly Box

BUFF's current focus is on the two big events for early 2025: The Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, and The BUFF Banquet. The first event draws nearly one thousand people from Ohio and surrounding states. We need about 70 volunteers to host a successful show. I hope that you can help. The Banquet is a celebration of the past year, a fund raiser for the club with auction items including fishing and non-fishing items, and a great opportunity to talk with friends and to meet new friends. Yes, volunteers and donations are needed for the banquet. Please consider helping wherever possible.

Are you still thinking about fishing this year? Well, there are multiple opportunities to grab a friend and go. First, Manistee-strain steelhead should be in Ohio and Michigan rivers by December. You can consider them the overachievers for spring spawning. If you time your trip with conditions, it should be a cold but worthwhile trip. Second, a trip to Hatchery Creek could be good since the creek-side vegetation is dead. Our November speaker, Bill Carmen, talked about where and how to fish this creek. I am going there in early December to apply some of this knowledge (midges!).

For those folks who like history and fly fishing, you will want to come to our next meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker is Shannon Young, who owns and operates the Maggie Valley Fly Shop. He presentation topic is the "History of Fly Fishing in the Smokies". Many of us go to that area for fishing, so this should be a great talk. See you there.

Tightlines,

Hugh O'Donnel  
BUFF President

# **BUFF December Meeting – Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup>**

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.

*Please register on the website whether having dinner with us or not so Oasis can set up adequate tables and seating. **On-line registration will close on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.***

## **December Presentation – Shannon Young, Maggie Valley Fly Shop - “History of Fly Fishing in the Smokies”**

Shannon Young, who began fly fishing as a teenager in the mountains of North Georgia, was a bass angler for 30 years. He fished the B.A.S.S. State Federation circuit for three years before opening a guide service in Western North Carolina. Shannon loves to instruct and guide clients in the art of European or “Czech” nymphing.

He and his wife, Kristin, own and operate Maggie Valley Fly Shop, in Maggie Valley, North Carolina. As an avid fly angler, pro-staffer for Hardy Fly Rods as well as Cortland Line Company, and fly shop owner, Shannon is driven to welcome novices into the quiet sport of fly fishing and introduce them to the enduring beauty of the outdoors.



## **December Dinner Menu –**

- Chef's Choice Salad
- Sliced Pomegranate Maple Glaze Ham
- Squash Medley
- Oven Roasted Rosemary Potatoes
- Coffee & Tea
- Chef's Choice Desserts

## **December 10-Minute Tech Talk –**

Bryan Tudor will present the December Tech Talk. His topic is “Adding Tag Line on Your Leader”. We encourage members to stop by the table during social hour to learn and join in on the conversation with fellow Buffers.

## 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.

## New Members in November 2024

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

This past month saw us gain 4 new members –

- **Heather Williams**, Dayton, OH
- **Bob Askin**, Lebanon, OH
- **Ken Bernier**, Loveland, OH
- **Sean Dwyer**, Cincinnati, OH

Welcome to the club. We hope to see you at a meeting or event soon! Check out our activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some!

## 2025 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show –

**By Ken Mandel & Tom Bachey**

**Our most important remaining need for planning is recruiting volunteers to help on the days of the show.**

We are seeking about 70 volunteers. Without your help, the show cannot succeed. Those who have volunteered at past shows, will be, or have already been contacted by members of the show team to ask for your help again. Anyone who has not volunteered in the past is more than welcome. Please offer to help!

We need to fill a range of activities –

Hall Preparation (Friday)	Admissions Table	Information Booth
A/V Support	Fly Tying Table	Casting Pond Set-Up & Take-Down
Raffles	Membership Booth	Fly Fishing 101
Kids Area (Crafty Fish)	Women’s Forum	Booth Sitters
Hospitality/Transportation		

In addition to having volunteers on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, the day of the show, we also need volunteers for specific activities on Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>. On Thursday we need a small group for a couple of hours to help set up the indoor pond at the Oasis Center. On Friday, we need volunteers to help with the Friday Programs, floor layout (taping the floor to mark booth location), and a group to help with vendor/exhibitor load-in. Tables are provided and set up by our third-party supplier.

The easiest way to volunteer is through the website - [www.buckeyeflyfishers.com](http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com) – using the **“BUFF Fly Show Volunteers – SIGN UP!”** link on the home page. If you have questions call or email Ken Mandel (513-675-8488, [kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com)) or Tom Bachey (513-543-4056, [h2oguy@fuse.net](mailto:h2oguy@fuse.net)). We are glad to help.

## **Friday Program Registration is Open for BUFF Members**

Following the November meeting, registration for the Friday Workshops was opened to BUFF members. The Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> programs include 3 fly tying workshops, led by Brian Wise, and two topical workshops, led by our headliner, Jason Randall. Tying workshops are limited to 24, and Jason’s workshops, to 10 persons for each. We are having a good response to the workshops. Jason Randall’s AM workshop is almost completely subscribed.

**Currently, registration is only open to BUFF members. Following the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, registration will be opened to the public. To register go to our website - [www.buckeyeflyfishers.com](http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com). Access registration using the “Register Here” icon on the homepage. You can pay by credit card, or by sending a check. If you want to be certain of participating, please register now!**

### **Jason Randall Classes – Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>**

On the Friday prior to the show, Jason Randall, our 2025 show Headliner, will offer two comprehensive classes. Each will be about 2 ½ - 3 hours. Cost is \$60 per class with registration limited to 10.

**Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM – Noon** – This is a comprehensive session on methods of nymph fishing. The goal is to build a nymph fishing strategy that removes the guesswork and mystery from this style of angling. The program includes a PowerPoint presentation, hands on instruction on rigging leaders and products used, knot demonstration and an opportunity to practice. Jason Randall will provide all materials for this program, but participants should bring a rod for a practice opportunity (on the casting pond or outdoors if weather is cooperative).

**Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM** – This class will focus on tips, tactics, and advanced method for dry fly and dry-hopper fishing techniques. The program includes a PowerPoint presentation on basic and advanced presentation, rigging, materials, leader formulas, fly line discussion and product and knot demonstrations. There will be hands-on learning for rigging and building custom leaders. Materials will be provided for the program, but attendees should bring a rod for casting practice on the indoor casting pond, or outdoors if weather is cooperative.

## Fly Tying Workshops

Brian Wise is an expert streamer designer & tyer, and the ‘face’ of the “Fly Fishing the Ozarks” You Tube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/flyfishingtheozarks>). You can see how he ties flies, learn about tying using novel materials, and view many enjoyable videos by searching the above site. Cost for workshops is \$30 for 1, \$50 for 2, and \$70 if you sign up for all 3. Registration is limited to 24.

The schedule and type of flies being tied are -

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM,  
Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM  
Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Double Deceiver Streamer  
Laser Dungeon Streamer  
Soft Hackle Flies



Double Deceiver



Laser Dungeon

These are hands on workshops. Participants need to bring a vice and tying tools. We will have power connections set up. Brian Wise will provide all materials and tying threads.

## Save the Date – BUFF Banquet – Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

From Bryan Tudor



The 2025 BUFF Banquet will be held on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Oasis Center from 6 – 9 PM. The Banquet is our major yearly fundraiser. Funds we raise are used to support our various activities. It’s a great evening to bring a spouse, family member, or friend.

As at past banquets, there will be a catered meal, time for socializing, and best of all, fun bidding on great prizes. Prizes this year include both fly fishing related and other items and activities, so the banquet is a fun

occasion for anglers and non-anglers alike. The Banquet is also our opportunity to recognize members

who in the past year made significant contributions to BUFF, as well as all who volunteered in supporting our 2024 activities. Tickets are \$45 per person, and include appetizers, dinner and delicious desserts. There is cash bar.

Grand prize raffle tickets are \$10 and general raffle tickets are \$5. Registration will be available soon on the BUFF website.

Looking forward to seeing you there

Bryan Tudor  
Banquet Chair

## Support the Banquet – Donations!

As BUFF's major fund raising event, we offer items and prizes through silent auctions and raffles. While silent auction items are most often fishing related, and usually include trips and guided services, General and Grand Raffle items are more diverse. Items in these raffles are often donations from club members. While items can be fishing related, that is not a requirement, and having a diversity of items is preferable. Examples of non-fishing items at prior Banquets have included hand-crafted items, artwork, home and personal services (housecleaning, photographic services), vouchers (restaurants, golf at members course, store vouchers, etc.) or other items which club members can bid on.



The Banquet team is asking that BUFF members please consider offering an item for placement in the General or even Grand Raffle. If you are a regular customer at local business, please consider contacting them to see if they would donate a raffle item. Many local businesses are happy to support these activities.

If you have any questions, please call Bryan Tudor at 513-827-5437.

## BUFF Logo Wear – Maybe a Holiday Gift Idea?

**By Haruko Mizoguchi**

I recently accepted the responsibility to serve as coordinator for BUFF Logo Apparel. Sue Jones previously managed this and did a great job. I will do my best to make sure this membership service continues with excellence in partnership with Jeremy Ritzie at Lebowski Tees & Design.

For those who are not familiar with BUFF Logo Apparel, this membership service is found on the BUFF website as follows:

- **Open the BUFF Website** – [www.buckeyeflyfishers.com](http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com)
- **From the Home Page, select “Member Services” & Log with your email address**
- **Select Order Logo Apparel** – This opens a list of BUFF logo items available for purchase. Clicking an individual image accesses sizing and color options. This page also provides the details on how you can purchase the items.

Apparel is sourced from well recognized companies such as Eddie Bauer and Port Authority. Lebowski Tees is a local business in Oxford Ohio, and Jeremy expertly customizes each ordered item. The finished products are very nice (see examples), and the cost is very reasonable for a quality item. Jeremy is a longtime supporter of BUFF and is also an avid angler who competes in Bass tournaments (and takes home winning prizes). He views a relationship with BUFF as a partnership among anglers.



As the coordinator, I will be acting as the go-between for BUFF with Lebowski. Once Jeremy has completed an order, I will notify you and deliver the items to a regular BUFF meeting. If you cannot attend the meetings, I will make arrangements to have you pick them up.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me ([mizoguchiharuko@gmail.com](mailto:mizoguchiharuko@gmail.com))

## Salt Awareness this Winter

**From Tim Cassani**

A portion of the BUFF Mission Statement states, “The purpose of the Organization is to promote the preservation, conservation and wise use of our fishing waters and game fish; and to assist in the protection and improvement of our natural resources.” One of the less-known potential environmental issues we encounter during the winter is the use of salt and salt compounds to remove ice and snow from our roads, driveways and sidewalks. While effective for this, the salt gets washed into drains and sewers and enters the environment where it may pose a threat to fish and wildlife as well as human health.

Fish and bugs that live in freshwater streams are stressed by extra salty water and many of us, more than 117 million Americans, depend on local streams for drinking water. Although our water treatment plants provide drinking water free of organics, suspended (insoluble) solids and bacteria and viruses, these systems are not designed to remove dissolved solids (such as salts) from our drinking water.

The salts used to melt snow can include sodium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chloride, and magnesium chloride. The latter is applied as a solution. All of these compounds completely melt snow

and ice and in doing so, completely dissolve in the resulting. However, as the salt is dissolved with the ice and snow, a very salty solution is produced that then becomes runoff that ends up in streams and lakes. See the table below:

<b>Type of Road Salt</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Temperature Efficiency</b>	<b>Environmental Impact</b>
<b>Sodium Chloride</b>	Most common and affordable, adds traction with a dark gray color.	Effective between 15° and 20°F, works above 5°F.	Elevated chloride levels in soil and water, harm to aquatic life, and infrastructure deterioration.
<b>Magnesium Chloride</b>	Will absorb moisture from the air, not the best to use in high moisture events.	Effective in colder temperatures.	Less corrosive to metals, and less harmful to plants and animal life.
<b>Calcium Chloride</b>	Ideal for extreme cold, prevents ice formation, and fast melting action.	Effective as low as -25°F	Environmentally safe according to EPA, not highly corrosive to roads.
<b>Potassium Chloride</b>	Common in fertilizer; safe for plants and pets.	Requires higher temperatures to be effective.	Can corrode metals and roads; potentially detrimental to infrastructure.

Salt lowers the freezing temperature of water so snow and ice can be more easily removed. The key is to use only that amount required to make your surface safe to walk on. All you need for a 20-foot long driveway is ONE mugful, or 12 ounces, of road salt. You do not have to feel "the crunch" for salt to do its job. Putting more salt on a surface does not make snow and ice melt faster or eliminate the need for plowing or shoveling. Watch out for deicers labeled as "eco-friendly" or "pet-friendly"! Read the package closely. If there is chloride in the product (sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride, etc.), it is still a salt. Per the table above, temperature plays a role in the effectiveness of the type of salt being put down, so be mindful of the type of salt, the temperatures through the night and the amount of salt being used. Any excess or unused salt remaining on your treated surface can be swept up and reused. The Izaak Walton League sponsors a program entitled Salt Watch. Go to <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/salt-watch> for more information on how you can reduce salt contamination in our local watersheds.

When spreading salt on your driveway and sidewalks this winter, keep in mind that the salty, briny solution produced will end up in a nearby waterway.

BUFF Conservation Team



# Cumberland River Trip

By Tom Bachey

In late October, Jim Neckers and I had a fantastic day fishing the Cumberland River with our guide, Jim Sauerheber, owner of Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing. Jim and I lodged at the Riverside Retreat, a motel close to Helm's Landing, our launch site. While the inn is nothing fancy, the room was comfortable and clean. A cold morning, in the 30's, made more so by fog on the river and putting in at the crack of dawn, kept us shivering as we started out.



Jim Sauerheber's drift boat has an outboard jet motor, which allowed us to seemingly fly up river to our starting point, not far below Lake Cumberland Dam. Right off the bat, Jim Neckers hooked a nice fish, but lost him with a long-distance release. He had another strike soon after, and another one that got away. Then, I got into the action and landed our first rainbow, about 13 inches. I put a few more in the boat while Jim mostly watched me. Seriously, though, for the first time, I actually outfished Jim, and I loved it!!



As the day progressed and the sun warmed us, we got into a pattern – float through a certain section, and if we caught fish, return to the starting point to try again. We caught at least one fish in each section we floated, with both of us landing many rainbows, most over 15" long, and all of them fat and healthy. We also put three big brown trout in the boat; the guide said that one that I caught was the largest brown he'd seen this year! After a couple of hours, both Jim and I lost count of the fish we caught, but even Jim agreed that I caught more than he did.

We fished a variety of areas; along ledges, deep holes in the middle of the river, and structure along the banks. Sauerhaber targeted wherever he thought we would catch fish. We began the day using pink mop flies with indicators and the guide would occasionally swap out the mop fly with a pheasant tail. We did not catch anything on the pheasant tail and eventually switched out to white mop flies.

By late afternoon we called it a day, and returned to our take-out. Jim Sauerheber of Cumberland Valley Fly Fishers is a very knowledgeable guide who knows the details and intricacies of the Cumberland River. On this trip, the river clarity was not good, maybe no more than 2 feet of water clarity, but Jim knew



where the fish would be caught. He did say the water is usually crystal clear but maybe that helped us catch fish? The murkiness appeared after Hurricane Helene stirred up the Cumberland Lake.

After fishing, Jim and I drove to Jamestown, Ky, for dinner and we found Reel Java Restaurant right in the middle of town. They serve large portions, provide excellent service and have a varied menu at reasonable prices. Yes, they serve coffee and have lots of pastries in the front display case, but the restaurant is top-notch. Less than 20 minutes from the Riverside Retreat, too. Did I mention I caught more fish than Jim Neckers?



If you are interested in fishing the Cumberland, Jim Sauerhaber can be contacted at [jim.sauerhaber@gmail.com](mailto:jim.sauerhaber@gmail.com) or 270-779-7589. You can find more information on his website – [www.cumberlandvalleyflyfishing.com](http://www.cumberlandvalleyflyfishing.com). Jim will be participating in the upcoming 2025 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, so you can meet him at his booth.

## North Carolina Trip Photos

Last month our club was able to get out to western North Carolina for our annual fall trout fishing trip. This was delayed because of the destruction from Helene, but conditions and the situation in the area has sufficiently improved to accommodate the trip. Here are some photos kindly shared by Harry Pass and Dan Bonham.





## **BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish**

Remember, if you get out to fish, please send photos and where you were fishing to [kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com), and I'll get it into an upcoming BUFFER. It's a great way share information and locations with the club!

Tim Cassani was in Florida recently, did some salt water fishing. He landed this nice tarpon



Earlier this month, Cari Vota and Lisa Morrisette were in Michigan. They fished on the Muskegon and Pere Marquette. Cari got her steelhead on the Muskegon. The other is Lisa with their guide, also on the Muskegon.



## Steelhead Trips

From Hugh O'Donnell

For those who want the opportunity to catch some big fish, steelhead are usually in our rivers in sufficient numbers during December. The best time to go fishing is three days after a big storm. The high-water flow allows lake fish to enter the rivers. Waiting three days allows for the river levels/flow to return to normal fishable levels. Overcast weather with little to no precipitation on fishing days is a plus. So, *ad hoc* trips are usually the most successful trips, *versus* scheduled trips. Remember that the temperature will be cold, water temperatures are near freezing, and you should bring extra dry clothes and a friend or BUFF member for safety. Several of our members are quite experienced at Ohio steelhead fishing. Use the forum to reach out to members who are interested in steelhead fishing.

## A Few Things of Possible Interest

From Ken Mandel

I've found a few short YouTube videos that may be of general interest. All are from Orvis with Tom Rosenbauer. I like his presentations as I find them practical, informative and entertaining.....and Tom does them in a few minutes, rather than spending 30 minutes or more spouting irrelevant nonsense, as many other bloggers do.

The first, about 4 ½ minutes, involves Tom and his angling partner fishing from a drift boat. Per the course, one is in the front, the other in the back, and the guide is rowing between the two anglers. On their first cast, they get their lines, and themselves entangled in each others lines. How many times have any of us when fishing from a drift



boat been in this same situation? The video goes on to explain techniques and etiquette for two anglers casting from a boat. Basically, it is taking turns with the angler in the stern being the one to watch and make sure of casting angles. The angler in the back of the boat can see what the person in front is doing, whereas the person in the front, cannot see what the person in the back is doing. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5Ozp9J1mil>

The second video is titled "How Much Tippet Do You Need?" Of course, Tom's first answer in this 3-minute video is 'it depends'. The video is an explanation of 'depends on what'? It boils down to the type of line (floating vs sinking), type of fly being cast (nymph, dry fly, streamer, etc.), and water depth. In general Tom recommends starting with about 2-ft of tippet on the leader. In practice, when using commercial tapered leaders, this is pretty much the tippet length on a new leader. With deeper water, you may want to add more, especially when fishing a bottom fly with a dry or other indicator on the surface. In windy conditions, a heavier tippet can make targeting casts easier. It all makes practical sense. For those who are newer to fly fishing, this video provides great basic information and only requires a few minutes of your time. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otriijw6r6A>

Finally, a discussion of line weight and its importance. This is a bit longer, about a 6-min program. Tom discusses and demonstrates how line weight interacts with rod weight. Basically, a given weight rod, for example a 4-weight, is designed by the manufacturer to optimally function when casting a matched weight line. That is because the rod is built so that it a proper weight line allows it to flex (energize the rod) and deliver the cast. The video discusses over-and under-weighting a line on a rod, with good examples of the pros and cons, and conditions when one may want to do this. A good instructional video, especially if you are newer to our sport: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cUjZDK\\_lig](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cUjZDK_lig)

## Upcoming BUFF Activities

The season is winding down, but still a good number of activities to consider

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

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
<b>BUFF Monthly Meeting</b> Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
<b>BUFF BOD Meeting</b> Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Wednesday, December 18 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
<b>Monthly Tie &amp; Lie</b> Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, December 20 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley

### 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.

