



The BUFFER

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

Volume 39, Issue 2

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

February 1, 2015

Notes from the President

Ken Dixon ((krigidix@outlook.com))

As I am writing this, we are just over a week away from the 2015 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show on Saturday, Feb. 7. The members of the Fly Show committee, co-chaired by Bob Gustafson and Bob Miller, have been doing an outstanding job getting everything ready for another wonderful event. In addition, the scores of volunteers are all ready to pitch in to make this another great Show. It is through the combined efforts of the Committee and the Volunteers that our Show has become recognized as one of the best one-day shows in the region. We can all take pride in that accomplishment. At this time, all 69 booths are filled and there is a full slate of presentations, tying demonstrations and casting presentations scheduled throughout the day. I hope to see you all at the Show. Bring your family and friends with you. How better to spend a cold winter day?

When you register for the February Club Meeting, you will see a change in the registration page. On the line of menu options, we have added an option for attending but not eating.

Meal Options (\$15.00/plate)

(please register individually if you request a special meal)

Regular Low Fat Gluten
 Free Vegetarian

**I'm not planning to eat, but I will be attending
(this helps give us a headcount for room set-up)**

No Meal

We are asking **EVERYONE attending** the meeting to **register**, even if you are not going to eat. Historically, the registration process has been used to assure we had sufficient food available for attendees, while seating was based on historical attendance. We have been lucky in that we have usually had enough chairs for all who wished to come. However we have been borderline a few times over the last year and, at the January meeting, had to rush to set up extra chairs so overflow members had a seat available. If, for some reason, you are not able to register, you can still come to the meeting, but it would be a great help if you tell us ahead of time that you will be present, whether eating or not.

To further help us set up for our meetings, we ask that you notify the Treasurer, Bob Gustafson, at least a week prior to the meeting if you are going to need space at the entry tables for signs, sign-ups, ticket sells or similar activities. Normally, we only have space available for meal payments, for raffle ticket sells, and for membership. By telling us of your needs ahead of time, we will be better able to have sufficient tables set up. Thank you.

If you are like me, you probably have not looked at your fishing gear since your last trip in the fall. February is a great time to break it out, clean it up, see what replacements you need, and generally get everything ready for that first spring fishing adventure.

Here are a couple of upcoming events to mark on your calendar. Our sister Club in Fort Wayne, Indiana, will be hosting its first Fly Fishing Show on Saturday, March 28. A few of us will be participating as Club Tiers. Check out the link on our webpage for more information. Also, the Ohio Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers, of which B.U.F.F. is a member, will again, is hosting its Warm Water Conclave on June 27, in Bellville, Ohio. On June 6, the Cincinnati Museum will again be hosting Bugfest from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We will post more information about these events on our website when it is available.

Speaking of calendars, check out all the B.U.F.F. sponsored trips we have lined up for this year. So far we have 13 trips planned. Check them out at:

<http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com/trips15/index.htm>

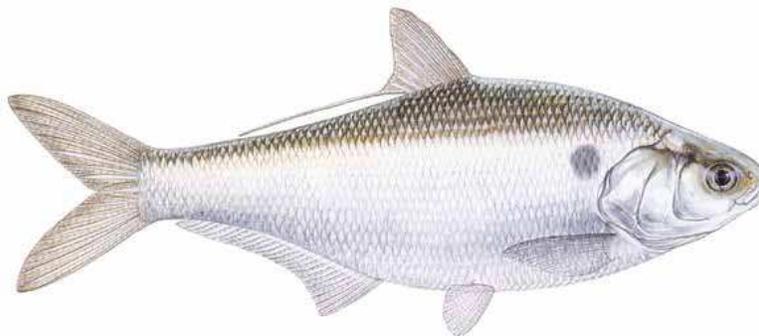
A couple of the trips are already full and a few of the others are nearly so. Ensure your slot by signing up early using our on-line registration system. A big tip of the fishing hat is due to all those who are volunteering their time as trips leaders to plan and organize these trips.

Gizzard Shad

Steve Lilly (sjlilly@fuse.net)

Acton Lake at Huston Woods: "the gizzard shad are out of control....gazillions of 'em, everywhere".

ohiogamefishing.com, 2005



Fortunately for the survival of the shad specie the females can lay up to 400,000 eggs because predators beginning with the smaller fish like minnows and chubs gorge on the eggs and larvae, then larger fish like smallmouth and largemouth bass readily gulp down the slimy juveniles whose soft rays makes them easier to swallow than other fish like bluegills with their sharp boney spines, also the shad travel in schools that makes it easy for a clever predator to round them up then dive in for a quick feast. Those that get though the gauntlet of predators is vulnerable to cold spells that can be fatal should the water temperature drop into the upper thirties. In spite of all the factors that keep

their numbers in check something happened in Acton Lake to cause the shad population to explode. In response, the Ohio DNR stocked the lake for two years with massive numbers of saugeye fingerlings (3,260 fingerlings per hectare, 8 times typical stocking rates) with hopes that the saugeye would feast on the shad and bring their numbers down, but the shad population remained the same while the saugeye all but disappeared. That ended any further manmade population control measures and surprisingly the shad population returned to normal.

Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Update

Bob Gustafson (j.r.gustafson@att.net)

Wow! One week until the big Cincinnati Fly Show!

The Fly Show team has worked very hard over the past year to make this the biggest and best fly fishing show in the tri-state area. We believe we are ready! We have attracted a full house of first-class vendors and exhibitors and the best speakers, fly tiers, and fly casters in this part of the country. We think you will really enjoy the show and be proud of BUFF for staging such an event.

Please join me in thanking the Fly Show team: Bob Miller, Ken Dixon, Ken Foltz, Jim Neckers, Kathy LaDow, Jeff McElravy, Jeff Georgin, Steve Alexander, Wendy Gustafson, Dave Jones, Tim Williamson, and Bob Weckman. A great team from start to finish!

Of course, the Fly Show could not go on without the help of many BUFF volunteers. At show time we will have over 90 volunteers! The hospitality, enthusiasm, and hard work by our volunteers is really noticed and appreciated by our exhibitors. No other show can match Cincy for the capabilities of our volunteers. Thank you for your support!

The show will have 67 booths with all kinds of vendors and exhibitors including outfitters, guides, lodges, kayaks, books, jewelry, fishing supplies, rods, fly tying supplies, streamside accessories, fly tiers and more.



The show will have world-class presentations from Tom Rosenbauer, Dane Law, Steve Vorkapich, Jerry Darkes, and Mike Schmidt and fly-tying demonstrations by Kevin Howell, Kevin Morlock, Glenn Weisner, Tom Rosenbauer, Mike Schmidt and in-booth fly tying by some of the best tiers in the region.

The show also features excellent fun activities for kids for free—Kids Corner crafts and Kids Fly Tying and great things to eat by Oasis catering.

So shake off that Cabin Fever and come to the show!

Membership

Tom Agin (agin6@fuse.net)

Did you forget to renew your BUFF Membership for 2015? Dues were due on January 1, 2015. Member dues cover from January 1st of each year to December 31st

An extension has been granted to active 2014 BUFF members who have not yet paid their 2015 dues. We would like to have you continue your active membership with Buckeye United Fly Fishers. Single memberships are still \$25.00/year and Family memberships are still \$30.00/year. There are a couple of ways you can pay your dues: Pay at the monthly dinner meeting or send your payment in the mail. If you are sending it in the mail the address is P.O. Box 42614, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242. Please make checks payable to BUFF.

February Meeting Program –

Pete Moore (sharonandpetem@outlook.com)

Meeting Date February 11, 2015

Speaker – Jeff Liskay

Jeff Liskay is a self-proclaimed steelhead addict. From his home base in northern Ohio, he has travelled the entire Great Lakes Region as well as the Pacific Northwest in search of mykiss chrome. Liskay has nearly 4 decades of steelhead fishing experience and has guided on the Ohio tributaries for over 30 years. Specializing in the use of two-hand rods and swung flies, he has emerged as a well-recognized Spey angler, caster, and instructor.

Liskay travels the Spey Clave circuit both as an observer and a presenter. His cheerful, laid-back manner makes him easy to talk to and he always finds the time to help out anyone seeking advice. Liskay is also on the national pro staffs of several other prominent manufacturers and is one of only a handful of Fishing Ambassadors for Patagonia.

During the warmer months, Liskay fishes the shoreline areas around the Great Lakes for a variety of species until it is time to chase steelhead again. He has also fished Alaska and a number of saltwater destinations. Most of the early fall season you will find him exploring the wilds of British Columbia to chase, you guessed it- steelhead.

Program

Jeff's program will cover a step by step approach of how to improve your river steelheading no matter where you plan on fishing for them. He will concentrate on water levels, temperatures and clarity. He will also cover the swung fly method focusing on Spey and switch rods for your home rivers.

BUFF Library

Steve Walker (swalker@roadrunner.com)

Since the beginning of December, Don Kail, Ken Foltz and I have been working on a project to automate the Librarian function of the club. Our current schedule is to have Don and Ken give a demo of the system at the monthly meeting in February. We will then go live at the March meeting.

What we have done is we have built a database that identifies every book and DVD that we have in the library. We have linked that database to the membership database, so that when someone checks an item out, or in, we can keep track of it in the database.

The library database will be viewable online by anyone and is accessible from the BUFF web site. To view the library, click on Education Resources on the home page, then under [BUFF Library](#), click on BUFF Library - Online.

The database is separated into two parts, one for books and one for videos (DVDs). There is a button at the top of the lists to allow you to select which one you wish to look at. You will be able to see who has an item and when they checked it out and also if it is due or overdue. There is also a search engine to scan the titles for something you are interested in. You can also click on an item's title and the system will go out to Google to find out additional information on that book or DVD.

To keep the library current and accessible to everyone, the system is designed to send out email reminders on items that are due or overdue. The current plan is that due notices will go out after 45 days, and overdue notices after 75 days. We hope this will help reduce the number of lost items to the club. We plan to send out the first set of emails on January 26th. The plan is for the Librarian to send out the emails on or about the first day of the month. That will give you about eight days to find and/or finish with the item before the next meeting.

Change in the checkout check in procedure.

We will be doing away with the card system. Instead, we will be using a scanner. Each member will have their own ID barcode and each library item will have a unique barcode label. The scanner will be attached to a laptop and it will be located at the same place the cards were located in the past. When you wish to check out an item, you will go to the laptop and it will guide you through the process. You will first scan your membership ID barcode. You will then scan the barcode label that has been put on the back (usually on the back) of the item you want to check out. You're done. The record of you checking out that item will already be reflected in the library database along with the time and the date. To check an item back in you follow the same process. When you have checked something back in you can just go put it back on the table with the other items available to be checked out.

Where do you get your ID barcode label? The Librarian, who this coming year will be George Hupp. At the March meeting he will have one already printed out for each member.

This month, and until we go live, we need to change the check in procedure of the old card system. When you are returning a book or DVD, just put the item in the box provided on the table. There is no card deck anymore. The reason is that we need to intercept those items coming back in so that we can put the label on it and manually check it in on the database. The checkout procedure will remain the same. Just put your signed card in the card basket. That will be used to manually check that item out to you in the library.

We hope that you find this system helpful and that it keeps the library a viable asset of the club into the future.

Annual Banquet

Tom Smith (tsmithconsluting@cinci.rr.com)

The date for the annual banquet is April 11, 2015. In order to lower the club's cost point the format is being changed to a social hour with Hors D'Oeuvres and dessert. There will be a cash bar with no charges for soft drinks and coffee. The event will be held at the Mill Race Golf Club at Winton Woods. A sample reservation form is included with this article and we will start taking reservations at the December club meeting. The reservation form will also be available on line where you can download it and fill in the information. We do not anticipate taking reservations on line.

Reservation sales are picking up briskly and we now have nearly 30 paid attendees. In addition, a few members have donated money for the purchases of raffle items.

Christmas, 2014

Gary Cummins (garycummins@fuse.net)

(Editor's note = this article was submitted as a letter that Gary and his wife wrote to family and friends as an annual summary of their year in 2014. I'm pleased that Gary submitted it and I agreed to print it because I want to encourage members to submit their work. If any of you feel you have a talent for writing, please don't hesitate to submit an article.)

"In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing. We lived at the junction of great trout rivers in western Montana, and our father was a Presbyterian minister and a fly fisherman who tied his own flies and taught others. He told us about Christ's disciples being fishermen, and we were left to assume, as my brother and I did, that all first-class fishermen on the Sea of Galilee were fly fishermen and that John, the favorite, was a dry-fly fisherman."
— Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*

This past August and September I made another multi-week odyssey to the western U.S., fly fishing. For one of the weeks I participated in a Road Scholar program in Big Sky, Montana under the heading of Norman Maclean's novella: *A River Runs through It*. This story and Robert Redford's movie have lured countless sportsmen into the sport of fly fishing. The story glorifies this sport but also presents the issue of family dynamic of having an unreachable member and the acceptance of that situation. That theme and the magical activity of fishing in special home waters have touched my life deeply. For Maclean, it was the Blackfoot River; for me it is the East Fork waters of the Little Miami River.

In the summer of 1967, having graduated from college, being recently married, and having signed a teaching contract which turned out to be good for the next 35 years, I decided I wanted an outdoor hobby. It was narrowed down to either fishing or hunting. As hunting involved much more expensive equipment and no option of leaving the prey unharmed, I decided on fishing. Also the budget allowed me to buy a spinning Daiwa rod and reel from Swallen's for almost \$7.00. Although my fishing arsenal has expanded greatly to tackle costing many times that original expenditure, that outfit will always be special. A battered metal tackle box I painted bright red, easily housed all my gear. Now it takes multiple rooms and buildings to do that.

The following year, a more special event occurred. A dear uncle, Uncle Junior (Clayton) Hitt introduced me to Clover Lick Creek impoundment. Although it is now part of the East Fork park system, it was surrounded by private land in 1968. Uncle Junior was thrilled that he had gotten permission for me to have access to the Creek. So for the last 46

years, it has been the “fishing hole” that has produced many cherished memories for me, with many cherished friends and family.

A country road follows along it for almost a mile before the road is blocked off. Next, the shallow creek makes a complete u turn over a distance of several hundred yards. Then the back waters of the impoundment start. They are nestled in a deeper valley that was originally formed by a tributary to the giant Tays River system that flowed north thorough Cincinnati about 1 million years ago. If you stare across the expanse of the Lunken Airport valley, that was the width of the eastern tributary of the old river. Another branch flowed northward forming the Mill Creek Valley west of Cincinnati and the two met in the north in the Sharonville area. Now you know why our region has so many gravel companies.

So, you have to walk down alternating shallow pools, riffles, and low limestone waterfalls common in creeks of southwest Ohio, around the u curve to find these impounded waters. Approximately ½ of a mile away from this initial pooling of Clover Lick is a large concrete dam in the woods which was built by the CCC program in 1933. The date is indicated in the concrete of the pump house adjacent to the dam. It has been a water supply

For Bethel, Ohio from that time to today. In early years, friends and I would seine for minnows in the shallow creek areas and then fish for smallmouth in the first pooled area, largemouth in the longer deeper stretch, and for crappie in the 15 foot deep waters beside the dam. Charlie Shrive and I sat on that very spot in his canoe philosophizing on the impact the upcoming births of our children would have on our lives. Over 4 decades have passed since then.

Years ago, I lived near Bethel, and I could pop over to fish often. So on a spring break, I fished two days in succession, falling in the creek both days and loading up my rubber waders each time with water. The first day I headed home to dry out. The second, I daringly built a fire on an eroded rock slab, shucked my wet waders, pants and shirt, and fished in my long underwear beside the fire. All went well until I heard a loud crashing in the brush on the hillside behind me. Being clad only in underwear increases one's vulnerability beyond panic when there's an alarm. Finally a huge groundhog came out of the brush, as surprised as I was. We both retreated back to our respective homes.

Another spring, Dan Ross and I thought it would be a great idea to float the creek in his canoe, taking advantage of the recent rains and the up swell of water flow. Being young, it was exciting to “run the rapids” the rains produced. Seated in the front, my youth allowed me to see and avoid a large limb lying over the channel we were to go through. I quickly ducked under it but the canoe stopped abruptly. As I turned and looked, Dan was hanging suspended from the same limb with it tucked under his armpits and only the heels of his boots anchoring his end of the boat. Now I thought this was one of the funniest things I had ever seen. Judging from his challenges of my existence, manhood, and intellect via expletive's as I rescued him while laughing, he did not share my viewpoint. Crisis averted, we shared that experience for years.

In writing for brevity, I have not listed many of the wonderful memories of fishing, camping and hunting trips there, but they have enriched my life. The last time I went to Clover Lick was a couple of years ago with Dan Hayes. It was on the mission of rabbit hunting, but over the years our hunts have turned into leisurely walks in the woods, talking, loving the moment, and laughing, which are just as memorable as any real hunts. The last hunt/walk wasn't so leisurely. The southern Ohio hills and valleys are tough for two old buzzards. But once again at the end, there were lighthearted chuckles about our labored efforts and a quiet shared mutual respect for the creek and what it offers.

Being an old biologist, I'm a bit aware of the effects of geological forces over the eras, but am still surprised of the changes in landscape even within our short lifetimes. From year to year there are little changes and great changes, which are never predictable, like life. The steep u turn curve of the creek of decades ago has moved into new courses,

leaving just a trickle down the channel Dan Ross and I courageously maneuvered. And the flow of my life has moved into new channels, slowing to a trickle at times compared to 1968. But the stream has an eternal continuum that is comforting. Like life.

Rod Building Class

John Doscher (JDoscher@cinci.rr.com)

John contacted me indicating that his rod building class has had some cancellations and he is opening the class to anyone interested. Classes are scheduled to start next Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015. If anyone is interested, John is requesting that you call him at (513) 292-1575.

In Memoriam



Gene Gaffney

Sunnybrook Trout Club
Fall 2012

Gene Gaffney passed on January 7, 2015 at age of 83 years. Gene and his wife Dixie were members of B.U.F.F. for approximately 7-1/2 years, having joined the Club in the summer of 2008. Gene was a Korean War Veteran, serving in the United States Air Force. The National Museum of the United States Air Force was dear to his heart. Donations, in memory of Gene, may be made to the Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc., National Museum of the United States Air Force, 1100 Spaatz St., Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH 45433-7102.



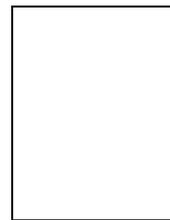
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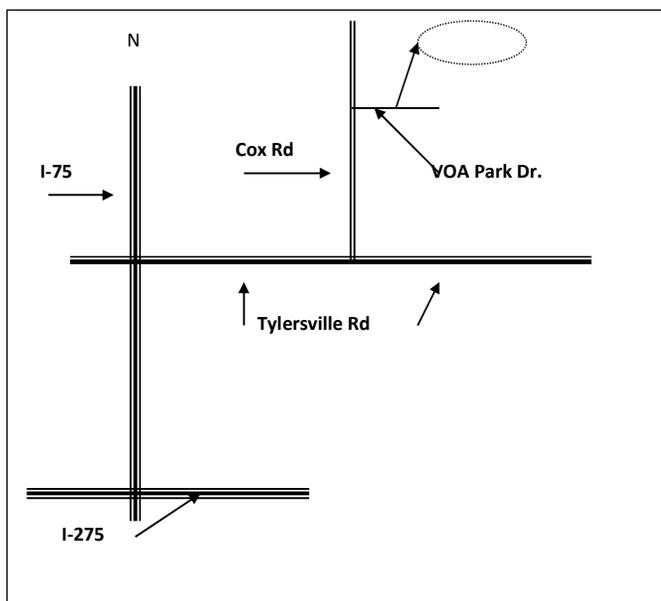
NOTICE: Dues are \$25 (Individual), \$30 (Family), with a onetime \$5 Initiation Fee for new members. New members will pay a prorated membership amount according to month of initial membership for the first year. Annual dues are due January 1. Refer to BUFF website for further information. B.U.F.F., P.O. Box 42614, Cincinnati, OH 45242

Mailing Address

Next Monthly Meeting – Feb. 11, 2015

Call (513) 683-0286 or sign up on line at WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM for reservations no later than midnight on the Sunday before the meeting. Dinners are \$15/person.

Sign up from the 20th of the November through the Sunday evening (12/14) before the monthly meeting!



Directions:

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

From the Warren County area...

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