



The *BUFFER*

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

Ken Dixon (krjdix@outlook.com)

I just returned from the North Coast Fly Fishers Fly Fishing Expo where Bob Gustafson and I represented B.U.F.F. as Club Fly Tyers. Debby Hampton was also there helping with Casting for Recovery accompanied by Jim and Jeremy. It was a nice Show. We talked to lots of people, reacquainted ourselves with some old friends and made new ones. The folks at NCFE have been holding their Expo for many years and have been working steadily to improve it. They have moved to a new facility to have more room and increased their number of exhibitors and presenters this year compared to last year. They have visited our show and talked with us numerous times to get suggestions and ideas on how to improve their Expo. It makes me very proud when they tell me they strive to grow into what we have become. The Greater Cincinnati Fly Show is one of the best one-day shows in the Mid-West. This is not just my opinion but what we hear from other Clubs and vendors. This did not happen overnight and was the result of the hard work of many volunteers that has made our Show the success it has become. To all those that have had a part in this in the past and to those that are helping to make this year's Show another success, I want to give you a hearty THANK YOU.

Our friends at Three Rivers Fly Fishers will be hosting their 2nd annual Fly Fishing Show on April 2nd in Fort Wayne. Jim Neckers and I were Club Tiers at their first Show and they did a great job. I am sure this year's event will be even better. Mark your calendars for April 2nd, get a carload of your friends together and make the short trip to Fort Wayne to enjoy their Show.

Another upcoming event is the Warm Water Conclave sponsored by the Ohio Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers. As you are probably aware, BUFF is an Associate Club of the IFFF and of the Ohio Council. A number of the Council's officers are BUFF members. Historically, we were originally part of the Great Lakes Council but several years ago, Ohio was broken out to form their own group. There are a total of four fly fishing clubs in Ohio that make up the Council; Buckeye United Fly Fishers, North Coast Fly Fishers, Firelands Fly Fishers and Mohican Fly Fishers. The proceeds from the Warm Water Conclave help fund the Ohio Council's activities which cover fly casting, fly tying, education and conservation. This year's event is scheduled for June 11, in Bellville, Ohio at the VFW outdoor pavilion near the Clear Fork of the Mohican River. We will share more details as they develop, but, for now, please mark the date on your calendar and think about attending this event.

As I write this we are a short seven weeks from our Annual Banquet. Todd McGarvey and the volunteers making up the Banquet Committee are hard at work pulling this year's event together. It promises to be another great evening. There will be raffles, silent auctions and recognition of the many volunteers that

helped make our Club successful over the last year. I hope you will attend and enjoy the evening. It would be a great help to the Banquet Committee if you could make your reservations as soon as possible. You can get a registration form by going to the BUFF website and clicking on the Link for the 2016 Banquet in the center of the Home Page.

Fishing season is not far away. Now is a good time to check out your gear, get it ready for spring and restock your supplies. Remember, your Ohio Fishing License will have to be renewed on March 1.

Tight Lines,

Serious Pollution Coming to the AuSable “Holy Waters” Time for Action!

Edward Jones jonesee@miamioh.edu

Organizations like the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) and Trout Unlimited (TU) along with their councils, chapters, and affiliated groups, have saved or restored many widely known fishing waters. As individuals, we have little chance against those who know nothing, or care nothing, about what their indiscriminant abuse does to waters and wildlife. Sometimes those activities are related to profits or political connections, sometimes ignorance. As an individual, it is nearly impossible to have enough clout to stop indiscriminant destruction of sporting waters. When well organized, however, the odds increase a lot, and it's now time to be a part of stopping something horrific.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has issued a permit for the operation of a flow through fish farm on the East Branch of the AuSable River. I would like to think that such a department would act responsibly, but in this case they haven't. The permit allows 300,000 pounds of fish per year to be bred, fed, and medicated in a crowded contained environment. That's a lot of fish poo, uneaten fish pellets, antibiotics, phosphorous, pesticides, and hormones flowing downstream and entering the main branch of the AuSable - right above the iconic "Holy Waters." The environmental impact is likely to be huge. Algae blooms thrive under such conditions - including varieties that destroy insect habitat, foul hooks and slime fly lines. A decrease in dissolved oxygen content will cause insect and fish populations to suffer. If a disaster occurs, the fish farm will not be responsible for cleanup or restoration. More extensive information is available at <http://www.ausabletrout.com/its-not-a-hatchery.html>

There is not enough room in a Buffer article to touch on the complex legal and scientific issues, but the University of Michigan and Michigan State University have conducted studies that predict serious consequences if the fish farm operates. A similar event happened at Big Spring Creek in Pennsylvania. Before the 1950's that creek had a huge population of brook trout. Can you even imagine creel limits of 50 per day? Then a flow through fish hatchery was established

below the headwater spring. Insects vital to the survival of the trout no longer had suitable substrate and habitat, and the Big Spring Creek strain of brook trout became extinct. Numerous other problems and unintended consequences emerged, and the hatchery was eventually shut down - but the damage was done. Big Spring Creek was eventually re-stocked with different strains of fish, but the wild Big Spring Brookie is gone forever, and the creek has never recovered as the premier trout stream it once was.

http://www.ausableanglers.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/83048_AAS-BWArticle-2sided-PROOF.pdf

What can be done to save the "Holy Waters?" There are already "boots on the ground" leading the way in Michigan. They need financial backing and popular support. That will require a few more big donors plus a large number of more modest donations from concerned fishers. The BUFF Board of Directors has voted a \$1000 donation to Anglers of the AuSable, a sister IFFF organization, which is spearheading the effort to stop, control, or monitor the fish farm project. The estimate is that \$150,000 beyond what they have already spent will be required. Much of these funds will be for publicity, legal and research expenses. The BUFF president has sent a letter of concern to the director of MDEQ. Fortunately, opposition to this fish farm operation is getting national exposure and support from fly fishing and environmental organizations. As individuals we can write letters emphasizing our opinions regarding a fish farm above revered trout fishing waters. We spend thousands up there every year as individuals, and the MDEQ needs to hear more about the large numbers of workers in the tourist industry who depend on Ohio fisher dollars. Many Michigan guides, fly shops, and outfitters support our fly show and fund raising efforts.

Donations may be sent to:

Fish Farm Fund
Anglers of the Au Sable
471 S Stephan Bridge Rd
Grayling, MI 49738.

Letters of concern may be sent to:

Keith Creagh, Director,
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality,
525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48909-7973

Carbon copies of the letter to MDEQ are also a good idea:

William Creal, Chief, Water Resources Division, MDEQ
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48909-7958

William Moritz, Director

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

Rex Schlaybaugh, Wildlife and Fishing Policy Committee Chair
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

<http://www.vanguardtu.org/index.php/paint-creek-opportunities-2>

http://www.masongriffithtu.org/uploads/Hatchery_Letter_Final_with_enclosures_5-2-14.pdf

As responsible individuals, in one of the most active and effective fly fishing organizations anywhere, we can help our counterparts in Michigan fight for the AuSable. Let's do it!

2016 Banquet

Todd McGarvey (tmcgarvey@cinci.rr.com)

Mark your Calendar! The Annual Buckeye United Fly Fishers Annual Cabin Fever Relief Banquet is on!

Saturday March 19th 2016

Mill Race Golf Club
1515 West Sharon Road
Cincinnati OH 45213
(513) 825-3770

Banquet Reservations	\$25.00
Raffle tickets	\$5.00
Grand Raffle tickets	\$10.00

6:00 Social Hour with Appetizers, Music and Cash Bar
7:30 Program Begins
10:00 Banquet Ends

The Banquet will mirror last year's event, however open seating. Please get your registration form to Jim and Cari Vota.

Hope to see you all there!

Otter Creek Trip – 2016

Randy Clark <rclark3056@msn.com>

It's the first trip of the year.

Otter Creek Trout Trip 2016 is now open for registration.

March 10 - 11 (Back-up Date March 17-18) this is a Thursday - Friday Trip.

Otter Creek is a heavily stocked trout stream near Louisville, KY. We will be staying in heated cabins in the State Recreation Area. Cost for Lodging will be divided by those attending estimated to be \$25.

This trip is perfect for new members and those new to Fly Fishing.

See complete details on equipment, driving directions, etc. on our BUFF web site under 2016 Trips.

Don't delay this trip fills up fast.

February Meeting

Meeting Date, Wed. Feb. 10, 2016

February Speaker

Dustan Harley -

Spey Fishing 101

Spey fishing isn't just a fad. Fads go in and out of style in fishing often. The reason they go out though is that fad techniques typically aren't effective. Spey fishing, for steelhead in particular, is not only effective, but the most effective technique to use during some parts of the year. Many anglers want to learn the technique, but are intimidated. Spey fishing can be confusing until you get a handle on the terms and techniques. This seminar will clear up the confusion and go over all the aspects of this great tool to add to your fishing arsenal. We will discuss gear selection, rigging, reading water, terminal tackle, fly selection, casting, and fly presentation. You will come away with a much greater knowledge and prepared to spey fish confidently for steelhead during any season.

Dustan Harley was born less than a mile from the Saint Joseph River and grew up fishing on the rivers of Indiana and Michigan. He founded Ripple Guide Service in 1999 and is



the only full-time fly fishing guide on the St. Joe system. He guides the rivers of Indiana, Michigan, and Montana for steelhead, salmon, trout, smallmouth bass, pike, and just about anything else that swims.

Dustan has also spoken to fly fishing clubs from Tennessee to California. When not on the river, he can be found fishing with his children or designing new flies for the fish he loves to fool.

Dinner Menu:

- ☐ Mixed Greens with Apples, Mozzarella, Candied Pecans, House Vinaigrette
- ☐ Chicken Ballantine - Baked chicken with spinach, mushrooms, tomatoes, topped with fresh basil cream sauce
- ☐ Meatloaf with house beef gravy
- ☐ Cheese tortellini with marinara
- ☐ Green beans with bacon and onion
- ☐ Sliced seasoned glazed carrots
- ☐ Rolls/Honey Butter

Dessert

- ☐ Fudge Iced Brownies



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The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc.

P. O. Box 42614

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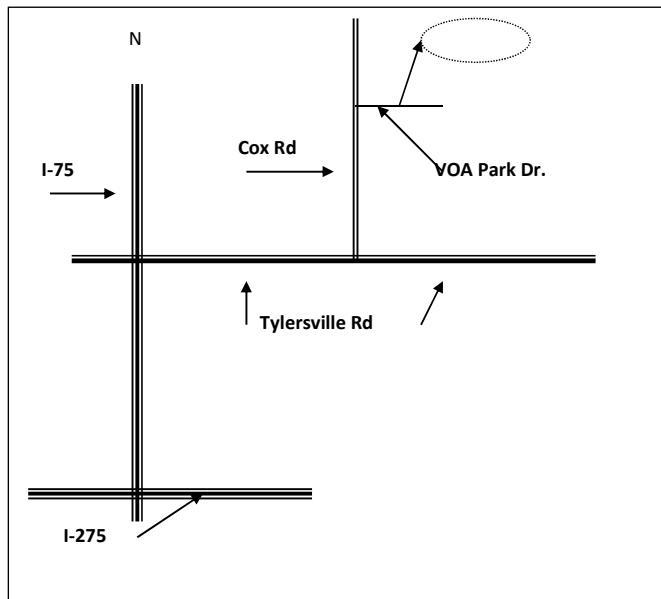
NOTICE: Dues are \$25 (Individual), \$30 (Family), with a onetime \$5 Initiation Fee for new members. New members will pay a prorated membership amount according to month of initial membership for the first year. Annual dues are due January 1. Refer to BUFF website for further information. B.U.F.F.,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

Mailing Address

Next Monthly Meeting – Wed. Jan 20, 2016

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 December through the Sunday evening (1/17) 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.