



The *BUFFER*

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

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

By the time most of you will read this the 2020 fly show will have come and gone. At this point I'm sure the fly show was a success and helped with renewing the club operating funds (the main goal of the show is public education relating to fly fishing). The Bob twins, and all of their worker bees, can take a well deserved rest. At least for a few weeks before planning for 2021 gets underway. To everyone who helped with the show I'd like to give my thanks. If you read this before the show, get on down there and attend.

The new year has begun and I've signed up for a couple of the club trips. Being retired, now allows me to do this without using vacation. These trips require members to be able to cover some ground and wade in order to fish. This leads me to the topic for this month's letter. During the past year, I've had many discussions with club members who have said they can't wade or find wading very difficult. After my back issue I have experienced the same thing. So, when my doctor said OK to hard work (or if I wanted – to surgically repair) recently, I started an intense workout to build back what I've lost in my core. I understand many of you might not be able to do too much for any number of reasons. I'm recommending that you do what you can to help yourself regardless of health or age. If not for wading in the stream, it could help at walking around ponds and lakes or fishing from a boat.

Our main fund raiser, the annual banquet is now fast approaching. March 11th, the normal March club meeting night is this year's date. Ticket sales are available on the BUFF website. The banquet committee has been hard at work with selecting the menu, soliciting raffle items and trips. New BOD members will be sworn in and annual awards such as Fly Fisher of the Year will be presented. By the way, voting for FFOTY will be during the February meeting. I really hope to see all of you there.

February's meeting speaker will be Mike Mehrle. He hosts a web site The Frugal Fly Rodder.com, 'Being smart with your money... without being cheap'. The site contains postings, videos and more on smallmouth and other fishing topics. His talk will be **"Fly Fishing– It's all about the fun"**. Mike chases small mouth all over the state of Ohio. I've watched his videos with Lou Uecker and found them very informative. To all you penny pinchers and those who aren't, come and hear what Mike has to say. Maybe we'll pick up some new tricks.

El Prez.

Jim Vota

BUFF 2020 Banquet

By Prudence Hunt (prudencehunt@yahoo.com)

The 2020 Buckeye United Fly Fishers Banquet is scheduled for March 11th, 2020 from 6 – 9 PM at the Ronald Reagan Lodge in Voice of America Park. The annual banquet will be in place of a regular membership meeting. 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 the club's major fundraiser, and the funds we raise allow us to support various activities. These include :

- “Project Healing Waters.” Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. (PHWFF) is a volunteer, non-profit organization which serves military personnel who have come home wounded or injured by aiding their physical and emotional recovery through fly fishing and fly tying activities. For over 10 years, BUFF has been a participating club with PHWFF, providing both volunteer support as well as financial support for this organization.
- We support a Casting for Recovery Retreat every year that provides fly fishing retreats tailored for women who have or have had breast cancer. CFR provides retreats at no cost.
- And among the many other activities we support is fishing with kids at Parky's Farm in Winton Woods. This is a summer-long activity.
- Provides funds to support charitable donations for activities and projects relevant to conservation, fly fishing, and other areas of interest to our club. An example discussed later in this issue of the BUFFER was a donation last year to ODNR which supported purchase of land along the Mad River to improve and enhance river access for anglers.

These are only a few of the activities that the club supports.

Each year the Banquet also serves as our opportunity to recognize members who in the past year made significant contributions to BUFF, as well as all who volunteered in supporting our 2019 activities. The Fly Fisher of the Year, President's Awards, Board of Directors Awards and recognition for achievements in Education and Conservation are presented at this event, and the banquet is the occasion where the board of directors for the current year are sworn in.



The planning team has been busy obtaining great items to be included in our raffles. These include fly fishing rods, reels, and other equipment, donated outings with fishing guides, home décor items, food and gift basket items, and many other gifts that will be enticing.



Tickets for the 2020 banquet tickets are \$35 per person, and must be purchased in advance. Grand prize raffle tickets are \$10 and general raffle tickets are \$5. Raffle tickets can be purchased in advance, and will be sold at the banquet as well. There will also be a silent raffle for items such as trips and events that can be bid on. You can register and purchase raffle tickets online on the BUFF website and provide credit card payment. Alternatively, you can also register by mail. You can print registration and mail it

to Cari Vota, together with a check. The mail-in form is also on the website. ***Just go the main page of the BUFF website, scroll down to the Banquet icon, and click to get access to registration information.***

Our meal this year includes:

- Appetizers:** Fresh Fruit,
Cheese & Vegetable Platter with
with crackers, hummus and
vegetable dip
BBQ Meatballs
- Main Courses:** Carved Top Round with
Horseradish Sauce;
Chicken Mushroom Marsala;
Field Greens Salad with Blue
Cheese (nuts and salad dressings
on the side);
Herb Tossed Roasted Red Skin
Potatoes;
Green Beans with Bacon and
Onion
Italian Vegetable Medley
- Desserts:** Crème Brulee Style NY Cheesecake
Chocolate Fudge Cake with
Caramel Sauce



Coffee, and iced and hot tea are included, and there will be a cash bar for beer, wine, soft drinks and mixed drinks.

We hope you will plan on attending this year's Banquet!

A Brief Look Back at the History of the Banquet

By Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com)

The banquet has been a long and ongoing event for BUFF. The club was organized in 1977, and started holding a banquet event in 1979. At that time, the banquet included an invited speaker, and the speaker at that first banquet was Lee Spurling, who's presentation topic was 'Fly Hatches on the Mad River'.

In these early days, the banquet was coupled with BUFF's participation in a fishing/sporting show, both on the same day. In the early 1980's BUFF had a booth at the Bob Hart Sports Show held in Cincinnati. By 1982, only 5 years after the club's founding, we were able to attract Lee and Joan Wulff to come to the Hart Show as invited presenters, and then participate as speakers at our evening banquet.



Through the 1980's, 1990's, and until 2003, the banquet and early iterations of the fly fishing show were held on the same day, with the show in the morning-afternoon and the banquet in the evening. At that time, other fly fishing luminaries who participated in the show, were also speakers at the banquet. These included, Lefty Kreh (1983), Gary Borger (1995, and this year's show headliner), Dr. Carl Richards (1999) and Bob Clouser (2000). Also, during this period, the banquet and show were held at a number of locations in Cincinnati. The two events were separated in 2003.

Recognizing club members with presentations at the banquets started in the mid-1980's with the Fly Fisher of the Year Award. This was first awarded in 1986 to Andy Stovall, a founding member of BUFF. Board of Directors Awards came into being in the early 1990's, and the President's Awards were first presented in 2003. All have become ongoing means of recognition of club members and participation. Starting last year, we added two additional awards, the Bob Goldsberry Conservation Award, and the Lou Haynes Education Award, both named for past club members who were instrumental in building BUFF's involvement in conservation and education efforts. Bryan Tudor and Dave Jones were the first two recipients of these respective awards.

I hope this brief summary was of interest and hope that you will participate in this year's banquet event. It is a fun evening and of immense value to the club.

February Meeting

The upcoming February meeting is Wednesday, February 12th. Our speaker this month is Mike Mehrle, who is known as the “Frugal Fly Rodder” through his website, YouTube channel and Facebook group. . He will be talking about smallmouth bass fishing in Ohio. Registration deadline is February 9th. Please remember to register whether you plan to eat dinner with us or will not have the meal.

Mike Mehrle, “Fly Fishing – It’s All About the Fun”

By Mike Rubush (tenkaraguy1@yahoo.com) & Jack Gormley (jgormley@fuse.net)

Mike Mehrle started fly fishing over 50 years ago. He is not an expert on the science of our art, with the exception of what should be the most important part of it, and that is having fun. Back in the late 1980’s, Mike tied professionally for Don Wittekind who was the owner of Dame Julianna in Grove City, Ohio.

Today Mike is known as the *Frugal Fly Rodder* through his website, YouTube Channel and Facebook group, and is currently working on opening The Frugal Fly Rodder fly shop in South-Central Ohio. He aspires to teach people that being frugal is not about being cheap, it is about spending our hard-earned money for what fits fly anglers use the best and sometimes that means buying quality products.

If you search the term ‘frugal fly rodder’ in Google or another search engine, you can connect to Mike’s YouTube page which has videos on different fly fishing topics. You can also find his website - www.thefrugalflyrodder.com.

Come learn how Mike finds the best places in Ohio to chase smallmouth bass. You won’t want to miss this one, if one of your New Years resolutions was to “fish more Ohio smallmouth in 2020.”



February Dinner Menu –

Caesar Salad
Bread Sticks
Chicken Parmesan
Beef Mostacoli
Basamati Rice
Sicilian Vegetables

Dessert – Tiramisu

Having a Goal for 2020

By Cari Vota (vota@zoomtown.com)

People who set goals achieve more with higher levels of satisfaction than those who don't. The alternative is to just "go with the flow" or perhaps, wait for someone else to set a goal that you can latch on to. Even that is a decision. A goal is a powerful commitment that will align your actions in a productive direction. Start NOW!

Set Your Goal(s)

- ***Try something new this year.***

What will it be? Maybe it is to try fishing for a new species. Find a new local river to fish. Try fishing at dusk or at daybreak. Plan a trip to fish out West, or maybe to Michigan or Northern Ohio

- ***Improve your skills.***

What is your weakest skill? Will it be working to improve your casting skills? Get better at nymphing? Learn to better read rivers and streams? Try tying streamers or bass bugs?

- ***Fish with old and new friends.***

Safety tells us we should always fish with someone. Who will it be this year? Did you meet someone new to the club at a recent meeting? Who do you miss the most from previous outings?

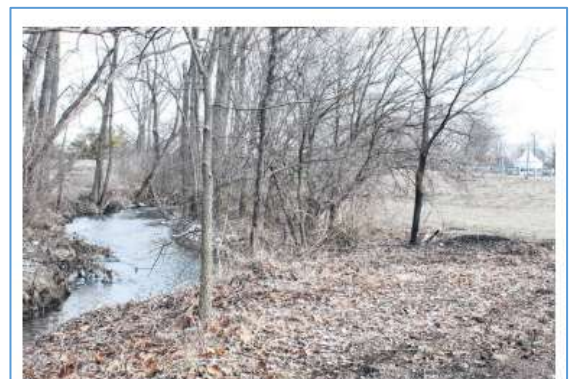
- ***Find a few more hours to fish.***

Plan a couple of trips this year. What would it take to get out once a month or once a week? Where would you go fishing to get out once a week?

Improved Fishing Access on the Mad River

By Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com)

Last year BUFF, along with other area fly fishing clubs, our local Trout Unlimited chapters, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, provided financial support to purchase a land parcel along the Mad River near Urbana for the purpose improving fishing access to the river. The acquisition of 1.2 acres of the former Tullis property was finalized in December 2019. This purchase now provides a total of 12 contiguous acres of public access to the Mad River. The access is at the intersection of Ohio Routes 29 and 296, just north of the town of Urbana. There is



Pictured is the popular fishing area where Kings Creek flows into the Mad River at state Routes 296 and 29. Access to this area of the river has been improved through acquisition of nearby property.

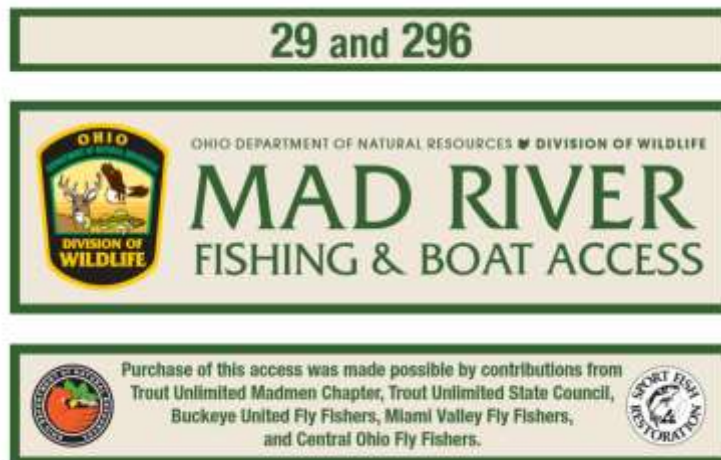
currently a parking lot and primitive steps providing anglers and those with small boats access to the river. The ONDR has plans to improve the river access, which includes improving the steps, adding a boat launch, and adding improved signage.

The purchase was made possible through Sport Fish Restoration Funds provided by the state, and donations from Trout Unlimited Madmen Chapter, Trout Unlimited Ohio State Council, Miami Valley Fly Fishes, Central Ohio Fly Fishers, and our club. The Sport Fish Restoration program is a partnership of federal and state government, industry, anglers and boaters. When anglers purchase rods, reels, fishing tackle, fish finders and motor-boat fuel, they pay an excise tax. The federal government collects these taxes, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers and disburses these funds to state fish and wildlife agencies based on license sales. These funds are used to acquire habitat, produce and stock fish, conduct research and surveys, provide aquatic education to youth, and secure and develop boat accesses.



The Mad River receives an annual stocking in early October of 12,000 brown trout, typically 6 – 8 inches long, from the Division of Wildlife fish hatcheries. The Mad River offers productive trout fishing From Springfield north to West Liberty. Since the Mad rarely freezes over, it offers a good angling opportunity from late winter through early spring.

About a week ago, we received a thank you note from the ODNR for our club’s support for this land acquisition. A copy of the new signage for this access, which acknowledges the contributions from BUFF and the other regional fly fishing clubs is shown below. A link to an article recently published in the Urbana newspaper is on the BUFF website in the Forum page.



2019 Ohio Fish Hatchery Highlights

By Tom Bachey (h2oguy@fuse.net) & Ken Mandel

The ODNR operates 6 hatcheries in the state which annually propagates millions of fish for stocking and maintaining fish populations in our waters and also for maintaining water quality. Primary species include Walleye, Saugeye, Channel Catfish, Hybrid Striped Bass, Muskellunge and Rainbow Trout.

Last year the hatchery program stocked almost 70 million fish into 220 public locations in the state. Twelve species of fish for sport use were stocked, with sizes ranging from fry ($\frac{1}{2}$ " – $\frac{3}{4}$ " fish) to adult fish. These included Blue and Channel Catfish, Bluegill, Brown, Rainbow and Steelhead Trout, Hybrid Striped and Largemouth Bass, Muskellunge, Red Ear Sunfish, Saugeye, Walleye and Yellow Perch. In addition, the ODNR raised and stocked what are referred to as 'forage fish'. For example, the ODNR raises Fathead Minnows as feed for muskie, catfish, and perch. Finally, they also raised and released fish, such as carp and goldfish, to provide vegetation control.

A huge effort which supports our fisheries!

How do I find information like this on the ODNR website?

Tom's article interested me, so I went and tracked this down:

1. Open the ODNR website by going to www.ohiodnr.gov
2. Placing your cursor on the Ohio DNR tab in the red tab bar (first tab on left) opens a drop down menu. Click on "Wildlife Home", which opens a new page in the website.
3. On the left side of this page there is a column of items, including "Hunting, Trapping and Shooting Sports", "Fishing", etc. Scroll down, and click on the "Stay Informed" tab in this column.
4. This opens another drop down menu. Scroll down this menu and click on "Online Articles and Features".
5. This opens a page titled "Your Wild Ohio News & Articles". One of the titles listed on the left side of this page is "Your Wild Ohio – Angler". Clicking on this opens a monthly list of articles. There is also an archive list, listed by month and year going back to April 2015, which can be perused as well.

Some thing maybe to browse through on a cold, grey day which is all too common in our Cincinnati winter!

In browsing through articles, I found an ODNR publication "Stream Fishes of Ohio Field Guide" It is an 80 page pamphlet which describes the fish we have in our rivers and streams, and has showing where they are to be found. It is a pdf file, so it can be viewed and downloaded from the ODNR website by pasting the following string into the search line of your browser:

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/ID%20guides/pub5127.pdf>

The ODNR may have a similar pamphlet for lake and pond fish, but I've not tried to look for that yet.

Ken Mandel

Fly of the Month – Elk Hair Caddis



A couple of weeks back, Jeff McElravy led our Project Healing Waters (PHW) group in tying this fly. Jeff's description of history and usefulness of this dry fly and his demonstration of his approach for tying this fly were both fantastic. I thought it would be worth recapturing it here for the entire club.

The elk hair caddis is a dry fly developed in the late 1950's by Al Troth, a Pennsylvania tyer who used it on his local waters. Though originally tied in olive green to imitate the Green Caddis hatch it is now tied in a variety of colors, with olive, tan, yellow, and orange being common body colors. The size ranges from a size 10- to size 20-hook. While a great trout fly, it an excellent fly for other fish we angle for in our local waters, including bass and bluegill. Most of our fishing with the PHW group is on local ponds, hence Jeff's rationale for tying this fly. It is also a great fly for steelhead, where larger sizes may be effective.

Materials –

- Hook:** Standard dry fly with down eye, sizes 10 – 20, such as the TMC 100. We used a size 12 hook for the class.
- Jeff recommended using a down eye to make it easier to tie on tippet under the small head formed from the ends of the elk hair wing.
- Thread:** 6-O or 14 Denier (UTC is good for this fly) with color to match body
- Rib:** Fine gold wire (or other color)
- Abdomen:** Natural fur or synthetic dubbing (olive, tan, yellow, & orange are common colors)
- Hackle:** Rooster hackle; no more than 1 ½ times the gap (smaller may be better)
- Wing:** Natural or dyed elk or deer hair

Tying Instructions –

1. Crush the barb, mount the hook in the vise and start the thread about 3-eye widths behind the eye and trim off the end. Tie in a piece of thin gold wire, which will be counter wrapped to secure the hackle, along the near side of the hook shank taking thread wraps to the back end of the barb. This will be the tie in point for the dubbing.
2. You can build a small thread base from the tie-in point forward about 1/3 of the hook shank to allow dubbing a thicker abdomen at the bend of the hook.
3. Dub the abdomen thicker than you would for a May Fly. Caddis flies have a bigger body. Taper the dubbing from thicker at the bend to smaller towards the eye. Stop where you started the thread.

Note: the body shape in the photo, taken from an Orvis video, is a bit different from what Jeff described and demonstrated.



4. With the shiny side of the hackle feather facing up, cut a few fibers from the base, and strip a few more from the side that will wrap against the hook shank. This facilitates wrapping the hackle. With the thread back at the point 2-3 eye-widths back along the shank, tie in the rooster hackle, with a few tight thread wraps.

Palmer the hackle back to the end of the dubbing, keeping an even spacing between turns of hackle. Wrap the feather over the top away to facilitate counter-wrapping the rib.



Jeff also explained that the orientation of the hackle beneath the hook shank can be either rearwards toward the bend, or forward toward the eye. It will alter how the fly behaves on the water surface, but both orientations are effective.

5. Hold the hackle straight up and bind it with two wraps of wire over the top. Counter wrap the wire in open wraps back to the start of the dubbing and bind off with a couple of thread wraps.

The main purpose of the wire is to give to the hackle. It also provides some flash and color to the fly body.

You can trim off the wire, and the end of the hackle feather.



An option is to also trim the hackle along the top of the hook shank, as this will be covered over by the elk hair wing formed in the following steps.

6. Select a clump of elk (or deer) hair from the hide. Cut it as close as you can to the hide skin. *You will learn how much hair you need after making a few of these flies in different sizes. One additional hint is that you will want less hair for a fly to be fished on flat water.*

Clean out the underfur with your fingers or a comb. Place in a hair stacker tips down. Tap a few times to align the tips.

7. Remove the stacked hair from the stacker with tips pointed toward the hook bend. Measure the hair to a length from the eye to the outside bend of the hook. Tie in the hair just in front of the dubbing using a very tight grip in the pinch method, keeping the hair on top of the hook shank. When tying the hair, form a loose wrap or two and then pull firmly up to make the hair flair out. Check position to keep the hair clump on top of the hook shank and add a couple of more tight wraps and check your results. If you are happy, keep going; if not, replace the hair and try again.

One suggestion that Jeff made in his demonstration was to first place a loop of thread around the hair clump while holding it above the hook shank. This binds the material together. He then positioned the hair on the hook shank and proceeded to do the pinch wraps to bind it down and flair the hair.

Lift the hair which extends over the hook eye and take a few thread wraps in front of the hair. Cut the hair over the eye at the same angle as the down eye of the hook. This will form the head of the fly. Make a couple or thread wraps through the head which will help to secure the hair.

8. Finish the fly with a whip finish over the initial hair wraps or do half hitches over the eye of the hook. You can add a drop of head cement if you desire.



March 18th - Movie Night

Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers and Orvis have teamed up to present the 50/50 on the Water Film Tour. The idea of this event is to attract more women to the sport. In addition to a series of fly fishing films, there are giveaways and raffle items. The event is from 6 – 9 PM on Wednesday March 18th. It will be at the Braxton Brewing Company in Covington, KY. Cost is \$15 per person and proceeds are a donation to the NKFF Women's Outreach Program.

Information on registration and ticket purchase is on the BUFF website.

Upcoming BUFF Activities

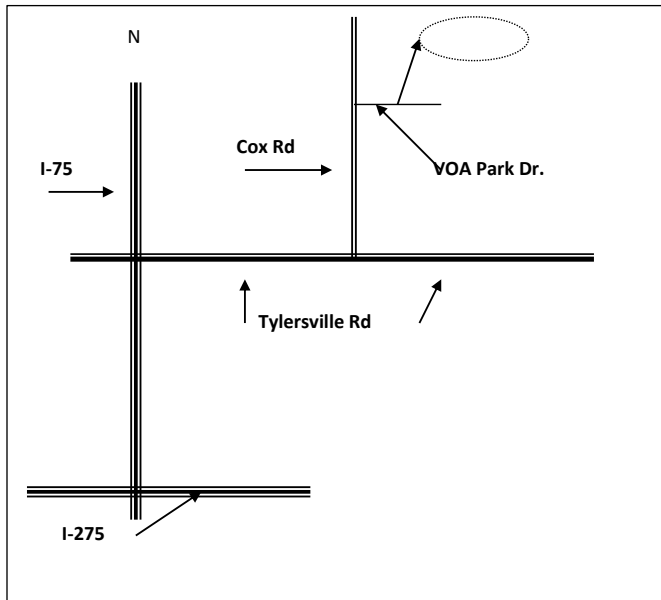
Please check the BUFF Website for availability and details, or
contact the trip or activity coordinator

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Intermediate Fly Tying Class Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Tuesdays, February 11 th , 18 th , 25 th , and March 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th & 24 th 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Jim Neckers 513-863-3844 jimneckers@gmail.com
Fly Fishing 101 Class Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Mondays, March 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , and 23 rd 7:00 – 9:00 PM	Tim Williamson 513-255-6986 willitk@yahoo.com
BUFF Banquet VOA Park	Wednesday, March 11th 6:00 – 9:00 PM	Registration information is on the BUFF website
Women's Gear Maintenance Workshop	Saturday, March 14 th	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Spring Steelhead Trip Cleveland Area	Thursday April 2 th – Sunday April 5 th (3 nights)	Hugh O'Donnell 513-200-7869 odonnellhj@gmail.com
Introduction to Fly Tying Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Tuesday, April 7 th <i>Time to be Announced</i>	Jim Neckers 513-863-3844 jimneckers@gmail.com
Casting Workshops with Jen Ripple VOA Park, West Chester, OH	Wednesday, April 8 th Prior to April BUFF Meeting	<i>Sign up will be on website</i>
Bass Fishing on Whitewater River East Fork Whitewater River, IN	Daytrips - Tuesday April 21 st Thursday, April 23 rd Saturday, April 25 Monday, April 27 th Saturday, May 2 nd	<i>See website for leaders and sign-up</i>
Women's Spring Trip Clear Fork River Gorge Mohican State Park, OH	Thursday, April 23 rd – Sunday, April 26 th	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com

February Meeting – Wednesday, February 12th, 2020

6:00 – 9:00 PM at VOA Park – watch website for sign-up

Register on line at WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM. Please register whether you plan to eat dinner with us (\$15/person) or not.



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.