

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OHVolume 45, Issue 2Web site: http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.comFebruary 1, 2021

Notes from the President

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

There is a need to be inventive at this point in the pandemic. We are all suffering from cabin fever. An extreme case too, if you are like me and haven't been going out too much. Yes, it's cold outside. I'm getting older and hate to admit that I don't enjoy the cold the way I used to. You know what I mean, eh? This has led to an apathy of sorts. It's not just in our day to day lives but in how we perceive things. Take for instance the club.

You ask what have I gotten from the club lately? This leads to what is the relevance of a club today. Clubs, in good times are a way for like-minded people to meet in a social environment to exchange news and ideas. Personal contact is paramount. But, in an environment like we are currently experiencing, it is not proper. A large portion of our membership is older. When the club began there wasn't an internet or mass communication like today. To meet, learn and communicate you needed personal contact. The world has changed. Our interconnectedness appears to have moved us apart. Witness global political change.

The BOD has been kicking around how to get younger people involved in the club. I know many individuals who fly fish in the area who are younger but who have no interest in a club environment. They can get what they need online. The clubs are made up of older people with whom they feel they have nothing in common. They simply don't join clubs. For the club to survive we will have to learn how to be pertinent in today's world. We will have to evolve.

The pandemic is forcing clubs, businesses, services and more to learn how to use new technology. It's been slow. I'm just now seeing a lot of advertisements for online meetings, promotions, learning from other organizations. Finally, we're seeing acceptance of the technology. It's being forced on us, but we need to do this to survive. BUFF has been running our monthly meetings online and holding additional online content since the summer. It's not enough. However, until we come up to speed (learn) it will have to do.

We are currently working out plans for 2021. We have to be flexible as everything around us changes daily with the pandemic. What can we do virtually and how to do it? No matter how things turn out BUFF will be better for it.

I expect us to do more promotion this year. Try to expand our presence to a broader audience. Also, we need to make sure we support our current membership. We have several online presentations coming. A schedule should be out soon. The BOD needs to hear from the membership. What they

would like. Every time I think we could meet in person soon reality hits and sets things back a little longer.

First up for presentations will be talks by Rick Hafele on February 6 (check the details in this BUFFER and on the website). There are other additional presentations on water, musky fishing, and the hop. March will see the first instalment in the fly tying presentations. We are setting up online monthly meeting presentations though mid-year at present. The February meeting will feature Josh Greenberg from Gates Lodge in MI. Rick Hafele will do an additional talk in March. Jack is currently scheduling Bob Clouser and Skipp Morris for monthly meetings before July.

Elections for new officers will be held at the February meeting. This only requires ratification by a majority of the members present. Hugh O'Donnell will be the new president. It's time for a change. New ideas. I wish him good luck. It won't be easy.

I won't take more of your time. The message I will leave you with is that the club can't function without you, the members. We need to know what you think and what you want. Good or bad.

So far, BUFF members have been lucky with the virus from what I've heard, with very few members contacting COVID. Let's try and keep it that way. I hope to see you soon.

Jim Vota, El Prez

2021 Virtual Fly Show Presentations - Saturday February 6th

As our members know, due to the COVID pandemic, the show team and club officers made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 Fly Fishing Show, which had been scheduled for February 6th. Our headliner for the planned show was Rick Hafele. Rick has been a fly fisher for over 50 years. He has an MS in aquatic entomology and had has shared this knowledge with fellow anglers to understand the fish we seek, and the insects that they eat.

Rick is also an accomplished author. His first book, coauthored with Dave Hughes and published in 1981 was "The Complete Book of Western Hatches". Since then, Rick has



authored or co-authored several other books, including "Western Mayfly Hatches", "An Angler's Guide to Aquatic Insects and Their Imitations", "Nymph Fishing Rivers and Streams", and more. Rick has a number of instructional videos as well including "Anatomy of a Trout Stream which was produced by Scientific Anglers in 1983, and more recently, "Fly Fishing Large Western Rivers", "Nymph Fishing Basics", "Advanced Nymph Fishing", and "Advanced Tactics for Emergers and Dries". Rick is a highly sought-after presenter at shows and club meetings. If that is not enough, he is an accomplished musician and plays in a rock and blues band, the Bridge City Blues Band. You can find out a lot more about Rick on his website - <u>https://www.rickhafele.com/</u>

While we are not going to have a formal show, BUFF has arranged for two presentations by Rick that will take place on the show date – Saturday, February 6th. In addition, Jeff McElravy will do a tying demonstration. Here is the schedule: Bob Miller will be our host for this event.

Saturday, February 6th -

- Noon 1 PM Rick Hafele will present "Anatomy of a Trout Stream"
- 1:00 PM 1:30 PM Break
- 1:30 PM 2:30 PM Fly Tying Demo by Jeff McElravy "Parachute Dry Flies"
- 2:30 PM 3:00 PM Break
- 3PM 4PM Rick Hafele, "Seasonal Hatches & Patterns"

Instructions and the link to join these Zoom presentations will be on the BUFF Website.

Please plan to take some time on the 6th and join these sessions!



Skip Morris (left), Rick Hafele (middle) and Dave Hughes (right)

BUFF January Meeting – Wednesday, February 10th, – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM –

February Speaker – Josh Greenberg, Gates Au Sable Lodge, Grayling, MI. "High and Low Water Techniques on the Au Sable River (& Beyond)"

Josh Greenberg is a sometime author and full-time owner of Gates Lodge on the Au Sable River in northern Michigan. He's got two fishing sons, and one fishing wife, and their family roots are here in southwestern Ohio.



- Meeting time is from 7 PM about 8:30 PM. A brief business meeting will begin at 7 PM, and the presentation around 7:15.
- Registration deadline is February 9th.
- To attend, you must register on-line, and provide your e-mail address. Registrants will receive an e-mail with instructions on joining the Zoom session. If you are not registered, you will not be able to join in.
- Registrants will be entered into our monthly raffle, with the winner announced at the meeting.

Membership Renewal Reminder

This is a follow-up reminder that membership renewal is due for 2021. You can renew on-line on the BUFF website. Membership renewal is in the "Member Services" page on the website. You need to login with your e-mail address and can pay by credit card through the Pay Pal link. Alternatively, you can simply mail a check; the mailing address is on the website. **Membership dues need to be paid by March** 1st.

Membership dues provide funds and support the club. 2021 dues will remain the same, \$25 for single memberships, and \$30 for family memberships. While 2020 has been a difficult and challenging year due to COVID-19, and we have not been having in-person meetings, or holding group events, the club

has maintained a number of activities, including providing financial support to fly fishing businesses, charitable contributions, and having invited speakers present through virtual meetings conducted as Zoom conferences.

Plans are in place to do virtual courses for Fly Fishing 101 and fly tying. The fly casting instructors are also discussing ways to safely and appropriately conduct outdoor casting classes in the spring.

Some New Club Members!

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

In January, we had 3 new members join BUFF -

Scott McGregor

Christopher (Chris) Sparks

Gregory Kuntz

We welcome you to the club. Unfortunately, with the lack of in-person meetings, doing an introduction to the club, which we typically do at our meetings, is on hold for the present. Check out information on the website and in the BUFFER. Also, you can use the Forum page in the website to reach out to club members for information, or even if you are just looking for someone to maybe get out with and go fishing!

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Program Leader Needed

Brent Miller who led our chapter of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF), our program which works with veterans, for over 10 years, announced his retirement from PHWFF this past November.

Since then, BUFF has been, and is still seeking, an individual to take on leadership of our PHWFF program. Taking on leadership of the program does not mean doing it on your own. We have many volunteers who lead and participate in various activities - casting and fishing skills, fly tying, and getting out to support our veterans in fishing events. Leadership training is available from the national organization, and of course Brent will help to transition leadership of our program.

Currently, due to the COVID pandemic, all in-person activities of PHWFF are on hold. In addition, in mid-January we received notification that our program has been placed into "Inactive Status" due to the lack of a program leader. Without a program leader we cannot meet, participate in outings, or have access to budget monies.

Clearly, as the COVID vaccines become more widely distributed, it is likely we will be able to restart activities at some point in 2021. However, without a leader, our program will remain inactive, and could eventually be closed.

While there are dedicated volunteers, these folks are involved with many other BUFF activities, and so are not able to take on the program leader role. We urge that If you are possibly interested, to please reach out to Jim Vota (vota@zoomtown.com). He'll arrange to set up a discussion with Brent Miller so you can fully understand the role and requirements of the program leader.

Water Chemistry 101 – Presentation on Thursday, February 25th

On February 25th, Tom Bachey, BUFF's Public Education Director, will present a discussion he is calling "Water Chemistry 101". Tom is a chemist and has had a long career working on aspects of water treatment. He will discuss what is water, how does it work, what are the more important chemical and physical properties that are important to fish, or, everything you wanted to know about water and were afraid to ask.

This will be a Zoom meeting. It is scheduled to start at 7 PM on Thursday, February 25th. A link to join the meeting will be put on the BUFF Website.



August Wyoming Fishing Trip – Slots Still Open for BUFF Members

At the December Zoom meeting, Glen Penquite, the Fishing Director of the Camp Buffalo Bill Anglers Base Camp, talked about fishing at Camp Buffalo Bill, which is located just east of Yellowstone National Park. BUFF has an invitation to participate in this program during the first week of August (August $1^{st} - 7^{th}$). We have openings for 20 BUFF members, and these slots are currently limited to BUFF members. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Cost is \$750 per angler, which includes lodging and all meals. Information on the camp, lodging, and



travel can be found on their website - <u>http://www.campbuffalobill.com/non-bsa-programs/yellowstone-anglers-basecamp/</u> There is also a more detailed write up in last month's BUFFER (January BUFFER).

To register, you need to contact the camp directly by calling the Greater Wyoming Boy Scout Council Office at (307) 234-7329. Office hours are 8 AM – 4 PM Mountain Standard Time (two hours earlier than us). Identify yourself as a member of BUFF. They will register you and get your credit card information. **IMPORTANT** - you <u>cannot</u> sign-up for the August $1^{st} - 7^{th}$ week through the Camp Buffalo Bill Anglers Base Camp website. The website only allows registration for "open" slots. The slots we have allotted for the first week of August are closed, except to BUFF members.

At least 13 BUFF members have so far signed up, so we have several slots still available. A list of those who have made reservations is on the Forum Page of our website.

While this trip is organized by Camp Buffalo Bill Anglers Base Camp, and is not a BUFF-sponsored trip, Jack Gormley has agreed to act as coordinator for BUFF participants. Once you register, Jack has asked that you contact him Jack to let him know you are participating. If you have questions, Jack can help with those as well. His E-mail is jgormley@fuse.net, and his mobile # is 513-678-4518.



View of the Base Camp on the Shoshone River

A Great Fly-Casting Resource – For New & Experienced Casters

By Jim Vota

For many of you, if I asked if you have heard of Sexyloops, you would probably give me a blank stare, or more likely, think I've gone daft. The name alone might be a little off-putting to some. But, the name is descriptive of what the individuals who contribute to the Sexyloops website think of fly casting. It is one of the places where many of the better known fly casters gather online to discuss all things casting. There is another side to the site, as the founder/proprietor, Paul Arden has produced a series of fly rods and other products that are available for sale there.

However, what I want to share with you is a great resource that is on this site, and which can help you to improve your casting skills. This is the *"Fly Casting Video Masterclass"*.

Paul Arden has put together over 60 instructional videos describing many casts, and methods of learning them. He begins by discussing the principles of casting, and moves to some very advanced types. Paul is a certified casting instructor and a competition caster.

To access, open the website: <u>https://www.sexyloops.com/</u>. The most direct way to access The Masterclass is to click on the video option at the top right of the homepage screen (circled in red below). This takes you directly to the masterclass. Another way is to click on the "Board" option at the top of the screen (circled in blue). This opens a forums page, listing many topics of discussion. The Masterclass is among them.



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Once in the site you will find much to keep you occupied beside the casting masterclass. The board is the site's forum for casting geeks and a place to ask for help. Many topics and lots of debate. Back to the main point. Take a few minutes (hours) to explore the casting class. It will help you to become a better caster.

Article on Yellowstone

Tom Bachey generously shared an article published in a recent Smithsonian Magazine about Yellowstone National Park. It is not about fishing, but rather about archeological excavations ongoing in the park which are identifying ancient cultures which used the area as sources of materials for making arrow heads and spear points and for hunting/gathering activities. It is interesting and has fantastic photos of Yellowstone. For those planning to participate in the August trip, or those possibly interested, it is an article worth looking at. The links is – <u>https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/lost-history-</u> yellowstone-180976518/?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email

Winter Fishing

"Hatch", an on-line flyfishing magazine (<u>www.hatchmag.com</u>) has a nice article on winter fishing, "Winter Fly Fishing 101" that was written by Ben Kryzinski. Here are some excerpts – The full article is available at – <u>https://www.hatchmag.com/articles/winter-fly-fishing-101/7715187</u>.



The reason many anglers either avoid winter fly fishing entirely or struggle when they choose to tangle with trout during the colder months has as much to do with perception as it does with reality. Its frigid outside. Maybe there's snow on the ground. The water is cold. Odds are fishing is going to be slow. Right?

Fortunately, that's not the whole story.

Trout do slow down in the winter months, but they never really stop eating. And it's also true that a trout's metabolism slows as water temperature drops, reducing the amount of calories a trout needs to take in to survive. But survive they must, and as a result, trout eat all winter long. How much and how often is largely dependent on where and when you find them.

THE WATER -

The truth is that the weather above the water is often less important than the water itself. If you're fishing a river or stream that might be influenced by spring water or a river that benefits from bottom-release dam flows (a tailwater), your prospects might be quite favorable, even in really cold weather. Tailwaters are extremely productive in winter. Water released from dams is cold, but not frigid — usually above 40 degrees depending on the depth of the reservoir. This is ideal for opportunistic trout that not only get the benefit of water that can be much warmer than the air above the surface, but from food sources that can be prolific in tailwater rivers even during the dead of winter. Think scuds and mysis shrimp, stoneflies, caddis and, of course, midges. Many great trout rivers across the country are in prime shape during the winter months because much of their flows come from spring upwelling. Springwater flows range in temperature, but some are a perfectly balmy 50 degrees and, even if it's 12 degrees outside, trout are enjoying almost ideal conditions beneath the surface.

HATCHES –

Bugs hatching in the winter time? Yes. Absolutely. There are prolific insect hatches even on the coldest trout streams. Granted, you're not likely to see sizable bugs, but dry-fly fishing to trout rising to midges can be truly exhilarating when winter's quiet cloaks the river. Of course, midges are tiny. A size 24 is probably about the best you can hope for. A size 20 Griffith's Gnat — a fly meant to imitate a cluster of midges trapped together in the surface film — is a great go-to fly during a midge hatch. On warmer days, even in the depths of winter, *baetis* mayflies will hatch. These prolific fall and spring bugs will hatch all winter long when temperatures aren't too cold. On cloudy days where the mercury might climb above freezing, a size 20 Blue-winged Olive is often my fly of choice.

LOW and SLOW –

Honestly, though, winter fishing is largely a subsurface endeavor. It's a great time to put your Euronymphing skills to work while high-sticking a double-nymph rig through likely tailouts or to cast tight against the bank while drifting a couple of nymphs under an indicator. Just like any time of the year, during winter time trout earn most of their meals by waiting for food to come to them, so nymphing can be very productive, depending on the waters you choose to fish.

THE FLIES -

The article discusses in detail the following flies as best for winter fishing, and how to fish them.

- Griffith's Gnats
- Prince Nymphs
- Girdle Bugs
- Perdigon Nymphs
- Copper JohnsWooly Buggers
- ohs Wo

REMEMBER, IT'S COLD OUT THERE SO TAKE PROPER PRECAUTIONS -

If you're not safe while fishing in really cold conditions, you're inviting disaster. Hypothermia sneaks up on you, and by the time you realize you're in trouble, it might be too late. Here are some of the precautions discussed in the article -

- Layer clothing. The layer against your skin should be non- -cotton. Consider old-school neoprene waders, doubling up on wool socks, and make sure you've got a fleece layer between your waders and your legs.
- Gloves are a good idea, but if you get them wet, it's a recipe for disaster. Don't frown upon battery-powered hand warmers or packet warmers that activate once they're opened (I frequently put a pair in between two wool socks on my feet, too).
- Wear a face-gaiter or something to ward off the worst of the chill and help prevent wind-burn.
- Most of body heat escapes from your head, so ditch the ballcap and go with a fleece beanie
- A waterproof puffy jacket or a heavy-duty rain jacket atop several layers is a good idea, too.
- Drink water to stay hydrated. Leave the boozy concoctions at home.

Three Books to Help Beat the COVID Blues

By Jim Vota

Having a lot of free time lately has led me back to reading. Most would agree that helping to stimulate the mind is a good thing. In this case it helps promote my obsession with tying and fishing. While browsing through tying materials online I came across several books on fly tying and fishing that piqued my interest. Of course, Amazon had them with a healthy discount and free shipping. They must have had a lot of books left over from Christmas!

I'm going to provide a brief description of three books I recently purchased. When I say brief, I mean it. This is not a book review but a few quick words to enlighten you concerning their value to you as fly fishers. All are written by very well-known fly fishers on subjects near and dear to them, so the content couldn't be bad? At least that's what I thought when I ordered them, and I was not disappointed.

<u>"Game Changer"</u> by Blaine Chocklett is a great tutorial of how to tie his signature game changer flies and how he fishes them. The book covers almost all the various versions of these flies with detailed photo illustrations, and descriptions of how to tie them. It is very enlightening. Anyone who has tried to use body tubing when tying flies, only to give up in frustration, will appreciate the instruction here. This is well worth the expenditure. These flies work for all game fish species.



For those of you who like tying spun deer hair flies, and those who wish they could, Pat Cohen's "<u>Super</u> <u>Bass Flies</u>" is a marvelous entry into the subject. Almost 400 tight packed pages provides insight in how to tie these flies. Pat's book provides great descriptions and loads of illustrations into his methodology of tying these flies. Descriptions of how to fish the flies are provided as well. He also includes some flies (recipes & how to fish) from other well-known tiers. As I already stated, the text is tightly packed, and it can be a bit overwhelming that way. Still, well worth the purchase.

The third book got my attention by its title alone. "<u>Matching Baitfish</u>". OK, the geek in me said "cool". I'm always looking for information on baitfish patterns and how to imitate them. After opening the book, I was initially a little disappointed as it was not so much about the mechanics but more of the philosophy of why, when and where. Needless to say, my initial disappointment didn't last long. Kevin Feenstra is a guide in Michigan and he really likes to fish for steelhead. This is a great book on fishing Great Lakes steelhead and lake run brown trout. Instead of the flashy, gawdy, typical steelhead flies that we've all seen, Kevin discusses fishing steelhead across the seasons, how they behave, and the flies to use and how to present them. I haven't gotten too far into it yet, but this book looks like it is packed with information that many of us would find interesting. It is based on fishing naturals as an alternative to flashy flies at appropriate times.





Do You Own a Kayak or Canoe? You Have to Register it For Use on Ohio Waters

By Cari Vota

All kayaks, canoes, or any other paddle/hand powered boats which will utilize Ohio waters are required to be registered with the state.

Many BUFF members have kayaks. Proof of ownership is required to register your kayak. Upon registration, you will receive a state-issued "Alternative Registration Sticker". The sticker must be displayed on the vessel, and a paper copy of the registration must be with you whenever paddling Ohio waters.





If you own a stand-up paddle board which you use for fishing, or belly boats (or float tubes), they are exempt from the registration laws.

If you plan to attach any type of motor, or even a sail to your craft, you will then need to register it as a Traditional Registration. The Alternative Registration is invalid if you attach a motor or sail (even if it's temporary).

Your registration is valid for three years and expires on **March 1st**. You can renew your registration online.

Fly Tying Materials on the Cheap

Our friends at Midcurrent.com posted a fun and interesting video from Savage Primer for those of us who are tyers. The video discusses various materials that are readily available, and at reasonable cost, from the big box craft stores. We are talking about shops like Michaels, Hobby Lobby and Joann Fabrics – either in the shop or online.

Some of the materials discussed in the video are yarns, which can be used to make dubbing (Midcurrent has a separate video on that) or as is to form streamer bodies (use like chenille). The presenter also has a storage box, which he said costs about \$3 and includes plastic 'spindles' which can be used to hold yarns, much like the carboard backing that comes with chenilles, and stored in the box. It looked like a nice storage option for yarns, chenilles, etc. There is also a material called 'wool roving'. It is spun wool, comes in color collections, and can be used as dubbing.

Other materials that we are likely familiar with were craft furs, feathers, and beads. It is true that the feathers are not the 'quality' what is sold as fly tying feathers, but one can find good quality materials at inexpensive cost that can be applied to a range of fly tying.

If this tweaks your interest, you can check ou the video at: <u>https://midcurrent.com/videos/fly-tying-materials-from-craft-stores/</u>

FFI Newsletters

By Ken Mandel

FFI posts newsletters on casting and tying. These can be read on the FFI website and downloaded. The most recent casting newsletter is "The Loop". The most Fall 2020 issue of this publication has an interview with Susan Thrasher from Tennessee who has written a new book on casting techniques, "Thrasher's Fly Fishing Guide". Susan has been a speaker and done casting workshops at past BUFF club

meetings, and is an instructor at Joan Wullf's School. The book was well received and reviewed and includes a long interview with her. There are also articles which discuss a tool one can make to help practice roll casting and factors in one's cast motion which can lead to forming tailing loops.

The most current website-posted issue of the FFI fly tying newsletter, "Tying Times" has instruction and patterns for a few flies. One is "The Pink Lady", a huge salt water fly. Maybe Jim Vota would be interested in trying this on muskie! Another is a more common sized, size 8 – 14 hook, dry fly, the Goddard Caddis, which is presented as a good instructive tool for working on spinning deer hair. Finally, there is an instructive article on how water affects sunlight colors, and how the colors on a fly may appear in the water. It is a discussion of what colors in the sunlight spectrum are absorbed and reflected by different colored materials and the impact of diffraction in the water.

Some Photos from Past Fly Shows

Since we cannot have our regular fly show this year, a few photos from past shows may be enjoyable...

























