



# The **BUFFER**

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

Volume 46, Issue 2

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

February 1, 2022

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## The President's Fly Box

Here we are again, facing the effects of Covid. Just as we thought things were getting better, the holidays come and COVID jumps to extreme levels. As you know, with great angst, the Fly Show Team reached a milestone decision to shut down this year's show. The Board was strongly behind this decision. We hope in the next couple of weeks that the COVID metrics will drop to acceptable levels for in-person activities. We all want to get back to a normal life.

On the positive side, the 31-year Bengals absence from a playoff win comes to an end. Cincinnati is in the super bowl! It shows how one or two changes can be the catalyst for outstanding performance. Your fly fishing may need one or two changes too for super bowl performance on the stream. Consider one of BUFF's educational opportunities this year. I also recommend tying some Bengal flies as they are sure to win on-stream this year as well. The orange threaded Royal Wulff is being renamed to the Royal Bengal fly for this year. Any fly that is **orange** with black streaks qualifies as a 'Who Fly'. Please send pictures to me and I will share at the membership meetings.

Our weather like the Bengals has changed this year. It seems like a Michigan winter is visiting Cincinnati this season. BUFF is not waiting for ice-out. We have a long menu of activities lined-up for this year. There is emphasis on local fishing, education, conservation, and travel trips. We have a full lineup of speakers for our monthly meetings. BUFF is planning on an exciting year ahead.

Our next big in-person event is the Annual Banquet. It will be held Wednesday, 3/9/22, in lieu of our regular membership meeting. The Banquet Committee is lining up a great dinner and exciting auctions for members. Please plan on attending. If you have auction items (Bengal football or Who Flies) then please contact our Banquet committee (Bob Cregge and Prudence Hunt).

Thinking of spring fishing? Do you have a favorite place to fish? Is there someplace that you always wanted to fish? If so, please consider leading or co-leading a trip. This is a great way to meet other members, learn from others, teach others, and enjoy the outdoors. BUFF is only as good as its members. We are a volunteer organization. Thanks, stay safe, and stay warm till spring fishing.

Hugh O'Donnell.



**This Who Dey Fly is  
guaranteed to catch a Big  
One!**

**(Tyer unknown)**

## **BUFF January Meeting – Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

Our February meeting will be a virtual Zoom only meeting due to the ongoing spike in COVID incidence. The Zoom connection will be available at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7 PM. The Zoom Link is on the BUFF website

### **February Speaker – Jeff McElravy - “What is FFI, and How Does It Relate to BUFF?”**

Jeff should need little if any introduction to BUFF members. Jeff is a past-President of BUFF, having served that role from 2011 - 2013, and is the current President of the Ohio Council of Fly Fishers International (FFI). He received the club's Fly Fisher of the Year recognition in 2013, and in 2016 was elected to receive BUFF's life-time membership award. One of Jeff's most outstanding gifts is his true enjoyment of teaching others. Jeff is part of the club's "Casting Friends" group which meets weekly year-round (weather permitting) and works with all of us to improve our casting. He is a regular participant on the club's trips to Sunnybrook Trout Club, which he refers to it as his 'school'. On club trips he will take the most novice angler under wing, and work with that person on their skills. It is true enjoyment for both the teacher and the tutee.

Please plan to join us to learn more about FFI and our club's association with this organization.



## New Club Members!

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added 3 new members –

**Phillip Huff**, Loveland, OH

**David Valentine**, Terrace Park, OH

**David Brounley**, Cincinnati, OH

Welcome to the club, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon! Also, check out activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some! Finally, you can use the Forum page in the BUFF website to reach out to club members for information, or even if you are just looking for someone to get out with and go fishing!

## 2022 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show –

As everyone in the club is probably aware by now, we unfortunately have cancelled the 2022 show. E-mail messages sent to all club members have covered the issues and rationale for this difficult decision.

Presenters and exhibitors have been notified, and fees paid for exhibitor booths have been refunded. Those who signed up for the fly tying classes on the Friday before the show have also received refunds.

The team will discuss and share a decision on the two raffle items – the Jerry Snider Bamboo Rod, and the Orvis 3-wt nymph rod and reel set up. We have several options, including holding these for the 2023 show. Some raffle tickets were sold to club members at recent monthly meetings, and those purchasers will be made aware of their options once a decision has been made regarding these items.

## 2022 Banquet Update

The BUFF banquet, scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at The Oasis Conference Center in Loveland, is fast approaching. The BUFF banquet is the club's major fundraising event. The banquet planning team is still seeking donations for raffles and auctions. Types of items for donation include: fly fishing gear, gift certificates for dining, trips or lodging, home decoration items, jewelry, artwork, wine or liquor, cash, and other miscellaneous items. If you can donate items for the banquet, please contact Bob Cregge or Prudence Hunt, the Banquet Committee Co-Chairs, to coordinate a time and place to meet. Their contact information is:

Bob Cregge - [bcregg13@gmail.com](mailto:bcregg13@gmail.com)

Prudence Hunt - [prudencehunt@yahoo.com](mailto:prudencehunt@yahoo.com)



## Banquet Registration is Open!

The easiest way to register is to do so directly on the BUFF website. You must pre-register to attend, so we can provide the caterer with the number of attendees and meals. There is also an option to print a paper registration form from the website, fill it in, and mail it to Cari Vota (address is on the form) with your payment. Registration is \$40 per person and includes dinner. This year, dinner will be a served meal, rather than a buffet. You need to indicate your choice of entrée, which is chicken roulade or baked salmon at the time of registration. In addition, you can purchase raffle tickets at \$5 each and tickets for the Grand Raffle at \$10 each when you register. Raffle tickets will also be available at the banquet.

**Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is needed to give the caterer at Oasis adequate notice to prepare the selected meals.**

*The Banquet is a great time to get together, enjoy socializing, and have fun bidding on various prizes. There will be chances to win trips and prizes via raffles and a silent auction. In addition, the Banquet provides the occasion where we recognize those members who volunteered their time and talents during the prior year. We hope you plan to attend.*

## Open Board Positions & Opportunities

By Ken Mandel

We still have the following open positions on the BUFF Board of Directors.

- Meetings & Speakers Co-Chair. This person will work with Dolph Greenberg, to contact and arrange for speakers at our monthly meetings.
- Director for Library & Fixed Assets. Mike Redmond, who is currently the club's librarian has indicated his decision to step down. This board position has responsibility for maintaining the club library and making it available to members at BUFF meetings.

- Finally, Don Kail is seeking a person to take on part of his communications responsibilities. This will be a new Board Position with responsibility to manage sharing of club communications and information through electronic communications, primarily website postings, and club e-mail distributions. This position will help Don with his workload.

If you have interest in any of these opportunities to serve the club, reach out to Dolph Greenberg (513-255-5062, [greenbam@miamioh.edu](mailto:greenbam@miamioh.edu)), Mike Redmond (937-890-2900, [redmond.michael.l@gmail.com](mailto:redmond.michael.l@gmail.com)), or Don Kail (513-218-1233, [drkail@yahoo.com](mailto:drkail@yahoo.com)). They can provide you with more detail about what is involved for the specific positions.

***There is another opportunity for a volunteer to support club activities as well*** - Cari Vota has been the program leader for BUFF's 'After-Work' evening wade fishing activities. From spring through fall, she has organized and led two monthly evening outings for local wade fishing. One is a women's outing, and the other is open to all BUFF members. Cari is seeking a person to take over scheduling and leading the latter after-work event. It is a great way to get involved, and to share and learn more about where to fish on our local waters. If interested, please reach out to Cari (513-476-7112, [vota@zoomtown.com](mailto:vota@zoomtown.com)). She can give you details.

Please give consideration to taking on one of these opportunities.

## Best Practice for Catch and Release

By Ken Mandel

This month's "Flyfisher", the FFI magazine, has a short and interesting article on safe practice for catch and release. I know most, fly fishers are catch and release anglers, and we try to use good technique so we do not overly stress and harm the fish we catch. We use barbless hooks, use nets to bring in fish, and try to keep them in the water in a net until they regain strength and can move safely back in the water.



The article, "The Catch With Catch and Release" is written by Sascha Clark Danylchuk, the Executive Director of "Keep Fish Wet", an organization that explores educates and promotes best practices for catch and release fishing ([www.keepfishwet.org](http://www.keepfishwet.org)). The article discusses 3 principles we should practice with catch and release fishing –

1. **Minimize air exposure** – Like us, fish are aerobes, and breathe oxygen. They breathe through their gills, so get oxygen from what is dissolved in water. They cannot breathe in the open air. Once we have a fish in the net, try to keep its mouth and gills fully submerged when removing the hook to help it breathe.
2. **Eliminate contact with dry and hard surfaces.** The slime and scales on the fishes body is their protective layer, similar to our skin. Dry, rough and hard surfaces can remove slime and scales. Simple advice to to not handle fish with dry jhands or lay them on the dry ground for a photograph.
3. **Minimize handling time** – Many studies have shown that the longer the fish is handled and restrained, the poorer their survival. It is important that the time from landing the fish to its release be a minimum.

One more bit of advice in the article is that we give consideration when taking a photograph of our prized catches.

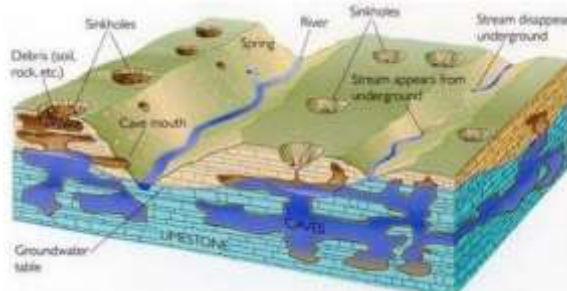
- When with a buddy, make sure they are ready for the photo before posing with the fish.
- Consider taking the photo with the fish in the water and wet. They look great! Part of this is to consider bringing the camera angle down to the water, so the time the fish is really out of the water is minimized. A waterproof case for a camera, or more likely your smart-phone these days is easily obtained and provides safety for the device.
- If you are fishing by yourself, and getting a photo is difficult while trying to keep the fish oxygenated and wet, take a pass. A good fish story does not always need a picture.

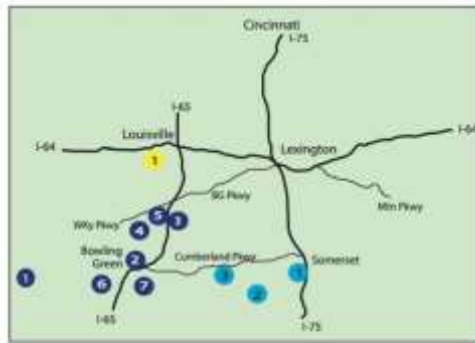
## Fly Fishing Kentucky's Spring-Fed Streams

By Ken Mandel

Our December 2021 speaker, Valerie Askren, gave us an excellent presentation on the opportunities offered for fly fishing a number of beautiful streams in Kentucky. These are all spring-fed waters, so water temperature remains very stable through the year. In addition, they almost all of the waters that Valerie showed us are stocked frequently with good numbers of rainbow and brown trout, and so offer some excellent angling opportunities. I attended the meeting, and was surprised when Valerie asked how many of us had fished the streams in Kentucky, and only a handful of hands were raised! I reached out to Valerie, and she gratefully shared her presentation, which I'll touch on here. Hopefully, BUFF members will consider fishing some of these streams, which are essentially in our 'backyard'. Travel times are only a few hours, so these could be day trips or simple overnight outings.

As a reminder, trout need colder water for habitat and survival, between 44 – 67° F. The deep spring-fed streams that Valerie talked about average temperatures in the mid-50's year round, so are perfect for trout. These streams however do not support a breeding population, so are routinely





- 1 Casey Creek
- 2 Jennings Creek
- 3 Lynn Camp Creek
- 4 Nolin River Tailwater
- 5 Roundstone Creek
- 6 Sulphur Spring Creek
- 7 Trammel Creek
- 1 Bark Camp Creek
- 2 Rock Creek
- 3 Hatchery Creek
- 1 Otter Creek


stocked by the Kentucky DNR with relatively large numbers of rainbow and brown trout. Stocking goes on year-round, so the streams offer year-round angling opportunities, and Valerie talked about winter fishing these streams when there are fewer anglers on the waters.

Where to go? Valerie presentation focused on about 10 streams. Several are near Bowling Green, a few are in southern KY, and one is near Louisville. The chart lists those discussed in the presentation and shows their general location. Almost all the streams offer easy access from vehicles, places to park vehicles, and from 1 to several miles of wadable and fishable water. For some locations, a one-way wade may be feasible if you have a car at put-in and take-out points, which suggests opportunities for small group outings.


One example is Casey's Creek, one of the streams near Bowling Green. This stream offers over 3 ½ miles of fishable water, and is stocked in Feb, and Apr – Oct with 8,000 rainbows. From October to the end of March, fishing is limited to catch and release. The information below, shows a map of the creek and a nice photo of what it looks like.

**Casey Creek**  
 8,000 Rainbows  
 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10  
 CR: 10/1 to 1/31  
 3.6 mi fishable water

Late Fall



confluence with Little River  
(downstream)



Stocking Bridge  
(upstream)

KY 525 N

Trammel Creek offers a similar opportunity in the same area. Over 4 miles of fishable stream, parking at the top and bottom of the stream, stocking in the same time-frames as described for Casey's with over 8,700 rainbow and 600 brown trout, and catch and release fishing from October through end of March.



In Southern Kentucky, Bark Creek, Rock Creek and Hatchery Creek all offer some excellent fishing opportunities. BUFF's women's group did a trip to Hatchery Creek a couple of years back and stayed overnight at a lodge. These creeks offer a mix of bank fishing and shallow wading, often have hiking paths that parallel the streams, and are very well stocked over the course of the year with rainbows, and for Bark Creek, brown trout. Bark Creek offers a mixture of cascades/pools and creek environments. Rock Creek stocks over 15,000 rainbow trout between March and December at multiple site along the creek. Hatchery Creek stocks 27,000 rainbows with stockings every month. There is a 5 trout creel limit on the upper portion of the creek, which can get very, very crowded on weekends and when there is a fishing event (check out the photo!) The lower portion of Hatchery Creek is catch and release only, and a more pleasant angling experience.



Bark Creek Map and Creek







Hatchery Creek fishing event,  
just below the dam



Lower part of creek in winter!

Several years ago, Valerie published “Fly Fishing Kentucky, Your Guide to Tackle, Techniques, and the Best Trout Waters in the State”. It is a guide book to these locations. A revised edition was published last year (2021). Valerie had the books for sale at the December BUFF meeting, and sold a several to those who attended. If interested, you can purchase the book directly from her at [flyfishingky@gmail.com](mailto:flyfishingky@gmail.com). Cost is \$19.95, and Valerie will send you payment instructions. If you order directly, she will inscribe the book at no additional charge, if requested. The book can also be purchased from retailers, such as Amazon.

## Some Items of Interest

### Interested in Fly Tying?

If you missed BUFF’s introduction to fly tying class, but are interested in learning to tie, Orvis has a couple of options –

On Saturdays, from January 29<sup>th</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup>, local Orvis stores will offer a **free** in-person tying lesson where you will learn to tie a Woolly Bugger. The Woolly Bugger is often the first fly one ties in any introductory tying course. No equipment is needed (Orvis provides it!), but you need to register for a session. If interested register soon, as sessions are filling up. Go to the Cincinnati Orvis store website and you can find registration information

Orvis is also offering a **free** Fly Tying 101 course. This on line course is hosted by Tom Rosenbauer. Tom is an excellent teacher and many of us who tie are very familiar with his video presentations. The course consists of 5 weekly live on-line classes, with a different fly tied each week. Sessions start at 8PM ET< and the schedule is below. Sign up at: <https://subscribe.orvis.com/FT101/>.

- February 10<sup>th</sup>                      Bead Head Hare’s Ear Nymph
- February 17<sup>th</sup>                     Elk Hair Caddis
- February 24<sup>th</sup>                    Clouser Minnow
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>                          Chernobyl Ant
- March 10<sup>th</sup>                        Woolly Bugger

## Tuck Fly Shop Blog Post



Shannon Messer from the Tuckaseegee Fly Shop has a nice blog post on his views of the “4 Stages of a Fly Angler”. The shop has been a vendor at our past Fly Fishing Shows, and Shannon has done tying demonstrations as well. Here’s the link: <https://www.tuckflyshop.com/single-post/the-four-stages-of-a-fly-angler?postId=7d284f32-0a7f-45f8-9e6d-247e9657f12b>

The first category is just wanting to catch a fish, any species, on a fly rod. It is one we have all gone through, and it is probably the one that has gotten us ‘addicted’ to this pastime.

Shannon’s second category is the angler who wants to catch ‘numbers’ of fish. The more in a day the better, and if you catch more than your partner, even better still. His third category is the desire to land the ‘big fish’ and brag about it. Shannon’s final category is what he calls the ‘just want to fish’ category. It is the joy of getting out on a pond or stream is the escape we seek. Shannon’s comment is that this the category we should all migrate to as fly anglers.

A nice blog post and worth reading!

## Reel Fly Rod Promotion – Check This Out!

Thomas Nugent, the Marketing Manager at ReelFlyRod (RFR) in Dayton (Bellbrook) informed us of a promotion that they are starting at the shop. On Fridays, RFR is hosting a local “resident” fly tyer, Greg Morrett (<https://morrettflyfishing.com/>) in the front of the shop. Customers who come in can watch, chat, and get some tying pointers. Greg will be at the shop from about 9:30 AM – 3 PM on Fridays for the next couple of months. As an added attraction, RFR is offering in-store customers a 10% discount on all tying materials all day on Fridays while this is ongoing. If you are looking for some tying materials, think about taking a short drive to the shop on an upcoming Friday.

## A Few Practical Safety Tips

From Cari Vota

Keep a small first aid kit in whatever bag or pack you take with you when fishing, or, if not there, in someplace that is guaranteed to be with you every time you go fishing. It should not be relegated to remember in our normal decision-making process before any given outing, i.e., "What do I need to take with me today?"

Aspirin is a great thing to have in your 1<sup>st</sup> Aid kit for multiple reasons. It is great for both pain killing as well as for mitigating early heart attack symptoms. If you’re out in the wild and far from an ambulance response, two aspirin might save the life of the person having the heart attack.

Hypothermia is a real concern for anyone who spends a long time on the water. Space blankets are light and packable as a very small item. They can help in hypothermia by reflecting body heat back to a person. They also can absorb the sun's heat to help pull more warmth to a body. Their metallic nature also helps prevent moisture loss and cooling from evaporation of perspiration.

Wearing a SPF-rated shirt when its hot and sunny may intuitively sound uncomfortable, but in reality it will keep you cooler. These fabrics block UV rays while also wicking sweat from the body to keep the wearer cool throughout the day of fishing. Of course, always use sunscreen and apply it liberally and frequently to exposed skin areas. Sunscreens should have at least a minimum SPF value of 15.

## Coffey's Sparkle Minnow Fly

By Ken Mandel

Here is a simple streamer fly that several of our club members have been tying recently. They are using it for a range of fishing – bass and warm water fish in our local rivers, and trout at area streams. It is simple to tie with the main materials being maribou for the tail and ice dubbing spun in a couple of dubbing loops for the body. I found a couple of youtube videos which tie this fly:

One is from *In the Riffle* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeYxdVOgw4Y>. Photos on this fly are from this video. Another is from *Sportsman's Warehouse* - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMxjFgVI\\_b0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMxjFgVI_b0)

Tim Flagler has a short youtube video demonstrating how to make dubbing loops, - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzCJLeFtSlg>. I found this to be helpful as I've not done a lot of dubbing loops myself.

### Materials:

Hook:	Daiichi 2220 or TMC 9395 in sizes 4 - 10. Both are 4X-long streamer hooks.
Head:	Cone to fit hook size
Weight:	0.02 wire
Thread	6-0. Color is not critical as it is not visible. Videos used brown or white.
Tail	White marabou feather with contrast color for overlap (tan, brown, olive).
Flash	Copper or root beer Crystal Flash
Body	Gold and pearl ice dubbing

### Tying Instructions:

1. Put a medium cone on the hook and wrap wire along the body area. Start the thread behind the wire and wrap over the wire to secure it. End with thread wraps on the hook shank at about the position of the barb
2. Tie in a single quill of white marabou on top of the hook shank. The tail should be about 1 ¼ times the length of the hook shank (slightly longer than the hook shank). Trim the stem and tie down the butt to the point where the wire ends.



3. Next tie in a single quill of tan or ginger marabou directly on top of the white marabou using thread wraps from the end of the wire to the tie-in point of the white marabou. The tips of the other colors of marabou should all align with the tips of the white marabou. Bring the thread forward and trim off the butt end. Finally tie in a single olive marabou quill on top of the other using the same techniques.

One point made in the video is to not use too much marabou in each quill. "Less is better". Also, as the tan and olive marabou is added, the trimmed ends are advanced further along the

hook shank toward the cone to keep a smooth body shape for the dubbing wraps. You can see this in the photo, where the butt of the olive marabou ends close to the cone.



*Some of the Sparkle Minnows our club members are tying do not seem to use multiple layers of marabou; some just have a white marabou tail. The fly demonstrated in the Sportsman Warehouse video only used 2 layers of marabou, tan over white. I think if and how you layer the tail material, is up to the tier.*

4. Tie in 3- 4 strands of root beer or copper colored Crystal Flash along each side of the hook. Trim flash to the length of the tail.
5. Form a 3" dubbing loop and anchor it at the base of the tail. Bring the tying thread forward along the hook shank. Fill the loop with Pearl Ice Dubbing and spin the loop to form the dubbing noodle. You can brush out the dubbing a bit. Anchor the loop with a pair of hackle pliers and hang it over the vise so it is out of the way.

The photo shows the finished dubbing loop hooked over the vise.



6. Using the tying thread make a second dubbing loop, about 5" long. This should be positioned a bit in front of the tail tie-in point. Once the loop is made, take the thread all the way forward to just behind the cone. Fill this loop with a generous clump of Gold Ice Dub. Spin to form a dubbing noodle. Clip in with another pair of hackle pliers. Position the dubbing loop at the tie in point of the tail and take wraps forward while brushing the dubbing back toward the tail. Once the wraps are at the cone, capture and lock in the loop with thread wraps, and trim the excess.



7. If you have a rotating vise, rotate to expose the underside of the fly and part the gold ice dub down the middle of the fly. Then take the dubbing loop with the Pearl Ice Dub and bring it forward along the bottom of the fly. This is NOT wrapped around the hook shank, it is just positioned beneath the shank to form the white belly on the underside of the fly like that on a sculpin minnow. Capture it with some thread wraps behind the cone head and trim the excess. Stroking the dubbing fibers back helps with getting this all aligned.
8. Essentially, the fly is now finished. Just do a whip finish behind the cone to tie off the thread.



# Upcoming BUFF Activities

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

In-person activities are Limited to BUFF Members, and require Registration (online on club Website) and signing the Club's Liability Waiver

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
BUFF Monthly Meeting Zoom Meeting	Wednesday, February 9 <sup>th</sup> 7 PM – 9 PM	
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, February 16 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:30 PM	
Tie & Lie Zoom Virtual Session	Friday, February 18 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM <i>Zoom link on Website</i>	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 <a href="mailto:loopdude1@hotmail.com">loopdude1@hotmail.com</a>
<b>BUFF Banquet</b> Oasis Conference Center	<b>Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Preregistration and payment for dinner required</i>	