



The BUFFER

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

Volume 48, Issue 2

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

February 1, 2024

The President's Fly Box

This is the time of year that I'm tying flies, thinking that I should exercise more, and waiting for warmer weather. The Banquet is usually a demarcation for me. The warm weather closely follows the date of the Banquet, i.e., the middle of March, and marks the beginning of my fly-fishing season. I look forward to the club trips for steelhead, white bass, and trout in North Carolina.

The Banquet is also a time for us to bid on equipment, guided fly fishing trips, a dining experience for that special someone, and more. If you attended last year, you know it was a great time to chat, eat, and bid on your favorite items. If you've never attended in the past, consider this as a great opportunity to further your relationships with people in the club.

For those who regularly come to membership meetings, you know the high quality of our program talks. For this year, our program co-directors have again created an excellent opportunity for our members. Below are a sample of upcoming talks:

- **April Meeting:** Barry Puskas, Miami Conservancy - "Fly Fishing the Great Miami Riverway"
- **June Meeting:** Glenn Blackwood - "Fly Fishing in Southwestern Michigan"
- **September Meeting:** Member Panel Discssion - "Annual Wyoming Trip"
- **November Meeting:** Bill Carmen - "Fly Fishing Kentucky's Hatchery Creek"

You can see the full list of topics on our website under the speaker series hot link. I encourage you to keep the second Wednesday of the month free to come and hear these presentations.

Last year we started "Ten Minute Tech Talks at our regular meetings. These continue to generate high interest offering informal presentations to learn about quick tips for fly fishing. We are always looking for more topics to share. We want to keep these sessions interesting, relevant, and interactive. So, if you have a quick topic to share, please reach out to Bryan Tudor.

Finally, raffles are always a fun part of our monthly meetings, and they generate funds for the club. Jim Hunt has stepped down from his role, and we are seeking an individual to run the raffles. Requirements are shopping at local fly fishing stores, filing for reimbursement, and running the raffle at membership meetings. Please reach out to me if you have interest in helping us continue a fun part of our meetings.

Stay warm and see you at the next meeting,

Hugh O'Donnell
BUFF President

BUFF February Meeting – Wednesday February 14th

Our monthly meeting at the Oasis Center starts at 6:00 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner will be served at about 6:30 PM, the business meeting and announcements start at about 7:15 PM, and our speaker's presentation at 7:45 PM. Registration closes on Sunday, February 11th.

February Speaker – Derrick Filkins, Manager, FlyMasters of Indianapolis - “Saltwater Fly Fishing”

Derrick Filkins manages FlyMasters of Indianapolis. He fishes saltwater 50-60 days a year, and he fishes in South Andros most of those days. South Andros is a smaller island that is part of the Bahamas. Derrick developed the HPU Weedless minnow in 2012. This started the trend in tying on conventional offset hooks and tying on monofilament. Derrick joins us to share his experience in saltwater fly fishing.



February Dinner Menu –

- Chef's Choice Salad & Dressings
- Dinner Rolls & Butter
- Baked Spinach Cavatappi Pasta with Cream Sauce, & Grilled Chicken Strips
- Chef's Choice Desert
- Coffee & Iced Tea

February 10-Minute Tech Talk

Tom Bachev will present the February Tech Talk on “The Snell Knot”, and it's various uses in fly fishing. We encourage members to stop by the table during the social hour to learn and join in on the conversation with fellow Buffers.

Also, if you have an idea for a fly fishing topic and are interested in presenting it at an upcoming general meeting, please contact Bryan Tudor at 513-827-5437 or by email: byran.tudor@yahoo.com



Welcome New Board Members – Barry Gummow & Tim Cassani

Barry Gummow will be joining the board as club Treasurer, and become a club Officer. We welcome Barry to the role and thank him for taking this on this major club responsibility. BUFF cannot function without a Treasurer. Barry is replacing Bob Gustafson, who completes his long tenure as Treasure on March 31st. We all thank Bob for his long service to the club and the incredible job he has done in this role.

Tim Cassani has also joined the board as a Member-at-Large. Tim is active with Stream Quality Monitoring. He and Tom Britton lead this effort on Four Mile Creek in Butler County. Tim is also a regular contributor to the BUFFER.

BUFF Library Reminder –

From: Dave Smith

BUFFers – While we are not regularly bringing the library boxes to our meetings, ***the library remains AVAILABLE***. Finding and checking out a book or video is really easy and is done through the BUFF website.

On the BUFF website home page, click “Member Services” and login with your e-mail address. Once logged in, choose the “Browse the Library” icon to bring up the list of library books and holdings. Click to reserve what you want, and I’ll bring it to the next meeting. Returning books is also easy – just bring them to the next meeting. This is an easy-to-use resource to obtain library materials and to grow and enhance your fly fishing skills and knowledge.

New Members in January 2024

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we’ve added 5 New members –

Code Fry, Maineville, OH

Melinda Adams, Loveland, OH

Nicole Leib, Cincinnati, OH

Greg Cargill, West Chester, OH

Christine Marok, Murphy, NC

Welcome to the club, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon! Check out our activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some!

BUFF Trip Planning for 2024

By Steve Bailey

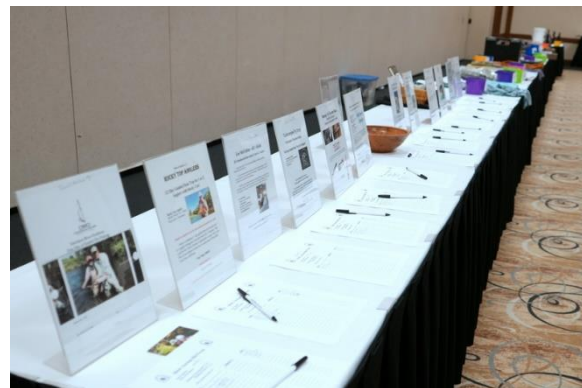
It's a new year and time to get some fishing trips on the calendar. Among the many things the club offers the trips are a high point for many of our members. If you have been a trip leader in previous years and you plan to lead that trip again in 2024, please contact me to let me know when you want that to appear on the calendar. If you have not led a trip before and you have an idea for a trip, contact me and we will meet to discuss how to put a trip together that will be fun and exciting. I look forward to hearing from and working with you to put together another great year of fly fishing.

Tight Lines!

2024 BUFF Banquet- Wednesday, March 20th, 2024 – Save the Date!

By Bryan Tudor for the Banquet Committee

The 2024 Buckeye United Fly Fishers Banquet is scheduled for March 20, 2024 at Oasis Conference Center, and replaces our regular March membership meeting. It's a great evening to bring a spouse, family member or friend. As at past banquets, there will be a dinner, time for socializing, and fun bidding on many of 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.



Each year the Banquet is our opportunity to recognize members who in the past year made significant contributions to BUFF, as well as all who volunteered in supporting our 2023 activities. The Banquet is also our main fundraiser of the year. Funds we raise allows BUFF to support various activities like:

- BUFF Volunteers teaching children how to fish at fishing days on local ponds.
- 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.
- Reel Recovery helps men in the cancer recovery process by introducing them to the healing powers of the sport of fly-fishing. It provides them with new skills to



bring joy, enthusiasm, and renewed hope as they confront the challenges of their cancer survivorship.

- BUFF is committed to the conservation and preservation of our environment. In recent years, BUFF has made donations to the Little Miami Conservancy, Rivers Unlimited, Three Rivers Conservation Trust, Izaak Walton League, Anglers of the Au Sable, Mad River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Ohio River Foundation, and the Mill Creek Alliance.
- BUFF Volunteers help with Butler and Clermont County River Clean-up Days.

Meal tickets are \$45 per person, and include appetizers, entrees with sides and delicious desserts. There will be a cash bar as well. Attending the Banquet requires registering and purchasing the meal. Grand prize raffle tickets are \$10, and general raffle tickets are \$5. **Go online to the BUFF website to R.S.V.P., purchase the meal and raffle tickets.** Raffle tickets will also be sold at the event.

Our meal this year includes:

- House Salad with Ranch Dressing
- Dinner Rolls & Butter
- Entrée choice of Capicola Stuffed Chicken - Boneless breast of chicken stuffed with capicola ham, spinach and mozzarella cheese with Red Pepper Mornay Sauce **or** Baked Salmon with Dill Cream Sauce
- Roasted Rosemary Potatoes & Southern Style Green Beans
- Double Chocolate Cake & Cheesecake
- Iced Tea, & Coffee (regular & decaffeinated)

Looking forward to seeing you there

Calling All Veterans & Active-Duty Military!

By Brent Miller

Brent first became a member of BUFF in 2006, and then again in 2011. He served with the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Cincinnati program for 10 years, seven as Program Lead. He is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran and has been a certified VA Volunteer since 2015. He recently joined the BUFF Board of Directors.

When Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing HQ closed the Cincinnati program in August 2022, a huge gap was opened to serve veterans in the BUFF community. One of the aspects of the PHWFF program was that it served only Veterans with a VA disability rating. In other words, disabled veterans.



So, what would a fly fishing program for veterans look like without Project Healing Waters? The BUFF Board of Directors has approved a new activity for Veterans and Active Military personnel for 2024 and beyond, as an active component of Buckeye United Fly Fishers.

The new Buckeye Veterans Fly Fishing program is serving all veterans and active military regardless of disability ratings. All are invited to partake in the program. Although the program is designed for members and non-members alike, more opportunity is available for veterans through all of the BUFF membership offerings. Non-members will receive fly fishing education through the monthly fishing outings and activities for veterans and friends of veterans—those are the members who want to help and mentor new fly fishers. Veterans who become BUFF members can take advantage of all the BUFF education, training, and trips.

It's a work in progress. If you are a veteran or friend that wants to participate, contact Brent Miller to be placed on the Buckeye Veterans Fly Fishing e-mail list. This new program will officially launch at the Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, Feb. 3rd, at the Oasis Convention Center, Loveland. As of the date of this article, eight new individuals have already signed up.

Brent Miller contacts:

Phone: 513-535-8735

Email: DBrent@dbrent.com or FlyFishBrent@gmail.com

A Couple of Videos and a Table on Hook Anatomy

By Ken Mandel

I found a couple of videos that may be good for this season. One by George Daniel goes over how he organizes his tying materials and the tying equipment he uses. The other is from a fellow who produces videos under the name “Wild Trout Man”. The one I found was titled “Steelhead Alley” and was on fishing Lake Erie river tributaries in Northwest corner of PA.

I found George Daniel’s video to be very interesting. He is on a ‘kick’ to simplify his approach to fly fishing. This includes how he fishes and the flies he ties and uses. The video reviews his approach to the latter. Since he travels extensively, he has simplified his travel kit. His vise, and one he has been using for over 30 years, is a simple Regal vise. His bottom line is ‘it works’. It is also rugged, and is what he uses for



classes at Penn State. He does not carry a lot of tools, and everything fits in a small packet. All his hooks, thread, beads, and wires are in one box. He minimizes his tying materials. One way he does this, and it makes sense if one is going traveling and taking tying materials, is to pre-pack ‘kits’ for tying specific flies. All the materials for tying a specific fly, often in multiple colors, except for hooks, beads, thread, etc., are stored in a single, labeled, zip-lock bag. I thought it was a very efficient way to organize and also simplifies the need to look for materials – it’s all in the bag! Check out a 20-odd minute video at - <https://midcurrent.com/videos/stay-organized-george-daniels-fly-tying-materials-and-tools-setup/>

The Wild Trout Man has a series of YouTube videos that can be accessed from -

<https://www.youtube.com/@WildTroutMan>. Some are instructional and some just highlight angling experiences. Most seem to be from trout waters in Pennsylvania, upstate NY and New England. The

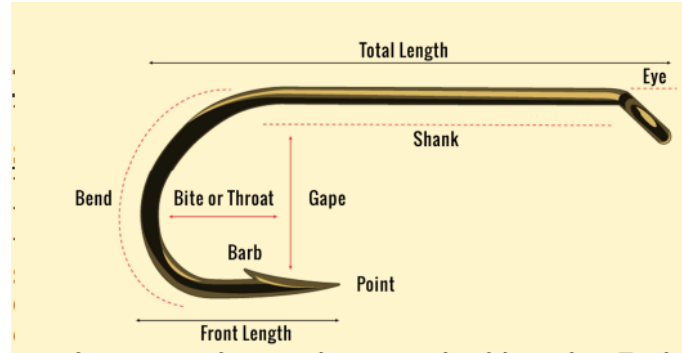


one I found is “Steelhead Alley – Lake Erie Tributaries”. It is a video journal of a winter day fishing for steelhead. Nothing much on technique, but a fair amount on the flies that were working that day and a lot of nice scenery. One thing that stood out to me was the large number of anglers positioned all along the river. That is not a plus in my perspective. Here is the link to this video, if interested -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PW-5u5QptME>. It is about 40-minutes long.

Anatomy of a Fly Fishing Hook

J. Stockard Fly Fishing, an fly shop published a blog this past month discussing the ‘anatomy’ of fly fishing hooks. A better descriptor is the blog illustrates the parts and descriptors used when discussing a fly fishing hook. The image at right shows the many parts or terms used when describing something as simple as a hook, Many of these terms are part of fly tying instructions and videos. For those who are new to fly fishing both the blog and chart can be useful. What may be even more useful could be a the one-page list and description of hook parts which is posted on the J. Stockard website. This can be found at - <https://www.jsflyfishing.com/pages/fly-tying-resources>. This page on their website also has information on matching hook and bead sizes, a chart comparing hooks from different manufacturers, and other very useful information. Check it out – its free!

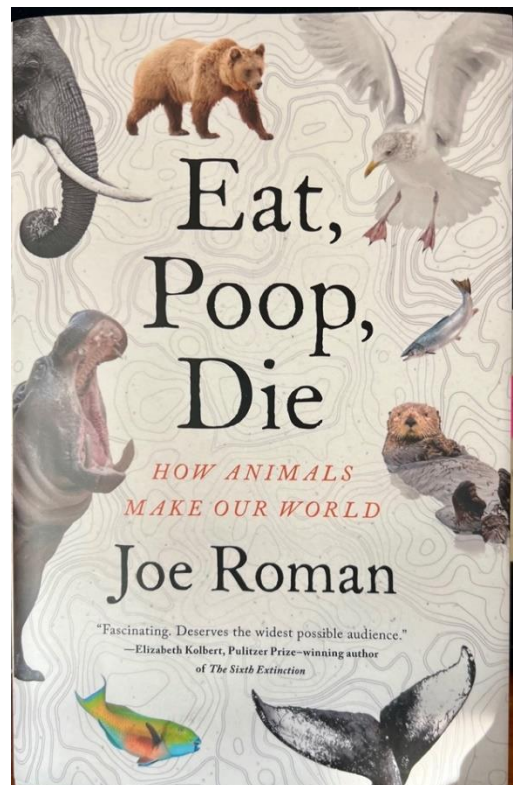


Book Review & Recommendation for Anglers

By Bill Schroeder

As an eight-year-old, my dad and mom introduced me to fishing. Worms, minnows, crawdads, and hellgrammites were live baits of choice. I didn't care where they came from. I just wanted to catch fish. A couple years later I discovered artificial lures. Rooster-tail spinners, rubber worms, shiny spoons, spinning rods and reels, were state of the art. Then I discovered dad's bamboo flyrod kept under lock and key; found the key, opened lock, and soon learned about bluegills and bass eating floating poppers, sinking ants, and spider fly patterns. As time marched on, a curiosity about *matching the hatch* evolved into a life-long passion to learn more about what fish really need to survive in perpetuity.

Joe Roman's book, "***Eat, Poop, Die, How Animals Make Our World***", published this past November, provides answers, and a new perspective on how animals (including fish, mammals, birds and insects), provide a continuous means of transportation and redistribution of essential elements (nitrogen, phosphorus, iron, etc.) back upstream



to replace and regenerate needed nutrients that have been washed downstream by gravity and water. The author observes, “...in the past decade or so, there has been a radical shift in our understanding of how the world is shaped by predators and herbivores. Landmark studies of seabirds, whales, sea otters, salmon, wildebeasts, bison, spiders, grasshoppers, cicadas, and other animals have shown that they can alter the landscapes and seascapes where they live, with major impacts on ecological function and services they provide.”

Roman’s science-based book explains how and why the presence of aquatic insects, birds and animals in and around streams and ponds is fundamental and essential to the preservation and restoration of ecosystems globally. Most importantly, the book is a fun read; more like a novel than a doctoral dissertation. Roman likens animals to “...the beating heart of the planet.” He explains: “*In the same way that trees work as the Earth’s lungs —inhaling carbon dioxide and exhaling oxygen—animals pump nitrogen and phosphorous from deep-sea gorges up to mountain peaks and across hemispheres from the poles to the tropics.*”

So how do they do this? Animals that make up this nutrient circulatory system have mobility to travel upstream, against gravity, and do so. Consider the millions of salmon that begin their spawning runs at the mouths of streams, their nutrient rich bodies traveling upstream against the currents where they were spawned and hatched two to three years earlier.

Salmon perform key functions when they **eat** (food that is rich in the essential elements); **travel upstream** (carrying this nutrient rich material); **poop** (delivering .nutrient cargo to upstream locations for consumption by plants, other .animals and insects), and then **die**, thereby offering their entire nutrient-rich bodies for consumption by highly mobile bears, birds, fish, aquatic animals and others, that in turn also eat, travel, poop and die in other locations. Supporting this are studies and research documenting the presence of nitrogen, phosphorus, iron, etc. in trees and other plants growing in higher mountainous locations that could only have originated from downstream locations. It must have been those pesky, mobile bears that ate the salmon, that consumed the fish eggs and other stream nutrient sources, as they traveled upstream. Or was it the birds?

So what does this mean to us midwestern freshwater fly fishers whose love of the sport got us into this inquiry to begin with? I am still working on that one. I recommend each of us read this informative and enjoyable book and ponder that question for ourselves. For me, the importance of animals to the sustainability of healthy fish populations from the mountains to the seas warrants more than commitment to *catch and release* our favorite species of fish. Perhaps understanding that highly mobile animals, predator birds, fish and their excrement are essential to maintaining habitats and ecosystems that support the fish we love. Perhaps we need also consider broadening our conservation focus to include the protection of the **animals** that make up this awesome system of nutrient and habitat regeneration.

Joe Roman’s book is available through libraries, and for purchase in print and audio versions through Amazon – hard cover (\$23.92), Kindle (\$14.99). No paperbacks, yet.

Upcoming Regional Fly Fishing Shows

We all are aware that our show, the Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show is happening on Saturday, February 3rd. It's all day at the Oasis Conference Center. Hope as a BUFF member you will, or if reading this after the 3rd, did attend!

These are regional shows coming up in the next month or so –

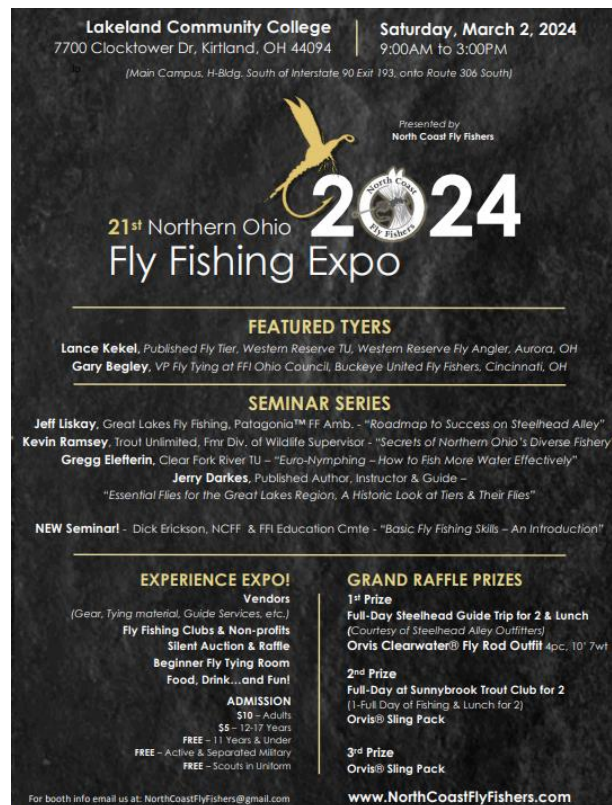
2024 Fort Wayne Fly Fishing Show – Saturday February 17th 2024

Saturday February 17th is the Fort Wayne Fly Fishing Show. Jim Vota and Ken Mandel will be attending to represent BUFF and have an exhibitor booth at the show. This is hosted by 3 Rivers Fly Fishers. The show brochure was posted in the January 2024 BUFFER. Location is the Classic Café Exhibition Hall, 4832 Hillegas Road, Fort Wayne, IN. For more information is on the club website – www.3rff.org

2024 Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo – Saturday March 2nd 2024

North Coast Fly Fishers, the Cleveland-area fly fishing club will be hosting their show on March 2nd. Hours are 9 AM – 3 PM. Location is Lakeland Community College, Bldg. H, 7700 Clocktower Driver, Kirtland, OH 44094. The show has a schedule of seminars and fly tying demonstrations along with vendors, exhibitors and other fly fishing clubs (including BUFF and the Ohio chapter of FFI). This will be the 21st year for this show.

More info on this show, and a map are available on the North Coast Fly Fishers website – www.northcoastflyfishers.com



Lakeland Community College | Saturday, March 2, 2024
7700 Clocktower Dr, Kirtland, OH 44094 | 9:00AM to 3:00PM
(Main Campus, H-Bldg, South of Interstate 90 Exit 193, onto Route 306 South)

Presented by
North Coast Fly Fishers

21st Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo

FEATURED TYERS
Lance Kekel, Published Fly Tier, Western Reserve TU, Western Reserve Fly Angler, Aurora, OH
Gary Begley, VP Fly Tying at FFI Ohio Council, Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Cincinnati, OH

SEMINAR SERIES
Jeff Liskay, Great Lakes Fly Fishing, Patagonia™ FF Amb. - "Roadmap to Success on Steelhead Alley"
Kevin Ramsey, Trout Unlimited, Fmr Div. of Wildlife Supervisor - "Secrets of Northern Ohio's Diverse Fishery"
Gregg Eleferin, Clear Fork River TU - "Euro-Nymphing - How to Fish More Water Effectively"
Jerry Darkes, Published Author, Instructor & Guide -
"Essential Flies for the Great Lakes Region, A Historic Look at Tiers & Their Flies"

NEW Seminar! - Dick Erickson, NCFE & FFI Education Cmte - "Basic Fly Fishing Skills - An Introduction"

EXPERIENCE EXPO!
Vendors
(Gear, Tying material, Guide Services, etc.)
Fly Fishing Clubs & Non-profits
Silent Auction & Raffle
Beginner Fly Tying Room
Food, Drink...and Fun!

ADMISSION
\$10 - Adults
\$5 - 12-17 Years
FREE - 11 Years & Under
FREE - Active & Separated Military
FREE - Scouts in Uniform

GRAND RAFFLE PRIZES
1st Prize
Full-Day Steelhead Guide Trip for 2 & Lunch
(Courtesy of Steelhead Alley Outfitters)
Orvis Clearwater® Fly Rod Outfit 4pc, 10' 7wt

2nd Prize
Full-Day at Sunnybrook Trout Club for 2
(1 Full Day of Fishing & Lunch for 2)
Orvis® Sling Pack

3rd Prize
Orvis® Sling Pack

For booth info email us at: NorthCoastFlyFishers@gmail.com
www.NorthCoastFlyFishers.com

What Does a Trout See

From Ken Mandel

I found this on the Gink & Gasoline blog site and thought it was an interesting and educational article. The key is that if we understand how and what fish see, it may help us to improve our odds of getting them to see and take a fly.

The first point made in the article, and we've seen this reported in other articles on how fish see, is that water is a poor conductor of light. Longer wavelengths, reds and oranges, are absorbed quickly, so they do not penetrate either depth or distance greatly. The deeper a fish is, or further away from the fly they are, will see red/orange as black. In contrast, shorter wavelengths, blues, violets, and UV, penetrate further, so these colors will fade more slowly.

Importantly trout can visualize light in the UV range. White colors, and reflective materials like flash absorb UV light will register visually at close and longer distances. How the image appears to the fish at longer distances however, is unknown. The clarity or color of the water also affects how color is transmitted. Cloudy streams or water tinted with tannins from trees and leaves absorb colors, including UV ranges more rapidly, and so will reduce their penetration through depth and distance.



The article discusses the biology of a trout's eye and compares this with that of our eyes. While both human and trout eyes hold similar structural components, they function differently to control brightness and focus. Which colors trout see best (blues) and worst (green) is also discussed.

What Does This Mean to Us?

The idea is simple. Under bright conditions trout see color well and in dim conditions they do not. How we define conditions is also a factor. Even on a brightly lit sunny day, a trout sitting at the bottom of a pool will not see the bright colors of a surface fly due to depth and wavelength absorption. As discussed above, longer distances from a fly will also diminish color intensities.

Conditions can affect the colors on a fly that may attract trout. An example is a black and white fly may be a better attractor in low light or stained water conditions where contrast is more critical than color. Alternatively, adding a hot spot to a colored fly may be an advantage on a bright day when fishing close to the fish. The article touches on how trout see surface dry flies. These appear as silhouette patterns on the water surface, which they can see very well. Color is much less of a factor here, but rather contrast between opaqueness and translucency, and how the fly moves on the water surface are important.

I enjoyed the read! Here is the link for the full article - <https://www.ginkandgasoline.com/trout-fishing/what-does-the-trout-see/>

BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish

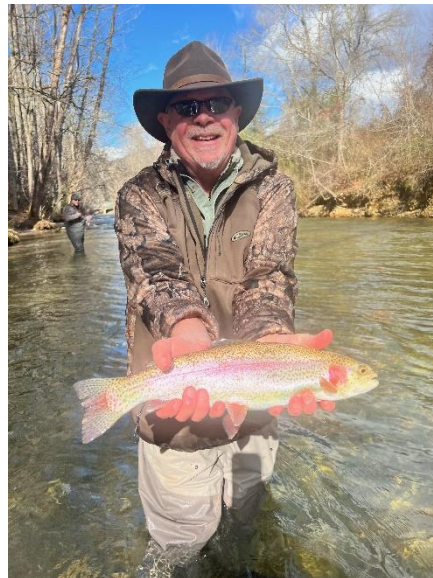
This is from Jaime Collins – his very first trout on a fly!

Congratulations !!!

I can hardly contain my excitement! Last November, I reeled in a magnificent catch on the Mad River using an orange stimulator. Though he may only measure 5 inches, this trout marks my first successful fly fishing experience after months of practice and preparation. Despite enduring hours of frigid water, the thrill of the hunt kept me going until I finally nabbed this little guy. He may not seem like much, but to me, he's a true trophy worth cherishing forever.



In January, two of our members, Dave Kirkpatrick and Stuart Donovan, went to North Carolina. They fished on the Davidson River, near Brevard. The game was rainbow and brown trout, but they only caught rainbows. They worked with Davidson River Outfitters, and Dave says their guide was outstanding. Here are some photos –





Finally, some photos from Mike Wisniewki from back in July 2023 when he was angling in Spanish Ontario, Canada -



Upcoming BUFF Activities

As we move into the Winter months, our outdoor activities have largely ended for the year. However, check the website and watch for e-mails for indoor classes activities which become available!

In-person activities require registration (online on club Website)

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Saturday, February 3rd 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Bob Gustafson Bob Miller Tom Bachey Ken Mandel
Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, February 14 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM Sign up on Website	Hugh O'Donnell
Monthly Tie & Lie Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, February 16 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Wednesday, February 21 st 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
Intermediate Fly Tying Class Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Coming in March Check Website for times, dates, and registration	Jim Neckers

Directions to Oasis -

Take I-275 and exit at Wards Corner Road (Exit 54). Make the first right onto Loveland-Miamiville Road and follow this. The Oasis golf course will be on your left. At the Paxton Guinea Road crossing, turn left. The clubhouse/conference center and parking lot for the Oasis facility are on the left.

