



The BUFFER

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

Volume 30, Issue 1

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

January 2006

President's Corner

Mike Bryant (mjbryant@email.com)

Having Fun - Fly fishing in the Ohio River? The morning after Christmas, Joe Cornwall, Dave Votav and I drove east of Cincinnati to check out the fishing opportunities for skipjack, stripers and white bass on the Ohio River. Joe's been touting the fall / winter fishing at the warm water discharge of the DP&L power plant. Between October and December, the shad stack up in this part of the river. Where there are bait fish, there's bound to be big fish. We left Joe's house at 4:45am so we could be on the water before daybreak. The fishing was great for the first hour or so, and I landed fifteen skipjack averaging 10-12". But by 9:00am, the bite was off and we were back home by noon. Not a bad day of fishing in Ohio in December!

Remember that the Early Bird Registration for the 2006 Cabin Fever Relief Banquet ends on January 28. This year's Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 4. The cost for Banquet tickets has not changed, but we will limit the total number of participants this year, so take advantage of the Early Bird special pricing and guarantee your spot.

February brings the annual B.U.F.F. sponsored Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show™. This year's Show promises to be every bit as good as last year's event. The cost of admission is still only \$5 / person (kids 12 and under are still free) to keep it affordable for everyone, including families. The price of admission includes two halls full of exhibitors, a hall full of fly tiers, presentations, fly tying demonstrations and a chance to win some great prizes. This year's presentations include talks on fly fishing in lakes, fly fishing on the famed Au Sable River and fly fishing in the Smokey Mountains. The Show is on Saturday, February 11, 2006 from 9:00am – 4:30pm. More information is available on our website and brochures. You can help us spread the word by distributing the Show brochure. The Show brochure is one of the effective ways of advertising the Show to the general public. But, we need to make sure it is broadly distributed in stores, bulletin boards, and anywhere where folks will have the opportunity to see it. We will have brochures available at the January meeting.

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January Meeting Program

Dave Blackburn of Kootenai Anglers out of Libby, Montana will present a program entitled "Fly Fishing Northwest Montana". Dave will focus on the Kootenai River, one of Montana's less well-known but no less impressive trout rivers, and home to all-native rainbow, bull and cutthroat trout. Dave has lived on the banks of the Kootenai since 1981 and established Kootenai Angler as the area's first fly fishing guide service and fly shop. You can learn more about Dave and KA at www.montana-flyfishing.com

Don't forget that we have an incredible raffle going on right now! Dr. Jerry Snider has again generously donated an Otter Creek bamboo rod. This rod is absolutely beautiful!! Most of us will never have the opportunity to purchase a fly rod of this quality. But you have the opportunity to win one with your purchase of a \$20 raffle ticket. Only 100 tickets will be sold, so your odds are excellent. But don't procrastinate, once the tickets are gone, they're gone!! All proceeds go towards B.U.F.F.'s educational and conservation activities.

Education – As we transition into 2006, Bob Ireton is passing ownership of the B.U.F.F Fly of the Month over to Joe Cornwall. Over the years, Bob's artistry and talent has been obvious. It's the talent and unselfish giving of folks like Bob that has made B.U.F.F. the outstanding fly fishing club that it is today.

With the transition to Joe, we will see a different perspective and thinking towards fly tying. To supplement the great still pictures, Joe Cornwall, Joe Panfalone and Jim Stuard are bringing you streaming video as well. Check it out. Great job gentlemen!

Giving Back – At last month's meeting, we voted in the 2006 Officers / Board of Directors. The new Board takes over in March, 2006. We have had another incredible year in 2005, thanks to great work of the current Board. We owe the Board a great deal of thanks for their great efforts and leadership.

At the January meeting next month we will vote on the 2005 Fly Fisher of the Year. This is B.U.F.F.'s **highest** honor that is bestowed each year to a B.U.F.F. member in recognition of his/her extraordinary efforts in giving back their time and talents. We have a strong ballot of candidates this year, reflecting yet another year of unselfish giving. Please plan to attend the meeting in January to determine who deserves this great award. Any B.U.F.F. member, 18 years old or older, in good standing is eligible to vote.

Also, at the January meeting, we will vote on proposed by-law changes discussed at the December meeting and posted on the B.U.F.F. website. The proposed changes will provide consistency and clarity. Please note that the changes will not alter our purpose and direction as a fly fishing club, we are only looking to improve some administrative items.

I hope to see you at the January meeting. Stay warm and be safe.

“Fly Fishing Northwest Montana”

Dave Blackburn of Kootenai Anglers out of Libby, Montana will present a program entitled **“Fly Fishing Northwest Montana”**. Dave will focus on the Kootenai River, one of Montana's less well-known but no less impressive trout rivers, and home to all-native rainbow, bull and cutthroat trout. Dave has lived on the banks of the Kootenai since 1981 and established Kootenai Angler as the area's first fly fishing guide service and fly shop. You can learn more about Dave and KA at www.montana-flyfishing.com.

Dave will also be presenting at NKFF and Central Ohio Fly Fishers on January 5 and 10, respectively, on a swing through Ohio on his way to presentations at The Fly Fishing Show January 14-15 in College Park, MD.

Dave is a director on both the Montana Council of Trout Unlimited and Fishing Outfitters association of Montana. He is an FFF certified casting instructor and a contract fly tier for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He is a past officer of the Kootenai Flyfishers and a current board member of the Kootenai Valley Trout Club. He teaches fly tying and flyfishing at Flathead Community College. His photos and articles have appeared in Flyfisherman, Fly Rod and Reel, and The Flyfisher magazines. He has also appeared in numerous books by John, Holt, Greg Thomas and Charlie Meck as a Kootenai River authority and conservation advocate. He is a seminar speaker at FFF conclaves and various fly fishing expos. He chaired the Upper Kootenai River Preservation Society in the early 80's, which was instrumental in defeating the Jennings Rapids Dam Project.

The Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show™

Saturday, February 11, 2006

Mike Bryant

The Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show™ will be here before you know it. The Show will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2006. As in the past, the Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show™ will continue its focus on providing both experienced and prospective new fly fishers timely information on the great sport of fly fishing. Our goal is to educate, inform and to have fun. During the Show, we hope to offer and familiarize attendees with available local, regional and national fly fishing resources. **To make sure everyone has the opportunity to attend, the price of admission is only \$5.00 per person and children 12 and under are still admitted free.** Included with your admission is attendance to all three presentations, both exhibitor halls, the fly tying island, fly tying demonstrations, and a chance to win some door prizes!! Make sure you bring your friends, family members, and especially kids to the Show.

The Fly Fishing Show will be held at the Receptions Conference Center, located off of Route 4 in Fairfield (only minutes from I-275). This is the same facility we used last year.

Location: Receptions Conference Center, Fairfield, OH (northern Cincinnati suburb)

Date: Saturday, February 11, 2006

Time: 9:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

We have a wide range of presentations at this year's Show:

We have a wide range of presentations at this year's Show:

"Fly Fishing for Trout in the Tailwaters & Mountain Streams of East Tennessee" – Ian and Charity Rutter

East Tennessee has an incredible diversity of trout waters. Large tailwater rivers, tumbling mountain streams, and even a few lakes hold trout. Ian & Charity know just where to go and are happy to share their knowledge.

"Introduction to Lake Fly Fishing" – Bob Sheedy

Bob Sheedy's program will help unravel the mystery of fly fishing on lakes, showing how to isolate portions of any stillwater, how to read and work weedlines, and physical structures. Bob will cover flies, lines, rods and reels required to be a successful lake fly fisher. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about this fast growing area of fly fishing.

"Fly Fishing Michigan's No. Branch of the Au Sable River" – Capt. Todd Fuller

Todd's program will provide a look at fly fishing on the famed North Branch of the Au Sable from its beginnings through today. Todd will share information on the river, the fly hatches, the gear, and the fly fishing techniques that will make your next trip to the Au Sable a successful fly fishing adventure.

The Show will again include a fly tying section. A fly tiers dream!! Come check out our Fly Tying Island filled with both local and regional fly tiers. This is a great opportunity to learn new flies and techniques, meet new tiers and just have fun!! In addition, we will have ongoing fly tying demonstrations throughout the day. Bring your kids to watch, learn and tie a fly or two. This is a great way to introduce kids to the wonderful world of fly fishing.

In addition to the presentations and the fly tying activities, there will be numerous exhibits that include fly shops, guides, outfitters, clubs, state and local resources, and much more. We plan to have new exhibitors as well as old favorites.

There's something for everyone. Check out B.U.F.F.'s website (www.buckeyeflyfishers.com) for more information. So mark your calendars and we will see you at the Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show on Saturday, February 11, 2006.

New Members

Please welcome new member David Stockton, Cincinnati, and returning members, Frank & Janna Skufca, Loveland; and Glenn Showers, Cincinnati, to the club. We all know how anxious we were when we first joined, so go the extra mile at the next club meeting to introduce yourself and make them feel welcomed

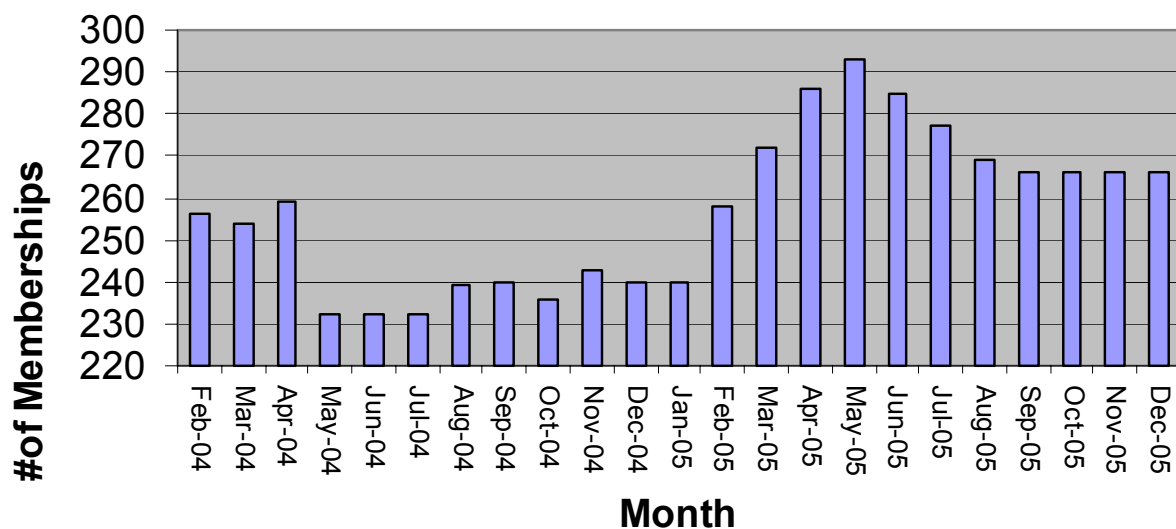
THANK YOU BOB

Joe Panfalone
Webmaster

As webmaster for the club's website, my biggest challenge is to find interesting material to post. For six years **Bob Ironton** has submitted a fly of the month without fail. That is a tall task. It takes dedication to come up with something every month and Bob Ironton did just that. He researched the history of a particular fly, wrote concise instructions, and took excellent pictures.

What you did not see though, is his help and cooperation in forwarding me the material in a manner that reduced the amount of work that I had to do to post it to the web. For that I am most appreciative. I am sorry to see Bob retire from his post, and want to publicly thank him for all the support he has give me over the last six years. He has made a valuable contribution to the club as well as the fly fishing community. The next time you see Bob, join me in thanking him for his past six years of service.

Total BUFF Memberships



KNOT SENSE

Lou Haynes

I decided to write this article to share some of my trials and tribulations with leaders and knots during my years of fishing in hopes of enticing some of you to critically think about these key parts of your rigs. Please do not take my comments as though I'm an authority on this subject (I certainly am not), but as someone who is sharing his personal experiences. I also write this article to Jon Kennard, not because I think he uses poor knots (I'm not sure!), but because he is always looking for an occasional off-the-wall article to put into the "Buffer". Just maybe, after reading my comments, some of you will be encouraged to write to Jon as well about some of your fishing experiences.

My dad was an avid fisher and hunter who started me fishing for panfish in California reservoirs as soon as I was big enough to hold a rod. My first trout fishing experiences were with an inexpensive split bamboo fly rod dad bought at Montgomery Wards. I was lucky because my grandparents had a permanent campsite in the Sierras in a canyon above Bass Lake east of Fresno. I spent several weeks at camp each summer, in the late 40's and early 50's, honing my trout fishing techniques. I can remember catching grasshoppers in the nearby meadow, putting them in a tobacco tin and off to the creek I'd go, most days only coming back to camp for lunch and dinner. I hid behind trees, crawled on hands and knees and crept in the shadows to catch the wily trout. As I recall I could catch trout from streams where none lived. By the time I reached high school I was "really goooood" (at least, I dreamed I was!)! Back then I used blood knots, nail knots and clinch knots. These worked fine but to be honest the fish weren't all that big in those little streams.

Then an unfortunate thing happened! One of my relatives gave me a spinning rod equipped with a Mitchel 300 reel. I started using it to pursue trout at camp. By using a clear plastic bubble to which water could be added to adjust the weight, I fished dry flies, wet flies, nymphs, grasshoppers, worms, you name it. I found out that by using this "new" spinning rod I could fish most of the holes I hadn't been able to get to with my fly rod. So from about 1953 to 1998 I fished primarily spinning gear and occasionally bait casting gear. During this time I used nail knots, blood knots, improved clinch knots and Snell knots. I caught a lot of fish while using these knots. But the more I think about it, quite a few big ones broke off!

Then a positive thing happened in my fishing career. My son, Larry, moved to Colorado and hooked up with a friend at work who is an avid fly fisher. Tony took Larry under his wing and taught him how to fly fish. They spent time fishing together on some of the fine streams in the area. Shortly after I retired in 1998 Larry invited me to come to Colorado to fly fish with him in the famous Frying Pan River near Aspen. I couldn't turn that offer down! I had four months to prepare for the trip, that is, to be able to use a fly rod system again without embarrassing myself!!! I certainly couldn't use a spinning rod in front of Larry and Tony in the famous "Frying Pan"! What to do?

Fortunately, one of my fishing friends had recently joined NKFF and offered to help me. He suggested I take the one-day fly fishing class offered by NKFF. So I signed up. The class was held at a library on a Saturday somewhere in northern Kentucky. Mike Arnold was the instructor. He went over the equipment needs, showed us how to properly rig up, took us outside for casting practice and gave us maps to a few local fishing places. This class was perfect for my needs (thanks Mike).

Now all I needed was fly fishing equipment. Again, fortunately for me, my mother had given me all dad's fishing gear when he died (God rest his soul!). Included were some old fly fishing items. I found a Shakespeare fiberglass "Wonderod" and three Medalist fly reels, all in reasonable shape. (Interestingly, on the tip end of one of the old fly lines was a very small, metal eye-ring that was screwed into the end of the fly line, then over-tied with heavy thread and glued. An old leader was attached to the line with a knot tied through the eye-ring. I hadn't seen this line-leader connection before but have since read about it in a book or two.) I decided the rod and one of the reels would suffice so all I needed to get were a vest, wader, boots, leaders, flies, fly line, backing, tippet spools, floatant, sinket, fly boxes, etc., etc., etc.,. Then with a little casting practice I'd be all set.

Continued on page 6

When my equipment order arrived it was time to change out the old fly line and rig up the rod for casting practice. So what knots to use?!! Mike Arnold had given out knot diagrams at the class so I started with those. I used an Arbor knot to attach the backing to the reel, a nail knot to attach the new fly line to the backing, another nail knot to attach the new tapered leader to the other end of the fly line, a double surgeons knot to attach the tippet and an improved clinch knot to attach the fly. Now I was ready for the "Frying Pan".

The "Frying Pan" is one of several blue ribbon trout streams in Colorado. It flows out of Ruedi Reservoir and travels down a steep canyon several miles where it joins the Roaring Fork at the town of Basalt near Aspen. We stayed in Basalt and fished both streams while there. Fishing for me was much better in the "Frying Pan". I caught several nice trout including an 18" rainbow that I watched drift sidewise about a foot to take my size 18 nymph. He jumped several times then leaped over a 4-foot water fall to the pool below. I scrambled over several rocks and somehow managed to land and measure him before turning him loose. That awesome experience "hooked" me back into fly fishing. I was lucky to land that fish. When I checked the clinch knot tied to the nymph before casting again, the knot broke with just a slight pull! I'm sure I would have lost that nymph on the next strike.

Since getting back into fly fishing I've spent some time exploring better ways to rig up my equipment. About 3 years ago I started using loop-to-loop connections for attaching the leader to the fly line and the tippet to the leader. I've also changed to what I consider stronger knots in the tippet area because of losing some large fish from knot breakage. I'll share my reasons and the knots I'm currently using in the next writing. (To be continued.)

Advanced Fly Tying

Ken West

The Advanced Fly Tying class went great. We finished the 5th week just before Christmas. If you missed it, you missed a lot of great fly tying techniques, as well as a lot of just plain fun. Thanks to Jim Hampton, Jeff McElravy, Tom Baker, and Gary Begley. Special thanks to Dave Jones for arranging for the tying location.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, so we decided to continue through the winter. The classes will be on the second Thursday of the month - (the day after the monthly meeting) - Jan. 12th, Feb. 9th, March 9th, and April 13th. Consult the Buffer or the web site. Times will be 6:45pm to 8:45pm, at the Spingdale Community Center. All you need is your vice and tools. Materials will be furnished. Hope to see you then.

Thanks!

Randy Ratliff

Troutfishers Guide Service

I appreciate the Buckeye United Fly Fishers for having me as the December speaker. I want to thank everyone for the great hospitality and excellent meal. As I said during my presentation, let East Tennessee be your getaway destination. One update, I just received my permit to guide in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

You can find more about Randy and Troutfishers Guide Service at his website, <http://www.trout-fishers.net>

2006 BUFF Calendar

January

- Jan 5 **Tie & Lie West** 7-9 pm General fly tying and story telling. Bass Pro Outdoor
- Jan 11 **BUFF Monthly Meeting** 7-9 pm Raffel's on Reading Rd. Social hour 6 pm
- Jan 12 **Advanced Fly Tying Techniques** Springdale Community Center 7-9 pm
- Jan 18 **BUFF Board Meeting** 7-9 pm Church of Ascension & Holy Trinity 334 Burns Ave, Wyoming, OH Members Welcome.
- Jan 18-22 **Hart Show**
- Jan 19 **Tie & Lie East** 6-8 pm General fly tying and story telling. Adriens Fly Shop

February

- Feb 2 **Tie & Lie West** 7-9 pm General fly tying and story telling. Bass Pro Outdoor
- Feb 8 **BUFF Monthly Meeting** 7-9 pm Raffel's on Reading Rd. Social hour 6 pm
- Feb 9 **Advanced Fly Tying Techniques** Springdale Community Center 7-9 pm
- Feb 11 **Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show** Receptions on Rt. 4, 9 am – 4:30 pm
- Feb 15 **BUFF Board Meeting** 7-9 pm Church of Ascension & Holy Trinity 334 Burns Ave, Wyoming, OH Members welcome
- Feb 16 **Tie & Lie East** 6-8 pm General fly tying and story telling. Adriens Fly Shop
- Feb 16 **Rod Building** - John Doscher
- Feb 18 **Net Building** Paul Feldman
- Feb 25 **Net Building** Paul Feldman

March

- Mar 2 **Fly Fishing 101** - TBD
- Mar 2 **Tie & Lie West** 7-9 pm General fly tying and story telling. Bass Pro Outdoor
- Mar 3 **Beginning Fly Tying** 6:45-8:45 pm Springdale Community Center
- Mar 4 **Cabin Fever Relief Banquet** Receptions
- Mar 8 **BUFF Monthly Meeting** 7-9 pm Raffel's on Reading Rd. Social hour 6 pm

- Mar 9 **Rod Building** – John Doscher
- Mar 9 **Advanced Fly Tying Techniques** Springdale Community Center 7-9 pm
- Mar 9 **Fly Fishing 101** – TBD
- Mar 10 **Beginning Fly Tying** 6:45-8:45 pm Springdale Community Center
- Mar 15 **BUFF Board Meeting** 7-9 pm Church of Ascension & Holy Trinity 334 Burns Ave, Wyoming, OH Members welcome
- Mar 16 **Tie & Lie East** 6-8 pm General fly tying and story telling. Adriens Fly Shop
- Mar 16 **Rod Building** - John Doscher
- Mar 16 **Fly Fishing 101** – TBD
- Mar 17 **Beginning Fly Tying** 6:45-8:45 pm Springdale Community Center
- Mar 23 **Rod Building** - John Doscher
- Mar 23 **Fly Fishing 101** – TBD
- Mar 24 **Beginning Fly Tying** 6:45-8:45 pm Springdale Community Center
- Mar 28-29 **Northern Ohio Steelhead Trip** – TBD
- Mar 30 **Rod Building** - John Doscher
- Mar 30 **Fly Fishing 101** – TBD
- Mar 31 **Parky's Farm** 10 am-2 pm
- Mar 31 **Beginning Fly Tying** 6:45-8:45 pm Springdale Community Center
- TBD **Casting Tune Up** - TBD

April

- Apr 6 **Tie & Lie West** 7-9 pm General fly tying and story telling. Bass Pro Outdoor
- Apr 6 **Fly Fishing 101** – TBD
- Apr 7 **Parky's Farm** 10 am-2 pm
- Apr 8 **Day Trip** – TBD
- Apr 12 **BUFF Monthly Meeting** 7-9 pm Raffel's on Reading Rd. Social hour 6 pm
- Apr 13 **Advanced Fly Tying Techniques** Springdale Community Center 7-9 pm
- Apr 19 **BUFF Board Meeting** 7-9 pm Church of Ascension & Holy Trinity 334 Burns Ave, Wyoming, OH Members welcome
- Apr 20 **Tie & Lie East** 6-8 pm General fly tying and story telling. Adriens Fly Shop
- Apr 21-23 **Rockwell Springs Trip**
- Apr 21 **Parky's Farm** 10 am-2 pm
- Apr 22 **Catskill Fly Tying Rendezvous** – Roscoe NY
- Apr 28 **Parky's Farm** 10 am-2 pm
- TBD **East Fork River Sweep**

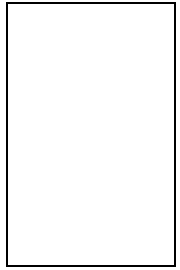
January Menu
Cheese & Pepperoni Stuffed Chicken Breast
Salmon Croquettes
Au Gratin Potatoes
Succotash
Tossed Salad with Dressings
Rolls and Butter
Sherbert served with Sugar Cookie

12/2005 BUFF Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$12705
Total Receipts	\$3075
Total Disbursements	\$4268
Ending Balance	\$11513



The BUFFER
 The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc.
 P. O. Box 42614
 Cincinnati, OH 45242



A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt, Charitable Corporation

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NOTICE: Please check dues expiration date on lower right corner of mailing label. If dues have expired, please remit \$25.00 for an Individual Membership or \$30.00 for a Family Membership to B. U.F.F., P.O. Box 42614, Cincinnati, OH 45242

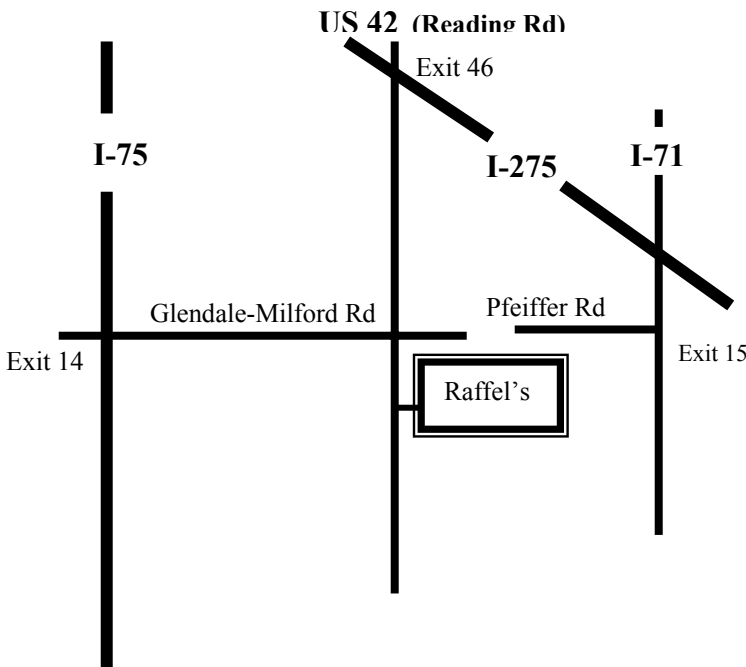
Mailing Address

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Next Monthly Meeting – Wednesday – January 11

CALL 779-4489 OR SIGN UP ON LINE AT WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM FOR DINNER RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN 10 PM ON THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING. DINNERS ARE \$10.00/PERSON FOR A CATERED MEAL. DOORS OPEN FOR SOCIAL HOUR AT 6 PM – DINNER SERVED A 7 PM. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED – DON'T WAIT – CALL NOW! (SEE THE MENU ON PAGE 7)



Directions:

From I-275 – Take Exit 46, (US 42), south for three miles to Glendale-Milford Rd. -- Continue south and RAFFEL'S will be on the left approximately 3/10 mile.

From I-75 -- Take Exit 14, east, on Glendale-Milford Rd. until the intersection of US 42, (Reading Rd). Turn right (south) on US 42, and RAFFEL'S will be on the left approximately 3/10 mile.

From I-71 -- Take Exit 15, west, Pfeiffer Rd. & this becomes Glendale-Milford Rd.. At the intersection of US 42, (Reading Rd), turn left, (south) on US 42, and RAFFEL'S will be on the left approximately 3/10 mile.