



The **BUFFER**

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

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January 1, 2021

Notes from the President

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

I hope all of you had a great Christmas and a happy New Year's. May we never see the likes of 2020 again. This past year has been very difficult for all of us in more ways than one. We, however, are focusing on the one aspect that we all love, fly fishing. We have all been impacted by the pandemic. Personal trips were cancelled. All club in person events were cancelled. Many took up fly tying unexpectedly. Pond fishing became really popular. Local waters were explored. Books were read and instructional videos viewed. To keep the club functioning we moved the monthly meetings to online events and even had a few additional presentations online as well. Support for many of our favorite vendors or friends of BUFF was given which moved to online auctions for their wares. 2021's fly show was cancelled. 2021's banquet is postponed. Looking back on this and lamenting the time lost will not do us any good. Let's look ahead to a better new year.

The coming year will bring its own challenges. Even though there are several vaccines coming we're a little way from normal. Supplies will not be plentiful enough to cover the required population early in the year. The general population will not start receiving the vaccine until mid-year if you believe the propaganda. That's not too bad considering the work that had to occur to get the vaccines this far. Well, let's make the best of it. In person meetings are not expected to begin until mid-year. We have already scheduled the Buffalo Bill Boy Scout Camp trip to Wyoming for August. Keep your fingers crossed. There are presentations by Rick Hafele that will happen on line on the date of the cancelled fly show, Saturday, February 6th. There are other presentations that will occur as they are developed. Watch for presentations on Water, the HOP, pike and musky. Online fly-tying classes are in the works. The first ones will be on vices and tools for fly tying. There's sure to be more.

It appears that we have all of our nominations for the BOD filled. The full list will be presented in the February Buffer. That doesn't mean that interested members can't get involved with the BOD. Let me know if you are interested.

I hope Santa was good to you and that you didn't do anything to regret at New Year's Eve.

Jim Vota, El Prez.

PS.

Don't forget about your friends in BUFF. If you need to get out fishing give someone a call to meet at a river. You can fish together safely. It is something to do to help keep the crazies away. There's a

contact list on the website. If you are new to the sport and need help call someone and ask for advice. The board members are listed and are willing to help. We are all part of this community.

JV

BUFF January Meeting – Wednesday, January 13th – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM –

January Speaker – Rob Fightmaster, Fightmaster Fly Fishing, Alcoa, TN. “Fishing in Eastern Tennessee & Smokey Mountains National Park”

Rob Fightmaster has been fly fishing for over thirty years and has more than twenty-five years of experience in various aspects of the fly fishing industry. He has fished all over the United States and has been a professional guide in Kentucky and Tennessee. He has taught numerous fly fishing schools, fly tying classes, rod building classes and has introduced hundreds of people to this sport. Along the way, Rob has worked in every aspect of the fly fishing retail business, tied flies commercially, and has worked intermittently as a freelance writer. He is possibly best known for creating and developing the fly fishing program at Blackberry Farm, twice receiving the Orvis Endorsed Lodge of the Year.



Rob currently owns and operates Fightmaster Fly Fishing, which he started in 2006. It is primarily a guide service focusing on the wild trout streams of the Smoky Mountains and surrounding areas. Additionally, Ron works as an instructor at the Little River Outfitters Fly Fishing School. He has been listed as “one of the South’s best fishing guides” by Garden & Gun magazine and was an Orvis Endorsed Guide of the Year finalist in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019.

Fightmaster Fly Fishing is a BUFF Sponsor, and Ron is a regular exhibitor at our Fly Fishing Show. Information about their services, guide rates, and bookings can be found on their website: <https://fightmasterflyfishing.com/> The site also has a wealth of other useful information on flies, including patterns, knots, and fishing the local waters.

- **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 January 12th.**

- 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 reminder that membership renewal for 2021 is ongoing, and is due for 2021. You can renew on-line on the BUFF website. Membership renewal is in the “Member Services” page on the website, just need to login with your e-mail address. You can pay by credit card or mail a check. Payment options are on the website.

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.

BUFF COVID Relief Auctions – Thank You!

BUFF has completed our COVID Relief Auction Program. Thank you to the BUFF members who participated, worked with the team to obtain auction items, and congratulations to all of those who ‘won’ the various auctioned items. Our participation has provided some needed funds to area fly shops and services who support our club. Our members have benefited by obtaining opportunities for trips and outings or gift certificates to be used at shops. Importantly, all of the vouchers and certificates are usable through the end of 2021, so there should be adequate time to take advantage of the items.



The club provided \$7,725 to various vendors as our COVID support initiative. Through the auctions, we have recovered \$5,419, about 70%. We did not expect to recover all of our cost. The vendors we provided support to continue to let us know how appreciative they were, and will certainly regard our club highly going forward.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Program Leader Needed

Brent Miller has led our chapter of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF), our program which works with veterans, for over 10 years. Brent's retirement from PHWFF occurred at the end of last November.

BUFF has been and is still seeking an individual to take on leadership of our club's involvement in the Project Healing Waters program. Taking on leadership of the PHWFF program does not mean doing it all on your own. We have many volunteers who lead and participate on casting and fishing skills when we get out to fish, and on fly tying in the fall and winter months. Training for the program systems is available from the national organization, and of course Brent will help to transition the leadership of our program.

Currently, due to the COVID pandemic, all in-person activities of PHWFF are on hold. However, as the vaccines get distributed, we are hopeful that PHWFF will be able to restart activities at some point in 2021. While there are a number of 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) or Brent Miller directly (phone: 513-535-8735). They would be happy to answer any questions.

Virtual Presentations in Lieu of the 2021 Fly Fishing Show

Here is something to raise interest!

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 has shared this knowledge with fellow anglers to understand the fish week seek, and the insects that they eat. Rick is also an accomplished author, with multiple books on numerous angling topics, and 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 - <https://www.rickhafele.com/>

Well, while we are not going to have a formal show. We are going to have a couple of virtual presentations by Rick, that will take place on the show date – Saturday, February 6th. Here is the schedule:

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 – BUFF member Jeff McElravy will do a tying demonstration
 - Further details will be forthcoming

- 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM - *Break*
- 3PM – 4PM – a second presentation from Rick Hafele, “Seasonal Hatches & Patterns”

Details on access will be announced as we get closer to the date.



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

Other Presentations and Programs Being Planned

Watch the BUFF Website and BUFFER for announcements on the following –

- Tom Bachey is preparing a presentation on ‘water’. Should be interesting.
- Several of our tying instructors are working on a virtual flying classes. These will replace our in-person introductory tying class, and the first ones will discuss vices and tying tools.
- Jim Vota has been working on a pike and musky fishing presentation.
- Tim Williamson has put together a virtual class on learning the ‘Hop’, a great technique for attracting fish to a fly and catching them.

Wyoming / Yellowstone Fishing Trip Opportunity

At the December Zoom meeting, Glen Penquite, the Fishing Director of the Camp Buffalo Bill Anglers Base Camp, told us about the unique fishing opportunity to stay at Camp Buffalo Bill, and fish the North Fork of the Shoshone River which runs through the camp, and also fish in Yellowstone National Park. The camp is about eight miles from the East entrance to the park. Recall that the camp is primarily for use by the Boy Scouts; however, in August the camp is opened for use by anglers, and Glen operates this program.



Here is the Opportunity -

We have openings for up to 20 BUFF members to go to Camp Buffalo Bill Anglers Base Camp this coming August. Our reservation is for the first week in August, Sunday August 1st through Saturday August 7th.



Registration is limited to BUFF members and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. So, if interested, you should sign up early. Several club members have already committed.

Cost is \$750 per angler, which includes lodging and all meals.

How to Register. Register by calling the Greater Wyoming Boy Scout Council Office at (307) 234-7329. Identify yourself as a member of BUFF. They will register you and get your credit card information. Office hours are 8 AM – 4 PM Mountain Standard Time (two hours earlier than us). *Please note, you cannot sign-up for the August 1st – 7th 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.

BUFF Coordinator. This trip is organized by Camp Buffalo Bill Anglers Base Camp. It is not a BUFF-sponsored trip. However, Jack Gormley has agreed to act as coordinator for the BUFF

registrants. Once you register, please contact Jack to let him know you have registered, or if you have questions. Jack's e-mail is jgormley@fuse.net, and his mobile # is 513-678-4518. Jack will provide a list of participants, so people can coordinate travel and fishing plans.

Camp Buffalo Bill Anglers Base Camp

The camp is on the North Fork Shoshone River. There are miles of fishing opportunities on the river. Arrangements to fish in Yellowstone National Park or some of the other surrounding rivers can be made as well.

The staff are knowledgeable and accommodating. They can take people wherever they want to go on the river, and then return to bring you back to the base camp or take you to other river locations. If at least 5 people want to go to Yellowstone (1 ½ hr one way drive), or to Jackson Hole and the Grand Tetons (full day trip with late return), they will arrange that also. If folks want to get out early or stay out through the entire day, the staff will provide a continental breakfast, waiting for you at departure, and/or sandwiches for lunch.

More information on the camp and the fly fishing opportunity can be found on the following website link: <http://www.campbuffalobill.com/non-bsa-programs/yellowstone-anglers-basecamp/>



View of the Base Camp on the Shoshone River

Accommodations are rustic –

- Cabins have bunk beds with mattresses and a couple of small tables. There is electricity in the cabins, but no heat or A/C. The cabins have windows and a fan.
- You will need to bring bed linens and either a sleeping bag or blankets, and a pillow. Weather can range from warm-to-hot in daytime, to cold at night. It is high elevation.
- There is a heated shower house, with ample showers and facilities.
- Laundry facilities are available at the camp
- ***There is no cell phone service or WiFi. There is a land-line phone for emergency use.***

Meals –

- The trip provides 3 meals a day.
- Meals are in a communal dining hall, where all gatherings and fellowship occur. This large building is open 24 hr a day with complimentary snacks and beverages available. Past participants rave about the food!

Additional Information–

- If your travel plan is to fly, the closest airport is Yellowstone Regional Airport, in Cody WY. The camp provides shuttle service to/from this airport. Cost is \$20.
- If you are thinking of driving, the trip will likely require 2 nights on the road before getting to the camp.
- Arrival on Sunday, August 1st is from 2:00 PM.
- Departure on Saturday, August 7th is after breakfast (checkout at 9:00 AM). This allows the camp to prepare for the next week of anglers.
- Anglers will require a Wyoming Fishing License for the Shoshone. Wyoming license information and regulations can be obtained here: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/fishing-and-boating> Non-resident fees are \$14 for a single day license and \$56 for a 5-day license.
- If you plan to fish in Yellowstone, a separate license is required. That information is at: <https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishing.htm> A 3-day license is \$18, and a 5-day license is \$25. Licenses can be purchased at various locations in and around the park, including local fly shops. Yellowstone prohibits use of felt-soled wading boots/footwear. Hooks must be barbless.

Cancellation Policy – The following is from the program website and clearly explains the cancellation policy.

Cancellation Policy

In order to provide quality programs and events a good deal of planning based on the number of registrants must take place. Program supplies, patches, site and equipment rental all need to be purchased up front based on how many people register. These expenses are not refundable to the council.

Refunds: Individuals or groups that cancel a program reservation 30 days prior to the date of the event will receive a refund of fees paid, less a 15% administrative charge. No refunds will be made after the 30 day cancellation deadline except in a case of extenuating circumstances.

All cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Greater Wyoming Council, 3939 Casper Mountain Rd, Casper, WY 82601

Give the Gift of Fishing

By Hugh O'Donnell

As my grand-kids interest in fishing increases, I find myself relearning gear fishing. It was a simple method when I was young and should be good for teaching young children. However, the changes over the past 50 years surprised me. Gear fishing has changed, expanded and become complex. There are drop shots, Carolina rigs, wacky worms, spinner baits, and the list goes on and on. Focusing on simple and safe, I found that soft baits, plastic worms and even trout flies works well on bait-caster gear.

Another activity my grand-kids love is tying flies with me. I've recently reduced it to bending trolling wire into shanks, a substitute for hooks. It is cheaper and safer for them to tie on this form. Occasionally, we can use one of these patterns to create hooks for fishing. It's always fun to catch fish with your own flies.

I found a connection between these approaches and one of my favorite young fly tyers, Gunner Brammer. In a series of videos on YouTube, Gunner mentions some that he started with gear, the traditional path. Once introduced to fly tying, he became immersed in tying bass flies for spinning gear. Eventually, he learned to cast a fly rod, worked with Kelly Gallop for a period and completed the transformation to fly fisher. Today, Gunner is one of the most creative and mechanistic tiers that I see on YouTube. He understands how and why materials should be shifted or repositioned to create the best motions.

I wanted to share some of Gunner's flies for spinning fishing. Hopefully you can share this knowledge, and these flies with a kid. After all, keeping our kids engaged in the outdoors has benefits including health, appreciation of the earth and understanding of its creatures. And let's be honest, anything that reduces electronic screen time is likely good. :)

Here are the links. I hope you enjoy them and that you can continue to give the gift of fishing to our youth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESDx1Gy92fQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeAVjWyeJUI&t=4s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpFTmeuGCK0&t=24s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNHsQ6TjACY>

And remember - if something bites isn't necessary bad. <:

Membership Recognition for 2020

By Cari Vota

Something good should come out of this incredible year. So we will recognize those BUFF members who have stuck it out with us over the years. Hopefully, when we can get back together, we can do this in person at a meeting.

Here are the members as of 2020 have been with the Club 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years.

10 years with the Club:

Vique Caro	Robert Weckman	Tim Williamson
Jack & Denise Gormley	Thomas Lord	
J.R. Jackson	Cecil Osborn	

15 years with the Club:

Larry Long	Bryan Tudor	Bill & Donna Schroeder
Jim Neckers	Bob Bowers	Andy Sutthoff
Lloyd Fields	Ken Speicher	George & Judy Sutthoff
Donald & Lucia Hudson	Tom Knapke	
Larry & Karen Spiers	Lane Stocker	

20 Years with the Club:

Ken Foltz	Gary & Gloria Begley
Randy Clark	David French

25 years with the Club:

Jim LeBlond

30 years with the Club:

Cas Denton

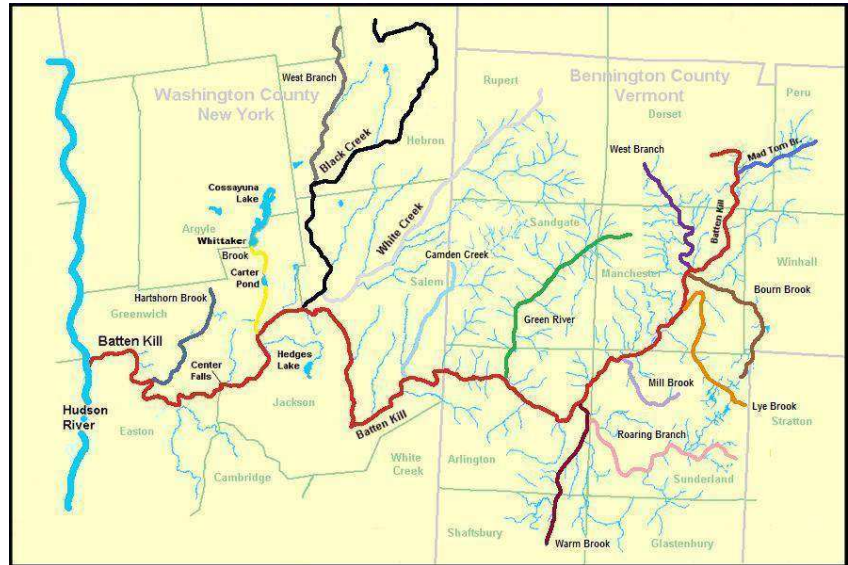
Restoration Project on the Battenkill

Tom Bachey sent in the following link which talks about a large ongoing project, now led by Trout Unlimited, to restore sections of the Battenkill River in southern Vermont. It is an interesting article. Unlike many rivers, the Battenkill in Vermont does not stock trout, so the fish in the river are native and wild. Also, the habitat improvement and restoration efforts are increasing the native trout population significantly. Toms commented was that he has fished this river and enjoyed it (his son lives in Vermont). *Maybe we can convince him to lead BUFF trip to the area!*

Here is the link: <https://vtdigger.org/2020/11/29/trout-are-on-the-rise-again-in-the-battenkill-a-river-prized-by-anglers/>

The Battenkill may sound familiar, as it is a prime and pristine trout river in the north east. Also, Orvis' headquarters in Manchester, VT are on the river, and their classic Battenkill reels are named for it as well.

The map shows the Battenkill (shown in red) and its tributaries. The article which Tom has shared, focuses on a restoration effort to stabilize a steep hill embankment eroding into the Green River, but also provides an overview of the broader Trout Unlimited work on the Battenkill itself.



Fly Tying – Ed Engle’s Bubble Wing BWO Emerger

Ken Mandel

I saw this video produced by Tim Flagler from Tightline Productions. Tim introduces the fly and discusses the tying sequence and steps, while Ed Engle does the actual tying demo. What a great combination. Ed Engle literally wrote the books and tying and fishing small flies. These two books were recently been reissued as a single.

This fly represents an emerger stage of a blue wing olive. The top photo on the right shows the nymph where the emerging wing captures an air bubble and forms a glistening on the top of the thorax. The image below is Ed’s interpretation as the tied fly. It uses a small silver glass bead to mimic the bubble. Rest of materials are standard and simple. This is tied on a size 18 hook, but it can be tied larger, and smaller.

I have tied a couple in size 16 and like my results so far.

Here is the video link: <https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-tie-ed-engles-bubble-wing-bwo-emerger>



Materials:

Hook:	Caddis-pupa hook, size 16 -22 (the video uses a TMC 2488)
Thread	Black 10/0 (I did not have this, so used 8/0)
Bead:	Small, silver-lined glass bead threaded on dental floss
Tail/Body/Legs	Single clump of 4 olive-dyed pheasant-tail fibers
Legs	
Rib:	Small diameter copper wire
Thorax:	Peacock ice dubbing

Tying Instructions:

1. Mount hook in vise and start thread immediately behind the eye. Take few wraps rearward and snip off excess.
2. For mounting the bead, Ed's technique is to string 5 – 6 beads on a 10" length of unwaxed dental floss, with a knot at one end to keep the beads from sliding off. He pulls a bead along toward the free end of the floss, and folds the floss over leaving a small loop with the captured bead. The bead is then tied in on top of the hook shank by binding the floss down behind the bead with tight thread wraps. The front edge of the bead is aligned with the back of the hook eye. The bead will initially rotate, but with tight wraps this will stop. Snip off the excess floss.
3. Take additional thread wraps down onto the hook bend.
4. The tail and body are formed from using 4 olive-colored pheasant tail fibers. Snip the fibers free from the tail, keeping the tips aligned. Lay the fibers on the near side of the hook shank with the tips extending over the bend. Secure to the top of the hook shank with a few thread wraps.



5. A piece of small diameter copper wire is used for ribbing. It is tied in on the near side of the hook shank with thread wraps taken to the base of the tail. Pull the pheasant tail fibers back and bind them down with a few thread wraps. Then wrap the thread forward to behind the bead.

6. The abdomen is formed by making touching wraps with the pheasant tail toward the bead. Stop the wraps leaving some space behind the bead. Anchor with a few thread wrap. Advance the thread in front of the bead, and take a few wraps to really lock down the pheasant tail fibers there, leaving the fibers in place over the front of the hook. Return the thread to behind the bead. Counter wrap the copper wire over the wrapped pheasant tail abdomen. When you reach the tying thread tie the wire in behind the bead and helicopter it off. At this point the fly should look like the image at the right.



7. Peacock ice-dub is used for form the thorax. A small bit is all that is needed. Make a short, thin dubbing noodle on the thread and take a few wraps behind and then in front of the bead to form the thorax. Obviously, with the small size of this fly, a little bit of dub will go a long way.

Pull the 4 pheasant tail fibers back along either side of the hook shank and take a few thread wraps to hold the back in a swept-back position. Build a small head with a couple of 4-5 turn whip finishes. Set the know and cut the tying thread free. Again pull the pheasant tail fibers back and clip the excess to form short legs.



The last minute of the video is well worth listening to. Ed explains how he usually fishes this fly. The fly will sink below the surface. Most often he will fish it behind a dry fly as an indicator fly, but which will also attract and catch fish. Ed discusses other options he uses as well.

**Happy New Year
Best Wishes for 2021**