



The BUFFER

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

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

January 1, 2025

The President's Fly Box

Happy New Year all. Hopefully, we all recover from the holidays. As you make plans for the coming year, I hope that BUFF is part of those plans. We will be offering education, trips, social events, and conservation activities. Some of this year's offerings to learn and grow as a fly fisher include fly fishing 101 classes, fly tying courses, and fly casing classes. Our fly fishing trips offer some of the least expensive trips to fish good waters with knowledgeable people who share their experience.

Another great opportunity to learn and grow is to participate in monthly meetings. The meetings offer a diverse list of topics presented by leading experts. This is a great way to learn, meet people, and to sign up for activities. If you are new to the sport, one of the best ways to become a fly fisher, is to get involved with these and other activities in BUFF.

Big events coming up are The Greater Cincinnati Fly Show and the BUFF Banquet. These are fantastic opportunities to learn, meet new friends, sign up for trips with guides, get new equipment etc. So, I hope that I'll see you there. As a reminder, the Fly Fishing Show depends on participation of our members, so please sign up to help. We have several volunteer activities we need to fill. To say it simply, without this support the show cannot happen. Sign-up through the website, please.

Your Board of Directors is always looking for what makes BUFF better. Please talk with the board members if you have any ideas. We also have info@buckeyeflyfisher.com to communicate to the Board. We talk about feedback and new ideas every month to keep the club headed in the right direction. Are you curious about what we do at the board meeting? These sessions are always open to our members. Please come.

Make 2025 a great fly fishing year,

Hugh O'Donnel
BUFF President

BUFF January Meeting – Wednesday January 8th

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. **Please register on the website whether having dinner with us or not so Oasis can set up adequate tables and seating. This month the second Wednesday is early! On-line registration will close on Sunday, January 5th.**

January Presentation – Josh Greenberg, Gates Au Sable Fly Shop & Lodge - “Fly Fishing as a Hunt”

Josh Greenberg owns and operates Gates Lodge and Fly Shop, on Michigan's Au Sable River. He's a lifelong fly-fishing addict from right here in Southern Ohio. He loves fishing in general, and fly-fishing in particular. Trout fishing has been his way of life since he became an adult: as a guide, commercial tyer, author and now shop owner. On May evenings, he does not return phone calls. In the winter, he ties the flies he wished he had in the summer. He loves best rivers that aren't easy, and hence, he loves the Au Sable the most.



Josh's presentation at the meeting will be done remotely. To participate, you do need to attend the meeting. Josh will be in Cincinnati for the Fly Fishing Show on February 1st, so you can get a chance to see and listen to him in person. His presentation at the show will be “Reading the Waters in High and Low Flows”

January Dinner Menu –

- Kentucky Bourbon BBQ Chicken
- Southern Style Green Beans
- Mac & Cheese
- Cole Slaw
- Corn Bread
- Coffee & Tea
- Chef's Choice Dessert

January 10-Minute Tech Talk –

Jim Vota, who is an FFI- Certified Casting Instructor, will discuss the roll cast. We encourage members to stop by during 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.

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 December 2024

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

This past month saw us gain 1 new member –

- **Brian Cron**, Cincinnati, OH

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

2025 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show - Final Update

By Tom Bachev & Ken Mandel

Final Reminder – our show is Saturday, February 1st, 2025. Just a month away. It is at the Oasis Center and hours are 9 AM – 4 PM.

We still have openings for Brian Wise’s Fly Tying Classes and Jason Randall’s dry-fly fishing techniques class, These are also at the Oasis Center, and are on Friday, January 31st, the day prior to the show This are incredible learning opportunities, so do not miss out. Registration for these classes is through the website. For more detailed information, see last month’s BUFFER.

Our most important remaining need for a successful show is to recruit volunteers from our membership to help on the days of the show. We typically seek about 70 volunteers. Without your help, the show cannot succeed. Please offer to help!

Here is a list of volunteer activities and what is involved –

Hall Preparation (Friday afternoon) <i>This team is fully recruited</i>	Mark the exhibit hall area (tape floor) for booth locations. Oasis and Academy Rentals bring & set-up tables and chairs. <i>Team leader is Tom Bachey</i>
Load-In / Load-Out <i>Need a few people to help here</i>	Help exhibitors with bringing the items to their booth location. <i>Team leader is Tom Agin</i> Load-In - Friday PM (3-6 PM), Saturday(7-9 AM) Load-Out – Saturday PM (4- 6 PM)
Casting Pond Set-Up (Thursday or Friday AM) & Take Down (Saturday PM) <i>Need a few people to help here</i>	Help set up and take down the indoor casting pond. <i>Team leader is Tim Williamson</i>
Admissions (Saturday) <i>Need a few people to help here</i>	Collect admissions fee at front table. <i>Team leader is Kathy LaDow</i>
AV Support <i>Need 1- 2 people for this team!</i>	Assist with AV for workshops on Friday, & presentations, tying and casting demonstrations on Saturday. <i>Team Leader is Scott Biser</i>
Information Booth <i>Need a few people to help here</i>	Assist by providing general information to show attendees and vendors as needed. Help with scripted announcements during show. <i>Team leader is Tom Bachey</i>
Raffle Booth <i>Need a few people to help here</i>	Help with BUFF Raffle sales. <i>Team leader is Kathy Newsom</i>
BUFF Membership Booth	Provide attendees with information about club (brochures and 2025 activities handouts). <i>Team leader is Cari Vota</i>
Beginner Fly Tying Table <i>Need a few tiers to help here</i>	Tie simple fly (Wooly Bugger) with attendees who want to try their hand at this. <i>Team leader is Ken Mandel</i>
Kids Activity Area / Crafty Fish	Help with craft activities for ‘kids of all ages’. <i>Team leader is Haruko Mizoguchi</i>
Help in Presentation Rooms <i>Need a few people to help here</i>	Introduce speakers and presenters for fly tying demonstrations. Be available to assist if needed.
Booth Sitters <i>Need a few people to help here</i>	Watch vendor booth when vendor needs a break. We are not doing sales. <i>Team leader is Tom Bachey</i>
Fly Fishing 101 <i>Need 1 person to help</i>	Assist Jim Vota for the 1-hour program on Saturday.
Hospitality & Transportation	May need person to pick up Jason Randall at airport on Thursday and return him to airport after show or on Sunday.
Storage Locker Material Retrieval	Pick up listed materials for show from storage locker on Friday (late AM or midday).

The easiest way for volunteer to sign-up is through the website - www.buckeyeflyfishers.com – using the **“BUFF Fly Show Volunteers – SIGN UP!”** link on the home page. If you have questions call or email Ken Mandel (513-675-8488, kengmandel@gmail.com) or Tom Bachey (513-543-4056, h2oguy@fuse.net). We are happy to answer any questions.

Save the Date – BUFF Banquet – Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

From Bryan Tudor



The 2025 BUFF Banquet will be held on Wednesday, March 12th, 2025, at the Oasis Center from 6 – 9 PM. The Banquet is our major yearly fundraiser. Funds we raise are used to support our various activities. It’s a great evening to bring a spouse, family member, or friend.

As at past banquets, there will be a catered meal, time for socializing, and best of all, fun bidding on 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. The Banquet is also our opportunity to recognize members who in the past year made significant contributions to BUFF, as well as all who volunteered in supporting our 2024 activities. Tickets are \$45 per person, and include appetizers, dinner and delicious desserts. There is cash bar.

Grand prize raffle tickets are \$10 and general raffle tickets are \$5. Registration is now open on the BUFF website. You can register and pay on line or print out a paper registration and mail it with your check.

Looking forward to seeing you there

Support the Banquet – Donations!

As BUFF’s major fund raising event, we offer items and prizes through silent auctions and raffles. While silent auction items are most often fishing related, and usually include trips and guided services, General and Grand Raffle items are more diverse. Items in these raffles are often donations from club members. While items can be fishing related, that is not a requirement, and having a diversity of items is preferable. Examples of non-fishing items at prior Banquets have included hand-crafted items, artwork, home and personal services (housecleaning, photographic services), vouchers (restaurants, golf at members course, store vouchers, etc.) or other items which club members can bid on.

The Banquet team is asking that BUFF members please consider offering an item for placement in the General or even Grand Raffle. If you are a regular customer at local business, please consider contacting them to see if they would donate a raffle item. Many local businesses are happy to support these activities.

If you have any questions, please call Bryan Tudor at 513-827-5437.



BUFF Logo Wear –

By Haruko Mizoguchi

I recently accepted the responsibility to serve as coordinator for BUFF Logo Apparel, which Sue Jones previously managed. I will do my best to make sure this membership service continues with excellence in partnership with Jeremy Ritzie at Lebowski Tees & Design, a local business located in Oxford, OH.

For those who are not familiar with BUFF Logo Apparel, this membership service is found on the BUFF website as follows:

- **Open the BUFF Website – www.buckeyeflyfishers.com**
- **From the Home Page, select “Member Services” & Log with your email address**
- **Select Order Logo Apparel** – This opens a list of BUFF logo items available for purchase. Clicking an individual image accesses sizing and color options. This page also provides the details on how you can purchase the items.



Apparel is sourced from well recognized companies such as Eddie Bauer and Port Authority. Jeremy expertly customizes each ordered item. The finished products are very nice (see examples), and the cost is very reasonable for a quality item. Jeremy is a longtime supporter of BUFF and is also an avid angler who competes in Bass tournaments (and takes home winning prizes). He views a relationship with BUFF as a partnership among anglers.

As the coordinator, I will be acting as the go-between for BUFF with Lebowski. Once Jeremy has completed an order, I will notify you and deliver the items to a regular BUFF meeting. If you cannot attend the meetings, I will make arrangements to have you pick them up.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (mizoguchiharuko@gmail.com)

Spring North Carolina Trout Trip – Trip Leader Needed

Mike Redmond has indicated that he will not be the trip leader for the 2025 Spring North Carolina trout fishing trip. This is usually scheduled in late-April, and is a popular club trip. The club is seeking someone to be trip leader for this event. It would be a great opportunity for one of the regular trip participants to take this on, as you know the routine.

Another Montana Trout Trip

Most of our members are aware of the late summer trip to the Yellowstone Park area organized by Yellowstone Anglers Basecamp. This trip occurs in early August and is a week of fly fishing based out of the Camp Buffalo Bill boy scout camp. The camp is on the North Branch of the Shoshone River and offers access to this stream as well as rivers in and near Yellowstone National Park. Several of our members have participated in this trip over the past few years.

Well, we now have an opportunity to join another fly-fishing trip in Montana. This trip is offered through Western Kentucky University, who have been doing it since 2012. Fishing is based out of Missoula, which is in northwest Montana. The dates are Monday, September 22nd thru Saturday, September 27th. The schedule has arrival on 9/22, 4 days of guided fishing - Tuesday – Friday (9/23 – 9/26), and departure on Saturday, 9/27. All fishing is from boats and is guide-led. Rivers which can be accessed from Missoula include the Blackfoot, Bitterroot and Clark Fork.

Cost is effected by the number of anglers - \$2,750 per person if there are 9 anglers (minimum) to \$2,475 if there are 17 anglers (maximum). This includes 5 nights lodging (Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula), 4 days of guided fishing, gratuities for guides, lunches when fishing, and airport-hotel shuttle. Travel to and from Missoula, licenses, and other meals are not included.

This is not a BUFF-sponsored or led trip. The trip leader and contact person for information or questions is Dr. Raymond Poff of WKU (raymond.poff@wku.edu). More information and registration form is at <https://bit.ly/flyfishmt25>. **You need submit a registration application by January 30th**

BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish

Remember, if you get out to fish, please send photos and where you were fishing to kengmandel@gmail.com, and I'll get it into an upcoming BUFFER. It's a great way share information and locations with the club!

In early December, Scott Biser, Andy Bregger and a few others fished the Davidson and Mills Rivers in North Carolina. A couple of photos of Scott and Andy on the Davidson.



Things of Possible Interest

Hand Strip Line or Use the Reel?

Here's an item Tom Bachev found on the [MidCurrent Blog](#) site.

We've all been here: the moment you set the hook, you're faced with two choices: use the reel or trust your fingers to maintain the delicate connection between you and your quarry. Each approach is a distinct tool to use in landing fish. So, when do these techniques work best?

A strip retrieve works most often when working smaller water or dealing with fish under about sixteen inches. That frisky brown trout darting through the pocket water isn't going to take you into your backing, and your hands will give you the split-second control you need to keep it out of those submerged branches. The same goes when fishing for smallies in riffles—quick adjustments to line tension can mean the difference between solid hookup and a story about the one that got away.

Signs You Should Switch to the Reel

Line burning across your stripping finger, the fish heading for the next county with your line and showing no signs of slowing down, or the fish the first appeared to be a decent rainbow turns out to have shoulders like a steelhead, are all good clues it may be time to switch to the reel and rely on the consistency of a quality drag system. Making the switch requires practice to maintain steady pressure while gathering loose line and engaging the reel and avoiding any slack. Modern reels are designed to tip the odds in your favor with drag systems that can deliver consistent pressure which systematically wears down fish while protecting those 6x tippets from sudden surges. When you hook into something that's going to test your backing knot, that drag mechanism becomes your best ally in the fight.

Different waters also suggest different approaches. In a brush-choked mountain stream hand-stripping can keep fish from wrapping you around every submerged root wad. But when you're on water where fish have room to run, and few obstacles you need to worry about, getting them on the reel fast becomes critical.

Each species also writes its own rules. Smaller fish, such as a little brookie in a mountain stream, call for stripping line. But when you're swinging flies for winter steelhead or working the flats for bonefish, you want that fish on the reel before it realizes it's hooked.

The bottom line is that there are no rigid rules in choosing between reel and hand-stripping. It's about reading situations and responding with the right tool at the right moment. These are techniques that need practice to become second nature. The more comfortable you are switching between methods, the better equipped you'll be when that trophy fish inhales your fly. Over time, the decision becomes a less conscious choice and more instinctive.

Here is the website for the full article: https://midcurrent.com/techniques/ask-midcurrent-the-strip-or-reel-predicament/?utm_source=MidCurrent+Fly+Fishing+Email+Newsletter&utm_campaign=00ff3d65bf-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_10_15_03_27_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-57240dc12e-42952889&goal=0_8efbf3b958-00ff3d65bf-42952889&mc_cid=00ff3d65bf&mc_eid=d6b0365f8f

Fish Every Cast

This is from an article by Justin Pickett that is on the Gink & Gasoline site. The full article can be found here: <https://www.ginkandgasoline.com/fly-fishing-tips-technique/fish-every-cast/>

The key point of his article to emphasize that regardless of how good or poor a cast is, if the fly hits the water, fish it!

Justin is a guide, and he opens the article by saying Just about every day that I spend on the water with a client, I'll find myself, at some point, explaining to them the reasons why I want them to fish each and every cast to the very end.

Flies only catch fish when they are on, or in, the water. All too often we all lay our fly on the water, and immediately rip it off the surface to make another, hopefully better, presentation. This is a major mistake -

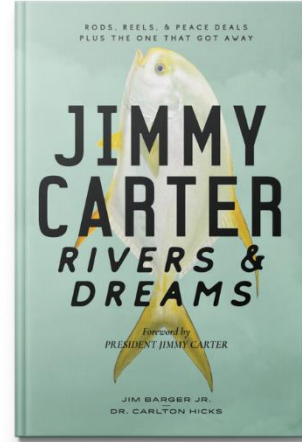
- For one, the act of landing flies on the water and then ripping them off creates noises, ripples, and splashes which can either spook fish, or at least alert them that somethings going on. If the fly hits the water, leave it and let it drift out of the run, or at least well downstream of the fish, before picking it up.
- Secondly, take your time and regroup. Yanking your flies from the water only to cast again without changing anything isn't likely to make the next presentation any more successful. Take time to make adjustments before recasting. Change your position, check your distance, maximize your chances to make your next cast better or more on target.
- The third thing that I emphasize is the "you never know" factor that is always there. Just because you think you've made a crappy cast doesn't mean it will have crappy results. Fish don't know that you made lackluster cast, and that presentation may lead to a hook-up.

Making awful casts is just part of the game. We all do it, but sometimes those "awful" casts can produce some amazing results. So, even if you're certain that a presentation is a dud, it is best to let it go in order to save you some grief. Let each drift play out and view each cast as a learning experience. Use them to make adjustments for the next presentation and you'll be more successful on the water.

Fishing Stories from President Jimmy Carter

From Ken Mandel

“Jimmy Carter: Rivers & Dreams” is a recently published book by, and yes it is about President Jimmy Carter. I was not aware that Carter was an avid angler. Apparently, he had a core group of ‘do or die’ friends with whom he fished. The book is a collection of 12 stories of their fishing and feasting adventures with world leaders. I did not see it listed on Amazon (maybe it is too new to have made it there), but here is a link to a site selling the book if interested - <https://bsgeneralstore.com/products/jimmy-carter-rivers-dreams>



Upcoming BUFF Activities

The season is winding down, but still a good number of activities to consider

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

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, January 8 th , 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
BUFF BOD Meeting Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Wednesday, January 15 th , 6:30 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
Monthly Tie & Lie Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, January 17 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Friday, January 31st Pre Show Tying Workshops w/Brian Wise PreShow Workshops w/Jason Randall Saturday, February 1st Show & Exhibits 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Workshop Registration & Payment is on-line on the BUFF Website Program on the BUFF Website

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.

