



# The BUFFER

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

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July 2, 2015

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## Notes from the President

Ken Dixon ([krjdix@outlook.com](mailto:krjdix@outlook.com))

June was a busy month with trips to the Elkhorn Creek in Kentucky and the Sunnybrook Trout Club near Sandusky, Ohio. We also had our annual Casting Classes. Our public educational activities also continued with events at Kids Fest (in conjunction with NKFF), Parky's Farm, Fish Camps at Lake Isabella, and the Cincinnati Museum's BugFest. Thanks to all the volunteers that help make these programs so successful.

The Ohio Council of the international Federation of Fly Fishers Warm Water Conclave which was scheduled on June 27 had to be cancelled due to the inclement weather that was predicted for the Bellville, Ohio area. Stay tuned for more information from the Council on their plans for this event.

July will see a continuation of our Educational Programs with Family Fishing at Parky's Farm, programs at the Sporting Women's Day and at the VOA Regatta. We will also see the return of Day Trips with a Trip to Brookville Tail Waters.

At our regular July meeting, we will be hosting our sister clubs, Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers and Miami Valley Fly Fishers at our annual Joint Meeting. This year's joint meeting will be held at the Voice of America Park on our regular meeting night, July 8. In addition to our normal program and dinner we have a number of special events planned for this year's joint meeting:

**Raffles:** We will be holding our normal Dinner Raffle, Match the Hatch Raffle and our Main Raffle. However, our Presenter for the evening will be donating a TFO Rod which will be offered as a Grand Prize as part of our main raffle in addition to our normal 3 prizes

**Swap Meet:** We will have tables set up where items for sale or trade can be displayed. Mark Item with a price and your name so we can announce your name if you are not around the table.

**The Lodge Patio:** The patio behind the Lodge overlooking the VOA Lake and Gazebo is reserved for our use. Enjoy the social hour with your friends on the patio while enjoying a libation from the Cash Bar inside the Lodge. Our caterer will be grilling burgers and brats on the patio as well.

**Casting Games & Events:** In field north of Lodge (area will be designated with caution tape)  
Casting Analyzer – Have your cast video recorded and see it analyzed electronically.  
Fly Casting Golf: 5 holes – BUFF will supply a rod for each hole to level the playing field.  
Try out a TFO Rod - Our evening's presenter will be bringing some TFO rods that you can test drive prior to the meeting.

**Fishing:** Members of BUFF, NKFF and MVFF may fish the Park Lake at a reduced rate of \$2.00 from 4:00 PM until the time for the meeting. Go to the "Wheel House" on the north side of the Lodge and show your Club membership badge to get the reduced rate.

**Co-Event at Park:** The Metro Parks is having a music event on the same night as our meeting. They will be holding their Hump Day Concert from 7:00 to 9:00 at the base of Chill Hill across from the Ronald Reagan Lodge. FYI the band this evening will be the Rabbit Hash String Band. Attendees to the concert are supposed to be directed to park in the lot near the base of the hill while the lot near the Lodge is supposed to be for our use as well as by normal park visitors. I suggest you arrive as early as you can to help assure getting a reasonable parking spot.

This should be a great time. Hope to see you at the meeting.

We will once again celebrate our great nation's birthday on July 4. Whether traveling, fishing or setting off fireworks, have a safe and happy holiday.

Tight Lines,

## Spin Net Caddis

Steve Lilly ([sjlilly@fuse.net](mailto:sjlilly@fuse.net))

The Little Miami is loaded with Net-Spinning Caddisflies.



While gathering samples in the Little Miami River at Bass Island for the recent Bug Fest, the stream bottom was found to be covered with countless nests of Caddisflies that would have made a very interesting display but as soon a rock was lifted from the water the fragile nests would collapse. Among the 21 families of Caddisflies in North America, several of whom have a silk gland like moths and butterflies, the Net Spinner larva makes a nest of silk that is attached to the rocks along the stream bottom and is used to filter out particles of food, also it gives them a retreat from predators. Because these Caddis at Bass Island were crowded so close together they might be ripe for a "Behavioral Drift" which happens when a group of larva crawl out of their shelters, let go, and drift downstream 40, 50, or even 100 feet before landing to build a new nest. This "Behavioral Drift" may occur when the colony becomes so crowded that there isn't enough debris in the stream to feed all of them and the chirping sound they make becomes so loud that part of the colony will break away and drift downstream for food and a little peace and quiet.

## June Sunnybrook Trip

Ken Dixon ([krjdix@outlook.com](mailto:krjdix@outlook.com))



The June B.U.F.F. trip to the Sunnybrook Trout Club (also known as the Retiree's Trip) was held on Tuesday, June 23 through Thursday, June 25, with 11 members in attendance. The normally gin clear waters were somewhat off-color due to the heavy rains the area had suffered but the stream was running near normal and clearing while we were there. Everyone caught fish, some reportedly more than others. Cold Creek does have its share of carp which were in the middle of spawning and were quite active. As you can see below, one 26" carp was willing to try out Jim Boude's fly.



The weather was great on Tuesday and Wednesday. Those of us that went up Monday for a little extra fishing were entertained by a Tornado Warning that hit around 5:00 that evening along with some heavy rains. The tornado did not touch down but all were busy watching the radar reports and finding the door to the Lodge's basement. We had some light rain also on Thursday morning but the fish were still active. There were a number of hatches on the stream but they were small and difficult to see. Productive flies were a mixed bag from size 22 dry flies to large gurgler bugs to zebra midges large and small.

As always, the facilities were wonderful and the food delicious.

The next trip to Sunnybrook is September 2 through 27. As of this time, the trip is full but you can still sign up as a waitlist in case someone drops out. For details, check out the on-line registration on the B.U.F.F. website.

## Women Fly Fishing Event

Sue Jones ([jonesm4@miamioh.edu](mailto:jonesm4@miamioh.edu))

All BUFF women are invited to attend a fishing day on August 1, 8:30-10:30 at a pond located near McGonigal, OH, located a few miles west of Hamilton and south of Oxford on Rt. 27. After fishing we will go to Bob Evans in Hamilton, OH on Main Street for brunch. We will be fishing in a nice pond, easy to cast to with minimal trees and obstructions. Although the day will probably end up being quite warm, we will try our luck on bluegill and small bass. We will have some guys there to help those who want to improve their casting on small water, a great time to improve your roll casts.

Sign up on the BUFF web site. Directions to the pond will be given to those who sign up. Rain day is August 8. Contact Sue Jones ([jonesm4@miamioh.edu](mailto:jonesm4@miamioh.edu) or 513-523-6523) for more information

# July Program – Temple Fork Outfitter (TFO) rods

Phil Pursley ([phil.pursley@hotmail.com](mailto:phil.pursley@hotmail.com))

## Meeting Date, Wed. July 8, 2015

Speakers – Ray Schmidt

Ray Schmidt will be making the presentation for the July BUFF meeting. He is a long time company representative for Temple Fork Outfitter (TFO) rods. Ray's talk will include a power- point presentation about how TFO rods are constructed.

Ray has agrees to bring some TFO rods for us to practice casting with before our meeting. If you have not cast a TFO rod, come early and try out some of these rods. Also, Ray has donated a TFO Axiom rod to our club. This rod will be the "Grand Raffle" prize at our July meeting. A lucky person will be taking this fine rod home after the meeting. So come early and cast some TFO rods and buy lots of raffle tickets to have a good chance for winning a new TFO rod.

### Dinner Menu

- 1/4 lb. All Beef Hamburger
- Grilled Marinated Boneless Chicken Breast
- Metts and Bratwurst
- All American Potato Salad
- Creamy Cole Slaw
- Pasta Supreme Salad

### Heart Healthy (Lo-Cal) Dinner Menu Option:

- >>> Select when registering <<<
- Grilled and Marinated Chicken Breast or Veggie Burger
  - Vegetable Medley
  - Mixed Green Salad with Fresh Vegetables

### Vegetarian Dinner Menu Option:

- >>> Select when registering <<<
- Grilled Veggie Burger
  - Mixed Green Salad with Fresh Vegetables  
Balsamic Vinaigrette

### Dessert

- Assortment of Gourmet Cookies
- Sliced Watermelon

# Memories on the Water (Lil Kits)

Ed Jones ([jonesee@miamioh.edu](mailto:jonesee@miamioh.edu))

Magical things happen while fishing a stream that never occur under other circumstances. “Memories on the Water” is about some of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Long, long ago in a galaxy far away... . Well, it was actually a remote campground in western Maine, but it felt like the edge of the universe. And it was about 25 years ago. That’s long ago to some people. I was fishing Roaring River, a tail water in the Rangeley Lake system. The river was appropriately named, and even the novice in me knew that little of it was safe for wading. I was actually trying (once again) to teach myself to catch trout with a fly rod. I had read books and fly fishing magazines, so a lot of worthless “shadow casting” and thrashing of cold swift water was going on. Pre-BUFF trout fishing was very frustrating! But nobody was watching in this remote wilderness, so no embarrassing harm was done.

I fished downstream the entire length of the tail water and unexpectedly came to where it emptied into a large marshy pond (no hook-ups so far). The swampy wide body of water wasn’t on my map, and I had been expecting a few miles of easier wading to explore. The pond was too big and overgrown to circumvent and was also full of silt. There was no obvious way around - not even an animal trail. I was just about to reach for the peanut butter and jelly sandwich in my inner vest pocket when a rustling sound caught my attention. About 20 feet to my left, three small mink kits rolled out from the understory. They were wrestling, frolicking and tumbling over one another and headed downhill in my direction. I stood there motionless as they rolled closer and closer - totally focused on each other. Shortly, they came to my boots. One spilled behind me brushing my waders, and the other two rolled right over the top of my left toe and between my feet! They continued to wrestle up the river and into some bushes out of sight. I followed in their general direction, but never saw them again.

Fishing was a little more productive moving back toward the dam, and a few cold-water species were coaxed to the net including my first landlocked Atlantic salmon. I didn’t know what it was until later that night when a native Mainer camping nearby enlightened me. A few brookies were landed which, back then, were also new to me. I was already an advocate for catch and release, but one of the brook trout deep-swallowed a #14 Adams that had drifted into a back-water eddy next to a big boulder. Sue fried it up over the campfire that evening, and it was very tasty! But the intense memory of that day will always be of the three little minks playing between my boots and rolling their way up the river - oblivious to my presence. Apparently their mother never told them about strange two-legged creatures that traverse wilderness streams waving 9’ sticks.



# The incredible edible crayfish...

Steve Coomer ([steveocoomer@mail.com](mailto:steveocoomer@mail.com))

Crayfish are part of the largest grouping of animals on earth called arthropods. Arthropods have hard exoskeletons and include insects, arachnids and crustaceans. Crayfish are crustaceans and differ from insects in that they breathe with gills and have two pairs of antennae. Crustaceans are also the yummy group and include stuff we love to eat like lobsters, crabs and shrimp. And well, crayfish. If you haven't ever eaten crayfish but like the other stuff on that list you're missing out, they are delicious. And as every fisherman worth the name knows, the fish think they are delicious also. So here's more than you ever wanted to know about crayfish:

Back to those antennae, crawfish have a long pair and a short pair. The long whip like pair help the crawdad keep track of what's going on ahead and behind it while the shorter stubby ones are for close in work. From everything I've read they are like a poor man's version of catfish whiskers in that they are sensitive to both touch and smell. Crayfish also have compound eyes on the ends of little stalks.

I'm not sure exactly how clear a crayfish sees its world but compound eyes detect movement extremely well. The eyes mounted on stalks are called pedicles. If you watch a live crayfish, you can see the eyes move independently of each other. Instead of ears crawdads have thousands of tiny sensory bristles that can sense vibrations. The "brain" of a crayfish is just a mass of nerve ganglion just in front of and above the esophagus. I'm pretty sure most crayfish behavior is instinctive and they aren't exactly rocket scientists.

A crayfish has four pair of walking legs. The small appendages along the underside of the abdomen are the swimmerets. These help the gills circulate water through the body, so the crayfish can breathe. And if you ever want to, you look at the first pair to determine the sex of a crayfish. (don't ask me, you might want to...) In boy crawdads, this first pair is used to deposit sperm into the oviducts of the female. They are larger and harder than the others. In girl crawfish, all the swimmerets are soft and used to carry the fertilized eggs and newly hatched young. Crayfish have 3 sets of tiny appendages around their mouth called maxillipeds. These appendages help the crayfish manipulate food.

All in all crayfish have 38 pair of appendages! Of course the ones we are all familiar with is that first pair with the big pincers on them. These are used to gather food and defend the crayfish from predators like fish. And don't think they don't use them to defend themselves, just let a big one you catch out of the river sometime latch on to you and you will change your tune. In fact studies have shown that smallmouth bass over and over again select crayfish with smaller claws if given choice. The old river rat trick of pinching the claws off crawdads you use for bait really does up you catch rate.

Along with claw size, studies show smallmouth bass select crayfish by body size also. The interesting part is that the biggest smallmouth bass, the trophy fish are the most selective by size. They consistently choose a crayfish about an inch and a quarter long if given a choice. I wonder if, given a smallmouth's long lifespan, that a ten or twelve year old bass has just learned by experience that those big craws can be bad news.

Those big lobsters you sometimes see are shovelhead bait not bass bait unless the fish is really hungry. And even then the bass is going to suck that big craw in and blow it out several times trying to kill it, making it harder to hook on a bigger crayfish imitation too. If its claws can't defend it, the crawfish's other option is to flee. This it will do by a sudden flip of its tail which will cause it to jet backwards a foot or so amazingly fast. In the Midwest most crayfish mate in the fall. (Don't ask me how, don't know, don't wanna know)

Then in spring the female will lay eggs which she glues to the swimmerets on her abdomen. These then

hatch in 5 to 8 weeks into tiny crayfish which hang on another week or two before dropping off to fend for themselves. And along the way feed nearly everything in the river it seems. Everything from minnows like larger darters and chubs to dragonfly and hellgrammite larvae. There are some you tube videos of dragonfly nymphs eating little crayfish out there that are right out of a horror movie.

But crayfish are omnivores and get their revenge if they are lucky enough to grow up. Along with a bunch of vegetable matter they will chomp on pretty much anything that's small enough to kill with those pincers including things like small minnows. And as anyone who has went after crayfish with a minnow trap will tell you, dog food is a classic crawdad bait. Like I said an omnivore.

Crayfish undergo periodic moults, shedding the hard exoskeleton in order to grow larger, and then forming a new shell. During this time they are in fishing lingo, "soft craws" and extremely vulnerable to predators. And fish know this and moulting crayfish are just about the best live bait you can use. But don't discount using "hard craws" that are not moulting. Just remember what I said earlier about bigger bass preferring a small crayfish in the inch and a quarter range. Another interesting tidbit is that a crayfish can regenerate a claw if it loses it battling a fish or I dunno, a bigger crayfish. Over the course of two or three moults the claw will grow back. Which reminds me that when catching crabs in South Carolina it was illegal to keep the huge but somewhat rare stone crab. But you could keep one of the huge claws of this overgrown relative of the crawdad since it too would regenerate. (And one stone crab claw had more meat than a couple whole blue crabs.)

Speaking of eating crayfish, they aren't just for smallmouth. Besides smallmouth, channel and flathead catfish, walleye, saugeye, carp, trout, largemouth bass, freshwater drum and I'm sure a host of other fish eat crayfish. And of course people eat crayfish. My personal favorite way is grilled smothered in garlic butter and Cajun seasoning. But of course crayfish are famous as smallmouth food. And with good reason, a 12 inch smallmouth bass in late summer fills up to 70% of its diet with crayfish. Larger bass eat a lot of baitfish but they still eat a bunch of crayfish too. BTW don't ever, even on a drunken dare for a hundred bucks eat a live crawfish (or a raw dead one). A big percentage of crayfish are infected with a parasitic flatworm called a lungworm. After you scarf down the crawfish, the parasite comes out and burrows through the walls of the intestine, hoping to make it to the lungs where they can complete their life cycle and mature. Once in the lungs they form nodules that mature and grow. But sometimes they don't make it and get lost on the way to the lungs and they can end up in other organs, even in your brain. Yeah, YUK.

There are approximately 600 species in the world. Of those something like 350 live in North America. Which I'm guessing is more than the number of people who could tell them all apart.

Btw an Astacologist is someone who studies crayfish. And if you think the crawdads in grandpas pond are huge, the world's largest crayfish lives in Tasmania and can sometimes grow up to ten pounds! These giant crayfish can live up to 40 years too! Google *Astacopsis gouldii*, which is their latin name if you want to see some amazing photos. There are also colorless blind crayfish that have evolved to live in caves. According to ODNR there are twenty species of crayfish in Ohio.



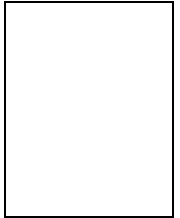


## The *BUFFER*

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc.

P. O. Box 42614

Cincinnati, OH 45242



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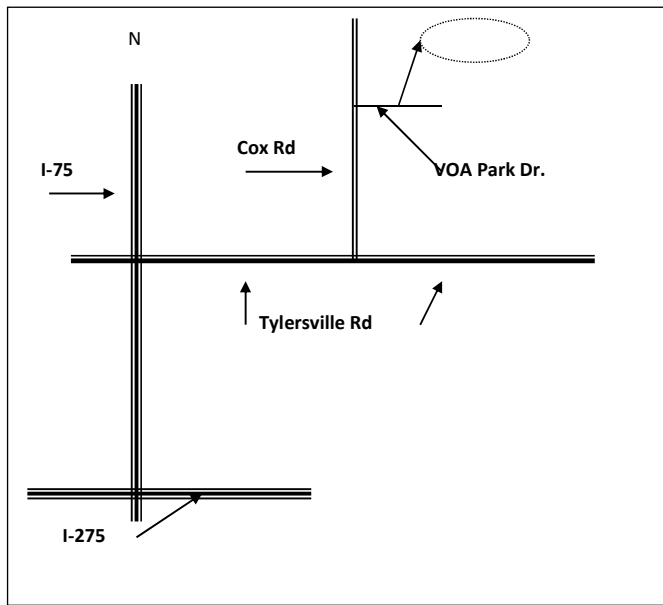
**NOTICE:** Dues are \$25 (Individual), \$30 ( Family), with a onetime \$5 Initiation Fee for new members. New members will pay a prorated membership amount according to month of initial membership for the first year. Annual dues are due January 1. Refer to BUFF website for further information. B.U.F.F., P.O. Box 42614, Cincinnati, OH 45242

Mailing Address

### Next Monthly Meeting – Wed. July 8, 2015

Call (513) 683-0286 or sign up on line at [WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM](http://WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM) for reservations no later than midnight on the Sunday before the meeting. Dinners are \$15/person.

Sign up from the 20<sup>th</sup> of the November through the Sunday evening (12/14) before the monthly meeting!



#### Directions:

**From I-75 --** Follow I-75 north to the Tylersville Road exit. Turn right off of the exit ramp onto Tylersville Road and follow to Cox Road. Turn left onto Cox Road and follow Cox Road north to VOA Park Drive. Turn right onto VOA Park Drive. Turn left onto first drive and follow roadway to Lodge.

#### From the Warren County area...

Follow Tylersville Road west to Cox Road. Turn right onto Cox Road and follow Cox Road north to VOA Park Drive. Turn right onto VOA Park Drive. Turn left onto first drive and follow roadway to Lodge.