



# The *BUFFER*

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The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH  
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## Notes from the President

Jim Vota – [vota@zoomtown.com](mailto:vota@zoomtown.com)

Rain, rain go away, come again another day. I think we'd better watch what we wish for. Extreme heat and dry conditions could happen with a minor shift eastward in the prevailing weather patterns. Hopefully we'll get something in between through the late summer.

Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM) has been tough to complete. The Ceasar Creek location got lucky and did it on one of the few good days. We've had to scrap the first Bass Island SQM as the LMR has been too fast to do it. Maybe the second SQM's scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup>, will have better luck. Check the web site for time and place.

Talking to many BUFF members and NKFF members local fishing has been limited to mostly ponds and lakes. Brookville has been hit and miss as well with high water. The East Fork of the Little Mimi has had some fishable days. Twin Creek near Germantown has had some good days as well. Another spot to try from shore is the south side of the Mad River in downtown Dayton. Pitch your line in near the south side shore if it's too deep to wade (5-15 feet) on the rocks. There's smallmouth there.

For me, I'm taking a brief trip to Scotland. Atlantic salmon, sea run trout, local stream browns and loch bound brown trout are on the menu. If the back can't handle it there's always scotch and the highland scenery to enjoy.

Till next month,

Jim Vota

El Presidente, BUFF

# July BUFFER

By Ken Mandel

This issue is a bit shorter than other recent BUFFERS. It is summer and so fewer club activities. Also, as we are all aware, we've been having monsoon season here, so getting out locally has been almost impossible for last several weeks. Many planned local activities have been cancelled, so less to write about. For those who remember the "Car Talk" program on NPR, Bob and Ray had a feature called "The Puzzler", a weekly quiz. For summer months, The Puzzler went on vacation. While the BUFFER is not quite on vacation, it's just a bit light this month. We'll look for more items for the August edition.

## July Meeting

If you plan to attend this month's meeting on Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup>, registration deadline is the 7<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker this month, Todd Desgrosseilliers, is the President and CEO for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, a national program which serves our disabled veterans. If you can, we urge you to attend the July meeting to here about the incredible program in which BUFF is a participating club.

## Todd Desgrosseilliers, "Project Healing Waters in Partnership with BUFF Serves Our Nations Disabled Veterans"

By Mike Rubush ([tenkaraguy1@yahoo.com](mailto:tenkaraguy1@yahoo.com))

It is our great honor and privilege to have Todd Desgrosseilliers as our speaker this month. Todd is President and Chief Executive Officer for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. – a nationwide nonprofit organization that provides rehabilitative fly fishing programs for disabled active duty personnel and for disabled veterans

Todd is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and infantry officer with 31 years of service to our Nation. A native of Auburn, Maine, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1985 and attained the rank of Sergeant before becoming an infantry officer. He commanded at each rank and most recently served as the Commanding Officer, The Basic School from 2012 to 2014. He also served as the Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines from 2005 to 2007 – deploying the Battalion to Iraq in 2006-2007, where they conducted counter-insurgency operations in Ramadi and Fallujah. During this deployment he fought in Operation Al FAJR in Fallujah, Iraq where he was wounded several times in close quarters combat with the enemy



Todd developed a love for fly fishing while growing up in Maine, chasing its abundant native brook trout and landlocked salmon in its numerous lakes and streams. Todd reconnected with fly fishing after joining the Project Healing Waters' Fly Fishing program at Fort Belvoir, Virginia upon the recommendation of his physical therapist in March 2015. As a participant and volunteer, Todd recognized the remarkable physical and emotional transformation that the Project Healing Waters Program initiated for him and for his fellow participants and he decided that he wanted to join its exceptional team after his medical retirement from the military in 2016.



Todd will be speaking about the vital role that BUFF and other local fly-fishing clubs play in serving our nations disabled veterans through Fly Fishing. You will not want to miss this talk.

## **July Meeting Dinner Menu**

Tossed Salad  
French Bread  
Slow Roasted Herb Chicken with Chardonnay Sauce  
Cheese Tortellini Marinara  
Vegetable Medley  
Baked Potato with Butter & Sour Cream  
Dessert – Carrot Cake

## **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Celebrating 10 Years**

By D. Brent Miller

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing-Cincinnati is celebrating it's 10-year anniversary.

In the Summer of 2009, R. Thomas Scheer, DDS Retired, heard about a program for disabled Veterans that would provide recreational therapy through fly fishing. With a little research and talking up the possibilities with fellow BUFF members, the Cincinnati program was launched and became official in September 2009. That's when recruiting of volunteers and veteran participants began in earnest.

The mission of PHWFF is: "dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of active military service personnel and veterans through fly fishing, fly tying education and outings." From those first few years, beginning in 2006, PHWFF has grown to more than 200 programs in the USA, and there are affiliates in Canada, Europe and Australia. Under the leadership of Todd S. Desgrosseilliers, CEO, who is

also a disabled veteran, the program has refined its core functions to fly tying education, casting instruction, rod building education, fly fishing education and outings.

Here in Cincinnati, we fish April through October, and tie flies in November through March. We fish primarily at ponds or lakes that are handicapped accessible, so that all our veterans can enjoy this therapeutic outdoor activity. Two facilities are utilized for fly tying—the Cincinnati VA Medical Center and the Cincinnati Vet Center.

To many, the thought of taking veterans fishing might seem like a nice thing to do, but when you hear a vet say, “This program saved my life,” you realize there is a lot more to the program than just going fishing. The program builds camaraderie and relationships, and finds a little peace on the water, healing waters.

If you are interested in hearing more, come to the July 10<sup>th</sup> BUFF Dinner Meeting and hear Todd S. Desgrosseilliers talk about his military experiences and how PHWFF became his mission to serve other disabled veterans.

Some photos from recent our local Project Healing Waters activities –



**2018 Joint Outing at Brookville Tailwaters**



**Fly-tying at Cincinnati VA Medical Center**



**Fishing the Pond at Perfect North Slopes – June 2019**



Pat & Lenny at Parky's Pond – Spring 2019

## Fishin' Abrams' Shoe

*Mike Bryant has provided us several articles to use in the BUFFER. This one is from one of Mike's trips to the Smokey Mountains National Park when he fished Abram's Creek. The creek can be accessed from either Cades Cove, or from the Abrams Creek campground. From a little that I've read about the creek, I think the Horseshoe, a large bend in the creek about 1 mile long, is most easily accessed from Cades Cove in the park. Not sure if that is where Mike and his friend got in – just ask him next time you see him!*

*I found a good website which provides a lot of useful information on fly fishing the numerous streams in the Smokies – [www.flyfishingsmokymountains.com](http://www.flyfishingsmokymountains.com) – **Photos in the article are from the website!***

*Ken Mandel.*

By Mike Bryant

On a trip to the Smokies in 2014, Ken Wade and I fished the Horseshoe of Abrams Creek. I'm somewhat embarrassed to say this was my first time to fish this well-known part of Abrams. I have the usual excuses, but I knew this was a stream that I wouldn't fish by myself and requires an all-day effort. Ken and I met at the parking lot of the Abrams Creek trailhead at 7:00am. After walking on the trail for more than twenty minutes, we put in and started fishing upstream. Given that the stream separates from the

trail, once you start you are committed. I'm used to fishing many streams in the Park and have plenty of experience navigating on and around slippery rocks. But Abrams proved to be the hardest, most difficult stream I've waded in some time. You definitely want a wading staff. The limestone plates which thrust up at an angle, combined with lots of algae, makes for treacherous wading. I would say that both Ken and I are in good physical shape, but we were worn out after a very long day of wading and fishing.

The fishing was great. We caught more rainbows than we could count. The fish were bigger on average than the fish I typically catch on other Park streams. Probably the most memorable fish was the one I didn't catch. Ken was fishing behind me on the opposite side. I approached a small pocket of water probably three feet deep. I had a #16 CDC & Elk Caddis pattern tied on and threw a straight upstream cast just downstream of the foamy white water. Suddenly a rather large rainbow leaped completely out of the water trying to inhale my fly. He was so large that when he landed on his side it sounded like a kid doing a belly flop off the high board in a swimming pool. I was so surprised that I involuntarily yelled "WOW". I just stood there for a minute trying to collect myself and my fly, grinning from ear to ear. Ken had a small nymph tied on, so I motioned for him to come up fish the hole after resting it for a couple of minutes. On his first cast that same hog of a fish ate his fly and put a serious bend in his rod. The fish broke off after a couple of seconds. Ken and I laughed on moved on. But we remember where the fish lives! We'll be back.



The other memorable moment came after I had released a nice rainbow. Just as I looked upstream, I saw a momma black bear with two small cubs crossing the stream on a fallen tree. The bears were no more than 25-30 yards upstream. Momma bear glanced at me a couple times as she kept her cubs moving along to the stream bank. It would have been a great picture, but as usual my camera was buried in my belly bag. It was a great day of fishing and being out in the Park. Abrams is a beautiful stream, and everything I read and heard about Abrams was true – be prepared for a long day of fishing and difficult wading. I made it home around 8:00pm. I think I was sound asleep by 9:45pm.



## Team Leader Needed for the 2020 BUFF Banquet

For the past decade, Bryan Tudor has chaired the Banquet Planning Committee. On a number of occasions at recent meetings, and at our Board Meetings, he has let us know that he needs to step down from this role, due to family and time commitments. So far, we have not had anyone from the club express interest in taking on this responsibility.

The Banquet is the club's major fund raiser, and planning needs to be initiated. We typically hold the Banquet in March, and it is amazing how quickly March of 2020 beckons. The team which plans our annual Fly Fishing Show, held the month prior, is already working on that event, meeting regularly, and as reported in the June BUFFER, has the headliner for the show.

We are asking for someone to step up to the plate and take on this role. Bryan will be there to assist and share his knowledge, and there are other experienced members of this team as well. Taking on roles and responsibilities for major BUFF activities is a great way to increase your enjoyment of what our club has to offer.

If you are possibly interested in Chairing this team, or want further information on what is involved, please contact Bryan (513-827-5437 or [bryan.tudor@yahoo.com](mailto:bryan.tudor@yahoo.com)).

## Upcoming BUFF Activities –

**Please check the BUFF Website for availability and details, or  
contact the trip or activity coordinator**

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Kid's Fishing Parky's Farm Winton Woods Park	Fridays, July 5 <sup>th</sup> , July 19 <sup>th</sup> , & Aug, 9 <sup>th</sup> , 9 AM – Noon <i>Come on out!</i>	Ed Jones 513-523-6523 <a href="mailto:jonesee@miamioh.edu">jonesee@miamioh.edu</a>
Stream Quality Monitoring Bass Island Bass Island Park, Newtown, OH	Saturday July 13 <sup>th</sup> Meet 9 AM at Bass Island Trailhead <i>(see website for signup and directions)</i>	Tom Britton 513-520-7862 <a href="mailto:starwoodtb@gmail.com">starwoodtb@gmail.com</a>
Stream Quality Monitoring Caeser's Creek	Saturday July 13 <sup>th</sup> Meet 9 AM at Caeser's Creek Access <i>(see website for signup and directions)</i>	Tom Britton 513-520-7862 <a href="mailto:starwoodtb@gmail.com">starwoodtb@gmail.com</a>

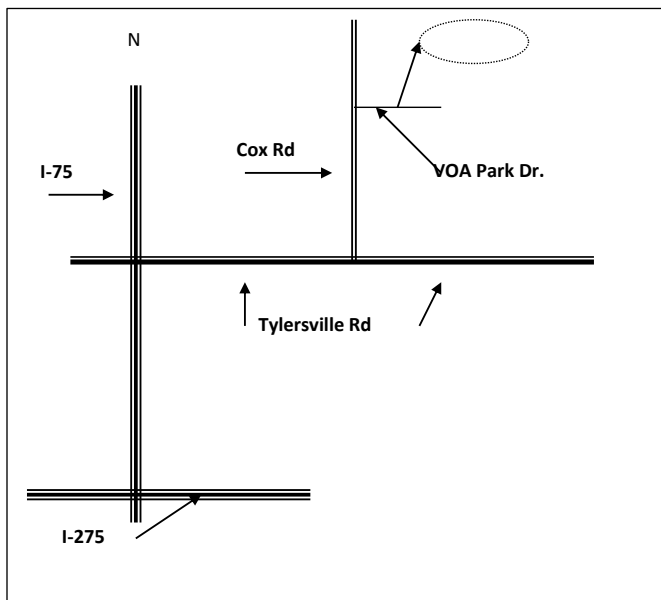


<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Women's After Work Outing Lake Isabella Park Little Miami River	Thursday, July 18 <sup>th</sup> 6 PM – Dusk <i>register on website</i>	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 <a href="mailto:vota@zoomtown.com">vota@zoomtown.com</a>
Women's After Work Outing Heritage Park Great Miami River	Thursday, Aug 15 <sup>th</sup> 6 PM – Dusk <i>register on website</i>	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 <a href="mailto:vota@zoomtown.com">vota@zoomtown.com</a>
Tie & Lie Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Friday, July 19 <sup>th</sup> & Aug 16 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 9 PM (bring vise, tools & thread)	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 <a href="mailto:loopdude1@hotmail.com">loopdude1@hotmail.com</a>

**July Meeting – Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**6:00 – 9:00 PM at VOA Park – watch website for sign-up**

Register on line at [WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM](http://WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM). Please register whether you plan to eat dinner with us (\$15/person) or not.



**Directions:**

**From I-75 --** Follow 1-75 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.