



The BUFFER

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH
Volume 44, Issue 7 Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com> July 1, 2020

Notes from the President

its the end of June and we're still stuck with no in person meetings. The VOA park is still working to develop their guidelines for reopening the lodge. For July we will do another online meeting. July's meeting should be another great presentation. Rebeca Parry will give us an overview of the Ohio Scenic Rivers Stream Quality Monitoring program and what macroinvertebrates tell us about the health of our aquatic ecosystems. Rebecca is the Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM) Coordinator for the Southwest region of the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program. A part of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, she is responsible for overseeing the SQM volunteer sampling program for her region, leading workshops, and participating in other public outreach and ecological management initiatives within the department. This month's raffle will be a TFO BVK 8 weight fly rod (courtesy of Cabela's at Liberty Way off I 75).

I don't know about you but I've been fishing, catching fish, and participating in local on-river (small groups with masks) activities this past month. One area that I have increased my local knowledge is about the Little Miami and the East Fork of the little Miami. A lot of people say that there's very little smallmouth in this area. I think they just haven't floated it. From Lake Isabella to the takeout in Milford there are many riffles, runs, pools and tailouts that do hold smallmouth and sauger. We just need to get out there and float this area to access them. There are even resident bald eagles there. It really is a scenic river.

I did not fish O'Bannon Creek in Loveland but I did attend an electroshock training session with the Little Miami Conservancy there. There's an article in the BUFFER about this. It is a pretty stream with easy access and easy wading. It's made of many small sections. Even though we found smallmouth in it I believe the fishing would be better in the spring close to a time when the LMR is high and backs up into the creek.

On the fly-tying front, have any of you tried using Crease flies? They are typically saltwater flies and tied on fairly large hooks. I've been trying to make some smaller ones for bass fishing. You fold a piece of foam around the hook and glue it in place. You can fish it on the surface with a floating line or just under the surface with an intermediate. It has an erratic action, darting right or left and leaves a bubbly wake. My flies aren't quite there yet even though I've had some violent strikes with it.

There is a chance that we may be able to start to schedule some small group outings. If and when we can schedule these, all attendees will be required to sign up on-line and sign a waiver. Masks will be

mandatory. Hand sanitizer will be available. All attendees will be required to keep a safe distance between each other. Check the web site to see when some will be scheduled.

The Board of Directors (BOD) has established a small group to put together guidelines and requirements in order to for us to have in person meetings again. They will meet with VOA to see what can be done. We are looking at this from the angle of member safety first. For now, we will do the online meetings until we can get back together. If you have an interest in attending the online meeting, sign up early as the Zoom meeting will only handle 100 attendees. Details will be sent out in an E-blast.

Until I see you again stay safe and at least get to the pond to keep from going nuts.

Jim Vota, El Prez.

COVID Update

BUFF is still putting club-sponsored activities and trips on hold. We have cancelled the planned fall trip to NM as issues regarding travel are just too uncertain. Cancelling now avoids any fees for participants and gives the NM guide service a good opportunity to rebook with local anglers. We can hopefully try for next year.

We have had contact from the VOA Lodge. They are tentatively targeting reopening the lodge at some point in July. Metroparks is still developing plans and guidelines as to how this can occur, and we have no details yet. Once, we understand requirements and limitations we can determine as a club whether we can reinstate in-person meetings. The primary concern is the safety of our members.

In the meanwhile, our members can certainly get out to fish locally, or even travel on your own, if you are comfortable. We can use the Forum page of the website to seek others who may want to join up for a day of fishing, or just contact friends from the club. Remember, if you do go out with another person, taking appropriate actions to reduce contact and potential for infection – social distancing and wearing a face mask (a fishing buff works fine and also provides sun protection!) are important.

The photo was shared by Bob Gustafson. It is a box of steelhead flies that was sent to us by Bob and Tammy Bowerman of the Fly Guy Shop. It is a really nice looking selection of their hand tied flies and was sent in appreciation of BUFF's COVID-relief effort which included their business. It will show up as a future raffle item, or perhaps a raffle item at next year's banquet. The Fly Guy Shop does not have a webpage, but they are on Facebook.



BUFF July Meeting on Wednesday, July 8th – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM –

This month we will conduct another ‘virtual’ club meeting. The meeting is on our regular date, July 8th. There will be a brief club meeting and announcements, followed by a presentation by this month’s speaker, Ms. Rebecca Parry. All registrants are entered into this month’s raffle. **This month’s prize is a TFO BVK 8wt rod!**

Meeting time is from 7 PM – about 8:30 PM.

- **Registration deadline is July 5th.**
- **You must register on-line to attend and provide your e-mail address. Registrants will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to join the Zoom session. If you are not registered, you will not be able to join in.**
- **All registrants will automatically be entered in the raffle. This month the raffle prize is a BVK fly rod which was donated to the club by Cabelas.**

July Speaker –

Rebecca Parry – “The Ohio Scenic Rivers Stream Quality Monitoring Program”

Rebecca Parry is the Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM) Coordinator for the Southwest region of the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program. Ms. Parry is employed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, and is responsible for overseeing the SQM volunteer sampling program for our region of Ohio. Rebecca also leads workshops, and participates in various public outreach and ecological management initiatives sponsored by the ODNR.

Rebecca received her B.S. in Biology from Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, and a Masters degree in Environmental Science from Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage, Alaska. As a former member of the US Air Force, she and her husband (also Air Force) have lived in a wide range of locations across the country. She currently resides outside of Waynesville, Ohio with her husband, two college-age children and several 4-legged family members. Her hobbies include hiking, kayaking, gardening, raising chickens, and enjoying time in nature.



Brookville Tailwater Fishing –

Phil Pursley (phil.pursley@hotmail.com)

The first two important things to do when you get up in the morning is to make coffee and check the water level on the BTW. Today, June 3rd, the water was at 3.7 feet deep, not bad for wading. After cereal and coffee, I packed up and headed to the river. Living 20 miles from this trout stream is kind of a blessing and kind of a curse. This short distance enables my trout addiction.

While driving down IN 252 I saw this little tortoise trying to cross the road. The road is pretty wide just before getting to the tailwater so I decided to give the little guy some help to crossing the road. Only took two minutes to help him and I hope it extended his life. There are lots of these little guys this year. I found one on the street in front of my house. That little guy is now living in my woods.



When I got to the river, there was only one other fisherman in the water. My first rig was an indicator with a "stimulator" fly followed a black soft hackle. During my third drift I hooked up. That is I hooked a small twig on the bottom of the stream. That's OK, I know that I'm about the right depth for this water.

As I carefully moved down stream with my flies still in the water, I felt a hit. Good! That means some fish like my flies. When I got a serious hit, my thought was, "game on". After pulling my line in to check my flies, I discovered that my soft hackle dropper was wound around my yellow indicator. This was decision time. Did the fish attack the yellow indicator or the black soft hackle. My thought was since the flies had been removed from my line, "why not try my new Yellow Sally pattern?". After tying on a size 16 Yellow Sally, my



question was soon answered. The browns loved this pattern. After things slowed down, I tied a midge dropper. No Luck.

It was time to add another fly to my line. My dropper this time was a second dry fly. It was a Parachute Adams. I now tie my Parachute Adams flies with an extra long parachute and this one had an orange parachute. The orange color and the added length allowed me to see the fly much easier in the water with sun light shimmering on the surface. The browns liked having a choice between Yellow Sallys and the Adam's flies. It was a good day on the water.

Phil Pursley

BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish!

Some of our members are getting out to fish!

Ryan Trojanski got out with some of his fellow co-workers from Reel Fly Rod in Dayton. They got up to the Traverse City area in Michigan in late June for some trout fishing. He got some large rainbows and this really nice brookie –



Tom Britton took his kayak out at Miami Whitewater Park and had a pleasant day catching bass, crappie and bluegill –



Some BUFFERs have been fishing a local 'church pond'. Wendy Gustafson has one, and Jim Vota landed this 17" large mouth on his last cast of the day. Good to end on a high note!



Cari Vota, Lindsey Liddy, Haruko Mizoguchi, and Erin Schwartz waded the Brookville tailwater and got some nice brown trout. They also ran into some other BUFFERs there as well.





Steve Groome sent a couple of photos from his fishing in Landen. Caught these fellows on a popper pattern.



Finally, a few BUFFers went up to Sunnybrook the other week. This was not a club-sponsored trip, but rather folks deciding to go on their own. Tom Scheer landed a 23" brown, and Jeff McElravy and Sue Jones also shared photos –



Tom Scheer's 23" brown trout



Jeff McElravy's brown trout



Sue Jones' 14 – 15" rainbow

Casting Importance and Mechanics for Accuracy

This month, Tom Bachey (h2oguy@fuse.net) shared two articles he found on line about the importance of developing accuracy in casting, and how to do this. Both are from the Midcurrent website (www.midcurrent.com).

- The accuracy article can be found at - https://midcurrent.com/techniques/the-importance-of-casting-accuracy/?mc_cid=2cf939afb1&mc_eid=d6b0365f8f
- The second piece at - <https://midcurrent.com/techniques/the-mechanics-of-accurate-casting/>

The first piece emphasizes that accuracy in casting is a basic necessity for all presentations. Bottom line of this point is that even the best fly pattern for the condition will not catch fish if the fish don't see it. In

general, fish do not move far from their feeding lane to pursue prey, so if the fly is not where the fish are, other techniques are unlikely to be highly productive. The article discusses components of accuracy, which include 'distance accuracy', which is to cast the correct amount of line to position the fly, and 'left-right' or pinpoint accuracy, which is to put the fly on the target. These points are discussed by Gary Berger in his book "Presentation", which is recommended. A key component of distance accuracy is reading the water to determine where fish might be. The alignment accuracy (left-right accuracy) is use to position the fly so its movement toward the target is appears natural. Finally, the article discusses the importance of being able to visualize the fly so its movement and position can be followed.

The second article discusses casting techniques which can contribute to accuracy. The basic tenet emphasized in the article is that putting the fly on target follows the unrolling of the loop of fly line and leader. This in turn follows the movement of the rod tip, so the goal is to direct the rod movement at the target. The article recommends Joan Wulff's book, Fly-Casting Accuracy (Lyons Press, 1997) as an excellent teaching tool to understand techniques for both short and longer-distance casting, where one's hand and arm positions will differ. The article provides several ideas on how to practice casting mechanics to improve accuracy.

My Journey from Bobbers & Cane Poles to Waders & Fly Rods

David Medkeff – (medkeff@fuse.net)

I've always enjoyed fishing, first as a child with Aunt Minnie heading off to her Oklahoma farm pond after chores. Sixty years later, I was a rookie again when Bob Weckman invited me along to a BUFF meeting and an enjoyable trip to Sunnybrook Trout Club. BUFF members there were helpful, and suggested I take the BUFF casting class. After the class, I would often remark, man, I've got to get out and go fishing. In March of this year, my wife and I had planned to spend a few days at Colonial Williamsburg. This was really the first time we could get away for a while and decided to take our time. She planned a stop at Llewellyn Lodge B&B (<https://www.llodge.com>) in Lexington, Virginia; she also informed me that the proprietor of the B&B, John Roberts, happened to also be a fly fishing guide. She booked me for an outing with him, and I thought, 'gosh I don't know if I'm up to this'. When we met John that evening, we talked about fly fishing experiences and I told him that mine were quite limited, mostly a casting class with my local fly fishing club. He said "Great, we'll be good to go tomorrow. I'll get lunch and gear together."



The next morning was cold and overcast as we headed to Buffalo Creek, and I got in my first fast-stream wading experience on slippery rocks in borrowed waders and boots. I was nervously casting and working much too hard. John was a great coach, showing me how to let the current do the work. We used mostly streamers, and what an experience. I had many fish on and managed to land some. They would hit the fly and take off downstream many times faster than the current. I would say "Fish!" and John would shout "line out, line out, line out," and then "slack in, slack in, slack in." If I executed his instructions, minutes later we'd have the fish in the net. The day flew by, and I didn't want it to end. It was such great fun for this beginner. I enjoyed John's company both on and off the water. John has a soft spot for folks from the Buckeye State, having lost one of his favorite fishing buddies the spring before, the late John Havlicek. We talked streamside about basketball as well as fishing over hot chocolate and sandwiches.



If you're ever headed to Virginia, I would highly recommend John Roberts at Llewellyn Lodge. He has decades of guide experience and was so nice to this beginner.

At the time of our trip, Lexington, Virginia, was shutting down as the pandemic moved across the country. VMI and Washington and Lee Universities were sending their students home. We received notice from Colonial Williamsburg that they would be closing, too, so we decided to head back to Cincinnati. But I'm so grateful to John, and to my wife for surprising me with the booking. I had a great day and I look forward to getting back out on the water again soon.



Electrofishing to Identify Aquatic Species on Local Waters

By William Schroeder

The Little Miami Conservancy and Midwest Biodiversity Institute (MBI) have been working together to identify and document the aquatic species in The Little Miami River (LMR) and its tributaries. Last October, the Little Miami Conservancy acquired a backpack electrofishing unit as a tool to use in this effort. On June 20th a special training session was held on O'Bannon Creek, one of several excellent, high quality tributaries of the LMR, to demonstrate and teach the safe and ethical use of electrofishing equipment. Volunteers included BUFF members, Bill Schroeder, and Cari and Jim Vota. It was a perfect day for learning about fish identification techniques, and photographing some of the species that were captured (and released) by the MBI teaching team and the volunteers who participated. Safe social distancing, mask wearing, and other coronavirus procedures were practiced during the fieldwork.

We had a very successful exercise. Among the species captured, photographed and preliminarily identified as residents of the same pool at O'Bannon Creek were: *Smallmouth Bass*, *Bluntnose Minnow*, *Yellow Bullhead*, *Greenside Darter*, *Blacktail Shiner*, *Central Stoneroller*, *Spotfin Shiner*, *Rusty Crayfish*, and *Longear Sunfish*. Other fish, including a 15" carp, the largest fish captured during the day, were captured and released but not photographed, and therefore not officially identified.



This beautiful 14" smallmouth bass was one of two captured, photographed and released back to its hangout in O'Bannon Creek, an important tributary of the Little Miami.



Cari Vota looks on as Dr. Michael Booth, visiting professor at University of Cincinnati Biology Dept., lifts a fish out of O'Bannon Creek to place it into the floating live well where it could be studied and photographed for identification, before being released back into the creek. Dr. Booth is an experienced electrofishing and fish identification expert who has been sharing his experience, with the Little Miami Conservancy.

Two portable electrofishing units were used to sample, photo and safely release several species at O'Bannon Creek.



A special portable live well was used to keep captured specimens safe and healthy while they were photographed for further study and identification verification.



Smaller species like the *Minnow* and the *Greenside Darter* shown here were photographed close-up for features to confirm their identity.



The specimens below were preliminarily identified using the iNaturalist App software and are awaiting verification from their database.



Yellow Bullhead



Longear Sunfish



Rusty Crayfish

Little Miami Conservancy is hoping to expand and continue its Aquatic Education Programs with a 12-month fish identification initiative using conventional fishing techniques, seining and electrofishing equipment, to identify and document fish species in the LMR and tributaries like the East Fork, O'Bannon Creek, Todd's Fork, Caesar Creek and others.

Fly Fishing 101 – Wading Basics

It never hurts to share some basic information. For those newer to our sport, this can be very useful. This month we'll discuss basics involved with use of waders and wading in streams.

The important thing to remember overall, is that safe and smart wading is largely common sense. But there are steps and methods to take to wade appropriately, effectively and safely.

- **Keep impact on the environment and other anglers in mind when wading**
 - Every step one takes when wading disturbs, to some degree, the stream or river by stirring up material from the river bottom. Fish will notice disturbances and seek shelter or move away. Stirred up silt creek bottom will drift downstream and can affect another angler if close by.
 - Also, take care to try and avoid wading through aquatic plant beds as they are where many insects that provide food for the fish reside.
- **Be safe**
 - Always use a wading belt and cinch it tight (snug) and high on your chest. By doing this, if you do fall, it reduces the chance of your waders quickly filling with water. Water is heavy, so if your waders fill, it will be much more difficult to get up and move to safety.
 - Wading boots are important as they are designed to provide traction in the water. With practice, one learns how well your boots will grip in different conditions, and with different types of structure – e.g., silty bottom vs. rounded rocky or moss covered rock bottoms. There are different types of soles and options for different surfaces.
 - Consider wading with a buddy. Having another person with you is an advantage if one falls or has a problem.

- Keep a wide stance in the water and use a 'shuffle' motion when walking. A wide stance, together with a wading staff provides more stability than a narrow stance. Shuffling steps allow you to feel along with your feet to find obstacles, loose stones, or sudden changes in depth.
- Make sure your footing is secure before placing full weight on it.
- Try to keep you body side-ways to the current. That way you present a narrower presence and maintain better balance. Facing into or downward from the current reduces balance.
- Know your limits and comfort zone. Don't wade above the depth that you are comfortable with. For many of us, that may mean not getting into water that is beyond knee or mid-thigh depth. The deeper the water, the more difficult it is to move through it, and the more buoyant we become, reducing balance and grip on the bottom.



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S DEEP? IT'S NOT EVEN UP TO MY ANKLES."

- **Use a wading staff and use it appropriately.**

- A wading staff is an important safety item as it provides an additional point of support and balance.
- Use the staff in front of you as you wade to check the bottom changes in depth and obstacles.
- Position the wading staff upstream and lean into it. If you do start to fall, the flow of the stream against you can help you regain balance.

- **Wade Smart**

- When wading upstream, try to walk through quieter and shallow water – pools, eddys, or along or near the banks. This requires less effort and conserves energy.
- When crossing a stream, try to angle slightly down stream
- Watch for obstacles or areas you want to avoid.
- If the water looks too intimidating for your ability, consider fishing from the bank, or finding a different location to wade.

- **What do I do when I fall in?**

- If you are wading in water in which you feel safe and comfortable, usually nothing more than getting a bit wet is the down-side and you can use your wading stick or your buddy's help to get back up.
- If you have your rod, try to perhaps tuck it into your waders so you can free hands to help you get up, but don't sacrifice yourself for the equipment. A rod and reel are replaceable.
- If you are in fast water, stay on your back, orient your feet down stream and move with the current to get to an eddy, shallow water, or the bank before trying to get up.

On the Lighter Side

