



The BUFFER

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH
Volume 45, Issue 7 Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com> July 1, 2021

The President's Fly Box

As we approach the 4th of July, we can celebrate our freedoms as a nation. As COVID recedes, we also have more freedom to enjoy our lives. BUFF is responding by reengaging with our membership. Our calendar shows one day a week, after work, local fishing trips for i) general members, ii) women's fly group, and iii) newcomers. One weekend a month, we have stream quality monitoring with fishing afterwards. We are also excited to offer the first annual BUFF picnic on July 22nd. Our Board of Directors have worked diligently and quickly to line up a time and place so that we can finally see our old friends and meet new friends – face-to-face. Details are provided below in the BUFFER.

The fly-casting class was a great success this year. There were approximately 15 men and women who progressed through the course. The instructors, led by Gary Begley, Tom Scheer, and Steve Walker, noted the great progress by the class. We are truly fortunate to have such high-quality casting instructors in our club. If you missed it, there is a rumor that we will have a casting course setup at the BUFF picnic. Come and assess your skills. Casting instructors can provide gentle guidance on areas that will improve your cast.

New this year, our membership is involved in a group experiment. A group of 19 club members will go on an advanced 1 week scouting trip to Wyoming in August. We plan to examine all the streams in the Shoshone River valley and Yellowstone, hook samples of trout, and report back in the September BUFFER. If the advanced team finds cooperative trout and tame grizzlies then we will set up an August trip for the club in 2022. Keep your eyes and ears open for the report.

I will close by wishing all an enjoyable 4th of July weekend filled with hot dogs, baseball and, of course, fly fishing. I hope to see you at the BUFF picnic and hear some great fish stories from friends that I haven't seen in a while. I am also looking forward to meeting our new members.

Hugh O'Donnell.

BUFF July Meeting – Wednesday, July 14th, – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM –

July Speaker – Domenick Swentosky, “Nymphing: Tight Line vs Indicator”

Domenick is the father of two young boys, a husband, author, fly fishing guide and musician. He fishes for wild brown trout in the cool limestone waters of Central Pennsylvania year round. Central PA is his home, and he loves it. Friends. Family. And the river.

Domenick’s topic is “nymphing: tight Line vs indicator”. Which is better, tight line or indicator methods? It’s an eternal question for nymphing anglers, and arguments heat up with strong opinions from devotees of each style. What’s my answer to the question of which is better? Neither. The tight line vs indicator presentation highlights the strengths and weaknesses of both styles. His presentation offers a tactical and technical look at each method.

The presentation covers lines, leaders, indicator types, weighting and rigging methods, casting and much more. But it also covers the appeal of each style. While tight lining offers the ultimate control, it requires intense concentration to perform at a high level. Indicator fishing done well takes no less talent, it’s just a different set of skills that are (sometimes) less physically taxing.

While tight lining and indicator styles are certainly different, they share common ground, and proficiency, and each method compliments the other. The tight line vs indicator presentation attempts to show the benefits of a nymphing system with no limits, one that tackles the full range of on-the-water scenarios by using every available tool.

Domenick’s website is “*Troutbitten – Life on the Water*” (www.troutbitten.com). The website have many interesting and instructional articles that he has written on numerous topics related to angling, and information on the waters Domenick guides, guide fees for full and half-day trips, and contact information.





Register and plan to attend what should be a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

- **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 July 13th.**
- **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.**

New Club Members!

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added 3 new members., including a family membership –

Daniel Gromley, Cincinnati, OH

Sarah Miller, Cincinnati, OH

David, Becky, Alfie & Louis Swain, Loveland OH

We welcome you to the club. Happily, we are restarting outdoor activities, check them out and sign up for some! The club is working hard to restart in-person indoor meetings as well. Check information on

the website and in the BUFFER. Also, you can use the Forum page in the BUFF website to reach out to club members for information, or even if you are just looking for someone to get out with and go fishing!

In-Person BUFF Programs are Back!

The month of June saw several BUFF-sponsored outings taking place. These are safe as people are getting vaccinated against COVID and as a result the incidence of new COVID infections has declined immensely. The state of Ohio has halted its color-coding system which ranked counties by COVID incidence and has largely removed restrictions on indoor and outdoor activities. However, if you have not been vaccinated, it is still recommended that you wear a mask when you cannot social distance (remain more than 6 feet apart), and this is recommended for both indoor and outdoor activities.

BUFF outings last month included a club and a women's 'after work outing' on the Little Miami River and a women's day trip to Twin Creek. These were led by Cari Vota. Hugh O'Donnell started a program aimed at getting those of us new to fly fishing out on local waters. He led an evening outing to fish on the lake at Landen Deerfield Park. The BUFF casting course was also offered last month with 3 sessions on sequential Sundays. The photo is one of Steve Walker demonstrating correct casting technique.

Club fishing outings are scheduled for July. There is also a stream quality monitoring outing in mid-July. Check the BUFF website for dates and registration.



BUFF Picnic Reunion

As COVID restrictions are easing, let's get back together with a social picnic!

BUFF is going to have an evening picnic. Date is Thursday, July 22nd. Time is 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM. The location is Miami Meadows Park which is in Miami Township on Route 131.

BUFF has reserved the Lakeside Pavilion at the park for that day. The club will provide a picnic dinner – fried chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, dessert and soft drinks. We will have a casting area set up to demonstrate and practice, for those interested, the FFI casting skills which is part of their 'casting challenge' program. We are also hoping to have a fly-tying demo as well. There is a lake by the pavilion that is open for public fishing.

A map showing location of the park is below



Sign-up on the BUFF website is required. Watch for an e-blast to announce when sign-up is posted. The size of the pavilion will limit the number who can be accommodated, so sign-up early if you are interested. Directions and a map, and more information will be on the sign-up page on the website. Also, our updated COVID Policy, stated below, will apply for those attending the picnic.

Updated BUFF COVID Policy

As we said, COVID restrictions are easing, allowing the club to reengage in-person activities. However, the pandemic still remains an issue and we must continue to take adequate safety considerations. Consistent with governmental guidelines, the BUFF BOD has modified our recommendations to the following statements.

§ The BOD believes COVID conditions have improved to support resumption of local activities and in-person monthly meetings with meals. We believe these activities are now safe, but each registrant shall understand that each attendee assumes the risk of attendance.

§ Our policy is that unvaccinated persons are requested to wear masks and practice social distancing when at indoor activities / meetings and to wear a mask within 6 feet of another person when at outdoor activities. Vaccinated persons may individually decide if or when to wear masks.

§ It is the responsibility of a sponsoring member to inform all guests of our policy.

§ This policy will be updated to stay aligned with governmental guidelines.

FFI Casting Skills Challenge

Fly Fishers International has designed a program to challenge casters to accomplish a series (bronze, silver, and gold skill sets) of commonly used casts. The program is designed to be a fun way to comfortably and methodically advance casting skills. The challenge is to learn casts that you use when fly fishing, with each level adding or further developing a skill set leading to progression of casting proficiency. . Participants progress at their own pace, with BUFF casting instructors offering instruction, facilitation and ultimately certification of the challenges by testing. Details of the program can be found on the FFI website at: <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Education/Learning-Center/Casting/Casting-Skills-Challenge>

The program uses a casting course - a 70-foot tape and orange soccer cones set at interval distances. This is used to gauge successful completion of the tasks described in the three levels of the casting skills challenge. Several BUFF members have been participating in this program, meeting weekly on Wednesday mornings at Cottrell Park. As we return to in-person monthly meetings, the plan is to have the course set up on the lawn or our meeting location and have BUFF casting instructors to offer guidance and instruction. Certification testing will be available available. They will be easy to recognize as the folks near the tape and orange cones waving 9-foot-long pointy things in the air. You can either pretend you don't notice them, or you can join the fun. For more information contact Tom Scheer at rtscheerdds@aol.com or 513 317-4996.

Here are club members who have completed various levels of the FFI Casting Challenge –

Jim Vota	GOLD!
Hugh O'Donnell	GOLD!
Jeff McElravy	SILVER
Cari Vota	SILVER
Jerry Schatzman	SILVER
Ken Mandel	BRONZE

Fishing the Davidson River, North Carolina

By Dolph Greenberg

The Davidson River is located in western North Carolina with much of the 'public' water situated within the Pisgah National Forest. It is a typical freestone, Appalachian stream with plenty of opportunity for knee-busting wading (bring and use a wading staff!). It has a relatively diverse and robust macroinvertebrate population and hatches. On several occasions I have fished the public waters with good success, but I had heard about a remarkable three and a half mile section of private water that is leased to and operated by Davidson River Outfitters



(DRO), an excellent fly/outfitter operation located just outside of Brevard, NC. DRO allows only 12 anglers per day on this private water, so make your reservations early.

As my wife and I were planning a ten-day trip to the Hendersonville, NC areas this May to visit some relatives, I made reservations for a full day guided trip on the private water and a half-day float on the Tuckaseegee. Once we were in the area, I wanted to get my feet wet, literally and figuratively, in the Davidson River waters a few days before the planned guided trip, so late one afternoon we drove to the public waters and attempted to find an unoccupied access point. This was not easy to do as the river gets busy once the weather turns nice. I got lucky, found a vacant access point, parked the car and scurried down an embankment and tossed some size 18 soft hackle caddis into a nice relatively long run before it skinned out.

A freestone river makes a sound that is as soothing as any in the world. I got a nice 12" rainbow on the 3rd cast, and a 15" rainbow about 15 minutes later. A good start and a confidence builder to being a fishing sortie.

Weather however is fickle. Downpour upon downpour blew out of both the Davidson and Tuck for our scheduled fishing. The float on the Tuck wasn't going to happen, but I was able to get a half-day guided private water trip on the last day of our visit. My guide was Than Axtell, and, as it happened, I knew his father through my academic career. Than's father was an eminent historian whose scholarship encompassed colonial history and Indian-White conflict, areas that coincided with my research. Small world!

Known as a 'bug nerd', Than proved to be an excellent guide. He took me to an obscure bend in the river where we set up our gear – 9' 5-wt rods to drift eggs and size 20 nymphs deep with downstream mends. We were able to locate where the bows were podded up, and we were soon into rod bending and high jumping wild rainbows averaging around 18 inches and up. As luck would have it, I hooked a muscle bound 25 incher that gave a good fight until it succumbed to the net. That fish was an appropriate highlight to end a great trip – it's the one in the photo!.

As we were leaving the river Than asked if I knew a guy by the name of Frisch who was the president of their TU chapter. I asked if his first name was Jack, got a nod from Than, and had another small world moment. Jack Frisch was my professor in a doctoral level contemporary American Indian Issues class at Wayne State University some 50 years ago.

I highly recommend you give the private water section of the Davidson a try, and be sure to visit Davidson River Outfitters. Their website is:

<https://www.davidsonflyfishing.com/>

This class gave BUFF their first opportunity to meet in a public outing in over a year, and everyone had a good time. We are hoping that this class will lead to additional opportunities to present to Loveland students in the future.



Fishing the Mad River - Video

The Midcurrent website has a video with Brian Flechsig and Katie Johnstone on flyfishing the Mad River for brown trout. This was posted in early May of this year. Katie Johnstone is working as a guide out of Mad River Outfitters. She is also one of the co-founders of Ohio Women on the Fly. The video is about 15 minutes long and is a float trip on the Mad. Most of the video is Brian discussing how they are fishing the river, and the fly combinations they are using. The latter is based on sampling the aquatic insects at the beginning of the day to help identify what is in the water and what the fish are likely to be feeding on. Most of the fish took a soft hackle pattern drifting beneath the surface. Here is a link to the video –



https://midcurrent.com/videos/fly-fishing-the-mad-river-with-katie-johnstone-for-brown-trout/?goal=0_8efbf3b958-3142486a24-42992413&mc_cid=3142486a24&mc_eid=e2b8fc2655



Locating Trout in Rivers and Steams



Tom Rosenbauer has a new video “How to Find Trout in Rivers and Streams”, which discusses the topic of where trout live in rivers and streams and where to fish for them. It is about a 25 min video, but shows a lot of different types of water and provides a nice overview of how to target these different flows for trout. The basic concept is that trout need to stay in slower currents with more rapid current near by. It is the rapid current that brings the food to them, and they expend less energy staying in the slower flow. The video shows and discusses fishing on fast moving rivers, slower rivers and small streams. Toward the end of the video is a brief discussion of common casting errors. This is with Pete Kutzer. His visuals of correct and

incorrect casting motions drive home the points. Here is the link to the video -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_Sj9wakT7g&t=726s

Leigh Perkins – Former Orvis CEO Passed Away

Leigh Perkins who was the former CEO of Orvis, and who built the company from a mail order tackle shop in Manchester Vermont to a distinctive outdoors lifestyle brand with stores across the US, passed away on May 7th at 93 years of age.

The Orvis Company was founded in 1856 by Charles Orvis, and is the oldest mail-order business in the US, predating Sears, Roebuck by over 20 years.



Leigh with his son Simon

Leigh purchased Orvis in 1965 at a cost of \$400,000. At that time Orvis had a single store in Manchester, VT, about 20 employees and \$500,000 in annual sales. When he stepped down 27 years later, in 1992, Orvis had over 700 employees and sales in excess of \$90 million a year. Today Orvis has over 2000 employees and annual sales of over \$2 billion, and remains in the Perkins' family, with Leigh's son Simon as President.

Leigh Perkins could be considered as one of Orvis' ideal customers. He hunted or fished on more than 250 days a year, and traveled around the world pursuing his love of the sports. He was born on Nov. 27, 1927, into a wealthy family in Cleveland. His father, Ralph Perkins, was chairman of a manufacturing firm. His father was a horseman, and Leigh learned to fish and hunt from his mother, Katharine (Haskell) Perkins, whom he called "one of the finest wing shots I have ever known". They would travel extensively in the US and Canada to fish and hunt. He graduated college in 1950, spent 15 years in various industrial positions, and in 1965 negotiated the purchase of the Orvis Company from Dudley Corkran, who owned the company at that time. One of the first things Leigh did was to establish the Orvis Fly Fishing School at the Vermont location. It may have been the first of its kind in the US! Even into his 90s, Mr. Perkins continued to fly fish, heading down to the Battenkill on summer evenings — with a rod and a cocktail — to cast for trout as the sun went down.

In the 1980's Leigh expanded Orvis from selling angling and hunting gear to apparel, and the business became synonymous with an outdoors lifestyle. He also pioneered the role of a company in conservation by donating a portion of proceeds to wildlife preservation organizations.

Perhaps an excellent quote to understand his life was one he gave to the New York Times in a 1992 interview - "There is only one reason in the world to go fishing: to enjoy yourself. Anything that detracts from enjoying yourself is to be avoided."



A 1992 photo of Leigh and his sons fishing in the Battenkill River in Vermont

Women's Flyfishing Month

By Cari Vota

June was "Women's Flyfishing Month". In recognition of this, the Ohio chapter of Fly Fishers International (FFI) and Ohio Women on the Fly (OWOTF) co-hosted 3 casting events. Events were held in Cincinnati on June 12th, in Columbus on June 19th and in Cleveland on June 26th. FFI Certified Casting Instructor Tom Scheer, and BUFF Club Instructors Jeff McElravy, Jim Vota and Cari Vota participated in those events. The Cleveland event was held on the Grand River, with Jeff Liskay teaching a class on spey casting, with Jeff, Jim and Cari were also at the Cleveland event.

Photos from the events –

Cincinnati, June 12th -



Columbus, June 19th -



Cleveland, June 26th -



BUFF Members Getting out to Fish -

Here's a nice largemouth bass Bryan Tudor landed fishing at Elk Creek Park. He caught this earlier in June on a cicada pattern that was tied by Steve Alexander -



Jerry Schatzman and Cecil Osborn recently went out after smallmouth bass on Lake Erie. Josh McQueen from Mad Giver Outfitters was their guide for the day.

Although the weather looked threatening twenty-four hours before the scheduled date, the day dawned fair with light winds and the lake was calm. We put in at Ashtabula, OH. We fished inshore, in five to fifteen feet of water, primarily along jetties and breakwaters from Josh's 16' deep V aluminum fishing boat. The equipment was eight and nine weight rods with either full sink or sink tip lines. The flies were primarily chartreuse and white Half and Half's (4 to 6 inches), Near-Nuff Crayfish, and Clouser Minnows tied as Emerald Shiners.

Virtually all the fish were caught sight fishing, making for a very exciting experience. Between us, we caught about a dozen very good-sized smallmouth, the largest being Cecil's 21 incher. Jerry also picked up a nice white bass.





A couple of trout caught at Brookville Tail Waters by Jeff McGarvey also using a cicada pattern –



Thanks to everyone who sent in photos!

Upcoming BUFF Activities

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

In-person activities are Limited to BUFF Members, and require Registration (online on club Website) and signing the Club's Liability Waiver

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Club After Work Fishing Heritage Park, Great Miami River, Colerain Township, OH	Tuesday, July 6 th Meet at 6:00 PM, fish until dusk	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Women's After Work Fishing Heritage Park, Great Miami River, Colerain Township, OH	Thursday, July 8 th Meet at 6:00 PM, fish until dusk	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
BUFF Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, July 14 th Register on the BUFF Website	
Tie & Lie Zoom Virtual Sessions	Friday, July 16 th Friday, Aug 20 th 6:30 PM	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 loopdude1@hotmail.com
Stream Quality Monitoring Two Locations - Caesar's Creek & Little Miami River (Bass Island)	Saturday, July 17 th Arrive by 9 AM	Tom Britton 513-520-7862 starwoodtb@gmail.com
BUFF Picnic Miami Meadows Park, Miami Township, OH	Thursday, July 22 nd 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM Watch for sign-up on website	Ken Mandel 513-675-8488 kengmandel@gmail.com
Club After Work Fishing O'Bannon Creek	Tuesday, August 3 rd Meet at 6:00 PM, fish until dusk	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Women's After Work Fishing O'Bannon Creek	Thursday, August 12 th Meet at 6:00 PM, fish until dusk	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Women's Day Trip Mad River Dayton, OH	Saturday, August 21 st <i>see website for details</i>	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com