



# The BUFFER

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

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## The President's Fly Box

Many members enjoyed last year's picnic. So much so, that we are having another picnic on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. The picnic replaces the regular July meeting. The BUFF Picnic is a great opportunity to see people again, fish a little bit, cast in the casting challenge, see expert tiers, and share a meal with fellow members. I hope to see you there. We ask that you register to attend so that we have the right count for food. Registration deadline is Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, to allow adequate time to order food from the caterers.

While you are on the BUFF website, remember to check the BUFF calendar for various club activities. Several stream quality sessions will be held. There is always some fishing that follows. The club also has several evening fishing opportunities set up each month. You can sign-up on the BUFF website.

The Board of Directors has been discussing the lower attendance at club meetings pre – (approximately 70) and post-COVID (approximately 40). You may be contacted to provide feedback to BUFF so that we can adjust as necessary to ensure that the club's activities are meaningful to its members. Please give some thought to what would make BUFF more valuable to your fishing side of life.

I believe that one of our benefits was seen at our June BUFF membership meeting. For those who attend the June membership meeting, you saw an expert presentation on fishing, river wildlife, aquatic biology, and the four seasons of the Muskegon River. Jeff Feenstra (Feenstra Guide Service) combined angling, science, superb still photography with action video. I think everyone was ready for a trip to the Muskegon after the talk. I can tell you having today driven over the Muskegon River in Central Michigan, that it's wide and deep river does call to an angler. I hope to fish the Muskegon and experience some of the wonders presented by Jeff while on my trip in Michigan.

Finally, the Brookville tailwater meeting was held on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Because of a Covid scare, I couldn't attend. However, I heard that the Army Corps was very receptive to our concerns about maintaining a quality cold water trout stream below the Brookville dam. We can consider this meeting as a first step in maintaining a relationship with our government agencies (Army Corps and Indiana DNR). Given the broad set of objectives for dam management<sup>1</sup>, it is a challenging task, and we are glad that they are

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/Missions/Water-Management/>

interested in maintaining a good fishery. Many of us feel very fortunate that there is a cold water tailwater with trout close to our homes. We just want the trout to be maintained in a healthy environment year-round.

Hugh O'Donnell  
BUFF President

## Reminder - Members Annual Picnic – Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

**Please Register to attend – we need a 'count' to order food!**

**Registration deadline – Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**

BUFF members, plan to join together for our annual picnic on Tuesday July 12<sup>th</sup> at Miami Meadows Park, located at 1546 OH Rt 131, Milford, OH 45150. This is a social and fun event!

- **Time is 5 PM – 8 PM, but since we have the shelter for the entire day, feel free to come earlier to fish the pond.**
- **Menu** (BUFF is providing the feed) – fried chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, watermelon, dessert, chips, and soft drinks.
- **Location – Miami Meadows Park, Lakeside Picnic Shelter** – The shelter is right next to the park's large, stocked lake (crappie, bluegill, catfish, and some carp and bass). There is a walking path around the entire pond. Parking and restrooms are adjacent to the shelter. Directions are below.
- **There are picnic tables in the shelter, but you may want to bring a lawn chair.**
- We will have a casting 'course' set up with BUFF casting instructors available to help with casting skills, and we are also planning to have a fly tying demonstration with some of our tying instructors.



Lake at Miami Meadows Park

### Directions from I-275

Take I-275 to the Rt 28 exit.

Take Rt 28 East to the South Wolfpen Pleasant Hill Road Exit.

Make a right onto Wolfpen Pleasant Hill Road and take this past the Milford Jr High & High School to Rt 131 (traffic signal), and make a left onto 131.

The park is a few miles on your left.

Once you enter the park follow the main drive past a series of fields on either side. Take the first left. The Lake Pavillion where we'll have the picnic (*circled in red*) is at the end of the lane.



## New Club Members!

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added 3 new members –

**Sara Robison**, Columbus, OH

**Rees Catron**, Bellevue, KY

**Richard Washburn**, Independence, KY

Welcome to the club, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon! Also, check out and sign up for activities and programs on the BUFF Website! Finally, 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!

## Brookville Tailwaters Meeting –

By Ken Mandel

*I was on a vacation trip, so did not attend the meeting, nor did Tom Britton, our Conservation Director, who was also away. David French maintains a website on the Brookville Tailwater, and this summary comes from a write-up on that site. I appreciate David giving me permission to use that information in this summary. David's tailwater website can be found at:*

*<https://www.davidfrenchantiques.com/btwreport.html>. It has a lot of information on the tailwater on*

*including a detailed map, stream flow information, fly suggestions, license information, and great photos.*

Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> was the meeting to discuss ongoing issues with the Brookville tailwater and current dam maintenance. There were about 25 – 30 attendees, including representatives from BUFF, NKFF, Central Indiana TU, a few folks from Delamere & Hopkins, and others. Speakers who presented were from Central Indiana TU, the Indiana DNR, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Not surprisingly, most of the discussion following presentations was directed towards the lake manager from the Corps.

The positive outcome was that the Corps official, who has actually been on the job at Brookville Lake for less than a year, appeared to listen and hear the concerns raised by our local anglers. These primarily focused on maintaining adequate stream flows and temperature control to sustain both suitable fishing, and equally important, a healthy trout population in the tailwater area. He took notes regarding doing further research and having discussions with his superiors on ways to address our concerns. He also indicated that the ‘master plan’ for control and management of Brookville Lake, is a ‘living document’ which can and should be modified as needed. While no definite action items emerged from the meeting, there was a feeling of commitment to continue a dialog and collaboration regarding the state of the tailwater and sustaining a unique fishing environment for our area.

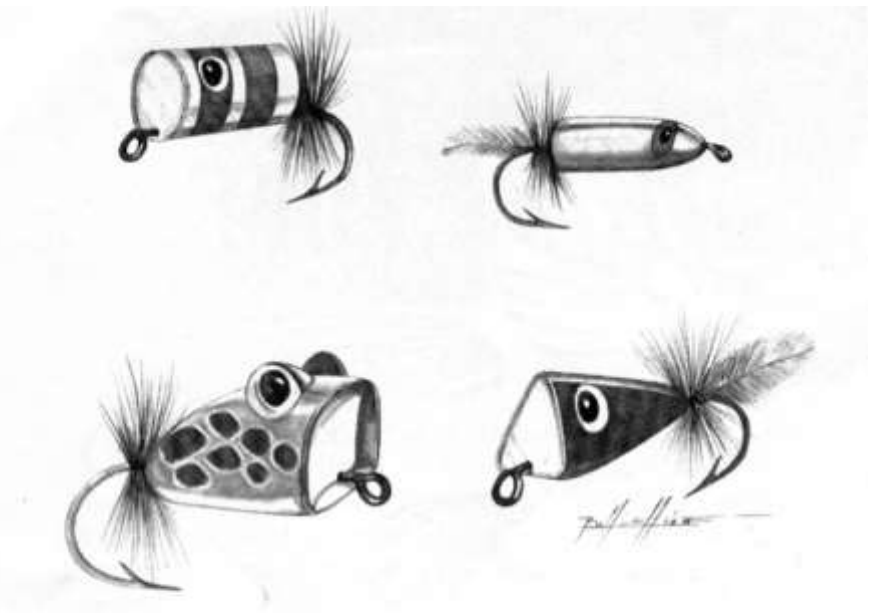
## **Demystifying Bass Popper Flies –**

This is from an article on popper flies written by Gary LaFontaine that was published in Fly Fisherman magazine in the spring of 1977. *Flyfisherman.com* has started to periodically post articles written and published before the Internet, from their magazine’s print archives. The wit and wisdom from legendary fly-fishing writers like Ernest Schwiebert, Gary LaFontaine, Lefty Kreh, Robert Traver, Dave Whitlock, Al Caucci & Bob Nastasi, Vince Marinaro, Doug Swisher & Carl Richards, Nick Lyons, and many more deserve a second life. These articles are reprinted exactly as published. This article was titled “The Snap-Crackle Poppers”. The article and a pdf version can be found at:

<https://www.flyfisherman.com/editorial/demystifying-bass-poppers/461402>

The original popper fly, simply a bottle cork with some sparse bucktail wings is attributed to E. H. Peckinpough of Tennessee who first tied these around 1907 using a double hook. While he designed them to fish for bluegill, they proved effective for bass as well. They were adapted with a larger hook to make them more effective for the latter. Other anglers, including B.F Wilder, Will H. Dilg and Cal MacCarthy, took early interest in the patterns, and made modifications and developments. One modification was to replace the double hooks used in the original with a single hook. Versions that MacCarthy produced were marketed throughout and after his own life. Methods for fishing these flies – whether to retrieve them or not – developed during this era as well. While poppers are not good visual representations of what the fish may feed on, it is their movement and the surface disturbances that they create which is their attraction.

The image shows 4 basic types of popper flies. The 'quietest' fly is the one with a flat face. It is the closest to the original popper design. The blunt head pushes a small wave of water in front resulting in muted surface vibrations. The slant-headed popper, has an angle which causes the 'lip' of the fly to dig into the water and imitates a creature trying to dive under the water, but popping back up. The popper with the bullet shaped head works well in reeds and water growth, where it can poke its way through without catching on vegetation. The popper-face version is a 'noise-maker'. It works well in the dark or in conditions with lower visibility (cloudy streams). It is usually fished with a pop-pause motion to attract fish.



There are four types of popper flies: flat-face, slant-headed, bullet-head, and popper-face. (Bill Elliott illustration)

There is a lot more to the article, so check it out. You can also find other 'historic' archive articles that are being reprinted electronically on the Fly Fisherman magazine site.

## Local Fishing Events in July & August—

**We have two local fishing outings in July.** Both are 'after work' evening outings. Registration is now open.

- Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> is the Women's After Work Outing. The July outing is on the Little Miami River at the Carl Rahe Access. Check out the website for information and to register.
- Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup> is the Club After Work Outing. This will be on O'Bannion Creek, which is a tributary to the Little Miami River. Meet at the East Loveland Nature Preserve, which is just east of downtown Loveland. We can fish at that location, or travel down the road a bit and fish from Grailville. Again, information and registration on the website.

### Local August outings –

- Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> is the monthly Women's After Work outing. The August outing meets in downtown Milford on the Little Miami River to fish. Afterwards we'll retire to the Little Miami Brewery for drinks and snacks. This is one of our most fun outings all year. Can't fish? Then plan to meet us at the Brewery at about 8:15 or so. See you on the water!

- Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> is our Women's Day Trip. We will be going to the Mad River, near Urbana. This is a trout trip and a chance to see the river from several locations.
- Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> is the Club Co-ed After Work outing. We'll be on the Little Miami River at Lake Isabella. Yes, there is a nice access point at the park. Meeting at the kayak ramp. If someone wanted to Kayak fish this night, it's only 3 miles to the Kelly Nature Preserve ramp and a short drive for pickup.

Information and sign-up for all are, or will soon be, posted on the BUFF Website.

## Other Local July Activities –

- Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup> is the monthly Fly Casting Skills Development Workshop. It is held at Cottell Park in Mason and starts at 6 PM. Information, registration and directions are on the club website.
- Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> is the BUFF Stream Quality Monitoring activities on the Little Miami River. There are two locations – Caesar's Creek and Bass Island, both start at 9 AM. Registration and directions are on the website. Hopefully, weather conditions will cooperate and water levels will allow access and testing.
- Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> is the monthly evening Tie & Lie gathering. This is a virtual event on Zoom. The Zoom link is on the website under the calendar page.
- Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> is another Stream Quality Monitoring event. This is not a BUFF-led event, but is organized by the Butler County Stream Team. They monitor Seven Mile Creek. Meet up at 10 AM at Four Mile Park in Hamilton, OH. We do ask BUFF members to register and sign a waiver on our website.
- Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> is also the monthly Board Meeting. It starts at 6:30 PM at the Springdale Community Center. BUFF members who are interested are invited to attend.

## Ladies! Save the Date for our Out of Town Fly Fishing Trip!!

By Cari Vota

It seems like it's been so *looong* since we had a Women's Out of Town fishing trip. This year, we will "piggy-back" on the Club's North Fall Carolina Trip to the Bryson City area with our own Women's Cabin. Dates are October 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. We will travel to NC on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, fish for 3 days, (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>), and then fish/travel home on Oct 9. Never been to Bryson City, NC to fish? Me neither! Should be a great trip for all.

Other suggestions – spend a day or 2 before our NC trip in the Smokies. Or even somewhere close by in North Carolina for a couple days. Or maybe a couple days after our trip. Guides are available in both

areas, if needed. These should be booked sooner rather than later, even though we're talking about October.

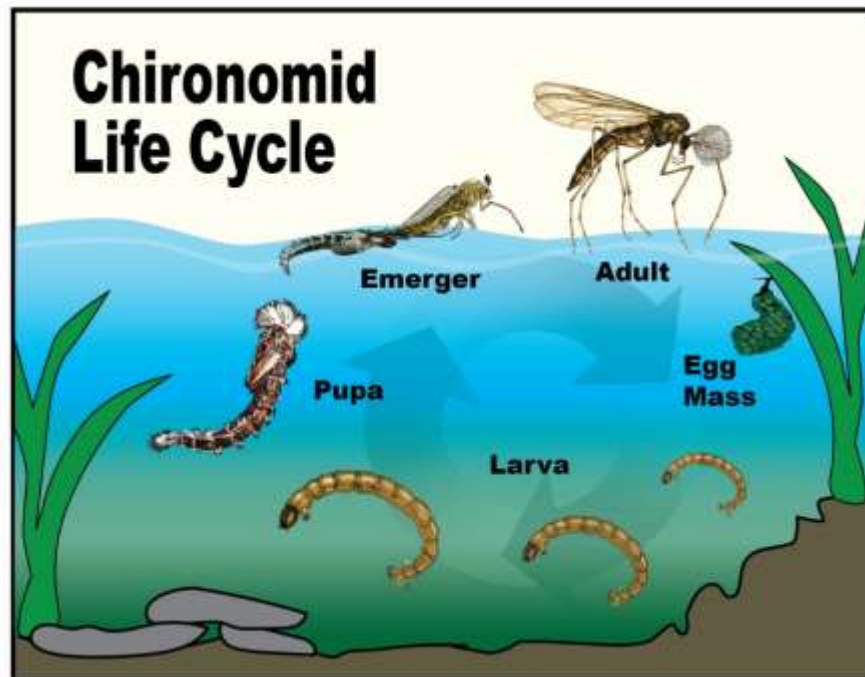
We will open registration for the Women's trip and the Club trip sometime in August.

## Chironomid Fly Patterns

By Ken Mandel

I had a link on the Midcurrent.com site to an article posted by Ventures Fly Co. that talked about chironomids and their fly patterns. The title of the blog is "**Killer Chironomid Fly Patterns You Need Right Now**". The web link is: <https://blog.venturesflyco.com/2022/06/24/killer-chironomid-fly-patterns-you-need-right-now/>

For angling purposes, chironomids are just large midge patterns common in lakes and ponds. They represent the aquatic larva and pupae phases of these insects, and fish well in spring and fall. While adult flies resemble mosquitos, they are not mosquitos, and do not bite. The midge forms often are reddish in color, as they produce a hemoglobin-like pigment. There are many species of chironomids, with estimates in the range of 10,000 or more. The lifecycle pattern is shown below, and again, as anglers, the flies we use represent the larva and pupa phases.



The article includes videos and patterns for 5 chironomid larva and pupa patterns. They are all relatively simple patterns requiring few materials. Images are below, and you can find the various YouTube videos with materials and step-by-step instructions on the link above.

The recommended way to fish these flies is below an indicator. One option, depending on the water depth, is to hang one chironomid 2- 3 feet below the indicator and a second another few feet below the

first. The current drift of surface indicator will provide a degree of movement to these flies which can mimic their natural motion.



**Ice Cream Cone Chironomid**

Hook: Umpqua 203 hook (3XL), size 14  
 Head: Small White Glass Bead  
 Thread: Black 8/0 thread  
 Rib: Hareline Micro Tubing, Blood Red



**Tak's Crystal Chironomid**

Hook: Tiemco 200R, size 10 – 16  
 Thread: Black UTC 70  
 Body: Midge Tubing Clear  
 Wing  
 Case: Blue Holographic Tinsel  
 Side: Red Holographic Tinsel  
 Gills: Antron  
 UV Finish over fly



**Body Glass Chironomid**

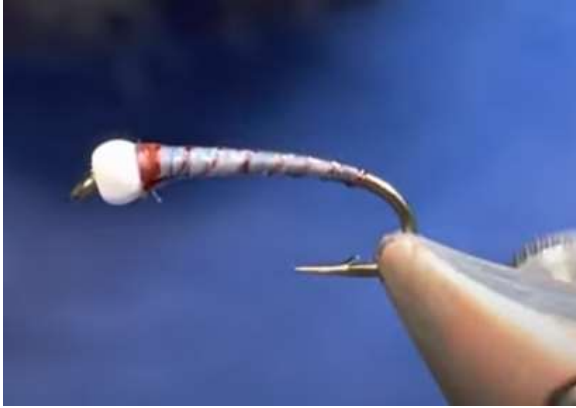
Hook: Fulling Mill 5115 (2X short, 3X heavy, size 14)  
 Body: Body Glass, Micro, Half Round  
 Bead: Slotted Tungsten Bead  
 Thread: 18/0 Nano Silk  
 Gills: Glo-Brite Thread  
 Thorax: Ice Dub



**Bloody Pearl Chironomid Pupa**

Hook: Scud hook (size not given)  
 Bead: Black nickel  
 Thread: Black 70 denier  
 Gills: White Antron  
 Rib: Small red ultrawire  
 Body: Strip of 'antistatic bag plastic  
 Medium size opal tinsel  
 Finish: UV Resin over body





Up In Smoke Chironomid Pupa

Hook: Daiichi 1760 hook (small – size 16 or smaller)  
Bead: White glass bead  
Thread: White  
Rib: X-small red wire  
Body: Smoke color Buzzer Wrap  
Finish: Crazy glue or UV Resin over body

## A Useful Idea for Our Fishing Packs/Vests –

By Ken Mandel

I saw a blog note which struck me as a potentially very good, and very simple idea. We all use some sort of eye protection, or should, when fishing. It is easy to smudge glasses, as I do all the time. Having an eyeglass cloth on hand is often something easily overlooked, at least I always do! The blog suggested single use, moistened lens wipes. You can put a couple of packets in your fishing pack or vest, and voila!

The brand recommended was Zeiss Lens Wipes. Anyone who is a photographer, uses binoculars, or is familiar with a microscope will recognize the brand for its reputation for excellent optics. I purchased a box (100 wipes) at Walmart for about \$6. I find it is an excellent product on either glass or plastic lenses. It cleans very well and dries in seconds without any wiping. I am keeping a handful in our cars as well as my fishing pack. It is shelved in the pharmacy section with eye care products. I think Walgreens and other pharmacy chains stock it as well.



# Northern Sights, Fishing God's Country –

By Jim Vota

Starting a fishing trip always brings to mind pictures of the fish you'll catch. We prepare for the trip in order to fish. How many times have the trips turned out as expected? This year I contacted the current owner of the cabins I lived in while attending college in the Michigan UP 46 years ago - in GOD's country. Why GOD's country? No one else wants it. At least that was the joke for the Keweenaw Peninsula, one of Michigan's remotest regions. At the time I was living there, the closest McDonalds was a hundred miles away in Marquette. While McDonalds has arrived, Houghton or the Keweenaw region hasn't changed much. However, the landlord of the cabins hasn't kept the place up like the previous owner, so the lodging experience was a letdown. So much for going home again.

A little explanation for the trip is in order. In recent years Cari and I have fished an area called the Dollarville Flooding on the Tahquamenon River near Newberry. The river is home to many species of fish from brook trout near its beginnings going to smallmouth, walleye, pike and musky in the middle. It winds up in Lake Superior where you can find musky, pike, walleye, whitefish, bass, steelhead and salmon. So, when I had the brainstorm to go north, Cari and I planned to begin our trip there. Following a couple days there we would spend six days on Portage Lake between Chassell and Houghton followed by another day at the Flooding on the way home.



A wide spot in the Dollarville Flooding – the road just goes on and on. Gets kind of monotonous – if the channel wasn't easy to follow you could get lost



Wildlife of the Tahquamenon, lots to see

Arrangements were made and expectations were high. Ken and Haruko made plans to join us for 4 days in Houghton to fish and sightsee. As usual, the best laid plans don't always work out. My typical nemesis, the weather, had a lot to say about our adventures. Conditions in the UP seemed to be about a month behind what I would have expected from past (very remote) experience. Weed growth hadn't progressed as much as expected, and the fish hadn't moved into the usual locations. Rainstorms and high wind were common. Our fishing was limited. Cari and I had one good day at the Flooding where

we raised one musky on a day with a lousy moon phase and after cold front had just gone through. We also had a couple days on Portage Lake. Sightseeing was great.

I do have to tell you about our experience on the Portage. On the day we arrived there, we went to the grocery and purchased supplies. We moved into the cabin (not the ones we made reservations for, think this was a good thing) and decided to try to launch the boat and fish. When we arrived at the boat ramp, we were greeted by a sign saying that you needed a pass to use the boat ramp and that you could purchase one at the general store across the road. Since there was a local officer sitting in the parking lot, it seemed practical to purchase one. It was Sunday at 6:05 pm and we found out that the store closed at 5:00 pm. Plans changed. We went back Monday morning at 11:00 when the store opened and got the permit. While we're getting boat ready to launch Cari comes over and says the depth finder isn't working. Sure enough, a dead battery. We went out anyway and fished by memory. I had one hit (on a six-inch Rapala Magnum – red/white) when we put out lures to start trolling.



Entry of Torch Lake into Portage Lake at sunrise

Before diving deeper, I have to admit to digging up the old gear (from the dark side) and purchasing two new musky bait cast rods. Trolling is a fairly easy way to locate fish in really big water. You can always fly fish once you've found some fish. So, the first actual day of fishing was bust. I even got grounded in the mouth of the Sturgeon River. Who would have thought it was too shallow even for a jet drive. At this point the weather turned the corner again. Strong winds began blowing from the east.

Easterly winds blow directly on shore where we stayed. Late Monday evening I went out on the dock in front to kill some time casting big pike flies. I immediately had a couple hits. For whatever reason, I surmised that smallmouth were present, so I quickly change gear.



Sure be, the wind was blowing the bait into the rocks on shore and the smallies were chasing. Over the next few days, I succeeded in bringing only one to hand (14") but had many more hooked only to lose them. The last which came to the dock was 20" + and had my 8-weight doubled over. I lost it to a broken hook. High wind and rain killed the fishing for the next couple days. I finally got out on Friday with a fresh battery for the Garmin. I was going to run the boat for Cari and Haruko. The first run down the lake was outside the weed line at the break. Not much there so I headed into the weeds. They were shallow so my expectations were not high. We did however wind up with 3 pike. Haruko actually got her first pike (even though it was wasn't on the fly).



As usual vacations seem to end too soon. We fished less than expected but had great time exploring the Keweenaw. The area is covered with small streams that all seem to hold brook trout. Another trip. The photo shows a view of the Pilgrim River, which was 5 minutes from where we stayed. This view is from one of two easy public access points to the river from a trail in a local park. The Pilgrim is stocked with brookies. The Driggs, Fox, and Two Heart Rivers are located near Newberry. Access is limited but doable. Be prepared to hike a bit. Bug spray is a requirement. The other old joke is that mosquitoes are the state bird of Michigan. Smidge, a product from Scotland works great (you can find it online).



This vacation was done but not our fishing. We got home on Tuesday and immediately prepared to go to Cleveland to run a women's fly-casting clinic for FFI. We drove up Friday and fished with Jeff Liskay (Great Lakes Fly Fishing) in the evening. Following the women's clinic on Saturday we headed to Sunnybrook Trout Club with Jeff McElravey. In all over the two weeks we caught or almost caught a lot of different species of fish. Raised a musky, caught pike, walleye, smallmouth, white bass, freshwater drum, bluegill, large mouth bass, rock bass and rainbow trout.

I'm taking a small break now. I'm going to miss the big waters up north.

## Side Note: Fishing with Great Lakes Fly Fishing

This past May, the speaker at our club meetin, Captain Jeff Liskay, presented fishing opportunities from the St Clair River through Lake Erie. Jeff described the variety of fishing that is available. Since Cari was running a women's fly-casting clinic for FFI we decided to take up Jeff's offer to fish on Lake Erie in front of Cleveland on Friday night.

Jeff has a 21-foot Ranger multi species boat. As it turned out this is a deep V hull capable of handling the conditions of the systems he fishes. It's equipped with dual Hummingbird systems for navigation and fish location. The large Min Kota trolling motor handles the boat movement during fishing. Jeff also equips the boat with whatever gear is needed to fish. He uses Scott fly rods. On our Friday evening trip, we caught walleye, drum, white bass, almost large mouth, rock bass, bluegill and very large white bass. Smallmouth are there but we didn't get any.



Since we do have many members who no longer like to wade, this is an exceptional opportunity for them to be able to get out and fish. All skill levels are OK as Jeff can put you close to the fish. He's also one of the best instructors in the mid-west.

Check out Great Lakes Fly Fishing's web site for details of the many different opportunities in the southern great lakes area. <https://www.greatlakesflyfishing.com/>



Cleveland



A nice way to end the day

## 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 &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Casting Skills Development Cottell Park Mason OH	Wednesday, July 6 <sup>th</sup> 6 PM – 8 PM <i>Registration &amp; information on BUFF Website</i>	Tom Scheer
Stream Quality Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two Locations - Little Miami River at Bass Island near Mariemont Little Miami River at Caeser's Creek Access</li> </ul>	Saturday, July 9 <sup>th</sup> Meet at 9 AM <i>Registration &amp; information on BUFF Website</i>	Tom Britton
Women's After Work Fishing Little Miami River at the Carl Rahe Access	Thursday, July 14 <sup>th</sup> 6 PM – Dusk <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
Tie-& Lie	Friday, July 15 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Virtual Session – Zoom Link</i>	Gary Begley

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Butler County Stream Quality Monitoring 4 Mile Park Hamilton, OH	Wednesday, July 20 <sup>th</sup> Meet at 10 AM <i>Registration &amp; information on BUFF Website</i>	Tom Britton
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, July 20 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
BUFF Club After Work Fishing O'Bannion Creek East Loveland Nature Preserve Loveland, OH	Thursday, July 21 <sup>st</sup> 6 PM – Dusk <i>Registration &amp; information on BUFF Website</i>	Cari Vota

**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.

