



# The *BUFFER*

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

Volume 47, Issue 7

Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com>

July 1, 2023

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## The President's Fly Box

I'm taking a break from tying flies for my August Wyoming trip. This trip is offered every year in conjunction with (and helps to fund) the Boy Scouts. This year we will have nine people from BUFF, including 3 couples, on the first week of the trip. They are mainly past participants returning for yet another year at camp. I'm looking forward to climbing up and down ravines to get to streams that few people have fished. I will be egged on by my traveling companion, who while 10 years older, always seems faster than me going upriver. I'd better start walking more before this trip to keep up.

The camp atmosphere is refreshing, and it is a great opportunity to meet others from across the nation. Often the camp is run by members of NKFF. They provide a great service for us and perform it with excellence. I recommend the trip for the more adventurous of our club, but easy river access is also quite available.

Moving to local topics. The BUFF picnic is on July 12<sup>th</sup>. It is always well attended, fun, and a great time to reconnect with other members. Bring a rod and try your skills on the casting course or the pond. Our picnic team does a great job providing plenty of food for all. Signup on the BUFF website before all spots are gone.

I'd like to congratulate our very own Gary Begley for becoming a director on the Ohio Council of FFI. As you know Gary led the casting course for twenty years and a monthly fly-tying session that became online with the advent of the COVID pandemic. His online fly-tying sessions reach beyond BUFF, as far away as Australia (Gary do they tie upside down there?). So, Gary will be a big plus for the Ohio Council.

As always, things change and so do people. This is very true of our Board of Directors. Currently, we have two openings – Treasurer and Member at Large. Can you help? Please let us know. The openings are posted on our website.

I'd also like to call attention to local trips. Beyond our monthly trips (thank you Cari Vota), Bryan Tudor has started a Mad River trip. This periodic trip is in high demand. In the past, Mike Jones offered trips to Brookville. In all, any member can organize a single or periodic trip to your favorite pond or stream. It is a great way to share your love of the sport and to build a network for fishing.

The fish are hungry, so grab a friend and go fishing.

Hugh O'Donnell,  
BUFF President

# BUFF July Meeting – PICNIC! – Wednesday July June 12<sup>th</sup>

As we've done for the last 2 years, we will not have a regular meeting in July. Rather, we will gather at **Miami Meadows Park in Milford, OH**. The street address is 1546 State Route 131. A map with location is on park website - <https://www.miamitwpoh.gov/meadows.html>.

BUFF has reserved the Lakeside Shelter (circled in red on the map). It is next to the large, stocked pond (bluegill and some bass). Our reservation is good for the entire day, so if you'd like, you can come early and do some fishing!

## 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 & Sr High School to Rt 131 (traffic signal). Make a left onto 131. The park is a few miles on your left.



**We do request that you sign up on the BUFF website if you are planning to attend. We need this to provide a 'head count' for ordering food. Registration will close on July 4<sup>th</sup>, to provide enough time for ordering food.** We plan to have food available around 5 PM. The menu is fried chicken, coleslaw, German potato salad, watermelon, and deserts. We'll have a variety of soft drinks, water, iced tea and lemonade.

Besides being able to fish the pond, we'll have a 'casting course on the lawn (assuming no soccer or cheerleading practice) and demonstrate fly tying. We will also have a raffle with the prize being a 9-wt Thomas & Thomas rod with a reel and line. The rod is a generous donation from a long-time club member who used it once! Tickets are \$10 each with 100 available. The winner will be drawn at the picnic.

**Plan to join us for a pleasant evening of good food, comradeship, fun activities, and fishing at the lake.**

## New Club Members! –

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added 1 New member - **Brad Joyce**, Cincinnati, OH

Welcome to the club, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon! Check out our activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some!

## Board Member Opportunities –

### BUFF Treasurer

#### Opening soon - BUFF Treasurer position.

Yes, you can help BUFF stay organized, ensure we have funds, and be a key player on the board of directors. Bob Gustafson, our long-time Treasurer is stepping down in the near future

No experience is required except for a willingness and feeling capable to work with accounting software, numbers, and computers. We use Quickbooks for our bookkeeping/accounting, which is an easy-to-use accounting software program.

Bob' plan is to transition his responsibilities to the new Treasurer. The role and function of Treasurer is critical for our club, so please give this consideration and reach out to Bob for more specific information and any questions – [j.r.gustafson@att.net](mailto:j.r.gustafson@att.net)

### Director at Large Position

In addition to the Treasurer position, the Board is also seeking a member to join as a “Director at Large”. The Director-at-Large is a voting member of the Board of Directors who helps ad hoc committees, provides a perspective on BUFF and the Board of Directors and injects new ideas into the Board of Directors. It is an excellent way to get introduced to the functions of the club and operations of the Board of Directors, and to determine if a standing Board position would be a good fit to take on as opportunities present themselves.

If this sounds interesting, please reach out to Hugh O’Donnell ([odonnellhj@gmail.com](mailto:odonnellhj@gmail.com)), or any other Board member with any questions.

## Fly Tying Yarns

By Ken Mande & Cari Vota

Both Cari and I found an interesting article on the blog page of the J Stockard website. It is “Spin a Yarn: A Guide to Fly Tying Yarns”, and was written by Michael Vorhis in 2018.

The blog discusses 5 types of synthetic fiber material used in tying –

- Polyester yarn is easy to find and is used in a wide range of commercial products. This yarn has a specific gravity (SG) is 1.4, so it is heavier than water (by definition, the SG of water is 1), so flies using this material will sink quickly. Size and shape of polyester fiber strands can vary, and these materials tend to have less ‘reflectivity’



than other synthetic fibers. Because of this, polyesters can be incorporated into different types of tying materials, including dubbing.

- Polypropylene has a SG of 0.9, and so will float. It also does not absorb water. Common uses are parachute posts, spent-spinner wings, and floating body material for larger adult insect imitations. Some synthetic dry fly dubbings contain, or are made from, this fiber.



- Z-Lon (Zelon) is a type of nylon. It has a SG of 1.2, so it will sink. Originally, Z-lon was similar to Antron, but crinklier. However, 'straight' Z-lon is now available as well. A property of nylon is that for a given thickness, it is softer and stronger than polyester, and it is also more light reflective. Uses include parachute posts, segmented bodies, trailing shucks, and anything that can benefit from a kinky/wavy high-visibility material. The author recommends its use for 'hair' wings, such as in Wulff dry flies, as it is much a much easier material to work with than traditional calf tail hair, and a great substitute.



Standard Z-Lon

- Antron was developed by Dupont as a carpet fiber. It is strong and durable and its reflective properties reduce appearance of dirt in carpet. The author calls this material the 'Belle of the Ball', being unique among synthetic fibers. Antron has fantastic luster, catching light in unique ways. It comes in a range of colors, including clear, is softer than Z-lon, and becomes even softer when it wets. Its SG is 1.12, so it is almost the same as water. The article suggests many uses, especially where it can interact with light (mixtures in dubbing). Being hydrophilic it flows with the current, so can be used as tailing and wing material.

Here is the link for the full article - <https://www.jsflyfishing.com/blogs/fly-tying/spin-a-yarn-fly-tying-yarn-guide>

## FFI Support for Proposed Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Conservation Rule

From Cari Vota

*Cari Vota shared an e-mail sent to Fly Fishers International (FFI) leaders regarding a positive proposed rule from the BLM that would benefit almost 250 million acres of natural land. Buckeye United Fly Fishers is an affiliate club with FFI, so our members may be interested in this. Below is a copy of the e-mail. FFI sent a letter stating its support for the proposed rule to the BLM along with a copy of a white paper "A New Conservation Paradigm" developed and approved by FFI earlier this year. One can find the White Paper on the FFI website - <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/News/a-new-conservation-paradigm>*

*Unfortunately, it is now too late to submit comments to the BLM on the proposal, as the comment period ended in mid-June. **Here is a copy of the e-mail from FFI -***

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to implement the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule (Rule) that will effect the 245 million acres of natural landscapes across the US that are under BLM's management responsibility on the public's behalf. The BLM is obliged to invite public comment on the proposed Rule. These vast BLM lands include many rivers, streams and watersheds that provide fly fishing opportunities; therefore, FFI has responded by providing the attached formal Public Comments.

The Rule proposes to elevate Conservation Value and Services as purpose for BLM lands on par with livestock grazing and energy. The proposal speaks to the health of ecosystems and the ability of the lands to deliver associated services such as "clean air and water", food and fiber, renewable energy and wildlife habitat.

We commend the BLM for their proposal but urge the agency to consider the provision of Conservation Value and the Services they propose as values that exceed the grazing and energy development currently being provided on these public lands. We specifically addressed their reference to "clean air and water" as one of the most important details in the proposal and provide specific recommendations for how to assure provision of these very important services. The recommendations we provide are consistent with FFI's "A New Conservation Paradigm", which we includes as an attachment to our comments. We concluded our comments with the following opinion:

"It is the opinion of Fly Fishers International that no greater conservation value can be assured from conserving the natural landscapes of BLM public lands than from conservation of the plants of those landscapes for their photosynthetic abilities to sequester atmospheric carbons and transpire water vapor to our rain cycles and oxygen so essential to all animal life on our planet."

The health and function of BLM landscapes, along with the many other public lands that are preserved and managed on our behalf, are very important to our opportunities to fly fish and FFI's preservation of the "Fly Fishing Legacy"! Please share these public comments regarding this important proposal of BLM within your respective Councils and Clubs to inform our members and community of the very important conservation work FFI performs.

Sincerely,

Tom H. Logan, Chairman  
FFI Board Conservation Committee  
Senior Advisor – Conservation

## **Keith McCafferty Visit and Presentation**

A few photos of Keith McCafferty from his presentation and visit with us. Haruko Mizoguchi & Ken Mandel hosted Keith and Gail at their house on Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Not only is Keith a great author, tyer, and angler, he is also a 'cat whisperer', He made fast friends with Weasel, Ken & Haruko's 18 year-old shy and skittish kitty. On Wednesday morning, Keith joined our casting friends group at Cottell Park as well. We've had a number of members reach out to some of us to express their appreciation and enjoyment of Keith's presentation.





It was their first visit to Cincinnati, and they enjoyed it very much and would be happy to come back. Maybe we can find another opportunity to have them back!



## June Women's Day Trip - Brookville Tailwaters

By Haruko Mizoguchi

Cari Vota, Donna Somers and I took advantage of this month's Women's Day Outing to the tail



waters at Brookville IN. The day was perfect, cool and overcast.

We put on

our waders and walked toward the stream where we were met by crystal clear water. We cast to the edge of the bubble line, riffles and deeper holes. We had the stream all to ourselves. So quiet. Swallows sweeping down on the surface of water and goslings frolicking among themselves under watchful eyes of the parents. We even had two brown trout that decided to go after the Hare's Ear Nymphs we had tied.

There is nothing like a beautiful fishing day with good friends.



## Education on the Fly – A Miami Valley Fly Fishers Program

From Bill DeShurko

*I thought this short article from Bill was quite interesting and so decided to put it in the BUFFER.*  
*Ken Mandel*

Fly fishing is one of my greatest passions, which I want to pass on to future generations.

With help from members of Miami Valley Fly Fishers (MVFF), I have put together a classroom series for the environmental science class at Centerville High School. The curriculum of about eight to 10 lessons covers everything "fly fishing," from history, environmental issues and equipment to fly tying and going out to fish.

We have also done presentations and classes at Bellbrook Middle school. In collaboration with

Buckeye United Fly Fishers (BUFF) we have visited several schools in Cincinnati, including Loveland High







School, where each student tied a fly and got a casting lesson. When the weather cooperates, we'll take the class fishing, using the flies that they tied.

Although there are more accomplished fly fishermen out there, I'm pretty proud of our educational programs. I'm hoping to expand them to another high school or two here in Dayton and extend our classes beyond single-day programs in Cincinnati. We welcome inquiries from area teachers who think this would be an asset to their lesson plans.

Fly fishing is the ultimate relaxation for me; but it has also proven to be very therapeutic for the larger population. Both MVFF and BUFF work with nationwide groups to sponsor retreats for women with breast cancer, (Casting for Recovery), and men with any type of cancer, (Reel Recovery). The ongoing Project Healing Waters works with disabled veterans.

Participating in those programs is incredibly rewarding for me.

To find out more about any of these programs or to request information on classroom visits, go to [www.mvff.us](http://www.mvff.us), or contact me directly - [bill.deshurko@gmail.com](mailto:bill.deshurko@gmail.com)

## **Smallmouth Bass – Article from Butler County Soil & Water Conservation District**

By Maddy Miner

*I want to thank Tim Cassani for sharing this article which was provided to him by the Butler County Soil & Water Conservation folks. Maddy Miner, who wrote the article, is a Biology Major at Miami University, and a summer intern at BCSWCD. Nice job !! Programs offered by the BCSWCD are listed on their website (<https://www.butlerswcd.org/>) – Ken Mandel*

With the summer season kicking into full gear, everyone is ready to get back out on the waters and go fishing. Wherever your favorite fishing spot is, you've likely ran into one of Ohio's most common species of fish, the smallmouth bass, also known as the *Micropterus dolomieu*. Native to every county in Ohio, smallmouths are very common in fishing tournaments, but can be tricky to catch along with their largemouth bass counterparts.

Smallmouth bass are very similar to largemouth bass, and you may not be able to tell the difference unless you have experience fishing. Nevertheless, there are some minor differences used to differentiate between them, the first being their mouths. As the name implies, smallmouth bass have a smaller mouth than largemouth do. Their jaw never extends past their eye socket, unlike that of a largemouth. You can also look at their dorsal fin on their backside. A smallmouth's dorsal fin will appear more connected between its first and second dorsal, with a small bridge where it dips down. A



largemouth's will have a more prominent dip between the first and second dorsal, with a larger bridge appearing less connected.

Smallmouth bass have a slender build, on average weighing 1 – 2 lbs and ranging 12 – 15" in length. Most often, their color ranges between brown and green, with 3 characteristic dark streaks radiating from snout and eye across gill covers. They're darkest in color on their backsides, usually brown then transitioning into a green, and are lighter colored on their belly, usually a yellow-white appearance. On average, they have a life span ranging from 6 – 14 years, but some have been known to live up to 20 years. Smallmouth primarily feed on crayfish, small fish, and other macro invertebrates.



Native to the eastern half of the United States and southeastern Canada, smallmouth bass live primarily in freshwater streams and rivers. They prefer deeper, less vegetated areas than largemouth do, and typically areas with moderate-to-high gradient streams and rougher substrates, such as gravel or rock. They also do well in large clear-water lakes. Smallmouths do not thrive as much in shallower areas with softer substrates; they often are found hiding in around large rocks or woody debris.

Because they prefer a deeper water habitat, smallmouth bass often spawn later than largemouth bass do, which prefer shallower water. The colder temperatures in deep waters take longer to warm to optimal temperatures for spawning. Additionally, deeper water has less vegetation to protect the eggs than shallow water does. Smallmouth males will create their nests in circular depressions in sand or gravel in the deeper levels of stream and lakes. They prefer to nest near logs or large rocks.

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the smallmouth bass population has experienced a net decrease in size, largely due to increased deforestation, pollution, water turbidities, over-fishing, and the use of dams. In more recent years, the population has started to increase again near the Ohio River, Lake Erie, and many other Ohio streams. While their distribution remains stable, they have never fully recovered to their original population size.

To learn more about the habitats that make streams, creeks, and rivers more healthy and livable for many macro invertebrates and fish, like the smallmouth bass, sign up for our BEST volunteer event on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in citizen science with stream ecology training. ***This event will have passed by the time you see this issue of the BUFFER. However, the BCSWCD offers other learning and volunteer opportunities which can be found on their website.***

## References

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## Banquet Silent Auction Trips –

**From Ken Mandel & Sam Hanna**

*Some BUFF members who won silent auction trips at our March Banquet have taken advantage of their good fortune and gotten out with the guide services who generously donated the outings. Sam Hanna and I have asked those who won these trips, to please share their experiences with the rest of the club. These are very generous donations from guides and outing services and a commitment from these folks to support Buckeye United Fly Fishers. Sharing your experience that the outing was enjoyable is a great way to recognize and express gratitude for this support, and perhaps encourage other BUFF members to consider working with these guides. Thank you to those who have already shared their experiences!*

## Pike on the Cuyahoga River –

**From Jessica Thompson**

***Jessica won the auction trip offered by Fish Ohio Outfitters. They went out in early June.***

We just went on our trip this past weekend with Justin from Fish Ohio Outfitters. We fished the Cuyahoga River in northern OH for pike, and it was some of the best fishing we have done in OH (outside of steelies)! Not to mention the weather was perfect and the scenery beautiful.

We had never tried pike fishing before, and Justin was an excellent guide in showing us the ropes. He has a passion for fly fishing and an enthusiasm that is contagious - we landed 8 fish but missed plenty more! And of course the bigger fish were the ones we lost - there is a certain finesse to not hooking into the many obstacles in this river and even more of a challenge when you have a fish on!

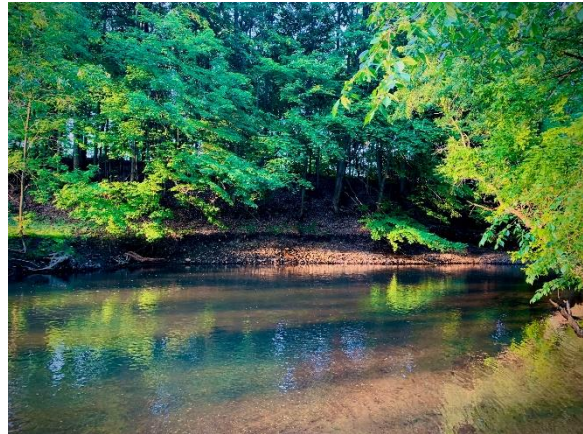
Not only did Justin have an amazing understanding of the river and fish behavior - he was an all-around great guy to spend the day with. We





already booked again for a small mouth trip with him in the fall. ***Definitely recommend Justin and Fish OH Outfitters!***

Fish Ohio Outfitters are located in northern Ohio. They offer guided outings for fly and spin casting and trolling on Lake Erie and area rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs. Here is their website for more information on Fish Ohio Outfitters - <https://www.fishohiooutfitters.com/>



## **Little Miami River Outfitters Whitewater River Outing –**

**From Tim Cassini**

*While not a trip from the Banquet, still a great outing with a local guide!*

Normally when someone suggests I buy a raffle ticket, I edge away from them as you would a stranger on a park bench. However, this past February at our fly show, my friend Dan Tomaka prompted the purchase of a LMRO raffle ticket for a float on the Whitewater River. Dan tends to win a lot of these things, so I went along and sure enough our name was drawn as the lucky winners.

The West branch of the Whitewater is a place of infinite charm and delight. We fished it on June 5<sup>th</sup> with Drake Perry from LMRO. Our day started by us being greeted with the sight of a mature bald eagle as we launched the raft. The water was low and clear and in spots a shade of emerald green. There were many schools of large bait fish and we fished large streamers for the most part.

Drake knows every nook and cranny of this river. He bird dogged every spot that held potential, and most paid off with a good smallie. Drake positioned the raft expertly so that the casting was



comfortable but not too close to spook the fish. One fly in particular proved to be the most productive, but I'm on the fence post at the time of this writing as to whether or not to share that bit of info. Trial and error has its own rewards, or just book with Drake and save some time.

The attached photo is of the largest fish of the trip, but there were lots of fish in the 12" to 14" range. Most fish bit aggressively but some truly big dawgs would only look over the fly and not commit. We missed a lot of fish that should have been caught. I sometimes wonder what a fishing guide thinks when his clients miss a catchable fish. In my case there isn't really anything active going on behind my blank expression, but if you miss too many you can feel a tide of shame pulling you into Self-Deprecation Bay. The point to take away from this is that Drake will put you on lots of fish. It's up to us to put those fish in the boat. We managed to catch a couple dozen and look forward to our next trip with LMRO.

Their website and phone # are: <https://littlemiamiriveroutfitters.com/>, and 513-714-5366

## Learning European-Style Nymphing –

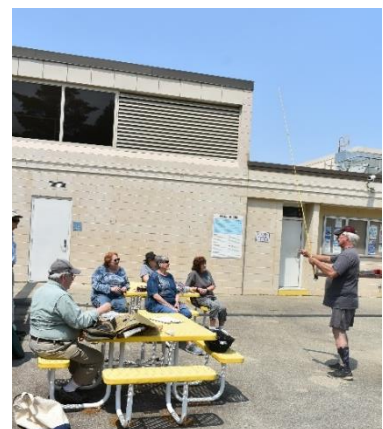
### From Cari Vota

I won the 1-day Instructional Wade trip with Patrick Goddard at our 2023 Banquet. Kathy Newsom and I split the cost and had a great weekday with Patrick on the Brookville Tailwaters. Both Kathy and I have a Euro Nymphing rod and setup, but just needed the push to get out and use them. Patrick not only showed us all his favorite holes on the tailwaters, but also helped us get the rhythm and idea of how this style of fly fishing works. All of us caught trout that day. I do believe I'll try it again soon. Apologies, but we were just too intent on learning to take photos!

Hopefully Patrick will again provide this generous offer to BUFF members in an upcoming Banquet!

## Community Activity –

In early June, Tom Bachey, Jim Vota and Ken Mandel did a fly casting and fly tying demonstration at the Springdale Community Center. Dave Jones, who lives in Springdale and helped to organize this event also dropped by. They had us outside by their pool area, so Tom and Jim were casting into the pool! We had a table set up for the tying demonstration that Ken did, and he was very glad he thought to bring sunscreen. Here are a few photos from the event.





## 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>
Stream Quality Monitoring Bass Island Caeser's Creek	Saturday, July 8 <sup>th</sup> Please arrive by 9:00 AM <i>Directions &amp; Register on Website</i>	Tom Britton
<b>BUFF Picnic</b> Miami Meadows Park Milford, OH	Wednesday, July 12 <sup>th</sup> Dinner at 5 PM	Bryan Tudor
Women's After Work Outing Little Miami River Lake Isabella Park,	Thursday July 13 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM til Dusk <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Butler County Stream Quality Monitoring Four Mile Park, Hamilton, OH	Wednesday, July 19 <sup>th</sup> meet at 10:00 AM <i>Register on Website</i>	Tom Britton
<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, July 19 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
Club After Work Outing East Fork Little Miami River Perintown, OH	Thursday, July 20 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM til Dusk <i>Limited to 6 participants</i>	Cari Vota
Monthly Tie & Lie Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, July 21 <sup>st</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley

## 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.

