



The BUFFER

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

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

July 1, 2024

The President's Fly Box

The BUFF picnic is rapidly approaching (Wednesday, July 10, 2024). It is time to get together, talk fishing, compare flies, tell stories, meet friends, try your skills on the casting course, or go fishing at the pond. It is always a fun time. Register on the BUFF website to attend.

Are you interested in getting more involved with BUFF? We always are seeking interested people to help with the many activities. We currently have needs in social media, web site, fishing education, etc. Please contact a board member to talk about how your interest fits the needs of BUFF.

Are you planning a summer trip? It is always wise to fish early in the morning before the heat becomes ominous. I just returned from Tennessee where we camped next to a lake. On several mornings, I was out on the lake at 6:30am and fished for about two hours. Stripers were hitting the surface, but they could tell the difference between real food and my stuff. It was still fun to be out on a beautiful lake and enjoy the outdoors. Our next trip will be to Michigan. It is mainly for rest, relaxation, and tourism. However, I'll fish whenever possible.

The last three years, I joined our club group fishing in the Yellowstone area at the Buffalo Bill Angler Base Camp. I'm skipping this year, but missing it already. It is a beautiful area that is full of trout, and the dry fly action is awesome. The cost is low, the food is good, and the company is always interesting. I highly recommend the trip as it is always fun, and the fish are always willing.

My friend, Jeff McElravy will not be going out West this year either. Many of you know Jeff as helping you learn to tie dry parachute flies or tiny midges. Yes, they work great. Or, you know Jeff because he helped your casting skills on Wednesday morning sessions or the annual casting class. Maybe he helped you with fishing skills on or off stream. You might remember him as past president of BUFF or current president of the Ohio Council of FFI. Finally, you probably know him as your friend. Sadly, Jeff is now in hospice care. It is an emotional time for many of us, as it is hard to accept his end. I hate to close on a sad note. So, let's focus on the Celebration of Life that his family has asked us to participate in sometime in the future. Please remember all the good memories and please plan to share when the Celebration occurs.

Hugh O'Donnell
BUFF President

July Picnic – Wednesday July 10th

As we've done for the past few years, our July Meeting will be our annual picnic. Time is 5 PM to dusk. We'll start serving at around 5:30 PM. If you are a newer member of BUFF, consider attending. It is a good time to casually meet other club members, learn some casting skills, try out the skills, and/or fish a bit with a colleague, on a well stocked pond, and enjoy a tasty casual meal provided by the club.

Location - *Miami Meadows Park in Milford, OH.* 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 below). The shelter is next to the large, stocked pond (bluegill and some bass). There are parking and restroom facilities next to the shelter.

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.

Once you enter the park follow the main drive past a series of fields on either side. Take the first left. The Lakeside Shelter is at the end of the lane. There is ample parking along the access road.



Menu - *fried chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, chips, watermelon, desserts and soft drinks (water, iced tea, lemonade, soda, etc.)*

Please sign up on the website. We request you register to provide a 'head count' for ordering food. **Registration will close around July 5th, to provide enough time for the picnic team to order food from our caterers.**

- The shelter can seat up to 80, but we use a couple of tables for the food. It may be a good idea to bring along a lawn chair if you want to sit outside.
- We plan to set up our casting 'course' for those interested in practicing or working to improve your casting skills. We will also have a tying demonstration set up as well.
- The shelter is reserved for the full day. If you want to come early and do some fishing, please do so. It is catch and release. A paved path encircles the pond.

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

New Members in June 2024

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

This past month saw us gain 5=4 new members Here's the list –

- **Carin Meier**, Lovland, OH
- **Rich Constand**, Blue Ash, OH
- **Emily Marriott**, St. Joseph, IL
- **Kyle Mcaninch**, Cincinnati, OH

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

Get Active in BUFF – Positions and Opportunities –

By Ken Mandel

At our monthly meetings, Hugh O'Donnell always reminds us that we are a volunteer organization. We rely on volunteers to take positions on our Board, help and/or lead/organize trips and outings, become involved with the planning and execution of our annual banquet and fly fishing show. To put it plainly, without volunteers the club cannot work!

We currently have several needs which need to be filled. These are listed below. Some have been open for quite a while. Please give these consideration. More importantly, get involved. Our club is only as good as our members who take part. As a relatively new member, I first got involved by participating in the planning of our club's 40th Anniversary Banquet. That led to my being asked to take on the BUFFER, but no one told me that meant a position on the Board. I am involved with other club activities as well, and greatly enjoy them. Getting more involved has been a great way for a beginner angler like me to learn from experienced club members, build friendships, and gain colleagues to get out and fish with!

Open Board Positions–

Web Master. The Web Master supports the club’s web platform, software, database, and accounts. Don Kail was our webmaster, and what you see when you go to the BUFF website is Don’s creation! Unfortunately for us, Don moved to Tennessee over a year ago, to be closer to his family. While Don still provides support, it is difficult being remote.

The person who takes on this role, will work closely with David Fraley, our Communications Director. Dave has been filling some of the roles of webmaster, but is not an expert in this area. This position has been vacant for over a year, and needs to be filled now. If we cannot find a member, we will likely need to find a company to take on this role on a fee-basis. If you have skills in this area, please reach out to Hugh O’Donnell (odonnellhi@gmail.com) or any other BUFF Board member regarding your interest.

Co-Chair for Program Planning. This position has opened because our former co-chair, Blayne Smith, has also relocated away from Cincinnati. This person will work with Dolph Greenberg to recruit presenters for our monthly meetings. The co-leaders roles are to, *i*) create a plan for meeting presentations, *ii*) contact possible speakers, *iii*) manage the budget for presentations, and *iv*) introduce speakers at the monthly meetings. There is perfect opportunity to learn what is involved as the entire 2024, and a significant amount of the 2025 calendars are filled. If interested, reach out to Hugh O’Donnell (odonnellhi@gmail.com) or Dolph Greenberg (greenbam@miamioh.edu) for more information.

Director for Club Education. Jim Vota currently holds this position, and has indicated that he wishes to step down. The education director plans and organizes our club instructional activities. These include the annual Fly Fishing 101 course, usually offered in late-winter or early-spring, and the annual fly casting course, usually offered in May. There can be other opportunities to organize instructional programs as well. Being the Education Director does not mean you are solely responsible for teaching skills, as we have several club members who volunteer to teach the activities. If possibly interested, contact Jim Vota (vota@zoomtown.com) for more information.

2025 Fly Fishing Show Team –

The Fly Fishing Show Team is looking for a person to help with AV at the show. The person who takes this on will support Scott, and others on the team, so that our AV systems work smoothly for the show. Experience in this area would be helpful. Scott Biser leads this effort but we could use additional help with our multiple events on the day of the show. A key reason we are asking for help now is that at the 2024 show, we failed to have our AV set up for the first fly-tying demonstration on Saturday morning. There are scheduled events with AV needs on both the Friday prior (Jan 31st) and the Saturday of the show (Feb 1st).

If you have possible interest, or just questions about what is involved, please reach out to me. It would be great to get involved as part of our team now as we are in our initial planning stages for the 2025 show. Thank you!

E-mail: kengmandel@gmail.com

Phone: 513-675-8488.

Veteran's Corner

By Brent Miller

Greetings, Veterans! Our Buckeye Veterans Fly Fishing program is and has been a work in progress. Trying to find the right schedule to fit yours has been challenging, so, for July, we're gonna mix things up.

Starting in July, we will be fishing twice a month, a Tuesday morning and a Thursday after work, separated by a week or so. This should accommodate most Veterans who are retired or still working. AND, it relieves the Saturday morning conflict with other personal and family obligations. We are going to fish places we have been before and a couple of new ones, so stay tuned.

Here are the dates and times for July outings:

- **July 9—Miami Meadows Park**, on SR 131, Milford, 9-11 a.m. The Veterans have fished here many times. It is a great pond. Restroom facilities are right next to the pond. Everyone seems to catch fish. The blue gills are plentiful.
- **July 18—Kingswood Park, Mason**, on Innovation Way, 6-8 p.m. This park was once a golf course, and the pond holds a lot of blue gills and bass. It is a great fishing hole to come back to time and time again. We will do just that.

BUFF members should register on the Trip Reservation page on the BUFF website. Non-BUFF members should reply back to me, and I will get you registered (www.DBrentMiller.com or 513-535-8735). We ask everyone to register to attend.

Let me know what you think of the schedule changes.

See you on the water!

D. Brent Miller

BUFF Director of Veteran Affairs

Volunteers Needed for Winton Woods Park Event

By Tom Bachey

On Saturday, July 20th, we have been asked to work with Hamilton County Parks to participate in a fly tying and fly casting demo with families at Winton Woods. BUFF used to participate in the Cardboard Boat Regatta at Voice of America Park, but that has not been around since Covid. I will be sending out an E-blast when details are finalized with Great Parks. Thanks, in advance!

Little Miami Outfitters Trip on the Whitewater – The Making of a Tradition

By Tim Cassani

What constitutes the making of a fishing tradition? Does every trip have to be composed of high fish counts? While that certainly helps, I would argue that you need success, scenic beauty, laughs, good company and some luck. Finding joy in the quiet, stillness of nature is sometimes enough. These attributes, or at least enough of them, can result in an experience that becomes repeatable and memorable.

On June 5th, Dan Tomaka and I fished the Whitewater River with the expert guidance of Drake Perry from Little Miami River Outfitters. We did this trip with Drake in 2023 when we floated a more southerly stretch of the river and hit the smallmouth jackpot. Hoping for a repeat, we booked this trip for approximately the same time this year. On the drive over we avoided talking about how well we might do. I personally was somewhere between hopeful and hopeless. No jinxes and no bananas in the boat.



The water color looked good at the put-in. I was in the front of Drake's raft. We started with poppers and I missed a fish on my first cast, but Dan neatly cleaned up my mess and caught that fish. We hadn't traveled a quarter mile when conditions began to change. The water began turning muddy with inflow from feeder creeks. We switched to streamers, but you couldn't see six inches deep in that water. I'm sure the fish could see better than us, but it still left you wondering what was going on beneath the surface. Fishing was slow and we had to take some joy in hitting streamside targets but kept believing we would do better as soon as the water cleared, and we did. Unfortunately, we did not find clearer water very often.

We encountered one Mulberry tree overhanging the river. Drake held it back as a surprise. Everybody loves the mighty carp and we made some attempts at a fish we could see just downstream from the tree, until I hung our last Mulberry fly in the tree. I did catch that fish as we pulled anchor and started drifting, but it turned out to be a channel cat.

Although the water was muddy this year, we still caught several smallmouth and a couple of channel cats. We also had five sightings of bald eagles and had a good lunch provided by Drake, and a couple of good IPA's. Dan and I feel called to fish with Drake every year, as a tradition to be done. There were more than enough components involved on this trip for the making of a tradition and we'll be booking again with LMRO the first week of June next year. Don't steal our date!

FFI Fly Casting Skills Development Facilitator Workshop – A Great Experience

By Cari Vota

The FFI Ohio and Great Lakes Councils jointly put on a FFI Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) Facilitator Training Workshop on Saturday, June 15th at the Merickel-Farley Trout Club, near Toledo OH. The morning workshop focused on training individuals to be facilitators for FCSD events. The importance is to make it a fun, educational, and engaging program that can help anglers practice with intention and improve casting skills.

Sarah Trenchel and Russ Carpenter from FFI developed and are the co-leaders for the roll-out of this training program came from California. They led the morning training workshop which was attended by 16 facilitator trainees from Michigan and Ohio. After a morning learning the skills, we were able to put them into practice in the afternoon during a free public FCSD program.

The trainees included members from several Ohio fly fishing clubs in the FFI Ohio Council, and we are ready and willing to take the FCSD program back to our respective clubs and help improve our members



casting skills. Six BUFF members attended this workshop – Allen Berg, Bill Krimmer, Jerry Schatzman, Tom Scheer, Cari Vota, & Jim Vota. Lunch was provided in between the sessions with the help of the local club, North Branch Boys Fly Fishing Club.

The afternoon casting program had 20 people show up. The afternoon FCSD program included a “Foundation Area”, which is designed for teaching beginner and novice casters, and 2 lines for teaching and testing the FFI “Bronze” level casting skills. We must have been doing something right, because 8 of the attendees successfully completed the Bronze level!



Fly Casting Clinic with Susan Thrasher

By Cari Vota

In late June, 6 women members of BUFF pilgriaged down to Susan Thrasher's place on the Caney Fork River in Tennessee, for a one-day casting clinic. Our pilgrims included, Terri Mackey, Kathy Newsom, Haruko Mizoguchi, Donna Somers, Lisa Morrisette, and Cari Vota.

As none of us are beginner casters, Susan was able to do some customizing of her usual clinic to meet our needs. She has a 10-acre property with access to the river as well as a nice pond. Susan starts all casting classes in the Joan Wulff-style, with roll casting on the water. The clinic included video review of each caster, pick up and laydown casting, on the river casting after lunch, and rod testing of 6 different types and sizes of rods. At the end of the day, we fished on the pond for very hungry blue gills. Photographs are from the day of the class.





Fly Fishing + Kayaking = Not That Easy!

By Cari Vota

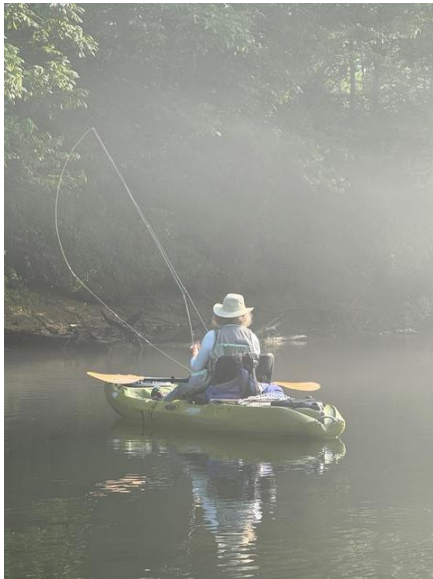
I can fly fish and I can kayak, but putting the 2 together became a whole new experience. Lisa Morrisette and I did a day-trip on the Caney Fork River in Tennessee, kayak fishing with Susan Thrasher. Because the Caney Fork is a tailwater, and is below a power-generating dam, we got on the river at around 6:30 AM to cover 3-miles before the river started coming up. Once the dam starts releasing water for electricity generation, the river can very quickly rise by 6-8 feet and it also gets very, very fast.

When the Caney Fork is down, it is very slow, and that suited me just fine. Even though we kept it simple, there is much to figure out how to manage – rigging up before setting out on the river, where to

put the paddle, where to put my rod, is it fast enough or deep enough to need to wear my personal floatation device (PFD), remembering to put sun screen on my ankles, take a net or not (didn't but should have) and if so where to put that to be able to reach it, turning,-pointing,-fishing – all at the same time. We even managed to learn to eat lunch and kayak – a 2nd new skill! The chips worked out well, but sadly part of my sandwich fell in.

With the Caney Fork being very slow, we were able to fish a few stretches, then turn around, paddle back up and hit them a 2nd time. This was great practice and some spots offered up nice Rainbows both times. The portion of the Caney Fork wd fished had several bridges (goes under I-40), 4-5 story high cliffs on either side at times, and some downed trees and large rocks to fish around.

We fished until about 3:15 PM, ending at our take out just before the river started to rise there. The day went very fast even though we just seemed to float along at the same speed as our indicators. A great time was had by all.



New Club Rods & Tying Vises

We have new Club Equipment thanks to our friends at Mad River Outfitters, and FFI through their Industry Partner Program. After 25+ years with our old equipment, it was time.

We have (15) new Renzetti Apprentice Vises. These are simple, rotary vises that will work excellently for our classes with students of all ages. These vises have pedestal bases, so we will no longer have to struggle with anchoring vises to table edges. We extend our thanks to Ryan at Mad River. Ryan worked directly with Renzetti to get a GREAT deal for us.

We also have (15) new rod kits – rod, reel, fly line and leader. Each set has an individual zip up carrying case. We obtained these through FFI working with their Industry Partner Program. We had several options but went with Echo Traverse, 4-piece, 9 ft 5 wt. rods. Some of our members have tried the rod at our Wednesday morning casting group, and everyone that has tried it loves them already. They are light, and cast beautifully.

We also thank the club members on the team that worked on this project and made it happen - Jim Neckers, Tom Bachey, Jim Vota, and Cari Vota.



Now we just need to decide what to do with the old equipment!

Not One Acre! Article on Proposed Expansion of Camp Grayling

By Dolph Greenberg

The following is an article that Dolph Greenberg wrote and has been published as an Op-Ed piece in several northern Michigan newspapers. It discusses the ongoing effort to prevent a major expansion of the Camp Grayling base that could more than double its current size.

Camp Grayling in Northern Michigan is overwhelmingly the largest National Guard training center (148,000 acres) in America. In 2022 Camp Grayling's Commander (Col. Scott Meyers) and a Michigan Department of Natural Resources' spokesperson (Tom Barnes), engaged in a thinly veiled collaborated effort to sell residents on the false premise that Camp Grayling is suddenly undersized for the electromagnetic warfare training that it has been engaged in for years at its current location. In addition, an effort that started in 2019, Governor Whitmer's office began working rapidly to develop a plan to turn the public land that surrounds Grayling, MI, in beautiful northern Michigan (Pure Michigan) and the restricted airspace above it into a massive, "nationally recognized", area to test and develop

new products, weapons, and technologies. Thus, an additional 162,000 acres of public forest land for training, a number acknowledged by Col. Meyers was arbitrarily arrived at.



The request was met by strong resistance from Au Sable River Property Owners Alliance (ARPOA) and other citizen organizations, from elected officials, and from 72 resolutions by government bodies. The rationales for the objections to any expansion included issues such as impacts to the quality of life for residents, the economy and property values, recreational activities, and ecosystem and environmental health. In addition, in the many meetings with Col Meyers, it was never articulated as to why any expansion was needed given the significant amount of land Camp Grayling occupies that is not being used. The request was denied by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Although the request was denied, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources that would allow training on 52,000 acres of new public lands, by method of a Special Use Permit. Again,

the need for this extra Northern Michigan land has not been justified. Citizen organizations and governmental agencies are opposed to this MOU. The rationales for the opposition are the same as for the previous expansion request. However, there are two additional elements in the rationale. One element is the public's right to live and recreate and not be subject to harmful devices, proven or unproven, electromagnetic or electronic devices used by the military, its affiliates or defense contractors or their proxy.

The second element concerns the Non-Event Permit Application submitted by Camp Grayling, Michigan Army National Guard, dated April 9, 2024. The application was found to be flawed as outlined in a detailed letter sent to the Director of the MDNR by the Anglers of the Au Sable on April 18, 2024. The flaws were in permit deficiencies and lack of compliance with the terms of the MOU. The Anglers letter concludes with:

"Anglers of the Au Sable find that this permit application is woefully deficient, and not at all what one would expect given the enormous, and well-documented, public resistance to this expansion. Surprisingly, the submitted application fails to meet the requirements of both the DNR and the MOU. The National Guard might not take this issue seriously, but we do – and we trust the Michigan DNR will as well. The Anglers of the Au Sable respectfully request that the Michigan Army National Guard's Non-Event Permit Application be denied." Greenberg (2024)

The mission of the Au Sable River Property Owners Alliance is to preserve, protect and enhance the Au Sable River watershed's great natural endowments of wilderness scenery, unpolluted cold-water, and stable forest habitat for the enjoyment of future generations. The proposed activities of Camp Grayling are a threat to the watershed (not only to the Au Sable but also the Manistee and Muskegon watersheds), those who live in watersheds and those who come to recreate in the watersheds. ARPOA strongly supports the conclusions and request of the Anglers of the Au Sable on the permit application.

ARPOA remains strongly opposed to any future expansions of Camp Grayling by lease, MOU, Special Use Permits, or sale of public lands by the Michigan DNR to the military, its affiliates, or defense contractors, or their proxy. While we are ardent supporters of our service men and women, we do not support what are clearly unnecessary and unjustified actions that would endanger the Au Sable River watershed.

References cited:

Greenberg, J. (2024) Anglers of the Au Sable's Comments to Non-Event Permit Application submitted by Camp Grayling, Michigan Army National Guard: A letter to Mr. M.S. Bowen Director MDNR.

A Couple of Items of Interest

By Ken Mandel

I found a nice video produced by "Far Bank Fly Fishing School". It discusses several casting techniques that can be essential for fishing in different situations on rivers. These include the side-cast, roll cast, reach and aerial mend casts and a slack line cast. All have applications and uses in different river situations.

A side-cast is needed when you need to present your fly and line at a low angle. The example discussed is putting your fly under a tree overhanging the water. Similarly, the roll-cast becomes essential when we cannot do a back cast. Actually, at the Joan Wulff school, the roll cast is the first cast taught. It is an essential cast to have as more often than not, we can be in positions where we have no ability to back cast (trees or other obstructions!). The reach cast is one used to avoid or get around an obstacle (casting near a river bank, casting around a rock) and where you need to consider river current that will affect the drift of your fly. The aerial mend is similar to the reach cast, but you return the rod toward the target line before the line hits the water. It puts a mend into the cast and lands it on the water. The slack line cast is useful when you have different current speeds and provides a better, longer and more natural drift to the fly. Personally, it was a casting technique that Dolph Greenberg and I used almost exclusively for 2 days when recently fishing on the Muskegon River. It is a large river with strong current, and the slack line allowed us to keep a good and natural drift on the fly. The other technique I used a lot on that trip was the aerial mend cast, as well.



It's a well done You Tube video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDGsGLVj_AY

Here's a fun video from Brian Wise. Brian will be doing our tying workshops on the Friday before the show for 2025 (Friday, January 31st). He is an incredible tyer. The video is a Q & A of questions on tying techniques. Mostly discussing stream patterns. He discusses his thoughts on tying and using materials, and innovations by suppliers to established materials that are adding novelty for tying well established patterns. - <https://midcurrent.com/videos/fly-tying-questions-and-answers/> The video also provides links to many of Brian's other tying and informative YouTube presentations. These are worth checking out.

Here's a short video by Tom Rosenbauer (about 2 minutes!) on the question of whether catching a fish from a pool will 'spook' others that may be in that pool? His short answer is 'not always'. Tom's recommendation is to try the spot a few more times to see if you get additional hook ups before thinking of moving on. He shows this beautifully in the video where he is sitting on a bank and taking multiple trout from a single pool. Nice! -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaPdGSQnrY>



BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish

Aside from the earlier articles, we have no photos from our anglers for this month!

C'mon folks, don't be shy. Share photos!.

Aside from the outings in the articles, maybe no one went out to fish?

Claiming you dropped your phone in the drink is not an excuse!

Remember, if you get out to fish, please send photos and where you were fishing to kengmandel@gmail.com, and I'll get it into an upcoming BUFFER. It's a great way share information and locations with the club!

Upcoming BUFF Activities

In-person activities require registration (online on club Website)

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
BUFF Members Picnic Miami Meadows Park Milford, OH	Wednesday, July 10 th 5:00 PM – Dusk Sign up on Website	Bryan Tudor
After-Work Fishing Lake Isabella, Little Miami River	Thursday, July 11 th 6:00 PM – Dusk Register & Waiver on Website	Cari Vota
Stream Quality Monitoring Little Miami River Bass Island, Mariemont, OH & Caesars Creek Access, Waynesville, OH	Saturday, July 13 th Arrive by 9 AM Register & Waiver on Website	Tom Britton
BUFF BOD Meeting Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Wednesday, July 17 th 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
After Work Fishing TBD	Thursday, July 18 th 6:00 PM – Dusk Register & Waiver on Website	Brent Miller
Monthly Tie & Lie Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, July 19 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Winton Woods Park Cincinnati, OH	Saturday, July 20 th Tentative / TBD Watch for E-blast with details	Tom Bachey

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.

