



The *BUFFER*

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

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

July 1, 2025

President's Letter

Warm summer weather is finally here! The season brings a lot of the fishing that many of us truly love – panfish and bass protecting their beds and cruising the rivers, fishing out of boats or float tubes, getting the chance to use those big “buggy” flies we tied or purchased over the winter, just to name a few. I personally think that few things in life are as cool as throwing a big deer hair or foam popper fly on top of lily pads, then pulling it off the edge causing an explosion of water as a bass inhales it!

Speaking of fun and warm water fishing - Our annual club picnic will be held on Wednesday, July 9th at Miami Meadows Park located at 1546 Ohio Route 131, Milford, Ohio, 45150. The event will be held from 5 PM - 8 PM, with dinner at 5:30. BUFF has reserved the shelter by the pond for the entire day. You can fish the pond which is stocked with crappie, bluegill, catfish, carp, and bass, any time if you want to come early. There is a walking path around the entire pond, with parking and restrooms near the shelter. 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.

A picnic dinner is provided by BUFF, and includes fried chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, watermelon, dessert, chips, and soft drinks! Please note that participation is limited to BUFF members only. We ask that you please register on the website to attend as we have limited space and need to know how much food to order.

In addition to the picnic, the club has numerous local activities planned over the next couple of months. Check the online club calendar for details. And... for any club members that are traveling over the next couple of months, have fun (hopefully including fishing), travel safely, and send us pictures!

Bob Miller
miller.rm@alta-gila.com

BUFF July Meeting – Club Picnic

Wednesday July 9th

BUFF members are invited to join us for our annual picnic, which will be the evening of July 9th 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, with dinner being started at at 5:30. Since we have the shelter (next to the pond) for the entire day, club members can feel free to come earlier to fish the pond.
- BUFF is providing dinner - fried chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, watermelon, dessert, chips, and soft drinks.
- There is a large, stocked pond (crappie, bluegill, catfish, and some carp and bass). There is a walking path around the entire pond, with parking and restrooms near the shelter.
- There are picnic tables in the shelter, but people 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.
- **Picnic participation is limited to BUFF members only.** We request you register on the club website to attend. As of writing this for the BUFFER, about ½ of available space has been reserved already! **Registration closes on Saturday, July 5th, or when the spaces are filled (spaces are limited).** We need this so the planning team has time to order the food.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Picnic Committee

BUFF Library Reminder –

From: Dave Smith

Since the July meeting is the picnic, we will not have library available for pick up or returns. Regular library functions will be back for the August meeting.

New Members in June 2025

From: Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

This past month saw us gain 2 members.

Dennis Dinkelacker, Westchester, OH

Ivan Zoot, Cincinnati, OH

Michael Hoffman, Maineville, 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 Involved with the Club – Facebook Co-Administrator

From: Ken Mandel

Here is an opportunity for our members to get involved and support our club. Bob Gustafson has long been the Administrator of our Facebook account. He routinely posts upcoming events, activities and club news to the page. Bob is seeking a person to work with him to co-administer this activity. The goal is to eventually take this one when Bob needs to step down. Anyone who uses Facebook could do this, and the activity only requires a couple of hours a month.

Please give this consideration! If you are interested, please reach out directly to Bob via email – j.r.gustafson@att.net

Volunteers Needed for Hamilton County Parks Event

On Saturday, July 19th, Great Parks of Hamilton County is holding a Kids and Family Outdoor Expo at Winton Woods Lake. They have asked BUFF to demonstrate and assist participants in learning how to cast a fly rod. We do NOT use hooks or flies, just casting.



This will be the second year for us to participate. We had several great volunteers last year, and both participants and our volunteers had a great time! The photos are from last year's event. We can also demonstrate fly tying as well. Great Parks provides a tent and tables, and chairs.

Our plan to arrive at 9 AM to set things up; the event is 10 AM to 4 PM. I will provide a map to show where we will be located and where to park. I suggest bringing fluids to keep hydrated and snacks; there are food and drink vendors at the event. You should also have sunscreen and a hat as we are outside next to the lake.

We are seeking several volunteers to help at this event. Ken Mandel has agreed to coordinate for BUFF on the day of the event. If you are willing to help, please register on the club website. Contact me with any questions.

Tom Bachey
513-543-4056

BUFF Activities in July

July After Work Fishing. This month we'll be on the Little Miami River access at Lake Isabella. Day is Thursday, July 10th. Plan to meet around 6PM, and we'll fish until dusk. You need to register and sign the waiver on the club website to participate.

Two Stream Quality Monitoring Events. SQMs are scheduled for Saturday, July 12th at the Caesar's Creek access of the Little Miami River and on Wednesday, July 16th on Four Mile Creek in Hamilton. Register and sign the waiver on the website to participate.

Manistee River Trip

From Tim Cassani

Dan Tomaka and I fished in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan during the last few days of May. We fished under the very talented guidance of Cameron Cipponeri from Cameron's Fly Fishing Adventures (<https://www.cameronsflyfishingandadventures.com/>)

On day one we fished the Ausable near Mio. Our goal was to catch fish on dries, and although we were between hatches, we managed several fish. None were large but we caught browns, rainbows and brook trout.

Day two took us to the Manistee River west of Grayling. Really in the boonies! The Manistee is smaller but even prettier than the Ausable. Our goal on this day was to look for large fish. We cast streamers all day to small targets in tight quarters. We turned and lost some decent fish but put just one fish in the boat, the 23" brown you see pictured here.

Cameron offered to switch us back to dries and land some smaller fish, but we stuck to our guns (streamers) and fished on until we landed the big fish we were looking for. Sometimes you just have to earn it!



Tim Cassani

PS Cameron makes an incredible shore lunch. Pork loin sandwiches with great sides.

How Far Do You Place an Indicator from Your Fly?

From: Tom Bachey

Tom found the following article from Alex Stuijck of Ventures Fly Co and shared it.

The 1.5x Rule (and Why It's Just a Starting Point). Start by placing your strike indicator about 1.5 times the depth of the water above your first fly. So, if the water is 3 feet deep, set your indicator roughly 4.5 feet up the leader. But because depth and current speed constantly change, this is just a jumping-off point. The real key is adjusting as you go using this simple *Trial & Error Framework*:

- **Snagging bottom every cast?** Too deep. Slide the indicator down (closer to your flies).
- **Never touching bottom?** Too shallow. Move the indicator up (further from your flies).
- **Occasionally ticking bottom—especially at the end of the drift?** Perfect. You're in the strike zone.
- **Catching fish?** Don't change a thing. 🎣

Choosing the Right Indicator Style. The style of indicator you use matters. It affects visibility, castability, how softly it lands, and how well it detects subtle strikes.

Here's a quick breakdown:

- **Foam:** buoyant, visible, easy to cast and adjust. My go-to is the [Oros Strike Indicators](#)—they're simple, effective, and don't kink your leader.
- **Plastic:** floats well and holds weight but can be splashy and often kinks your leader.

- **Cork:** softer landings, but less visible, harder to adjust, and not very durable.
- **Yarn/Wool:** great for spooky fish—light and sensitive—but they're high maintenance and harder to keep afloat.

I've tried them all, and I always come back to Oros. They're just the easiest to use and the most versatile for everyday fishing. Most days, I stick with a *medium* indicator. I'll drop to a *small* if I'm fishing light flies or targeting spooky fish in calm water.

Hope this helps take some of the guesswork—and frustration—out of using strike indicators.

Note from Ken Mandel – the Oros indicators are a two-piece, screw together device. To use, you unscrew the halves, place your leader through the slot in the screw and reattach the other half until it is tight. The device securely holds the leader so it will not slip. There is no need to wrap or king the leader to secure it. To reposition the indicator, you just loosen it a bit, slide it along the leader to make the depth adjustment, and retighten to secure it. It comes in several sizes, a variety of colors, and is available at many fly shops (Mad River Outfitters appears to be the closest 'local' shop that carries this brand).



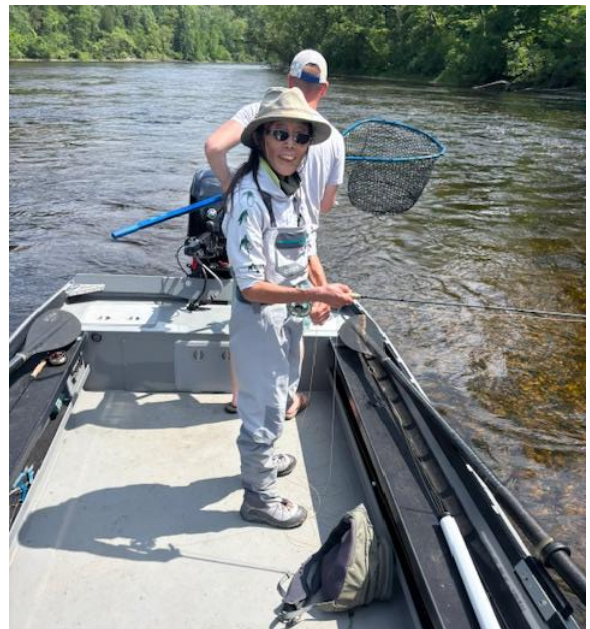
Fishing the Muskegon River in Michigan

From: Ken Mandel & Haruko Mizoguchi

A couple of weeks ago, we had a great couple of days fishing the Muskegon River near Newago, MI. We set the trip up with Kevin Feenstra's guide service (<https://feenstraoutdoors.com/wordpress/about-us/>). We had 2 great days fishing, one day with Drew Rosema, and the second with Kevin, fishing different sections of the river and having great success on both days!

The Muskegon is a larger river, so the guides use boats with a jet motor which enables them to move up and down the river and pick areas to fish. At this time of the season, they were fishing the lower section of the river for trout and yearling steelhead that had not migrated to Lake Michigan. As the summer progresses, they'll move upriver, above Croton dam, and guide for bass.

On our first day with Drew, we fished a small streamer and nymph dropper on a weighted sinking leader. We'd cast to a current and drift the line. Fish tended to take the flies either as they hit the water (occasionally), or at the end of the drift when the line stopped moving. The fish seemed to follow the flies, as we could feel 'nibbles' as the flies drifted. The



real take was absolutely apparent as the line went taut, and it was a quick set. We got many (at least 30 fish each over the day!) rainbow and brown trout that day, most in the 10 – 15” range. We did hook a couple of larger fish, but they got off before we could get them in the net; they did stay on the line long enough to play them and see them up close. Having the jet motor on the boat allowed us to cover several miles of water over the day and return to the launch site.



We fished with Kevin on the second day, starting just below Croton Dam, and covering several miles of water over the course of the day. If the first day was excellent, this was even better. We each got more than 40 fish, often both having fish on at the same time. The weather was a bit better with cooler temperatures, cloud cover, and even a few showers. Ken had about 5 fish on the hook in the first few minutes, but they kept tossing off the fly. Kevin changed it (same size and pattern), and the hook ups then held! We kidded him that the first fly was tied on a shank! Kevin's rig was a standard 4x-5x leader with a lightly weighted top fly and a small nymph about 15” below it. It was designed to keep both flies in the water column, and we rarely dragged the bottom. Like the first day, fish occasionally took the fly on initial presentation, but more often followed them as they moved through current and committed at the end of the drift. We got rainbows and browns (10 – 15” range) and a few yearling-steelhead (smaller fish, but they do fight!). Another great day.



Drew and Kevin also prepared wonderful stream-side lunches – marinated grilled pork chops with a salad (Drew) and marinated grilled chicken breasts with roasted potatoes (Kevin). We'd fish with them again just for the lunch! We saw lots of wonderful wildlife – bald eagles, osprey, several species of ducks and herons (including green herons), mink, etc. Those who have seen Kevin's presentations at club meetings know he is also an avid photographer and naturalist and he shares that enjoyment.

During the trip we stayed at the Muskegon River Inn which is in the middle of 'downtown' Newago (www.muskegonriverinn.com; 307-303-1203). It is a small hotel (7 rooms) in a wonderfully restored older building. It is reasonable, immaculately clean and comfortable. Best shower we ever had in a hotel! The owners provide a breakfast (sandwich or burrito) that they place in your refrigerator and can be heated in the microwave. Rooms have coffee makers and coffee pods. There are some nice local restaurants within a 5 min walk from the hotel that were fine for dinner. One thing – if you plan to fish the Muskegon with Kevin and want to stay at the hotel, contact the hotel directly. Do not go through a third-party service, as they almost double the room price. We learned the hard way and had to fight with the booking service to get our money back.



We had a great time and highly recommend the Muskegon, Kevin's guide service, and the inn.

Members Getting Out to Fish

Nice weather, so a good number of our members are getting out to fish and sharing their adventures

These are from Ivan Zoot, who just joined at the June meeting. He's gotten out to fish some of our local ponds. The first blue gill (left) was landed with the Tenkara rod that he won in the raffle at the June meeting ! Talk about 'beginner's luck!! The other bluegill and the crappie were on a 3-wt rod. Welcome to the club, and nice fishing!



This shows a real angler. Scott Biser's broken ankle can't keep him away from a fly rod! Hope you are healing well so you can get back to regular angling.



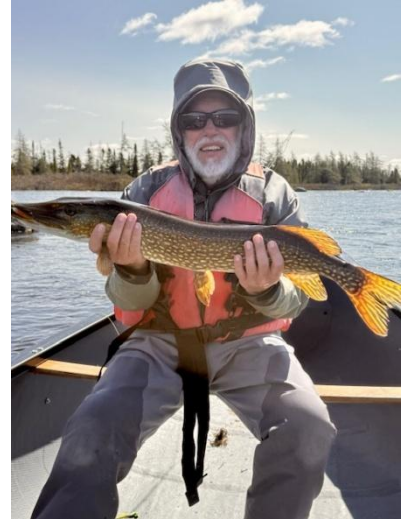
Bob Gustafson also got out locally. He fished his favorite 'church pond' on a recent evening and landed some nice bluegill and what looks to me like a bass.



This is from Kathy Williams & Barry Schroeder –

We had a fabulous trip to Three Rivers Lodge in Labrador, Canada. Temps were in the 30's to 50's (water temp 50) and we fished mostly in river rapids where guides actually walked our boats through the boulders while we fished. They were amazing! We caught large brook trout, pike, large suckers and whitefish.

This trip was set up through Mad River Outfitters, and we joined 4 others from MVFF. 4 others made up the total of 10 rods at the lodge. It was a trip of a lifetime! (Note: these types of trips need to be booked at least a year in advance. Two float plane excursions were included— one to an outpost overnigher, and the other a day trip including the 10' Kodiak raft. The food was excellent, along with all the staff. They were very accommodating with any preferences or fishing options.



Craig Deppert, also a new member did some fishing in Canada!

I am a new member of BUFF, and have enjoyed the education that I have received from various members. This year I brought my fly rod to our annual Canadian fishing trip. Based on what I learned from BUFF, I tied on a Clouser Minnow from my deceased father's tackle box, and landed this 35" pike roll casting off the dock.

Thank you BUFF for helping me create an amazing memory and a great fishing story.



Here's a photo from Steve Alexander with a bass from local lake caught on a cicada pattern

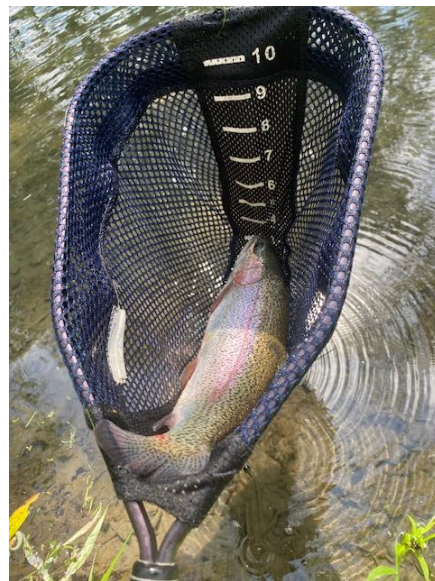


Here's one from Bryan Tudor of a nice large mouth bass he caught at Kingswood Park on a cicada pattern as well.

From Tom Britton - We spent a few days in Maggie Valley, North Carolina camping with our youngest grandson. Found time to get a few on Jonathan Creek which flows through the campground. This area suffered serious flooding from hurricane Helene last October, but "J" Creek looks good now. Photos look like a nice brookie and a rainbow



Some more from Bryan Tudor. These from Sunnybrook Trout Club near Sandusky. Bryan and Steve Alexander were up there this month. Bryan is going to share an article about what is happening at the club, as it is under new ownership and some things have changed.



Thank you to everyone who sent in photos and some info on where you were fishing. We all look forward to seeing what our members are doing!

Upcoming BUFF Activities

In-person activities require registration (online on club Website). Activities on water require signing our liability waiver

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
BUFF Picnic Miami Meadows Park Milford, OH	Wednesday, July 9 th 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM <i>Register on Website by Saturday, July 5th</i>	Bryan Tudor
After Work Fishing Little Miami River Lake Isabella access	Thursday, July 10 th 6:00 PM – Dusk <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
Stream Quality Monitoring LMR, Caesar's Creek Waynesville, OH	Saturday, July 12 th Meet at parking area at 9 AM <i>Register on Website</i>	Tom Britton
Stream Quality Monitoring 4 Mile Creek Hamilton, OH	Wednesday, July 16 th Meet at 10 AM in Parking Area <i>Register on Website</i>	Tom Britton
BUFF Board Meeting Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Wednesday, July 16 th 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Bob Miller
Ohio Fly Tying Guild Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, July 18 th , 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Great Parks of Hamilton County Outdoors Expo Winton Woods Lake Cincinnati, OH	Saturday, July 19 th 9 AM – 4 PM <i>Volunteer on Website</i>	Tom Bachey