



# The BUFFER

---

---

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

Volume 46, Issue 6

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

June 1, 2022

---

---

## The President's Fly Box

In May, the rain fell, the rivers rose, and fish spawned. The North Carolina trout trip group enjoyed a great trip. White bass fishing trip was a success with many stories of 50 fish days. Unfortunately, our first local trip and first stream quality monitoring event were cancelled because of unsafe river flows. BUFF will always ensure that we have safe conditions for fishing. Luckily, pond fishing was good in the area. I believe that I caught my largest ever pond bass this May (3-pound bass versus the normal 1-1.5-pound bass). June promises for even better fishing. Do it with BUFF. Check the BUFF calendar and please signup.

Our fly-casting course was completed in May, and the class graduated five women and two men. This was the first time that women outnumbered men! Did the gale-like winds on the first class drive away the men? What say ye men? I can report that all our graduated students were very competent by the last day. The quality of outcome is better than in prior years. Either the dedication of the class or the lower student or teacher ratio must be a key. We hope that all our graduates have greater fishing fun this year.

Don't forget to sign up for the June 20<sup>th</sup> Brookville tailwater meeting with our government agencies. This is an important trout fishery for BUFF. Our involvement and display of interest to those making decisions is important. The adage of the 'squeaky wheel gets the grease' is in play here.

Finally, let's talk about membership meetings. Compared to the pre-Covid ear, we are seeing significantly fewer club members attending since we've restarted in-person meetings. I want to encourage all club members to attend at least 3 in-person meetings this year. Our program committee spends significant time and monies to bring in great people to talk about relevant fly fishing topics. We hope that neither the location nor the cost for the meal are deterrents to attending the meeting. Please let us know *what would motivate you to attend our meetings*. Remember, cost of the meal should not be an issue. There is no requirement to sign-up for the dinner to attend. We believe that the interaction and in-person presence is one of the best ways for you to benefit from BUFF.

This month our speaker is Kevin Feenstra, author and owner of Feenstra Guide service in Michigan. Kevin will speak about the four seasons of fishing the Manistee River. While we don't have a club trip scheduled in Michigan this year, we look forward to someone heading up a trip for next year. Maybe Kevin will motivate someone to learn the area and to lead a trip. Please talk to me at our meeting about it or call Steve Bailey, our trip director.

I look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting,

Hugh O'Donnell  
BUFF President

### Quote of the Month

*"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming."* - John Steinbeck –

## **BUFF June Meeting – Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**

### ***In Person Presentation!***

Our June meeting at the Oasis Center will start at 6:00 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner will be served at about 6:30 PM, our business meeting and announcements start at about 7:15 PM, and our speaker's presentation will start at 7:45 PM.

### **June Speaker – Captain Kevin Feenstra, Owner of Feenstra Guide Service – “Four Seasons of Fishing and Wildlife on the Muskegon River”**

Kevin Feenstra started Feenstra Guide Service LLC in 1997. He has spent countless hours on the Muskegon River, and still fishes the river system and surrounding waterways every chance he can. His passion is swinging flies for steelhead but loves to fish for any predator fish that is willing to eat a fly. Year after year, Kevin guides the Muskegon River for hundreds of days and still loves it. He is a licensed USCG captain. In addition to guiding, Kevin is an active writer and fly tier. His most recent book, *“Matching Baitfish”*, was published in November 2020.

Kevin has published several fly fishing DVDS, including *“Searching for Steelhead”*, *“Striking Steel”*, and *“Big Appetite, Small Mouth”*, and has authored numerous magazine articles. Kevin is an expert tyer, and his flies have been published in fly tying manuals and magazines.

In addition to guiding and being a frequent speaker at fishing shows and clubs throughout the Midwest, Kevin's other passion is outdoor photography, where he hopes to capture the beauty and majesty of West Michigan both above and below the water. He resides in Newaygo, Michigan, with his lovely wife and three children.

Feenstra Guide Service is found at: <https://feenstraoutdoors.com/wordpress/>. In addition, <https://swingabigfly.com/> is a site where you can purchase Kevin's book, DVDs and flies.



Registration deadline for the in-person meeting is Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to join us for dinner, the cost is \$20. This month's menu is below.

You do not need to purchase dinner to attend, but we do request you register so we can provide Oasis the number of people attending so they can set up the room appropriately.

### May Dinner Menu –

- Caesar Salad
- Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo
- Green Beans Almondine
- Garlic Bread Sticks
- Chef's Choice Dessert
- Iced Tea & Coffee (regular & decaffeinated)

## New Club Members!

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added 5 new members –

**Chuck Digiovanna**, Blue Ash, OH

**Steve Baumgardner**, Liberty Township, OH

**Jim Naramore**, Blue Ash, OH

**Eddie Case**, Oxford, OH

**Carl Buckner**, Cincinnati, OH

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!

## July BUFF Members Picnic!

*Hold Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> for the BUFF Picnic*

**The picnic will replace the regular monthly meeting, so there will not be a speaker for July**

**Watch for an E-mail Announcing Sign-Up on the Club Website**

BUFF members are invited to join together for our annual picnic. It will be the evening of July 12<sup>th</sup> at Miami Meadows Park, located at 1546 OH Rte 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, club members can feel free to come earlier to fish the pond.
- BUFF is providing the 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). BUFF has reserved the picnic shelter next to the pond. 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 BUFF members only.  
We request you register on the club website to attend.**



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.



## Fly Fishing is a Growing Sport –

Hugh O'Donnel shared an article from the May newsletter published by “On The Fly South” ([www.ontheflysouth.com](http://www.ontheflysouth.com)). The article summarizes results from a 2021 Special Report on Fishing published by the Outdoor Foundation. The Outdoor Foundation is part of the Outdoor Industry Association, a trade association of companies and manufacturers of outdoor activity related products. The report evaluated angling participation in 2020, covering who went fishing and the type of angling engaged in.

**The important message from this report is that there is a huge increase in interest and participation in fly fishing.** The report estimates that *in 2020, 7.8 million people went fly fishing*. This represented over a 40% increase from an estimate of 5.5 million who fly fished in 2010, and a 20% increase over estimated numbers from 2016. In addition, not only are more people getting involved in our sport, but those who are fly fishing reported getting out to fish on more occasions. The reported estimated that Americans who fly fish had spent million fly fishing outings in 2020, an increase of 27% from just the prior year. The increase in fly fishing is also being seen economically, as increase sales of equipment and accessories, which is good news for those in the angling business.

What is also important is that we are seeing growth of those new to fly fishing. Almost 18% (1.7 million) in the 2020 report, claimed this was the first time they fished with a fly rod. Furthermore, the sport is attracting younger participants with 47% under age 35. About 30% of fly fishers were women, and women’s participation is also increasing.

*The full article can be found on the On The Fly South website under their May Newsletter heading.*

## Openings for Local Fishing Events in June –

We still have registrations available for the Club Co-ed and Women's fishing outings in May:

- Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> offer opportunities to learn about Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM). These SQM workshops are offered by the ODNR. They are scheduled from 6 – 8 PM, and will be taught by Rebecca Perry, the SQM Coordinator from the Ohio Dept of Natural Resources. Tom Britton, who leads BUFF's SQM activities says that Rebecca always makes these programs both educational and fun. There is on-stream learning as well, so wear clothes, or bring waders, and shoes that can get wet. The June 6<sup>th</sup> location is at the Caesar Creek access and the June 15<sup>th</sup> location is the Carl Rahe access, both on the Little Miami River. Directions, sign-up and a liability waiver are on the BUFF Website
- Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> is the Women's After Work Fishing Outing for this month. Location is The East Fork of the Little Miami River at Sycamore Park, near Batavia, OH. Meeting time is 6 PM. Sign-up and the fishing waiver are on the BUFF Website.
- Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> is this month's Club After Work Outing. We will fish the Little Miami River at the Carl Rahe access. Currently, this trip is fully booked, but check with the trip leader regarding 'alternates' if there are cancellations.
- On Monday June 20<sup>th</sup>, there is a meeting in Brookville Indiana to discuss maintaining good angling conditions on the Brookville tailwaters and the ongoing repairs to the dam. The meeting will include representatives from local clubs and government agencies involved with fishing and water management. We encourage any members to participate in this discussion, and ask that you register on the Club Website, so we know who is planning to attend. The meeting will be at the Third Place Restaurant in Brookville, IN. Time is 7 PM. .

## July Local Fishing –

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

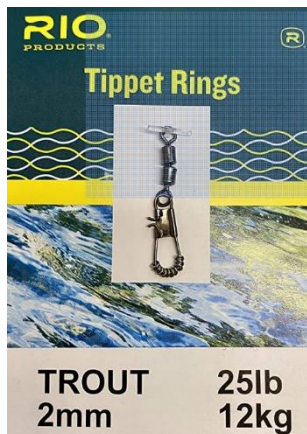
- Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> is the Women's After Work Outing. The July outing is on the Little Miami River at the Carl Rahe Access. Check out the website for information and to register.
- Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup> is the Club After Work Outing. This will be on O'Bannion Creek, which is a tributary 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 register on the website.



# Tippet Rings

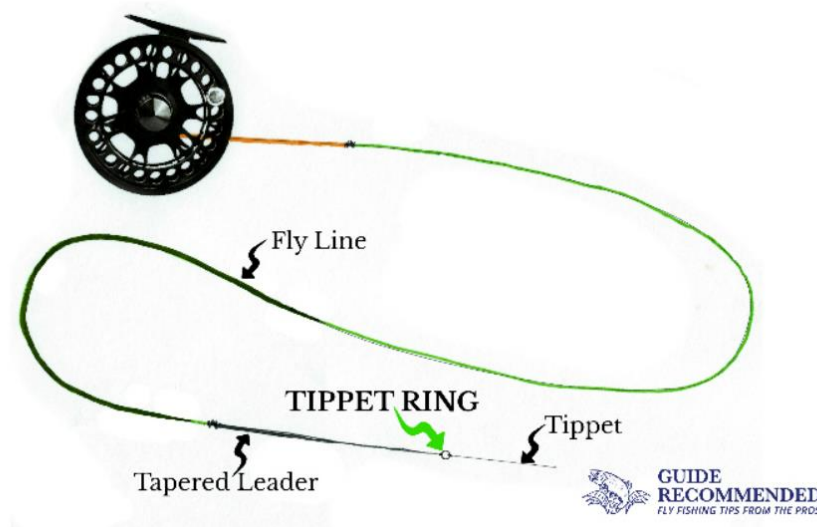
I've found a couple of videos discussing the use of tippet rings, and for those newer to fly fishing, this may be useful information.

One of the issues with using leaders is that as we tie and replace flies, we continually shorten the leader. This is intrinsic to the process of cutting off and replacing the fly. With commercial tapered leaders, the end part usually consists of about 3 – 4 feet of tippet. Hence, if you have a 9-foot 3X leader, the final few feet represent 3X tippet. As we replace flies, we continually shorten this segment and after changing flies a few times, we need to add tippet to restore the leader to its length.



A tippet ring is a small, lightweight steel ring. One ties it onto the end of the leader, and then we tie a length of tippet to the opposite side of the ring, and a fly to the end of that tippet piece. When using a tippet ring, when one replaces a fly, one does not further shorten the leader. Just replace the fly and if needed, the tippet length, added to the ring. The main section of the leader remains unchanged. In his video, Tom Rosenbauer emphasizes how this preserves and provides a much longer 'life' to one's leader.

Tippet rings generally come with several mounted on a small clip. As shown in the Orvis and Rio videos, the general recommendation is to tie the tip of the leader to the ring while it is still on the clip, and then remove the ring from the clip and relock the clip. This reduces the risk of dropping a ring when tying it to the leader, and dropping remaining rings from the clip. If you drop it, you're not going to find it! Once you have the ring on the end of the leader, you then tie on a piece of tippet to the other side of the ring, and the fly to the end of that piece of tippet. Tie-on to the ring is simple, and uses a standard clinch knot or improved clinch knot. Smaller rings, such as the 2 mm product shown here, do not add significant weight to the line, and are light enough to float on in the water film.



Tippet/leader set up using a tippet ring

Another use of these devices is when using an indicator and dropper set up. For this, one can separately tie both the indicator and dropper flies to the ring. An example of this is in the video from Rio.

Here are links to the videos:

Orvis video by Tom Rosenbauer - <https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/video-lessons/toms-short-tips/1656-how-to-use-a-tippet-ring>

Rio video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noTUpeqbwdQ>

## Things of Interest –

By Ken Mandel

### Fishing Tailwaters –



This month, the Midcurrent.com site has a blog on fishing tailwaters. For anyone not familiar with the term, a tailwater is the outflow area below a dam. When the dam releases water from the bottom of the impounded lake above, the water temperature is cooler than surface water, and the temperature tends to remain relatively constant through the year. This can make an excellent environment for trout. Locally, the tailwater below the Brookville dam is a

prime example of this type of fishery, though currently we are having issues due to ongoing maintenance of the dam. While the article published by Midcurrent appears to primarily discuss Western tailwater fisheries, the ideas would hold for others as well. Check out the blog - <https://www.themeateater.com/fish/freshwater/how-to-fish-a-tailwater>

### Four Most Important Knots We Need –

Another video blog posted to the Midcurrent.com site is by Alvin Dedeaux demonstrates 4 knots that are basic to fly fishing. Primarily these are used when tying leaders and tying a fly onto the tippet end.

**Perfection Loop** is recommended to the loop-to-loop connection between the butt end of a self-tied leader and the loop on the end of the fly line.

**Blood Knot** is recommended for tying leader sections together to build the taper in self-tied leaders. It is smaller and smoother than a Surgeon's knot for this purpose.

**Surgeon's Knot** (also called a "Double Surgeon's Knot") is recommended for tying a tippet length onto the end of the leader.

**Clinch Knot/Improved Clinch Knot** is the knot recommended for tying the fly onto the end of the tippet.

Here is the link to the YouTube video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjllenaMz9g>



It is good blog post, but some of the tying techniques are a bit difficult to see, but there are other animated knot demonstrations that can be used to observe detailed tying techniques. **The “Education Resources” page in the “Education/Conservation” heading on the BUFF Website has a link to “Animate Knots” which provides excellent visuals for tying many types of knots used in fly fishing and other activities.**

## **Cleaning Your Fly Line –**

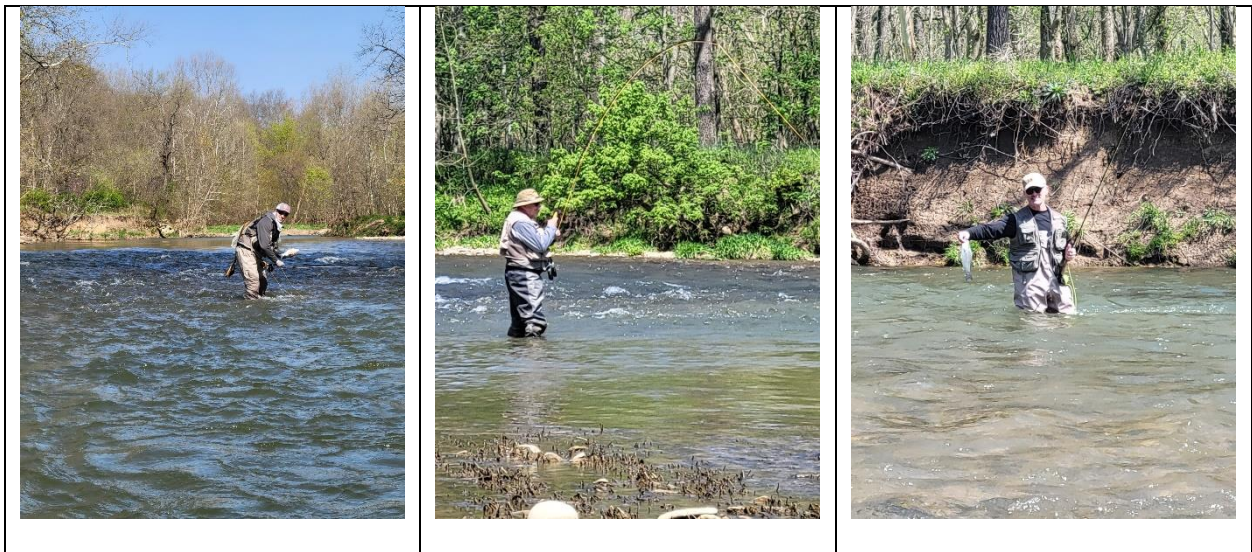
Tom Rosenbauer has a You-Tube video which provides basics on how to clean the line. As Tom describes, there is not much one can do to ‘damage’ modern fly lines short of physically damaging the line or exposing it to solvents. The latter is important, as we need to be careful when using sunscreens and insect repellents, to avoid getting these agents on the line because they can contain solvents.

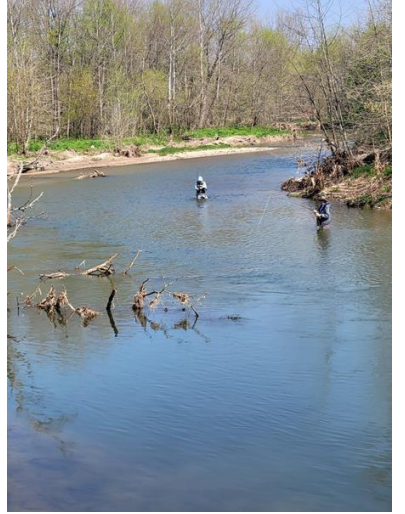
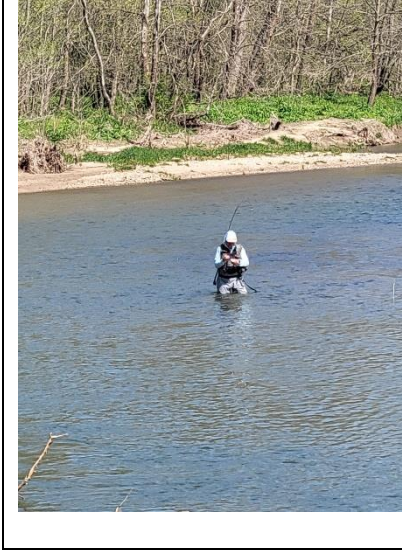
Tom emphasizes that cleaning the line is important to maintain performance. A clean line moves smoothly through rod guides and casts better. To clean the line just strip it off the reel and soak it in some soapy water for a few minutes. Rinse off the soap and dry the line by pulling it through a piece of paper towel. While Tom doesn’t recommend using a line dressing, many of us do use these materials, and feel they have value. How often you should clean a line depends on a number of factors, including how clear and clean the water you are fishing is. Here is the video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYiHQEv3S6k>

## **Recent Photos We’ve Received –**

At the beginning of May, the club had its annual White Bass outing on the Whitewater River in Indiana. Participants had several days of great fishing for this annual run. Here are some photos -







May also saw the club's annual Casting Class. This year's class was led by Jim Vota. The first day was quite interesting, as there were 'gale force' winds blowing at Cottell Park. We spent a lot of time chasing hats, and chairs that got blown around. The weather cooperated for the other sessions, and everyone who completed the class learned skills to use on the water.



May was also the Trout Quest trip to North Carolina.







Finally, Cari Vota and Lisa Morrisette recently got out to fish on Hatchery Creek by the Cumberland River in KY, and then went on for a day of fishing in Smokies Mountain National Park. In the Park, they were out with Charity Rutter.





## 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>
Ohio DNR Stream Quality Monitoring Workshop Little Miami River, Caesar Creek Access	Monday, June 6 <sup>th</sup> 6 PM – 8 PM <i>Registration information on BUFF Website</i>	Tom Britton
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, June 8 <sup>th</sup> 6 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website</i>	
Women's After Work Fishing East Fork of the Little Miami River at Sycamore Park, near Batavia, OH	Thursday, June 9 <sup>th</sup> 6 PM – Dusk <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota <i>Contact info on BUFF Website</i>

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Ohio DNR Stream Quality Monitoring Workshop Little Miami River, Carl Rahe Access	Wednesday, June 15 <sup>th</sup> 6 PM – 8 PM <i>Registration information on BUFF Website</i>	Tom Britton
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, June 15 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Hugh O'Donnell <i>Contact info on BUFF Website</i>
BUFF Club After Work Fishing Little Miami River Carl Rahe Access, OH	Thursday, June 16 <sup>th</sup> 6 PM – Dusk	Cari Vota <i>Contact info on BUFF Website</i>
Tie-& Lie	Friday, July 17 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Virtual Session – Zoom Link</i>	Gary Begley
Brookville Tailwater Meeting Third Place Restaurant Brookville, Indiana	Monday, June 20 <sup>th</sup> 7 PM <i>Sign-up on Website</i>	Tom Britton

### 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.

