



# The BUFFER

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

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## The President's Fly Box

June fishing is a great time to catch warm water species. It can be time to leave the waders behind. Try local ponds and our local moving water such as Little Miami River, LMR East Fork, Todds Fork, and the Great Miami River. Remember, you can find access points at the Little Miami Conservancy website (<https://www.littlemiami.org/>). Bring a friend for a quick trip. Don't have someone who can go? Find a fishing companion by putting a message on the Forum page on the BUFF website. Better yet, come to the next meeting. We will try connecting people who are looking for a fishing buddy by region or area.

For those who head North in the summer, I recommend that you come to the June meeting. Our June speaker is Glen Blackwood of the Great Lakes Fly Fishing Co. He is very knowledgeable about fishing in Southwestern Michigan. Southwestern Michigan can be your first stop on the way up North. And for those who will stay in Ohio, it is a quick four-hour drive to reach some great fishing in our area. Either way, don't miss our June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

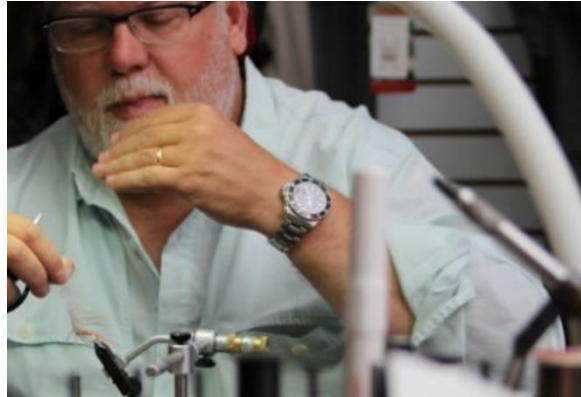
June also brings the time to sign up for our annual July picnic. This picnic is one of the highlight meetings of the year. No speaker, just engagement. You can try your casting prowess on an FFI casting course, tie some flies, fish the pond, chat with old friends or meet future friends. Yes, spots are limited. So, sign up soon. Hope to see you there.

Hugh O'Donnell  
BUFF President

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

Our monthly meeting at the Oasis Center starts at 6:00 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner will be served at about 6:30 PM, the business meeting and announcements start at about 7:15 PM, and our speaker's presentation at 7:45 PM. **Online registration closes on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## **June Speaker – Glen Blackwood, Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company. “History of Bamboo Fly Rods”**



For the last 30 years, Glen Blackwood has been a fly fishing instructor, guide, national sales manager, and now owns and operates the Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company in Rockford, Michigan. Glen is known for his knowledge of American sporting literature and authors the Pages Past column for Upland Almanac magazine, as well as book reviews for the Ruffed Grouse Society’s publication. He is also the flyfishing columnist for Sporting Classics. As a collector, dealer and appraiser of angling and shooting books, he has lectured on this topic and appraised collections in the Midwest. He is a native Ohioan and an Ohio State graduate.

## **June Dinner Menu –**

- House Salad & Dressings
- Dinner Rolls & Butter
- Caribbean Pork Loin with Pineapple-Mango Glaze and Jerk Seasoning
- Fresh Herb Orzo
- Asparagus Medley
- Chef’s Choice Dessert
- Coffee, Iced Tea

## **June 10-Minute Tech Talk**

This month Bryan Tudor will talk about fishing the Mad River. Bryan has been leading trips to the Mad, and knows it well. It should be interesting and provide excellent information on accessing and fishing a nearby river. Stop by and learn about this novel and enjoyable way to fish.

Also, if you have an idea for a fly fishing topic and are interested in presenting it at an upcoming general meeting, please contact Bryan Tudor at 513-827-5437 or by email: [byran.tudor@yahoo.com](mailto:byran.tudor@yahoo.com)

## New Members in May 2024

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

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

- **Erich Emery**, Batavia, OH
- **Ben Grove**, Mason, KY
- **Mark Rocklin**, New Richmond, IN
- **Glendaly Humphrey**, West Chester, OH
- **Joesph Gerth**, Montgomery, 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!

## BUFF Library Reminder –

From: Dave Smith

BUFFERS – While we are not regularly bringing the library boxes to our meetings, ***the library remains AVAILABLE***. Finding and checking out a book or video is easy and is done through the BUFF website.

On the BUFF website home page, click “Member Services” and login with your e-mail address. Choose the “Browse the Library” icon to bring up the list of library holdings. Click to reserve what you want, and I’ll bring it to the next meeting. Returning books is also easy – just bring them to the next meeting. This is an easy-to-use resource to obtain library materials and to grow and enhance your fly fishing skills and knowledge.

## 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, and other activities. To put it plainly, without volunteers the club cannot work!

We currently have several needs to be filled, and they are described 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 planning the 40<sup>th</sup> 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. Since then, I’ve gotten involved with other club activities and greatly enjoy them. Getting involved has been a great way as a beginner angler like me to learn from experienced club members, build friendships, and gain colleagues to get out and fish with!

## Two Open Board Positions–

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

**Co-Chair for Program Planning.** This position has opened because our former co-chair, Blayne Smith, has 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. Getting on board now is a perfect opportunity to learn the role, as the entire 2024, and a significant amount of the 2025 calendars are already filled. If interested, reach out to Hugh O’Donnell ([odonnellhi@gmail.com](mailto:odonnellhi@gmail.com)) or Dolph Greenberg ([greenbam@miamioh.edu](mailto:greenbam@miamioh.edu)) for more information.

## BUFF Picnic Team –

The BUFF picnic is Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at Miami Meadows Park. We need a person be responsible for for ordering and bringing the salads we typically have (potato salad and cole slaw) at the picnic. Ken Mandel has done this for the last few years, but indicated at the beginning of the year that he was not going to continue this.

Team members have been asking individuals to help, but we’ve had no takers to date. We need to fill this position ASAP, as we are quickly approaching the time needed to order food for the picnic. ***Getting someone for this role is critical if we want to have a picnic this year!*** If you are interested in helping to keep this great event going, please call Brian Tudor (513-827-5437).

## 2025 Fly Fishing Show Team –

The Fly Fishing Show Team is looking for a person to help with AV at the show. Scott Biser leads this effort but needs help with the multiple events on the days of the show. We have scheduled events having AV needs on the Friday prior (Jan 31<sup>st</sup>) and the Saturday of the show (Feb 1<sup>st</sup>). It is too much for just Scott to handle, and technology to clone him is not yet existent!

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. 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.

*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](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com)

Phone: 513-675-8488.

## White Bass Fishing Photos

The end of April saw our annual outings to the Whitewater River for the white bass spawning run. Lots of anglers, and lots of fish caught. Kathy Newsom, who helped lead these outings shared photos.



Chris Meyer



Craig Cargill



Nicole Leib



Ian Smith



Hugh O'Donnell



Shafiq Waller



Kathy Newson, Don Bonham, Donna Summers  
Lisa Morrisette



Tom Agin

## Veterans Corner –

By **D. Brent Miller**, *BUFF Director of Veterans Affairs*

This past Memorial Day was a time for honoring our military brothers and sisters who gave their lives in service to the country. It was a time of reflection, and an opportunity to thank the Veterans who made it home. To thank them for their service.

Now in 12 years of service of fly fishing with veterans, I am still amazed at how fly fishing can be therapy for those who have experienced the trauma of war. That's why we are continuing to offer fly fishing with our Veterans. The program is a work in progress, as some controlled growth is a good thing.

If you are a Veteran and wish to join our outings, let me know. We have a place for you.

See you on the water.

Brent

## Women's Trip to the Wisconsin Driftless

By **Cari Vota**

During the last Ice Age, as the glaciers were hard at work flattening the Midwest, they left behind sediment and debris called "drift." However, the glaciers receded before flattening an area where the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois meet—a region now known as the Driftless Area.



Comprising approximately 24,000 square miles, the landscape is characterized by deeply carved river valleys, steep hills, and vast forested ridges. Among its beautiful terrain you'll find spring-fed waterfalls and 13,000 miles of spring creeks, all teeming with trout. The most popular fly fishing methods are dry fly fishing, nymphing, and streamer fishing. The best time to fish is when you can get there, especially spring and fall.

The entire area is wade-fishing only, and you can easily plan out a DIY trip on your own. We used guides booked through the *Driftless Angler*, Viroqua WI. This is a good idea for your first trip, even if it's for half a day. Many of the small streams run through the cow pastures with over-fence access. Don't be surprised if some of the ladies follow you around the stream and want to watch.



This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for our annual Mother's Day trip – 5 nights, 4 days of fishing. There were 5 of us – Lisa Morrisette, Haruko Mizoguchi, Donna Somers, Sara Briechele & Cari Vota. We fished for 2-days with guides to get us to some new places we hadn't seen last year, and put us on fish they did! Primarily we caught brown trout, with a few brookies mixed in. It was common to get browns in the 12 - 14" range, that jumped right out of the water!



The Pink Squirrel Fly is a must for this trip. Tied by Wisconsin fly fisher John Bethke, the pink squirrel fly is a Wisconsin fly pattern classic. I tied a bunch for us and we still purchased more at the fly shop. Two of our guides, Matt & Jake, are John's sons and grew up fishing this entire area.

We are already looking forward to next year's trip.

If interested in fishing the Driftless, chat with the BUFF members who went on this trip, and check out the Driftless Angler's website for the shop, guides and lodging.– <https://www.driftlessangler.com/>



Cari, Donna & Haruko  
on the water





Companions by the stream



One of the farms raised longhorns

## Fishing the Muskegon River – Not Just Trout

By Ken Mandel

A couple of weeks ago, Dolph Greenburg and I spent a couple of days fishing with Kevin Feenstra and Drew Rosema, another of his guides on the lower Muskegon River in Michigan. It was fantastic. We lucked out and hit an opportunity, getting to fish for large trout when there was a spawning run of suckers coming in from Lake Michigan. Over the two days we had on the river, we caught a lot of nice trout, several smaller steelhead, several large (4 – 7 lb) suckers and Dolph even got a small mouth bass (the very last fish we caught at the end of our second day.



If you attended the BUFF meeting last month, you'll remember that Kevin was our speaker. Not only is he a guide, he is also an outstanding nature photographer and naturalist. He took us out the first day. Dolph got off to a quick start, landing 3 or 4 trout before I had my fly in the water. Over the two days we fished either a streamer-nymph (primarily with Kevin), or a double egg pattern (with Drew). With either rig, the leader was weighted with shot, generally above the flies, and we used a floating indicator. If the indicator drops – set the hook!





*Dolph & Kevin Feenstra with a good sized brown trout and about a 7 lb sucker he landed*

We fished in the lower Muskegon, which is a large river. We were on the water at about 7:30 AM, and had two good days of fishing. Weather on the first day was perfect – sunny and cool. We had a strong rain shower mid-morning on the second day and then the wind picked up and it was a chilly; after all it is Michigan! Still fishing was excellent. Between Dolph and I we probably landed over 100 fish – we were not keeping count.

The guide boats were powered with a jet rather than prop. Using a powered boat also allowed us to move up and down the river, and take advantage of fishing different locations. When a larger fish took the fly and ran, the guide would often lift the anchor and drift the boat downstream. It helped us to play and land the larger fish. Having the motor then allowed us to return to our original location and continue to fish a hot spot.



*Ken with one of his suckers, a large brown and a colorful rainbow*

We also lucked out in hitting the week when suckers were spawning. They come in from Lake Michigan and pick shallows over gravel bottoms to lay their eggs. Of course the eggs are a feast for the trout and other fish. Trout hovered just down-stream, often by a drop-off, gobbling eggs.

Many of the fish we hooked were good sized – many 16+ inch brown and rainbow trout. We also landed a good number of suckers in the 4 – 7 lb range and had a few smaller steelhead. Dolph's last fish of the trip was a small mouth bass. While the trout would take the line and needed to be played in, the suckers were another story. Like carp, they fight! We had 4- or 5-x tippet and more than once a sucker

would tear the entire rig off the fly line - sort of fun to watch the flies, weight and an indicator go swimming down the river. Drew pretty much ran out of indicators on the day we were with him!

Both Kevin and Drew are excellent guides. Both are both low-key, relaxed, and put us on great spots for finding fish. Kevin and Drew are also attracted to the beauty and wildlife of the river as well. We saw and watched herons, kingfishers, several bald eagles, different ducks and even a couple of loons. In the water, we saw several large sturgeon, some close to 5-feet long! Not allowed to catch those. On a full day outing, lunch is also important, and both Kevin and Drew prepared excellent hot meals, and had water, snacks and soft drinks.



We stayed at the Muskegon River Inn. Its in the middle of Newaygo and was about a 10-minute drive to our boat launch. The inn is a small hotel (about 7 rooms) and quite reasonable, and a great place to stay. The rooms were immaculate, it had the best shower I've ever experienced, and they gave us breakfast each morning and homemade snacks (cookies, scones, etc.) each evening. There are nice restaurants in the area. We ate 2 nights at an excellent brew pub next door to the hotel, and a superb restaurant about a 15 minute drive from town on the last night. All in all, we had a 4-star experience for lodging and dining.



*The dark shadow is a 4-5 foot Sturgeon*

Kevin Feenstra and his team offer an excellent experience to fish the Muskegon, and we highly recommend them. We will certainly be going back. If this sounds interesting and encourages you to consider a trip, you can contact Kevin on his website – [www.feenstraoutdoors.com](http://www.feenstraoutdoors.com). The site has links to recommended hotels and other lodging.

## **Fishing on the Clinch River**

**By Tom Bachey**

On May 5, 2024, myself and my son-in-law, Garrett, floated the Clinch Rive, with Michael “Rocky” Cox of Rocky Top Anglers. The area we fished was north of Knoxville, TN. This was our third trip with Rocky since November, 2022, two trips on the Clinch and one trip on the Holston. Last May, Garrett and I floated the Holsten and did very well, but Rocky said floating the Holsten this year is more like “combat fishing” with all of the guides and boats floating there.



We met Rocky at 7:15 AM at the take-out point, and then rode with him to the put-in site. When we hit the water, there were no other boats on the river except for 2 canoes of non-fishermen. Rocky noted that the water level was low, and had been low because TVA had only been releasing water from 6-7 AM and 6-7 PM daily, trying to bring Norris Lake up its normal summer pool level. Because of this lack of water, Rocky said we needed to get on the water to be fishing when the flow increased. He told us that the increased flow stimulates the fish to feed. They do so until the flow passes and then they settle down again.

True to form, we did not catch anything for the first 30 minutes, or so, and then slowly, we began getting more strikes until I finally landed our first fish. Soon after, Garrett finally had a couple in the boat after I had 3 more. As the morning wore on, the sun popped out, the weather

warmed up, and so did the fishing. Most of our fish were between 10" and 12", but suddenly, Garrett set the hook, and whooped as he saw a big brown surface on his line. It turned right, then left, and kept running. It was a big brownie and snapped his 6x tippet like it was nothing. Soon after, I pulled in a 15" rainbow, a 16" rainbow and a few small ones. Then, it was my turn with a big one! My indicator suddenly disappeared, I set the hook, reached up to begin stripping line, and snap! I can only assume it was a big brown, since I did not see the fish. Darn!!



A few minutes later, after re-rigging, my indicator sank, I set the hook, and began a good 4 minute fight with a 17" rainbow! He jumped once, just a little over the surface, and made Rocky keep the boat moving so the fish would not go under the boat. I let him run a little, and never did get him on the reel, letting him take a little line and stripping him back in, until he finally got close enough to net and take a picture. Nice fish!!

As we floated down the river, we did see one lone fisherman, wading out in the middle of the river, just below a line of riffles and rocks, and we watched him land a couple of fish. Rocky did his best to stay away from him but with the low water level there were only a couple of paths available to float through. Earlier, Rocky did have to jump out and move us off a bunch of rocks, but that only happened once.

After that, we would get a few hits and landed a few but nothing to write home about. We stopped for lunch since things had slowed down. Lunch with Rocky means good eating – smoked pork tenderloin with bbq sauce, three-bean salad, potato salad, and a big cookie! We also had water throughout the day and Coke Zero with lunch. He smoked the pork tenderloin himself and it was delicious!!

After lunch, since the flow had passed and the water level had decreased again, putting fish in the boat was slow, at best. I only put 3 in the boat and Garrett put 2 in the boat, but the sun felt good and we enjoyed some beautiful scenery, with herons, ducks and geese, and an osprey or two.

Rocky is very knowledgeable and knows where and how to catch fish on both the Clinch and the Holsten. He is very friendly, easy to talk to, and is always looking out for our indicators, mentioning where a cast should go, or untangling knots that we would get in our leader. I am already looking

forward to fishing with him again, but I may need to wait until next May, since Garrett and my daughter are expecting their first child this September! I highly recommend Rocky as a top guide on those two rivers, but I have no experience with him on other steams in the Knoxville area.

Rocky's website is – <https://www.rockytopanglers.com/>, and information on his guide service is here. Rocky also regularly attends the Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. Reach out to him if you have interest in fishing the Clinch, Holston, or any of the other waters he guides on.



## Women's Day Trip to Brookville Tailwaters – Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

**By Cari Vota**

This is an all-day wading trip on the Brookville tail waters. The trip can accommodate 8 individuals. These tailwaters offer easy wading and shaded areas to fish for trout, and possibly other species.

We will be meeting in Brookville at the Dam park. We will use this as the meeting place, and then decide, depending on the river level, where to fish. There are many places to fish from the dam all the way to the Whitewater River. An Indiana fishing license is required, and should be purchased prior to the trip.

There are picnic tables and restroom facilities at the Dam, and at the park in Brookville, near to the river. Can't stay all day? Join us for a ½ day and leave when you need to.

***To join the trip, please register and sign the waiver on the website.***

# Mark Your Calendars – Summer Picnic is Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

As we've done for the past few years, our July Meeting will be our annual picnic. Location is Miami Meadows Park in Milford, OH. We've reserved the shelter by the lake, and this can accommodate about 80 people.



**Menu** - fried chicken, sides, chips, watermelon, desserts and soft drinks (water, iced tea, lemonade, sodas). We plan to start serving around 5 – 5:30 PM, and end by dusk.

**Location** - 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 below). The shelter is next to the large, stocked pond (bluegill and some bass) at the 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 & 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.



**By the time you have seen this in this month's BUFFER, registration on the website will likely be open.** We request you register to attend to provide us a 'head count for ordering food. **Registration will close around July 2<sup>nd</sup>, to provide enough time for ordering food.**

- The shelter can seat up to 80, but we use a couple of tables to put out the food. It may be a good idea to bring along a lawn chair if you want to sit outside.
- Our reservation of the shelter gives us its use for the entire day. If you want to come early and do some fishing, please do so. It is catch and release.

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

## **BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish**

Here's a photo from Bob Cregge. About a 14 lb cat he caught on a lake at a private condo. Since it was a private lake, he cannot tell us where. He looks like a very happy guy!



Bryan Tudor led another trip to the Mad River this past month. Fellow BUFFERS on the trip were Mike Jones, Tom Agin, & Jack Gormley. They actually caught fish!





Tim Cassani and Dan Tomaka fished the Cumberland tailwater with Jim Sauerhaber of Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing. We recently had an article on Jim's guide service in the BUFFER and he also presented recently at a monthly meeting. Here's a couple of photos of Tim and Dan –



Remember, if you get out to fish, please send photos and where you were fishing to [kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto: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

**As we move into the Winter months, our outdoor activities have largely ended for the year. However, check the website and watch for e-mails for indoor classes activities which become available!**

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

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, June 12 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM Sign up on Website	Hugh O'Donnell
<b>After-Work Fishing</b> Sycamore Park East Fork, Little Miami River	Thursday, June 13 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM – Dusk Register & Waiver on Website	Cari Vota
<b>BUFF BOD Meeting</b> Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Wednesday, June 19 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
<b>After Work Fishing</b> Brookville Tailwater Brookville, IN	Thursday, June 20 <sup>th</sup> h 6:00 PM – Dusk Register & Waiver on Website	Brent Miller
<b>Monthly Tie &amp; Lie</b> Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, May 21 <sup>st</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
<b>Women's Day Trip</b> Brookville Tailwater Brookville, IN	Thursday, June 27 <sup>th</sup> All Day Trip Register & Waiver on Website	Cari Vota

## Directions to Oasis -

Take I-275 and exit at Wards Corner Road (Exit 54). Make the first right onto Loveland-Miamiville Road and follow this. The Oasis golf course will be on your left. At the Paxton Guinea Road crossing, turn left. The clubhouse/conference center and parking lot for the Oasis facility are on the left.

