



The BUFFER

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH
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Notes from the President

I'm guardedly optimistic. The very cold weather we had for a couple weeks (seems like more) has been overhauled by warmer air. Lakes which had suddenly froze over, have reverted to open water. We've seen a sixty-degree (almost) day with sunshine. Reported cases of COVID are trending down and vaccine production is ramping up (we're told all of that). We're still a little way off until spring but it won't be long. I'm optimistically hopeful for the new year and what it will bring. Let's get out there and fish.

This is my last letter as president. Hugh O'Donnell will be taking over after he's sworn in at the March meeting. Hugh has several ideas to get members engaged. I believe he will implement them to the benefit of the club. Let's give him all the support he needs to accomplish his goals. The new board will also be sworn in at the meeting. We also have a couple awards to hand out (including a new life member).

Rick Hafele will be back to speak in March. His topic will be "Five Mistakes You Don't Need To Make". Ever wonder why ten percent of the anglers catch ninety percent of the fish? It's often because they don't make these mistakes. Find out what common mistakes to avoid and how to cure them. We will also kick off the auction for Rick's book, "Western Mayfly Hatches". It is a superb book for anyone with an interest in entomology as well as what and how to fish with imitations.

I hope everyone has stayed engaged with all of the down time we've had. You should have taken the time to learn new concepts and ideas to help you fish better. At least you must have tied flies for the coming season. I've tied a few, and now that the deep freeze is over, I'll go to a local pond and see how they swim. With pike and musky flies, you only tie a handful. You don't need a box full of the same pattern. They are a lot like hard plastic lures. You really have to work hard to lose one. So, I make a few and test to see how they swim individually. Then you make a few more in different colors. Doing this also helps you keep engaged with fly casting. Problems are magnified greatly. You need to have good handle on basic skills.

The monthly meetings are started a half hour early for club members to come on and talk with each other. Don't be bashful. Technical issues are nothing to be embarrassed about. They run rampant on these calls. If you have troubles, there are lots of members who might be able to help (at least one?). So, this month, let's hear what you've been up to. Any great home improvements, new fly rods, anything else? Beside the flies, I've been getting Tiki drink making skills brought up to a hi level. As long as the drink is in a tall glass with lots of ice, Cari's happy.

Finally, I would like to say that it has been a pleasure being president of such a great organization as BUFF. Thank you all for making it fun. I am looking forward to the time when we can get together in person and shake hands. You know, there is one thing I'll miss about being the prez – you're first in line for the food at our meetings.

Stay safe, enjoy fishing,

Jim Vota, almost ex prez.

BUFF March Meeting – Wednesday, March 10th, – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM –

March Speaker – Rick Hafele, “Five Mistakes You Don’t Need to Make”

This month, we have a return engagement with Rick Hafele, who presented talks this past month for our ‘virtual fly show’. Do you ever wonder why ten percent of the anglers catch ninety percent of the fish? It’s often because they don’t make these key mistakes that Rick will talk about. Find out what these common mistakes to avoid are, and how to cure them.



For more about Rick’s background, check last month’s BUFFER! The March meeting will also swear in Hugh O’Donnell as the new club president, and the board of directors for 2021.

Finally, as you may have seen in Jim Vota’s note, we start the Zoom call about 30 min before the meeting start so that members can log on and have some time to ‘socialize’ before the meeting. Consider joining early for some casual conversation and friendship.

- Meeting time is from 7 PM – about 8:30 PM. A brief business meeting will begin at 7 PM, and the presentation around 7:15.
- Registration deadline is March 9th.
- To attend, you must register on-line, and provide your e-mail address. Registrants will receive an e-mail with instructions on joining the Zoom session. If you are not registered, you will not be able to join in.
- Registrants will be entered into our monthly raffle, with the winner announced at the meeting.

New Club Members!

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

We've added 2 new members in the past month –

JD Dukes, from Fairborn, OH

Randy Arrowwood, from Newport, KY

We welcome you to the club. Unfortunately, with the lack of in-person meetings, doing an introduction to the club, which we typically do at our meetings, is on hold for the present. Check out information on the website and in the BUFFER. Also, you can use the Forum page in the website to reach out to club members for information, or even if you are just looking for someone to maybe get out with and go fishing!

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – We Have a New Program Leader!

In mid-February, Brent Miller informed those of us involved, participants and volunteers, with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF), that Sean Salefske has taken on responsibility as the leader for the Cincinnati PHWFF program. Our program is back on track. Sean has started the program leader training with PHW, and we look forward to restarting in-person activities when this is permitted.

Sean was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. He moved to southwest Michigan, attending and graduating from Western Michigan University, and becoming commissioned into the U.S. Marine Corp. He became a 2nd Lieutenant in 2010 and served as a field artillery officer. Sean's military experiences included holding positions as a Fire Direction Officer, Platoon Commander, Executive Officer, and Battalion Logistics Officer both in garrison and when deployed. Following his deployment, Sean relocated to the Artillery Office Training School in Lawton, OK and served as a Fire Support Instructor, training newly commissioned Army and Marine Corps officers

After 8 years of active service, Sean left the military in 2018 and moved to Cincinnati. He lives in Loveland with his spouse Amanda and daughter, Scarlett. Sean remains an active participant in our veteran community. He has attended some of our PHWFF programs and is the leader for the Veteran's

Network Chapter at General Electric where he is employed as a Senior Controls Buyer. The veteran's program at GE supports and encourages veterans at GE to become engaged in community activities.

Sean is an avid fly fisher and working on improving his tying skills. In addition, he enjoys spending time with family, reading, painting, and any activity that involves being outdoors.



Sean has his new PHWFF e-mail address: Sean.Salefske@projecthealingwaters.org.

August Wyoming Fishing Trip – Slots Still Open for BUFF Members

Just an update – as of the beginning of March, we still have a few slots open for BUFF members to register and participate in the Wyoming fishing trip at Camp Buffalo Bill Anglers Base Camp. This is for the first week of August (August 1st – 7th), and registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Further information regarding cost, lodging, travel, and making reservations can be found in the January and February BUFFERS.

Jack Gormley has agreed to act as coordinator for BUFF participants. Once you register, Jack has asked that you contact him Jack to let him know you are participating. If you have questions, Jack can help with those as well. His E-mail is jgormley@fuse.net, and his mobile # is 513-678-4518.

Additional Wyoming Fishing Opportunity for BUFF Members!

A few days back, Tim Guilfoile, of Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers, posted a note to the Forum page on the BUFF website. The note extends an invitation to our members to join with NKFF in their scheduled week at Camp Buffalo Bill. The NKFF date is the second week of August, August 8th – 14th. For further information, contact Tim at tim@nkff.org.

Monthly After-Work Fishing Outings for 2021 – NEW & Open to All BUFF Members

By Cari Vota

Looking for more local to Cincinnati fishing options? On the **1st Tuesday** each month, from April thru September, we will meet at 6:00 and fish until dark. These are all wading trips unless we are at a pond. These are a good time to gain confidence at a new local location, build basic skills, and learn something new each month. All skill levels are welcome.

After-Work Outings

April 6	Miami Meadows Park, Milford, pond. Casting Warmup Night
May 4	Carl Rahe Park, Loveland, LRM
June 1	East Fork of the LMR
July 6	Heritage Park, GMR
Aug 3	O'Bannon Creek, Loveland, trib to LMR
Sept 7	LMR, downtown Milford – Social outing after fishing, maybe

Due to State of Ohio restrictions and the size of the waters, these outings will be capped at 8 people including the trip coordinator in the signups. Sign-up is required, and only those signed-up can attend. COVID safety procedures will also be required to be followed and adhered to.

If enough members are on the wait list, an additional date can be opened – 3rd Tuesday each month – at the same location. If we are rained out or have HIGH water on the 1st Tuesday, we will try again on the 3rd Tuesday.

You will be able to find more information on these locations, as well as many, many more local fishing opportunities, in our Local Fishing Spots in Member Services on our website.

Michigan DNR Lake Walleye Management Plan

A healthy, abundant walleye population is a big part of Michigan's fisheries. These native fish provide exciting opportunities for angling and have an important role as a top predator. The Michigan DNR recently issued a draft report for its first statewide walleye plan focusing on its inland water (primarily lakes) walleye population, and it is open for public comment. Walleye management in the Great Lakes and rivers has been previously addressed in other reports.

This long (71 page) report provides information on:

- The status of the species in Michigan.
- The biology and ecology of inland walleye populations.
- Angler perceptions about walleye management and fishing opportunities.
- A brief description of previous management efforts.

The report identifies many lakes which has either self-sustaining walleye populations, as well as those which are stocked. It also provides information on which lakes and areas have abundant walleye populations and could be of most interest to anglers.



Map of lakes supporting walleye populations with natural (consistent reproduction) breeding and stocking programs (no or variable reproduction)

Lake Name	FMU	County	% of Total Trips
Houghton Lake	CLM	Roscommon	8
Burt Lake	NLH	Cheboygan	3
Muskegon Lake	CLM	Muskegon	3
Lake Leelanau	CLM	Leelanau	2
Lake Gogebic	WLS	Ontonagon	2
Mullett Lake	NLH	Cheboygan	2
Big Manistique Lake	NLM	Mackinac	2
Hubbard Lake	NLH	Alcona	2
Grand Lake	NLH	Presque Isle	2
Lake Charlevoix	CLM	Charlevoix	2
Black Lake	NLH	Cheboygan	2
Long Lake	NLH	Alpena	2
Lake Missaukee	CLM	Missaukee	2
Hamlin Lake	CLM	Mason	1
Brevoort Lake	NLM	Mackinac	1

Top 15 lakes ranked by anglers for walleye fishing

The DNR website page with information on this project, and which contains a link to the report is:

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119_79146_82437---_00.html?utm_campaign=inland%20lakes%20walleye%20plan%20input&utm_medium=pr&utm_source=govdelivery

Check out Upcoming Instructive and Entertaining Discussions and Presentation on the FFI Website

Fly Fishers International, FFI, continues to put a range of interesting presentations on their website: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/>

On March 1st, film makers and anglers Catherine Smith and John van Vliet will present “Into the Driftless” a presentation on fishing and exploring some of Minnesota’s beautiful trout streams, which are their home waters. For almost three decades, John’s book, Trout Fishing in Southeast Minnesota, has guided anglers to the little-known streams and rivers of Minnesota’s Driftless Area. John is the author of more than a dozen books and a contributing writer for the New York Times and other publications. Catherine Smith is an award-winning fly caster and passionate fly angler. For the past four years, Catherine and John have traveled full-time in their RV and aboard their vintage sailboat, Ampersand, filming their travels for their YouTube channel.



On March 9th, Brian O’Keefe will have a presentation entitled, “Fly Fishing Lakes”.

Both are scheduled for 8 PM, EST.

There is a wealth of great information on the FFI site, including recorded video presentations, instruction on casting and instruction on fly tying. Check it out.



PFAs and Ground/Surface Water Contamination

By Dolph Greenberg

During the past couple of decades, national concern has been raised regarding the health and environmental threats posed by widespread PFAS (perfluoroalkyl substances) contamination of ground and surface water. As many of you know, the Au Sable River system has been contaminated by this suite of chemicals. In 2010, the State of Michigan discovered that the lower Au Sable was contaminated near Oscoda. In 2017, it was discovered that groundwater contaminated by PFAS was migrating (down gradient) from the facilities at Camp Grayling. Municipal water supply testing and analysis by the

Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) is ongoing as are efforts at remediation. Below you will find a brief on PFAS in case you were unfamiliar with these chemicals. .

What are PFAS? PFAS are a large group (approximately 5000+) of manufactured fluorinated organic chemicals that, since the 1940's, have been and are used globally in a number of industries. These chemicals have strong carbon-fluorine bonds meaning they are very stable, very slow to biodegrade, and hence persist in the environment. They are mobile in groundwater, tending to move to the surface (surfactants), and are also both hydrophobic (repel water) and oleophobic (repel oil, grease and fat).

PFAS have been used and/or found in:

- the food industry
- commercially produced household products such as nonstick products (Teflon), polishes, cleaning materials and fire-fighting foams
- industrial workplaces – PFAS are used in chrome plating, electronic manufacturing, and oil recovery to name a few uses
- drinking water (from local sources such as landfill, wastewater treatment facilities, firefighting training sites and military installations)
- living organisms

Notwithstanding the 2006 volunteer phasing out of these chemicals by eight major companies involved in global production, most of us have been and will continue to be exposed to PFAS. The bad news is that PFAS are still produced internationally and find their way to us through imported consumer goods

Because they bioaccumulate or persist in the environment, in fish, in wildlife and in the human body, PFAS are known as 'forever chemicals' and have been found in the blood of virtually all people tested. Exposure to PFAS has been found to be associated with health problems such as low infant birth weights, depressed immune system, cancer and thyroid issues.

More information on PFAS can be found in an article posted on the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>

New Local Fly Shop

By Jim Vota

There is a new e-commerce based fly shop based in Middletown. It's new, and currently carries a limited number of tying materials and supplies. They are looking to expand this through the year and eventually move into a brick and mortar store in the Cincinnati area. They are offering free shipping to BUFF members if you use code BUFF21 at checkout. Check them out at www.springcreekflyfishing.com

Speaking of new shops, the Sugar Creek Fly Shop/ReelFlyRod.com (<https://www.reelflyrod.com>) has moved to a new building. It will provide a larger store for walk in traffic as well as handling more inventory. Check them out on-line for more info. Also, don't forget our other area shops like Delamere and Hopkins here in Cincinnati (<https://www.dhoutfitters.com/>) and Mad River Outfitters in Columbus (<https://www.madriveroutfitters.com>).

Here is a photo of the new shop for Sugar Creek – Unfortunately, with the continued precautions due to the COVID pandemic, Sugar Creek/ReelFlyRod.com is not open for in-person shopping at the store. You can order on-line or by phone. They will ship items, or you can pick things up at the door.



Fishing the Bayous of Louisiana

By Tom Bachey

On Sunday, Feb. 7th, I left Cincinnati and headed. The roads were clear, the temperature was somewhat cold, and I was excited to be heading to warmer climes for some fishing! My goal was Houma, Louisiana, 60 miles south of New Orleans – Bayou Country!

As I arrived on the outskirts of Houma at around 11 PM, there was a “no tell” motel, called the Houma Lake Inn, and the lights were on! I arranged a room for the night and settled in to get some sleep. The room was clean, the bed was comfortable and there was a full-size fridge in the room that held my water, snacks and even refroze my cool-packs. Occasionally, I heard a commotion outside, or several people discussing the evenings activities (?), but overall, I slept well and woke up to sunshine and shirt sleeve weather!

As I checked out, I inquired about somewhere to get a good breakfast at something other than a chain restaurant. The clerk directed me to The Pit Stop restaurant, just down the street, and it was exactly what I was looking for; a clean little place, with several socially-distanced groups chatting away, and one table of older veterans – older than me! - drinking coffee and telling war stories. No, really, war stories about Vietnam and the guns they used, etc. I ordered a sausage and cheese omelet with toast and grits. I had to have some grits, because I LOVE grits, and I was in the South. When in Rome, right?

After breakfast and several cups of coffee, I called my friend, Norman Gauthreaux – pronounced “GO – throe”, or if you lived in Houma, it would be “GO – troe” – and I proceeded to his home. Norman built his own home, a two-story brick ranch with two orange trees, a garden he had just plowed, and a huge workshop/garage. He gave me the grand tour, I met his lovely wife, Mary, and he showed me the room he had prepared for me.

I unpacked my gear, putting both my spinning rod and fly fishing gear in his truck. We headed out to meet his brother Mike and plan our fishing trip the next day. Mike, and his wife Pam, live several miles south of Houma, truly down in the bayous. He has a big garage filled with boats, boat motors and an impressive array of fishing paraphernalia – deep sea rods and reels, spinning and bait casting rods, several fly rods and reels, and a large and varied array of artificial baits and lures, many of which Mike designed and put together specifically for deep sea fishing. As Mike gave me the tour, I was awarded

with an ongoing barrage of fishing stories, boat stories, and travel stories, the likes of which raised an eyebrow as to the validity of such antics, but I had to believe them. I began to think these two guys had forgotten more about fishing than I would ever know.

As we chatted, Mike asked, "Why don't we go fishing?" I said that my license was only good for the next day. They both chuckled and said, "Get in the truck." We hitched up the boat, put all the gear in, excluding my fly rod, and headed south. We crossed a couple of bridges over bayous, a drawbridge or two, and stopped in front of a gate at the bottom of a levy. Norman got out, unlocked the gate, and we entered a private fishing and hunting area that they have permission to hunt and fish on. I was here! I stood and watched their choreographed routine to launch the boat and thought of all the fishing shows I'd watched where they catch fish in the bayous, and that I was getting ready to do just that!

I made my way to the back of the boat, sitting next to Mike who expertly maneuvered the boat through narrow passages of reeds, weeds, and marshes. After several turns and straight runs, I knew there was no way I could ever find my way back to the truck through the maze of channels and bayous. I wondered how long it took these guys to learn their way around here.

Mike had the throttle pretty much wide open as we turned into a long stretch of water, and he suddenly cut power and we slowed and began drifting. Mike and Norman reached for their rods and I did the same. "Slow and steady retrieve, just keep the bait moving. If you feel a strike, let it sit for just a second and if he feels like he took it, set the hook" - those were my instructions. I tied a PowerBait, a Pogy Shad Bait that has a weight inside the green tiger-striped plastic body, on to my 20-lb monofilament line. I watched them cast a couple of times, seeing where they cast and how they retrieved, and threw it out there, right in front of the bank at the base of some reeds. Just then, Norman said "Fish on", and pulled in a 14" speckled trout. I made a couple more casts, and then I cried out, "Fish on!", reeling in a 15" speckled trout. We each caught a couple more, then the action seemed to subside, so Mike fired up the motor and we moved to another channel. Again, several casts by all of us netted several fish, all speckled trout, and into the cooler they went. Any speck under 12" is not kept, and I remember there were only one or two that we put back.



We had moved three or four times and pulled up into another bayou. I made a cast, felt the strike and knew right away this was not a speck! As I reeled the fish in it a little drag, so I knew it was heavier. I finally saw that it was a redfish and we put him in the boat. My first redfish ever! After unhooking him and taking a picture, we measured him, only to find out he was only 15", so we had to put him back because 16" is the minimum keeper size. I was just thrilled to have caught my first redfish! I have caught what is known as puppy drum surf casting in North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland, but this was my first on conventional tackle in Louisiana. Just like on TV!

We continued fishing through late afternoon when the sky began to darken with what looked like some ominous clouds moving towards us, so we called it a day. Back at Mike's place, he pulled out a big

stainless steel fish cleaning station and a hose, and we began cleaning fish. I quickly learned that I had not cleaned ANY fish in several years, and butchered rather than cleaned, skinned and boned the specks. All told, we had fillets from 36 specks and one nice largemouth that Mike had caught. I hooked the only redfish that day; however, Mike and Norman caught the majority, the biggest being a 19" speck by Norman. What a day! I had been fishing in Louisiana and caught fish, just like they do on TV!! I was ecstatic, but even more excited because the next day would be even better!

We headed back to Norman's after we picked up fried chicken for dinner. Norman's wife and granddaughter had dinner with us, and we ended up drinking some of Norman's homemade wine. Norman has a small vineyard behind his garden where he grows muscadine grapes for his wine. He likes



to make a drier wine for himself and he also makes a sweeter wine for others. The bottle we drank - or were there two? - was a red and seemed tart and fruity and very tasty! I have had his wine before, and I really liked it! Where did I have his wine before? I met Norman through a group of guys who live in Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida and come to southern Ohio to bow hunt for deer each year. They had called me a few years ago asking permission to hunt my property out in Scioto county, which gave them four (4) contiguous properties to hunt. They would come up in September to set up corn feeders and cameras, and return to hunt in late October or early November. I am no deer hunter, so I did not care that they wanted to hunt my property, especially when they brought me wine and lots of shrimp for allowing them to hunt! I took a picture of a 10-point buck that is mounted on the wall in Norman's house that he harvested from my property two years ago.

After a good night's sleep and an early breakfast, we hit the road around 6 AM, met Mike, and were on the around 7:30 AM. The sky seemed cloudy and we could feel a mist hanging in the air as we sped away from shore. This time, I did have my fly rod, but I started with my spinning rod when we stopped at our first spot. On my second cast, 16" speckled trout! First fish of the day, so I had bragging rights, at least for a few minutes. We would each catch a few fish, things would quiet down, and we would move to a new spot. If, after 5 or 6 casts, no one put anything in the boat, we would move again. We would stop in some channel or bayou and drift where the wind blew us, with the aid of the electric trolling motor. After several spots fished and lots of fish on ice, we pulled into another somewhat narrow bayou with lots of little inlets and small islands - prime redfish territory!

It was time for the fly rod. I fitted the 7-wt, 10 ft rod together, attached the 6-wt reel with a weight-forward sinking line and approximately 6 ft of 20 lb monofilament line, and tied a streamer onto the mono with no other leader or tippet. I really did not know which fly to put on but settled on a streamer with a bright yellow-green hard plastic body, bead head, painted eyes, and white hair and silver flash for the tail. I wish it had been tied on a jig hook, like our plastic baits, but I went with it. Took me a few

tries to get my casts where I wanted them, since standing up in the boat and trying to balance while the other guys are casting was not as easy as it used to be for me. I'd cast into little inlets maybe 3 or 4 feet dug into a bank, or between tufts of reeds, and strip, sometimes long strips, sometimes quick short strips. My fifth cast delivered the streamer perfectly into a 3-foot wide channel between two small reed beds, and as I made the second strip – BAM! Redfish on!! I felt like he was hooked well, so I quickly got him on the reel and let the drag fight him. He would pull a few feet off the reel and then I would reel him back. He rolled and flopped on the surface a couple of times as I worked him to the boat, so I could see he was a redfish. He ran behind the boat and then began to tire so I coaxed him to the front of the boat on my side where Norman could sling him over the gunwale and into the boat. LANDED!! We measured him at 19" and put him in the cooler – our only keeper red so far, and my first redfish on a fly rod. Just like on TV!! That was so cool!! I want another one!!



I continued fishing the fly rod and caught 3 specks over the next half hour or so. Mike and Norman seemed surprised that I caught fish on the fly rod since they rarely, if ever, use a fly rod. I praised them for putting me on the redfish and giving me the opportunity to use my fly rod. I did not change flies after not catching anything after several more casts, though maybe I should have tried a different one, like a black woolly bugger. After moving to a couple of different spots, I switched back to my spinning rod just because I got tired of standing and balancing.

Throughout the rest of the day, we fished and moved, and continued to put specks in the cooler. Around noon, we had filled one of the coolers, and stopped to count the fish. We had 48 specks, one bass and my redfish. The daily limit for specks is 25 per person, so we fished on, hoping to limit out for the day.

We moved into a wide, almost pond-like area and began fishing. Mike threw to the right, and I threw to the left. Suddenly, Norman says, "Look at the right bank!" Just lying there on the bank, we saw two alligators. One was at least 12 feet long and the smaller looked to be maybe 5 feet long. Mike got us close so we could get some pictures, and we were within 15 feet of the big gator before he decided to slip into the water. That one was a monster! We saw several others that day, and one could be seen swimming out in front of us, but nothing came at us.



At 1 PM, we decided to make one last drift in an area we had earlier fished, so I brought out my fly rod again. Over the next half hour, I put one speck in the boat, and missed a couple of others, but no reds. Throughout the day, I would say Mike and Norman put two fish each in the cooler to my one fish. We headed back to the truck with the sun shining and the temperature approaching 70 – glorious!

We got back to Mike's, and Mike and Norman filleted all of the days' catch – 60 specks, one bass and one redfish. I helped Mike's wife, Pam, vacuum pack the already-filleted fish from yesterday and then vacuum-packed that day's catch. I wanted to spend more time cleaning the fish, but the harder I concentrated, the more I butchered them, so I gave up, and much to my chagrin, they agreed with me.

I headed back to Cincinnati on Wednesday morning with a cooler full of fillets – a total of 96 speck, 2 bass, and one redfish. I protested but they showed me that their freezers had been filled from previous excursions in January. I did bring down a few pounds of my homemade sausage for them, but that did not offset their hospitality, friendship, and the opportunity they provided me over the two days. They would not take any money for gas or anything, and even wanted to know when I was coming back! I enjoyed meeting these

guys and their families and how lucky I was to be welcomed into their lives. I told Norman that he needed to bring Mike with him when he came up to hunt in October so that I could cook for them – Mike and I could fish while Norman is hunting. I am truly looking forward to their coming north hunt this fall, and maybe, another trip to the bayou next winter!



Here's another Louisiana redfish, caught by Lindsay Leddy. Her first redfish on a fly rod. She got this on a trip in late December of last year.



If you get out to fish, and want to share a story and some photos, please send them to Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com) and we'll get them into an upcoming BUFFER!