



# The *BUFFER*

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

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March 1, 2023

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## The President's Fly Box

February has been unusually warm. The water temperatures will likely start rising in March and the fish will start getting more active in preparation for spawning. As our members think about the upcoming fishing season, we should all start preparing our gear, flies, and knowledge. For the latter, I would like to call attention to the 'BUFF Calendar' on the website. It is full of educational opportunities like fly tying and Fly Fishing 101 over the next two months. If you are relatively new to fly fishing, then I encourage you to sign up for the 101 course. And while not on the calendar yet, our annual fly casting course will be offered later in the spring. We hope that BUFF's series of educational offerings can help you feel proficient in fly fishing which will lead to an enjoyable year of fishing ahead.

Fishing with others is another great way to learn while being safe on stream. BUFF will offer both local and travel trips over the coming year. These trips include our steelhead trip to NE Ohio in April, white bass fishing in Brookville, Indiana in May, trout fishing in North Carolina in May, and monthly fishing in Cincinnati, Ohio. Please take full advantage of the group fishing activities.

I am sure that many of you attended our Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. If so, then you know that it was well attended. In fact, it was record-breaking attendance. The turnout was great to see, as it was our first show in 3 years. The feedback we received from members and vendors was fantastic, and many people signed up for BUFF memberships. We hope that BUFF will be a great way for people to engage in the fun sport of fly fishing. If you are a long-time member, please reach out to help these new members meet people and to learn tips / tricks.

Next up is the BUFF Banquet on March 8th. We have so many items in the raffles and auctions that I hope that you all signed up. We need as many people as possible bidding on these items. These auctions include many donated guide trips covering Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and other great places, that should interest our members. In any event, it is sure to be a good time and an excellent opportunity to meet and talk to other members.

I hope to see you at the Banquet.

Hugh O'Donnell,  
BUFF President

## **BUFF March Meeting – Banquet – Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup>**

This month our regular meeting is replaced by the annual BUFF Banquet. The Banquet is the club's major fundraising event of the year. Besides a very nice dinner and an evening of socializing, there are many raffles and auctions of fly fishing and non-angling items. In addition, club awards and recognitions, including Fly Fisher of the Year, the President's Award, and Directors' Awards are presented at the banquet. We hope you have registered (registration closed on February 28<sup>th</sup>) and are planning to attend.



## **New Club Members!**

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

WOW!!!! During the past month we've added 34 New memberships! 27 signed up at the Fly Fishing Show on February 4<sup>th</sup>!

**James Dees**, Alexandria, KY

**Thomas Megalla**, Sharonville, OH

**Michael Smith**, Cincinnati, OH

**Jeffrey Moore**, Louisville, KY

**Mark Farrell**, Loveland, OH

**Chris Benner**, Morrow, OH

**Jeff Dunahay**, Milford, OH  
**Bill Krimmer**, Milford, OH  
**Kim High**, Springboro, OH  
**Jim Wohl**, Loveland, OH  
**Nate Godsey**, Belle Center, OH  
**Matthew Hasselbeck**, Cincinnati, OH  
**John Connolly**, Loveland, OH  
**Tony Asher**, Cincinnati, OH  
**Mark Magella**, Mainville, OH  
**Charlie Chapin**, Loveland, OH  
**John Weisman**, Brookville, IN  
**Robert Shifflet**, Loveland, OH  
**Linda Barnhill**, Loveland, OH  
**Mark Schlembach**, Hamilton, OH

**Holden LaDow**, Independence, KY  
**Philip Messerly**, Cincinnati, OH  
**Patrick T. Williams**, Milford, OH  
**Ralph Swallows**, Louisville, KY  
**John Dye**, Cincinnati, OH  
**Landon Kovach**, Cincinnati, OH  
**David Pico**, Batavia, OH  
**Russell Magoteaux**, Loveland, OH  
**Scott Johnson**, Milford, OH  
**Michael Ragan**, Louisville, KY  
**John Santoro**, Terrace Park, OH  
**Gerry Gattenby**, West Chester, OH  
**Tim Clark**, Cincinnati, OH  
**Joseph Kitching**, Liberty Township, OH

Welcome to the club, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon!

Check out our activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some! For those who are new to fly fishing, or may have in the past, but not for a while, the club's Fly Fishing 101 course, which starts this month, is a great introduction to the sport, equipment, and other basic information. It will also have a session on basic casting techniques, which can help get you out and fishing. Sign-up! Later in the spring, the club offers a casting course held over a few Sundays in June at a local park where we teach and practice on the grass. Learn from our certified casting instructors! Another great program for those who are new to the sport, or anyone who wants to refresh or improve their casting.

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!

## **A Record Setting Fly Fishing Show!!!**

By Bob Gustafson and Ken Mandel

The 2023 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show is done. First, the show team thanks everyone who helps to put this on. This includes are team, the many club members who volunteer to help, and our exhibitors, vendors, and supporters.





Speaking of success, this show was one for the record books! Considering that due to COVID, this was the first time in 3 years that our club was able to put on this event, we were concerned how it would turn out. In brief, the show had record attendance, with 928 admissions, which broke all previous admission levels. This number does not include our volunteers, exhibitors, or other invitees. Hence, the overall attendance was closer to 1,100!

George Daniel gave excellent presentations and a casting demonstration. All we very well attended. George's books sold out by mid-morning of the show. Similarly, the bamboo rod and the nymph casting outfit raffle tickets were also gone by then. George Daniel's fly tying workshops on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, prior to the show, had record registrations, virtually selling out!

After the 3-year absence due to COVID, several exhibitors had stopped doing fishing shows. Happily, we were able to attract new exhibitors, including Little Miami Outfitters, Graywolf Products & Services, Spring Creek Fly Fishing, Kentucky Wild, The Frugal Fly Rodder, Yellowstone Anglers Basecamp, HFF Custom Rods, Trouthaus, and Dear Jane Stationary Collection. They all had a successful show, and hopefully will attend our future shows.



Besides being well received and attended, the show was profitable, bringing a net profit of over \$4,700 to the club! Let's hope we can achieve something similar with our 2024 show. Here are some photos from the show –





*There are more photos from  
the show on the BUFF  
Website in the "Photo*

## **In Case You Missed George Daniel's Talk on Streamer Fishing**

Between volunteer assignments and the popularity of George Daniel's presentations filling the presentation room, many of our club members may not have been able to see them. One of our members was looking at George's website looking for information on one of his signature flies, and found a presentation on streamer fishing tips. That was his AM presentation, and she was able to catch the last few minutes of that one. The website video appears to be the same presentation from the show. So if you missed it, this would be a very similar presentation -

<https://www.flyfisherman.com/editorial/george-daniels-top-streamer-tips/452822>

## **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 really easy and is done through the BUFF website.

Open the BUFF web page and click on the "Member Services" icon. This area is limited to BUFF members, so you will be asked to login with your e-mail address. Once logged in, you have a series of function icons. Click on "Browse the Library". This brings up the list of our library books and holdings. There is a GREEN "Reserve It" box on the right of each item. Click that to reserve the book/video. It will be delivered to you at the next club meeting.

Returning books is just as 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.

## March BUFF Classes

### Intermediate Fly Tying – Tuesday Evenings

The Intermediate Fly Tying class has started. We meet Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 9:00 PM at the Springdale Recreation Center. Jim Neckers leads the program, but several club tyers volunteer to help, and a few may step in to lead tying for a fly or two. You can sign up for individual or all sessions on the Website. The continuing schedule has sessions on February 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup>, and April 4<sup>th</sup>. Bring your vise, tools and a few threads to use. All other materials are provided.

### Fly Fishing 101

Jim Vota will be leading our Fly Fishing 101 course starting on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and continuing each Monday thru March 27<sup>th</sup>. Sessions are at the Springdale Recreation Center, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Register on the BUFF Website.

The March 6<sup>th</sup> session will cover what fly fishing is all about and discuss rods, reels, lines and basic gear. The next session will discuss, how to set up lines and leaders, knots you'll use, and how to cast. The third class covers different aspects of fishing. The final class, session 4, will be a hands-on basic casting lesson. If you do not have a rod, we'll have club rods there to use. Weather depending, it will be in the gym or outside.

The format encourages asking questions. If something is not covered don't be afraid to ask. The goal is to provide a head start so when you get to the stream or lake you won't be totally lost.

***If you're a new member looking to get started in the sport, this is the program for you. If you've had past experience fly fishing, but are looking to get back into the sport, the course is also great.***

### Women's Fly Tying Lunch & Learn

By Cari Vota

So, who doesn't like to have a nice lunch with friends, then tie some flies? A while back, a small group of us got together to tie some flies for the kids in our local Mayfly Project. We had so much fun, we decided to keep doing it by tying flies for ourselves. Besides tying, we decided to make it a social event, and it now includes each of us bringing something to share for lunch.





As several are new to fly tying, we chose to work our way through the 14 Essential Flies for your fly box. These flies are the all-stars of fly fishing, having almost universal fish appeal. If fished correctly, break a bad streak, save a trip, and maybe even land you a trophy trout. Being very common patterns, they can be fun to tie. They include the Tungsten Zebra Midge, Hare's Ear Nymph, Griffith's Gnat, Pheasant Tail Nymph, Prince Nymph, Soft Hackle fly, Parachute Adams, Elk Hair Caddis, Muddler Minnow, Brown Sexy Stone, Black Woolly Bugger, Clouser Minnow, Yellow Stimulator,

and Chernobyl Ant.

We meet once a month, currently at Cari Vota's house, at noon for lunch, then we tie a couple of patterns. Haruko Mizoguchi and Cari are leading the tying. We tie at Cari's house because if she and Jim don't have the materials for these flies, you don't need it. We've purchased needed hooks, beads, and wire for the entire list and split the cost among our participants. We get a couple of each tied over tea, snacks, and great conversation.

By this summer, just think of the fly box we will have for any occasion and any fish. So as an idea, if you have a few friends or colleagues who'd like to tie, agree on a social format to get together and do it!

## Women's Gear Maintenance Workshop

By Cari Vota

Women BUFF members are invited to attend a Women's Rod/Reel/Gear Maintenance Workshop. IT will be Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Springdale Community Center. The session will be in the "Art Room" at the center. The session will provide you with essential skills to help ensure your rod, reel, and other gear is well maintained and ready for fishing as we get into spring.

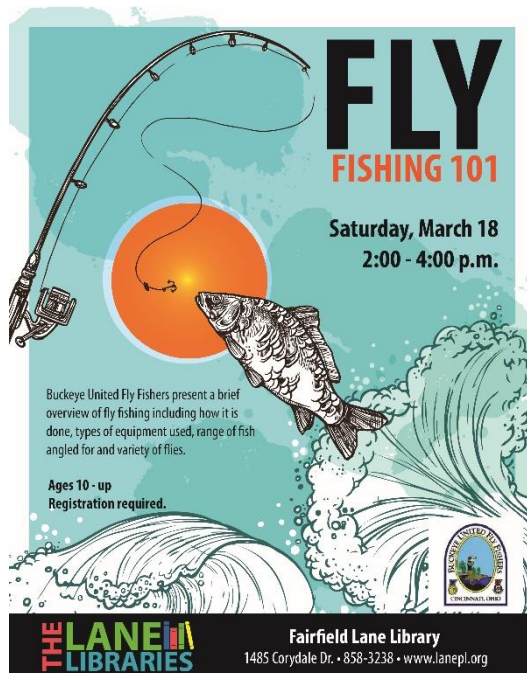
Poorly maintained rods and reels are responsible for lost fish, costly repairs, and a poor time on the water. Why take the chance? Come join us and learn how to maintain your equipment.

# Increasing Awareness of Fly Fishing & BUFF

By Ken Mandel

I am sharing an idea about increasing awareness of fly fishing and of Buckeye United Fly Fishers. The idea is to organize and present a 'Fly Fishing 101' session at your local library. Libraries seek opportunities for community events and are happy to support events offered by organizations like ours. Finding out if your library may be interested is as simple as speaking with the branch manager.

Last year I worked with my local library, the Fairfield Lane Library (the Butler County public library). Ms. Valerie Simmons, our branch manager, was incredibly positive and helpful in working with us to get the program scheduled, promoted and organized.



Last year's program, held in mid-March, had about a dozen attendees. We had a presentation on fly fishing basics led by Tom Bachey and Jim Vota (our Club Education Directors). Tom and Jim both have short '101' programs in place. Haruko Mizoguchi and I did a fly tying demonstration which attracted interest after the discussion. We had planned to let participants try casting outside, but the weather was not amenable.

Ms. Simmons was impressed and asked us to repeat it this spring, and we are doing that. The library put together this flyer. It is posted on their website, on bulletin boards in the library branches, and in the member's newsletter.

If this idea has interest to you, talk to me at any upcoming club meeting, and I'll try to answer any questions you may have. It is an excellent means of community outreach to increase awareness of our sport and promote our club.

## A Few Things of Possible Interest

By Ken Mandel

I've found a couple of videos and blog posts that may be helpful, or if interest for late-winter and early spring fishing. One is an Orvis-sponsored video, part of their pro-tips series, on swinging flies in small rivers for steelhead. As we have a spring steelhead trip on the calendar, and other members get out on their own, I thought this may be interesting. Here is the site: [https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-pro-tips-how-to-swing-flies-for-winter-steelhead-in-small-rivers?adv=352841&cm\\_mmc=linkshare--je6NUbpObpQ--1--352841&ranMID=38663&ranEAID=je6NUbpObpQ&ranSiteID=je6NUbpObpQ-C4BMpOjAbrLlnR.ZEpiWQ](https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-pro-tips-how-to-swing-flies-for-winter-steelhead-in-small-rivers?adv=352841&cm_mmc=linkshare--je6NUbpObpQ--1--352841&ranMID=38663&ranEAID=je6NUbpObpQ&ranSiteID=je6NUbpObpQ-C4BMpOjAbrLlnR.ZEpiWQ) If you cut and paste this into your browser, you'll get to the video, which is about 8 minutes long.



This past month, the Midcurrent blog site (<https://midcurrent.com>) posted a video on casting big streamers. I thought this was also interesting and useful as we approach our white bass run on the Whitewater in late-April/early May, where streamers are the fly of choice. The YouTube video is by Tom Rosenbauer. It is one of his short tip videos, and as typical of these, while only about 2 minutes long it covers the essentials. Tom demonstrates how to cast large streamers (he is using a 5-wt rod!), emphasizing that while this is not a pretty cast, it does get the job done. A key with casting large streamers is avoiding having the fly swinging around in the wind on the back cast where you can lose control and wind up with the fly in places you don't want it – such as yourself! Suggestions include: 1) use a short, stiff leader; 2) eliminating or minimizing false casts to no more than two, to maintain control of the fly; and, 3) using a Belgian cast to start the back cast low. Keeping the cast low, helps keep the fly out of the wind and control the cast. Here is the link: [https://midcurrent.com/videos/how-to-cast-a-big-streamer/?goal=0\\_8efbf3b958-f91f0062c2-42992413&mc\\_cid=f91f0062c2&mc\\_eid=e2b8fc2655](https://midcurrent.com/videos/how-to-cast-a-big-streamer/?goal=0_8efbf3b958-f91f0062c2-42992413&mc_cid=f91f0062c2&mc_eid=e2b8fc2655)

Here is something else from the Midcurrent blog. They had a recent article on 'best flies for winter fishing'. The article accompanies an offer for a package of these flies that they sell, but you don't need to buy anything to see the article. As many insects are dormant during the winter, the types that are in the water and active are pretty limited; here are the suggestions –

- **Midges** – nymphs, emergers & dry flies
- **Mayflies** – BWO nymphs, emergers & dry flies
- **Stonefly nymphs**
- **Caddis fly nymphs**
- **Scuds & Sowbug nymphs**
- **Annelid nymphs**
- **Egg Patterns**

The article has specific information on size ranges and colors and suggests ways to fish the flies. It can be read at: <https://midcurrent.fliesforsale.com/winter-bug-guide/>

### Starting to tie flies?

Last month the Avidmax blog posted a short article offering 5 tips to those beginning to explore this part of our sport. Their tips:

1. **Don't buy a material kit.** Their argument is you get materials for flies you may not tie, and materials are often of lesser quality than what you can purchase independently. Their recommendation is to pick a pattern or two and purchase the specific materials for those flies.
2. **Don't skimp on a good vise.** They recommend not using a 'beginner's vise', but to purchase a good vise initially, in price range of \$200.
3. **Get your tools in a kit.** A kit made by a reputable fly tying company will provide good tools at a reasonable price.
4. **Find patterns in tying books and videos.** There are many excellent books and an incredible number of YouTube videos that provide step-by-step instruction to guide you through tying flies.

5. **Take it slow.** The first flies you tie are not going to look like what is in a picture in a book or on a video, as the people tying in these venues are professionals who've been doing it for decades. It takes time to get proficient, but the initial flies you tie will still work.

*I will add my two-cents worth here. I don't agree with items 1 and 2, but certainly agree with everything else.*

- When I started tying, I purchased a kit from Orvis. It was still in the day when the kit included a book which provided instructions on how to tie, and step-by-step instructions/recipes for 12 basic fly patterns.

The tools and materials provided with the kit were of good quality, and there was more than enough material to tie all the flies in the instruction book. I still have materials from the kit that I continue to use! The kit also included a basic vise, which I found fine for getting started. My experience is that getting kit from a reputable flyfishing outfit will provide decent materials and tools to get started with, and at a reasonable cost.

- I also disagree with their second recommendation to purchase a more expensive vise as a starting tyer. As I said above, I found the simple vise provided with the kit was more than adequate for getting started. Importantly, if you decide you don't like tying, you've not laid out a couple of hundred dollars for something you won't need or use. There are plenty of ways to spend lots of money in this sport, and this is one that in my opinion, is not necessary.

One final thought – if you are thinking of trying fly tying, and are a BUFF member, the introductory fly tying class is a great way to get started and learn if this is something you would enjoy doing. Part of the course is to help you learn what equipment you will need, so don't need tools or a vise. Another approach is to ask if a fellow BUFF member who ties is willing to work with you to show you some basics. Getting together is a great way to both learn and build comradeship. Cari Vota's piece in this month's BUFFER about the women's tying group speaks to that. If you find you enjoy tying, you can then decide on how you want to proceed in getting tools and materials.

## Yellowstone Anglers' Basecamp Registration is Open

The Wyoming trip in early August at Yellowstone Anglers' Basecamp is taking reservations. At the February club meeting it was announced that a few open slots were remaining. This is a chance to experience some of the best fly fishing in the world at a very affordable price.

- **Date for the BUFF group trip is the week of August 6 - 12, 2023.**
- **Cost is \$900 per person and includes lodging, all meals, transportation to fishing sites, & pickup and return at the Cody WY airport.**



***There is more information in the February BUFFER.***

Registration website is: <https://scoutingevent.com/062-64371>. **Tim Guilfoile** is the organizer and trip director. Tim is local and a member of NKFF. For information or questions about the trip, he can be contacted at [tim@anglersbasecamp.org](mailto:tim@anglersbasecamp.org). If the session is fully booked, you may want to reach out to Tim to see if he has a 'wait list', in case someone drops out.

## 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>
<b>Fly Fishing 101</b> Springdale Community Center	Monday March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , & 27 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Jim Vota
<b>Intermediate Fly Tying</b> Springdale Community Center	Tuesday March 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> , & April 4 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 9:00 PM	Jim Neckers
<b>BUFF Banquet</b> Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, March 8 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	
<b>Women's Gear Maintenance Workshop</b> Springdale Community Center	Saturday, March 11 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Cari Vota
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, March 15 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
Tie & Lie Zoom Virtual Session	Friday, March 17 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Zoom link on Website</i>	Gary Begley

## 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.

