



The BUFFER

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

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

Don't you just love it when someone sneaks up on you and takes a photo? I'll get even. As you can see, I've let myself go. Maybe I should shave soon. With all of the isolation and social distancing I've not been to quick to get presentable. How about you?

What have you, our quarantined BUFF members been up to? Staying healthy? Things could be worse. Have you tied your 500th Adams dry fly? How about wooly buggers? I would think that as a club by now, we should not need any more flies for a while. How's your casting coming? Have the delivery men been making comments about your sanity? Caught anything yet? Yes, COVID, come here and I'll give you a hug. That might get you arrested for assault these days.

Under the encouragement of my wife, the energizer bunny, we've been working to clear the forest of honeysuckle. What did honeysuckle ever do to her to deserve this? I must admit, things do look better out back. I have tied flies and tried them at a local pond. I can decisively tell you there are no musky in that pond. However, rumor has it that the fishing in Indian Hills lake (near Camp Denison – need to be a resident of I.H.) has gone to the dogs lately. Apparently, someone caught a musky in the lake. I wonder why no one's catching bass, blue gill or crappie anymore? Someone went to a lot of trouble to put that toothy critter in there. Or did it enter when the river flooded over? I'll volunteer to rid the lake of those toothy predators.

The state sent out a note about fishing is open in Ohio. Get out there and fish. Seems a little conflicted with the daily virus messages. It did say do it responsibly. I'll let you fill in the blank on that. An attached document did say that even though you can go fish, the campgrounds, cabins, indoor facilities, etc. etc. etc., are closed. Be responsible, don't bare yourself to passing motor vehicles if you need to get



relief. Seriously, at this time, please don't travel. Fish locally. If the location is crowded, go somewhere else or come back another day.

Seriously, the governor has come out and given expanded guidelines for reopening some businesses but has held true to social distancing. I feel that the way things are going it could be a couple months before the authorities say otherwise. Will we be able to go to baseball or football games this year? We will do the right thing and remain as is with all in person club group activities being cancelled. This is for the month of May and likely June. VOA and the Springdale Community Center are closed.

The BOD has been thinking of ways to help keep club members engaged in the sport. Lately, many members have been watching videos from George Daniel on his You Tube channel. George is now teaching fly fishing at Pen State. He has been involved with international competition fly fishing and has worked hard to educate on tight line / Euro nymphing methods. Go to his You Tube channel and check out the videos. I know I've learned quite a few things.

Something brand new, Fly Fishers International is beginning to hold online learning events. Go to their web site and see what's up. I'm going to tune in when I can. Copy and paste the following address in your browser or go to the FFI sight for detailed descriptions. https://flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Online?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FFIOnline

As I've said before, take this time to work on the areas of fly fishing that you feel you could improve on. If you need help or advice try asking for it on the forum on our web site. If anyone has a comment or idea of something you would like to see us do while we are locked down let me know. Keep in touch with your friends in the club.

Something I haven't mentioned yet is the clubs COVID 19 Vendor Relief program. There is an article with a description of the program in the BUFFER. I'd like to thank Bob Gustafson for coming up with the original idea and his hard work keeping track of the program. I'd also like to thank the team made up of Bob Miller, Mike Rubush, Tom Bachey and Tom Britton for their work in carrying out the groundwork. I think we all realize the difficulty that the fly-fishing industry is in now. Guides are not able to work, shops are not open to walk in traffic and have had to lay off some of their workers, it's tough times for everyone. Everyone I've talked to in this effort has been very appreciative. I wish all of our friends the best and hope that they will come out of this on their feet.

I'm social distancing even when going to the lake to fish. I used a silver and gold Kreelex fly the other day and caught a dozen crappie in about a half hour. George Daniel reminded me of this fly in his You Tube channel. Keep busy. Keep an ear open for news from the BOD. See you when I can.

El Prez.

Jim Vota

COVID Vendor Relief Effort

A few weeks back Bob Gustafson suggested our club offer support for the various fly fishing businesses that support us – those who participate as exhibitors at our annual show and those who provide items and gift certificates for our various meeting raffles and the banquet event.

The idea has moved forward. A small team - Bob Miller, Tom Bachey, Tom Britton, Mike Rubush, Bob Gustafson and Jim Vota developed a list and contacted the vendors. Everyone contacted expressed their extreme thanks, and several, saying they were doing OK, thankfully declined our offer of help. The team have done a great job in a short time period, given the emergency help nature of the effort. Gift certificates have begun to arrive from the vendors and will be retained by the club for use as we resume activities. The idea is to use the certificates from fly shops, as raffle items at meetings, or at the annual banquet, and certificates for outings with a guide or other trips as silent auction items at the banquet. Since we currently cannot have live meetings, we may offer some as raffles or auction items through the BUFF website. We can accommodate this through the website, and if this is done, we will announce it through an e-mail to club members prior to opening a raffle or auction.

We have also received several statements of gratitude from vendors –

From Michael “Rocky” Cox of Rocky Top Anglers, a guide service near Knoxville, TN –

“I want to thank you as well as the rest of the BUFF's for helping us out. As you know, the entire country has been tossed upside down as the coronavirus has found it's way into America. I don't know of any businesses, professionals or even citizens that have not been affected by this in some form or another. As a small business owner/operator in the fly fishing world, I know that the timing of this couldn't of been worse. But that brings on the question of is there ever a right time for something like this? The answer is no, and we're left to deal with the madness as best we can. This is what makes you and the BUFF family so special during these unthinkable times. My words alone will never be enough to express my gratitude for your actions and kindness. I only know that I'm blessed to have you and the Buckeye United Fly Fisher's looking out for me.”



From Rob Fightmaster, Fightmaster Fly Fishing in Alcoa, TN, posted this thank you in his newsletter –

“... I wanted to take a second to share this. I donate guide trips for a lot of non-profits, fundraisers, etc. One group that I have donated to for awhile is a fishing club in Ohio called Buckeye United Fly Fishers or B.U.F.F. They have always been highly organized, very easy to work with and very supportive of me, which is a big reason I continue donating to them every year.

I just got a call from one of their representatives who told me they had started their version of a "Covid Relief Fund." They're trying to help out small businesses who have supported them over the years. In my case, they purchased a gift certificate for a full day guided trip. Folks, that is something special and an example for all of us on how to behave in this world - as a person, a business or a club.

They're truly an amazing group and I hope you can find a way to support them down the road. If you don't live in that area and it doesn't make sense for you to join their club then maybe you can attend the big fly fishing show they have every year. Or at the very least, pay it forward to a club, organization or small business in your area. I can't tell you how blown away I am by what they're doing.”



Other Comments -

Tom Britton, a team member contacted several vendors, including Angling Consulting, Emergence Angling, Flymasters of Indianapolis, Pristine Products, River Traditions, and Gates AuSable Lodge. Some of the vendors indicated they were doing OK, suggested others who may have better need to some support, and thankfully declined our offer. All however, expressed appreciation of this effort, and had glowing things to say about BUFF and our fly fishing show.

Bob Miller, also a team member, spoke with Jerry, the inventor and distributor of Frogs Fanny floatant. Jerry's primary employment is as a law enforcement officer, and this is a side business. He appreciated our offer, but does not need support, as this business is a side-line of his. Rather, he was so impressed by BUFF taking this initiative to support fly fishing shops and guides, that he is sending a box of Frogs Fanny to our club, and would not accept any refusal.

We Can Get Out & Fish! – *But Do So Safely!!*

First, the ODNR, says we can get out and fish. Local streams and ponds are available for fishing, and maintaining social distancing should not be a problem. It is not, however, the time for group outings or considering travel for angling. The information below, from ODNR, was shared with BUFF membership by Jim Vota several days ago. Regardless, what is most important is to remain safe in whatever we do. Distancing and staying home if you can should still be the operative mode. While we can go fishing locally, we need to do so intelligently; if it's crowded don't go there.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

**DIVISION of
WILDLIFE**

WildOhio.gov

Yes! You Can Still Fish.

Fishing is great for individuals, and staying 6 feet apart is easy to do, so it remains one of the best ways to get out and enjoy Ohio's natural beauty. Children under 16 years old do not need a fishing license which makes this a fun activity to do in small family units. We encourage you to fish locally, rather than traveling across the state.



As a suggestion for something enjoyable to share in these BUFFERS, I asked for photos to share from those who have done some local angling. Here are a couple -

Here is a nice wild rainbow trout sent to us by our buddy J.R Jackson. He caught this one fishing the Beaverkill in upstate NY about a week ago. Hope the club can do its annual pilgrimage to these waters later this year!



Tom Britton got out on a local pond near Oxford and did his best to educate the blue gill population on types of flies that mimic real food. Here are a couple of the numerous blue gill he caught.



Fishing in the Catskills in Early March -

By Bill DeShurko

My daughter, son-in-law, and new grandson moved out of Brooklyn, NY to a small town at the foothills of the Catskills back in December. Wanting to get out to see them, but hoping to avoid what can be pretty bad weather we waited until the first week of March for the trip. I knew it was early in the season, but if I got a break in the weather I was definitely packing my fly fishing gear to take



advantage. I sent an email to James Jackson (J R) who sponsors the annual fall BUFF trip to fish the Catskills, thinking he lived near Cincinnati and asked for some advice. I was surprised to find out he

actually lives in Albany but had lived in Cincinnati and became a BUFF member then. He very cordially invited me to keep him posted on my trip and offered to meet me for a day and show me the area.

We did find a sunny but cold day to go out. The trout season in NY didn't open until April 1, so we were restricted to our fishing spots, and the Beaverkill was running a bit high. We did fish a couple of locations on the Willowemoc. The air temperature was in the 30's and water temperature was 36 degrees. My excuses for saying we got shut out.

But...I would really recommend the trip for anyone on the fence. I have a conflicting trip to Michigan or I would definitely go on the trip. I will most definitely try and get JR to meet me next time we visit my daughter. If we can travel in August, and it works out, we will try and make it back out there. I'll update if we do.

For those not familiar with the area, you are definitely in the foothills. You'd have no idea you're an hour and a half from NYC. It is far less developed than most of the North Carolina trout trail areas are, and just as scenic.

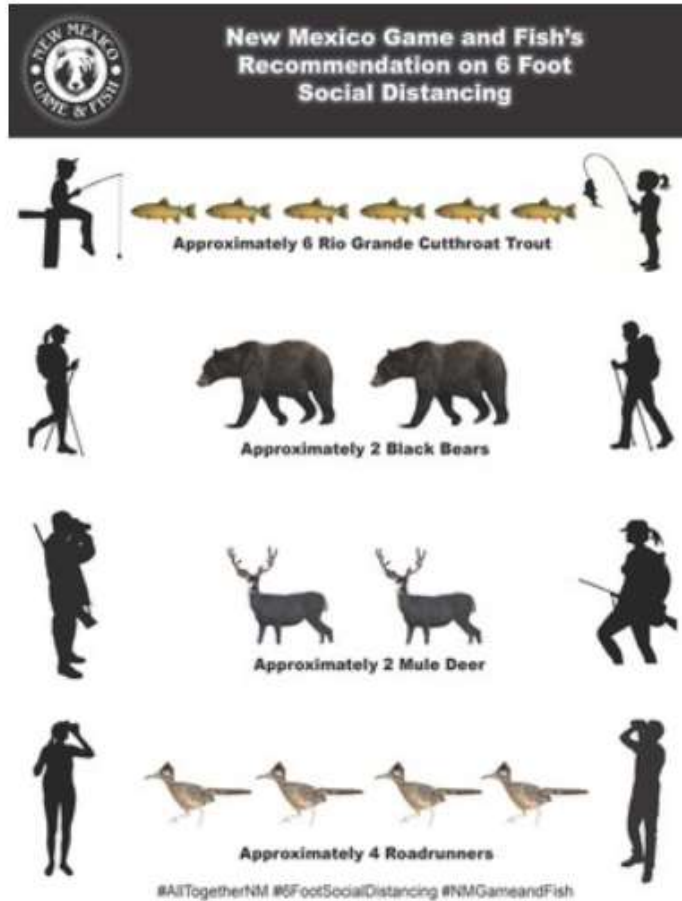
You can look up more about the fishing by looking up the trip info on our BUFF website. I cannot wait to get back. If you need more incentive google fly fishing on the West Delaware. I have never had a day where I was fishing a real hatch and landing trout on dries, but I think there will be many opportunities in this area. Besides this is where fly fishing history was made!

And, if you do go, my personal recommendation for bourbon – they don't ship it to NY! Also, stop at Angry Orchard to see the tree house featured on TV's Treehouse Masters. Angry Orchard also make several ciders that they do not distribute that were really very good as well.



How Can I Judge Correct Social Distancing on a Trail or Stream?

For those who may have difficulty in gauging appropriate 'social distancing' when out in the wilds, and where 6-foot markings are not painted or taped on the ground, this bit from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, might be useful. Let us know if anyone goes hiking and gets close enough to see if two black bears really do represent about a 6-foot distance! Also, while we don't have road runners here in OH, we have plenty of Canada geese waddling around, and 4 of those in a row is probably close to 6-feet.



BUFF May Events Cancelled –

The following is an e-mail notice that Jim Vota sent out to the club –

For the continued health and safety of our members, BUFF has cancelled all activities for May. Large and small groups are still not allowed to gather per the guidelines from the governor. The facilities we use for meetings, the VOA Park Lodge and the Springdale Community Center are not open, and we have no information as to when they may reopen. Aside from that, we, the Board of Directors, feel that it's not worth the risk to our membership to commence club activities at this time.

The Board of Directors will meet in an online meeting on May 20 to review the status. It appears that it could be a long while before things resume. If possible, we might have some small group classes, or start some small group local fishing opportunities in June, or when small groups are allowed to convene by the governor. The key is to be able to do these safely! Our members' health and safety are the first concern and we will not restart club activities until we are assured that risks are minimal.

We are also looking into online programs that could be held with the membership, which some other clubs appear to be doing. This could take the form of an 'on-line club meeting' with a presentation

which one can attend by streaming on your computer or phone. If you have any ideas of your own, please let us know. We'll be happy to look into it. When I say we, I'm referring to the BOD. You can contact anyone on the BOD, or me personally. Contact information is on the BUFF website under the listing of the BOD members.

In the meantime, make use of all the online material that is available while we're waiting for activities to resume. Contact other members if you need information about fly fishing items. A lot can be accomplished through discussions. The club has a wealth of knowledge. Tap into it, don't be afraid to call or email members, and continue to check the Buff website periodically for updates.

Stay healthy,

Jim Vota

BUFF Member Health Concerns –

At our regular meetings, the club president always asks members if anyone is aware of another club member with health issues so we the club can send a card. Harry Pass, the new membership director has asked that he be notified if anyone is aware of another club member with health concerns. Please e-mail him at wpass21052@gmail.com. Also please indicate in the subject line that you are sending him a "BUFF health concern" note. This way he will know it is not just junk e-mail.

We currently have two members with health concerns. Ken Dixon is recovering well from prior scheduled knee replacement. He is doing well and is progressing from using a walker to being able to walk with a cane. He is staying in touch with several club members. Nancy Boude, Jim Boude's spouse is recovering at a rehabilitation facility from a leg fracture.

If anyone is aware of additional health concerns among our members, please send them to Harry.

Get a Daily Dose of Fly Fishing Information and Knowledge

Tom Bachey – h2oguy@fuse.net

We have a lot of new club members who may not be aware of how much information on our sport can be easily found on line. For those who may not be aware, there is a wealth of information on gear, tips, tricks, techniques, and fly tying which can be sent to your email inbox every day. One of my recommendations is "Midcurrent". The web site is: <https://midcurrent.com>. Once at the site, you can "Sign Up", by providing your email address, and voila! There is lots of good information on fly fishing from all different sources and locations. And, if you don't like it, you can always opt out. I get it every day and enjoy at least one article or video each time.

Good luck and good fishing!

Tom Bachey

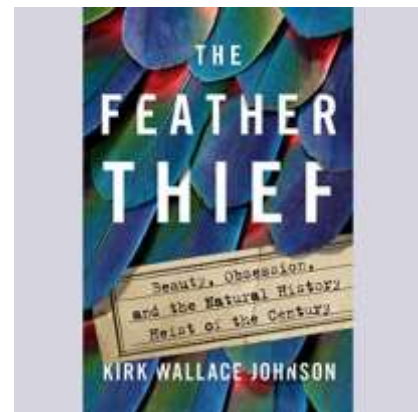
Book Recommendation

Bill DeShurko – bill.deshurko@gmail.com

While we all are anxious to be out fishing, we're all probably spending a little more time at home than we would like. To help pass the time I came across a book that I highly recommend. Not the usual fly fisherman fare. No casting lessons, no new fly revelations, no new destinations. But a great read about a story only made possible by the obsession of the salmon fly tying enthusiast.

I was sitting at my usual spot for the Wednesday wine tasting and talking fly fishing to one of my bar mates. The wine rep overheard me and said there was a podcast she had just listened to by the author of a book about a guy who stole a bunch of feathers for fly tying. Ok, I was interested! No, I'm not really "into" fly tying, will probably never tie a salmon fly, love to fly fish, but don't watch hours of Orvis videos or read many books. But I do love fly fishing, history, and I enjoy a good mystery. "The Feather Thief" came through on all accounts.

Since I was heading to the Catskills at the end of the week, I purchased the audiobook and the Kindle version for the trip. Normally I drive about 6 hours at a time and then take a break while my wife drives. I drove both legs, to and from, 11 hours each way all on my own. I couldn't stop listening. From the early British history of Robert Wallace, a Darwin contemporary who came up with the theory of evolution at the same time as Darwin, but how Darwin received the credit, the near extinction of exotic birds because of fashion, a reference to Sacha Baron Cohen, obsessed fly tiers, the Rothchild's, and a crime that would seem absurd and of little importance without the entire tale woven by the author.



Fly Fishing 101 Lingo

This article was posted to the blog page of the postflybox.com website (www.postflybox.com) by Dan Zazworsky this past February. The blog page of this site offers a number of interesting and helpful articles on many fly fishing related topics, and may be worth checking out.

When you walk into a fly shop or a gathering of fly anglers for the first time, often times the confusing aspect of the sport isn't the gear or the fishing, it's the lingo. Often times sounding like a completely foreign language, "drop this off that", "dead-drift it" to a new angler's ear this all sounds like nonsense. Previously, that lingo took time to learn and understand, but we're here to curate a constantly growing, quick-reference guide of some of the most common fly fishing words or phrases that may leave a new angler scratching their head in bewilderment.

"Headwaters" –

Definition: "a tributary stream of a river close to or forming part of its source." Any time an angler refers to fishing the headwaters of a river or stream, they're usually referring to poking up small

tributaries on the hunt for wild fish, usually trout! It's an easy term to use to avoid giving away a favorite tributary of a river while explaining where you caught that huge wild trout!

“Tailwater” –

The term “tailwater” usually refers to a creek, stream or river that is flowing out from a dam. Many tailwaters are phenomenal fisheries, as the temperature of the water leaving the reservoir is typically temperature stable, creating the perfect opportunity for trout and other fish to feed year-round and grow large!

“Strip-Set” –

Used whenever you are fishing streamers. A strip-set is a method used to hook a fish once it eats your fly. All you have to do is keep stripping in your fly in with the rod low, pointed towards the fly until you feel the weight of the fish throbbing at the end of your leader. A strip-set ensures that you pull the fly horizontally through the trout's mouth and buries the hook in the corner of the mouth.

“Trout-Set” –

A trout-set refers to when you simply lift your rod above your head once a fish takes your fly. Often times you hear someone say “Why did you trout set?” when you lose a fish on a streamer.

“Hopper” –

No, we're not talking about David Harbour's character in Stranger Things. “Hopper” refers to any time you are fishing a dry fly that mimics a grasshopper. Often used in the phrase, “Hopper-dropper” which refers to when you suspend a nymph below a bushy dry fly.

“Dropper” –

Refers to any time that you suspend a nymph below a dry fly, one of the most effective ways to cover water anywhere trout swim.

“Dead-Drift” –

A dead-drift is any time that you allow your flies to drift freely in the current. Used whenever another angler is describing how they were fishing their flies.

Dry Fly v. Wet Fly –

While seemingly easy to differentiate, dry flies float and wet flies get wet, this is one of those little nuances that may be difficult to understand out the gate, especially if you are speaking to an older angler. “Wet flies” typically refer to unweighted emerger style flies swung across the current, as opposed to any fly that gets wet.

“Articulated” –

When referencing streamers, “articulated” simply means that the fly is made up of multiple sections connected by wire or linked in segments. Articulated streamers have more movement than their single-hooked compatriots.

“Meat” –

If you hear another angler referring to the big brown trout they hooked while fishing “meat,” they’re bragging about fishing streamers, not throwing actual meat into the water, although we think that might work too.

Knots to Tie Tippet or Leader Sections Together

By Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com)

Two knots we often use to tie a section of tippet onto a leader, or in building leaders, are the Double- or Triple-Surgeon’s Knot and the Blood Knot. In the “Education” section of the “Education/Conservation” page of the BUFF website is a link to “Animated Knots” which provides instruction on tying these knots. On this page, the double surgeon’s knot is named the Surgeon’s Join Knot. The difference is that there the two ends are pulled through the loop one extra time to form the Triple Surgeon’s Knot.

The Surgeon’s Knot is an excellent and strong knot for tying up leader sections or adding on tippet when the size of the materials differs in diameter. Also, it is a simple knot to tie. Essentially, form a loop, and make a series of overhand knots through the loop with the two ends of the materials. That’s it. Even I can do it!

While I have found tying the Double- or Triple Surgeon’s Knot to be easy, I have always found tying a Blood Knot to be much more difficult. I’ve been shown how to do it numerous times by those who know, but have never been able to go back and do it again. The Blood Knot is also a useful knot, working well when tying materials of similar size or tying smaller tippet sections. It is also useful as a means of adding a dropper line to an existing length of tippet or leader as the ends come out at about a 90° angle. The knot itself has a smaller profile than the Surgeon’s Knot.

The Blood Knot is shown in Articulated Knots, but I have struggled with the instruction and demonstration provided in this. However, I recently found a short video demonstration that worked for me. It is a 3 minute U-tube video that Rob Fightmaster has on his website – <http://fightmasterflyfishing.com/>. It is in the “Journal” page of the website. The link to the video is - <https://youtu.be/EDqkem8sjhA>. Watching Rob’s description of tying this knot, and especially how he holds and positions the sections of leader/tippet was extremely helpful. I’ve got it down now and can add this useful knot to my repertoire when out on a pond or stream. If the Blood Knot is one that you also find difficult to manage, I suggest you check out this video and give it a try afterwards.

There are other videos and a lot of great information on many topics related to fly fishing on Rob’s website. It is a great resource to check out.

After the Pandemic, Phases to Get Back Out Fishing

By Cari Vota

All of us have been home tying flies or watching fishing videos. Some of us may be working from home, or so we tell our bosses. There is no date yet to return to our new normal. But that doesn’t mean we

shouldn't begin to plan how we get out. The ODNR has reminded us fishing in Ohio is still open, with precautions.

Here are my 3-phases for reentry to fly fishing for BUFF members.

Phase 1: Fish Local. It's okay to step outside. Practice personal distancing while fishing by yourself. Find that local pond you've heard about. Be sure to tell someone where you will be and when you should return. Safety 1st. Take your own flask. Mine will have Scotch in it.

Phase 2: Fish Local. Some non-essential travel is permitted. Consider meeting a friend at the local fishing spot. Discuss favorite tying video or other websites in person. No club meetings yet. Bars are not open yet. Make sure your friend has his/her own flask. I've refilled mine with Scotch.

Phase 3: Fish Local. May be able to cross state lines to fish. Some meetings may begin if distancing is maintained, possibly outdoors. Meet friends to fish at your new favorite spot. It may be okay to share your flask, except mine which I refilled again with Scotch.

Don't be that guy no one has heard from. Call and see how your fishing buddies are doing. Make plans for your 1st trip out and maybe a big future trip too. The fish are just getting bigger while we wait for that day.

George Daniel – Fly Fishing Guide and Educator –

By Ken Mandel

Over the last few weeks, some fellow BUFFers members have shared notes about some video presentations by George Daniel. Topics included European Nymphing, a novel indicator system, and a nice looking indicator fly.

Personally, I had never heard of George prior to this, and was thinking that other in the club are unaware of him as well. George lives in Pennsylvania, and is a widely known expert guide and fly fishing instructor. He has competed in the World Fly Fishing Championships. Last December, George was appointed as the lead instructor of the fly fishing program at Penn State University. This is not a new program, courses in fly fishing have been offered at Penn State since the 1930's, and George is the latest in a list of fly fishing luminaries who have been associated with this program. If interested you can read more about his position and the fly fishing program at PSU at the following link -

<https://news.psu.edu/story/601205/2019/12/09/academics/george-daniel-named-lead-instructor-fly-fishing-program>

Here are a couple of additional video links by George Daniel that may be interesting.

- The first is a link demonstrating an indicator system called the New Zealand Wool Indicator. It is a very simple and nice indicator system. It can be purchased through numerous fly shops. The video also, and primarily shows how to use this system when nymph fishing for trout. It's a



really nice, entertaining, and instructive video. Worth watching! -

<https://youtu.be/rSx917pZNAo>

- This one is an Orvis-sponsored video, hosted by Tom Rosenbauer, with instruction on Euro-Nymphing by George Daniel. Another excellent and instructive video. -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6JYix1EUoE>
- Jeff McElravy also shared a tying video by George for a pattern called the “Micro Chubby”. It is a foam, Chernobyl ant-like, pattern that can be used as an indicator fly. Jeff shared this as a suggestion for tying with our Project Healing Waters group, but again, a good instruction video by Mr. Daniel. – https://youtu.be/hd_M8UyN_q4

George has a site where he posts blogs and instructional videos. It is “Livin on the Fly”. The website is: <https://www.livinonthefly.com/>. You can subscribe for free by providing you e-mail address.

Upcoming BUFF Activities

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation all upcoming BUFF activities for May are cancelled or on hold.