



# The BUFFER

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The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH  
Volume 45, Issue 5      Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com>      May 1, 2021

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## The President's Fly Box

*Congratulations to Hugh O'Donnell's on his election as club President. Here is his first cover letter to the BUFFER.*

Fishing season is upon us. The Brookville tailwater is once again stocked with trout. White bass are making their spawning runs into the headwaters from many lakes. Fish are biting at my neighborhood pond. The Ohio steelhead are returning to the lake and smallmouth are reportedly making their spawning run from Erie. The end of April promises some warm weather. It is a good time to fish.

Wow, our new Covid rules have allowed a local trip to proceed. The last BUFF trip that I remember was in 2019. It may not seem like it, but this is progress. The Indiana counties are generally at lower levels of Covid incidence. This allows us to go there for local fishing. We still await Ohio counties in the Greater Cincinnati area to reduce the Covid risk level to Orange or Yellow. As more people are vaccinated, the hope is that Cincinnati area infections will decline. This will allow BUFF organized local trips to LMR, GMR, Stillwater etc. to proceed.

Rumors are that Covid mask rules will change. As always, our rules are guided by the guidelines of governments. We will continue to follow and update our rules based on local, state and federal guidelines. Our first thought is to protect our membership followed by engaging our membership in fly fishing activities.

BUFF has activities waiting to go. The women's group has a list of after work activities planned. Stream Quality Monitoring dates are set. We will set up some new local trips once our Covid rules can be met. If you can lead a local trip to an Orange or Yellow county such as Clinton or Brown, please let Steve Bailey, our Trip Director, know. Every trip is one step closer to normalcy.

In the meantime, we not only have virtual general membership meetings but training as well. Tim Williamson completed his fly fishing 101 virtual course. Gary Bagley started his Tie & Lie Friday night virtual tying sessions. Do you have a topic that you can share virtually? Let us know.

We continue to reach out to membership for new ideas, suggestions and volunteers. Please contact any of the Board members to express your interest. We must continue to look for what is possible, and your help is needed.

Hugh O'Donnell.

## **BUFF May Meeting – Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM – May Speaker – Bob Clouser, “Fly Fishing for Bass from Top to Bottom”**

Yes, believe it! Our May speaker will be Bob Clouser, the person who invented and popularized the Clouser Minnow.

Just about anyone who fly fishes has heard about and probably fished a Clouser Minnow. Bob developed the fly in the late 1980's, as a 4-to-5 inch long lead-wrapped streamer to fish smallmouth bass in Pennsylvania's Susquehanna river, Bob's local water. While developed as a smallmouth lure, the Clouser Minnow is renown for attracting and catching multiple species, both fresh and saltwater. In the late 1990's Left Kreh reported to have caught over 80 fish species with this fly. His main goal in the design of this fly was to mimic an escaping bait fish. The weighting gets the fly down in the water. When it is retrieved it rises and then darts or drops when you pause between retrieves.

Bob is a long-time, high-profile guide and innovative fly tier. He has guided and fished the Susquehanna River near his home in Middletown, PA. Bob has written a number of books on fishing and tying techniques, some co-authored with his long-time friend Left Kreh.

Bob's website - [www.clousersflyshop.com](http://www.clousersflyshop.com) – has links to information on his flies and books, information on selecting proper sized lead eye weights to match the minnow pattern's weight to line weights, best areas for selecting bucktail for tying these patterns, and excellent instruction on how to cast these weighted flies using a method that he developed with Left Kreh. The shop is also a source for materials, books and videos, and tied flies.

Register and plan to attend what should be a very interesting and enjoyable evening.



- 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 May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 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

During the past month, we've added 3 new members –

**Brian Huey and Family, Pat & Sean**, from Boise, Idaho.

**Chris Puckett**, from Burlington, Kentucky

**Mark Carpenter**, from Springboro, Ohio.

**Andy Horn**, who joined with his son, **Kent**, another family membership, from Evandale, Ohio.

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!

## Save the Date – 2022 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022!

The Fly Fishing show team has reconvened. We are hopeful that we will be able to host the 2022 show as we normally do. We have booked the Oasis Conference Center for the first Saturday in February 2022, which will be February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Bob Miller from the planning team is contacting several people to identify a headliner and we are beginning to plan a program of interesting presentations, learning opportunities, and of course, a wealth of exhibitors. We have already had several exhibitors contact us to ask if a 2022 show is being planned, and, expressing strong interest in coming back to Cincinnati.

***So..... mark your calendars for now to keep the date.***

## 2021 Board of Director Vacancies

Last month we had two of our Board members announce that they are stepping down, so we have an urgent need to replace them.

- Jack Gormley will no longer continue to serve as one of the Co-Chairs for Program planning. Dolph Greenberg is the other Co-Chair for this function, and we need a second person in this role. The Program Directors are the key point of contact to engage and arrange the speakers at our monthly meetings. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Dolph who can explain what is involved. You can e-mail him at [greenbam@miamioh.edu](mailto:greenbam@miamioh.edu).
- Tim Williamson, who has long-served as the Director for Club Education is also stepping down. He has new and very demanding work obligations that are consuming his time. If anyone is potentially interested in taking on this important club function, please reach out to Hugh O'Donnell (e-mail: [odonnellhj@gmail.com](mailto:odonnellhj@gmail.com)). Hugh can explain what is involved with this position

Taking on a Board position does not mean you have to do it 'all on your own', or have all the necessary knowledge. Club members step in to help. Once can adjust a Board position to your abilities as well. Often the role for a position is one of leadership, organization, and communication, Please think about getting more involved in our Club, as a club is only as strong as its members want it to be.

## Reminder Online BUFF Programs

### Ties & Lies

As a reminder, Gary Begley has restarted Ties & Lies. It is being done as a virtual 'get together' on Zoom. Gary discusses and demonstrates tying a couple of flies. A bit different from a group tying together, but it is fun, interactive, and instructive. Ties & Lies is the third Friday of the Month at 6:30 PM. Next session is Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Aside from our monthly meeting, we are working to engage additional speakers. Watch for e-blasts and check the website for announcements.

## In Person BUFF Programs

As Hugh mentioned in his cover letter, we are restarting in-person, club-organized activities. Currently these are limited to day trips. In late April, Bob Gustafson and Jeff Georin led 4 trips on the Whitewater River in Indiana for White Bass fishing. Several BUFF members registered and everyone caught fish and had an enjoyable and Covid-safe day on the river.

A number of other activities are listed on the BUFF calendar (on the BUFF website) as tentative outings. If COVID incidence rates continue to decline, it is likely that these can become scheduled events.

At present, club-sponsored activities in Ohio are limited to counties with a COVID incidence ranked at a risk of "orange" or lower, based on the state's grading system. **Don Kail has posted a link on the BUFF website homepage that takes you to state maps which show county-by-county COVID incidence rates.**

Currently, we cannot have 'trips' in Hamilton county, and most of the immediate surrounding counties in Ohio, as these all remain at a risk level of 'red'. Happily the newest 'map', issued on April 29<sup>th</sup>, reported Butler county has improved to 'orange'. This makes outings there allowable. Overall changes to the Ohio COVID incidence map are moving in a positive direction, which is good news.

Covid incidence in near-by counties in Kentucky and Indiana are low, so club trips in those areas, such as the White Bass outings that were held in Indiana in late-April are feasible. Unfortunately, many BUFF members are not very familiar with local waters in Indiana or Kentucky, so if you are familiar with fishing in these places, and are a BUFF member, please consider leading a day trip. Contact Steve Bailey, the BUFF Director for trips, and he can explain how to organize an outing. Steve's e-mail contact is: [chiefrsb@fuse.net](mailto:chiefrsb@fuse.net).

Leading a local trip is not difficult. Again, other BUFF members can help, and getting involved would greatly enable us to get back to in-person activities.

## New CDC Rules Regarding Using Masks When Outside

About a week ago the CDC revised their recommendations regarding the need to use masks when engaged in outdoor activities. The recommendations consider vaccination status, people involved, and closeness of contact. The chart below is a quick summary of the new CDC guidelines.

both doses of the two vaccines requiring double shots.

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
		<b>Outdoor</b>	
Safest		Walk, run, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	



**Prevention measures not needed**



**Take prevention measures**  
Fully vaccinated people: wear a mask  
 Unvaccinated people: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

As shown on the right column, common outdoor activities can be conducted safely without a mask for those fully vaccinated. This is limited to small groups of household member, friends, or family who are also fully vaccinated. Including some unvaccinated attendees can be safely done without the vaccinated individuals needing to wear a mask. Outdoor dining at a restaurant with a small group of friends can also now be indicated as a safe, mask-free activity once vaccinated. However, a mask remains recommended for everyone when attending outdoor events with large crowds in close contact, such as sports events, concerts, etc. Though not on the chart a mask remains recommended when going to stores for shopping.

If unvaccinated, the new CDC recommendations are in the left column. Here outdoor activities with household members and small gathering with fully vaccinated family or friends can be done safely without wearing a mask. However, if unvaccinated, the CDC continues to recommend wearing a mask when participating in outdoor activities, such as dining outdoors with friends, or small outdoor group activities with other unvaccinated individuals.

Of course, proper use of the mask – covering both you mouth and nose – is required.

## BUFF Casting Class - June

The BUFF casting instructors are planning to offer the club's spring casting course. This will be in-person, and will be conducted using the club's COVID guidance.

Sessions will be held on the first 3 Sunday's in June – June 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Sessions will be from 1 PM to 4 PM on each of those days. Currently, as Warren County has now changed to "orange" status re COVID incidence, it is likely that the course will be conducted at Cottrell Park.

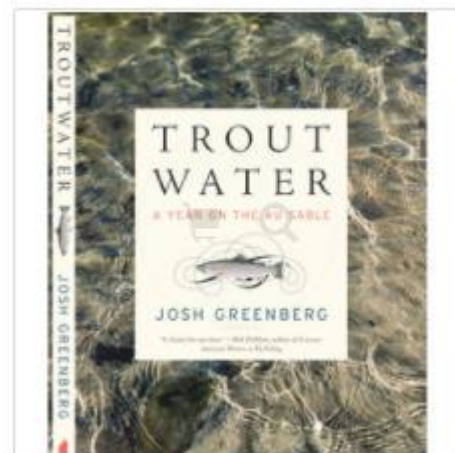
**Watch for an e-blast from the club regarding registration and other information!**

## “Trout Water”

Josh Greenberg's new book, "Trout Water, A Year on the Ausable" recently received a very positive review from The Wall Street Journal –

***“Josh Greenberg is my kind of nature writer.” – The Wall Street Journal***

It's the beginning of trout fishing season, and Josh Greenberg – proprietor of one of the nation's most famous fishing outfitters, on America's most iconic trout fishing stream, the Au Sable River in Michigan – is standing in the Au Sable at dusk when he gets the call that a dear fishing buddy has died.



The solace he takes from fishing – from reading the movement of the river water, studying the play of the light, and relying on his knowledge of insect and fish life – prompts him to reflect on the impact of the natural world on his life in his fisherman's journal.

Over the course of a year, the journal transcends fishing notes to include some beautifully lyrical nature writing, entertaining stories of the big one that got away, cheerful introspection about a love that's hard to explain, and yest a tip or two.

Eventually, Josh Greenberg realizes he hasn't been alone in the woods, not really. Much of his relationship with his family and friends has played out on the river. And as he catches – and releases – trout after trout back into one of the most beautiful rivers in America, Greenberg comes to help us realize, too, that there's more to fishing than catching fish.

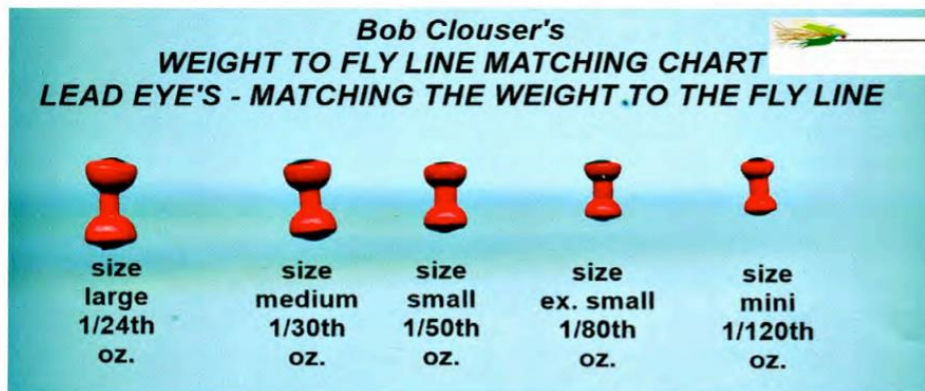
# What Size Lead Eyes Should I Use on a Streamer?

By Ken Mandel

Since we have Bob Clouser as our speaker this month, I thought sharing some information on choosing the correct size of lead eye for tying his signature fly, the Clouser Minnow, would be of possible interest. It was to me!

Personally, I have tied Clousers, but never really liked the way they cast. They always seemed too heavy for my rods. My impression was probably correct, because the eyes I purchased, from local tackle shops, were bought based on 'sizes' listed on the package, and with the information I gleaned from Bob's website, I believe they were very likely too heavy for the rod and line weight, I am using.

Bob Clouser has an article posted in his website which discusses this. Importantly, he sizes lead eyes by weight, not size, and recommends a weight range that work best for different line weights. For example, if you are fishing a 5-wt line, he recommends lead eyes with a weight range of 1/120<sup>th</sup> to 1/50<sup>th</sup> of an ounce (what he lists as mini – small). Most packaged eyes that I have found list sizes in 32nd's or 64th's of an inch, but that is not weight!. If they do indicate a size, such as 'small' or 'medium', in my experience, I have not seen an associated weight listed on the package either



The short article also has a table suggesting weight ranges to use for different line weights –

**Lead Eye Weights most suitable for these line weights.**

Line	Ounce of weight
5 weight	= 1/120, 1/80, 1/50
6 weight	= 1/120, 1/80, 1/50
7 weight	= 1/120, 1/80, 1/50
8 weight	= 1/120, 1/80, 1/50, 1/30
9 weight	= 1/120, 1/80, 1/50, 1/30, 1/24
10 weight	= 1/120, 1/80, 1/50, 1/30, 1/24

Finally, Bob sells lead eyes by weight from his shop! Some other vendors also sell these eyes by weight as well.

In addition, Bob's website also includes a download describing the Inverted Loop Cast. He and Lefty Kreh developed this case to use with weighted streamer flies. He describes the technique in 3 steps. Between using eyes appropriate to my line weight, and a better cast, I am hoping to improve both my ability to cast weighted streamers and enjoyment in fishing them.

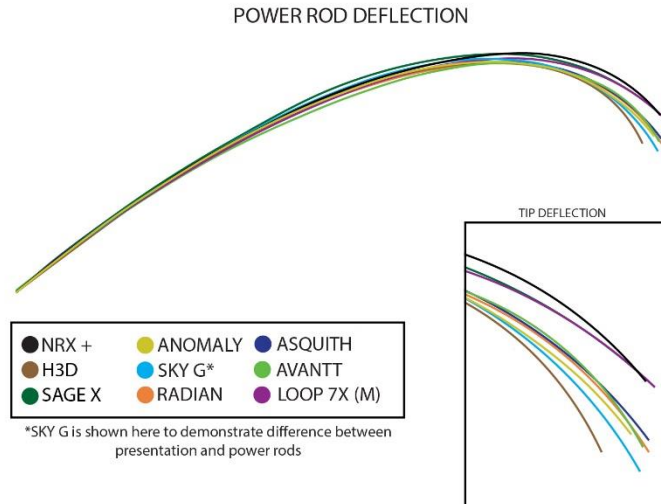
## Yellowstone Angler Rod Reviews

By Ken Mandel

Yellowstone Angler is a tackle shop and guide service based in Livingston, Montana. Periodically, these folks test and review rods in a 'shoot out' comparison. They include rods across a range of affordability, so it is not only the highest-end and most-expensive equipment that is tested. The reviews provide a lot of technical data with the rods evaluated against specific performance criteria. The reviews provide a lot of technical data with the rods evaluated against specific performance criteria.

I have to thank fellow BUFF member, Haruko Mizoguchi, for making me aware of this. This past fall Haruko and I fished on the Au Sable, and one of our guides provided her a Scott Radian 5 weight rod. She really enjoyed this rod, finding it greatly superior to her current 5-wt. A major factor was that the Scott rod felt much lighter, and as a smaller person, Haruko was more comfortable with it. So, Haruko's in the 'market' for a new rod. She found the Yellowstone Angler Shoot Out information and is using that to consider rods she'd like to evaluate as she pursues an addition to her arsenal.

Yellowstone Angler has run multiple shoot-out tests, evaluating rods across a broad weight range. As an example, the 2020 5-weight shoot tested 32 rods, with the results divided into 'presentation' and 'power' rods. Think of a presentation rod as a finesse rod and a power rod as a stronger rod which can better perform in adverse conditions or cast longer distances. Tests were conducted using the same lines and reels on all the rods, with lines set to cast 25, 45 and 75 ft (multiple rods set up), with extensive results presented. For example, graphics compared all the tested rods for their overall and tip deflection, with one example shown here. In addition, a standardized scoring system evaluated multiple factors, including price, craftsmanship, warranty, 'fun to fish', and numerous performance evaluations. If you are a data-driven person, there is a ton of information on each tested rod in the presentation, including the weights of each rod. An example of a tabular data set for 5-wt 'presentation rods' is shown below.





Presentation Rods Final Results		Best in Test										Grand Total
Rank	Maximum points available in category	Price	Craftsmanship	Warranty	Fun to Fish "got to have"	Overall Weight	Swing Weight	Light Tippet Protection	Performance at 25 Feet	Performance at 45 Feet	Performance at 70 Feet	
		10	10	10	10	10	20	20	20	20	20	150
1	Douglas SKY 6 9' #5 \$795	7.5	9.5	9.5	10	9.6	20	19.5	20	20	19.5	145.1
2	G. Loomis NRX+ LP 9' #5 \$795	7.5	9.5	10	9.8	9.6	19.2	18.9	19.5	20	19.8	143.8
3	Orvis Helios 3F 9' #5 \$898	7	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.4	18.4	19.2	19.3	19.8	19.5	141.1
4	Hardy Zephyrus 9' #5 \$699	7.8	9.5	9	9.2	9.6	18.7	18.6	19.6	19.5	19.3	140.8
5	Beulah Platinum 62 9' #5 \$550	8	9	9	9	10	19.5	19.2	19	19.2	18.7	140.6
6	Thomas & Thomas Paradigm 9' #5 \$875	7	10	9.5	9	9.7	18.4	20	19	19.3	18	139.9
7	Hardy Shadow 9' #5 \$359.95	9	9	9	9	9.6	18.4	18.3	19	19.2	18.5	139
8	Fenwick Retos 9' #5 \$199.95	10	8	10	8.5	8.7	18.1	17.5	18.8	18.8	18.5	136.7
9	Scott G Series 8'8" #5 \$845	7	9.5	9.5	9	9.3	17.9	19	18.5	18.5	17	135.2
10	Winston AIR 9' #5 \$975.00	6.5	10	8.5	8.9	8.6	17.4	18.8	18.5	18.8	18.5	134.5
11	Sage Trout LL 9' #5 \$800	7	9	9	7	9.8	17.3	17	17	18	17.5	128.6

Shoot out reviews of 4-, 5-, 6-, and 8-weight rods are on the Yellowstone Angler site, along with reviews on reels, waders and tippet materials. Like I said, if you are data-driven, the Yellowstone Angler site will give you something to do.

Check it out at: <https://www.yellowstoneangler.com/>

## Womens' Casting Events This Month

By Cari Vota

One of the greatest aspects of fly-fishing is the simple joy of casting. Not only is it great fun, but practice with the fly rod builds your comfort and muscle memory so that when you are out on the water and the fish are rising you can put the fly where it needs to be and get the most out of your fishing time. A basic understanding of common casting faults to look out for and how to remedy them will help you focus on improvement during your practice sessions and, over time, develop good casting skills, which can lead to more fish.

Come join Ohio Women on the Fly (OWOTF) and Fly Fishers International Women Connect (FFIWC) as we co-host (3) casting events in Ohio for **Women Fly Fishing month**.

- On June 12th in the Cincinnati/Dayton area, and June 19th in Columbus, we will be offering Casting and Casting Improvement events. We will have both FFI and fly club instructors helping at both events. An FFI Bronze Challenge course will be setup for you to learn more about that, and/or try out your skills.
- Spey casting is not just for Steelhead, nor requires a 2-handed rod. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, Jeff Liskay shows us what this type of casting is and how you can use it, with or without a 2-hand rod. This introduction to spey casting will be an on-the-water event at a local park near Cleveland.

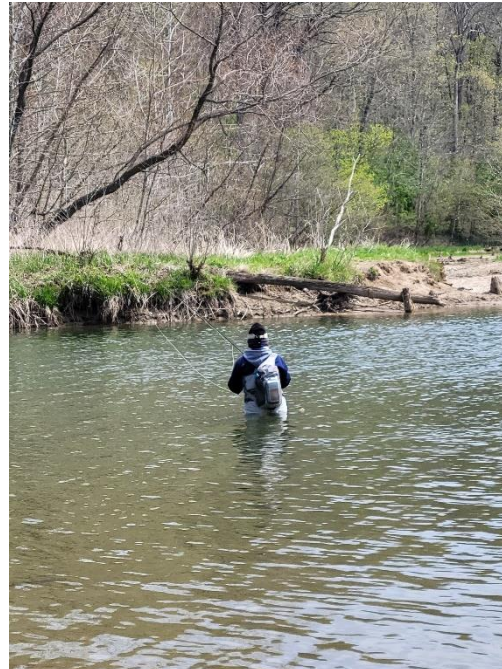
Sign-up for these events is through the OWOTF website, [www.ohiowomenonthefly.com/events](http://www.ohiowomenonthefly.com/events). Registration will open on about May 1st. Registration for Cincinnati and Columbus events will be limited to 10 women at each. The spey casting event will also have limited registration.

FFIWC is an outreach program of FFI designed to bring in and connect women fly-fishers through education, women's trips and events as well as encourage participation with their local fly-fishing clubs. Like FFIWC, OWOTF is bringing women in Ohio's fly-fishing community together and inspiring more women to get on the water with trips and events. Buckeye United Fly Fishers is an Affiliated Club of FFI.

## Spring White Bass Fishing

Last month Bob Gustafson provided an article on seasonal local white bass fishing. The annual spawning run of White Bass up feeder streams from area lakes and reservoirs occurs from around mid-April and lasts until mid-May. BUFF offers annual day trips on the East Fork of the Whitewater River in Indiana that are led by Jeff Georgin and Bob. Happapaily, with the downturn in COVID incidence, and vaccines being available, BUFF was able to restart in-person trips and had white bass trips on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. Several club members signed up. Everyone caught fish, and the COVID compliance policies the club has put in place so we can restart outings in a safe way worked well.

Here are some photos and comments from the trips -





New club member, Cammi Arnold with a nice white bass – the first fish she ever caught on a fly rod!



East Fork of the Whitewater in Indiana

## Other Club Members Getting out to Fish -

Tom Bachey did a float trip on Ohio Brush Creek (Adams County) in mid-April. He caught a few spotted bass on a yellow-chartreuse wooly bugger.



Several folks have been fishing the Brookville tailwaters. In early April, Jeff McGarvey tried out his Tenkara rod and caught nice trout there (left photo below). It was his first time fishing this way. Kathy Newsom also got out on this stream and landed a couple of beautiful trout. The one in the net was a huge one! Cathy and her spouse John also got out in mid-April on the East Fork of the Whitewater just as the white bass run was getting started. They got a couple on that day as well.





Pat Goddard and Samuel Hanna got in some steelhead fishing up north. Pat fished the Grand River and Samuel the Rocky River in the Cleveland area.



Pat's steelhead



Sam Hanna's steelhead

Sam Hanna also got in some ocean fishing off Hilton Head Island in South Carolina. He caught his first redfish on a fly rod.



***Thanks to everyone who sent in photos!***