



The BUFFER

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

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Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com>

May 1, 2023

The President's Fly Box

Back by popular demand is Kevin Feenstra to talk about "Fly Fishing for Trout on the Muskegon". I floated the Muskegon for the first-time last year after hearing Kevin's talk, and was shocked by the sheer number of brown trout looking up at me as I floated by in my kayak. Naturally, I'm looking forward to hearing from Kevin and learning how to catch more of these big fish. Please join BUFF at our membership meeting on 5/10/23.

My favorite fishing time of the year is when the white bass are spawning in the Brookville headwaters. Fishing the Brookville headwaters to catch these fish is always fun. It is always great to see who catches 100 fish during these BUFF trips. I highly recommend the trip. If trip space exists, go!

On another note, BUFF is offering an excellent casting class in May. Should you come? Well, it depends on how you rank yourself based on the considerations below:

You might consider going to the fly casting class if -

- you spend more time untangling your leader than casting flies,
- you can look downstream and see all your flies in the trees,
- you've made five casts to that giant fish and still can't get your fly anywhere near him,
- you just want to be better at casting.

I bet that I will see many of you at the class this month. 😊

Lastly, protecting fish and their waters is of great interest to fly fishers. BUFF surveys bug life in our streams and reports it to local government agencies. Catching and counting bugs in our rivers is a great time to learn and contribute to monitoring our fishy environment. Please sign up for a local outing online.

Enjoy the spring and take a friend fishing.

Hugh O'Donnell,
BUFF President

BUFF May Meeting – Wednesday May 10th

Our monthly meeting at the Oasis Center starts at 6:00 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner will be served at about 6:30 PM, the business meeting and announcements start at about 7:15 PM, and our speaker's presentation will start at 7:45 PM. This month we will have an in-person presentation, so it will not be streamed on Zoom.

May Speaker – Kevin Feenstra, “Fly Fishing for Trout on the Muskegon”

Kevin began guiding in Western Michigan while in his early 20's as an alternative to graduate school, establishing Feenstra Guide Service in 1997. Now more than 25 years later, he has never looked back. Kevin's passion is swinging flies for steelhead and lake-run brown trout, but he loves to fly fish for any predator that swims. He resides in Newaygo, Michigan, guiding many days each year on the Muskegon River System (and fishing whenever he can). The Muskegon is a large and diverse fishery, so he guides the full range of the fishery - migratory fish, resident trout, and warm water species.



Besides being a guide, Kevin is an accomplished tyer, and his steelhead, smallmouth, and trout flies have been published in books, magazines, and online. In addition to fly fishing, Kevin has a passion for, and excels at outdoor photography. His photography focuses on the waterways of Western Michigan, capturing the special character of Midwest fish, rivers, and wildlife.

Recently, Kevin has released a new book, entitled “Matching Baitfish—Patterns and Techniques for Great Lakes Steelhead and Lake Run Browns”. This book highlights his knowledge of migratory fish and features remarkable photography taken above and below the water. In addition, Kevin has been featured in fly fishing books, has contributed to international, national, and regional fly fishing magazines, and has had his photographs grace the covers cover of various magazines, including *Midwest Fly Fishing Magazine*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Michigan Trout*, and *Ontario Out of Doors*. Kevin has authored DVDs for steelhead and smallmouth bass. His most recent title is “Striking Steel” a DVD about Midwestern steelhead fishing. Other available titles are “Searching for Steelhead” and “Big Appetite, Small Mouth”.

With a love for our natural resources, Kevin loves to share his fishing knowledge and experiences with other anglers. He frequently is a featured presenter at fly fishing shows throughout the region, and during the off season, he speaks at fly shops and clubs. His talks cover a wide variety of fly fishing topics. He also gives photography related programs focusing on Western Michigan's rivers as a whole.

May Dinner Menu

- Chef's Choice Salad & Dressing
- Dinner Rolls & Butter
- Caribbean Sliced Pork Loin
- WildRice Pilaf
- Green Beans Almondine
- Chef's Choice Dessert
- Coffee & Tea

May 10-Minute Tech Talk

This month Jerry Schatzman demonstrate tying the 16/20 knot.

New Club Members! – This is thru Mid-April

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added 3 New members!

John Rost, Loveland, OH

Stuart Donovan, Cincinnati, OH

Craig Wilson, Kings Mills, OH

Aileen Grever Pogran, Milford, OH

Bob Craft, Cincinnati, OH

Jim Anderson, Aurora, IN

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!

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.

On the BUFF website home page, click “Member Services”. This area is limited to BUFF members, so you will be asked to login with your e-mail address. Once logged in, choose the “Browse the Library” icon to bring up the list of library books and holdings. There is a GREEN “Reserve It” box on the right of each item. Clicking that reserves the item and it will be brought for pick up at the next club meeting. Returning books is also easy – just bring them to the next meeting.

This is an easy-to-use resource to obtain library materials and to grow and enhance your fly fishing skills and knowledge.

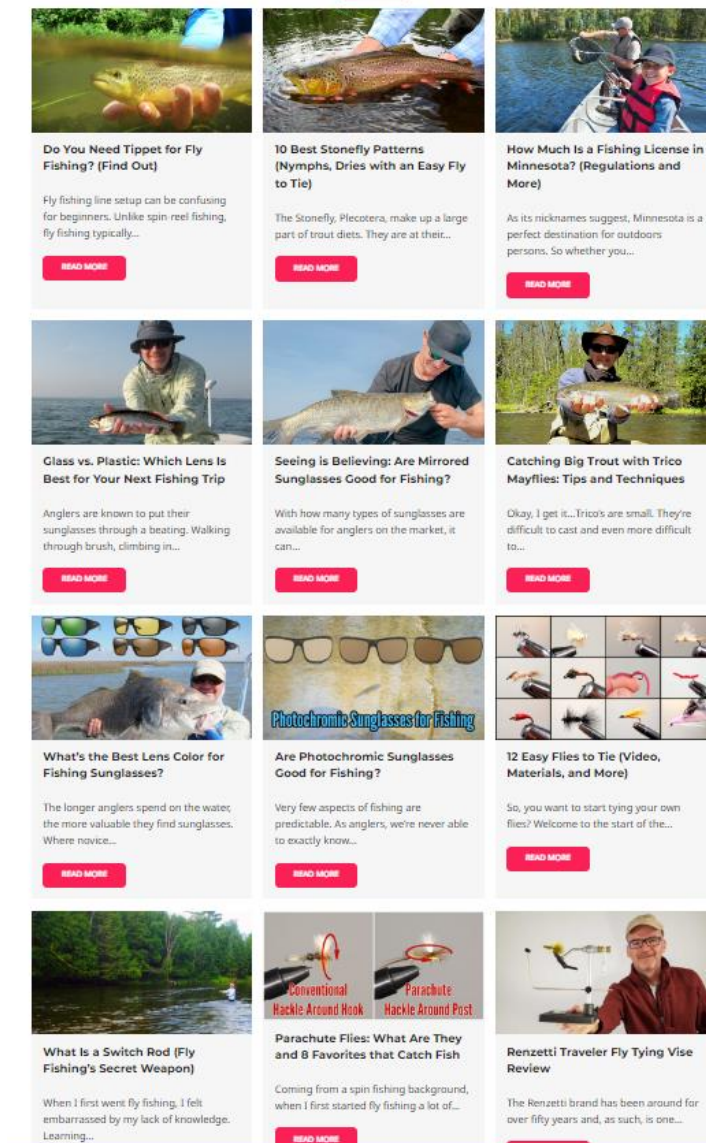
A Special Thank You from the Fly Fishing Show Team

By Ken Mandel

The Fly Fishing Show Team wants to extend a special thank you to David Humphries. David is the owner/operator of River Traditions, an on-line fly shop based in Michigan. For many years, Dave has provided us custom engraved fly boxes, which our team offers to our presenters as a small thank you gift and token of appreciation. We know many of these folks use these boxes regularly, and have seen photos of them out on a stream with one of our boxes !

As we planned the 2023 show, Dave again provided our gift boxes, but let us know that he is moving on from this business, and that 2023 was likely his last year of doing this work. However, he is not hanging it up, and retiring from fly fishing. Rather, he is moving on to a new venture of providing education on our sport and passion.





Dave has a new website and blog, “Guide Recommended”. He is working to structure this as an online resource for ‘all things fly fishing’. He has ‘schools’ on casting and tying, information tactics and equipment, and information on a very wide range of places to fly fish. For the latter Dave provides information on various state license requirements (costs, where/how to purchase, etc.) and regulations, flies that work best for given places, *and even maps (!!!)*. The photo only a few of the topics that can be found on the “How To” page of the site.

As part of the school page, Dave has developed an active on-line fly tying class. It offers a stepwise introduction to everything one needs to know to get started tying, such as types of flies, hooks and tools, knots, materials, and techniques. The program then moves on to provide instructional videos on tying several basic flies. The program goes on from there.

I’ve perused the site and I found it to be very impressive. It is now saved as a favorite on my page of fly fishing sites, and I know I will be visiting it regularly. You may even find gems from the site in future BUFFERS! I encourage our members to

check this site out. I think it will become a favorite of yours as well.

Here is the site: (<https://guiderecommended.com/>). Dave also posts You-Tube videos on many topics and these can be directly accessed at - <https://www.youtube.com/@GuideRecommended/videos> .

Save the Date – BUFF Picnic – Wednesday July 12th

Once again, we’ll replace our regular July meeting with a picnic. It will be at Miami Meadows Park, and we have the lakeside shelter reserved. Plan to join us for a pleasant evening of good food, comradeship, and some fishing at the lake. The planning team is working on the menu and activities.

This year we are having a raffle. The prize is a 9-wt Thomas & Thomas rod with a reel and line. Tickets are \$10 each and we are selling only 100 tickets. The rod is a generous donation from a long-time club

member, so all proceeds go to the club. We initiated ticket sales at the April meeting, and will continue to sell tickets at meetings through the picnic, or as long as they are available. The raffle will be drawn and awarded at the picnic in July.

2023 BUFF Casting Course – Sundays May 7th, 14th & 21st

By Jim Vota

The 2023 BUFF fly casting course begins May 7, 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Cottell Park. It is taught by the club's casting instructors, including FFI Certified Instructors. The class is for anyone from beginners through intermediate level casters (there's material for very experienced casters in the class as well).

The class is spread over three Sunday afternoons, May 7, 14 and 21. The first class covers the basic fly-fishing overhead and roll casts. We will work on drills that



will help you hone those casts and give you an understanding of what casting is about. The second class covers an expanded range of casting based on the basic cast. We will work on extending the cast, accuracy, and many fishing application casts. The third class works on reinforcing everything from the first two classes as well helping you to improve your distance casts and fishing in difficult wind. Hauling will be taught.

Throughout the class we will video the students to help show where they might improve. Lots of drills for practice will be included to help reinforce things. Whether you are a new fly fisher, or an experienced angler who would like to improve your casting, come on out and give it a try. After all, being a proficient caster will help improve your time on the water and make your fishing more enjoyable and productive.

All you need to bring is your rod and a folding chair as there is some presentation and discussion as part of the course. If you are new to fly fishing, and do not yet have a rod, we can provide club rods. **Please register on the BUFF Website.** Any questions, please contact Jim Vota (vota@zoomtown.com; 513-702-2553).

First of the Season After Work Outings

By Cari Vota

May initiates our After-Work Fishing Outings. **Thursday, May 11th** is our first Women's After Work Fishing event of 2023. We'll meet at around 6 PM at the pond at Miami Meadows Park. This is the same location we use for our annual picnic. There is ample parking by the pond shelter, and a paved path that completely encircles the pond. It's a good opportunity to work on your casting and enjoy some fishing at the pond.

Thursday, May 18th is the first Club Co-Ed After Work Fishing Outing. This is a wading event. Waders and wading staff are recommended. We'll meet at 6 PM in downtown Milford. We'll check out and fish locations on the Little Miami River in the downtown area. We will have maps! Fishing the LMR does require a valid OH fishing license. Most, if not all, are within walking distance of each other. At about 8 PM we will reconvene at the Little Miami Brewing Company for some refreshment.

Don't feel like fishing? Come anyway to learn the locations and join us at the brewery.

More information, registration, and required waivers for these events on the BUFF Website.

Questions? Contact Cari Vota (vota@zoomtown.com; 513-476-7112)

Fly Casting Skills Workshop –

By Tom Scheer

Here is another opportunity to work on fly casting skills. On **Saturday, June 3rd**, the Ohio Chapter of FFI will be offering a Fly Casting Skills Workshop. This is a local event. Time is **9:30 AM – 11:30 AM**. Location is Cottell Park, in Mason, OH.

The FFI Casting Skills Development Program is a structured way of developing and learning a range of fly casting techniques. There are 3 levels of achievement – Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Each covers a different range of casting skills, with more advanced levels building on achieved skills. The program will be led by FFI Certified Casters and BUFF club casting instructors.

A number of BUFF members have been participating as part of an informal weekly casting group. The group uses the FFI skills set to improve and build upon our casting skills.

Check the included announcement for registration, and more details.

Presented by Ohio Council, Fly Fishers International

Fly Casting Skills WORKSHOP



Click here for more information about FFI Casting Skills Development Program

Join Us for the:
FFI Casting Skills Development Program.
Based on practical fishing applications

Bring your favorite outfit or use one of ours
Achievement recognition is available

Sat. June 3rd
9:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Cottell Park,
Deerfield Twp.
5847 Irwin Simpson
Rd, Mason OH

Workshop Demonstrations & Instructors provided by FFI Certified Casters & Club Instructors

For Pre-registration & Questions
Contact: Info@ffiohc.org

Other Upcoming Local Fishing Activities

Thanks to Cari Vota for putting this list together !

As the weather warms we get into a lot of activities. A good number are courses and local fishing opportunities that are easy to take part in. Here is a list of upcoming local activities in addition to the casting course, casting workshop and May after-work outings noted in earlier in this newsletter.

June Events –

- Thursday, June 8th – Women’s After Work Outing. This evening outing (6:00 PM – 8:00 PM) will be on the Eat Fork of the Little Miami Rive at Sycamore Park in Batavia, OH.
- Thursday, June 15th – Co-ed After Work Outing. This one is on t he Little Miami River at the Carl Rahe Access in Loveland, OH. Also from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
- Thursday, June 22nd – Women’s Day Trip to the Brookville Tailwaters, Brookville, IN. This is local fishing for trout. An Indiana license is required.

July Events –

- Thursday, July 13th – Women’s After Work Outing on the Little Miami River at the Lake Isabella access. This is near Loveland, OH off of I-275. Time is 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
- Thursday, July 21st – Co-ed After Work Outing on the Little Miami River at Halls Creek Access. This is near Morrow. Time is 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

Of course, watch the website for other activities and local events, and for registration and further information.

J. Stockard Blog Page

By Ken Mandel

This month I received a surprise e-mail from J. Stockard with a ‘blog page’ article. Stockard is a reputable supplier for tying materials. They have a large stock of items, and I have had excellent experiences ordering from them. I did not realize that they also have a ‘blog’ page on their website. The e-mail I received is an article titled “Chicken Parts – All About Hackle Feathers”. It is written by Mary Kuss, a guide from PA, was originally posted several years ago, but is still an excellent discussion of the topic.

The article discusses differences between hen and rooster hackle, and differences based on where the feathers are located on the bird (neck, shoulder, saddle (back)). The article also discusses ‘web’ characteristics of feathers, commenting that generally the less web on feather fibers, the better the quality of the skin, as less web is important for dry fly feathers, as web contributes to the softness and water absorbance. Hence skins with a lot of web, such as hen neck, are good for tying wet flies. Other



feather characteristics based on locations on hen and rooster skins are also discussed, with ways to optimally use them.

The article also has an interesting section on the source of commercial hackle feathers, which are purpose bred hens and roosters. Just as poultry is bred for meat and egg production, these birds are genetically bred for their feather quality. I found the article to be a good discussion of different purposes and uses for different hackle skins.

Here is a link to the blog - <https://www.jsflyfishing.com/blogs/fly-tying/chicken-parts-hackle-feathers>.
The Stockard website is - <https://www.jsflyfishing.com/>

Reminder – We Need You !

2024 Fly Fishing Show Team – Looking for New Team Members & Leaders

As a reminder, planning for the 2024 Fly Fishing Show is getting started. We are planning our first team meeting planned for May. As we've announced at recent meetings, and in last month's BUFFER, this year is a transition year for the team with several team members indicating that they will step down from their roles during this year's planning or after the 2024 show. Our team is looking for club members to volunteer to be part of this team and take on some of these, or perhaps other responsibilities.

Positions being transitioned:

Fly Show Co-Chairs. Bob Gustafson & Bob Miller have been the team leaders for over a decade and for both this will be their last year in these roles. Bob Gustafson has been our leader for overall planning, execution and budget management for the show. Bob Miller is been the lead for contacting and arranging presentations by our headliner and other presenters, and recruiting our vendors and exhibitors.

Fly Show Floor Planning. Ken Dixon has led this activity with responsibility for developing the floor plan maps for the exhibitor hall, presentations, and workshops. Ken also manages the on-line exhibitor listing, booth payment tracking, providing information for the website listings and getting our hand-outs for show visitors published. Ken uses a 2D CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) program to produce floor plans, so having proficiency with this type of programming is desirable (BUFF will purchase software if needed).

Clubs & Guest Fly Tyers Coordinator Ken Dixon is also the contact for regional fly fishing clubs and fly tyers who attend the show. for the show. This primarily involves coordination and communications, and offers an opportunity to develop working relationships with friends in regional fly fishing clubs and regional expert tyers.

Fly Tying Workshops Coordinator *Jim Neckers & Bob Miller* have led the recruitment and organization for our fly tying workshops on the day prior and day of the show. Several activities are involved with this responsibility.

A/V Systems. This has been Don Kail's role for several years. Unfortunately for us, Don is planning to move later this year, so we will need people to take on managing and coordinating Audio/Visual systems for the show and workshops. We have one person already, but having an additional person or two would be great.

As this is a 'transition year', those team members who have managed these activities will continue to work with the team and help new members to get on-board. In addition, there are other significant roles on the Fly Show team, and we welcome interest and participation to help and offer ideas. Please respond Bob Gustafson (513-289-5250 or j.r.gustafson@att.net) if interested so that you can be included when show planning begins this month.

Some Recent Member & Club Activities

Couple of photos of Robert DeMott from at the April club meeting



2023 Lou Haynes Education Award – Tim Williamson

The April meeting also provided the opportunity to recognize Tim Williamson who received this year's Lou Haynes Education Award. Tim is our former Club Education Director and has helped many of our new and experienced members learn basics and more advanced techniques in our sport. He led the yearly Fly Fishing 101 course for several years. He has also organized and presented several topical courses as well, and has several presentations on the education section of the BUFF website. Perhaps most importantly, Tim is always open to get out and fish with club members on local waters.



Back in February, Tom Bachev got a chance to do some salt water angling in the Gulf. Here are a couple photos of the speckled trout he and his buddies pulled in. The one being held was the largest of the trout they caught, and Tom got that one on his fly rod.





Jim Vota and Tim Williamson had a couple of days on the Huron River. They were near Ann Arbor, MI, and drift boated for 'trophy' bass. The trip with Schultz Outfitters. They are well known as outfitters and as a fly shop, and are located in Ypsilanti, MI. Many of our club members have fished with these folks. Here is a photo of a 19+ incher that Jim landed.

If anyone has interest in this area, chat with Jim Vota. Schultz Outfitters can be found at - <http://schultzoutfitters.com/>

Cari Vota and Lisa Morrisette were in Michigan fishing for steelhead on the Muskegon River. They fished with a guide from Kevin Feenstra's group. Cari got her first steelhead. Unfortunately, Lisa did not catch one, but still had a great time. Kevin is our invited speaker this month! Here are a couple of photos, including one of a gorgeous sun rise.





Finally, Haruko Mizoguchi got out on one her favorite local ponds caught this nice black crappie and a couple of blue gill. It was her first fish of 2023.

Some Things of Interest

By Ken Mandel

Considerations When Buying a Tying Vise

Here's a nice and concise You-Tube video from the Ventures Fly Company blog page that discusses the pros and cons of different types of tying vises, whether considering purchasing a first, or a replacement vise. It is by Alex Stulce who discusses base/pedestal (or traveler) style and C-clamp table attachments, rotary vs. non-rotary vises, and some other options and features on vises that one should think about as when looking to purchase a vise.



One thing that I felt was missed in considering advantages of a clamp mount, was the ability to set the height of the vise relative to tying comfort, as compared to the fixed height with a table-top base. Of course, you can buy a C-clamp mount so you can use a vise in either way. Here is the link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFLCRwQ6bLM>

Spring Finally Gets to the Smokies

I had an e-mail from Ian and Charity Rutter (R & R Fly Fishing) announcing that favorable spring weather is finally arriving in the Smokies. They guide out of Townsend, TN primarily in Smokey Mountains National Park for excellent wild trout fishing on the park's rivers and small streams. Ian and Charity have been past presenters at club meetings and the fly fishing show. At first it seemed they would have a nice early spring, with warm weather in late-February. But mountains being prone to



mountain weather, that did not hold, with cold weather in March and early April (20's – 40's) and significant snow putting a damper on early spring fishing. However, now the weather is much more seasonal, and fishing conditions have improved. Check out their website for availability if interested in fishing the Smokeys, as well as their blog pages.

Midwest Living Magazine Article on the Driftless in Wisconsin

The spring issue of Midwest Living magazine has a couple of articles highlighting women in fly fishing and focusing on fishing the Driftless in Wisconsin. The article highlights 3 Wisconsin women who are working to promote women in fly fishing and fish the Driftless area. Tina Murray is the owner of Shenanigan's, a guide service that offers fishing in the Driftless, as well as other areas (<https://shenanigansflyfishing.com/>). Jennifer Hsia is a physician and avid fly fisher. She is active as an instructor for United Women on the Fly. Geri Meyer, and her spouse Mat, are co-owners of the Driftless Angler Fly Shop in Viroqua, WI (<https://www.driftlessangler.com/>). The shop serves the Driftless area and offers guide trips as well.

Here is a link to the magazine that will get you to the articles - <https://www.midwestliving.com/lifestyle/raghavan-iyer/>

Later this spring, a group of women anglers from our club are going to this area for a few days of guided fishing.



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 & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Casting Course Cottell Park Mason, OH	Sundays, May 7 th , 14 th & 21 st 1:00 – 4:00 PM Register on Website	Jim Vota
Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, May 10 th 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	
Women's After Work Outing Miami Meadows Park Pond Milford, OH	Thursday May 11 ^h – 6:00 PM til Dusk Register on Website	Cari Vota
Stream Quality Monitoring Little Miami River Bass Island & Caesars Creek	Saturday, May 13 th meet at 9:00 AM Register on Website	Tom Britton
Butler County SQM Four Mile Park Hamilton, OH	Wednesday, May 17 th meet at 10:00 AM Register on Website	Tom Britton
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, May 17 th 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
Spring NC Trout Fishing Trip Bryson City, NC	Wednesday, May 17 th – Sunday May 21 st Waitlist on Website	Mike Redmond
Club After Work Wade Fishing Little Miami River Downtown Milford, OH	Thursday, May 18 th 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Register on Website	Cari Vota
Monthly Tie & Lie Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, May 19 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Mad River Day Trip Cottell Park Mason, OH	Tuesday, May 23 rd all day Waitlist on Website	Bryan Tudor

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.

