



The BUFFER

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

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May 1, 2025

President's Letter

It appears that warm weather is finally here! While many of us like to fish in the winter, I think most of us will agree, it's a whole lot more pleasant when the sun is shining and we can cast the line without having to constantly knock ice off the guides!

I was hoping that the May Buffer would be reporting the success of the clubs' white bass trips. Unfortunately, mother nature had other plans. I understand that all the trips originally scheduled over the past several weeks were canceled due to unfavorable conditions. We can only hope that the water will calm down and there will still be time to pursue these fun fish. One of my personal favorite days on the water was fishing for these fish with Ken Speicher, John and Kathy Newsom, Xavier Morales, Dan Bonham, Boon Keck, and a crew of other club members. I seem to remember that Dan Bonham had, by far, the most fish for the day, at 100+. Dan, Jeff Georgin, Bob Gustafson, and the Newsom's are just a few of the club members that have become incredibly expert at this fishery. If you haven't participated in the "white bass phenomenon" you're definitely missing out. While it's tough to time and the weather and the run are sometimes fickle, the white bass run is FUN!

Please check out the calendar, as there are a lot of activities going on in May! Foremost are the great classes that will be put on by the club. Even if you think you already know how to cast you can definitely benefit from the expertise of Jim Vota, and our club's other great casting experts/trainers.

We have a great lineup of activities through the rest of the year, but please let us know if there are any trips or activities that you think would add value to the club and our current schedule. If you have a favorite place to go, think about organizing a club trip! We have plenty of folks who can help with that.

Bob Miller
miller.rm@alta-gila.com

BUFF May Meeting – Wednesday May April 14th

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 at about 7:30 PM. **Please register on the website whether having dinner with us or not, so Oasis can set up adequate tables and seating. On-line registration will close on Sunday, May 11th.**

Pease note the date! We are back to our regular schedule of having the meeting on the second Wednesday of the month!

April Speaker – Kevin Feenstra, Feenstra Guide Service. “Twelve Months of Fishing and Enjoying the Muskegon River”

Kevin is a regular presenter at our programs, and his talks are always interesting and provided with incredible photographs. Many club members have fished with Kevin, so ask around about our experiences with him!

Kevin Feenstra started Feenstra Guide Service LLC in 1997. He has spent countless hours on the Muskegon River and still fishes the river system and surrounding waterways every chance he can. While Kevin's passion is swinging flies for steelhead, he loves to fish for any predator fish that is willing to eat a fly. Year after year, Kevin guides the Muskegon River for hundreds of days and still loves it. In addition to guiding, Kevin is an active writer and fly tier. His most recent project is a book, *“Matching Baitfish”*, which was published in November 2020. He has also published several fly fishing DVDS, including *Searching for Steelhead*, *Striking Steel*, and *Big Appetite, Small mouth*. He has authored many magazine articles, and his flies are published in fly tying manuals and magazines. Kevin frequently speaks at fishing shows and clubs throughout the Midwest. Kevin has one other passion, outdoor photography, where he hopes to capture the beauty and majesty of West Michigan both above and below the water. He resides in Newaygo, Michigan, with his lovely wife and three children.



May Dinner Menu –

- Pasta Primavera
- Sliced Grilled Chicken Strips
- Summer Squash Medley
- House Salad
- Coffee & Tea

May Tech Talk –

Bryan Tudor will present the May Tech Talk. His topic is Wading Belts & Wading Staffs. We encourage members to stop by the table during our social hour to learn and join in on the conversation with fellow Buffers.

Also, if you have an idea for a fly fishing topic and are interested in presenting it at an upcoming general meeting, please contact Bryan Tudor at 513-827-5437.

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 easy and is done through the BUFF website.

On the BUFF website home page, click “Member Services” and 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. Click to reserve what you want, and I’ll bring it to the next 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.

New Members in April 2024

From: Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

This past month saw us gain 2 members.

Andrew Harris, Blue Ash, OH

Tracy Meiners, Springdale, OH

Welcome to the club. We hope to see you at a meeting or event soon! Check out our activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some!

White Bass Fishing

As Bob Miller mentioned in his cover note, this year the weather was uncooperative, and most of the annual local white bass trips on Whitewater River above Brookville Lake unfortunately had to be cancelled. It is an exciting outing, as it coincides with the annual spawning run of these fish, so fish are plentiful and easy to catch. The organizers did manage to get in a couple of the later-scheduled trips. The weather cooperated, and water levels and flows came down to make it safe.

Some photos -



Glendaly Humphrey – first time participating on this outing



Kathy Newsome – a walleye



Dan Bonham



Bob Creege



David Yost



Eric Price



Lane Stocker



Greg Stryker – looks like a carp



Carin Meier



BUFF Activities in May

From: Ken Mandel

Advanced Fly Tying. Sessions continue for first two weeks in May - **Tuesday evenings from 6 – 8:30 PM** at the Springdale Community Center. Remaining sessions are **May 6th and 13th**.

Tenkara Classes. Brent Miller is offering a class to teach basic techniques for fly fishing using tenkara. This is a 2-hr program. Dates in May are Tuesday May 6th and Saturday May 10th. Time is 10 AM – Noon. Location is Landen-Deerfield Park, and we will meet at the pond. Register on the website.

For more information, see Brent's article that was in the April BUFFER.

Casting Classes. Jim Vota has reorganized the spring casting class into 3 separate classes. The beginners class, which covers basic casting techniques will be offered on Sunday May 4th. An intermediate class will be held on Sunday, June 1st. This will cover what many consider “fishing casts”, including accuracy, mending, curving the cast to get around obstacles, lengthening the cast for reach and other topics.

Sessions are on the respective Sundays, from 1 PM – 4 PM at Cottell Park in Mason. For more information, see Jim's article in the April BUFFER. Register on the website. The classes will be held rain-or-shine, so come prepared for the weather. Also, have a hat, sunglasses or glasses for eye protection, and sunscreen. A chair is nice as well as it is a long session and there is some lecture involved.

For specific information on what each class will cover, see Jim Vota's article that was in the April BUFFER.

Club Co-ed After Work Fishing Opportunities – First 2025 Outing is Thursday, May 8th

From: Cari Vota

For this year, **ALL** of our after-work club fishing outings will be co-ed. That means anyone can join any of the outings! Our typical yearly plan is to offer opportunities once a month, May thru September, for wade fishing, each at a different site, mostly on the Little Miami River. We try to include at least one pond early in the year just to get people back out with a rod in their hand.

As the name ‘co-ed’ implies, women are welcome at all the outings. Cari Vota, our Women's Program Director, is planning to lead all the outings to help anyone wishing some TLC and mentoring. Our 1st outing is May 8th at Miami Meadows park pond, Miami Twp. We typically fish from 6:00 PM to dusk.

This is a good warm-up for anyone who hasn't been out yet. Sign-up is open online.

Save the Date – Annual BUFF Picnic

From: Bryan Tudor

**Please note to save the date for
Wednesday, July 9th.**

As we've done for the past few years, our July meeting will be our annual picnic. Location is Miami Meadows Park in Milford, OH. We reserve the shelter by the lake, which can accommodate about 80 people. The pond has blue gill some bass. It is fully accessible from a walking path that encircles the entire pond, so there is plenty of space to fish if you want to.

The club provides an excellent picnic dinner – usually fried chicken, assorted salads, soft drinks, snacks and dessert. We typically have food available at about 5:30 PM, so it is an earlier start than our regular meeting.

Watch for more information and for sign-up on the website. We do ask that those who plan to attend register, so we know how much food to purchase.



Whitewater River Clean-up

From: Tom Britton

On March 29, 2025 a successful cleanup was accomplished on a section of the Whitewater River outside of Liberty, Indiana. The cleanup was the result of a team effort involving members of Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers, Central Indiana Trout Unlimited, Indiana DNR, and Buckeye United Fly Fishers.



The weather and conditions helped the team of close to 20 participants cover a large area where we enjoy White Bass fishing each spring. A pickup bed was filled with 15+ tires and a Jon boat was filled with trash bags of bottles, cans, paper, shoes, clothing and assorted other items. It should be noted that much of the trash was carried from a half mile or more away. Tires were carried two at a time and trash bags weighed 30-50 lbs. each.

Indiana DNR employees were very appreciative and impressed with the dedication and commitment this group of fly fishers and the concern for taking care of the environment. A big thank you to all that worked so hard to help keep our fishing areas clean.

Fishing in Michigan – Help Prevent the Spread of New Zealand Mudsnail and Didymo

From: Cari Vota & Ken Mandel

Cari shared a short video made by Jeremy Geist from Trout Unlimited. New Zealand Mudsnail and Didymo, an algae also called ‘rock snot’, are invasive species that have recently become established in a number of Michigan’s pristine angling rivers, including the Pere Marquette, Manistee and Au Sable Rivers. It is important to know about these species, how to identify them and most importantly, how to decontaminate gear, specifically our waders and wading boots, to help prevent or slow the spread of these invasives.

The New Zealand Mudsnail (NZM) is present in all 5 Great Lakes, and is now established in at least 7 Michigan rivers. NZM are, about 1/8” in size, and are not hard shelled. In the Au Sable, population densities of 100,000/sq meter have been reported. Their threat is that they can out-compete the native macroinvertebrates which are major nutrition sources for trout, whereas NZM is not. Hence, a major threat of NZM is that it diminishes natural food supply for native fish.



Besides being small, NZM are very resistant to drying out. Once out of the water or on our gear, they can remain alive on any residual moisture for several days. This allows NZM to “hitch-hike” between waters on one’s waders or boots. They can also reproduce asexually, so a single microscopic cell can generate a new population.

Didymo, aka rock snot, is an algae. Like NZM, didymo can also adhere to boots and waders, and hence be transported between waters. Like other algae, didymo reproduces asexually, so a single microscopic cell can form a new colony. In rivers, algal blooms of this stuff form large masses that coat rocks and river bottoms. By blanketing the river bottom, didymo can kill-off native macroinvertebrates. On rocks, the growth feels like wet wool, and is not really slimy, despite the ‘rock snot’ name.



Currently, aquatic scientists have not yet identified any means of controlling growth or selectively eliminating these organisms once established. What is critical, however, is to take steps to reduce and slow spread. For us as anglers, the action we need to take is simple – it is to decontaminate our boots and waders after coming out of the water from a day's fishing. Formula 409, an antibacterial all-purpose cleaner, is highly effective as a decontaminant, and will kill these organisms on boots and waders. Decontamination is a simple process. Just thoroughly spray boots, targeting laces and soles and waders, targeting areas that were in the water. After spraying, brush the areas to make sure the product gets into crevices – areas where the organisms are easily be trapped – and then let the 409 remain on your gear for at least 10 minutes before rinsing the gear with clean water. Many lodges have set up an area with Product 409 and access to clean water to facilitate doing this once an angler has finished their day on the water. It is also important to give consideration to not fishing in more than one stream, or even one area on a single river, on a given day to further help reduce the spread of these organisms.

The video is only about 5 minutes long and is both important and well spoken. We urge any of our members who have plans to fish in Michigan to watch it and take the recommended precautions to help slow the spread of Didymo and NZM. It is simple enough to pick up a bottle of Product 409 and keep it in the back of the car! Here's the link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXXYAkq-YuA>

Some Things of Interest

A couple of items for those who have been taking our fly tying classes.

I found a couple of things online that could be of interest to the club members who took our beginners fly tying class which wrapped up a few weeks ago, and even perhaps of some interest to those who are taking the intermediate class.

The first is a You-Tube video from Ryan Ratliff, who is the tying instructor at Mad River Outfitters in Columbus, OH. The video is about 6-min long and provides clear instruction and demonstration of tying the whip finish using the whip finish tool. It is very clearly presented and provides great visuals on using the tool. If you took the beginners class and are having some trouble mastering this knot for finishing flies, this is worth watching and downloading!

The link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3dhQyHWnE8>

A second article is from the Feather Craft site. Feather Craft is a large fly fishing shop located in St Louis. They have an excellent reputation as an on-line/catalog retailer offering a large range of fly fishing and tying products. This month Feather Craft posted a blog discussing fly tying threads. Again, something that would be very useful for many of our beginner tyers.

A few key points –

- The importance of the thread in constructing flies is that it is: **a)** the foundation layer and binding agent placed on the hook, providing texture and grip to tying on other materials; **b)** helps us shape the fly, such as by building tapers; and **c)** can provide a color accent to flies.
- Thread thickness and strength is graded using Denier and Aught scales. More and more, fly tying thread specifications are moving to using the Denier scale.
 - The Denier scale is a physical measure of thread. It is the mass, in grams, of 9,000 meters of a given thread. Hence a 70-denier thread has a mass of 70 g/9,000 m. That said, it should be clear that the larger the denier value, the ‘heavier’ the thread. What should also be clear is that a 70- or 140-denier thread from one manufacturer will have the same mass as another. However, whether the two threads will also share similar properties for shape and strength, is not necessarily implied, as different manufacturers use different materials and spin the threads in different ways.
 - The Aught scale, is an older scale. It rates tying threads as 3/0, 6/0, 8/0, etc and is a manufacturer-specific designation. What is consistent is that the *larger* the aught-number the *thinner* the thread. Hence an 8/0 or 12/0 thread will be thinner than a 6/0, from a given maker. Since the Aught scale is a manufacturer’s specification and there is no standardization between manufacturers. Hence a 6/0 thread from one maker may not be similar to 6/0 thread from another for strength and properties.
- The size of the fly being tied will usually dictate the recommended thread size, whether using the Denier or Aught scales. *The blog has a table with recommendations.*
- Materials and how a thread is made will greatly affect properties, such as flatness, strength, and stretch. An example is UTC Ultra Thread which tends to lie flat and easily makes make split-dubbing loops. In contrast, UNI-Thread is a twisted material which can ‘bite’ into other materials to firmly attach them to the fly but is more difficult to flatten. Threads made with GSP (gel spun polyethylene) are virtually unbreakable – if you pull hard enough on it you may snap the hook before you break the thread – but also have no stretch.

The blog also reviews common brands of thread for their materials, properties and suggested uses. Which thread to use can often depend on the type of fly one is tying.

Here’s the link - <https://feather-craft.com/blogs/primers/the-thread-of-it-all-understanding-fly-tying-and-thread-denier>

Smallmouth Bass

Another blog from Feather Craft. This one talks about fly fishing for smallmouth. It’s a great topic, as the fish are found in many rivers and streams, and even lakes, throughout the Midwest. An attraction to fishing for smallmouth is that they are aggressive and will give the angler a good fight when hooked.

The article offers recommendations on gear. Starting with rods, they recommend 6- 8 wt range rods with an appropriate reel. The point is to be able to cast weighted streamers and have a heavy enough rod to manage the streamer flies, which are excellent when going for these fish. Standard weight forward floating lines are fine. Recommended tippet size are 0X – 2X. Suggested flies include a range of standard streamers, such as Clouser and Murdoch Minnows, Wooly Buggers, Drunk & Disorderly, and others. Several of our club members have had good luck fishing Kreelex Streamers.



Here's the link to the blog post - https://feather-craft.com/blogs/analysis/smallmouth-bass-pound-for-pound-powerhouses-of-freshwater-fishing?_kx=QvZfq9a55r25lvxSQX7JlWyJuh7wJnlee5-C41bO9iA.VixMwp

North Carolina Spring Trip – Last Call

From: Harry Pass

The annual spring trip to the Bryson City area in NC is scheduled for May 14th – 18th. There are cabin reservations available to accommodate 16 anglers, and at this point we have a few slots remaining.

The primary rivers fished are the Nantahala and Tuckaseegee which are stocked with trout. There are also several streams nearby in Great Smokey Mountains National Park which are not stocked, but have good populations of wild brown, brook and rainbow trout.

Harry Pass is a “regular” for this trip and is this year’s trip leader. Since the trip is now less than 2 weeks off, if you are interested, it would be best to contact Harry directly – wpass21052@gmail.com, or 513-910-1390.

Members Getting Out to Fish

Langston Humphrey caught this nice guy on Bass Lake at Wright Patterson AFB. He was on a spring break camp trip there. He got it on a fly he tied in the beginners tying class.



Here are a few photos from last Sunday's Kid's Fishing event. We thank Cari Vota for organizing this yearly event, and Dave Longtin for taking the photos.





Here's one I could not resist. I got it from Ian & Charity Rutter (R&R Guides in Townsend TN). They guide primarily in Smokey Mountains National Park, but also lead a fall trip to fish in the Yellowstone region (Yellowstone National Park, and Madison & Henry's Fork Rivers). They recently had Tom Rosenbauer come down to visit and fish with them!



Upcoming BUFF Activities

Spring is here! Lots of Activities!!

In-person activities require registration (online on club Website). Activities on water require signing our liability waiver

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Potter County PA Trip North Central, PA	Sunday May 4 th – thru Saturday, May 10 th Fully Booked	Mike Jones
Casting Class – Basic Casts Cottell Park Mason, OH	Sunday, May 4 th 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM <i>Register on Website</i>	Jim Vota
Tenkara Class Landen-Deerfield Park Maineville, OH	Tuesday, May 6 th & Saturday May 10 th 10:00 AM to Noon <i>wait-list register on website</i>	Brent Miller
Advanced Fly Tying Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Tuesdays, May 6 th & 13 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website</i>	Lane Stocker
After Work Fishing Miami Meadows Park Loveland, OH	Thursday, May 8 th 6:00 PM – Dusk <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
North Carolina Spring Trout Trip Bryson City, NC	Wednesday, May 14 th – Sunday, May 18 th Slots still available! contact Harry if interested	Harry Pass
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, May 14 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website by Sunday May 11th</i>	Bob Miller
Ohio Fly Tying Guild Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, May 16 th , 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Mad River Day Trip Springfield, OH	Tuesday, May 20 th all day <i>Waitlist for registration</i>	Bryan Tudor

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Stream Quality Monitoring Four Mile Creek Hamilton, OH	Wednesday, May 21 st Meet at 10 AM <i>Register on Website</i>	Tom Britton
BUFF Board Meeting Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Wednesday, May 21 st 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Bob Miller
Stream Quality Monitoring Bass Island Mariemont, OH	Saturday, May 24 th Meet at 9 AM <i>Register on Website</i>	Tom Britton
Stream Quality Monitoring Caesar's Creek Waynesville, OH	Saturday, May 24 th Meet at 9 AM <i>Register on Website</i>	Tom Britton
Casting Class – Intermediate Techniques Cottell Park, Mason, OH	Sunday, June 1 st 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM <i>Register on Website</i>	Jim Vota

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.

