



The BUFFER

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

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

Nov.1, 2015

Notes from the President

Ken Dixon (krjdix@outlook.com)

In a couple of months we will be holding our annual election of officers and directors. If you are interested in a position on the Board of Directors contact a member of our Nominations Committee (J.R. Jackson, Hugh O'Donnell, and Pete Moore). The Board will be presenting its slate for 2016 at the December general meeting. The Election will be held at the January meeting. After holding the office of President for the last two years, I have decided it is time for me to step down and I will not be standing for re-election for 2016. Although I will address this more later, I want to thank everyone in the organization for the support you have given me during my time in office. Other positions that are open at this time include Librarian, Outside Education Assistant and Program Co-Director. Director-at Large positions would also be an option.

The planning for the 2016 Fly Fishing Show is well underway and many of our booths have already been sold. For the last few years, we have held a fly tying workshop presented by the Show's featured presenter at the Show. This year we will be repeating this well attended event and expanding it to include a second tying workshop as well. On Thursday, Feb. 4, Mike Schmidt of Angler's Choice Flies will be doing two workshops (2:00 – 4:30 & 6:00 – 8:30). Mike has been a featured tier in our Fly Tying Alley for a number of years, and has conducted a couple of different workshops for BUFF in the past. Mike recently moved from Columbus to Florida but he has agreed to return once again for our Show and to conduct this pre-show event. On Friday, Feb. 5, our feature presenter for the 2016 Fly Show, Kelly Galloup, will be hosting three workshops (10:00 – Noon, 1:30 – 3:30, & 4:00 – 6:00). I have been wanting to do a workshop with Kelly for some time and am really glad we have this rare opportunity. To participate in these workshops, you should be a good intermediate level tier being comfortable with your tools, thread and handling different materials (if you have gone through the Club's Advanced Fly Tying Classes you should be qualified to do these workshops). If you are interested in participating in these workshops, you may sign-up using our on-line registration system. If you would like to just sit in the workshops and watch the masters (audit), this is also an option at a reduced cost. Each session is limited to a maximum of 20 tiers and 20 auditors. The Workshops will be held in the Fly Tying Presentation Room at the Oasis Conference Center. Costs and other details are available on-line as well.

Speaking of tying workshops, I and eight other BUFF members will be traveling to Sunnybrook Trout Club in Sandusky, Ohio later this month for a tying workshop with April Vokey and Greg Senyo. We are looking

forward to this rare opportunity to spend time with these well know tiers. We also plan to spend a little time fishing on the Club waters.

Although there continue to be opportunities to fish in November, at some point during the month most of us will be storing our gear until next spring. Before you stick everything in the back of the closet, take time to clean your line and check out your equipment and flies. Make a list of the new tippet,

Going Wild

James (JR) Jackson (bearcatjr@gmail.com)

It is often said, "If you can catch trout in the Smokies, you can catch them anywhere." On the fall Smoky Mountain Trout Trip with BUFF, Don Kail and I fished for wild trout within the boundaries of the National Park exclusively. I don't know that we set out intending to do so, but due to circumstances ranging from rain and high water to a change in the NC Wildlife Commission's stocking schedule, we ended up deciding each day that our best bets were fishing in park waters. It occurred to me that fishing for wild fish in the park is almost a completely different ballgame than fishing for stocked fish (both of which have their merits), so I decided to provide the club membership with a few key takeaways from my learnings.

How are wild fish different from stocked fish?

First and foremost, the wild fish in the park tend to be fairly small in comparison to the fish which can be caught in the delayed harvest sections of the Nantahala, the Tuck, etc. This is largely due to the lack of availability of food in the Smokies. When first formed, the Smokies were a mountain range sized similarly to the Himalayas, but over the course of time, the mountains have eroded to the size we now know them to be, and with that erosion, much of the mineral content once contained in the mountain streams has washed away. This isn't to say that there is no food available for fish in the mountain streams of the park, there just isn't so much food that the average fish grows to reach a size much beyond the 7-9 inch range.

Most importantly of all, wild fish are SPOOKY! Not spooky in the sense that they'll give you the creeps, but spooky in the sense that these are fish who literally make their living by not getting eaten themselves. If there is one single key I've found to fishing in the park, it is stealth. Splashy wading, splashy casting, noisily clacking along with a wading staff, or standing right out in the open are all dead giveaways to the fish that you're in the area, and they will NOT bite when they know you're there. To be successful, keep a low profile. Fish upstream if and whenever possible. Use trees and boulders to block a fish's view of you. Get as close to the fish as you can without being seen, so your cast is more likely to be on the money and your drift drag free. Think of yourself as a predator.

Which flies should I use?

While the fish in the park may not be large, they certainly are hungry. On both the spring and fall trips, a dry and dropper rig will serve you very well for a successful day on park water. Fish in the park tend to feed more opportunistically and less selectively (remember, there isn't a lot of food in the water so they'll pretty much take whatever they can get). My go-to rig is generally a size 12-14 parachute style fly on top with a size 16 weighted nymph fished below. Any flies in these size ranges should produce, so don't get too hung up on specific patterns. I fished a parachute Adams and a Tungsten Torpedo or Rainbow Warrior exclusively on the trip and was quite successful.

Where should I fish?

Within the park, there are three species of trout to be caught: brown, rainbow, and brook (or mountain) trout. While all trout in the park waters are wild, only the brook trout is native. Rainbows and browns were introduced by humans, largely after logging practices in the early 20th century decimated Brookie populations in many of the park's streams. This being the case, most of the larger streams in the park hold naturally reproducing populations of brown and rainbow trout in their lower reaches, and brook trout in their higher elevations. Usually, fishing for brook trout requires an arduous uphill hike into a remote region of the park, however Don and I fished a stream called Road Prong (actually part of the headwaters of the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River), which required a short hike of roughly ¼ mile along the Chimney Tops trail off of Route 441. Once we got to the water, we found tough wading over large boulders, but each little pocket or plunge pool held several small Brookies who were eager to take our flies.

We fished one day with a guide from the Tuckasegee Fly Shop on Noland Creek, located roughly ten minutes from Bryson City at the terminus of the Road to Nowhere. Noland is a beautiful stream which receives considerably less pressure than other streams of its size. It is the closest thing to Hazel Creek that I've found in the park, without the added requirement of the boat ride or long hike required to reach Hazel. We fished the lower section of Noland with the guide, and caught or hooked several rainbows and browns, a couple of which were in the 15 inch range. This stream is closely paralleled by a graded hiking trail which is fairly easy to walk along. Be advised however that the stream bottom holds lots of large boulders, so careful wading is necessary here, and I wouldn't advise this stream if you have bad knees. That being said, Don fished it with a broken foot and did just fine. He was laid up the following day though. There was also a LOT of rhododendron and other flora overhanging the stream in many parts. Casting was far from impossible, but it wasn't easy either.

Deep Creek is much similar to Noland in that it is served by a graded trail, is about ten minutes from Bryson City, and holds both browns and rainbows in the sections we typically fish. It is a larger stream than Noland, and also tends to be a bit more open. Don landed a nice brown on Deep Creek, and I picked up a brookie in the 11 inch range...a trophy by wild brookie standards! We fished Deep Creek right at the campground and found the wading to be a little easier than it gets as you move higher up the trail. If you fish this section in

warmer months, you will have inner tubers to deal with, but both the spring and fall trip this year occurred in cool enough weather to keep all but the heartiest tubers at bay.

We also fished Bradley Fork, located on the NC side of the park in the Smokemont campground area, and found a creek sized more similar to Noland, but with more open casting and generally easier wading in its lower reaches. Once again, Bradley is served by a graded trail for easy access.

And finally...

My final point about fishing park waters is that of safety. The park has some hazards which are more prevalent than those typically found on the delayed harvest waters. First and foremost among these is difficult wading and rugged/remote terrain. While the Tuck and the Nantahala are both served by well-traveled roads for most of their shores, many of the parks waters are accessible by trail only. For this reason, it's always best to hike and fish these waters with a partner. If one of you becomes injured, the other will be able to get help. Also, be advised that cellular service is limited to nonexistent in the park, so don't rely on your phone as a safety net. Wildlife is also to be considered. Two years in a row now, I've encountered bears while hiking along park streams on our fall trip. The black bears of the Smokies tend to be averse to human interaction, but caution should still be exercised, and it isn't a bad idea to carry a can of bear spray where it can be quickly reached in an emergency (remember to read the directions BEFORE you see a bear). Rattlesnakes and copperheads are also present in the park. A ranger once told me that the most common part of the body to be bitten by these species is the hand...generally by people either trying to handle the snakes, or else just not paying attention to where they're putting their hand while steadying themselves on a rock. Wild hogs are also present in the park, although I've only encountered one in my time there. Finally, be aware of hornet nests. Our guide on Noland warned us that on more than one occasion, clients have hooked trees which were inhabited by hornets, who didn't take very kindly to their nest being invaded and shaken to pieces by a wayward fly.

For those who enjoy getting a bit more away from it all, the waters of the park are a great escape. There's something very refreshing in fishing a stream where you don't hear a single automobile, or any sign of civilization for that matter, for a full day. For me, there's also a thrill I get from catching a fish that has been born and raised in the waters where I am only a temporary visitor. Long after I've returned home, or gone back to my desk at work, those fish continue on in the stream, just as I left them. Each time I look back on those fish I've caught in the park, it gives me comfort to know that while I'm in my cubicle, working away another sunny day, those fish are still out there, sipping flies from the surface, growing, and waiting to be caught again.

Fall Smoky Mountain Trout Trip Report

Cecil Osborn (cosborn@cinci.rr.com)

Despite the heavy rains received in parts of the Carolinas in the days leading up to our trip, the Smokies received relatively little precipitation, leading to excellent water levels to compliment the mostly perfect weather for our Fall Smoky Mountain Trout Trip. Other than some patchy rain on Friday, and a steadier rain on Saturday morning and afternoon, the weather was pretty much perfect with highs in the mid-seventies

and partly cloudy skies. More importantly, our trip occurred before the prolific “leaf hatch” which occurs when the local trees make their annual autumn deposit of leaves to the water, generally clogging up the works for fly fishermen.

Due to the potential for high waters, the NC Wildlife Commission did make some changes to their planned stocking schedule. This meant that only the Tuckasegee River was freshly stocked during our trip, with the delayed harvest of the Nantahala re-scheduled for stocking the week after we left. No matter, there were plenty of holdovers in the Nantahala for those who wished to fish it (Mike Rubush caught ten holdovers in one day of fishing...I believe that was the best number I heard from the Nanty over the course of the trip).

With stocking being delayed on the Nantahala, more people than usual headed to the Tuck, making it rather crowded. Interestingly, the Tuck was not only stocked in its usual location, but was also stocked in the Bryson City area, meaning that we had a much shorter drive to reach trout water on the Tuck for this trip. Probably because this was a new section, the DNR stocking trucks did make an error and put all the fish in at the bridge right in the middle of Bryson City instead of putting some in at the upstream bridge at the head of the new run. So anyone fishing below the middle bridge got a double dose of fish. While some folks chose to fish the new section, most members fished the traditional section at Webster. It seemed that everyone on the Tuck caught their share of fish. One of our new members, Ann Kivett, had a couple of very successful days on the Tuck under the tutelage of Mr. Gary Cummins and Mike Rubush.

In addition to the stocked delayed harvest waters, the wild trout in the national park are also within close proximity to the Bryson City area. While these wild fish don't reach the sizes of the stocked fish in the Tuck and the Nanty, they present pleasures all their own. Don Kail and JR Jackson fished several waters in the park (Little River, Road Prong – Brookie water literally right off of Route 441, Noland Creek, Deep Creek, and Bradley Fork), and managed to pull fish out of almost all of them.

On Saturday morning, the soggy residents of Cabin 4 trudged out to fish in rain gear, while the dry and pristine residents of Cabin 3 sauntered out to Bryson City in search of breakfast. We dined at the Iron Skillet in downtown Bryson City and greatly enjoyed each other's company, then meandered toward a fly fishing festival which was being held in Bryson City. After spending some time at the festival, we retreated to the cabins where some napped, others tied flies, and yet a couple more went out to fish. All were back in the cabins by 6 o'clock for an excellent salmon dinner overseen by Jerry Schatzman, and enjoyed an evening spent socializing over libations, an occasional pipe or cigar, and the wild and animated storytelling of BUFF's beloved Bob Mackey.

On Sunday morning, bags were packed, goodbyes were said, and another fall in the Smokies was in the books. A special thanks is extended to Cecil Osborn for organizing the trip, and to all those who participated and made it the wonderful experience that it was. For those new members who might be looking to really learn the ins and outs of fly fishing, or to meet new members, keep your eyes peeled for the spring and fall

trips to the Smokeys, as these are some of the most popular club trips, and always result in a wealth of knowledge gained, for the novice as well as the expert.

Use the Bottle; Save the Fish

Edward Jones (jonesee@miamioh.edu)

(Replacing Disposable Bottles with Reusables)

Adapted from the IFFF E-Newsletter Sept, 2015

The International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) launched their newest conservation program “Use the Bottle; Save the Fish,” aimed at reducing the use of single-use water bottles (usually plastic) during their recent 50-year celebration in Bend Oregon. The organization that created the well-known catch and release program back in the early ‘70s is once again launching a program to encourage its members to conserve fishery resources.

This program supports the IFFF mission of Conservation, Education and Restoration. The IFFF and its 17 National Councils (including the Ohio Council) are committed to reducing the use of plastic bottles at their many events held around the country. Stainless steel bottles may be purchased from the IFFF store website at the bottom of this article.

Disposable bottles affect everything from the uppermost watersheds and rivers to the oceans. The damage caused by them is severe beyond just unsightly blight littering stream banks and plastic “islands” swirling around in lakes and oceans. Glenn Erickson, Director of Conservation for IFFF points out that water to fill these bottles come from fragile fisheries or is imported from great distances requiring a high hydrocarbon load. The manufacturing process requires the equivalent of three bottles of water just to produce one bottle of water. It’s highly unnecessary, since many local water sources are readily available and very pure. Abandoned bottles exposed to the elements break down and are ingested by ocean creatures and ultimately up the food chain back to us. It’s difficult to imagine conscientious anglers using them.

In conjunction with the launch of this new initiative, the Federation has designed a commemorative bottle, with the slogan “Use the Bottle; Save the Fish” and original fish artwork by Robert Newhall of Livingston, Montana. These bottles will be available at the 50th Anniversary of the International Federation of Fly Fishers at Bend, Oregon in August, 2016, and are currently for sale on the IFFF online store www.fedflyfishers.org/store.aspx .

Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Preview

Bob Gustafson (j.r.gustafson@att.net)

Buckeye United Fly Fishers will host the annual Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show on Saturday, February 6, 2016, 9am - 4pm, at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland, OH. Check the BUFF website for latest show information. Admission is still just \$10 (kids 12 & under & scouts in uniform free) for what has become the premier fly fishing show in the area.

Headlining the show will be Kelly Galloup, owner of the Slide Inn Fly Fishing Lodge on the Madison River in Montana. Kelly is an author, presenter, television host, and fly designer and one of the most sought after speakers in the country. In 2003, Kelly received the living legend award from the Federation of Fly Fishers, and in 2007, the Charles E Brooks memorial life award. He has over 40 nationally recognized fly patterns, specializing in large streamers for trophy trout. He is also expert on fishing cripples & spinner flies and in high stick nymphing. At the show, Kelly will make presentations and lead a fly tying demo session.

There will be two days of fly tying clinics in conjunction with the show. On Thursday, February 4, Mike Schmidt will lead an afternoon and evening tying clinic. On Friday, February 5, Kelly Galloup will lead three tying clinics. Tickets for these clinic sessions (tying or auditing) will go on sale in early November.

Final show details are still being worked out, but here are some additional top-flight speakers and demonstrators anticipated for the show;

- Brian Meszaros – Great Lakes Fly Fishing
- Glenn Weisner – Glenn River Fly Co.
- Jerry Snider – Otter Creek Bamboo Rods
- Mike Schmidt – Anglers Choice Flies
- Brian Flechsig – Mad River Outfitters
- Dave Leonhard – Orvis Streamside
- and many more!

Show features:

- Over 21,000 sq. ft. of exhibition, demonstration, and presentation space
- Something for all fly fishers - from beginner to advanced
- Over 50 exhibitors - vendors, fly tiers, DNR booths, and others
- Educational fly fishing speakers
- Casting Pond - casting instructions and/or try out a new rod from one of the vendors
- Fly tying demonstrations with a special kids tying area
- Kids area for painting fish designs on bandanas and lots of other activities
- Fishing guides and fishing lodge representatives
- Canoes, kayaks, pontoons, and other watercraft
- Raffles (rods, and big screen HDTV) and door prizes
- Snack bar - sandwiches and drinks

Presales of rod raffle tickets will start at the November BUFF meeting.

So mark your calendars now for the 2016 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, Saturday, Feb 6, 2015!

November Meeting

Meeting Date, Wed. Nov 11, 2015

November Speakers – Phil Pursley and Gary Cummings, Buff Road Scholars

Phil and Gary will discuss their most recent educational adventure



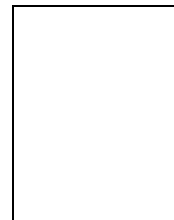
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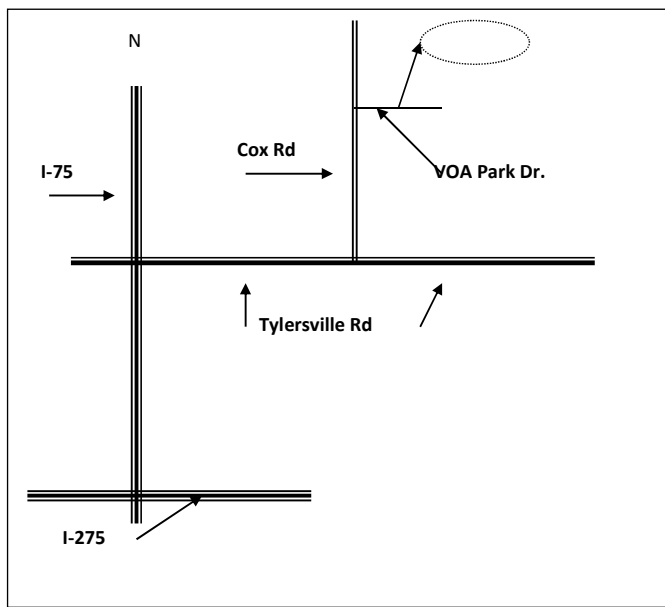
NOTICE: Dues are \$25 (Individual), \$30 (Family), with a onetime \$5 Initiation Fee for new members. New members will pay a prorated membership amount according to month of initial membership for the first year. Annual dues are due January 1. Refer to BUFF website for further information. B.U.F.F., P.O. Box 42614, Cincinnati, OH 45242

Mailing Address

Next Monthly Meeting – Wed. Nov. 11, 2015

Call (513) 683-0286 or sign up on line at WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM for reservations no later than midnight on the Sunday before the meeting. Dinners are \$15/person.

Sign up from the 20th of the November through the Sunday evening (12/14) before the monthly meeting!



Directions:

From I-75 -- Follow I-75 north to the Tylersville Road exit. Turn right off of the exit ramp onto Tylersville Road and follow to Cox Road. Turn left onto Cox Road and follow Cox Road north to VOA Park Drive. Turn right onto VOA Park Drive. Turn left onto first drive and follow roadway to Lodge.

From the Warren County area...

Follow Tylersville Road west to Cox Road. Turn right onto Cox Road and follow Cox Road north to VOA Park Drive. Turn right onto VOA Park Drive. Turn left onto first drive and follow roadway to Lodge.