



The BUFFER

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

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

November 1, 2018

Notes from the President

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

Hola BUFFERS,

Another month and no fall. We never got nice 65 – 70 degree days. Oh well, who's complaining. I hope you all got out and have been fishing.

I've been looking at the Fly Fishers International (FFI) web site. They have a couple nice programs for casting and fly tying education. Here's the stated goals for these programs.

FFI Fly Tying Group Fly Tying Skills Awards Program & Directory

The FFI Fly Tying Group exists to promote and encourage the art of fly tying. We take “promoting” to have a two-fold meaning: inspiring more people to take an interest in our craft and helping them to become more knowledgeable and accomplished tiers. The Fly Tying Group is dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and support of the art of fly tying.

For individuals to improve as tiers, they need to be able to measure their progress. The FFI Fly Tying Skills Awards Program provides FFI members with the opportunity to develop or reinforce their fly tying skills and test their progress against a consistent, standard at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The goal of the Awards Program is to encourage FFI members to develop and improve their fly tying skills at their own pace through a structured learning plan with progressive goals. The Program is meant to be informative, enjoyable and encourage camaraderie and co-operation amongst those taking part. In addition, it can also assist Clubs and instructors in the planning and delivering of fly tying courses. Participation is entirely voluntary. No FFI member or Club is under any obligation to take part.

FFI Fly Casting Skills Challenge

The Fly Casting Skills Challenge is a fun way to improve casting skills. It includes three challenge levels progressing from Bronze to Gold that include fly casts used in many fishing situations. The Bronze level Challenge is designed at the novice (but not beginner!) level fly fisher, while the Silver and Gold levels are aimed to advance the casting skills of intermediate and advanced level fly fishers. Recognition Certificates and Pins are available for each level achieved.

I'd like to see if there's interest from members in the club taking part in these challenges. The tying looks to be challenging. Unlike fish, the judges who will evaluate the flies will count the wraps. If there is enough interest in these programs we could set up tying sessions to work on the Bronze level. The casting challenge might be a pre meeting activity this coming spring and summer. Let the BOD know if you have interest in doing this.

At the October meeting we handed out the first Volunteer Appreciation Awards. We will continue to do this at some of the monthly meetings. These are for individuals who we feel deserve recognition for helping with club activities. It's a way to say thank you.

Speaking of awards, nominations for Fly Fisher of the Year are coming up. If you have any suggestions for someone please let us know. Bryan Tudor is still looking for volunteers to help with the 2019 banquet. We need members who are willing to help coordinate the event as well as setup and running it. One last item along these lines are the nominations for the 2019 BOD. If you have any interest in getting involved let me know.

By now you all know I have a habit of self-abuse fishing for musky. The current score is Jim – 1, musky – 200,000 and counting. Over the next week and 2 days I have 6 days of musky fishing – 2 in southern Kentucky, and 4 in northern Wisconsin (above Minneapolis). By the time you see me again, I will either be an even better candidate for the loony bin, frost bitten, orI won't jinx things by saying. In preparation for the blitz I've been tying flies. Here's one that should be interesting if not fruitful. It's tied with a jumbo Dragon Tail and is 13" long. They are not for the faint of heart as they hold water and don't shed it. The tail has a great action. Cari used one of these earlier this year, and on her first 2 casts caught a 34" pike and an 18" smallie.

Until next month, remember to keep your fly line in the water.

Jim Vota
El Presidente, BUFF



November Meeting – Program

The November meeting is Wednesday the 14th. Online registration is available through November 11th. Please be sure to sign up for what is always an interesting and fun evening. Our speaker this month is another of our own, Jeff Georjin.

Speaker – Jeff Georjin

“New Zealand – Its Worth the Flight!”

By Jeff Georjin

My wife, Annette, and I have been BUFF members since 2008. We first visited New Zealand in 2002, and have been back twice since then. The most recent of these trips was Nov/Dec of last year. I will share with you why we love the country, its people, and of course discuss the fabulous fishing that awaits you when you get there.



November Dinner Menu

Romaine Salad with Oranges, Almonds & Feta w/ Raspberry Vinaigrette

Spicy Corn Bread

Rum Glazed Ham

Turkey Tetrazzini

Sweet Potato Casserole

Green Beans with Bacon & Onion

Dessert - Bourbon Pecan Brownies

2019 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Update

The 2019 fly fishing show will be Saturday February 2nd, from 9 AM to 4 PM, at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland. This year's headliner is Dave Hughes. Dave will give two seminar presentations, "Matching the Hatch, Simplified" and "Wet Flies and Wet Fly Fishing". Dave will also conduct two fly tying demonstrations during the day.

We began selling tickets for our two raffle items at the October BUFF meeting, and will continue ticket sales at upcoming meetings. The items will be awarded at the close of the February show. This year's raffle items are a 7' 6" bamboo fly rod made by Jerry Snider, and an Orvis Leather travel bag. The rod is valued at over \$2,000, and the Orvis bag retails for \$649. Tickets are \$20 each for the rod, \$10 each for the bag, and only 100 are sold for each item. The items will be on display at upcoming BUFF meetings, so check them out and buy some tickets!

Fly Show Volunteers

While we have a committee working on organizing the show, its success depends on help from other BUFF members. Volunteer sign-up is on the homepage of the BUFF website. Please sign-up to support this event.

Register for Thursday and Friday Tying Workshops

In addition to the Saturday show, we have arranged fly tying workshops to be held on Thursday (Jan 31st) and Friday (Feb 1st). Mike Schmidt will lead two workshops on Thursday, January 31st, one from 2 – 4 PM and the second from 4:30 – 6:30 PM. Mike is a full time commercial tier. You can check out some of his fly designs at his company website - www.anglerschoicflies.com. On Friday, February 1st Dave Hughes will lead 3 tying workshops, 10 AM – noon, 1:30 – 3:30 and 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

There is a nominal registration fee for the workshops. Registration for BUFF members will begin at the November meeting. You can register for one, several, or all of the workshops! Any remaining space will be available to the general public starting in January. Watch the BUFF website for additional information.

2019 Banquet

Save the date! The 2019 BUFF Banquet will be March 13th, 2019, and will be in lieu of our regular monthly meeting. The banquet will be at the VOA Park Ronald Reagan Lodge (the site of our regular monthly meetings). Bryan Tudor has graciously offered to lead the effort to organize this year's banquet and is looking for volunteers to help with planning. If interested, please contact Bryan at 513-827-5437 or at bryan.tudor@yahoo.com.

New Ohio Hunting/Fishing License Choices

New options for Ohio hunting and fishing licenses went into effect in early October. The major change is that hunters and anglers can now choose multiple-year licenses – licenses that are good for 3-, 5- or 10 years, or a lifetime license. The table shows categories and costs.

| | <u>Youth</u> | <u>Adult</u> | <u>Senior</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 3-Year License | \$28.60 | \$54.08 | \$28.60 |
| 5-Year License | \$47.58 | \$90.22 | \$47.58 |
| 10-Year License | \$95.16 | \$180.44 | Not Available |
| Lifetime License | \$430.56 | \$468.00 | \$84.24 |

A youth is an Ohio resident aged 17 years or younger. Adults are Ohio residents aged 18 – 65, and seniors are Ohio residents aged 66 and older. The multiyear and lifetime licenses can be purchased online or by mail from the Ohio DNR, or at a local Ohio DNR office. Multiyear licenses can also be purchased at DNR agent locations. Lifetime licenses will be issued as a hard plastic card. The same card will be available to purchasers of multi-year licenses for a \$4 charge.

Fall Women’s Trip to Cany Fork River

By Cari Vota

We got to the river as the sun was rising. The sky was clear; the air was cool. The river still had little puffs of fog floating down stream on the light breeze. And so our adventure starts.

All week leading up our Tennessee trip, the Center Hill dam was generating 9:00am to 4:00pm. I was worried. What if they don’t stop? How will we fish this scenic river if it’s raging all day? We were wading, not floating. I had a Plan B and even got great advice for a Plan C for our small group if we needed it.

Looking at the generating schedule on Thursday evening for the next day, our 1st day on the river, we immediately moved into Plan B – move as far down the river as we



could, fish early, fish until the rise in the river reached us, then wait and move way up stream as the river started to go down.

It was still dark when we left our cabin Friday morning. A quick breakfast, coffee and off we went. As we rented a cabin only a half mile from the water, it didn't take long to get to Kirby Road pull-off. Everything we had read on the Caney Fork said midges were the way to go. I had made up several 2-fly dropper rigs ahead of time and tied one on. We fished it hard with no success until 11:30 then headed back towards the cars. As we ate our lunch, you could tell the water was starting to color-up and flow faster. After lunch a couple of us stayed very close to shore and high-sticked a few soft-hackles.

Around 4:00 as the water was to start going down, we ventured out to Lancaster Hwy pull-offs to look at the highly recommended place to fish. We stopped at the river crossing spot (in low water you could drive to the island). We fished a couple small pools. I got a nice rainbow on a Partridge and Purple Soft-hackle. We watched as the river continued to drop, then left about sunset. I must say Lancaster Hwy pull-off didn't look like much with high water. Boy does that change!

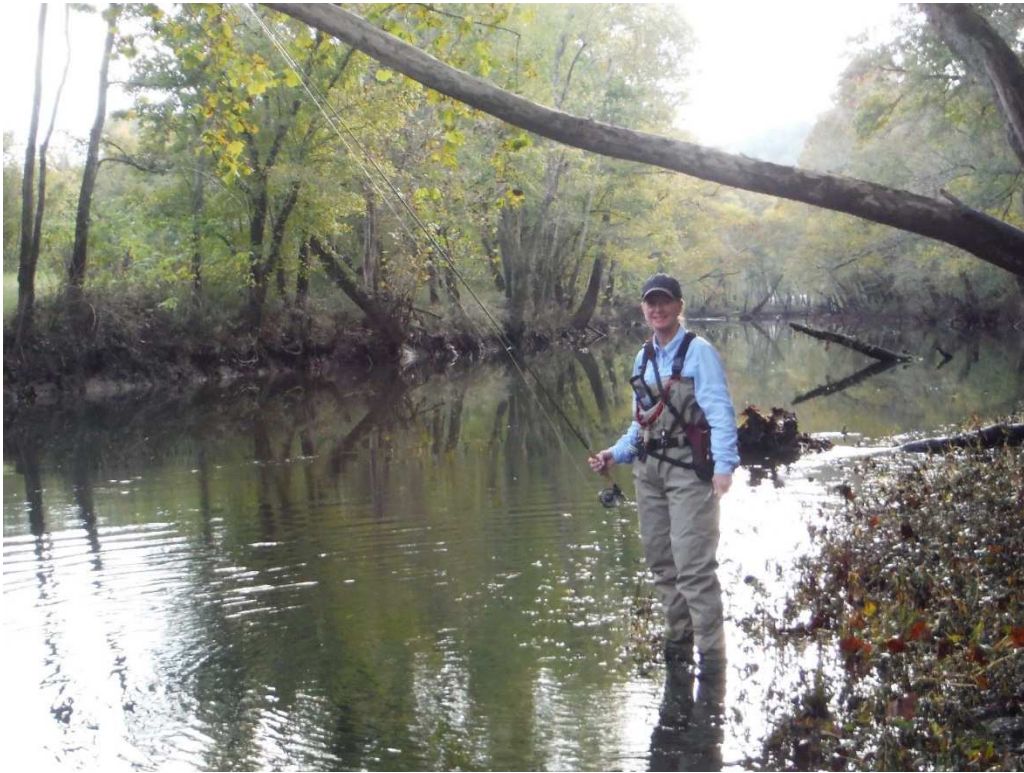
The generating schedule for Saturday was awesome – ZERO all day. Did they know we were coming? Or do they do this for all weekend fishers? A couple of us got out early Saturday and because we had some success with soft hackles, we stayed with that. I know I need to work on that nymphing-dropper thing more. In low water, the Lancaster Hwy last pull-off overlooks a great, long gravel bar. It's a steep hill climb down to the water and it was still wet from overnight rain. I got one more fish, a rainbow stocker, and we had several bites but no takes – need fish to bite to even work on learning to set the hook better.

After lunch back at the cabin, we tried Betty's Island for a bit before moving back to the Lancaster sandbar. Kathy and I each got a small rainbow. As the sun was setting, we both swore they were starting to jump out of the water but we had to go! We had a hill to climb to get out of there and it's not something we wanted to do in the dark. The soft-hackles were a sure bet this day too. We had gotten fish on orange, purple and red.

The fishing was slow; even the locals we met said so, and it has been for some time now even though they stock 100,000 fish (rainbow, brown and brook trout) per season. Is it due to the new concrete at the dam? Are the hybrid stripers coming up from the Cumberland River looking for dinner? I've read something on both of these theories. No one knows for sure.

But for our trip - Good times, good food, good friends. We will very likely come again. Thanks to our participants – BUFFER Kathy Newsom, and (hopefully) future BUFFERS, Theresa Fauver and Lynne Becker.

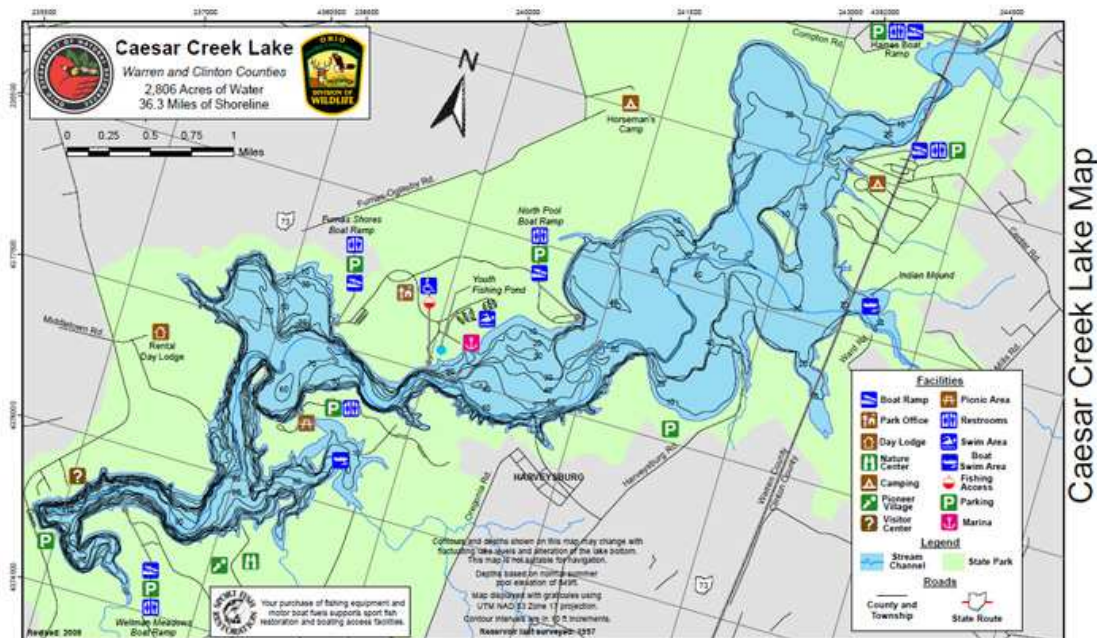
Save the date for April 2019 meeting – Susan Thrasher, guide and FFI Certified Casting Instructor of Southern Brookies, is coming to talk about fishing the Caney Fork River. <http://southernbrookies.com/>



Caesar Creek Lake Fishing Survey

By Tom Bachey (h2oguy@fuse.net) & Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com)

Tom shared a note about a recent fishing survey conducted by the Ohio DNR at Caesar Creek Lake. The ODNR Division of Wildlife fish biologists conducted an electrofishing survey at Caesar Creek to evaluate the success of their 2018 saugeye stocking. They not only found good numbers of young saugeye, but 26 adult muskellunge were also observed at 24 sample sites. We both thought that providing some additional information about the lake and the type of fish that are there would be of interest.



The map above shows the outline of the lake, park facilities, and lake depths and drop offs. Fish that are in the lake include, largemouth, smallmouth, white, and Kentucky spotted bass, bluegill, white and black crappie, catfish, carp, saugeye, muskellunge and shad. Muskellunge and saugeye are stocked annually.

The ONDR site for the park provides the following as best methods of fishing & best fishing sites. It is primarily focused on spin casting, but offers ideas as to locations to fish the lake.

- In the lower end, the most promising fishing areas are in the bays and around cover near the shoreline. In the upper end of the lake, flooded timber, rocky shorelines, and drop offs associated with long points or underwater humps are good areas.
- Crappies are found throughout the lake and can be taken in the spring in areas with brush or timber by using small jigs or still fishing with small minnows or wax worms.
- Bluegills are taken on red worms or wax worms in summer around cover (stumps, brush, and trees), sometimes as deep as 12-18 feet.

- Bass can be taken from spring through fall by casting artificial lures and live night crawlers near shoreline cover, drop offs, and bays with flooded timber. In spring, white bass can be caught on small jigs or spinners in the two main tributary streams in the upper end of the lake.
- In the summer, saugeye can be caught by trolling deep diving crankbaits or by bouncing a night crawler spinner harness along the bottom.
- Muskie anglers cast large spinners near submerged timber or troll oversized crankbaits along main lake drop offs.

The ODNR also provided the following summary from both their survey and an angler survey-

| Type of Fish | ODNR Survey Report | | | Anglers Survey Report | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | Overall #'s | Size | Largest (inches) | Catch Rates | Fishing Pressure |
| Channel Catfish | Good | Excellent | 30" | Poor | Average |
| Crappie | Fair | Excellent | 12.2" | Fair | High |
| Largemouth Bass | Fair | Excellent | 20.5" | Poor | High |
| Muskellunge | Good | Good | 49" | Excellent | High |
| Saugeye | Good | Good | 25.4" | Excellent | Average |
| Sunfish | Fair | Good | 7.7" | Good | High |
| White Bass | Excellent | Poor | 14" | Excellent | High |

Fly of the Month – DDH Leech

Tim Williamson, Don Kail, & Ken Mandel

At the October meeting, Tim Williamson discussed our local opportunities for excellent and challenging fishing. One of his go to flies is the DDH Leech, which is the topic of this month's column. This fly was developed by Stu Thompson of Canada in 1995. It has become a very popular and successful fly and consistently catches many species of fresh and salt water fish. Over 80 species are reported to have been caught using this fly. Fresh water species include all species of trout, pike, walleye, all species of bass, all types of pan fish and many others.

The DDH Leech is also simple to tie. DDH refers to Diamond Dub Holographic, which was the flash material that Stu used when he first tied the fly. A 2012 article written by Stu Thompson, available on the Orvis web site (<https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/how-to-tie-the-ddh-leech>), describes how he developed this fly and provides tying instructions. The article describes the dubbing mix Stu used, which he made by blending rabbit fur of various colors with the holographic flash using a coffee grinder. However, there are several commercial synthetic dubbing products which can substitute. Following the October meeting, Don Kail looked up the fly, and has tied several using Laser Dub materials. There are a

couple of videos demonstrating how to tie this fly which also use commercial dubbing (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyNN1U5yFew>). Tim mentioned that he wraps a strip of rabbit or squirrel tail to achieve the body effect. Whatever works for an individual!



The DDH Leech as tied by Stu Thompson

Materials:

- **Freshwater Hook:** 2-X long (or longer) nymph hook, sizes 2 – 8.
- **Thread:** Standard tying thread, color to match body
- **Eyes:** Bead chain for leech (or brass eyes for a bait fish style), sized to fly, and desired sink rate.
- **Tail:** Marabou
- **Body:** DDH Dubbing or other flash-containing dubbing (i.e., Laser dubbing or Diamond dubbing)

Instructions: *The photos shown in the tying instructions are snips from one of the videos demonstrating how to tie this fly.*

1. Mount hook in vise. Wrap thread from behind the hook eye to the bend and then wrap the thread back to about 2-hook eye lengths behind the hook eye. Tie in the piece of bead chain, or other eye material, on top of the hook shank using a few figure 8 wraps and a few circular wraps between the eye and hook shank so that the eyes are solidly attached to the shank. Once the eye material is secure, the thread should be just behind the eyes.



2. Second step is to tie in the marabou tail. The tail should extend about 1 to 1-1/2 shank



lengths beyond the hook bend. Tie in the marabou along the top of the hook shank, starting behind the eyes and wrapping the thread to trap the feather fibers along the hook shank to the hook barb (just before the bend). Trim the excess fibers that extend over the eyes.

3. With the thread positioned at the hook barb as seen in the image above, form and secure a dubbing loop about 5" long. Place the dubbing material in the loop and when satisfied with position and distribution, spin the loop to form a dubbing rope or noodle. Use a dubbing teaser to tease out the trapped ends of the dubbing which will help in building the body. The teaser used in the video demonstration (and shown in the image) is a piece of Velcro attached to a wooden stick.



4. It is useful to palmer the dubbing fibers to one side of the loop and then begin wrapping the loop forward towards the eyes, with the teased dubbing fibers oriented toward the bend area of the hook to build up the body. When you reach the eyes, do a figure 8 wrap around the eyes, and then make two wraps of the dubbing right behind the eyes in the same place. Bring the remaining loop forward under the eye and tie it off at the hook eye.



If the dubbing loop is not long enough to complete the full fly, just tie it off, and make an additional dubbing loop to proceed. Make sure you keep the dubbing fibers oriented towards the tail of the fly so that the body will form correctly.

5. Make a small head with the thread, whip finish behind the hook eye and secure with head cement. Use the dubbing brush or teaser to pull out the dubbing fibers to shape the body.

Upcoming BUFF Activities

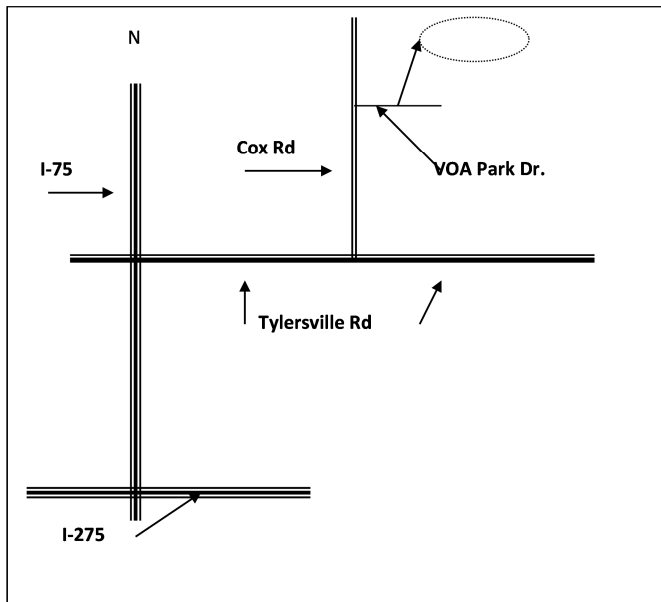
Please check the BUFF Website for availability and details, or contact the trip or activity coordinator

| <u>Trip/Activity & Location</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u> |
|--|--|---|
| Tie & Lie Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH | Friday 11/16 Friday 12/21 6:30 – 9:00 PM (Bring vise, thread & tools) | Gary Begley 513-932-4205 loopdude1@hotmail.com |

November Meeting – Wednesday, November 14th, 2018

6:00 – 9:00 PM at VOA Park – watch website for sign-up

Register on line at WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM. Please register whether you plan to eat dinner with us (\$15/person) or not.



Directions:

From I-75 -- Follow 1-75 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.