



# The BUFFER

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## Notes from the President

Jim Vota – [vota@zoomtown.com](mailto:vota@zoomtown.com)

We're back in the slop again. The pandemic is in bloom and we're voting. By the time this is published the vote will be complete. I hope you all got out and voted. As far as the COVID 19, please keep safe and take precautions in public.

I hope you were able to join us for Hugh O'Donnell's steelhead presentation. It concentrated on fishing in Ohio. It was a great who, what, when, where, how and why pitch. I'd like to thank Hugh for putting this excellent pitch together. It will be posted on our website.

Our November online club meeting will feature Ron Lewis, former MADMEN Trout Unlimited club president, and proprietor of the **Ohio Trophy Trout Hunter Public Group | Facebook** site. Ron is one of the most knowledgeable individuals when it comes to fishing the Mad River.

As part of our continuing effort to provide additional fishing information for the membership I am working on a presentation for musky and pike fly fishing for later in November. It will be a primer on how to get started as well as how and where to fish for them locally and in areas relatively close. Let me know if you have any ideas for future presentations. Along this line of thinking, a small group of club members are thinking how to do on-line fly-tying lessons. Look for more info later this month.

With the weather cooling I haven't been as active fishing. I'm numb from the election season and have been busy around the house. However, I have been back at the tying bench. My latest fly/lure is a Blane Chocklett pattern, called the T-Bone. Blane has put out a book on tying and fishing his Game Changer type flies. This one is included in it. My effort measures in at 12 inches. I used the color pattern he had as the example in the book, olive and pink. This will work in streams where redhorse are on the menu and in tannic water. Also, in Tennessee tail waters where musky come up and eat rainbows in the winter. It is finished with a Bufford head. It has great action in the water. The drawback is the bulk (not the weight). There is a lot of air drag on the fly so casting it much farther than 60 or 70 feet is tough. For those into tying, this is a very good book. The game changer style of fly in smaller



sizes is not difficult to tie and is relatively easy to fish. Give them a try. Supplies for these can be found at one of our club sponsors, Mad River Outfitters.

We are going to be planning the 2021 club activities at the next BOD meeting. I don't know what 2021 holds for in person activities. Club member safety is tops in consideration. If you have any ideas, please let me or any of the BOD members know what they are. If you try to call me, please leave a message if I don't answer. Between spam, political activists, robocalls and other things, I don't carry the phone everywhere, and I might miss your call. So, please leave a message. I will get back with you.

Please use your head in the pandemic and stay safe.

Jim Vota, El Prez.

**PS. –**

Remember our online auctions. Check them out on the BUFF website. The certificates are good through the end of 2021, so you will have plenty of time to take the trip or redeem the certificate for merchandise.

Also, don't forget about your friends in BUFF. If you want to get out fishing, give someone a call to meet at a river. You can fish together safely. It is something to do to help keep the crazies away. There's a contact list on the website. If you are new to the sport and need help call someone and ask for advice. The board members are listed and are willing to help. We are all part of this community.

I know it's early, but nominations for club officers for 2021 are coming fast. If any of you have an interest in joining the board and would like to help shape the direction of the club, please let me know. I've had the president's position for 3 years now, and 2021 is the time to turn it over to someone new with different ideas. Without change nothing ever progresses. I think this pandemic is helping us to realize the need to change how we do things. Think about getting involved.

Food for thought, improving your casting really does make fishing easier. Something to work on is a good back cast. This sets up the entire cast. If the back cast isn't good the forward cast won't be either.

JV

## **Membership Renewal Reminder**

This is a reminder that membership renewal for 2021 is ongoing. You can renew on-line on the BUFF website. Membership renewal is in the "Member Services" page on the website, just need to login with your e-mail address. You can pay by credit card (follow instructions on the web site) or mail a check.

Membership dues provide funds and support the club. 2021 dues will remain the same, \$25 for single memberships, and \$30 for family memberships. While 2020 has been a difficult and challenging year due to COVID-19, and we have not been having in-person meetings, or holding group events, the club has maintained a number of activities, including providing financial support to fly fishing businesses, charitable contributions, and having invited speakers present through virtual meetings conducted as Zoom conferences.

## **BUFF November Meeting – Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM –**

### **November Speaker – Ron Lewis, “Fishing for Trophy Brown Trout on the Mad River”**

Ron Lewis has been fishing the Mad River for about 20 years. Most weeks he averages being on the water 2-3 times, even if just for a couple of hours to hit a specific spot. Ron has certainly managed to figure out one of the toughest fisheries many anglers have ever faced. Big streamers and tightline nymph techniques are what Ron is known for, and the fishing methods he will discuss with us.

Ron administers two very productive and active Face Book groups. Ohio Trophy Trout Hunter and Ohio Brown Trout are community pages utilized to give back to the fly-fishing community, and manage stewardship for the Mad River. Volunteers from these groups often assemble on the Mad River to do their part of giving back and making the Mad a better river. Be sure and join these two groups.



Knowing why you are doing, what you are doing, and when to do it is the cornerstone to Ron’s learning and action process. He plans to share with the community not just his methods, but also his philosophies on fishing the Mad River; enabling the audience to take his lessons to the waters of their choice and find success.

Ron recognizes many skills must come together for a fly-fishing angler to find consistent success. Thinking out of the box along with years’ worth of trial and error will be presented to the audience via November’s Zoom Meeting...be sure and join in! Although hard work on your part will still be necessary, Ron hopes to shave off some of this by sharing his lessons learned.

- **Meeting time is from 7 PM – about 8:30 PM. A brief business meeting will begin at 7 PM, and the presentation around 7:15.**
- **Registration deadline is November 10<sup>th</sup>.**
- **To attend, you must register on-line, and provide your e-mail address. Registrants will receive an e-mail with instructions on joining the Zoom session. If you are not registered, you will not be able to join in.**

## BUFF COVID Relief Auctions – Final Weeks!

We are in the final couple of weeks of auctions from the **BUFF COVID Relief Program**.

Only active BUFF members can participate in the auctions, which are run on our website. Bidding on and purchasing these items are a great way for BUFFers to stay connected with the sport and to plan towards better days ahead. Also, *all certificates are valid thru the end of December of 2021 (next year!),* so there's plenty of time to let things settle and get scheduled.



**Here is the schedule for the remaining auctions:**

Dates	Vendor	Value	Description
10/26-11/2	River Tactical Flies	\$125	Store Credit
	Fly Masters of Indianapolis	\$100	Store Credit
	Eggman Flies	\$50	Gift Certificate
11/16-11/22	Independent Angler	\$125	Gift Certificate
	BlackJaw Tackle	\$125	Gift Certificate
	The Hook & Hackle Company	\$125	Store Credit

***Help BUFF, our partner fly shops and yourself by getting in on the action. Bid “early and often” on one of more of these great fly fishing opportunities!***

## Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Program Leader Needed

Brent Miller has led our chapter of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF), our program which works with veterans, for over 10 years. This past month Brent informed the BOD of his intention to retire from this role. To ensure the continuity of this valuable and important program, Brent has been talking with program volunteers and members of BUFF, which is the sponsor for our program to identify a person to step into the role of program leader. He is also letting people at NKFF know, as about half of our volunteers are from NKFF.

The Program Lead requirements are:

- Leadership / management / organizational skills
- Computer literacy
- Good people skills
- Fly fishing experience

The Program Lead is not alone. Volunteers share their expertise in areas such as instruction on casting (Tom Scheer, Jim Vota, and others), and in leading fly tying classes (Jerry Schatzman, Joel Stansbury, Jeff McElravy, and others). Hence, duties are shared among individuals. However, it is the Program Lead who manages and is responsible for coordination. There is training available, offered at the national level, in all aspects of the program.

It is critical to identify an individual who would have interest in taking on the leadership of this program. Without someone from our club taking this on, it is likely we'd have close this program for our area. It would be a shame to lose such a valuable program which offers so much for our local veterans.

If interested or you would like more information of what is required, please contact Brent Miller directly. His phone is 513-535-8735, and his e-mail is [brent.miller@projecthealingwaters.org](mailto:brent.miller@projecthealingwaters.org)

## Wall Street Journal Magazine Article on 'The Fly Fishing Boom'

Steve Bailey shared an article published in the Wall Street Journal Magazine by Darell Hartment. The article was published on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The link is - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/fly-fishing-popular-essay-11601986851>. Unfortunately, you need a subscription to the WSJ to read this, but local libraries may offer access.

The article discusses the recent surge in popularity of our sport, though still representing only about 10 – 15% of all angling. The increase in interest, perhaps a reflection of the COVID pandemic which is keeping us closer to home, is the largest since the early 1990's when release of the movie "A River Runs Through It" also sparked a similar level of new interest in the sport. It discusses increased participation of women in the sport, and some interest by higher end companies getting into 'fly fishing



themed clothing' (\$350 gold wading dungarees – not your typical baggy waders!). With the WSJ being a NY-based publication, the article focuses to a large degree on fishing the Catskill waters, which are classic fly fishing streams. Typically, our club has an annual Catskill's trip, which of course has had to be put on hold for this year.

It was an interesting article and one worth reading

## Tippet Spool Tenders

Tom Bachey shared a link for making simple and effective tippet spool tenders. The video is by Tom Flagler, from Tightline Productions. Tom is well known for his many fly tying videos, and these can often be accessed from the Orvis web site. The link is: <https://flylordsmag.com/how-to-make-diy-tippet-spool-tenders/>. The video is about 7 minutes long.

Tippet spools usually come with an elastic band that keeps things from unwinding, but the band can break or get dropped and lost. They are also very thin and the tippet can slip through the small hole. The device in the video seems like it could be useful. Materials, all of which can be found in hardware or craft stores and are inexpensive, are ¼" elastic braid, clear plastic tubing (3/16" o.d. X 1/8" i.d. is recommended), and heat shrink tubing (1/4" which shrinks to 1/8"). You'll also need a hot melt glue gun and a candle.

Basically, cut a length of elastic braid to fit the circumference of the spool. Then a piece of plastic tubing, about ¼" long is cut and the ends rounded by melting over the candle. Once cooled hot melt glue is applied to one side of the tube piece, and one end of the elastic attached. This is repeated on the other side of the tubing, so the elastic now forms a loop with the ends attached to the tubing. The shrink tube is then run over the elastic, onto the plastic tubing and heated over the candle to shrink it and lock everything together. That's it. Tom recommends cutting several lengths of braid, and pieces of tubing and shrink wrap so you can make a number of these in a sitting. From watching the video, the whole process, once you have the pieces, is a matter of a minute or two.

The video shows some other uses, such as holding tinsels on spools. A couple of photos of the 'finished'



products are below.

I want to personally thank Tom for sharing this idea. I plan on trying to make a few for spools of tinsel I have which seem to unravel as I look at them!

Ken

## A Jig Hook Woolly Bugger

The woolly bugger, first tied in the 1960's by Russell Blessing, is one of the most popular fly patterns in use. It mimics a range of aquatic insects and fish. In 2017, Tim Flagler of Tightline Productions recorded video instructions for tying a standard bead head woolly bugger. Tim has a new video modifying this versatile fly, by tying it on a jig hook. It's a well done presentation, clearly showing each step and providing useful



adaptations and techniques. The photo shows Tim's finished fly tied in olive. The advantage of the jig hook is that it rides hook side up and is less likely to snag on a river or pond bottom.

The major modification appears to be using a slotted bead to accommodate the angle in the shank of the jig hook. There also appears to be an interesting approach to securing the wire weight that lies behind the bead. You can see that technique on the video. Materials are standard for woolly buggers – wire for additional weight, a maribou tail with some flash, and chenille and hackle for the body. Tim's fly is tied in olive, but he recommends other as well.

Here is the link to the video which is on the Orvis site: <https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/video-how-to-tie-the-woolly-bugger-euro-jig>

Here is the full list of materials:

*Hook:* 2X-long barbless jig hook (Fulling Mill 5130), size 10

*Bead:* black nickel slotted tungsten bead, 5/32"

*Weight:* 0.020" lead-free wire

*Thread:* light olive 6/0 or equivalent

*Tail:* olive woolly bugger maribou

*Flash:* root beer Krystal Flash

*Body:* medium size olive chenille

*Hackle:* light olive grizzly hackle

## River Fishing a Tandem Woolly Bugger Rig

Dave and Amelia Jensen from Alberta, Canada, (Jensen Fly Fishing) have an excellent instructional video on stream fishing using a tandem woolly bugger rig. Even for experts, woolly buggers remain a major fly that they use. Here is a photo from the video of one of Dave's boxes, a box full of woolly bugger patterns. Even experienced expert anglers use them!



The basic set up uses a 9-foot leader with a barrel swivel at the end. To this, Dave ties on a 24" length of 3X tippet, with about a 6" length on the tag end off of the clinch knot. He then ties on two woolly buggers – one at the long end of the tippet and one at the tag end. The video shows the set up in detail. Together, the two weighted flies, plus the weight of the swivel get the flies down into 3 – 4 feet of water quickly and allow you to fish the currents effectively.

The video, which is about 20 minutes long, demonstrates streamer and nymphing techniques, including Euro-nymphing, using this set up. Here is the link to this video if interested in checking it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8m4T-RYfZjE&feature=youtu.be>

Jensen Fly Fishing has a number of excellent videos which can be accessed, so, if you have not subscribed, which is free, you may want to do so to get updates.



## Ohio Trout Stocking – 2020 and 2021

By Cari Vota

You may not realize there are ONLY 3 stocked trout streams in Ohio – the Mad River, Clear Fork – upper and lower parts, and Clear Creek which feeds into the Hocking River. Other states around us have many, many more. Other states also often publish their dates for stocking.

In contrast, the Ohio DNR does not make anglers aware of their trout stocking dates. Ohio typically does a March/spring stocking and a fall stocking. ODNR does not post the dates, period. This is so no one can follow the stocking trucks and fish them out as soon as they are put in. Also, with Covid, they do not want groups of people coming together. The typical fall stocking is sometime in the 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks of October, weather depending. Same for spring stocking, usually in March, it depends. In addition, there are a few other rivers/creeks that are stocked in Ohio such as Apple Creek. But they are done by private groups with private funds.

ODNR also stocks a few LAKES with trout. The list of lakes and dates can be found on their website. These are considered put-and-take.

Stocking could still be brown trout, but ODNR has largely switched to rainbows as they are less expensive to raise to releasable size.

## **BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish!**

Prudence Hunt sent a photo of Jimbo fishing at Lake Barkley. This is in KY near the Land Between the Lakes and the Cumberland. While he was trying for smallmouth bass and crappie, he did land a good size buffalo.



Josh Morrow, has been a BUFF member since 2012, but moved from Cincy to Cleveland in 2015. He's lived there since then, but has hooked up with the steelhead crew a few times when they've been up there for spring trips.

Josh wanted to let the club know how the steelhead fishing has been in northern Ohio. For the last few years, there have been strong spring runs. This past spring's run was probably the best he has seen since moving to Cleveland. Josh fished the Chagrin and hooked a lot of fish, and heard the other tributaries were producing as well. It seemed like the heaviest of the spring run occurs mid-March through mid-April, with good fishing remaining into early May. However, Josh added that he has caught fish from December all the way through, but that of course depends on the lake, temperature, etc. Fall steelhead fishing is generally slower in Ohio. If fishing in the fall, Josh recommends heading east to PA or NY. The only OH stream that's been decent for him in the fall is the Conneaut. Josh included a few photos from this past season. Nice fish!



Tom Scheer sent us the following from the few days he, Jeff McElravy, and Lee Chambers spent at Sunnybrook last month. They had a really nice time but did not take photos.

Sunnybrook is a wonderful place to fish, especially for anyone who like myself, has had to leave wading behind. To protect the integrity of the invertebrate producing floor of the stream, no wading is permitted. Cold creek (a true spring creek) supports a significant population of macro-invertebrates to nourish an ample population of stocked golden, rainbow, brook, and brown trout. Since it is spring fed, the creek maintains a cool water temperature conducive to healthy trout year round.

During our visit the fish were frequently looking up, and a good presentation of an attractor mayfly or caddis, as well as ant and beetle patterns often yielded reward. Streamer fishing during the bright sunny days was less successful. Subsurface minutiae (primarily choronimid patterns), was as usual met with some takes.



The visit was a delightful suspension of the reality of the coronavirus pandemic we are and will be experiencing for some time. Being outside and at a distance from potential carriers, fishing for trout was a safe, wonderful opportunity. It will be a while before BUFF can confidently renew our club-sponsored trips. In the meantime, it is possible for individuals to arrange day fishing in safe, well managed surroundings at the Sunnybrook trout club, where the management has guidelines in place to allow fishing, and overnight lodging if desired, in an environment providing a low likelihood of virus transmission.

Brett Pavia sent us some photos from him and his spouse, Ashley, from their honeymoon trip – fly fishing in Montana and northern Michigan! ***Congratulations to both of you on your marriage!***

Brett and Ashley fished the Boulder River near McLeod, Montana, catching brook, rainbow and cutthroat trout. These were the first trout they'd caught fly fishing. An unforgettable experience in what looks like an absolutely beautiful place.



Brett and Ashley also fished for salmon in Northern MI on the same trip. Brett got his first king salmon on a fly, and Ashley her first king ever! Some more nice photos -



What a great honeymoon trip! The photos from both Montana and Michigan should make any of us want to get out there to try our luck.

Lindsay Leddy sent a note and some photos –

“Just returned from a magnificent trip to Montana to fish the Madison Upper, Lower, Between the Lakes and in Yellowstone Park... It was awesome. It went from 50 degrees to -4 overnight! Also, I just won Orvis “Local Slam” contest... YAY!”





As part of Orvis' "20 Days in September" photo contest this year, Orvis started a new category called 'The Local Slam'. The idea is to recognize anglers fishing locally, especially during the COVID pandemic. Lindsay was our local area winner having caught 3 species of trout, a bass and a huge carp. A photo of the carp was in last month's BUFFER and is worth seeing if you had not checked it out.

**Congratulations Lindsay!** You can see the official Orvis winner's announcement at <https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/meet-the-winner-of-our-local-slam-contest>

**If you get out to fish, send a photo or two and we'll put them in upcoming BUFFERS!**

Send photos, and a short description of where and when you were fishing and what you caught, or even if you were just enjoying being on some water, to Ken Mandel (BUFFER Editor) at [kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com)