



# The BUFFER

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

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November 1, 2023

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## The President's Fly Box

My trip to the Cumberland River with Patrick Goddard was record setting for us. In all, we believe that we landed over 100 fish (yes, Patrick had his typical 50% more fish than me). Our guide, Jim Sauerheber, owner of Cumberland Valley Fly Fishers, put us on the fish. Jim's boat is great for the large Cumberland River as it can motor us upstream and then transition to rowing, aka drifting, for fishing. Jim made it easy to fish as he knew the spots and how to fish them. I highly recommend this trip as either a river trip or in combination with fishing Hatchery Creek.

My next trip will be in Ohio. Fishing in Ohio is beginning to heat up as the temperature drops. All reports from NE Ohio are that steelhead are coming in strong. More forceful rains will encourage more fish to enter the river systems. I personally like waiting until all the leaves are down and flushed out of the rivers, so, stay tuned for a late-November club trip for steelhead.

Our November membership meeting presentation will be FFI Women Connect with Patty Lueken, an FFI Director. Our women's group is very active and growing. This will be a great opportunity to connect for many of our ladies. It is also an opportunity to invite a friend, your spouse, daughter, or granddaughter to the meeting. Make this a unique meeting for the whole family.

As the cold weather creeps in, fly fishers often think about tying flies for next year. BUFF is here to help with training. Jim Neckers is leading the beginning fly tying class, with sessions continuing thru November. Please check out our calendar for time and dates. If you have any questions, talk to Jim!

Have you thought about how you can get more involved in BUFF? Yes, BUFF is always doing something, and we always need help. Here are some of the opportunities to consider: Fly Show volunteers, Banquet team, trip leaders, Board of Directors, Treasurer of BUFF. BUFF is a dynamic organization and people's ability to help changes over time. We need your involvement to continue offering great meetings, trips, training, conservation monitoring, and public education. Please contact any board member to start the journey. Thanks for considering volunteering your time and knowledge.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Hugh O'Donnell  
BUFF President

## **BUFF November Meeting – Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup>**

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 7:45 PM. Registration closes on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. This month, Oasis will prepare an 'early' Thanksgiving meal for dinner – turkey, etc. Also, the November meeting falls early on this month's calendar, so please remember to register.

### **October Speaker – Ms. Patty Leuken – “What is FFI Women Connect & Why Would I Want to Be Part of It”**

Fishing since age two, Patty Leuken started fly fishing and tying over twenty years ago. This led her to FFI membership. As a member of FFI, Patty was a founder of FFI Women Connect, has served as Chair of this program brought together a dedicated team of women anglers and developed its strategic plan. Patty serves on FFI's board of directors, and on the Development, Education, and Membership Committees.



An informal one-person committee chaired by Patty is the “FUN chair” for the board. She also serves on the Fly Tying Board of Directors and has helped put together the Fly Tying Rendezvous held in Branson, MO that occurred this past September. Patty loves being retired!

On a local level, Patty is Vice President of her local fly fishing club, an FFI-affiliate club., and serves on the Southern Council Board of FFI. Patty's favorite fish to catch is small mouth bass, but she stands ready to catch any fish that are biting. Patty has earned multiple FFI awards, including being FFI's 2021 Fly Fisher of the Year.

We welcome Patty to our November meeting and look forward to hearing her presentation.

### **November Dinner Menu – An Early Thanksgiving!**

- Chef's Choice Salad & Dressings
- Dinner Rolls & Butter
- Roast Turkey
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Green Beans
- Chef's Choice Desert
- Coffee & Iced Tea

## November 10-Minute Tech Talk

The topic for our November Tech Talk is “The Uni Knot”, and it will be presented by David Fraley. This brief presentation will be held at our general meeting during the social hour from 6:10 to about 6:20 PM. We encourage members come by to learn and join in on the conversation.

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 or [byran.tudor@yahoo.com](mailto:byran.tudor@yahoo.com)

## 2024 Fly Fishing Show Update

The show team continues progressing towards the February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 show. We now have our full slate of presenters –

Susan Thrasher will be our 2024 headliner. Susan is from East Nashville, TN. She incorporates her life-long passion for fly fishing into her life’s activities. She started her guide and instructional service, Southern Brookies Fly Fishing 20-years ago, is involved in many women’s fly fishing programs, and has been a casting instructor with the Joan Wulff School in the Catskill Mountains in NY for 17 years. She’ll have two presentations on the day of the show, as well as a casting demonstration at the pond.



Our other presenters are –

- Mike Exl, owner of Moving Waters Outfitters fly shop in the Indianapolis area. Mike will present on Indiana Small Mouth fishing.
- Mike Mehrle of Clarksburg, OH. Mike is known as the “Frugal Fly Rodder”. He likes fishing small creeks and streams and will present on how to do that well.
- Tom Cross is a long time angler, and fishing and outdoors columnist. He currently heads the Adams County Ohio Tourist Bureau. He’ll be talking about fly fishing on Ohio Brush Creek in Adams County. This is a relatively unknown and pristine stream that is really a local water for us.

The day of the show also includes 3 tying demonstrations led by Lance Kekel, Glenn Weisner and Kevin Ramsey. All three have been tying demonstrators at prior shows and are excellent tyers.

Other events and activities –

Starting at this month’s meeting we will begin selling tickets to BUFF members for this year’s raffle items for the show. We have two raffle selections –

- The main raffle item is a Winston Air 2, 9-ft, 6-wt fly rod with a reel and trout line. The rod was provided through Josh Greenberg, owner of the Gates Au Sable lodge and fly shop. The package has a retail value of over \$1,600. Tickets are \$20 each, with 120 tickets to be sold.
- The second raffle combines a Fishpond wading pack with lumbar belt and accessory attachments for a net and water bottle, a Fishpond net, and a Cabella's 22-qt Polar Cap Equalizer cooler. These items were provided by Delemere and Hopkins (pack, belt net) and Cabella's, respectively. The retail value is over \$500. Tickets are \$10 each, with 100 to be sold.

Remember, BUFF meetings from November through January offer exclusive raffle sales to BUFF members. Any remaining tickets are sold at the show, and the winners are announced at the close of the event. You do not have to be present to win, as we collect name, phone # and e-mail on the tickets.

## Tom Scheer – 2023 FFI Casting Instructor Certification Program Instruction Recognition Award Recipient –



In last month's BUFFER, Cari Vota wrote a very nice article about Tom Scheer, one 4 FFI-certified casting instructions receiving this award in 2023. In addition, as this is a new award from FFI, Tom is part of the initial group of awardees, a very deserving recognition. Cari's article provided details on Tom's contributions to BUFF and the requirements for receiving this prestigious recognition. The photo is the actual award received from FFI.

Go back and check out the October BUFFER to learn more about Tom's achievements for this award!

**Please extend congratulations to Tom the next time you see him at a meeting or other BUFF activity.**



## 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” 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.

## A Fly Fishing Adventure with Cumberland Bottom Ticklers

By Sam Hanna & Mike Jones

Brilliant yellow, orange, and red leaves painted the hillsides of the river valley last Sunday when fellow BUFF member, Mike Jones and I joined Captain Greg Williams, owner/operator of Cumberland Bottom Ticklers, for a fly fishing adventure on the Cumberland River. Greg Williams started his guide services business in 2013 and has mastered the twenty-nine mile stretch of the Cumberland below Wolf Creek Dam.

The morning rendezvous and launch was timed to be in front of the single generator water release that morning and located some distance away from the anticipated Sunday crowd. The drift was nearly nonexistent until the release caught up to us, and gently pushed us for the nine mile float Greg planned for the full day trip.



Greg Williams is a family man and full time professional Sr. Project Manager for a digital aerial photography and airborne laser systems company. His military experience and travels afforded him the opportunity to hone his fly-fishing skills worldwide. A BUFF sponsor and multiple-year exhibitor at our Fly Fishing Show, Greg donated a one day float for two anglers on the Cumberland for our 2023 banquet silent auction.

Greg provides rods, tackle, snacks, beverages, and lunch on his full day guided trips. He set up our rigs, often mixing the flies and depths until finding the groove that produced fish after fish nearly all day long. With the 6 hp kicker on the back of his

StealthCraft, Greg motored or rowed up and down stream covering productive seams, structure, and riffles until each played out.

Within the first five minutes I landed a nice rainbow which immediately deflated any pre trip (are we going to catch anything?) anxiety. While my quick catch alleviated my anxiety, it only raised Mike's fear that he wouldn't catch anything all day. Around noon, right after releasing a fat brown, I heard the distinct sound of a click counter. Observing Greg's hand in his pocket, we learned that he click-counts every fish. "How many have we caught so far?", I asked. "Twenty-four (24)", Greg replied. Mike and I were elated! We were having so much fun, we weren't paying attention to the haul.

By days end, the counter read forty-five (45). That's right, 45 rainbows and browns with Cumberland Bottom Ticklers! Of the 45, I think Mike caught 10 or so, but who's counting .



Our experience on the Cumberland with Greg far exceeded our expectations. The amazing Fall beauty of the river valley, the cool morning fog, lots of fish, and great company made this fishing adventure special. A learning experience more than worthy of our time. If interested in booking an outing with Greg and Cumberland Bottom Ticklers, you can find information on his website -

<https://www.cumberlandbottomticklers.com/>

From all of us Buffers, thanks Greg.

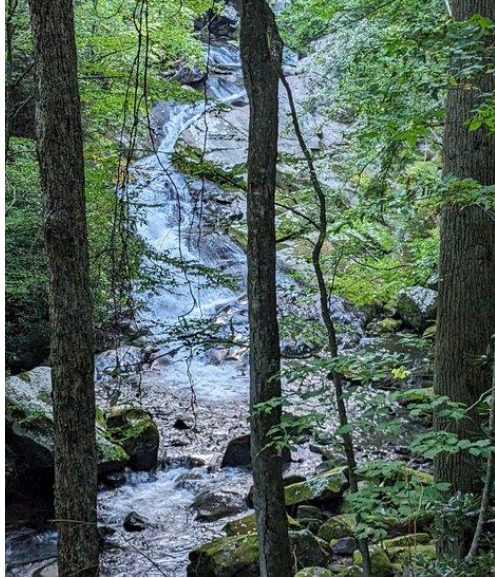
## **Fishing with Rob Fightmaster – “The Fightmaster Experience”**

By Phil Pursley

Rob Fightmaster has been a speaker at BUFF and NKFF monthly meetings and I have heard him speak at both locations. My friend Joe Hamilton (NKFF) bought a two-day fly-fishing trip with Rob, and asked me if I would be interested in joining him to fish in the Smokey Mountains. Joe didn't have to ask me two times if I was interested in fishing with this famed fishing guide. We traveled to Gatlinburg, Tennessee on my birthday, September 5, and we were all set to meet Rob at 8:00 AM on the 6<sup>th</sup> in Townsend for our first day of fishing.







Rob drove us about 3 miles out of Townsend and headed up a small gravel road until it ended. At that point we got our gear together and prepared for a two and half mile hike up the mountain. Rob, Joe, and I started on our trek up the trail. The trail was wider than I expected since it was an old railroad bed from when this part of the mountains was being logged for timber. The trail was longer than I expected yet there were nice vistas along the way such as this waterfall.

Even though the trail seemed to go on for a long time I resisted asking, “are we there yet?”. Rob did tell us that we were going to the Cadillac hole. I assumed that this was a special fishing hole, maybe one better than all the others. Wrong. The Cadillac hole is a spot that is marked by a 1930 something Cadillac which resides just off the main trail.

The associated story is that a “timber boss” would drive his Cadillac up the rail track to check on the workers and the timber. For some reason, at some point the Cadillac wouldn’t start, and left on the mountain. A few years ago, the tree in the photo fell on this old Cadillac. Anyway, the Cadillac is a point of interest to hikers and fishermen, and for us, marked our starting point for fishing. We could have fished at a lower altitude where rainbow trout had been stocked in the past. However, today’s trip was one where we wanted to focus on wild brook trout. The waterfalls we passed hiking up to this area make it impossible for rainbow trout to migrate this far up the mountain.



Once we got to the “Cadillac Hole” it was time to rig our lines and get final instructions from Rob as to the places to put out flies for the best results. For my rig, Rob tied on a small green hopper with a smaller nymph as a dropper. Rob sent me down the stream to fish my first pool. As I made my way to the stream and had to step over a large pile of bear scat, and also didn’t realize until later that there was a large black rattlesnake next to the little trail I was walking down. I didn’t bother him and he didn’t bother me.

I soon caught the first fish of the day on the hopper. When Rob returned to check on me he suggested repacing the nymph dropper on my line with a green inchworm since he had seen several of these worms hanging from the tree branches. Photos are brookies caught on both the hopper and inch worm flies.





Take time to enjoy the whole experience when you hike up the mountain. There is more to see than beautiful fish. *Note from Ken M - The red is a cardinal flower and the blue one of the many types of aster. You'll find both all over the lower-to-mid elevations in the Smokies in late summer and early fall.*



After the hike up the mountain and climbing over huge rocks and boulders, it was time for a twenty minute nap. My backpack served as a good pillow on this large rock.





Our long day of fishing with Rob Fightmaster ended with a long hike down the mountain and an ice cold Coke. Many fish were caught and new places to fish were learned. Rob gave us a great “Fightmaster Experience”. Rob is a long-time supporter of our club, and a club sponsor. I’d strongly recommend considering him as a guide if you are interested in fishing in the Smokies or other areas around Knoxville, TN. You can find more information on his website - <https://fightmasterflyfishing.com/>

## Fall Fishing on the Au Sable

**By Ken Mandel**

In the middle of October, Haruko and I spent a thoroughly enjoyable week in Michigan at Gates Lodge. We fished three days and spent a day touring in and around Traverse City. It was perfect timing, as fall colors were pretty much at their peak.

Fishing was challenging. Haruko needed to get replace her fly line and I needed to get together with Josh Greenberg to settle up on the rod outfit he has generously provided to our club as the main raffle item for our fly show raffle. So, on our first day, we were busy with folks in the fly shop for a while. We decided to fish from the banks at a few spots on the river. There is some very nice access. Fishing from the back of the lodge can be productive – we’ve both caught trout in a bubble line along a small island there in the past, but not that day. Haruko got a small brookie fishing from the Stephens Bridge boat launch area. Later in the afternoon, we tried a spot on the South Branch by Smith Bridge, but by then the sun was out, the river was very shallow, and there weren’t going to be fish ‘sunning’ themselves in that spot.





We had two days with guides. We did a full day float trip with Matt Verlack in a classic Au Sable boat and fished the Holy Water section of the river. . I fished mostly dry flies, primarily a small (20 – 22) BWO pattern, and Haruko did a combination of dry indicator with a small dropper for most of her day. As I said earlier, fishing was challenging due to the conditions and season. We started the day in the mid-30's and temperature never got above the mid-40's. We also had a good breeze to add to the chill. Morning was slow, but that was expected. However, by late AM/early afternoon we were seeing a good

number of fish rising to take small blue wing olives on the water. I had a good day, netting several fish – brook, rainbow and brown trout. Haruko had some hits, but unfortunately did not land anything. Matt felt so bad for her, that he had me reel up so he could completely focus and work with her for the last hour or so of our drift.

Our second guide day was with Justin. We fished a lower section of the Au Sable. This area of the river is much larger water (wider, deeper, different currents) than the upper stretch of the Holy Water. We fished this stretch earlier this past summer and really enjoyed it. Our original plan was to again do a full day float, but rain was expected by mid-afternoon, so we shortened it to a



half day, putting in at Connor Flat and taking out by McMaster

Bridge. It was the wise decision as the rain started just as we finished packing things in the car at the end of our day. By the time we had driven back to the lodge, it was a good downpour! This day, I was the one who got skunked. Fishing was very challenging. Even though the temperature was warmer, we never saw any rises. We both fished different flies and set-ups. I even fished the later part of the day with a sink tip and streamer rig on one of Jordan's 4-wt rods – Haruko and Jordan enjoyed watching a southpaw with a right-handed rig! We could see fish chase the streamer, but



they never took it. Haruko got a couple of fish toward the latter part of the trip, so that was great.

On our final day we wandered in the Traverse City area. We hit a couple of specialty shops we wanted to get to. Then we did a road tour through the Leelanau peninsula. Our last time there was about 20 years ago. Scenery was gorgeous and we found a nice creamery making a national award winning raclette cheese. Raclette is a traditional cheese from Switzerland that is often served warmed and melted. It is very good as is also! As we started to head back to the lodge, we took a last detour on Mission peninsula where we stopped at Grand Traverse winery. They make a superb dry Riesling which is the best I've had outside of Germany (I got to spend significant time there with my former business). A very pleasant day with beautiful fall colors.

Overall, a very enjoyable trip and enjoyable angling. One does not go to fish the Au Sable with a goal of catching 'lots of fish'. It is all native fish, fly fishing and mostly catch and release only, and by fall, these guys have seen every fly known to man, plus some more! However. Haruko and I enjoy fishing the Au Sable and do it at least twice a year. Gates Lodge is rustic, but very nice with an excellent restaurant. They have picnic tables so you can also grill out if you desire and we did that on a couple of nights. The staff could not be nicer or the fly shop staff more knowledgeable. Finally, their guides are all fantastic. Interested? Check them out at <https://gateslodge.com/>

## Blue Gill on Dry Fly

By Haruko Mizoguchi

It was one of those last warm days in October. I had about 1.5 hour between commitments, so I drove to a local pond. As I stood by the water, I noticed a small bug flying low over water and as soon as it landed on the surface, it was gone, leaving ripples. It looked like a dry fly day. I took out a size 16 Griffith's Gnat that I'd recently tied at an informal gathering of our women anglers. As soon as the fly touched the in water, a bluegill came jumping up to grab it. I could see fish chasing the fly. It was amazing and mesmerizing. What a great way to spend even a little bit of time one can squeeze out on an otherwise busy day full of chores.



## 9 Beginner Fly Fishing Mistakes to Avoid

By Ken Mandel

Last month, Tom Bachev shared a blog post on this topic that was published in Trouts Journal, a blog he receives. We had a pretty full newsletter, so I held this for this month's BUFFER. The article was written by Ivan Orsic, and posted to the blog in September of this year. You can the full blog and



details on discussion of the points listed below on the website at -  
<https://troutsflyfishing.com/a/info/blog/9-beginner-fly-fishing-mistakes-to-avoid>

1. Focusing on fly selection vs. presentation.
2. Over doing false casting. Bottom line is the fly needs to be on the water to catch fish. Over doing false casting just increases the likelihood of forming tangles and knots in the line and leader.
3. Moving too fast or too slow in water when wading. The importance of this point is to move in ways that don't alert or chase off fish, and then not over linger at a given spot.
4. Trying to cast too much line.
5. Too much wrist action in your cast. Wristy casting will result in open loops, and poor delivery.
6. Know your knots. Know how to tie the knots you will need and be using on the water. Simply one needs three basic knots on the water – a knot to tie tippet to leader (i.e., double or triple surgeon's knot), a knot to tie the fly to the tippet (i.e., clinch knot), and a loop knot (i.e., perfection loop). It's not complicated.
7. Tying flies directly to your leader. I am not sure I agree with this. If using a commercial tapered leader, the final 2 – 3 feet of say a 9 foot leader is tippet. I don't see the issue with tying a fly to that. What is important is to realize that as we change flies, we shorten this part of the leader, so after a few change-outs, we should add appropriate sized tippet to restore the leader to its length.
8. SET THE HOOK ! Can't say enough about this. When you think you have a fish on, set the hook.
9. Courtesy – Fishing too close to other anglers.

The site is [www.troutsflyfishing.com](http://www.troutsflyfishing.com). You can sign up for their blog if interested in getting more items like this.

## Upcoming BUFF Events & Trips–

Here are club events and trips coming up in November. Register on the BUFF Website. Directions and detailed information are also on the website.

- **Though not yet posted, Hugh's cover note suggests that a steelhead trip to Northern Ohio may be coming soon!**
- Beginning Fly Tying classes are scheduled for Tuesday evenings on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up on the website.

# Reminder to Share Your Experience

**From Ken Mandel**

*This month we have several articles from BUFF members who have been out fishing. Sam Hanna & Mike Jones wrote of the outing with Cumberland Bottom Ticklers, Phil Pursley of fishing in the Smokies with Rob Fightmaster, and Ken Mandel & Haruko Mizoguchi of their trip to the Au Sable. We also have some photos from other club members who have gotten out to fish.*

*Thank you to those who have already shared their experiences! **Questions on what to do? Contact Ken Mandel, BUFFER Editor at [kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com)***

## BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish –

A few photos from this month –

In mid-October, Bryan Tudor took another group of BUFFERS to the Mad for fishing. This trip included Jim Naramore, Greg Stryker, and Doug Spreher. Big question – did they catch any fish?



A few photos from the October NC Trip –











*There are a lot more photos. Hopefully, the trip leaders will put them on the BUFF Website*

## Upcoming BUFF Activities

**With cooler weather, our activities have slowed down. However, check the website and watch for e-mails for activities may become available!**

**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 &amp; Location</u>                                      | <u>Dates</u>  | <u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u> |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Monthly Meeting</b><br>Oasis Conference Center<br>Loveland, OH        | Wednesday, November 8 <sup>th</sup><br>6:00 PM – 8:30 PM<br><b>Sign up on Website</b>                       | Hugh O'Donnell                    |
| <b>Beginners Fly Tying</b><br>Springdale Community Ctr<br>Springdale, OH | Tuesdays, November 14 <sup>th</sup> ,<br>21 <sup>st</sup> , & 28 <sup>th</sup><br><b>Sign up on Website</b> | Jim Neckers                       |
| <b>Board of Directors Meeting</b><br>Springdale Community Ctr            | Wednesday, November 15 <sup>th</sup><br>6:30 – 8:00 PM  | Hugh O'Donnell                    |

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|--|---|-------------|
| <b>Monthly Tie &amp; Lie</b><br>Virtual – Zoom Mtg | Friday, November 17 <sup>th</sup><br>6:30 PM – 8:30 PM<br><i>See Website for Link</i> | Gary Begley |
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### 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.

