



# The *BUFFER*

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

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

November 1, 2024

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## The President's Fly Box

October brought devastating storms to the Southeast of our country which greatly affected communities near Asheville, NC, while substantially bypassing communities near Bryson City, NC and Townsend, TN. BUFF is trying to understand how we can help. Individuals can help via donations to any of many relief organizations. We've had communications with Tuckasegee Fly Shop indicating that they are open for business. They stress that their livelihood depends upon tourism. So, they want people to come. Since each region is different, due diligence is needed to determine if you can drive to the area and fish the area. We know that I-40 in the NC mountain range is closed until further notice. So, going over the mountain or around the mountain through Murphy, NC are the two likely routes.

BUFF is hosting our annual Fall North Carolina Trout Trip in early November. This should be an economic help, albeit small, to the region. Hopefully, others will also visit the area to keep small businesses in operation. I'm sure that we will hear about the trip at the November membership meeting.

At the November meeting, we will also hear from Bill Carman, Kentucky Wild Outdoors. Today, Bill is both a fly-fishing guide and an elk hunting guide. His career spanned 30 years of designing parks and recreation areas before becoming a full-time guide. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, he will speak on fishing at Kentucky Hatchery Creek. This will be quite interesting for me as I plan on a trip to Hatchery Creek in early December.

As the holidays season and cold weather approaches, some of us start thinking about steelhead fishing. Yes, in November and December, some of the broods come into the rivers near Cleveland to spend the winter. While not as numerous as in March, it can be a good time to fish. The club is not offering a scheduled trip this year. However, when the conditions are right there could be a notice on the *Forum* for an 'ad hoc' trip. Likewise, if you want to go with others then use the forum to get a group together.

Hope to see everyone at our next membership meeting, November 13<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, plan a fishing trip to end the year right.

Tightlines,

Hugh O'Donnell  
BUFF President

## **BUFF November Meeting – Wednesday November 13<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.

*Please register on the website whether having dinner with us or not so Oasis can set up adequate tables and seating. Online registration will close on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.*

### **November Presentation – Bill Carman; “November Magic: Fly-Fishing Kentucky’s Hatchery Creek”**

Bill Carman is a fly-fishing guide who has spent over six decades fly fishing the streams of Kentucky. He is Kentucky's only guide specializing in small stream wading. He is also an award-winning outdoor writer. Bill's stories have appeared in numerous outdoor magazines, and he won the national Outdoor Life Book Club short story contest. He has written three books of hunting and fishing essays, and authored a true crime book, *Saving Noah*, set in a small town in Kentucky. His latest book, *Fishing with Daniel Boone*, takes the reader on a fly fisherman's journey to the rivers and streams of Daniel Boone's life. Bill regularly conducts outdoor skills workshops and teaches outdoor writing at the Carnegie Center. He and his wife live in Lexington, Kentucky where he is teaching his grandchildren the ways of the woods. Bill can be reached at [www.kentuckywildoutdoors.com](http://www.kentuckywildoutdoors.com).



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

Chef's Choice Salad  
Roast Turkey w/Stuffing  
Mashed Potatoes  
Carrots  
Coffee/Tea  
Chef's Choice Desserts

## **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.

## **New Members in October 2024**

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

This past month saw us gain 3 new members –

- **Jacob Patrick**, Blanchester, OH
- **Alex Gray**, Cincinnati, OH
- **John McGinnis**, Dayton, OH

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

## **2025 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Updates –**

**By Ken Mandel & Tom Bachev**

### **Friday Program Registration Opening Soon**

The 2025 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show will offer two programs on the day before the show, Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>. As described below, these programs will include fly tying workshops, led by Brian Wise, and two special workshops, led by our headliner, Jason Randall.

### **Jason Randall’s Classes – Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>**

On the Friday prior to the show, Jason Randall, our 2025 show Headliner, will offer two comprehensive classes. Each will be about 2 ½ - 3 hours.

One class is a comprehensive session on methods of nymph fishing. The goal is to build a nymph fishing strategy that removes the guesswork and mystery from this style of angling. The program includes a PowerPoint presentation, hands on instruction on rigging leaders and products used, knot demonstration and an opportunity to practice. Jason will provide all materials for this program, but participants should bring a rod for a practice opportunity (on the casting pond or outdoors if weather is cooperative).

The second class will focus on tips, tactics, and advanced methods for dry fly and dry-hopper fishing techniques. The program includes a PowerPoint presentation, discusses rigging, materials, leader formulas, fly lines and product and knot demonstrations. There will be hands-on learning for rigging and building custom leaders. Materials will be provided for the program, but attendees should bring a rod for casting practice on the indoor casting pond or outdoors if weather is cooperative.

The schedule for these workshops will be -

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM – Noon, and  
Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM,

- **Cost is \$60 per workshop.**
- **Registration is limited to 10 - 12 per class.**

## Fly Tying Workshops

Brian Wise will lead 3 hands-on fly tying workshops on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Brian hails from Missouri and is an expert streamer designer & tyer. He is the 'face' of the "Fly Fishing the Ozarks" You Tube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/flyfishingtheozarks>). He enjoys tying and instructing on how to tie larger streamers, for chasing larger fish. Check out some of his presentations. Two workshops will tie streamers – one workshop focusing on tying the 'Double Deceiver' and the other on tying the 'Laser Dungeon'. The third workshop will tie several soft hackles. Brian likes to work hands on with the tiers, and tries to give some one-on-one time with each person in the class.



Double Deceiver



Laser Dungeon

The schedule for the Friday Tying Workshops will be

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM,  
Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM, and  
Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

These are hands on workshops. Participants need to bring a vice and tying tools, and a tying light if you want to use one. Brian Wise will be providing all materials and tying threads.

- **Cost is \$30 to register for 1, \$50 for 2, and \$70 to register for all 3 workshops. This is the same cost we've had for prior year's shows**
- **Registration is limited to 20 – 24 per class.**

***As we have done in past years, workshop registration is first offered to BUFF members. BUFF-only registration will open following the November meeting, and remain so until the December club meeting. After that, any remaining seats will be offered to the public. Seating is limited, so we urge that you make your reservations, and submit payments, prior to the December meeting.***

***Watch for an email-blast announcing registration opening!***

## Fly Show Raffles!

We will begin selling fly show raffle tickets for two prizes at the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The main raffle prize is an Orvis Helios 3D rod outfit. The Helios D-series rods are designed for both accuracy and distance casting. The rod being raffled is a 9-ft, 5-wt 4-piece rod. It comes with a tube and rod sock, a Battenkill reel, and a 5-wt Orvis Pro Line. The reel can be set up for left- or right-hand retrieve. Tickets are \$20 each and 100 will be sold.



Our secondary raffle includes a Tenkara USA “Sato” rod kit. This contains the rod and materials to get you started in Tenkara fishing. In addition, this raffle includes a Sumo car roof-top (magnetic) rod carrier. Several BUFF members use these devices when moving between locations to carry regular rods. Tickets for this raffle collection are \$10 each, with 100 to be sold.



We thank the Cincinnati Orvis shop for supporting us with the Orvis rod outfit, and Mad River Outfitters Fly Shop for the donation of the Tenkara rod outfit. Raffle tickets will be sold at club meetings through January. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the show on February 1<sup>st</sup>, and winners announced at the close of the show. You do not have to be present to win.

## Volunteers!

Yes, it is that time again!. While organizing each year’s Fly Fishing Show involves a small team, we rely on a larger number of our club members to volunteer to help on the days of the show. We seek at least 70 volunteers for the Friday/Saturday events. It is a simple proposition - without our members stepping up, we could not do this show.

We need BUFF members to help with a range of activities –

Hall Preparation (Friday)  
A/V Support  
Raffles  
Kids Area (Crafty Fish)

Admissions Table  
Casting Pond Set-Up & Take-Down  
Membership Booth  
Women’s Forum  
Hospitality/Transportation

Information Booth  
Fly Tying Table  
Fly Fishing 101  
Booth Sitters

If you are new to the club, or have not volunteered in the past, please do not hesitate to get involved. We have a team leader for each activity, who can provide information as to what is involved. We seek a large number of volunteers, so that each person's time is limited and you can also attend and enjoy presentations at the show!



**There will be signup sheets at club meetings starting this month and going through the January meeting. You can also register on the website ([www.buckeyeflyfishers.com](http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com))**

**or by phone or email to Ken Mandel (513-675-8488, [kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com)) or Tom Bachey (513-543-4056, [h2oguy@fuse.net](mailto:h2oguy@fuse.net)). Reach out to Ken or Tom if you have any questions!**

**Please help us and volunteer for some activities at the show!!**

## **Fly Fishers International Casting Instructor Certification Program**

**By Tom Scheer**

The casting directors of all the FFI Councils have agreed to spread the word about the Fly Casting Skills Development Program offered through Fly Fishers International. For BUFF members who may be curious about becoming FFI Certified Casting Instructors, FFI has published a 'roadmap' which describes the steps in following the quest. It is newly formulated, long overdue, and very thorough in detailing what is expected and how to plan for the journey to obtain certification.

Jim Vota and Tom Scheer are two FFI Certified Casting Instructors who are active in teaching casting to BUFF members. They can be contacted as resources and to answer questions if anyone is interested in pursuing this.

Here is the FFI website link for information on the program -

[https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/Documents/Casting/CICP\\_Candidate/Casting\\_Instructor\\_Candidate\\_Roadmap.pdf?ver=0e3KlpCGZ9UAxbaRyYhWlw%3d%3d](https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/Documents/Casting/CICP_Candidate/Casting_Instructor_Candidate_Roadmap.pdf?ver=0e3KlpCGZ9UAxbaRyYhWlw%3d%3d)

## Conservation Minute – 6PPD Additive in Tires Kills Salmon

By Hugh O'Donnell

Over the years, I've heard stories of low numbers of salmon and steelhead returning on the West coast. The cause never sounded definitive until now. The Spring issue of TU magazine featured an article titled "Tires Kill Salmon" by Robert Popham. I checked this article with information available on the EPA website, ACS articles, USGS website, etc. There is consensus that the preservative (6PPD), once reacted and spent becomes a toxic for salmon and trout. The preservative function is essential to maintain the life of a tire. During storms, this material finds its way into our waterways. For trout and salmon, this is deadly.



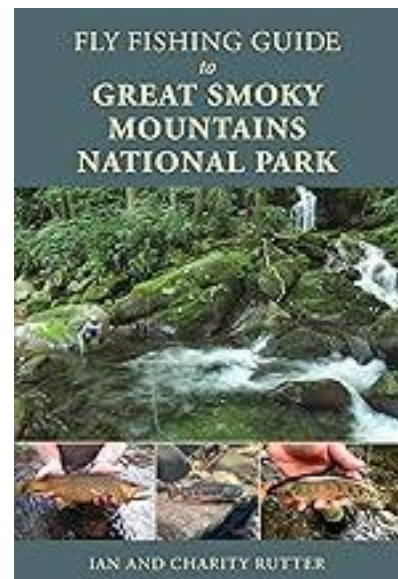
The article highlighted that the industry is searching for an alternative that will maintain tire life without causing toxicity to various life forms. It was noted that just with the current inventory of tires in the US, the toxic leaching into our streams will continue for possibly another ten years.

It is far better to find the cause and begin to act than continue the hand waving. For this I'm quite happy. Many articles mention steps to stop and/or mitigate the damage. Likely, all steps are welcome. In the meantime, when you help with river cleanups, always remove those tires from the streams. Small steps can make a difference.

## New BUFF Library Book on Fishing the Smokey Mountains

By Hugh O'Donnell

Fishing in the streams of the Smoky Mountains is always fun. With nearly 300 trout streams in 384 square miles of forest, finding the right streams can be overwhelming. Now it will be simpler thanks to Ian and Charity Rutter of R&R Fly Fishing in Townsend, TN. Their new book on "Fly Fishing Guide to Great Smoky Mountains National Park" provides ample advice and an encyclopedia of knowledge about the streams, access points, and fish species throughout the Smoky Mountains. This is the Rutters' first book in nearly 20 years. It was well worth the wait. We have a copy in the BUFF Library that our members can borrow!



## FFI Ohio Council Annual Meeting

By Dick Erickson & Cari Vota

The FFI Ohio Council annual meeting will take place at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 12 by Zoom. The primary agenda item is election of officers along with brief reports on Council activities. All are encouraged to attend. A reminder with the Zoom link will be sent to all Ohio FFI members about a week before the meeting.

This is an exciting time to get involved with the Ohio Council. FFI provides many services for our clubs and us as individuals. There are unseen services such as access to low-cost insurance protection for club activities and tax reporting for our clubs. Our priorities are education, conservation, and community. Club participation is a key part of the community activity. Women Connect has many activities serving women, the fastest growing segment of the fly fishing community. Conservation is getting more visibility. FFI has a long tradition of fly casting and fly tying education. Both are being improved to be more useful to clubs and individuals. Just a few years ago it was recognized that we need a program to teach the general skills of fly fishing. A Fly Fishing Fundamentals course is in the final stages of preparation to launch. A new Learn-To-Fly Fish video has just been completed to introduce the sport to new people and is now on the FFI website.

The FFI website is the primary access point for information about FFI and its services and benefits. FFI is redesigning the website to make it easier to navigate and find the information you are looking for. You will find direct access to the communities of interest to you. Fly Fishing, Fly Casting, and Fly Tying education programs, tailored to the individual online learner, will be available. Resources will be there to help your club grow, including Fly Fishing, Fly Casting, and Fly Tying Fundamentals presentation materials and a variety of club how-to manuals. The plan is to move quickly to get the major improvements completed for a major launch, followed by more updates. It will take a little time, but it is coming soon.

## Fall Fishing on the Au Sable River

By Ken Mandel & Haruko Mizoguchi

In mid-October, Haruko and I spent a few days at Gates Au Sable Lodge and fished the river. We had two days of fishing with guides. One day was with Matt Verlack and the other with Lance Nelson. Both are great guides. The Grayling area had not had significant rain for a few weeks prior to our trip, so the river was low. Fishing was challenging due to the low water and clear conditions. We fished a lower stretch of the main river putting in at the Parmalee launch. On the first day we did a longer day, putting in at about 10 AM and getting off the river above to Mio at close to 6 PM. The second day, morning temperature was mid-20's, so we did not put in until about 11 AM and made the trip a long ½ day, taking out at a launch called the Whirlpool.







We both did quite well and caught a good number of trout – browns, brookies, and rainbows. Haruko hit the ‘cycle’ (one each) within the first hour of day 1! It took me a while to get going. We fished a dry (indicator) dropper pattern on both days, with fish pretty much taking only the dropper, which was either a midge or nymph pattern. We had almost 4-feet of leader between the indicator dry fly and the dropper, and we were very happy just not to tangle things too frequently. On the first day, toward late afternoon, we had a small hatch of blue-wing olives and saw a few fish coming to the surface to grab them. Matt swapped my rig out for a dry BWO, and I quickly sight-hit 2 fish on the rise, both nice browns. He then switched Haruko to the same set up, and she got another. I closed out our day with one more. The hatch did not last very long, and after that it quieted down.

When out with Matt, we used a Hippie Stomper as the dry-indicator. It was a great fly for that. It was large (about a size 10), has a foam body with a dense hackle abdomen, so it floats forever, it has a large wing (Antron or similar synthetic) on top, so it is very easy to see even in

rougher currents and when there is glare on the water. Smaller sizes are great attractors when fish are looking to feed on surface flies. I did have a couple of brookies grab the one I was using. We are definitely going to be tying some of these over the winter months.

Overall, we had a great time. We enjoyed the two days with two excellent and personable guides, and of course the ambiance of the lodge and friendliness of the fly shop. Fall colors were magnificent. Tom Scheer and his son were there as well, and we shared a couple of breakfasts together. It was a wonderful way to enter the fall season and close out our fishing trips for this year.



## Wyoming Trip – 2024

By Tom Bachey

I left home on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, and headed to Beulah, Wyoming to fish Sand Creek. I set my camp up, got my rod set up, and walked to the creek. The first thing I noticed was how much the contour of the creek had changed since I was last there, 3 years ago. As I started casting, I heard a noise and suddenly, three people in float-tubes came down the creek. Tubers came floating by about every half hour or so and I decided that fishing for that day was over.

On Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, I headed to Buffalo, WY where I picked up US 16 which crosses the southern end of the Bighorn Mountains. I met my former college roommate, Brian Huey, at the Sitting Bull Campground situated above Meadowlark Lake, a picturesque alpine lake which is right along US 16. The next day, we met our guide, Justin, and he drove us along East Tensleep Creek to an alpine meadow with the creek meandering through a vast valley with snow-capped mountains all around. We fished the

creek all day, catching small brookies, rainbows and browns. The fish were not big, but they were beautiful, and I could not imagine a more beautiful place to fish.

The next day, after breakfast at the Meadowlark Lake Lodge we walked to where East Tensleep Creek flowed into Meadowlark Lake (*photo right*). We could see fish jumping and surfacing, so dry-dropper seemed appropriate. We landed a few rainbows and marveled at the beauty of the natural wonder of this special place.



Friday afternoon, we drove down a canyon road which followed Crazy Woman Creek, a small, rocky, cold-water stream with lots of small holes to fish when you could get through the thick brush. At one hole, I dropped my line, watched it float upstream on a small eddy, and saw it go under an overhanging rock. I had to lean over as it worked its way under and almost out of sight. Suddenly, the indicator disappeared, I set the hook, and landed a beautiful little brookie! We fished a couple of other holes with no success. The drive through the canyon, however, was scenic and displayed the beauty of terrain – the trees and rock formations kept us gawking like tourists.



On Saturday, we left the Bighorns and headed west of Cody, WY to join with BUFF members and others for our annual week at the Yellowstone Anglers Base Camp. The camp is on the North Fork of the Shoshone River. As we drove west of Cody we saw that the Shoshone was crystal clear (*photo left*)! A huge contrast to 3 years ago when it was chocolate milk the entire week and unfishable.

From August 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, we fished several places along the Shoshone River, Fishhawk Creek, and Middle Fork. I landed a 19" rainbow near the Camp Office on the Shoshone, I will relate one story about Brian. He and another camper hiked up the Fishhawk Creek trail to fish, and since I did not want to walk that far; I gave him a box with some flies to use. When they came back, they had a picture of what they reported to be a 24" cutthroat! The fly he used was one of the ugliest I ever tied – size 8 hook, with some yellow and orange material wrapped near the eye, and a green and black feather trailing from the hook. I started laughing when he showed me but when he showed me the pic of the fish, I was amazed! It was also only the second fish he'd caught on his fly rod; the first was on Tensleep Creek!



At the end of the week at the Base Camp, we drove through Yellowstone to Island Park, Idaho, and fished with a guide on Henry's Fork. He offered that we could fish either the south fork of the Snake River, or in Montana, and we opted for the Snake. We fished dry-droppers, and I immediately landed a small, 6" cutthroat. As we continued the float, the fish were few and far between, and the guide switched us to double droppers. I caught a few more, and then I had a huge hit. It was a BIG cutthroat that I worked for several minutes. Unfortunately, the guide missed him with the net and the fish got off. I caught a few more decent sized fish, then I had another big fish on. This time we netted him, and it was 20" cutthroat! A magnificent fish!

That was the end of the trip. The following morning, Brian and I went our separate ways; Brian headed back to Boise, Idaho, and I started my return to Cincinnati. Driving again through Yellowstone, I saw bison and one HUGE elk that if it had taken one more step, I would have hit him with my car.

It was a wonderful trip, and I highly recommend that anyone and everyone should experience Wyoming, and fishing out west at least one time in their lives! I am fortunate to say I have done it twice!!



## **Brown Trout Stocking in the Mad River – Something New-**

**By Cari Vota**

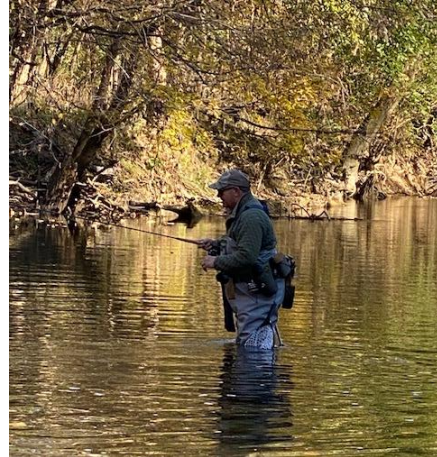
The brown trout that we are catching on the Mad are not your usual looking brown trout. That is because ODNR has started stocking a new strain of brown trout. The old strain was called Plymouth Rock. This strain is a semi-domesticated brown trout, and it is stocked extensively in the east and in California, primarily into put-and-take fisheries, where harvest is of primary importance. The newly introduced brown trout are the Crawford strain. The Crawford strain spawns earlier and grows faster than the Plymouth Rock strain. Therefore, they can be stocked earlier, and faster growth should lead to better survival rates. The ones stocked just a couple of weeks ago on the Mad average 9" and 1/3 lbs. Thank you Tom Allen, TU Mad River Chapter, for some of this information.

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

About a week-and-a-half ago, Bryan Tudor led a last trip for this year to the Mad River. Patrick Goddard and Allen Berg joined in. The water was low, it was sunny and in the 60's, but we did much better than I was anticipating. Both Patrick



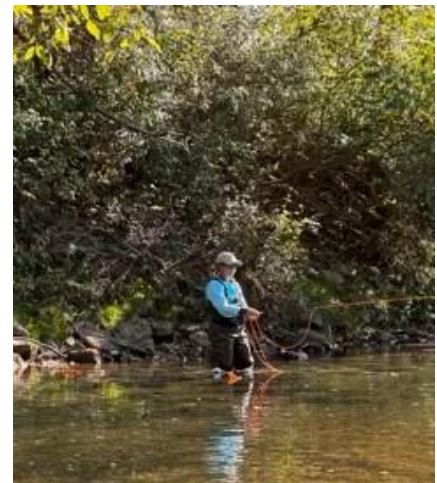
and Allen caught trout; Patrick ended up with 20 plus fish. He's a fish whisperer!.



## Women's Mad River Day Trip

From Cari Vota

Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful day for a fishing trip! Seven of us met at the Urbana airport for a day on the Mad River. We drove around the turner to the 296/29 bridge and access. Some may remember that BUFF helped our local TU chapter purchase this property a few years ago. From here, some of us waded from the parking area, while others went to the SR29 bridge and waded downstream. After a picnic lunch at the parking area, we switched up and fished through the same areas again. Some, though not everyone, caught fish, including recently stocked brown trout, redhorse suckers, creek chubs and fathead minnows. Everyone had a great time and want to go back. We'll do it again in 2025!



Here's one from Sam Hanna. He and his spouse were down south at Hilton Head. He got this red fish on a fly.



Remember, if you get out to fish, please send photos and where you were fishing to [kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com), and I'll get it into an upcoming BUFFER. It's a great way share information and locations with the club!

## Upcoming BUFF Activities

The season is winding down, but we still have activities to consider  
 In-person activities require registration (online on club Website)

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
<b>BUFF Monthly Meeting</b> Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, November 13 <sup>th</sup> 6 PM – 8:30 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
<b>Fly Tying Guild</b> Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, November 15 <sup>h</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
<b>BUFF BOD Meeting</b> Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Wednesday, November 20 <sup>st</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Hugh O'Donnell

### 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.

