



The **BUFFER**

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH
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Notes from the President

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

I'm beginning to think I should give up fishing. Every time I plan to go fishing somewhere, the weather turns lousy just before we get to our destination. I'm going to hire someone to plan and book my trips. That might improve my chances. I will say that I have seen lots of wildlife in their natural environments. I was out on the Caesar Creek headwaters last night and saw a flight of osprey and some bald eagles.

Enough grousing, we are approaching the golden time of the year. Steelhead will be running in the streams. Bass will be heading to their winter holes. Mostly it's a time of the year when the predatory fish go on a feeding frenzy before the cold months. This is your last chance before the cold sets in. Fish will feed all winter but it's much more of a challenge to catch them. Get out there and fish before it's too late and you don't have to brave the cold. It's more fun to fish when it's warm.

BUFF will soon be taking nominations for the Board of Directors (BOD). Most of the BOD want to continue in their positions but there are always spots for new people. If you feel like helping out on the BOD let me know and we can discuss what it takes. This is a club of its members and is represented by its members on the board. Without volunteers the club doesn't function, so please get involved.

Tim Williamson will be hosting two club classes in October. Two Hand casting and mending will be the topics. Take advantage of these. As always you will find Tim to be an enthusiastic and skilled instructor (if not very verbose).

Here's an example of one of the flies I've been tying in preparation for fall musky fishing. I think you can tell it's a perch (tandem hook Optimus Swine). Bigger is better in the late season, or so I'm told. One thing that happens when you take up musky fishing with the fly is that your casting improves greatly (throwing oversized globs of feathers). I can now cast a rubber chicken (why??? You ask). If things like this make us happy then do it. Enjoy the fall. Get out there and enjoy what you love.

Jim Vota
El Presidente, BUFF



PS, I almost forgot; I went to a local pond that has a bridge to cast and try a new fly (shad – big) to see how it swims. As I'm retrieving the fly the local bluegill decided to form up behind it and follow it. It goes left, they go left and on and on. If any of you have an idea of why they school up behind a big fly let me know. I've had this happen several times.

JV

October Meeting – Program

The October meeting is fast approaching. It is Wednesday October 10th. Online registration is available through October 7th, so please be sure to sign up for what is always an interesting and fun evening.

Speaker – Tim Williamson

“Fishing for Smallmouth in the Great Miami”

By Tim Williamson (willitk@yahoo.com)

Have you ever wondered what it's like to catch a 3 pound Smallmouth? Or maybe a 7? I've caught them over 10 pounds! Some bass. Some not. Come find out how to hunt the biggest and smartest fish in Southwestern Ohio. All on streamers. I'll share what rivers are real treasures right here in our part of the tri-state, and how to catch the biggest smallmouth bass or buffalo you've ever landed.

I've been fishing since I was very little. Hard to say when, but that's been almost 50 years now. I've been fly fishing, and a member of BUFF since 2010, and I also tie my own flies. I'm also the BUFF Inside Education director and enjoy teaching many topics for BUFFers ranging from Fly Fishing 101, to strategies for warm water fishes, mending, spey casts, and two handed casting. I'm also one of Buff's casting instructors and enjoy helping people learn to cast.



I call the Great Miami River valley my home and enjoy fishing many of its streams and rivers. The Miami River valley extends north from above Troy Ohio, west past Brookville, and almost as far East as Columbus with its terminus at the Ohio River. In addition to the Miami River, this area covers streams most of us are familiar with: the Mad, Stillwater, and Whitewater. In my early fly fishing days we fished warm water fishes in the Dayton area and had a yearly trip to Cleveland hunting for Steelhead. I used to joke that if I won the lottery I would travel the world over doing nothing but chasing Steelhead migrations.

One of my favorite past times is hunting for Smallmouth, but that really includes two species: Smallmouth Bass and Smallmouth Buffalo. I frequently swing streamers at Heritage Park on the Great Miami with most of the fish caught being Buffalo, but Smallmouth Bass, channel cat, and white bass make an occasional showing depending on the time of year. When I'm really needing to scratch that itch for that thing most streamer junkies call "The Tug is the Drug" I head to Heritage. When I'm hunting Smallies (bass), I frequently go to the Whitewater in Brookville, but I've had some really stellar days on Twin Creek in Carlisle/German Town. Frequently, I will fish on days that I don't think the waters are conducive, just so that I can practice casting. I have three switch rods and two spey rods. I used to love fishing on the GMR for the Buffalo with the two hand rods but I've found their great length to be a problem when trying to land them. I'm often by myself and the rod is too long to net them. I've broke my 5 weight switch this way so now I use a 9 foot rod instead. Super fun!

October Dinner Menu

Spinich Salad with Pomegranate-Glazed Walnuts and Balsamic Vinaigrette
House Made Creamy Potato Soup
BBQ Bacon Cheddar Meatload
Roasted Vegetables
Wild Rice with Fresh Shredded Cheddar
Assorted Fruit Pies

Project Healing Waters in the News!

A short note to check our website. Don has posted a video of a Channel 12 newscast about BUFF's Project Healing Waters fly fishing event that was recently held in Owensville. The news segment includes interviews with Brent Miller, and two of the veterans, Skeeter Williams, and Patricia Terrell. The video is under the 'Community' tab in the 'Project Healing Waters' section of the BUFF website. A great endorsement of the program. Check it out!

2019 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show

Our annual fly fishing show will be Saturday February 2nd 2019 from 9 AM to 4 PM, at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland, OH. This year's headliner is Dave Hughes, who 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. For over 35 years Dave has made a study of trout habitat, natural diet and the flies that take trout in different seasons and conditions. He has published over 25 books on these subjects and fly tying (some will be on sale at the show) and contributes regularly to leading fly fishing magazines and publications. Dave is the founding president of Oregon Trout and a lifetime member of the FFF.

As in the past, we will have two fantastic raffle items, including a bamboo rod from Jerry Snider. Of course BUFF members will get the first shot to purchase raffle tickets at our upcoming meetings. Mark your calendars for February 2nd, and watch the BUFF website, e-mail blasts, and the BUFFER for more information.

2018 New York Catskill Mountains Trip

By J.R. Jackson (bearcatjr@gmail.com)

From September 10th – 16th several BUFFers participated in our annual trip to fish in some of the legendary rivers and streams of New York's Catskill Mount region. Participants in the trip were JR Jackson & Vanessa Stone, Bob & Wendy Gustafson, Don Kail, Jim Neckers, Mike Redmond, Hugh O'Donnell, Ken Speicher, Terry Williams, and Rick Bryk. J.R. organized and hosted this trip, and wrote the following article capturing the events and activities.

Something I've noticed to be true time and again, in fly fishing and in life, is that the folks who tend to be the most successful are the ones who are the best at adapting to whatever situation they're presented with. Prepping for this trip, I talked to the group ad nauseam about how we would be throwing long casts to rising fish in low, clear water. In a typical upstate NY September (at least in my limited experience) that would be the case, but this year was a rainy outlier. The rain we received took most of the big rivers out of commission for most of the week as far as wading opportunities were concerned, but we found smaller streams that produced very well, and everyone on the trip adapted

remarkably well. I stand by my claim that each of us went home from this trip an even better fly fisher than we came.

Vanessa and I got a head start, fishing with a guide from Beaverkill Angler in Roscoe, NY on September 9. Our guide, Dennis Cluck, took us out on the Beaverkill for the one day we had of clear, low-water dry fly fishing. 8 hours on the water produced six nice fish for Vanessa and I, caught on a mix of dry flies (mostly Parachute Adams and a fly called The Usual that was featured in last month's Buffer) and soft hackles.



On Monday, overcast skies turned to rain, and boy did it rain! We got between an inch and an inch and a half of rain, depending on who you asked, which really brought all the streams up. Our BUFF guests arrived at the cabin around 4 PM, and we spend the remainder of that evening getting re-acquainted over cold cut sandwiches and liquid conversation propellant. It had been almost two years since I'd seen several of these people, so we had a lot to catch up on (not the least of which was introducing them to my fiancée Vanessa, who all agreed is the catch of my lifetime.)

Tuesday morning started with a visit to the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, located between Livingston Manor and Roscoe to take in some of the fantastic history the Catskills alone can lay claim to (read the actual handwritten correspondence between Theodore Gordon and established English anglers which led to development of the first dry flies in America, which were subsequently casted for the first times in the hallowed waters of the Beaverkill River).



After the museum, most of the group continued to Mongaup Creek, a small feeder to Willowemoc Creek. Despite having no background knowledge of the creek, everyone managed to at least hook either a wild brook trout or a brown. I witnessed Mike Redmond catching a quality brook trout after I FINALLY convinced him that when his strike indicator would go underwater, there really might be a fish on the end of the line. Tuesday evening ended with the group meeting at The Beaverkill Angler, where shop owner Evan Lavery, manager Matt Nelson, and head guide Rich Hudgens graciously opened their shop to us after hours and spent almost two hours going over maps, suggesting hot flies, and generally doing everything in their power to give us every chance to do well in Roscoe despite the high water on the main rivers. After the meeting, we walked across the street to Raimondo's Italian Restaurant, where a good time was had by all.



On Wednesday morning, several of us fished the East Branch of the Delaware River, where we witnessed a fairly pronounced Trico hatch, but didn't see any fish coming to the surface to chase them. That evening, we found our way to Ben Gray's Pool on the Beaverkill, where the fish started rising to light cahills just as the skies opened up for another hard rain. Jim Neckers had a couple fish hit his dry fly but no fish were landed. Bob and Wendy Gustafson fished the Beaverkill and the Hazel Bridge pool on Willowemoc Creek, where Bob landed a rainbow trout that took an isonychia dry fly. Bob, being Bob, also requested that I state that he landed a shiner minnow from the Sunoco Pool on the Beaverkill. Ken Speicher and Hugh O'Donnell floated the West Branch of the Delaware with Rich from Beaverkill Angler that day, and landed several beautiful large brown trout on streamers!



Thursday, most of our group fished another small feeder stream called Russell Brook, and missed several small brook trout before once again the monsoons ensued. Somehow I was the only one who didn't get the memo that a storm was coming, and when I finally got down off the side of the mountain I found a bunch of dry, smiling faces taking almost too much delight in watching my soggy trudge back to my car. Bob and Wendy Gustafson fished the Main Stem of the Delaware with Rich from Beaverkill Angler and didn't see a drop of rain all day. Over the course of their float trip, Bob landed several nice smallmouth and Wendy caught a really beautiful brown trout. Again, Bob requested that I also include that he landed 3 fall fish (if you're not familiar, a fall fish is essentially a creek chub on steroids). Hugh O'Donnell and Ken Speicher fished the Beaverill Campground in the evening, where Hugh landed a couple nice brown trout on a Tim's Nevermend. Thursday night ended with a trip to the Arnold House in Livingston Manor for dinner.



On Friday we drove about an hour north to Esopus Creek, where several wild rainbows and a couple brown trout were caught. The fish on the Esopus weren't particularly large, but I think it was the most consistent day of fishing we had for the whole trip. We had dinner Friday night at Peekamoose Lodge and Brewhouse, along the edge of Esopus Creek, but with a tinge of Midtown Manhattan class.



On Saturday, we returned to fishing Willowemoc Creek, where the water was finally coming down to dry fly levels. Several fish were caught at and around the Hazel Bridge pool on Isonychia dry flies. On Sunday, I returned to the same pool and learned about a caddis emerger that works on the inhabitants of that pool almost like magic. Saturday night, we fished until dark and then came home to a delicious cookout prepared and arranged by Vanessa and Don Kail.

On Sunday morning we packed up and said our tearful goodbyes (I think Neckers was the only one who actually cried, and that was only because he realized he'd accidentally fished his way through another wedding anniversary – Happy Anniversary Connie!). This was a very memorable trip we'll be talking about for years to come. Hopefully next year we'll be back to lower water and dry fly paradise, but I think the success our group had this year despite the inclement weather illustrates that when skilled fishers are fishing an area with enough water, fish can be caught under almost any circumstance. Thanks again to everyone who came together to make this such a great trip!

Rio Chama, New Mexico

By Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com) & Haruko Mizoguchi (mizoguchiharuko@gmail.com)

Last month, we traveled to New Mexico for vacation – camping and some fishing. We’ve been to NM several times before and have enjoyed camping, hiking, touring and art galleries in Santa Fe and Taos, but this was first time we decided to try fly fishing there. We found, talked, and ultimately, decided to work with Land of Enchantment Guides, an Orvis-certified guide service (www.loeflyfishing.com), based in Santa Fe, NM. They guide on several New Mexico rivers, and many of the places are easily accessible from Taos or Santa Fe. Noah Parker and Scott “Bubba” Smith, are the owners and both were incredibly helpful in working with us to set up a great day of fishing. We’d not hesitate to work with them in the future.

Our initial thought was to fish the San Juan River tail waters below Navajo Lake Dam, a renowned tail water fishery. When we talked with Noah during our planning, he asked the types of places we like to fish and what we enjoy. We really like quieter places, like stretches of the Au Sable. When he heard that his first words were, ‘we’re not going to the San Juan in October’, and recommended the Rio Chama. He read us perfectly! On our way from Chaco Canyon (near Farmington, NM) to Chama, we drove along the San Juan below the dam, and counted over 30 people fishing in a short distance of the river – just lined up! While we are certain these are incredible waters, the ambience was not what we were looking for. By the way, Noah did tell us that winter (November and on) is a very good time to fish the San Juan – no crowds and good fishing – agenda item for a future trip.

So on Rio Chama. The Rio Chama rises in mountains of northern NM. It is a smaller river and joins the Rio Grande north of Santa Fe. We stayed in the town of Chama, NM, which gives access to the northern part of the river. The town of Chama is also where the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad starts. This is a narrow-gauge (3 foot gauge between rails) steam train trip which goes over 60 miles from Chama, NM to Antonito, CO, crossing a 10,000 foot pass. The route is the old Denver & Rio Grande RR route that was built to the silver mines in the southern Rockies. It’s an all-day excursion (6+ hours on the train and about 2 hours back by bus). An activity to consider if one does not wish to only fish.



We accessed the Chama River at Cooper’s El Vado Ranch, which is a public access, and fished the tail waters below El Vado Reservoir. There are other access points on private lands, but these tend to be on parts of the river that are more for ‘expert-level’ fishers, which we are not. While there were a few others fishing in the area, there was plenty to space and it never felt crowded or encroaching. Joey Hart was our guide for the day, and he was a fantastic. His instruction and coaching gave us the opportunity

to fish these unknown waters extremely well. We both felt improved as fly fishers from the time we had working with him.

We nymphed using a set up with a leech pattern as the primary fly (about size 8 or 10), and a smaller fly (a midge or Hare's Ear nymph pattern (size 18) tied to the primary. We had a piece of split shot on the tippet and used a strike indicator. Casting was a 'lift and flip' approach, and we never needed to cast more than 20 feet to get the line into the fish stream. Joey provided us both 10' 4 and 5 wt rods. These made the casting easier than using the shorter rods we had with us. There really was not any place to back cast, and even a standard roll cast would have been difficult. The few times when we tried a roll cast, our lines got hung up in bushes behind us.



Wading the Chama is a bit tricky. The bottom of the Chama is mostly rounded stones and they are slippery. Also, when we were fishing the water was cloudy, so we could not see the bottom. A wading stick is an absolute necessity. Ken came close to falling in a few times – saved by the wading stick, and Haruko did take a dunk. Her wading belt worked!

The fishing was fantastic. Joey picked us up at our motel in Chama a little after 7:30 AM. We were on the river by 8:30 AM, and did not leave until after 4:30 PM. Joey provided a delicious riverside lunch as well. Both of us caught more fish than we'd ever done before on a day trip – mainly rainbows and Ken had one brown and Haruko landed a large yellow perch as well. Ken's first hit was on his second cast of the day! All the rainbows were at least 12" long. Ken's brown trout was close to 18". All the fish took the small fly; none were on the leech pattern. The indicator was essential, as the strikes were very soft. If the indicator went down, it was either a fish or the fly got hung up a bit on the river bottom. If we were better observers, and faster to set the hook, we'd likely have had a lot more catches that day. Even after hooking a fish, several quickly dislodged the small fly and got away.

In summary we had a fantastic day. We look forward to going back and fishing in this area in the future, either back on the Chama or on another river in the area. Our route back east took us through the headwater region of the Cimarron River, which is easily accessed from Taos. This also looked like a great stream, and is on the list of streams that Land of Enchantment Guides serves.

A final thought – We'd suggest that if one is planning a trip to fish Western rivers, give consideration to New Mexico as a destination. It may be less 'discovered' than other places, so perhaps a diamond in the rough. Even novices like ourselves can have a fantastic experience. We will be back there!



Chama River where we were fishing and typical rainbow and brown trout we were catching



Women Fly Tying

By Cari Vota (vota@zoomtown.com)

Everyone I ask has mentioned the delight of catching a fish on a fly they tied themselves, and women fly fishers are no different. There is a very long history of women tyers, going back centuries.

One of the 1st to publish materials on fly fishing and tying was Dame Juliana Berners. Other important women names in fly angling are Carrie Frost, who built an empire on the Mississippi River, Carrie Stevens, who built a legend in Maine, Sarah McBride, who created the 1st professional mayfly dressing noted as truly imitative, famed commercial tyers Elizabeth Greig, Winnie Dette, Mary Dette Clark, Elsie Darbee, Helen Shaw, Megan Boyd, and Frances Stearns. You may even know the names of some modern tyers such as Cathy Beck, Sharon E. Wright, and April Vokey.

Mary Orvis Marbury was a powerful influence in the development of American fly fishing (Yes, that Orvis family!). Mary Orvis was born in Manchester, Vermont, the year her father, Charles, founded The Orvis Company. Mary took over the company's fly-tying operation at age twenty. She compiled standardized fly names and types in a beautifully illustrated book, *"Favorite Flies and Their Histories"*, first published in 1892.

Megan Boyd, whose fabled expertise at tying delicate salmon fishing flies put her work into museums as well as the hands of collectors around the world. Her skills prompted Queen Elizabeth II to award her the British Empire Medal; however, she did not receive her award from the queen, to whom she explained that she had no one to care for her dog that day. The queen said she quite understood, and Prince Charles, an avid user of her flies, later made the presentation at his nearby Scottish fishing lodge in 1971. Megan passed away in Scotland in 2001 at the age of 86.

Modern tyer Sharon E. Wright’s sojourn began when a friend wanted her to fish with him. He gave her a rod and reel, and took her to the water. After losing many flies, she looked at one and confidently said, ‘I can make these’. So Sharon picked up vise at a yard sale for three dollars, pre–World War II. She learned much of what she knows about basic fly tying from the guys at the Friday night fly tying sessions at her local L.L. Bean store.

April Vokey is a talented 30+year-old fly fishing entrepreneur from British Columbia. April is a fishing guide who gives seminars at trade shows, teaches fly tying classes and casting clinics, and leads trips to exotic destinations. Many people follow her travel-fly fishing blog and tying videos on YouTube.

You may not become famous at tying but the fun and pleasure of tying your own flies can be enough. Currently, I’m tying very small nymphs for the upcoming women’s trip to the Caney Fork River in TN. And they are looking really good. With a bit of practice, I can make about a dozen of these while El Presidente makes one of his jumbo musky flies. Maybe this is the year you will learn to tie flies too.

Grayling Fish Farm Closing

Many of us have been following the news regarding the effort by Anglers of the Au Sable to close the trout farming operation in Grayling, MI. The thousands of pounds of fish waste released by the farm was a very significant risk to the health and viability of the Au Sable River watershed. The very good news is that the trout farm is to close permanently by the end of this calendar year. In the settlement, the Anglers of the Au Sable have purchased the fish farm. The organization will form a non-profit entity to operate the hatchery as a tourist attraction and historical landmark. There is a more detailed summary of the information that has been broadly shared from the organization on the BUFF website.

Upcoming BUFF Activities

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

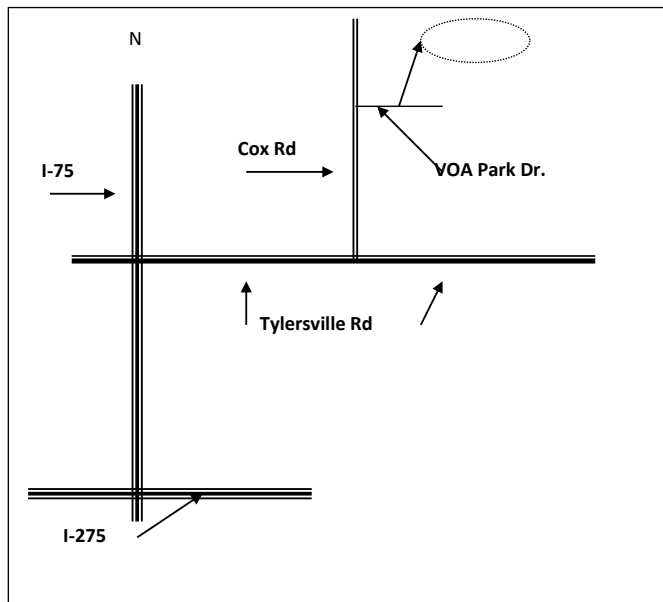
<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Indian Hill High School Carsting and Tying Indian Hill, HS	Wednesday 10/3 & Thursday, 10/4 8 AM – 9:30 AM	Tom Bachey 513-543-4056 h2oguy@fuse.net

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Women's Fall Trip Caney Fork River, TN	Thursday 10/18 – Sunday 10/21	Cari Vota 513-702-2553 vota@zoomtown.com
Tie & Lie Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Friday 10/19 Friday 11/16 Friday 12/21 6:30 – 9:00 PM (Bring vise, thread & tools)	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 loopdude1@hotmail.com
Smokey Mountains Trout Trip Bryson City, NC	Wednesday 11/7 – Sunday 11/11	Cecil Osborn 513-335-9295 cosborn1898@gmail.com

October Meeting – Wednesday, October 10th, 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.