



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 hope that fishing for all of you has been better than it has for me. I went north to fish with Bill Bross using Dustin Harley's Ripple Guide Service. We fished for pike and smallmouth. It was a rough couple days. It was directly after a cold front and the fish were mostly hunkered down. Bill caught a couple small pike and a nice smallmouth. I had to settle for a few small smallies. Oh well, nothing after that. On the plus side we have begun the process of testing for the FFI Bronze, Silver and Gold level recognitions for FFI casting. I earned my Bronze, Silver and Gold while Hugh O'Donnell earned the Bronze and Silver after some very ugly casting on a very windy day. We will offer this program to the remainder of the club soon. Look for something in the Buffer soon from Tom Scheer describing the program.

Things are finally cooling off and fish will soon seek their cold water locations. Take advantage of their added feeding requirements to capitalize on catching them.

We are still looking for a co-chair for the annual banquet. Contact Bryan Tudor if you interested.

Remember things don't happen in clubs unless members work to make them happen. We're all in this together. Remember, keep your line in the water.

Till next month,

El Prez.

Jim Vota

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October Meeting

The October meeting is Wednesday, October 9th. Registration deadline is October 6th. We've had to do some last minute changes regarding our speaker for this month. The original speaker had to cancel, so Mike Rubush has been scrambling to find a good replacement. The speaker for this month is Lee McClellan, an editor from Kentucky Afield Magazine, a publication of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Lee McClellan, "Cumberland River Trout"

By Mike Rubush (tenkaraguy1@yahoo.com))

Lee is the Associate Editor of Kentucky Afield Magazine (<https://fw.ky.gov/kentucky-afield/pages/magazine.aspx>), the quarterly publication of the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources. Lee is also the most knowledgeable fisher of Kentucky waters. He has spent many years fishing and writing about the lakes and streams of Kentucky. Finally, Lee has a keen wit and will keep you laughing throughout his presentation.

Lee will share his passion for fly fishing for trout in Kentucky on Kentucky's best trout stream, the Cumberland River.

This is a program you won't want to miss.



October Dinner Menu

Tossed Salad with dressings
Rolls & butter
Chili with toppings
Pulled BBQ chicken sandwiches
Green Beans with Ham
Potatoes O'Brien
Macaroni & Cheese
Dessert – Bourbon Brownies

Public Access or Private Waters in Indiana?

By Steve Bailey, BUFF Trips Director

When fishing in any state it is important to know the law and your rights concerning the water in which you want to fish. Being mistaken can cause embarrassment and a potentially unhappy confrontation with a property owner who has exclusive rights to the use of that water. Fortunately, it is fairly easy to know if your chosen fishing water is open to public access or is limited to those fishers granted access by the property owner.

If you are fishing in a public lake in Indiana, then it is public water and you have unrestricted access. If you plan to fish in a stream, then you need to know if it is navigable stream. The Indiana state legislature has solved that puzzle for you by declaring which streams are navigable. “The traditional law of navigability in Indiana says that a river is navigable if it could have been employed for commercial boat traffic when Indiana became a state in 1816.”¹

These streams are included on a roster of water ways found on the internet at Navigable Waterways Roster², found at this link. <https://www.in.gov/nrc/2390.htm>

The roster gives you the option of finding the stream by name or by county. The good news is that almost every stream in the state is considered navigable. “If the waterway is considered navigable then the state not only owns the water but the ground beneath it, all the way to the so called “high-water” line, which means it is indeed public.”³

A popular nearby stream that fits the category of navigable streams and therefore having public access is the East Branch of the Whitewater River, known to many as the Brookville tailwater. You can find it listed on the Navigable Water Ways Roster² under the stream name or under Franklin County.¹ That means that a fisher can wade the entire length of the stream of about 2.5 miles, and not be in private water. Getting into or out of the stream should always be done over public property such as Brookville Town Park or at the several bridge right of way access points. Crossing someone’s private property to get to the stream is trespassing and should always be avoided.

Anywhere you go to fish in Indiana or in any other state you may encounter a property owner who does not know the laws concerning stream access or is hoping that you don’t. When you have an encounter with someone that insists you are trespassing on his private property at the bottom of the stream it’s probably best to move on. Having an argument or a fight with an ignorant landowner is a sure-fire way to spoil a good day of fishing. Alternatively, you could contact the state game officer or call the local Sheriff’s Office.

¹ The stream name is misspelled under the listing and is incorrectly listed as East Pork of the Whitewater River.

References

1. River Rights and Usage, <https://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4459.htm>
2. Navigable Waterways Roster, Indiana Natural Resources Commission, <https://www.in.gov/nrc/2390.htm>
3. Rivers and Streams – Public or Private? By John Martino, May 14, 2016, <https://wildindiana.com/rivers-streams-public-private/>
4. Public Rights in Indiana Waters, by G. Graham Waite, Indiana Law Journal, Vo. 37, Issue 4, Summer 1962

Grand Lake Saint Mary – Fixing the Algal Blooms

By Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com)

In his presentation at last month's meeting, Mike Porto from the ODNR spoke about the success that ONDR is having in improving water quality at the Grand Lake St Marys. Around the middle of September, Cari Vota sent me a link to an interesting article published on Thursday, September 19th in the Wall Street Journal which talked about this very same project! Unfortunately, unless one has a subscription to the, the full article is not available on line. Many libraries do subscribe to the paper, so if you are interested, you may still be able to find a copy.

Grand Lake St Marys is one of the largest man-made lakes in the US. It was constructed in the early 1800's as a reservoir for the Miami and Erie Canal. For many years the lake has had an algal bloom problem which has led to beach closures and banning of swimming and other water activities. Generally, algal booms result from run-off of fertilizer and nutrients into the lake water. At the lake, the ONDR has constructed a project consisting of ponds and reconstructed wetlands which is effectively reducing the inflow of excess nutrients and improving water quality in the lake.

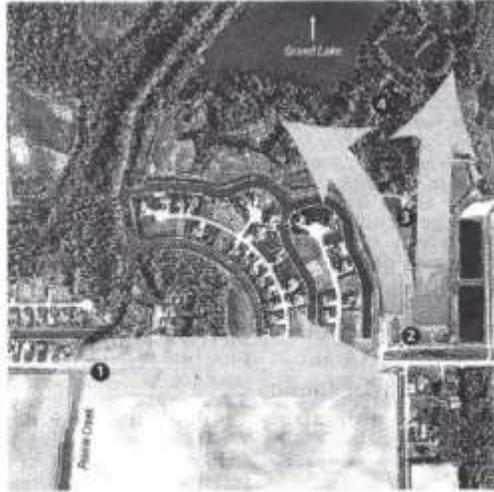
The system, built in 2012, diverts water from Prairie Creek a major feeder into the lake into a series of deep pools where sediment and other particulates settle. The ponds then empty into a reconstructed wet land area of shallow ponds and vegetation which absorbs the nutrients. Finally, the 'cleaned' water flows to the lake. The process is having a significant impact in reducing nutrient inflow into Grand Lake Saint Marys and improving its watery quality. Since the filtering program has been initiated, levels of toxic microcistin algae in the lake have fallen by over 60%. The photograph shows how this system works.

Cleaning House

Reconstructed wetlands are helping filter excess nutrients fueling algae blooms from the water at Ohio's Grand Lake, where a decadelong project has worked to restore the local watershed.

- 1 A pump diverts an average of one million gallons per day from Prairie Creek.
- 2 Several deep pools slow the water flow, allowing sediment and other particles to drop out.
- 3 Shallower pools, replete with vegetation, absorb more of the nutrients.
- 4 Filtered water flows to Grand Lake.

Note: Photo is from May 2018.
Sources: Stephen Jacquemin, Wright State University (photos); Google Earth (photo)
Lindsay Harty/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



In addition, the ONDR has also undertaken dredging operations to remove contaminated sediment from the lake bottom, and a separate project to clean a beach front near the town of St. Mary. The latter project included adding water filters and aerators and building a rock jetty to control water flow near the beach. The effort has cut toxic microcristin levels at the beach area to <6 ppb, which is well below the ONDR threshold of 20 ppb for avoiding water contact, and the goal is to reopen the area for swimming in the near future.

Boy Scouts Earn Fly Fishing Merit Badge

By Jim Boude (jimboude01@gmail.com)

Six Boy Scouts, Graham Fitzgibbon, Bentley Fiehrer, Joshua Holbrook, Nathan Macsotai, Jake Molas, and Jonas Moore, of Troop 888, Loveland Presbyterian Church, have participated in activities to earn a fly fishing merit badge. Each boy has completed seven one hour classes which were held before their Tuesday evening troop meetings. The merit badge classes were conducted by Troop Assistant Scoutmaster Calvin Schmieg and BUFF members Charlie Nash and Jim Boude.

Earning the merit badge, required completing ten requirements, with the following being the major ones:

1. Explain how to remove a fish hook (from a finger).
2. Demonstrate proper fly fishing knots.
3. Tie at least two flies (see photo of flies tied).
4. Demonstrate overhead and roll casting.
5. Catch, identify and properly release fish (see photo of Jonas's blue gill)

Four of the scouts, and Eagle Scout Calvin Spencer have completed all 10 requirements, participated in a fly fishing outing at River Hills Christian Church and/or a second fly fishing outing at another private fishing pond, and have earned their merit badge. The last two scouts will be given a fly fishing outing opportunity to complete their requirements yet this fall.



Files Tied



Jonas' Blue Gill



Jonas Shopping for Fish



Jonas' Dinner (Yum!)

East Fork Dam Removed at Batavia

By Cari Vota (vota@zoomtown.com)

Officials say removing a drowning hazard on the Little Miami River has the extra benefit of improving the habitat and opening the river to more recreational opportunities. Activities to remove the dam began with a notching of the structure on Sept 4, 2019 to lower river levels and relocate mussels found behind the dam and along the newly exposed banks. Removal of the dam is now complete and instream restoration is in the works.

Clermont County worked with the non-profit Valley View Foundation, a conservation group that manages a nature preserve and education center in Milford, to remove the low head dam on the East Fork in Batavia after years of safety concerns. The dam had blocked the river for 73 years.

The Valley View Foundation said one of the priorities of the project was simply to return the waterway to its natural state. They also helped secure money from the state for the project and is leading the overall effort. Dickerson says the project will also make it easier for people to canoe or kayak through Batavia. Crews will continue work to make the river more stable for the next few weeks. They plan to plant grass and trees on the site later in the fall.

The dam's removal had been postponed since 2012 because Batavia did not want to assume any liability from the project, either in the immediate dam area, just south of the West Main Street bridge, or in the watershed. Recently the Valley View Foundation agreed to take over the dam removal project with the Clermont County Soil and Water Conservation District and assume some liabilities.

The Village of Batavia previously owned the dam and the riverside parcel adjacent to the south side of the dam. In 2015, the property was transferred to the Valley View Foundation for the purpose of removing the dam and restoring that section of the East Fork Little Miami River.

On a similar note, the Williamsburg Low-Head Dam on the head waters to East Fork Lake was removed during the fall of 2018.



Former Low Level Dam at Batavia



Removal Work

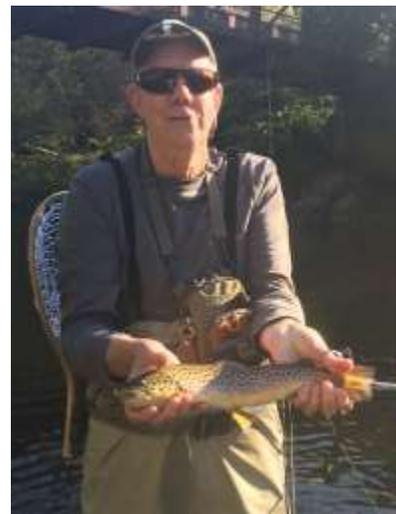
2019 BUFF Catskills Trip

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

Despite this group's best efforts, I am happy to report that the Catskills are still standing and reasonably intact after another annual BUFF trip to the Catskills! This year, we barely saw a cloud in the sky the entire week, and the water was skinny, low, and clear. In comparison, last year's trip was dealt a dearth of rain (it rained every day but the last day of the trip) that left the big rivers largely blown out for the duration of the trip, relegating us to fishing on smaller streams or fishing the edges of the larger streams with streamers. What a difference a year makes!

On Monday the group traveled to the Catskills from Cincinnati and those who arrived early enough journeyed to either the Beaverkill River or Willowemoc Creek to fish the evening hatch. A few fish including some decent brown trout and a rogue smallmouth bass were caught on dry flies as the sun set before we returned to the cabin for cold cut sandwiches for dinner.

On Tuesday we started the day on the Beaverkill River, then traveled to the famed Museum Pool on the Willowemoc where Jim Neckers caught the first trout I've ever seen come out of that pool. The water was skinny and we were able to sight fish to large trout, and dry fly fishing really doesn't get any better than that. Shortly after Jim caught his fish, I had the pleasure of seeing Mike Redmond hook and land his first ever fish on a dry fly. Mike did a



beautiful job of putting the fly in the right place, getting a long drag-free drift, and it paid off with a beautiful 17" brown trout.

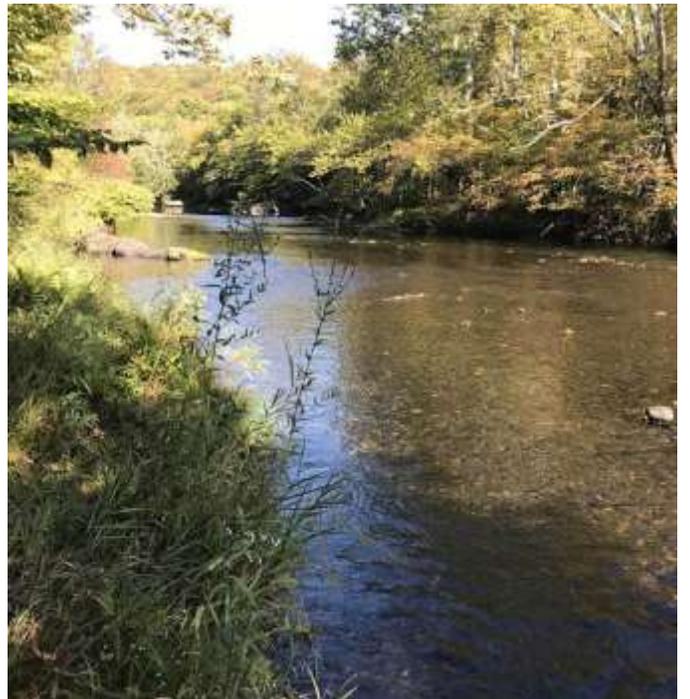
On Wednesday, Vanessa and I floated the Main Stem of the Delaware with Rich from Beaverkill Angler. I'm not sure how many fish we landed on that trip, but we could've had at least 81. Jeff Heinen landed a nice brown trout from the Horton Brook area of the Beaverkill, which provided some of the only real pocket water we were able to find on the local freestones. Mike Smith also fished that stretch with a Euro Nymphing rig earlier in the day and landed several fish. On Thursday we journeyed to the northern Catskills to fish Esopus Creek, a serious change of pace as it was running a little high and very stained. I had a very good day Euro Nymphing, using a Blow Torch / Rainbow Warrior combination. Bob "Trout Magnet" Gustafson had a couple of fish strike at his dry fly on Esopus Creek, watch for a picture of Bob casting on next year's Fly Show Banner.



Friday we returned to the Beaverkill and fished nymphs during the daytime, switching to dry flies for the evening hatch. This year we did well fishing Klinkhammers that incorporated Organza in the abdomen of the fly, as well as various Caddis patterns. On Saturday we fished the Neversink River, where Dan Bonham caught the only fish the group landed on the Neversink, swinging a soft hackle through a deep pool in front of a boulder. We did see some VERY large trout feeding on the surface, but they were also incredibly spooky.

In summary, this year we fished five rivers (The Beaverkill, Delaware, Neversink, Esopus, and Willowemoc) and caught fish on each of them. Water was low and clear with sunny skies, and the majority of our fish were caught on emergers when fish were feeding on the surface (which sometimes happened in the middle of the day with the sun right overhead) and on nymphs wherever water was moving otherwise. We had a great time, and I look forward to doing the trip again next year.





Fall Fishing for Steelhead in Ohio

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

The following is taken from ODNR website information –

Fall is a great time for steelhead fishing in Northern Ohio. Each year the ODNR stocks selected Lake Erie tributary streams with 6 – 8” yearling steelhead. The fish migrate from the rivers into Lake Erie and spend summers in deep cooler waters of the lake before returning to the streams

in the fall through the following spring. Typical steelhead which are caught in the streams are 25” long and weigh 5 – 6 pounds. These are fish that have spent 2 – 3 summers in the lake.

Ohio’s primary steelhead streams include the Vermillion, Rocky, Chagrin, Grand, and Ashtabula rivers and Conneaut Creek. Other good steelhead streams area the Cuyahoga, Huron and Black rivers, and Arcola, Cowles, Wheeler, French, Euclid, Turkey, Beaver, and Cold creeks. These streams offer many public access areas. Remember however, that you need the landowner’s permission to fish on private property – don’t trespass!). Also many of the main steelhead streams are navigable and can be fished from a float boat.

The table below, from the ODNR website, reports recent years’ stocking numbers of yearling steelhead for several streams. Upwards of 60,000 yearling fish are now stocked annually in major fisheries.

Recent Stocking Numbers (Yearlings)						
STREAM	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Ashtabula	-	-	-	41,940	69,928	
Chagrin	90,063	90,085	96,680	90,036	90,008	
Conneaut	75,040	84,866	75,019	75,092	75,079	
Grand	108,316	90,009	95,512	90,035	90,076	
Rocky	100,074	91,779	90,069	90,038	90,114	
Vermillion	55,117	65,149	56,045	55,087	63,203	

A couple of ODNR sites to check out on steelhead fishing are:

http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/stay-informed/online-articles-amp-features/your-wild-ohio-angler/post/fall-fishing-for-steelhead--where-to-fish?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+OdnrDivisionOfWildlife+%28ODNR+Division+of+Wildlife%29

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/fishing/fishing-forecasts-and-reports/lake-erie-steelhead-fishing>

Upcoming BUFF Activities –

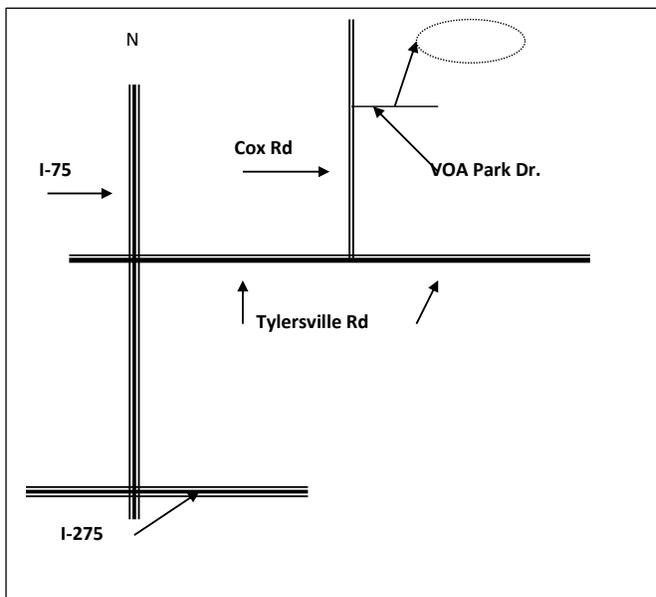
Please check the BUFF Website for availability and details

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Beginner Fly Tying Class Springdale Community Center	Tuesdays, Oct 15 th , 22 nd , & 29 th , and Nov 12 th & 19 th 6:30 – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for details & to register</i>	Jim Neckers 513-254-7901 jimneckers@gmail.com
Smokey Mountains Trout Trip Bryson City, NC	Wednesday, Oct 16 th – Sunday, Oct 20 th Fully Booked, see Website for details & information	Cecil Osborn 513-335-9295 cosborn1898@gmail.com

September Meeting – Wednesday, October 9th, 2019

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 I-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.