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#### **Notes from the President**

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

As most of you have already heard, the fly show for 2021 has been cancelled. The decision by the fly show team was not taken lightly. The reality of the pandemic was prime consideration. Also, an analysis of the financial impact was done based on state guidelines. The outcome was that BUFF would take a bath on the show. The best thing to do was to simply put it off and do it in 2022.

As for the annual banquet, we will soon be looking at options. We don't know what the situation will be with the pandemic in March, but will put the safety of our members first. Since the fly show and banquet are how we generate most of our operating capital, next year could be lean. Even though we haven't had our monthly meetings with their associated expenses, we have still



continued with our donations to various conservation and education programs, and other charitable groups. We also did the COVID relief program to help some of the vendors (friends of BUFF) who provide support to BUFF during normal times. We are planning on continuing this during the coming year and capital will be required.

Dues for the coming year will be due soon. This year, the income from our dues will be needed more than ever to help keep things going. I'd like to ask renewing members to consider paying for 2 years membership (2021 & 2022) to help with the expense cash flow. The online monthly meetings will continue until we are able to meet indoors in large groups safely, and we are planning additional on-line presentations. Many of these presentations are not free. The next one will be fishing for steelhead (presented by Hugh O'Donnell - free) on Wednesday October 28. On February 6 (the date we set for the 2021 fly show) the planned show headliner, Rick Hafele, will make several online presentations. Rick is a noted entomologist and has written many books on the entomology of fly fishing. If any of you have suggestions for something you would like learn about let me know. I'm wide open to suggestions and will work to find people who could present.

Several people have requested that we post the monthly meeting presentations online. We will do this when we are able. Many of the outside presenters who have put these together, are doing presentations to make a little extra money, and do not want them released online. If you want to see the presentation you should plan to attend the meeting. Here's the presentation schedule as it currently stands.

October Meeting – Rob Worthing, Tenkara (equipment and techniques)

October 28 – Hugh O'Donnell, Steelhead Fishing

November Meeting – Ron Lewis, Fishing the Mad River for trophy brown trout

Let's switch gears and talk about fishing. A small group from BUFF just got back from several days of fishing on the Au Sable river in Michigan. I grew up in Michigan and this is my second time fishing there. It's also my third time fishing dry flies for trout. The water was low. The big fish were tight to structure and the smaller fish were beginning to pool up. We caught fish. Maybe not in high numbers but we caught fish. My smallest was a 2 ½" brook trout on a size 22 blue wing olive while the biggest was a 20-22" brown trout on a mouse at night. If you've never tried night fishing for trout, you've missed out on a real fun adventure. After this trip I got a couple of the glow in the dark fly lines to use around here for night fishing.

Another group of BUFF anglers travelled to the Green Cabin on the Pere Marquette River near Baldwin Michigan for salmon. They were apparently quite successful. I've also heard of others heading to Wyoming and Montana. Keep on fishing. Unless you are on the Maumee river in Toledo for walleye in the spring (arm in arm with other anglers), you should be able to keep enough distance to minimize the probability of catching the BUG.

Food for thought, improving your casting really does make fishing easier. Being able to target spots in cover or placing the dry fly for a good drift makes the fishing enjoyable. Frustration goes down and fish count might just go up.

Jim Vota, El Prez.

PS. – Remember the online auctions. Get out there and check them out. The certificates are good through the end of 2021. There should be plenty of time to take the trip or redeem for merchandise.

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

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

JV

### **Cancelling the 2021 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show –**

After extensive research and discussion, the BUFF show team cancelled the 2021 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, scheduled for Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Based on current available information regarding COVID-19 trends, potential availability of a vaccine or other treatments, and shifting state and local regulations, we cannot confidently predict that conditions will change enough over the next several months so that we can ensure being able to hold a safe and high quality show. This has been a very difficult decision for our organization as it breaks a 30+ year tradition, imposes a hardship for our exhibitors, and a disappointment for folks who annually attend the show.

Among the factors we considered in reaching this decision were:

- Current Ohio guidelines restrict occupancy of the Oasis facility to no more than 300 guests.
   Considering even a reduced number of exhibitors, limiting exhibitors to no more than 2 individuals, and operating with a reduced number of BUFF volunteers on site, capacity for show visitors would be significantly reduced. There would also be a requirement to control entry so that the total number of people in the facility would not exceed allowances.
- All participants and attendees would need to wear masks and maintain a 6-foot social distancing. This would become extremely difficult for folks when engaging with vendors.
- The number of vendors booths would be greatly reduced for social distancing requirements and booths could not be set up back-to-back. This would lead to a number of our 'regular vendors' not being able to attend and result in a lesser quality show.
- Presentation rooms would be greatly limited in capacity. Whereas our invited speakers usually
  have an audience of about 100 individuals, or more, this would be limited to about 25. It would
  make having a well-known headliner present at the show impractical.
- Foot traffic through the exhibit areas would need to be one-way. For a person to return to a booth, they would need to cycle through all the exhibits and go back into the exhibit area.
- Having a show with greatly reduced attendance would result in a large financial loss for BUFF.
   Show income is variable based on attendance, booth sales, and club raffle sales. However, many show expenses are fixed costs: venue rental, headliner fee and travel, etc.
- It is not clear that larger group gatherings can be held safely by early February and we do not want to take a chance that puts people at risk.

By cancelling at this time, and with agreement with The Oasis Conference Center, we can apply our venue reservation deposit toward the 2022 show. We DEFINITELY plan on having a bigger and better show in 2022.

Thank you for your understanding,

**BUFF Fly Fishing Show Team** 

# BUFF October Meeting on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM –

## October Speaker – Rob Worthing of Tenkara Guides, LLC – "Tenkara Anglers"

Rob Worthing, MD, is a fly fishing guide and founding member of Tenkara Guides LLC. An avid angler, climber, backpacker, and Navy veteran, he has appeared in a variety of fly fishing magazines, books, television shows, and events at regional, national, and international levels. He is a proud member of Team Oni USA and a passionate ambassador for fixed line fly fishing. After 5 years of fishing, guiding, and teaching in Utah, Rob moved to Lexington, where he continues to fish, guide, and teach throughout the Midwest and Southeast.



Tenkara is a traditional Japanese method of fly fishing that uses a long rod with a fixed line attached to the end; no reel. While fundamentally simple and intuitive to learn, mastering the subtleties can take years to master. However, the tenkara technique it is a beautiful mix of tradition and cutting edge technology.

Tenkara Guides, LLC is the first fixed line fishing guide company in the Western Hemisphere. Their guides can provide first-rate guided trips and experience using this technique. Guided trips are offered in Utah and Kentucky. The photo is of a trout taken on a KY stream with a tenkara rod. Tenkara Guides also sponsors an annual 3-day "Oni Tenkara" school taught by Masami Sakakibara, a master tenkara angler from Japan. More information on trips, and the tenkara course are on the Tenkara Guides website:

https://www.tenkaraguides.com/



- Meeting time is from 7 PM about 8:30 PM. A brief business meeting will begin at 7 PM, and Rocky's presentation around 7:15.
- Registration deadline is October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- To attend, you must register on-line, and provide your e-mail address. Registrants will receive an e-mail with instructions on joining the Zoom session. If you are not registered, you will not be able to join in.
- All who register are automatically entered into this month's raffle.

## **Membership Renewal**

Harry Pass, the Membership Director, will shortly be sending out an e-blast letter regarding membership renewal for 2021. While 2020 has been a difficult and challenging year due to COVID-19, and we have not been having in-person meetings, or holding group events, the club has maintained a number of activities, including providing financial support to fly fishing businesses, charitable contributions, and having invited speakers present through virtual meetings conducted as Zoom conferences.

Membership dues provide funds and support the club. 2021 dues will remain the same, \$25 for single memberships, and \$30 for family memberships. Please watch for Harry's e-mail announcement which will include instructions on payment options, and please renew you membership for 2021.

# BUFF COVID Relief Auctions Continue

BUFF directors recently authorized the *BUFF COVID Relief Program*, where we used club funds to purchase gift certificates from vendors, providing income to our friends in the fly fishing industry while they were forced to close their businesses. BUFF continues to auction these gift



certificates through our club website. The auctions give you the chance to win world-class fly fishing adventures and supplies at possibly bargain rates and help BUFF recoup our cash outlay. It's a win-win for our fly shop friends, BUFF, and BUFF members.

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

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

Dates	Vendor	Value	Description
9/28-10/4	R&R Fly Fishing		Original water color painting by Ian
			Rutter
	John Schmidt Trout Bum	\$400	Guided Trip + meals, snacks, flies
	Float Master Products Gift Certificate	\$100	Store Credit
10/12-10/18	Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company	\$125	Gift Certificate
	The Northern Angler Fly Shop	\$150	Gift Card
	Semper Fly Rods	\$125	Gift Certificate
10/26-11/2	River Tactical Flies	\$125	Store Credit
	Fly Masters of Indianapolis	\$100	Store Credit
	Eggman Flies	\$50	Gift Certificate
11/16-11/22	Independent Angler	\$125	Gift Certificate
	BlackJaw Tackle	\$125	Gift Certificate
	The Hook & Hackle Company	\$125	Store Credit

Help BUFF, our partner fly shops and <u>yourself</u> by getting in on the action. Bid "early and often" on one of more of these great fly fishing opportunities!

# **CBS Video on Fly Fishing with Joan Wulff and Peter Kaminsky**

Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com)

In mid-August, CBS This Morning Saturday broadcast a segment on fly fishing. The reporter was Jeff Glor and his interview features Peter Kaminsky and Joan Wulff. Joan is now in her mid-90's and is still active and fly fishing! The video was shot in the Catskills, is well done, and you can get to see Joan try to teach Jeff a basic roll cast. Whole thing is about 5 ½ minutes long.

Here is the link: <a href="https://midcurrent.com/videos/fly-fishing-what-is-it-and-why-is-it-so-popular/?goal=0">https://midcurrent.com/videos/fly-fishing-what-is-it-and-why-is-it-so-popular/?goal=0</a> 8efbf3b958-6253c2b426-42992413&mc cid=6253c2b426&mc eid=e2b8fc2655

## Issue Index for "Eastern Fly Fishing Magazine"

Gary Cummins, a BUFF member, contacted me to share that he has been in contact with and obtained from the editor of American Fly Fishing Magazine (formerly Eastern Fly Fishing) indexes of published articles from the very beginning of the magazine's publication in Spring 2005, to the present.

If any BUFF member is interested in seeing the publication history to possibly access articles, I suggest you e-mail Gary at <a href="mailto:garyjcummins@fuse.net">garyjcummins@fuse.net</a>. The listing is a pdf file of a few pages in length, and is too long to put into the BUFFER. I believe that one needs to subscribe to the magazine to have access to back issues and articles.

I greatly appreciate Gary sharing this and suggesting we make club members aware of it.

Ken Mandel, BUFFER editor

## On the Fly South

**Bob Gustafson** 

Jimmy Jacobs is a well known fly fishing author with a number of books on southern fly fishing. He has a *free* subscription blog – "On the Fly South". Check it out and subscribe if interested at:

https://ontheflysouth.com/

The photo is from Bark Camp Creek in KY.



### Flies for Fall Fishing

By Haruko Mizoguchi

A recent issue of DUN Magazine included an article on best flies for fall fishing, "Fall Fishing Bug Guide". The article discusses a range of flies, and then recommends their top six patterns – Zebra Midge, beadhead San Juan Worm, Smokejumper Midge, Goddard

Caddis, a Beadhead Wooly





Bugger, and Autumn Splendor. The provides a good presentation of the flies, their uses and how to best fish them. The article includes links to purchase the flies, but these are all easy to tie as well.

The link to the full article is:

https://dunmagazine.fliesforsale.com/fall-bug-guide/?ffst=8lmrj-fcm6

# **New Mystery by Keith McCafferty – The Bangtail Ghost**

By Ken Mandel & Haruko Mizoguchi

Over the last several years Keith McCafferty has written a series of mysteries with a fly fishing theme. His main character, Sean Stranahan, is a private investigator and avid angler. The stories are set in Montana on the Madison River, and are excellent reads. His first book, "The Royal Wulff Murders", came out in 2012. Keith's latest, which is the eighth in this series, "The Bangtail Ghost" was published in late August of this year. We know a number of BUFF members are fans, and some have already read this latest addition to the series. Personally, Haruko and I are on the waiting list from our local library. I think Haruko was #24 when she added her name to the wait list, so obviously it is a popular series.



Keith McCafferty's website, which has a lot of information is: https://keithmccafferty.com/

#### And a bit more....

At the end of his first book, The Royal Wulff Murders, Keith included a note asking readers to let him know if they enjoyed the book, and included an e-mail contact. Haruko wrote to say how much she enjoyed the book, and they have since maintained contact through e-mail. In late August, we joined a virtual author's tour Zoom presentation. The presentation was hosted by a bookstore in Madison, WI, and Keith talked about his newest book as well as other writing and his background. It was an enjoyable hour! Interestingly, he grew up in eastern OH, and that his family summer vacations were spent camping on the Au Sable River near Grayling, MI. It was where he learned to fish and tie flies. Keith also talked about working summers while in college for the MI DNR on restoration projects on the Au Sable which included building some of the 'islands' which provide structure and habitat for the native trout, and which we can see when on the river.

Haruko again, sent a note, saying how much she enjoyed the talk, and mentioned that we had plans to visit the Au Sable in mid September. Keith immediately replied to wish us a good time, good luck, and to let him know what we caught. He also included a short story, entitled "The Wishing Tree", which describes his experiences and memories from the Au Sable. It is a touching and beautiful story, and we reached out, asking if it was published, and if we could share it in the BUFF newsletter. Both Haruko and I were incredibly surprised when a few days later when Ken's phone rang with a call from Montana, and it was Keith! He let us know the story was published in Field & Stream in 2017, and sent us a link for access and permission to share it; so, here it is: <a href="https://www.fieldandstream.com/flyfishing-au-sable-river-michigan/">https://www.fieldandstream.com/flyfishing-au-sable-river-michigan/</a>

Keith also sent us this photo taken a few years ago. He is standing by one of the Au Sable islands that he constructed in the early 1970's. It is about 60 feet long, located between Stephan's and Wakely bridges, and Keith suggested we look for it .... You'll need to read about our members getting out to fish this past month to learn more!



### **Stream Safety**

## An archived article written by Jim LeBlonde, but still relevant today.

#### Know the Water You're Fishing...

Is it a tail water, spring fed or run off? If it's a tail water, call and find out if dam will be generating or if they anticipate any changes in flow during your time on the river. Find out if there is a Website that you can check to see current and forecast water flows. If the river is fed by run off and surrounded by farmland, it may tend to cloud more quickly than a spring fed limestone stream. Cloudy water requires more care in wading, as you cannot see the bottom structure or judge the depth.

It the bottom sandy or rocky, are they pebbles or boulders? Is it a shale shelf? The Nantahala, The Cumberland, and The Conneaut are all examples of different types of water and stream conditions dictating different approaches.

Wade with a buddy and use a staff, but don't let the staff fool you into feeling invincible.

Shuffle your feet in small steps, walk around obstacles, minimize your leading our upstream surface area, and pre-measure your crossings carefully.

#### Know the Weather...

Watch the local weather forecasts and extended outlooks. If there are storms in the forecast, prepare for a quick exit if you decide to fish. Do not chance encounters with lightening or flash floods or other severe weather. Dress accordingly.

Remember hypothermia is a matter of temperature and time. The colder the temperature the shorter the time frame needed to trigger hypothermia. You can still get hypothermia on a nice day. So, if you get wet, get dry.

On the other hand, heat stroke and sunstroke can be real problems. Be prepared. Be cognizant of this. Think about how you have sometimes felt on long walks on hot sunny days etc.

#### Know What to Wear...

Adjust your clothing to the weather you're expecting. Remember to layer clothing, which will allow you to remove layers as the day warms. Always bring extra clothing and keep it in the car. Remember you have two separate temperatures to account for, the water and above the water.

Avoid cotton fabric, and other items that stay wet. Opt for Polartec and man made synthetics with wicking abilities and faster drying times. Wool also works. If they get wet, take them off and ring them dry.

Choose your waders. Neoprene Waders and Boot Foot Waders may keep you warmer. Breathable waders may make you more comfortable, a little more agile and perhaps produce less fatigue. Bring a patch kit, accelerant and duct tape.

Hats are extremely important, they can provide increased visibility, shade, heat, as well as repel bugs and rain.

#### **Know Your Equipment...**

Know where it's located, check it and make sure it's all in working order prior to the trip or entering the stream.

Pack light, take what you need with you for that day, leave the rest. If needed, have additional items in the car.

Adjust your footwear according to the weather and know your footwear's strength and limitations. Felt doesn't work well in snow, ice, silt and shale. Studs or over shoes may be more appropriate in some situations.

#### **Know Your Abilities & Know Your Body...**

Don't wade where you're uncomfortable. Just because you saw someone else do it, doesn't mean you should.

Know when you're tired. Take breaks and rest. When you are tired you may be more likely to make a mistake.

Dehydration is a serious risk. Drink lots of water and snack frequently to keep up your energy.

Pay *more* attention entering and exiting the streams.

#### Be Cognizant of the Environment and Changes around You...

Local wildlife can pose a threat, so be mindful of it.

Did the water change or rise? Changing water conditions may require different exit strategies, a warm steady breeze may be signs of a storm or that the dam upstream just started generating! Watch the flows.

Watch for barbed wire, broken glass, jagged pipes etc.

#### Take Safety Equipment and Use It...

Polarized glasses, a wading staff, sunscreen, whistle, first aid kit, spare keys, etc., may be your most important items.

#### **Know Your Light Source...**

You may be so excited with the dusk hatch that you loose sight of the fact that after the sun sets, the woods are pitch black. Bring a flashlight.

#### Read the Water...

Know where to cross and where not to. Depth, water velocity, time of day and terrain should all affect your decisions.

\*\*\* Practice Safe Wading and Always Fish with a Friend \*\*\*

### **Reducing Forming Leader Knots and Tangles**

By Ken Mandel

I saw an interesting article titled "How to Stop the Dreaded Fly Fishing Birds Nest" posted by Kent Klewein in Gink & Gasoline. The article was posted in early September. The web link to this is: <a href="https://www.ginkandgasoline.com/fly-fishing-tips-technique/how-to-stop-the-dreaded-fly-fishing-birds-nest/">https://www.ginkandgasoline.com/fly-fishing-tips-technique/how-to-stop-the-dreaded-fly-fishing-birds-nest/</a>

We've all created the tangled mess shown here, and spend time trying to untangle knots, or even cut off and reattach tippet and the fly.



The article discusses 5 steps to reduce entangling leaders and flys when casting —

- 1. Watch both the forward and back cast when false casting to improve timing and getting the line to unroll properly
- 2. 'Cast with grace, not muscle'. Let the fly rod do the work. This means a smooth pickup followed by a short acceleration on the back case (from 10- to 12 o'clock position) and a quick stop. This forms a good back cast loop. Essentially repeat the forward movement to stop the rod high and let the forward cast unroll smoothly before dropping the rod tip. The article suggests looking at videos of the late Lefty Kreh's casting technique.
- 3. Pause long enough between casts. Give enough time with longer casts to allow the line to extend and straighten out.
- 4. One suggestion is to widen the casting stroke slightly to form a larger loop. This can accommodate imperfections in the cast which can lead to tangles
- 5. The final suggestion is to use a roll cast where possible to remove the back cast. This removes one-half of the opportunities to cause tangles.

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

In early September, we received some photos from Don Prince who visited Idaho and fished with guides from the Teton Valley Lodge (Driggs, ID;

https://tetonvalleylodge.com/). The lodge provides access to the Teton, Snake and Henry's Fork Rivers. Don fished the Snake and lower Henry's Fork. Fishing was with different guides every day and from drift boats. The waters were usually uncrowded.

The photos are of a couple of the larger fish that Don caught. The big brown trout below was 'a fish of a lifetime'. Don caught it on a stonefly nymph using a 5wt rod. That fish, a 25 ½" X 13 ½" brown trout, earned Don in 1<sup>st</sup> place on the leaderboard posted in the lodge for the season. He did not say what he wins if he keeps that position through the end of the season! *Maybe a free trip back?* 

He also caught several browns, rainbows and cutthroats in the 19'' - 22'' range.



Sounds like a place to consider visiting and I'm sure Don would be happy to share information with anyone seriously interesting in going out there.



Jim and Cari Vota and Ken Mandel and Haruko Mizoguchi, spent the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September fishing on the Au Sable River in Grayling, MI. We stayed at Gate's Lodge. The Lodge is managing the COVID situation excellently, and we were very comfortable. Masks are required in public areas, and the fly shop limits the number of people allowed inside. The restaurant is open, but only for take out and on weekdays service is limited to lodge guests. We did a mixture of dining from the restaurant and grilling out (the

lodge has picnic tables along the river). The guides we engaged were able to drive us to from the lodge for our day trips but again, everyone needed to wear a mask

while in the vehicle. The Au Sable drift boats, if one is not familiar with them, are long, so there is plenty of space between 2 anglers and the guide on the boat.

We fished 3 days, two days each with guides (drift boats), and one day on our own. Jim and Cari did a night fishing trip as well. Haruko and I fished the 'Holy Waters', a 9 mile stretch of the Au Sable starting at Burton's Landing and ending at the Wakely Bridge, with both of our guides. We fished different techniques on the 2 days. Jim and Cari did a half-day trip one morning on some of the same section of the Au Sable, and then repeated that section doing night fishing. Their other trip was on a lower section of the river. On our own we waded a couple of sections of the North Branch. Despite a lot of people reportedly fishing, we pretty much had any area of the river we were fishing to ourselves!

We all caught fish – rainbow, brown and brook trout. Fish in the river were smaller and feisty; the brown that Jim got night fishing was good sized, as you can see in the photo. On our last day, Haruko and I got to fish classic dry flies and we each caught several



Fall colors beginning

anu



Jim's brown trout from night fishing

really nice fish, as well as having a good number get away. It was the first time either of us really fished with dries, and it was a fantastic experience. Fall colors were coming in beautifully as well.

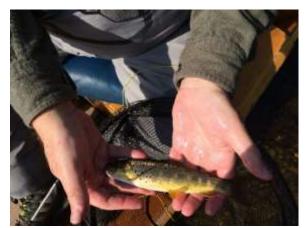
All in all, an enjoyable week away.



A nice trout Cari caught on the North Fork



One of Ken's Brookie's



Haruko's Brook Trout



A brown trout, we think



Relaxation after a day on the river

Finally, the photo below, is what Haruko and Ken think is the island that Keith McCafferty built. We are seeing it from the other side of the photo that Keith sent us. This structure was in the right location on the river, between Stephan's bridge and Wakely, and seemed to be the right size.



#### Some other members have been out as well, but no photos yet -

Jeff McElravy, Tom Scheer and Lee Chambers spent a few days at Sunnybrook. They stayed at the inn on the grounds and fished Cold Creek on their grounds. Send us some photos!

A few other BUFF members did some salmon fishing off Lake Michigan on the Pere Marquette River and we heard they were quite successful. Maybe we'll have a few photos for next month's BUFFER?

Some of the women in our club have been getting out as well. Most recently fishing on the East Fork of the Little Miami near Batavia and at Carl Rahe Park on the Little Miami (near Landen).

None of these were 'BUFF sponsored outings, just club members getting in touch and getting out to do some fishing. It's easy to social distance when you are on a lake or stream.





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

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