



The BUFFER

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

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October 1, 2021

The President's Fly Box

Fall has come and the weather is slowly cooling. The fish will notice the change in sunlight hours and the slow drop in temperature. Bass will start feeding more aggressively to store plenty of carbohydrates for the long winter. In Michigan, salmon have begun their run. Brown trout will begin spawning when the water temperature falls below 50F. With each season, the location and flies may change but fishing continues.

BUFF will continue to change as well. The member meeting location change to the Oasis Conference Center has been smooth except for traffic. The Oasis has ample space, good food and technology so that we can simultaneously hold live and Zoom presentations. We will continue this dual venue for the foreseeable future to cover various scenarios in our ever-changing world. We are also planning in-person presentations starting in November. But before we do, George Daniels who replaces Joe Humphrey as the Penn State fly fishing educator will be sharing his knowledge virtually with us at the October meeting. Please plan on joining this one. George is widely published, and he is excellent in his field of fly fishing. George will also be our headliner for the 2022 Fly Fishing Show!

As for traffic, I suggest avoiding eastbound I-275 between Loveland Madeira Rd and Wards Corner Rd during rush hour. Please consider using local roads or watching the traffic apps on your phone. Remember, social hour starts at 6pm sharp.

As COVID is likely here to stay, we are learning how to protect ourselves, get tested, get help, and recover from it. Undoubtedly, life will continue; fishing too. While a challenge, I expect that we will return to a more normal trip activity next year with more out-of-town trips.

This year, the BUFF calendar was full of local trips. Many old and new members have fished our local waters and enjoyed the sharing of knowledge, experience, and tales. Before the close of the year, we have one out of town trip on the schedule: The North Carolina Trout trip. This trip is a great fall trip where both expert and novice anglers can fish together. There are three spots left. Please consider this fun and rewarding trip. We are fortunate living 5 to 6 hours from the most visited national park in the US, The Smoky Mountains. The Smokies have hundreds of miles of trout streams, as do the adjoining states of Tennessee and North Carolina. If you can't make this trip, schedule your own. It is a great experience that you don't want to miss!

Hugh O'Donnell.

BUFF October Meeting – Wednesday, October 13th

The October meeting will again be both an in-person meeting at the Oasis Conference Center and available through Zoom. The in-person meeting starts at 6 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner is served around 6:45, the meeting called to order at about 7:30, and the presentation will start at 8 PM.

On-line registration for the in-person ends on Sunday, October 10th. Dinner cost is \$20

October Speaker – George Daniel, “Seductive Streamer Strategies”

George began fly fishing as a young child. When he was 14, his family relocated to central Pennsylvania, where he currently lives. At a local fly shop, George found himself talking to his fly fishing idol, Joe Humphreys. Joe kindly took George under his wing and began providing him with his first, formalized fly fishing instruction. George credits Joe for the bulk of his knowledge, but also graciously acknowledges many national and international fly fishing professionals who have worked with him during the past.



George is the author of three highly regarded and best-selling books on fly fishing, and his most recent book, “Nymphing: New Angles and Tactics” was recently released. He operates a full-time guiding and fly-fishing educational service. In addition, he continually publishes articles in a range of fly fishing publications, including Fly Fisherman, American Angler, and Fly Tyer magazines. His website “Livin on the Fly” (<https://www.livinonthe-fly.com/>), has numerous blogs and videos which are well worth checking out. Information regarding guided outings and on-stream teaching can also be found on his website.

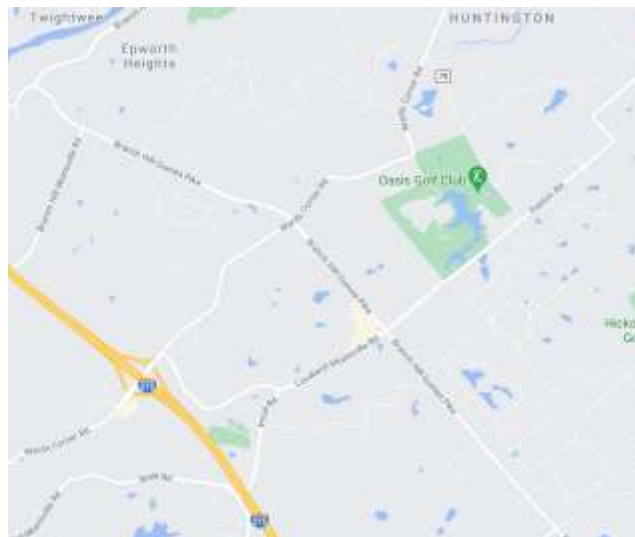
George is a former competitive angler for Fly Fishing Team USA, and a former coach for both the USA youth and adult competitive fly fishing teams. He is a past 2-time US National Fly Fishing Champion. In addition to all of this, George holds an adjunct professorship at Penn State University, where he is the director and lead instructor for the University’s angling program. This program was originally developed and taught by George’s mentor, Joe Humphreys.

George’s talk for this meeting will focus on streamer fishing strategies for trout. While choosing an appropriate fly to attract fish, angling technique to make the fly appear attractive is perhaps of even greater importance. We will learn a lot more about how to become better streamer anglers from George during this presentation.

Finally, George will be our headliner for the 2022 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, scheduled for Saturday, February 5th, 2022.

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.



Register and plan to attend what should be a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

- **On-line registration deadline for the in-person meeting at Oasis, and dinner reservations, is Sunday, October 10th.**
- **For the in-person meeting, semi-circle table seating is arranged to increase distancing at dinner and improve visibility for the presentation.**
- **No registration required to attend the meeting via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted on the on the BUFF website on the calendar and 'monthly meeting registration' pages.**

October Dinner Menu –

- House Salad
- Red Pepper Mornay Chicken
- Tuscan Mashed Potatoes
- Southern Style Green Beans
- Dinner Rolls
- Chef's Choice of Dessert
- Coffee and Tea

New Club Members!

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added a new member -

Jeff Mills from Loveland, OH

Welcome to the club, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon! Also, check out activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some! Finally, you can use the Forum page in the BUFF website to reach out to club members for information, or even if you are just looking for someone to get out with and go fishing!

Thank You to Ken Foltz

By Don Kail (BUFF Webmaster)

We want to say thank you to Ken Foltz. Ken recently upgraded the laptop computer we use for library check-outs and returns at the monthly meeting. He donated and installed a new solid-state disk drive and a new USB Network Adaptor. These will boost the speed of the internet interface and responsiveness of the system. It will also help to improve the accuracy of our library database over time by more reliably capturing check-in and check-out transactions.

Fish Eyesight – Does Color Matter?

By Ken Mandel

David Ross recently published an excellent article discussing what fish see and the impact of water, and water depth on colors that they can see in the Midcurrent website. The article can be found at: <https://midcurrent.com/science/fish-eyesight-does-color-matter/>. There is much more in the article than what I summarize here. I found the explanation of how water depth attenuates visible light very well written and suggest that if you are interested to get the article.

Impact of water depth on light.

The importance of color is important in angling and in fly tying, as having an appropriately colored fly may better attract fish. However, the color of the fly, and what the fish may sense as the color are different matters. Water presents a serious challenge for fish and fishermen when it comes to vision and color. Many characteristics of light quickly change as it moves through water, so it is important to understand that the color of a fly in the water is almost always different from what it is in the air.

What humans see as 'visible light' – the color spectrum from red to violet – is a very small part of the total spectrum of radiation from the sun, and the colors we can see are determined by the wavelengths

of the light. Reds and oranges represent longer wavelengths and blues and violets, shorter wavelengths. Other species, including fish, however, can see colors that we do not, including ultraviolet wavelengths.

In addition, passage of light through water changes or attenuates the light energy by two mechanisms – scattering and absorption. Scattering of light is caused by particles or other small objects suspended in water. The greater the number or density of particles, the less distance light will penetrate into the water. More importantly is the influence of water on absorption of visible light wavelengths, and what is important here is that light of different wavelengths, i.e., different colors, is absorbed differently. Longer light wavelengths, such as reds and oranges, are absorbed quickly and hence only penetrate to shallow depths. Once a set of wavelengths are absorbed, that specific color will appear as gray-to-black. However, we are not talking about very large differences in depth. At about three meters (about 10 feet), roughly 60 percent of the total light (sunlight or moonlight), and most of red light is absorbed. At 10 meters depth over 85% of all visible light wavelengths, including all red, orange and yellow light will have been absorbed. Light absorption is also impacted by horizontal distance. So the further the fish is from a fly the less the visual impact of the color of the fly

Do we know what fish actually see?

Scientifically, we do not know what visual images a fish interprets in its brain, we do know that fish have visual capability. Generally, fish can obtain focused images, visually sense motion, and within limitations sense colors. There is some evidence that fish can sense and favor specific colors, which supports the idea of different colored flies being more or less attractive. It is also generally recognized that sense of smell and ability to detect water vibration are far more developed in fish than vision.

Color Suggestions for Flies

The article had several ideas to consider regarding fly colors. Here are a few, but there are more in the article –

- Consider the colors of your fly and the impact the depth you will be fishing will have on them.
- If you are trying to match a particular natural food, try to match the fly color to that as the fly will then appear more natural to the fish.
- Keep contrast in mind. If fish are feeding on the surface (looking up), contrast may be more critical than color as they are looking into a bright or dark sky, depending on time of day or night.

Importance of Fluorescent Colors

Fluorescent materials absorb ultraviolet light (UV light) and this makes them brighter and more visible in water. Water depth does not impact color change as dramatically for these materials as compared to non-fluorescent materials.

Reminder - FFI Virtual Fly Fishing Expo is November 5th – 7th

This is a brief reminder about the Fly Fishers International virtual exposition. Dates are November 5th to 7th. There are numerous presentations and workshops on casting and tying, and general discussions. Attending the expo requires registration. You can find more information, the schedule or presentations, and register for available sessions on the FFI Expo Website at:

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Virtual-Expo/Activities>

More detail is in last month's BUFFER.



Reminder When Registering for Club Trips

Recently, we have had a couple of local fishing day trips where a number of members registered, but then did not participate. These trips were full, but other club members had registered conditionally, and would have participated had a slot opened up.

Since trips limit the number of participants, it is important and courteous to cancel a registration if you find you cannot participate in a trip. You can do this on the trip registration site, or you can contact the trip leader. Also, it helps the trip leader to know if you are registered and will not attend, so the leader is not waiting or trying to find an individual at the time of the trip.

Recent Community Activities

Last month kept Tom Bachey, BUFF's Public Education Director, busy, Tom arranged three external events to share knowledge and information about fly fishing and give our club exposure.

On Saturday, September 11th, some BUFF members attended a "Blast & Cast" event at the Elk Creek Hunt Club in Owenton, KY. This event had involved BUFF several years ago and has been restarted. The "Blast" part is sporting clay shooting, and the "Cast" is BUFF helping attendees to learn to cast and then fly fish in the club's pond. Our contact, Mile Reed, is a former BUFF member and one of the other attendees is a current BUFF member. We met several people who expressed interest in joining BUFF. Tom Bachey and Jim Vota showed that one can catch fish with a fly rod – both landed nice large mouth bass from the pond. Hopefully, Elk Creek will continue this event and continue to involve BUFF.

In addition, BUFF was also involved in the annual Great Outdoor Weekend. Several BUFF members were at the Isaac Walton League facility on the Little Miami River on the last Saturday in September where attendees could try fly tying and casting. Finally, a few BUFF members met with students at Indian Hill High School for casting instruction. Both of these are annual events and we are happy to see them return. *Maybe we'll get some photos from the event organizers for next month's BUFFER!*

Suggested Rods and Flies for the North Carolina Trip

By Tom Bachey

Here is a list of rods, and flies that we suggest for the upcoming NC trip –

Rods:

3 – 6 wt rods will fish well. Suggest you bring two rods, if possible, just in case one gets eaten by a screen door, ceiling fan, car door, etc. Floating lines with 8 – 10' leaders are adequate to fish most of the streams. 5 – 7X tippetts are recommended. Tenkara and Euro-Nymphing techniques work well here also.

Flies:

Nymphs: *Sizes 12 – 18*

Bead Head Prince, Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear, Zebras, Sow Bugs, Scuds, Golden Stonefly, Small Black Stonefly Caddis Pupa, Copper Johns in various colors

Streamers: *Sizes 6 – 10*

Muddler Minnows, Mallard Minnows, Bead Head Woolly Buggers (black, white, olive), with flash and rubber legs, Gray's White, Girdle Bugs, Bitch Creek, Clouser Minnows

Dries: *Sizes 14 – 20*

Parachute Adams, Blue Wing Olive, Elk Hair Caddis, Deer Hair Emerger, McGinty's, Quill Gordons, Griffith's Gnat in sizes 18 – 22.

High vis parachute dries are recommended.

Terrestrials: Ants, Beetles, Hoppers, Foam Spiders, June Bugs, San Juan Worms

Soft Hackle wet flies often work well, especially as a dropper behind a dry or bead head nymph. Orange or green are good colors.

A Caution When Fishing for Steelhead

Gink & Gasoline recently posted an interesting blog regarding risks to steelhead even with catch-and-release angling. There are few species of fish as vulnerable as wild steelhead, and alarmingly, their numbers dwindling. So, it's vital that those of us who fish for them practice the best catch-and-release practices.

Fortunately, a recent biological study of steelhead ongoing in western Canada identified a possible issue with common catch and release techniques. The scientists were catching steelhead using a fly rod, tagging them with GPS trackers and releasing them back into the river. When they went to start tracking the fish, they found that after only a few hours many of the tagged fish had died. They were able to collect the dead fish and found the cause to be head injury.



When capturing the fish, the researchers had played them into shallow water, where they were no longer fully submerged, to land them. Steelhead are strong, and their thrashing caused them to hit their heads on surrounding rocks causing fatal injury. There was no apparent harm when the fish were caught and released, but the brain damage led to rapid death.

Importantly, this can be avoided when angling for steelhead. Landing the fish by hand or using a net while keeping them in deeper water, is a safer approach and will likely avoid injury to the fish. Using a net also allows the fish to recover before it is released back to the stream.

The full article can be found at: <https://www.ginkandgasoline.com/steelhead/you-may-be-killing-steelhead-and-not-even-know-it/>

Getting Out to Fish

Mike Smith won the re-auction of a \$200 gift certificate at the North Branch Outing Club on the Au Sable River in MI. He put it to good use! Mike has moved to Michigan and is only a few hours from the Au Sable. He spent two nights at the North Branch Club and fished for brookies on that section of the Au Sable. He sent us this photo of one of the brook trout that he got.



Jim and Cari Vota spent a couple of days on Labor Day week in Northern Indiana fishing for pike with Dustan Harley. Dustan who owns Ripple Guide Service near Fort Wayne, Indiana (<http://www.rippleguides.com/>), guides on waters of northern Indiana and southern Michigan. Dustan is a long-time supporter of BUFF. He has presented at our meetings, is a regular exhibitor at our show, and he will also be a presenter at the upcoming 2022 show.



Jim and Cari with a couple of nice-sized pike on the Yellow River



Labor Day week also saw Ken Mandel and Haruko Mizoguchi out fishing on the Au Sable. We had spent a few days at Gates Au Sable Lodge and fished the North Branch on two days. One day we waded with Mark Hendricks, and Haruko caught a couple of brookies. The next day we did a full-day float trip with

Matt Verlac as our guide and did much better – we each landed about 15 brookies, all about 6 – 8” long. Most were on dry flies with 7X tippet. The fish had their beautiful fall colors.



One of Ken's brookies



Haruko and Matt with one of her brookies

Here's a photo of Tom Bachev with a nice 13" small mouth bass he caught fishing in Adams County. He got this on a tailed black leech pattern.



Fly of the Month - Sculpzilla

By Jim Neckers

A Sculpzilla is a stinger hook streamer. A friend had given me one to try a few years ago, but I didn't think to ask what it was called. It took me a couple of years before I came across it on the internet. I consider the Sculpzilla one of my confident flies and it is fun to fish! I have caught smallmouth bass with this fly at Findley Lake in New York, and trout in places like the Nantahala in North Carolina and the Catskills in New York. I found that even the cutthroat in Wyoming liked it. Black is my favorite; but tan, white, olive, and purple also work well.

It is an easy fly to tie. It has a cone head on a straight hook shank. I use any straight-eye hook that has a ½ to ¾ inch straight shank behind the conehead. The front hook is cut off at the bend after completing the fly). The stinger hook is the actual hook. I tie the stinger hook eye about 1 ¼ to 1 ½ inches from the back of the cone head. I use 20 lb test Fireline and a size 8 trailing hook. I also use rabbit fur cut from a zonker strip in a dubbing loop instead of marabou feather for the collar. I think the shorter rabbit fur collar allows the red throat and light belly to show better, and I tie it without the feather fins added to the original fly.

I fish this fly with a 4-weight rod using a weight forward floating line. It can be fished by casting across the stream and letting it dead drift or by adding some different striping action to the line until you find something the fish like.

A good tying demonstration, with some slight differences from Jim's approach, is by Greg Garcia and is on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-5KgT7REfo>

Have fun fishing with a Sculpzilla!

Tying Materials:

- Stinger Hook
- Straight eye hook (as described in Jim's notes)
- 3-O or 6-O thread in color to match fly (video uses olive)
- 6-O thread, red
- Rabbit Zonker strip (video uses olive)
- Black cone head to match hook size
- White Pearl Ice-Dub for body
- Red-dyed soft hackle or maribou feather
- Grizzly maribou feather or dubbing loop of rabbit hair cut from Zonker strip
- Olive chickabou feather (optional)
- Adhesive eyes (optional)

Tying Instructions

1. Start with the trailing hook (stinger hook). Thread the ends of the 20 lb test Fireline through the hook eye to form a loop over the hook shank. The video uses a material called "Powercord". Bring the loop under the hook and pull it tight against the hook eye.
2. Debarb and mount hook in vise. Start thread behind the eye, taking a few wraps on the shank. Tie in the rabbit Zonker strip behind the hook eye on top of the hook shank. Length is about that of the hook shank with hair extending toward the hook bend. Lift the front of the strip, and add a few thread wraps in front of the Zonker strip and behind the hook eye. Whip finish and cut the thread, remove hook from vise and set aside.
3. Place the cone head on the straight eye hook and mount in vise. *The video uses a 'Spirit River Cross-Eyed Cone'.* . . Start thread wraps behind the cone, taking wraps to about the hook barb.
4. Next step is to attach the line from the trailing hook. The trailer hook eye should be 1 ¼ - 1 ½" from the back of the cone head. Position and tie in the line on top of the hook shank to secure it. Pass the two ends through the cone and drop it through the hook eye. Bring the line ends back through the cone and tie in on the bottom of the hook shank with thread wraps back to the barb. The line should be tight against the back of the hook eye. Tying the line in along the shank forms a smooth underbody. Trim the excess line and fix the wraps using Zap-a-Gap.



5. Pull the line so the stinger hook extends tightly from the back of the hook. Tie in the Zonker strip on top of the vise-mounted hook shank at the hook barb with a few thread wraps. Pull the strip up and take a few wraps in front of the tie-in point.



6. Using White Pearl Ice-Dub build up a layered body wrapping dubbing from the hook barb forward to behind the cone. You can go back and forth to build up the body to size and/or add taper.

Tie in the Zonker strip behind the cone and trim off excess.



7. Tie in a red-dyed soft hackle (or maribou) feather by its tip behind the cone. Once tied in securely, trim the tip. Stoke the fibers back and take about 3 forward wraps of the feather. Tie in with a couple of thread wraps and trim excess and the excess tip. The red feather forms a feathery-gill like structure on the fly.



8. Tie in a collar. The video uses an olive grizzly maribou feather, but as mentioned above, Jim suggests using a dubbing loop of rabbit fur cut from a Zonker strip. The image shown here is with the maribou feather.

If using the feather, as above, tie it in by the tip. Trim the tip and take 2 forward wraps of the stem while brushing the fibers back. Tie it in and trim excess.



9. **This is optional. In his note, Jim states that he does not add this to the fly.**

In the video, the tips of two small chickabou feathers, in olive to match the color of the fly, are tied in on either side of the fly. Once the two feathers are tied in securely, the stems are trimmed off.

Whip finish the thread behind the cone and cut it off.



10. A couple of finishing steps –

In the video, the author adds a bit of a “Gap Gel” adhesive to fix the cone head and keep it from rotating.

Then the cone is pushed back a bit and a small thread head is built between the front of the cone and the hook eye. This is done in red. Whip finish and trim.

The final step is to glue on the eyes in the correct location on the cone. If you use a regular cone, you would not add eyes.

The final step is to get rid of the hook and just keep the shank. Keeping the hook mounted in the vise, use wire cutters to cut it off at the beginning of the bend.



Upcoming BUFF Activities

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

In-person activities are Limited to BUFF Members, and require Registration (online on club Website) and signing the Club's Liability Waiver

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Smokey Mountains Fishing Trip Bryson City, NC	Wednesday, October 6 th – thru Sunday October 10 th (return) <i>Sign-up & Information on Website</i>	Tom Bachey 513-543-4056 h2oguy@fuse.net
Fly Casting Skills Development Cottell Park, Mason, OH	Wednesday, October 6 th Wednesday, November 3 rd meet at 6 PM <i>details on the "Casting Corner" page of the BUFF Website</i>	Tom Scheer 513-317-4996 rtscheerdds@aol.com
Beginner Fly Tying Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Tuesday, October 12 th <i>Weekly sessions 10/19, 10/26, 11/9 & 11/16 6:30 – 9:00 PM</i>	Jim Neckers 513-254-7901 jimneckers@gmail.com
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center	Wednesday, October 13 th 6:00 – 9:00 PM <i>In-person and on Zoom</i>	
Tie & Lie Zoom Virtual Session	Friday, October 15 th Friday, November 19 th 6:30 PM <i>Zoom link on Website</i>	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 loopdude1@hotmail.com
BUFF Board Meeting Springdale Community Ctr Springdale, OH	Wednesday, October 20 th 6:30 – 8:30 PM	