



The BUFFER

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

www.BuckeyeFlyFishers.com

Volume 41, Issue 9

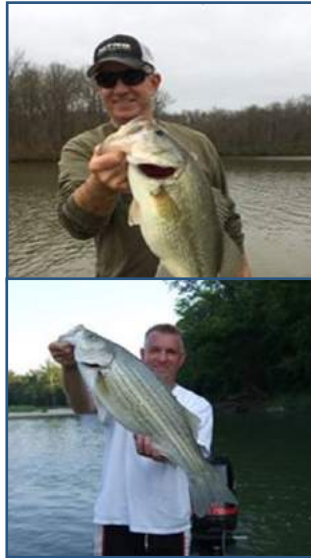
September 2017

September Presentation & Speaker

by Phil Pursley

Neal Ramsey will be our speaker at the September 13 BUFF meeting. He will be discussing fishing opportunities in Hamilton County's Great Parks where he has been an employee for 31 years.

Neal grew up in a hunting, fishing & boating family. He has been on the water & in the woods his entire life. He began competing in Bass tournaments at age 16, and has fished more than 500 events over the past 30 years. Neal is sponsored by Bass Pro Shops and Tracker Marine. He fished Walmart BFL's & USA Bass tournaments in 2016.



In This Issue

- Monthly Presentation & Speaker
- BUFF 40th Anniversary
- Featured Fishing Story
- Fly Fishing Nets
- Mark you Calendar
- Bluegill Summers

Featured Story (#2 in a series of 6 stories about local fishing)

By Phil Pursley

Fishing at Glenwood Gardens

It was a very nice Saturday afternoon and I knew that I wanted to go fish Glenwood Gardens. Some may ask, where? My wife Alice and I discovered this Hamilton County park as we became Master Hikers. A title designated by the Great Parks of Hamilton County. Sounds pretty special, doesn't it? The Master Hiker Program simply means that we have hiked all the trails in all the Hamilton county parks in one year. By hiking all these trails, 34 in all, I was able to scout out some small streams. Thus, I ended up at Glenwood Gardens on a fishing expedition. I told Alice I had some research to do. The fishing shirt I had on didn't fool her one bit.



(Continued on page 3)



BUFF 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Contributed by Bob Gustafson

On October 11, Buckeye United Fly Fishers will celebrate its 40th anniversary! The celebration will be at our regular meeting place and time in the Lakeview Room at Voice of America Park. We hope you can join us in this celebration as we look back at the club's founding, history, and recent achievements. There will be a special program, recognitions, displays, and club mementos for all attendees. Reservations will be required and reservations information will be announced in the near future. A special meal (\$24.95 value) will be offered at the regular \$15 cost to all attendees who wish to dine.



40th Anniversary!

**Buckeye United Fly Fishers
40th Anniversary Celebration
Wed., October 11, 6:00 pm
Lakeview Room, Ronald Reagan Lodge
Voice of America Park**

The Celebration Team requests your help in putting together the evening's program and displays. If you have historical items--photos, articles, newsletters, etc. which we can borrow, it would be wonderful. We are also interested in any messages you would like to send to BUFF for this occasion.

Please let us know soon so we can make arrangements:

513-683-0286 (Bob Gustafson)

513-652-1894 (Jeff McElravy)

Thank you for considering this request.

BUFF began in the summer of 1977 when Cincinnati members attending Miami Valley Fly Fishers meetings were encouraged to start a fly fishing club in Cincinnati. From the founding group of ten members, BUFF has grown to be one of the largest fly fishing clubs in North America with around 350 members.

BUFF has a unique history and one that we can all take pride in. We are grateful to those whose foresight and guidance laid the groundwork for today's BUFF. It is appropriate that we take the opportunity to look back and celebrate the club's history and recognize those who have helped lead the club along the way. It will be a fun, memorable evening—don't miss it!

BUFF 40th Anniversary Team

(Jeff McElravy, Bob Miller, Jim Boude, Jim Vota, Bob Gustafson)



Fishing at Glenwood Gardens

(Continued from page 1)

The plan was to take my #3 weight fiberglass rod and put my boots in a back pack so most people wouldn't even know that I was going off to fish the North Branch of the Mill Creek as they were looking at wild flowers and walking the wonderful trails in this park. I made it to the creek with only one person saying, "I didn't know there was fish in this park".



After finding the bridge I was looking for, I saw a pool much larger and deeper than I remembered. Working my way to the edge of the stream was my first task followed by putting on boots and choosing a fly that would tempt the fish. My first thought was to "dance with the one that brought you to the dance". A black woolly worm with a red tail and a small weight 4 inches above the fly has been my go to set-up on the small streams this year, so that was my starter.

Not wanting to be on display and hearing the proverbial, "Are you doing any good?" all afternoon from hikers walking over the bridge, I decided to go down stream away from all the people. I found a small pool and caught a pumpkin seed bluegill. A nice start for the day.



This stream doesn't have much pressure. There were no footprints in the mud other than mine and no mono in the trees. The hope was that these fish had never seen a fly before today.

Looking for a larger pool was easy. I found just a place with a long stretch of water that turned out to be six or seven feet deep. My black woolly worm must have looked like the small bait fish that I saw upon approaching the stream. Good sized bluegills, bass, or catfish was my prize with every cast. Even the times I was straightening out my line produced fish if the fly was in the water. My thoughts were, "well this makes up for some low "fish count" days on the stream".



Next, came a cast that hooked me up with a nineteen-inch fish. My first thought was this must be what the guy thought who only took a knife to what turned out to be a gun fight. My #3 weight rod, 6X tippet, and no net put me in a bad situation. No one to blame but myself. After a long battle, this carp finally tired enough that I could beach him and remove my fly with no harm done to the fish. Back to catching bluegill and bass. A second large carp was tempted by my fly with the same result as the first one.

Several other flies were tried with varying success. The old standard, olive woollybugger was nearly as effective as the black woolly worm, but I plan to

stay with my first set up the next time I go to one of these small streams.

It's funny how time flies, when a person is standing in the stream. I was late for supper but Alice was only mildly upset after I told her about revisiting a favorite hiking (and now fishing) spot.



Fly Fishing Nets 101

by Cari Vota

Whenver possible, use a net. This will allow you to land the fish safely and easily while reducing the chance of breaking the tippet at the last second. Hold the net in the water below the fish and guide the fish gently to the net. It will also help you keep the fish in the water while unhooking it and preparing your camera for a photograph.

Buying a Net

Buying a net is just as personal of a decision as buying a particular brand of rod, reel, or clothes. Nets for trout and other species usually fall into one of the following categories:

Soft Rubber: Often heavy weight, but rubber nets will be easy to remove your flies if they get hung up. It's soft on fish scales, gills and doesn't remove natural slime from fish.

Mesh Fabric: This is another great option. Lightweight, and very easy on the fish. Always try to make sure that your chosen mesh net is of the knotless variety. No knots in the mesh will make it very soft and safe for your trout to sit in. Rub the top of your hand on the mesh a couple times (hard). If it hurts your hand, it will hurt the fish.

Rubber Coated String: These nets can vary in several ways. Often times the rubber coating is abrasive and hard on fish, but others are quite soft and would be great for a catch and release net. Do the hand test 1st.



But what else matters?

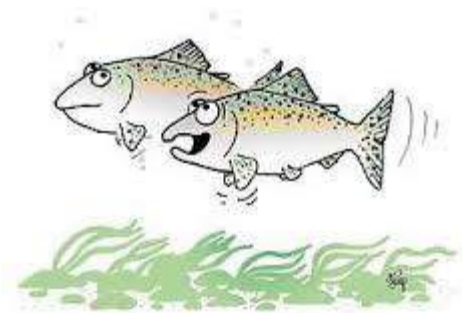
Mesh Size: For delicate fish such as brook trout a small, micro-mesh (3/16 inch mesh grid) is recommend. For bigger fish species such as Bass, Pike, and Muskie a heavier mesh with larger grid size (1 inch mesh grid) is recommended. The larger the mesh grid size, the less water drag resistance in swift waters.

Mesh Bag Depth: Select a mesh bag depth that will adequately handle your targeted fish species but does not have excessive material for fish and flies to get tangled in.

Durability: If you fish even a couple days each month, your net will take a beating. Bouncing around in the back of your car or truck and getting slammed against rocks and river beds can cause cheaper nets to chip, break, or split. Landing a big fish in heavy current can cause bags to rip or handles to bend or snap.

Handle Length: It may depend on the type of fishing you do. Do you mostly wade? Do you fish from a boat where a longer handle would come in very handy? A long handle also comes in handy when landing fish with spey or switch rods.

Aesthetics: A good-looking net isn't going to catch more fish, but your pictures will look better.



"Let's jump a few times
just to drive the fly fishers crazy!"



BUFF 40TH ANNIVERSARY

A celebration of this great milestone is planned during the upcoming General Meeting in October.

- One and only Don Prince will emcee
- BUFF History Display
- Dozens of historical pictures of BUFF events and members
- Special displays in the Trophy Room
- Give aways!
- Special prime rib dinner at the normal monthly price

Please reserve your seat using the online BUFF General Meeting Reservation System

LADIES, LET'S GO FISHING!!

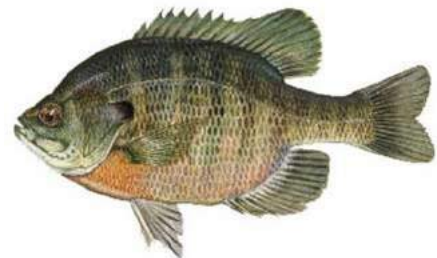
Sep 9 Women's Fishing Day Trip Twin Creek, Germantown OH
 Sep 28-Oct 1 Women's Fall Fishing Trip Hocking Hills, OH near Logan

Sign up NOW for all of these on the BUFF registration page.
Please contact Cari Vota, Director Women's Programs, if you have any questions.

Bluegill Summers

by Bob Gustafson

I grew up in the mid-south where largemouth bass fishing was king and crappie and "brim" (any number of sunfish, especially bluegill) was a close second. I spent many days over the years in pursuit of feisty bluegills and return to my first fishing love as often as I can. Bluegills probably don't get the respect they deserve for their eagerness to bite and all-out fight when hooked.



This summer has been relatively mild, leading to delayed arrival of the "dog days" of summer. This has been my signal to get out the kayaks and go fishing for bluegills. Just about any body of water will do, and pretty much all area lakes and ponds are ringed by bank fish-

(Continued on page 6)



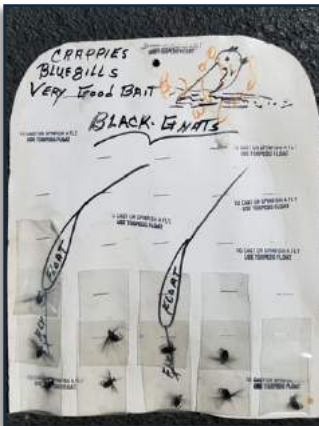
(Continued from page 5)

ermen drowning worms and crickets. The best results come from fishing from a boat or float tube to access good fish holding structure.

In spring, big bluegills are pretty easy to catch—just look for bright, cleared out circular bed rings in shallow waters. When bluegills are bedded up they are particularly aggressive and will attack anything near the bed. Later in the year, bluegills scatter and orient to structure—stumps, log jams, weedy tree-lined banks, willow trees, etc. There will be days when you have to target cast within inches of a tree stump to get a bite. Expect hang-ups.

My favorite fishing rig for bluegills is a 3-4 weight rod with a size 8 or 10 yellow or chartreuse popping bug and a 10 or 12 hook size wet fly dropper, suspended about 12"-16" below. This rig allows me to prospect for willing fish on the surface and in the water column. Some days they will prefer one or the other. Most days, both work. The popper basically serves as an indicator with a hook, which is fortunate since the take on the dropper is usually subtle. Occasionally, you will hook a double – fish on both flies. [You can find several good flies for bluegills in the BUFF Ultimate Fly Box on the website.]

Several years ago, I bought a couple of hanger cards full of hand-tied flies from a gas station mart near Cave Run Lake, KY. They were inelegant, somewhat crudely tied, but the clearance sale price was right. After several years of being ignored, I experimented with them this year as the dropper fly. The fish love 'em! So I now tie bunches of what has come to be known as "The Kentucky Black Fly" for Wendy and me. The tie is simple:



- Standard nymph/wet fly hook (Mustad 3906B, TMC 3769, or TMC 2457), size 10
- black 140 denier thread
- body:** black fine chenille
- collar:** black feather (rooster saddles or Hobby Lobby feathers—the gnarlier, the better)

The originator tied the fly with a rounded body and a curiously elongated neck. Don't know why, but don't argue with success!

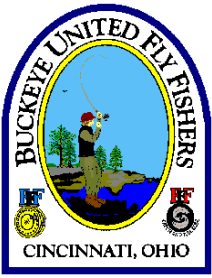


The Kentucky Black Fly – originator unknown

The ideal fishing locations around here for bluegills are larger ponds, especially farm ponds, if you are lucky enough to have the owner's permission to fish. Excellent public access to fishing is available all around as well in county and state park lakes. My favorites currently are Stonelick Lake, OH, and Whitewater Lake, IN. Both have easy ramps for launching jon boats and kayaks and feature electric motors only restrictions. Both are easy to paddle to good spots, feature lots of fish holding structure and tree-lined banks offering shady shorelines all day long.



Stonelick Lake
Clermont County, Ohio



*The **BUFFER***

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc.

P. O. Box 42614

Cincinnati, OH 45242

A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt, Charitable Corporation

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL