



# The BUFFER

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The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH  
Volume 42, Issue 9 Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com> September 1, 2018

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## Notes from the President

Jim Vota – [vota@zoomtown.com](mailto:vota@zoomtown.com)

From what I heard this past month from members, the fly article was a hit. In keeping with the fly theme I'm including some flies I tied this past year for musky. Two of them are variations on Bob Popovich's hollow flies and beast flies. The other is my take on Eli Barrent's Optimus Swine.



We're getting ready to head up to the UP for some river musky fishing. It's a really beautiful area with lots of wildlife (wolves, bears, moose, otters, beaver, etc.) I want to retire and move there. My better half says NFW. I think you know who the winner will be.

We have scheduled (on short notice, sorry) the first annual (?) Milford Urban Fishing Fish Crawl. Yes, Milford is an urban area. It is situated on the shores of the Little Miami River and has several stretches route 50 and the LMR. There are riffles, pools, reeds, rocky bottoms, a few boulders, and high steep banks. Come on out and give it a try. Even if you don't fish come and join us for a beer or two. Details are online.

The fish crawl will be the first of several urban fishing adventures next year. If you have any suggestions or would like to help set up one of the adventures let me know. This is something for the club to have some fun with.

Other attractions this month include the SQM's on the LMR and The Great Outdoor Weekend at The Izaak Walton League in Loveland. The September meeting has a speaker from Kentucky coming to present his favorite spots for smallmouth fishing in Kentucky.

I've taken enough of your time. I've got packing to do. Check out the rest of the BUFFER. Maybe you'll find something of interest.

El Presidente

## September Meeting – Program

The September meeting is Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup>. Sign up and meal reservation is active through the 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Speaker – Lee McClellan; “Fly Fishing for Smallmouth in Kentucky”

Phil Pursley – [phil.pursley@hotmail.com](mailto:phil.pursley@hotmail.com)

Mike Rubush – [tenrakuguy1@yahoo.com](mailto:tenrakuguy1@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 Smallmouth in Kentucky on two of Kentucky’s best streams, Elkhorn Creek and the Green River. This is a program you won't want to miss.

### September Dinner Menu

Tossed Salad with Dressings  
Tomato Cucumber Salad with Balsamic Dressing  
Rolls & Butter  
Slow-Roasted Turkey and Vegetables in Puff Pastry  
Chicken Stirfry  
Parmesan Roasted Cauliflower & Zucchini  
Assorted Desserts

### Video on Fly Fishing in Scotland

Last month’s presentation on fly fishing in Scotland was both very good and very interesting. Hugh O’Donnell found a great video for anyone interested in learning a bit more. It looks like it is in same areas that Ethan Smith talked about. The link to the video is: <https://www.angling.tv/fly-fishing-for-trout-and-salmon-in-the-hope-system/>. Check it out!

## International Fly Fishing Film Festival

Celebrate IF4 (International Fly Fishing Film Festival) on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, in Chagrin Falls, OH. There are great movies and other events. IF4 is hosted by Chagrin Falls Outfitters. There is an afternoon General and Family Matinee at 3PM with tickets priced at \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids 10 years or younger, and a 7 PM Main Showing with tickets priced at \$15. Chagrin Falls Outfitters will also be having activities, presentations, giveaways and vendors around their shop during the day. Several BUFF members have attended in the past.

Information about the festival and ticket purchase can be found on the Chagrin Falls Outfitters website (<http://chagrinriveroutfitters.com>) by clicking on the "Events" tab, or on the BUFF website in the Forum section.

## Project Healing Waters

In early September the BUFF chapter of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing will take several local veterans to the Sandusky area for two days of wonderful fishing as part of the annual Castalia PHWFF Fishing Event. Below is a photo of last year's participants from Cincinnati. Look for some photos and a summary of this year's event an upcoming BUFFER.



## Casting for Recovery

At the August meeting, Joel Stansbury presented the shadow box and incredible fly he designed and tied as a donation to Casting for Recovery. Debbie Hampton, the BUFF liaison for Casting for Recovery accepted this wonderful item, and it will be an auction item in an upcoming fundraising event for this program.



Joel named the fly “Miss Peggy”, in honor of Peggy Brenner who is the Grand Dame of fly tying. She is a world famous tyer, and attends and ties at major fly fishing shows.

## **Urban Fishing – Milford Fish Crawl – September 8<sup>th</sup>**

By Jim Vota

**This is THE fishing experience of a lifetime** - your chance to catch a genuine Little Miami River smallie and enjoy the quaint small town community of Milford, Ohio. Urban fishing at its finest. We will meet at the American Legion parking area at 1:00pm on Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> and spread out to fish three sections of the local river. The lucky fishermen will be separated into three groups and will rotate fishing at each location. You can catch smallmouth bass, hybrid stripers, and carp in this section of the LMR.

If things don't go well fishing you can stop and pray for better fishing with the Jesuits or simply run to the brewery and ignore the fish. At about 5 PM, upon conclusion of the fishing festivities, we will meet back at the Little Miami Brewing Company overlooking the LMR, where we can enjoy responsible drinking and brick oven pizzas! If you don't feel like fishing, or didn't get signed up, come meet us at 5:00 at the brewery for fish tales and good company.

**Sign up is on the BUFF website.**

## **Fly Fishing in NYC**

By Ken Mandel

Staying with the topic of urban fly fishing, there was a short piece in the August 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday Magazine of the New York Times about fly fishing in the rivers, creeks and bays in New York City. *That's right, within NYC!* You can even fly fish in ponds in Central Park, smack in the middle of Manhattan (no license required!). The writer, James Pogue, is a former NYC resident and avid fly fisherman. When living in the city, he could not take the time from work, nor afford the expense, to travel distances to get to places we'd more associate with our sport. He writes of fishing from piers along the rivers and bays, fishing in some of the smaller rivers and waterways that lace through the various boroughs of NYC, and some creeks on Long Island. The fish there are similar to the urban fish we have here – bass, carp, pan fish. He even found an occasional trout on creeks in Long Island. He now resides in Los Angeles, and is fishing monster carp in the LA River, another urban stream.

Having grown up in NYC longer ago than I care to admit, the idea of fishing the rivers and places that are talked about in the article seems amazing to me. I recall how polluted and foul smelling many of these rivers and bays were. I remember, when visiting my grandparents who lived near the bay in Brooklyn, we'd sometimes take a chicken leg tied to a string and fish from piers for crabs. It was the perfect gear, and crabs were about the only thing you could catch along the shore in those days.

We have a similar story here in Cincinnati. Last May, Adam Konopka was the speaker at the BUFF meeting, and his topic was fishing Mill Creek. In the early 1990's, Mill Creek was considered one of the most endangered urban rivers in the US. Over the past 20+ years, a dedicated effort by several conservation groups has led to a tremendous turn around. The Mill Creek is now clean and supports a good fishing habitat. The fish in the creek are similar to those in the NY Times article, bass, carp, etc. Adam was a trustee of the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities. Earlier this year, this group, and another group working to protect and restore the Mill Creek habitat, merged to form the Mill Creek Alliance.

If interested, the web link to the NY Times article is: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/08/magazine/letter-of-recommendation-urban-fly-fishing.html>. Information about the Mill Creek Alliance is at [www.themillcreekalliance.org](http://www.themillcreekalliance.org).

## Stream Quality Monitoring

By Tom Britton

Water quality and fly fishing go hand in hand. Most of the species that we tend to fish for will not survive in poor quality water.

In 1968 Ohio passed the nation's first Scenic Rivers Act, creating a program dedicated to protecting the state's remaining high quality streams for future generations. Ohio's system of 14 state designated scenic rivers is administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Watercraft.

Biological monitoring is a proven way of determining the quality of rivers and streams. Ohio's Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM) was developed in 1983 by the ODNR Scenic Rivers Program using a variety of sampling techniques to compile information on the quality of the water.

BUFF members volunteer to monitor two sections of the Little Miami River (Caesar's Creek and Bass Island) three times a year. Aquatic insects, clams, snails, crayfish, and aquatic worms are collected from the stream. These animals have varying



tolerances of pollution and can indicate potential water quality problems. Participating in these types of programs is a way to assist in the preservation of our water quality. It is also a valuable learning tool as you can get hands on insect identification skills. It will become easier to understand why a fish would be so eager to take a size 18 or 20 fly.

Come join us in the future. Sign up and contact information for our stream monitoring activities is on our website and posted in upcoming activities listings in the BUFFER.

## Upcoming Women's Events for September

By Cari Vota

### Local Outings

Here are the dates for our last local outings for 2018. Throughout this year, we learned to fish many local rivers and found new access points. Our September outings are no different.

- **September 20<sup>th</sup> – LAST After-Work Fishing on the East Fork of LMR, near Perintown**
- **September 22<sup>nd</sup> – LAST Day trip this year, East Fork of LMR, Perintown + Batavia**

The East Fork of the LMR has more access than people think. We will be fishing only 2 of those points. These are easy to wade, up and down stream. Thanks to many Buffers for their input. There is more information on the BUFF website on fishing and access on the EF including the East Fork Lake Dam, Sycamore Park, and the low-head dam in Batavia. Check this out at: [http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com/east\\_fork/about%20east%20fork.htm](http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com/east_fork/about%20east%20fork.htm)



### Gathering Information on Fishing Caney Fork River, TN – October 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>








I've had had a couple guides tell me the Caney Fork River, TN is an awesome, wadeable trout stream. I have visited several websites and here's some of what I have found out. This will be invaluable info when we women go down there for our Fall Women's Trip, Oct 19-20. The river is annually stocked by TWRA with Rainbow, Brown and most recently Brook Trout.

The Caney Fork section that holds trout extends from the Center Hill Dam all the way down to the Cumberland River not far from Nashville. The river is large compared to mountain standards. The stream averages from thirty to ninety feet wide and flows slow whenever the turbines are not running. The water flows from the deep water of Center Hill Lake through the dam at about fifty-five degrees year-round. You can wade or canoe/kayak the entire length. There are three primary access areas - the dam, Happy Hollow, and Betty's Island – for canoe/kayaks/drift boats.

**Registration** for the Fall Women's trip, Oct 19-20, 2018, is available for sign up.

- 3-night trip featuring 2-days of trout fishing.
- The beautiful 2 bedroom cabin, which sleeps 6, is located 1/2 mile from Caney Fork River/Betty's Island.
- Open to All women BUFF members and wives.

### Mid-Tennessee Hatch Chart

	Insect	Size	Begin	End
	<a href="#">Midges</a>	20-24	January 1	December 31
	<a href="#">Scuds</a>	12-14	January 1	December 31
	<a href="#">Streamer</a>	6-12	January 1	December 31
	<a href="#">Worms</a>	12-18	January 1	December 31
	<a href="#">Terrestrials</a>	10-16	May 1	October 31
	<a href="#">Caddis</a>	12-16	May 1	October 31
	<a href="#">Sulphur</a>	12-16	May 1	October 31

**Midges** - More than one site suggest the use of midge larva or pupa, in sizes from size 20 down to 26 and smaller, as the predominate fly to use year around. The number of aquatic insect species is rather low but it has a good population of those that do exist there. The riverbed is comprised mostly of gravel and the occasional gravel bar. Scud, sow bugs, and black flies are another very plentiful set of insects and good to imitate at times. Several species of caddis and mayflies show from time to time but are typically sporadic at best.



**Streamers** - The brown trout spawn in the fall and a lot of large trout are usually caught. There's a lot of shad in the river as well as other species of baitfish and minnows, so streamers that imitate baitfish should work for the larger trout in the river.

Contact me if you have any questions – Cari Vota (513-476-7112, or [vota@zoomtown.com](mailto:vota@zoomtown.com))

## A Simpler Way to Tie a Blood Knot

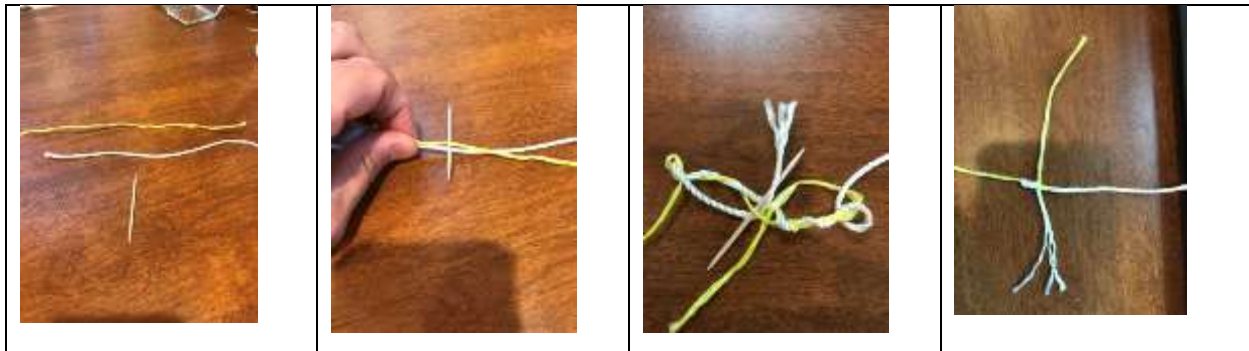
**WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A TOOTHPICK?** Well, Tie Fishing Knots of Course!

By Hugh O'Donnell

Ever need to tie on tippet to a leader or want to build your own leader? What if you were not satisfied with the easy but crooked surgeon's knot? Do you want straight connections between the leader and tippet? Well the blood knot is the typical knot for this connection. However, many people find the blood knot quite difficult to tie with fine diameter 4x to 7x tippet. What can be done to make this knot easy?

Well, Chris Fave has solved this dexterity problem by using a common toothpick. The method is to place the toothpick between the overlapping tag ends, pinch the monofilament around the toothpick on each side and rotate the toothpick 4 times with the thumbs. Now just insert the tag ends, *in opposite directions*, through the loop that surrounds the toothpick. The challenging blood knot is reduced to a simple task. Here is a link to the video, (just skip the advertisement at the beginning) –

<https://youtu.be/q-QGPzEKZKo>



There is one variation if you use hemostats to tie knots. Using Dr. Slick's normally closed 'Extra Hand Tweezers', attach it to the middle of one overlapping tag end and flip it four times. It is virtually the same as the toothpick but you can control the opening with more ease. The small tweezer size makes flipping it around the overlapping ends easy versus using a full size hemostat.

**What - you don't have a toothpick on the river?** Pickup a thin stick and whittle it to size!

## Fly of the Month

By Don Kail & Ken Mandel

This month we'll talk about and show directions for tying "The Usual". It is a fly that our fellow Buffers who are heading out on the annual





Catskill trip in early September have been tying. The Usual was developed by Fran Betters, a legendary fly fisherman and tyer from Upstate NY, and is an excellent fly for the waters they will be fishing. Though Fran passed away in 2009, his tying legacy includes the Ausable Wulff, the Haystack, and this fly. The Usual is an outgrowth of his Haystack-type flies, which Fran was tying in the late 1940's and early 1950's when he was still in high school. It is basically a Haystack fly tied with snowshoe hare fur rather than deer hair. The materials give it great translucence and it is very waterproof. It is also an easy fly to tie.

Don shared an excellent video which provides details, and a couple of helpful tips, on tying the Usual. The link is, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwHZ55Eewn8>, and it would be very useful to view this before tying this fly. The images shown for this fly are captures from this video. Don also provided a web link describing the history of the fly (<http://flyanglersonline.com/features/oldflies/part439.php>).

#### Materials:

- **Hook:** R50-94840 (sizes 14 – 22). This is a standard dry fly hook.
- **Thread:** Uni-Thread, Fire Orange, 6/0.
- **Tail and Wing :** Snowshoe hare foot guard hair
- **Body:** Snowshoe hare foot underfur.
- **Head:** Fire Orange thread

#### Tying Instructions:

1. Mount hook in vise. Put on a base layer of thread, starting behind the eye and wrapping back to hook barb.
- 2b. Tie in tail first by taking a small clump of fur from the bottom of the snowshoe hare foot (mostly guard hairs).
  - A trick shown in the video is to twist the clump before cutting it from the hare foot. It helps to keep the fibers together.
  - Pull out the underfur fibers and save them to use for the body dubbing.
  - Measure the tail about a hook shank in length and tie it in on top of the hook at the hook bend with a few thread wraps.
  - Put one thread wrap under the base of the tail, between the hook and the hair to help position and prop up the tail.
3. Wrap thread forward to about 2 mm behind the eye.
4. To form the wing, take a larger clump of fur from same area of the foot. As for the tail, tease out and save the underfur fibers to use for dubbing the body.



5. Measure the fur to about the length of the shank and tie in on top of the hook with the fur extending out over the hook eye by wrapping back to about where the tail is tied in. Trim excess fur from the hook shank.

- At this point the wing remains extended over the hook eye.

6. Wrap the thread towards the tail.

7. Tease and hand mix the saved underfur and dub it onto the thread. Wrap a dubbed body from the tail tie-in toward the wing tie-in, building an increasing taper toward the head of the fly.



8. Pull wing up and back and add a few wraps of dubbing immediately in front of the wing. This helps the wing stand up.

9. Build a small head in front of the wing and whip finish.

The final fly should look like the image in the introduction.



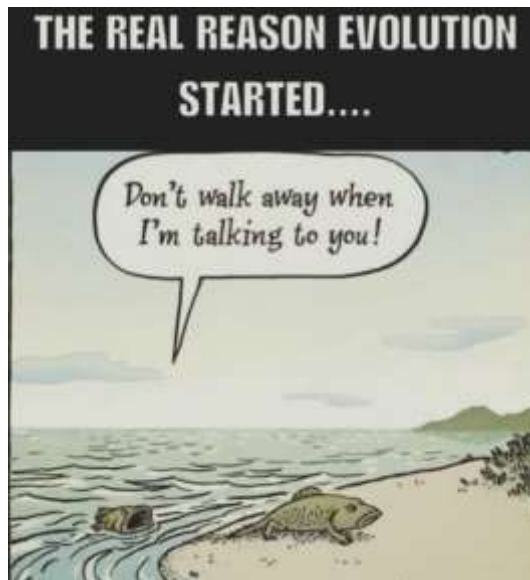
# Upcoming BUFF Activities

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

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Milford Fish Crawl Milford, OH	Saturday, 9-8, meet at 1 PM	Jim Vota 513-702-2553 <a href="mailto:vota@zoomtown.com">vota@zoomtown.com</a>
New York Catskills Trip Roscoe, NY	Monday, 9-10 – Sunday, 9-16	J.R. Jackson 518-227-2136 <a href="mailto:bearcatjr@gmail.com">bearcatjr@gmail.com</a>
Stream Quality Monitoring, Bass Island	Saturday, 9-15; Meet 9 AM @ Bass Island Trailhead, Bass Island Park  Rain date – 9-22	Tom Britton 513-520-7862 <a href="mailto:starwoodtb@gmail.com">starwoodtb@gmail.com</a>
Stream Quality Monitoring, Caeser's Creek	Saturday, 9-15; Meet 9 AM @ Caeser's Creek Access, Bass Island Park  Rain date – 9-22	Tom Britton 513-520-7862 <a href="mailto:starwoodtb@gmail.com">starwoodtb@gmail.com</a>
Women's After Work Outing, East Fork Little Miami River, Perintown, OH	Thursday, 9-20 Meet 6 PM	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 <a href="mailto:vota@zoomtown.com">vota@zoomtown.com</a>
Tie and Lie, Springdale Community Center	Friday, 9-21 Meet 6:30 PM	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 <a href="mailto:loopdude1@hotmail.com">loopdude1@hotmail.com</a>
Women's Day Trip to East Fork LMR Perintown, OH	Saturday, 9-22 Meet @ 7:30 AM	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 <a href="mailto:vota@zoomtown.com">vota@zoomtown.com</a>
Sunnybrook Fall Trip, Sandusky, OH	Friday, 9-28 – Sunday, 9-30	Ken Dixon 513-787-2408 <a href="mailto:krjdix@fuse.net">krjdix@fuse.net</a>
Great Outdoor Weekend Izaak Walton League, Cincinnati Chapter; Loveland, OH	Saturday, 9-29 – Sunday 9-30	<b>CHECK BUFF WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTEER INFORMATION &amp; SIGN-UP</b>
Tie and Lie, Springdale Community Center	Friday, 10-19 Meet 6:30 PM	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 <a href="mailto:loopdude1@hotmail.com">loopdude1@hotmail.com</a>

<u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Women's Fall Fishing Trip, Caney Fork River, TN	Friday, 10-19 – Saturday, 10-20	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 <a href="mailto:vota@zoomtown.com">vota@zoomtown.com</a>
Fall NC Trout Trip Bryson City, NC	11-7 – 11-11	Cecil Osborn 513-340-4837 <a href="mailto:cosborn1898@gmail.com">cosborn1898@gmail.com</a>
Tie and Lie, Springdale Community Center	Friday, 11-16 Meet 6:30 PM	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 <a href="mailto:loopdude1@hotmail.com">loopdude1@hotmail.com</a>

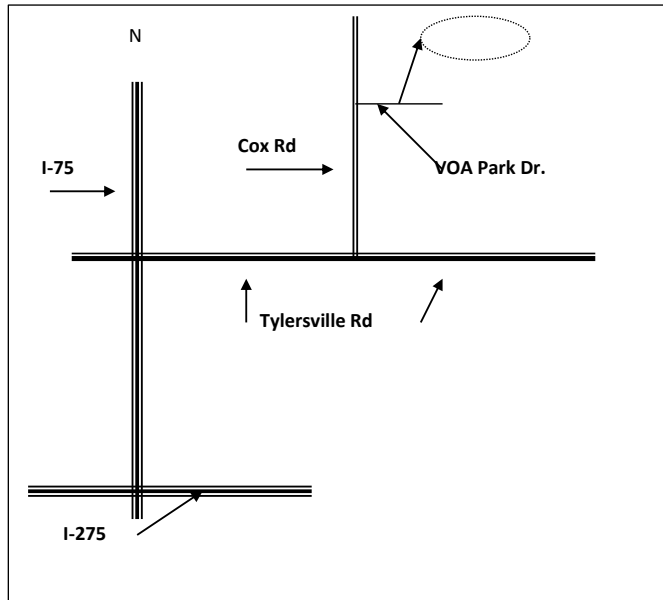
A bit of humor!



**September Meeting – Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**6:00 – 9:00 PM at VOA Park – watch website in Late August for sign-up**

Register on line at [WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM](http://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.