



The *BUFFER*

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH
Volume 43, Issue 9 Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com> September 1, 2019

Notes from the President

Jim Vota – vota@zoomtown.com

Planning for the new year is under way. The fly show committee is progressing with their plans. The search is still on for a new banquet chairman. We are also searching for a new membership chairman for 2020. The ladies Thursday evening, after-work, fishing trips will be changed to co-ed trips to local locations to fish in 2020. The ladies out of town weekend trips will still be organized. All suggestions for club activities will be considered.

There will be a few volunteer opportunities for the next month or so. There are 2 Stream Quality Monitoring sessions scheduled on September 14. Check the web site under trips for details. The Great Outdoor Weekend is coming up at the end of the month. BUFF will provide fly fishing instruction (fly tying and casting) at the Izaak Walton League in Loveland on Sept 28. We can use several volunteers for this event. Again, check the web site to sign-up. There will also be another kids' day at the Springdale Community Center. Details will be posted when available.

Now to the meat of my message. Stay healthy, keep fit, build a strong core. Casting, wading, and hiking will be easier. Your time fishing as well as the time after will be more enjoyable.

That's all for now. Remember to keep your lines in the water and may all your fishing be wonderful.

Till next month,

El Prez.

Jim Vota

September Meeting

The September meeting is Wednesday, September 11th. Registration deadline is the Sept 8th. Our speaker this month is Mike Porto from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He will be talking about the fisheries in our area.

Mike Porto, “Fisheries of Southwest Ohio – Lakes and Streams”

By Mike Rubush (tenkaraguy1@yahoo.com) & Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com)

Mike grew up in the Dayton area and loves fishing for smallmouth in the Great Miami River. Mike has been a Fisheries Biologist with the Ohio Division of Wildlife for almost 5 years. He is assigned to Division 5 of ONDR, the Division responsible for SW Ohio. Prior to joining the ODNR, Mike worked for the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife. He also has an MS in Fish and Wildlife Resources from West Virginia University. Mike will be speaking about the most recent fish survey results from the Great and Little Miami Rivers, as well as from East Fork, Cowan, Caesars Creek, and Acton Lakes.

The Division of Wildlife of the ONDR is a direct descendent of the Ohio Fish Commission created in 1873 to deal with declining fish population in our inland waterways and lakes. It became part of the ONDR, when it was established in the late 1940's. The division is involved in the management of fisheries for 124,000 acres of inland water, 7,000 miles of streams, the Ohio acreage of Lake Erie, and the Ohio length of the Ohio River. As anglers we benefit from habitat management and improvement programs, stocking programs, constructing and maintaining access to fishing areas, and conservation efforts.



September Dinner Menu

Olive Garden Salad (olives, peppers, parmesan, red onion, Italian vinaigrette)
Bread Sticks
Chicken Parmesan
Italian Stuffed Pork Tenderloin
Buttered Spaghetti Noodles with Marinara & Alfredo on side (make your own)
Roasted Squash Medley
Dessert – Chocolate Cake

Some Upcoming Events and Activities

As fall approaches, outdoor activities begin to tail off, but we still have several local events that one can take advantage of. Jim Vota touched on some of these in his note. Check these out –

Women's Fly Fishing Class with Susan Thrasher – Saturday, September 7th

This is an opportunity for women members of BUFF!

Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers has invited Susan Thrasher to present an all-day, hands-on fly fishing class for its women members, and now has opened enrollment to women members of BUFF. The class is from 9AM – 4 PM on Saturday, September 7th and is being held at the Beechridge Conference Center in northern Kentucky. Cost is \$125.00 and includes breakfast and lunch. **Attendance is limited to 8 people, and NKFF has opened enrollment to BUFF members.**

There will be some indoor instruction, but most of the time will be spent outdoors practicing casting and fishing techniques. The center has a 10 acre lake.

Susan Thrasher is the owner and operator of Southern Brookies Fly Fishing in Lancaster, TN. She is a FFI certified casting instructor and a staff member at the Joan Wulff School for Fly Fishing where she teaches in the spring of each year. BUFF members may recall that Susan Thrasher was our guest speaker earlier this year. She did a casting class for women members prior to the meeting which was well attended.

Contact Kerry Premec of NKFF for information on availability and registering at kentuckysunshine71@gmail.com or at 513-807-9466.

Stream Quality Monitoring – Saturday, September 14th

Tom Britton has organized the last of our annual stream quality monitoring events for the season for Saturday, September 14th. We'll monitor water quality on the Little Miami River at Caesar's Creek and Bass Island access points. Further information, directions, and sign-up is on the Trip/Activity page of the BUFF Website.

Also, check out Hugh O'Donnell's article on an ODNR stream monitoring training session he attended recently. Check out the photo of "Mighty Mite".

Great Outdoor Weekend – Saturday & Sunday, September 28th & 29th

The Great Outdoor Weekend is an annual event providing a sampler of various outdoor activities. It involves multiple organizations, with events occurring at many locations in and around the Cincinnati area. It is a great opportunity for adults and children to experience recreation and nature awareness programs in our area. Over 100 events are available, and include hiking, fishing, boating, numerous conservation activities and exposure to many area nature centers and parks.

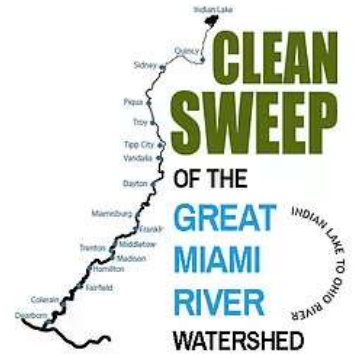
A full list of activities offered during the weekend is on the organization website – www.greatoutdoorweekend.org

BUFF participates in the program. We will be at the Izaak Walton League in Loveland on Saturday, September 28th, from 10 AM – 3 PM demonstrating casting and fly tying. As usual volunteers are needed and welcome. Contact Tom Bachey (h2oguy@fuse.net or 513-543-4056) for information on our activity or to sign-up.

Great Miami River Clean-up – October 26th

Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River is an annual event that enrolls volunteers to assist in picking up trash along the Great Miami River. It is divided into two events. In July, volunteers covered the area from Indian Lake to Franklin. The upcoming event in late October, will cover the river from Franklin to its discharge into the Ohio River. The October event will involve 15-sites along this section of the Great Miami and the organizers are seeking volunteers. The photos are from this year's spring event.

Clean-up sites, contact information, and registration information are on the project website at <https://www.cleansweepofthegreatmiamiriver.org>. There are several sites along the Great Miami in our area, so local participation is readily available. Most are on foot, some can use canoes. Registration and a liability waiver are required for all participants.





Membership Director – Board Position Opportunity

In his monthly note, Jim Vota has again included a reminder that we are seeking an individual to take on responsibility as the Club's Chairperson for Membership. Jim Boude, who has served as the Membership Chairperson for several years is stepping down. We extend our sincere thanks to Jim for his service in this capacity.

If you are interested, please contact Jim, or seek him out at the next meeting. This is a very important role and activity for the club, and we need to fill the position as soon as possible.

The membership chairperson is part of the BUFF Board of Directors, and all of the Board members will be happy to work with the new director to acquaint he or she with the role and responsibilities. Working with the Board can be a fun and worthwhile activity as well.

You can contact Jim by email at vota@zoomtown.com, or phone at 513-702-2553 (mobile).

Adventures of Mighty Mite

By Hugh O'Donnell (odonnellhj@gmail.com)

Our Conservation Director, Tom Britton, notified BUFF of a training lesson led by Rebecca Parry of ODNR. It was my introduction to Stream Monitoring, and I drove to the session at Bass Island one Thursday evening. Five participants were set to learn about macro-invertebrates on the Little Miami River.

Did you know that there are three classes of invertebrates with known sensitivities to water quality? Most trout fishermen already know that the mayfly, caddis, and stonefly are very sensitive to water quality. This is the food source for most trout. So, clean creeks and rivers are essential to maintain our beautiful trout.





Less known is a reclusive bug, really a giant of bugs, the hellgrammite. In a warm water stream, it must be a very tasty treat for large fish such as the smallmouth bass. I'm told finding one of these bugs is rare. What a treat, when we found *Mighty Mite*! This prehistoric-looking creature is being held by Rebecca is shown to the left.

Of course, I thought about how to clone him onto a fishing hook. All I could think about is how to make a wide tape profile with a flexible body. Not an easy feat.

Along with *Mighty Mite*, we found tiny caddis larva and various types of mayflies. I was amazed that my imitations were so much larger than the real thing in the Little Miami River. In fact, one caddis larva was the thickness of thread! Yes, magnifying lens are needed.

Another big creature that we were fortunate to interact with was the crane fly larva. So thick and so curly. Certainly, a stiff size 8 hook is not realistic. I asked myself, how can it be made with articulation? Alas, still thinking.

My knowledge of stream biology and imitative fly tying was enriched in this short on-stream lesson. I'm sure every SQM trip will be a learning experience.

One more learning step though. I had to prod Rebecca for the next level course - Steam 201: [Electroshock counting](#). So now, I'm waiting for her to offer this next level course, and as a boy at heart, I can't wait.

See you on stream (SYoS),

Hugh O'Donnell



Small Mouth Bass Fishing in Ohio Waters

By Tom Bachev (h2oguy@fuse.net) and Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com)

Following last month's presentation by Jen Ripple on seasonal approaches to fishing for small mouth bass, Tom found and shared an article on the ODNR site about small mouth bass fishing in our local waters. I went to that, and found some interesting information, and we both felt it would be appropriate to share in this month's BUFFER.

The best small mouth fishing is on our rivers and streams which maintain natural populations of these exciting fish. Reservoirs and lakes can maintain some natural populations, but numbers are generally lower. A few lakes are stocked with small mouth. A 2018 forecast chart on the ODNR site ranked lake fishing for small mouth based on numbers caught and size for the top 10 lakes over 50 acres in size.

<u>Numbers of Small Mouth</u>		<u>Numbers of Small Mouth Greater than 15"</u>	
1.	Ferguson Reservoir	1.	New London Reservoir
2.	Piedmont Lake	2.	Van Wert Reservoir # 2
3.	Lake Milton	3.	Vets Memorial Reservoir
4.	New London Reservoir	4.	Pleasant Hill Lake
5.	Pleasant Hill Lake	5.	Lake Milton
6.	Van Wert Reservoir # 2	6.	Lake Lecomete
7.	Vets Memorial Reservoir	7.	Van Wert Reservoir #1
8.	Wellington Upground Reservoir	8.	Piedmont Lake
9.	Griggs Reservoir	9.	Hoover Reservoir
10.	Berlin Lake	10.	Griggs Reservoir

Fishing tips were very similar to those that Jen mentioned –

- Small mouth bass use pools to rest and feed and runs and riffles below pools when most actively feeding
- When a bass strikes, raise the tip of the pole to prevent the fish getting into cover
- In summer, bass avoid direct sunlight when the can, so fish deep pools, cover, and shaded areas of a stream
- Cast past the target and retrieve to the intended area.

One point, that is worth knowing for fishing smaller streams in Ohio is that stream bottoms can be owned by the landowner. Hence, it is important to get permission prior to wading through private property.

The website also contained information about how and where to fish seasonally for small mouth. The location information seemed to agree with what Jen Ripple shared with use at the August meeting. The lures discussed, seemed to focus spin fishing lures, rather than flies. Here is a seasonal summary for location –

Early Spring (Mar – Apr)	Deep pools with cover of woods, boulders, undercut banks
Late Spring (May)	Rocky bottoms of streams with slow moving water. Males may be guarding nests. Jen suggested we do not take fish guarding nests, so that populations are maintained.
Summer (June – mid-Sept)	Runs & where riffles and pools meet. Shady areas are often good
Fall (mid Sept – Nov)	Fish pools and runs around cover. As water temperature drops, fish will spend more time in deeper pools.
Winter	Deep pools around any available cover.

For more information about small mouth fishing from the ODNR, visit their site page – http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/fishing/fishing-tips-by-species/smallmouth-bass?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+OdnrDivisionOfWildlife+%28ODNR+Division+of+Wildlife%29#tabr4

Women's Events in September

By Cari Vota (vota@zoomtown.com)

Two REALLY BIG urban fishing events for September are now open for women's registration. These are also the last planned women's events for 2019, so you won't want to miss either of these.

Women's After Work outing & Social time in Milford,

Registration for the Women's After Work outing & Social time in Milford, Thursday Sept 19th, is now open for sign up.

- Plan to fish several locations on the Little Miami River (LMR) in downtown Milford, OH. All are within walking distance of each other. River access is easy.
- When we are done, at about 8:00 PM, we will meet at the new Little Miami Brewing Company for refreshments. Little Miami Brewing is located overlooking the LRM at the SR 50 bridge on Waters St. They have lots of locally brewed beers, brick oven pizzas, and salads.
- Don't feel like fishing? Come anyway! I'll show you each spot for a later trip. Or just meet us at 8:00 at the Brewery for socializing.
- Please sign up even if just coming to the Brewery so I know how many people to expect.
- Open to All women BUFF members and wives. You just might meet your next fishing buddy.

Women's last Day Trip for 2019

Registration for the last Women's Day Trip for this year, which is on Saturday Sept 21st, is also open for sign up. It is another urban, warm water fishing event.

- Urban warm water fishing in **downtown** Dayton on the Mad River. Think BASS!! And you thought the Mad only offered trout!
- This will be an all day trip.
- The area offers easy wading and has some off-the-bank fishing.

More details are available online for both outings. Let me know if you have any questions at my email (vota@zoomtown.com) or call me (513-476-7112).

Cari Vota

Guided Fishing on the Little Miami

Jim Terlinden accepted the idea of sending in fishing experiences of our members to include in the BUFFER. Here is a summary of a great day with a local guide on local waters. Jim, thank you for sharing this with your fellow anglers!

By Jim Terlinden

At the 2018 banquet, I won the silent auction item for a guided day fishing on the Little Miami River donated by Delamere and Hopkins. I contacted them in the fall to set up the trip. Unfortunately, the canoe liveries had shut down their canoes during the week for the fall season, and were only running on the weekends. Also, the fishing reports had not been good, so Mark Walters, one of the D&H staff and guides, suggested we do it in the spring. I told him the spring was a good idea.



I met with Mark at their spring party in their shop. He told me we could get together in June, after the spawn, to set up the trip. Of course, every time we had the trip scheduled, the water levels or the weather did not cooperate. Finally, on a Tuesday late in July, we had it rescheduled again. On Sunday of that week, Mark gave me a call to say it looked like rain on Tuesday and asked if we could do it on Monday. I got a substitute for my golf league and went fishing with Mark. Time on the water is better than time on the golf course.



We met at Morgan's Canoe Livery in Oregonia, got our canoe and set off. The weather was beautiful, and the water level and clarity were great. It started out slow. Mark had one rod rigged up with a popper and I had a brown wooly bugger on my 6 weight. I had one bass come up to a popper, but it turned away. After fishing the wooly bugger for a while with no strikes, Mark decided to change the fly. The new fly was similar to the one I was using but a little bit darker and with rubber legs.

It wasn't long after that I casted to a downed tree and caught my first bass of the day. I caught 1 more from the same hole. The fishing continued to be good. I caught my biggest smallmouth on a fly rod at 13-¾ inches, and I picked up my first smallmouth on a popper later in the day.

Mark sent me photos he took during the day. I sent him an email thanking him for being my chauffeur on the water, fly rod caddy, caterer, photographer and putting me in the right spots. I also thanked him for donating the trip and being a supporter of our club.



Mark also wrote and posted an article and some more photos of our day on the Little Miami on the D&H website. You can read this and view more of the photos by going to <http://dhoutfitters.com/2019/07/31/little-miami-river-fishing-on-monday/>

Tight lines on fish, not snags,

Jim Terlinden

If Jim's day on the water sounds attractive, contact the folks at Delamere & Hopkins (www.dhoutfitters.com), or visit their store in Cincinnati which is located on Hyde Park Square.

Fly Fishing the Clinch River, TN, with Rocky Top Anglers

Here's a recent trip taken by Bob & Wendy Gustafson.

By Bob Gustafson

The Clinch River is in Northeast Tennessee about 3 ½ hours from Cincinnati, and about 30 minutes north of Knoxville. The Clinch is a tailwater fishery, flowing from Norris Lake Dam. Wendy and I have driven over the Clinch for years on I-75 heading south. Every passing included scoping out the river below and declaring that it "looked fishy". We finally got a chance to fish it after I won a half day float trip donated by Rocky Top Anglers at the 2019 BUFF Banquet.

The Clinch is a tailwater fishery, so fishing times and conditions are dictated by water releases from Norris Dam. Be sure to check the TVA release schedule before entering the water (<https://www.tva.gov/Environment/Lake-Levels/Norris> or TVA LakeInfo app on iPhone or android).

On the weekend day in late July that we fished, TVA was doing “recreational releases” designed to support kayaking, canoeing, and fishing downstream. When we started out in the morning, there was “minimal flow”, and then TVA operated one generator from 10 -2, which increased flow and water level on the river. There were a few fishing boats on the water when we put in at minimal flow, mostly clustered below shallow upstream shoals. Later, when the water came up there were lots more kayaks and canoes on the river. Fishing was good all day, but picked up once the water came up.

We fished with Rocky Cox, who proved to be a great guide and drift boat oarsmen. Rocky is also the owner of Rocky Top Anglers. He consistently put us into good positions beyond other boat fishermen, who preferred to wait for the water to rise rather than work to get beyond the shoals. He is a veteran guide, patient, skilled at keeping lines rigged, untangled and ready, and he really knows the Clinch River, his home water. The fishing technique of the day was nymphing under an indicator, using a tandem rig with weighted nymphs. While the Clinch is managed by TWRA as a trophy fish tailwater, most of the fish (all rainbows) we caught were chunky beauties in the 14-16” range (Wendy, of course, caught the biggest fish). I tried tight lining soft hackle flies, but as usual, the guide knew best! Our float trip was a round trip, paddled upstream and then drifted back downstream, from the Peach Orchard boat ramp.

The trip was as much about exploring and getting to know the river as it was fishing. The Clinch is best fished from a boat. However, wade fishing is possible during periods of no generation. According to Rocky, the best wade fishing is available downstream of the weir dam and Miller’s Island. The river is big enough at this point to handle a number of fishermen. Another good access point is at the Second Baptist Church in Clinton, TN. There is designated parking for anglers at the church parking lot.

We had a great time fishing with Rocky and highly recommend his guide service if you are in the Clinton/Knoxville area. More information about Rocky Top Anglers, their guides, and the rivers they guide, is on their website - <http://rockytopanglers.com/>

Upcoming BUFF Activities –

Please check the BUFF Website for availability and details

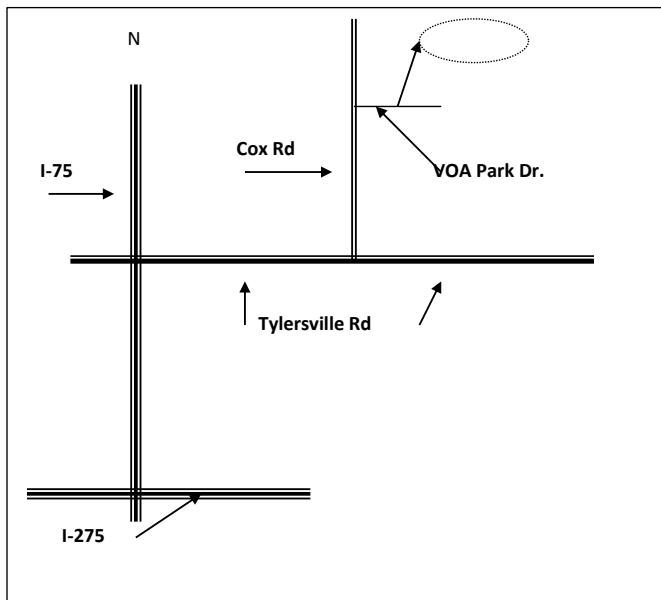
<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Stream Quality Monitoring Bass Island, Little Miami River	Saturday, Sept 14 th (rain date is 9/21) Arrive by 9AM <i>See Website for details & map and to register</i>	Tom Britton 513-520-7862 starwoodtb@gmail.com
Stream Quality Monitoring Caesar’s Creek, Little Miami River	Saturday, Sept 14 th Arrive by 9 AM <i>See Website for details & map and to register</i>	Tom Britton 513-520-7862 starwoodtb@gmail.com

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
New York Catskill's Trip Roscoe, NY	Monday, Sept 16 th – Sunday Sept 22 nd Fully Booked, see Website for details & information	J.R. Jackson 518-227-2136 bearcatjr@gmail.com
Women's After Work Outing Little Miami River Milford, OH	Thursday, Sept 19 th 6 PM – Dusk <i>register on website</i>	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Women's Day Trip – Mad River Dayton, OH	Thursday, Sept 19 th all day <i>register on website</i>	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Sunnybrook Fall Trip Sandusky, OH	Friday, Sept 27 th – Sunday, Sept 29 th Fully Booked, see Website for details & information	Ken Dixon 513-787-2408 krigidix@outlook.com
Great Outdoors Weekend Izaak Walton League Loveland, OH	Saturday, Sept 28 th 10 AM – 3 PM <i>Volunteers to help demo casting or tying Contact Tom Bachey to sign-up</i>	Tom Bachey 513-543-4056 h2oguy@fuse.net
Smokey Mountains Trout Trip Bryson City, NC	Wednesday, Oct 16 th – Sunday, Oct 20 th Fully Booked, see Website for details & information	Cecil Osborn 513-335-9295 cosborn1898@gmail.com

September Meeting – Wednesday, September 11th, 2019

6:00 – 9:00 PM at VOA Park – watch website for sign-up

Register on line at WWW.BUCKEYEFLYFISHERS.COM. Please register whether you plan to eat dinner with us (\$15/person) or not.



Directions:

From I-75 -- Follow I-75 north to the Tylersville Road exit. Turn right off of the exit ramp onto Tylersville Road and follow to Cox Road. Turn left onto Cox Road and follow Cox Road north to VOA Park Drive. Turn right onto VOA Park Drive. Turn left onto first drive and follow roadway to Lodge.

From the Warren County area...

Follow Tylersville Road west to Cox Road. Turn right onto Cox Road and follow Cox Road north to VOA Park Drive. Turn right onto VOA Park Drive. Turn left onto first drive and follow roadway to Lodge.