



The *BUFFER*

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

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September 1, 2021

The President's Fly Box

The Dog Days of Summer are upon us. While heat and humidity are difficult for both man and fish, they are better than the drought, fire, and rain found out West. In Wyoming, the great conditions of the prior two years were not found. Even though we were not blessed by good weather, we still had a great trip, saw a beautiful area, dodged bison, and were challenged by native fish. A report is enclosed in this month's *BUFFER*.

Last month we had our first in-person membership meeting in over 1 ½ years. It was held at the Oasis Conference Center. The Center arranged tables in a semicircular pattern to improve viewing and to expand spacing between people during dinner. We still are facing the potential of Covid infection, so precautions like spacing at meetings are still warranted. We still live in an area where people are taking steps to minimize the impact of Covid. The tristate area has a fully vaccinated rate of ~50%. Net, we believe that holding meetings and conducting trips are still a good balance between safety and living life. If you have ideas or concerns, please share your views with anyone on the board.

This month we welcome a new FFI certified fly casting instructor to *BUFF*. Our very own Jim Vota became a certified casting instructor (CCI) after passing the FFI test in late August month. Jim joins our other three CCI's and enhances our ability to educate our members and improve their fishing capability. Congratulations Jim.

Events are underway for shows. The *BUFF* Fly Fishing Show committee is working hard to finalize the program and the speakers for the February 5th show. FFI's virtual expo is set for November 5-7. Both events have plenty of educational opportunities to improve your fishing. Please add these events to your calendar.

Hugh O'Donnell.

BUFF September Meeting – Wednesday, September 8th

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

This month we will have the library set up!

Registration deadline for the in-person meeting is Sunday, September 5th. Dinner cost is \$20

September Speaker – Jerry Regan, “Grayling Michigan Fly Tyer Extraordinaire”

Today there are only a few people alive who provide a direct connection to the golden age of fly tying in the Grayling area. Jerry Regan is a retired barber from Swartz Creek, Michigan, and at 75 years old, is still fishing and tying. He is a third-generation commercial tier who grew up in the region and has owned a house on the Au Sable River for many decades. He has taught fly tying classes for over 40 years, and been a guest tier and speaker at many shows and programs throughout the mid-west and in Canada,

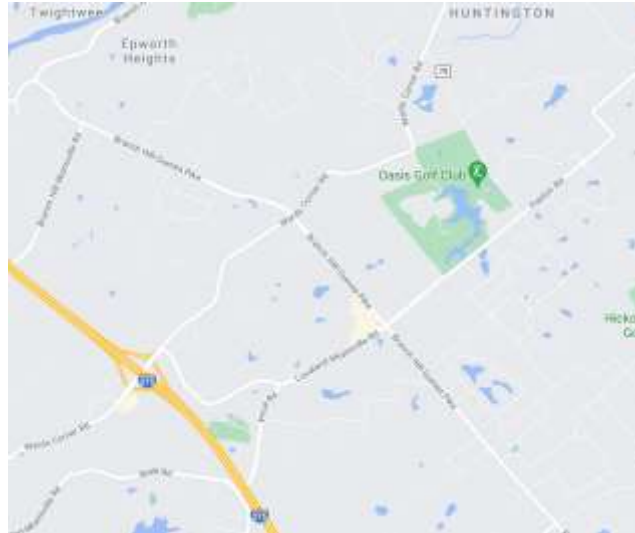


Jerry is a font of information about the Au Sable River and its history. He has worked as a guide on the river, and tied flies commercially. While he no longer guides, he still ties flies for Grayling- area fly shops, and you'll see him at local shows and events, keeping the fly tying traditions of the region alive. Jerry presents programs on the historical flies that are indigenous to the Grayling area.

Most of the flies Jerry ties are from natural materials that he collects and dyes himself. Regan may be best known for his series of spinner imitations. These flies went through several stages of development and were finalized in the late 1980's after thorough testing by guides and anglers. They have been available in Grayling fly shops for nearly 40 years.

Directions to Oasis -

Take I-275 and exit at Wards Corner Road (Exit 54). Make the first right onto Loveland Miami 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.

- **Registration deadline for the in-person meeting at Oasis is Sunday, September 5th.**
- **As in the past, registration is required for the in-person meeting. Registration sign-up is through the BUFF Website. If you plan on attending, please indicate if you want the dinner when you register.**
- **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.**

September Dinner Menu –

- House Salad
- Boneless Chicken Breast with Kentucky Bourbon BBQ Sauce
- Oven Roasted Rosemary Potatoes
- Seasonal Vegetable Blend
- 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 3 new members., including a family membership –

Eric Austin, Delaware, OH

Mark Farrell & Family – Svetlana, Elizabeth & Matt, Loveland, OH

Mike Farrell, Seaman, 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!

Congratulations to Jim Vota

On Friday August 20th, Jim Vota passed the examination and became a FFI Certified Casting Instructor (CCI). This is not a simple process. The Casting Instructor Exam is administered by FFI Master Casting Instructors. It includes an Exam Workshop which provides an overview of the history of this program and discusses elements of effective casting instruction. The candidate then takes a written examination which covers casting mechanics, fishing knowledge, knots, tackle, and teaching techniques. Finally, the candidate completes a Performance Exam which includes demonstrating proficiency in 15 casting techniques and 7 teaching tasks. One of the skills is to demonstrate a straight cast of 75 feet or more.

We extend congratulations to Jim on attaining the FFI CCI status. For those of us who have been participating in our weekly FFI casting



challenge program, we know that he has applied himself very seriously to honing the casting skills and working on teaching knowledge for the past several months. His achievement is well deserved.

Jim is only the 8th person in Ohio with FFI CCI status! Furthermore, of the 8 people who are FFI CCIs, 4 are members of BUFF – Jim, Gary Begley, Tom Scheer, and Steve Walker.

The BUFF Website Goes Mobile

By Don Kail (BUFF Webmaster)

Efforts are underway to make our website more friendly to mobile users by making the layout of the most-visited pages more flexible according to screen size. This offers a more pleasant browsing experience regardless of the device you are using (laptop, tablet, smart phone, etc.). The website will now sense the type of your mobile device and arrange blocks of content more vertically to better fit smaller screens, such as those on a phone or tablet. When activated for a small screen, a “≡” icon will appear on the right of the main menu. Clicking this symbol will dropdown the complete site menu.



This is the clickable icon

Tarpon Fishing in Belize

By Ted Grossman

I have been gearing up for a real flats fishing adventure for the last several years. I retired a year ago and researched a 'trip of a lifetime'. Cancun, Cuba, the Bahamas, Christmas Island, and Belize. I decided on Tarpon Caye Lodge in Belize as several folks recommended it. I partnered up with my good friend and guide, Kevin Morlock. We spent six great days targeting permit, bonefish, and tarpon. The fishing was tough and exhilarating. If you are lucky, you visually interact with a permit for 10 seconds over a 20-minute period and have one shot to put in a cast within 2 feet of the fish. I had lots of shots, but never came tight.



One evening we were targeting tarpon. My cast of an intermediate sinking line into a deep cut came tight. When I put the wood to the fish using a 12-wt Orvis Hydros, the rod blew up in my hand! The guide leapt over three rows of seats in the boat and said, "I'll hand line the fish, you reel up the slack!", but the fish was gone. Thankfully, it was a rental rod, not mine! My thought was that if I broke every rod in the boat, I would still have had a GREAT week!

Kevin Morlock, the owner of Indigo Guide Service which is based outside of Luddington, MI, is a long-time friend and supporter of BUFF. Kevin guides in a variety of places, including the Pere Marquette River in Western Michigan for trout, steelhead, and salmon. In summers he guides on Lake Michigan from Beaver Island, fishing carp, pike, and bass, and for several years he has taken folks fishing in Southern Louisiana for drum redfish. Check out his website for more information - <https://www.indigoguideservice.com/>



FFI Virtual Fly Fishing Expo – November 5th – 7th

Fly Fishers International will host the 2021 Virtual Fly Fishing Expo from November 5th to 7th. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, what is normally an in-person exposition, with, for 2021 be a ‘virtual’ gathering of fly fishing experts and enthusiasts. There are numerous presentations and workshops on casting and tying, and general discussions. Attending the expo required registration. You can find more information, and register for presentations and workshops at the FFI Expo Website at:

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

Many of the activities are fee-based, but there are also free sessions. The web page provides a listing of all sessions offered on each day, and the costs of fee-based sessions. There is however, a \$25 registration fee (for FFI members) to attend the Expo. If you are not currently a member of FFI, and wish to attend, registration is \$60, which includes the \$25 registration fee plus 1-year FFI membership (\$35).

Most sessions have limited enrollment. Also, there are ‘pre-Expo activities, such as multi-week fly tying classes, *some of which start in early- to mid-September*. These are listed on the “Pre-Expo Activities” page of the website. Check out the site, and if you are interested, register sooner than later to avoid missing an opportunity for a class or workshop.

FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL
VIRTUAL EXPO 2021

ALL FISH, ALL WATERS

November 5 - 7

REGISTER NOW

Hands-on workshops, presentations from experts, fly tying, conservation, casting, break-out rooms, social gatherings, entertaining activities, fly fishing film competition and more...

Buffalo Bill Angler's Camp Report

By Hugh O'Donnell

As promised, I'm reporting on our exploratory trip to the Wyoming. Nineteen BUFF members signed up for trip in the Shoshone National Forest – a land of 2.5 million acres. This region is comprised of Beartooth, Wind River and Absaroka mountains bordered on the West by Yellowstone Park. For those who have watched the TV series Longmire, yes, the Absaroka mountains is the region repeatedly mentioned in the show.

The Good – The Bad – And The Ugly

- ***The Good:*** The camp's location and management were very good. Normally, this would be an excellent location with easy access to great fishing. The camp management attended to all reasonable requests and provided great shuttle service to fishing spots. All locations inside and outside of the park were beautiful places to fish.
- ***The Bad:*** High water temperatures limited fishing times in Yellowstone to 2pm. Bison crossings in the park were all too common and tested our patience.
- ***The Ugly:*** Rains this year filled the local rivers with silt creating a chocolate malt mess. The outcome was longer driving times to clear fishable water.

Arrival at the Buffalo Bill Angler's Camp, aka Boy Scout camp, on Saturday was uneventful. We were assigned our bear spray and our cabin number. For those arriving early, the bottom bunk bed was ideal. We best describe the cabins as rustic: all you need without any extra amenities. The mess hall was the center of all activity. A large log cabin structure with fireplaces was a gathering place for many at all times of the day or night. Snacks and stories were always available.

The Shoshone River and Fishhawk Creek bordered the camp. The Fishhawk was an easy walk and yielded numerous trout. Nearby was Middle Fork with great fishing in the sections near the park. Because of recent rains, the Shoshone was filled with sediment and not fishable. Longer drives were needed to find the gin clear western waters such as Gibbons, Slough, Clarks Fork and Greybull. The fishing at these rivers was challenging but good as in any year.

The camp's management was a highlight. Given the difficulties created by the weather, the staff went to extreme lengths to make this a great experience. Meals were good and plentiful. Every night, staff gathered us for fishing reports and best prospects for the next day. Shuttles drove you to the best rivers starting at 4:30am (for the gung-ho fisher). Any issues were quickly handled. The interest in building a great camp and their diligence to deliver was greatly appreciated.

While this trip was challenging, the resounding consensus from BUFF participants was strongly positive. Most people will plan on another trip as they see the potential for great fishing. The value, location, and camp management all make this a worthwhile and memorable trip. We only hope that weather will return to conditions of the past two years when all local streams fished well, and all reports were excellent. I will plan on going again next year and hope that the trifecta of *drought – fire - rain* will not strike the same place twice.

Photos from the Wyoming Trip -



Bob Cregge's 21" Brown



Tom Agin's Brown on the Bighorn River

Great Miami River Fishing

By Tim Williamson

I went fishing on the Great Miami the evening of August 24th. The first hour or so was mainly very frustrating. The wind was blowing down on me which made it difficult to cast. What made it even harder was the fact that I couldn't find a strike indicator, so I had to tie a tag on the first 12 inches of my leader and hang a slider (more specifically something called a Sneaky Pete). The big streamer really made it hard to cast but I could at least know what the bottom fly was doing.

Early in the evening, say about 5 PM as I went out after work, I caught a few rock bass and one on the dropper, and then nothing for most of the next hour. Again, I was using the hop.

I have read many times that it really pays to watch what's going on around you and last night proved to be no exception. The water I was fishing was no more that 18 to 20 inches deep, so I really expected to be able to see the fish. What happened next made it obvious that I couldn't. About two or three times I saw a lone minnow jump, and I thought they were feeding on the few midges that were rising. Boy was I wrong! So, after seeing this again, I made a cast in that general direction, and then made a couple of hops while waiting for the drag to turn the slider before making another one. On the third hop, I had a huge explosion with my Sneaky Pete disappearing in the spray of water. I have to say I was super surprised when I brought that smallie to the net. It was the biggest of the night (14+ inches) and it changed how I fished for the rest of the evening.

I continued to use the hop for about another hour, in the hope that I could get lucky and catch two on one cast, one on the bottom bouncer and another on the slider. But after my buddy caught a monster rock bass things changed. Not so much because I wasn't having any luck with the hop but because I had watched my buddy's cast.

Most people think that a big pop is the way to get a smallies attention. I agree and use that approach, but only do in choppy water conditions. For example, fishing a riffle with lots of waves and what I would call flow noise. This is usually in the head or what I call the throat of the pool. However, my friend was making strong pops all the time, and not having any success. That's what set me on using the slider for my top water, and instead of popping it, I made a downstream mend and let the current pull it. You can do the same thing with slow steady strips as well. What is important is to get the fly to create a wake about the size of a big slice of pizza. The wake will be at least a half an inch or taller and be very obvious. It looks like a snake or mouse is swimming in the water for those that have seen it.

So now it's about 7 pm. I've decided that I'm going to fish water that my buddy hasn't since my big fish of the night was in water he hadn't fished. WHAT A GREAT DECISION! I walked about 100 yards up stream, where were several riffles along with 3 or 4 very defined pools. I had one lazy splash on drifting my Sneaky Pete through the front of one pool and then nothing. I made several casts to the front of that pool and swam the slider back out with no luck. Then I made a cast to the tail of that pool and caught another 10-inch smallie.

Now I'm really getting pumped up. I've found that using the fly as a waking object was the ticket. I had already cut off the crawfish and put the slider there instead before walking up into this stretch of water and was really looking forward to the next pool. Again, nothing in the front. My next cast was into the middle of the pool and shortly after the fly hit the water another explosive spray. This is the fish in the photo, and was my second largest fish of the night.

After that monster came out of the pool, you wouldn't think I'd catch another, but when I cast to the back of the pool and stripped the fly back out, creating that pizza wake, I caught another 10 incher. And then I learned something else. You can make a downstream cast just like you do with the hop and let the current drag your fly back. I had several small fish attack that fly. Not sure what they were but the first guy was just hiding behind a little rock in water that was only 6 inches deep. He missed the fly, but I used that to my advantage. I had 3 or 4 more little fish rise and attack Pete. None were big enough to eat it but was it fun. I caught 3 more 10 - 12 inch smallies over the next 5-10 minutes.

Hope you enjoyed this as much as I did. What a great night.

Tim



ReelFlyRod.com – New Showroom Open

By Ken Mandel

Most of us probably know that ReelFlyRod, the Dayton-area fly shop has moved to a new location. The new store is very close to the former location. The new address is: 1908 N. Lakeman Drive, Bellbrook, H 45305. Phone number is the same (1-855-434-8432). What is updated that the showroom has reopened to the public. It had been closed for several months as a precaution during the height of the COVID pandemic.

Last week Haruko and I, and Bob and Wendy Gustafson visited the shop on separate occasions. We were all very impressed with the new digs! The new showroom is large and very well stocked. We all got a tour of the 'back room' as well. This is where they manage their on-line business, which makes up over 95% of their current business. It is very large, and well organized – nothing like the former shop.

The ReelFLyRod staff welcome people to come up to the shop, so please do so if you are in need of some supplies. They are genuinely happy to have visitors to the new store.



Women's Outings – Last of the Season

By Cari Vota

Only 2 fishing outings remain on the schedule for this season.

On Thursday, September 9th, the "After Work" outing will be some urban fishing on the Little Miami River in downtown Milford, Ohio. We will meet at 6 PM and try to fish at least 2 spots before retiring to the Little Miami Brewery for drinks and snacks. If you cannot come to fish, please join us at around 8:15 PM at the brewery for some fun with friends.

The last scheduled women's day outing is Saturday, September 11th at Brookville Tailwaters. It is a great time for some good trout fishing on that stream.

Registration information and more details are on the BUFF Website. If you have questions you can call Cari at 513-476-7112 or e-mail her at vota@zoomtown.com

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>
Club After Work Outing Little Miami River Milford, OH	Tuesday, September 7 th 6 PM – dusk	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Golf Club, Loveland, OH	Wednesday, September 8 th 6 PM – 9 PM Also on Zoom	
Women's After Work Fishing Little Miami River Downtown, Milford, OH	Thursday, September 9 th Meet at 6:00 PM, fish until dusk Meet at Little Miami Brewery after for drinks & snacks	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Women's Day Trip Brookville Tailwaters Brookville, IN	Saturday, September 11 th Meet at Brookville 8:30 AM	Cari Vota 513-476-7112 vota@zoomtown.com
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, September 15 th 6:30 – 8:30 PM	
Tie & Lie Zoom Virtual Session	Friday, September 17 th Friday, October 15 th 6:30 PM <i>Zoom link on Website</i>	Gary Begley 513-932-4205 loopdude1@hotmail.com
Stream Quality Monitoring Caesar's Creek & Bass Island LMR	Saturday, September 18 th Arrive by 9 AM <i>see website for details</i> <i>Raindate: Saturday. Sept 25th</i>	Tom Britton 513-520-7862 starwoodtb@gmail.com
Indian Hill High School Casting and Tying Program	Tuesday, September 20 th Meet at HS @ 7:30 – 11:30 AM <i>Sign-up & Information on Website</i>	Tom Bachey 513-543-4056 h2oguy@fuse.net

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Fly Casting Skills Development Cottell Park Mason, OH	Wednesday, October 6 th Wednesday, November 3 rd 6:00 –8:00 PM <i>Sign-up & Information on Website</i>	Tom Scheer 513-317-4996 rtscheerdds@aol.com
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