



The *BUFFER*

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

Volume 47, Issue 9

Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com>

September 1, 2023

The President's Fly Box

I made it back from Wyoming and Camp Buffalo Bill in one piece without any bear stories - Yeah. While we (Jeff McElravy, Lane Stocker, and I) were planning on starting our trip by fishing the remote Greybull River, the weather had other plans for us. So, we drove 2 hours and fished for two days at Shell Creek in the Big Horn Mountains. It was a great time with many netted fish. Ask Lane about the mountain water temperature there. Then our adventure at Camp Buffalo Bill followed with many more fish. This won't be a trip report, but Wyoming is a good place to fish and the camp is a well-run, fun group. You just never know if you will walk to the river or drive 2 hours to a clear river. Our favorite creek was a twenty-minute drive from camp with 5" to 20" fish on tap. This was dry fly territory, and it was always surprising why a big fish would be in some of the spots. If you want to know the name of the creek, just ask Jeff for his new middle name (yes, it is the creek name).

While I was gone, I heard that Mac Brown Day was a great success, and that a record number of people attended the monthly meeting. This is always great to hear because it says that BUFF brings people of high interest to Cincinnati. This month our speaker is Jim Sauerheber from Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing Guide Service. Jim guides on the Cumberland River, one of the most beautiful rivers within a 5-hour drive from Cincinnati. And this river is stocked with up to 200,000 trout per year. Yes, you need to make plans for going. Come to the meeting and let Jim tell you where and when to go.

Remember that within a 6-hour drive, the Smoky Mountain streams are waiting for you. This October, you can go with BUFF. It's always good to go with a group. This trip is also a great opportunity to meet other members and establish a great fishing network. For those cold weather fishers, we also hope to offer a NE Ohio steelhead trip in December. Stay tuned - It's not time to put your rods away yet.

Lastly and as always, we are always looking for people to help make BUFF a success. Please consider leading a trip, doing a tech talk, joining the board, or helping with the Fly Show. Every little bit helps BUFF become more valuable to you and other members.

My neighborhood pond is calling me. So, until the next meeting, stay safe and cast a line with friends and family.

Hugh O'Donnell
BUFF President

BUFF September Meeting – Wednesday September 13th

Our monthly meeting at the Oasis Center starts at 6:00 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner will be served at about 6:30 PM, the business meeting and announcements start at about 7:15 PM, and our speaker's presentation will start at 7:45 PM.

Registration closes on Sunday, September 10th, so we can provide Oasis a head count for dinner and room set-up.

September Speaker – Jim Sauerheber, Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing Guide Service – “Fly Fishing the Cumberland River”

Jim Sauerheber has been an avid fisherman his whole life. He began fishing for crappie, bass and bluegill as a young child. In early adulthood, he picked up a fly rod and has been fly fishing ever since. His home waters are the Cumberland and Barren Rivers. He also makes yearly fly fishing trips out to Arkansas, Montana, Colorado and Wyoming.

In order to share his knowledge and experience with others, he began guiding in 2011 and started Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing guide service. He offers premier fly fishing trips across the Cumberland Valley in Kentucky. The Cumberland River is one of the top trout tailwater fisheries in the U.S. and is well known for its big stripers. The river is very scenic as it flows through some of the most amazing counties in Kentucky. Jim is excited about sharing his love for fly fishing with others!

Jim is a sponsor of our club. The website and contact information for his guide service is at:

<https://cumberlandvalleyflyfishing.com/>



September Dinner Menu

- Chef's Choice Salad & Dressings
- Red Pepper Mornay Chicken
- Roasted Rosemary Potatoes
- California Blend Vegetables
- Chef's Choice Desert
- Coffee & Iced Tea

September 10-Minute Tech Talk

The topic for our September Tech Talk is “Stream Quality Monitoring”. It will be presented by Tom Britton. This brief presentation will be held at our general meeting during the social hour from 6:10 to about 6:20 PM. We encourage members stop by to learn more about stream monitoring and join in on the conversation.

Also, if you have an idea for a fly fishing topic, and are interested in presenting it at an upcoming general meeting, please contact Bryan Tudor at 513-827-5437 or byran.tudor@yahoo.com.

New Club Members! –

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we’ve added 2 New members –

Joseph Thomas, Montgomery, OH

Daniel Gormley, Cincinnati, OH

Welcome to the club, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon! Check out our activities and programs listed on the BUFF Website and sign up for some!

BUFF Library Reminder –

From: Dave Smith

BUFFERS – While we are not regularly bringing the library boxes to our meetings, ***the library remains AVAILABLE***. Finding and checking out a book or video is really easy and is done through the BUFF website.

On the BUFF website home page, click “Member Services” and login with your e-mail address. Once logged in, choose the “Browse the Library” icon to bring up the list of library books and holdings. There is a GREEN “Reserve It” box on the right of each item. Clicking that reserves the item and it will be brought for pick up at the next club meeting. Returning books is also easy – just bring them to the next meeting.

This is an easy-to-use resource to obtain library materials and to grow and enhance your fly fishing skills and knowledge.

Great Lakes Fly Fishing with Jeff Liskay.

By Tim Cassani

*This is a trip that Tim won in the silent auction at the Banquet. I appreciate his sharing his experience.
Ken Mandel – BUFFER Editor*

Fly fishing has been described as a "self-imposed handicap", but fly fishing in 15 to 25 foot depths of water.....come on man! That is what we found ourselves doing on Lake Erie on an August afternoon with temps in the low 80's and light winds. I was a blank canvas awaiting some quality paint and this is what Jeff Liskay of Great Lakes Fly Fishing proposed we do, so what the heck.



We were undaunted, well perhaps a little daunted, but it's really not so difficult. Jeff's boat positioning made casting a line with a 25 foot, 250 grain sinking head fairly easy. I didn't make a non-dominant side cast all day. Throwing in some Belgian casts helped reduce the jolt of casting this dog chain like line. A 10 to 12 count usually got the line down to the bottom and then throw in a variety of retrieves until you start hanging some puppies. Jeff's \$30K of electronics makes finding the fish almost unfair. It was like peeking into the fish's bedroom window.

Great Lakes Fly Fishing fishes from a 22 foot Ranger with a tweaked out 250 hp outboard, 10hp kicker, a huge bow mounted trolling motor and four screens that allow the guides to view everything below and around you. Not your typical fly fishing experience, but this was BIG water. Jeff would warn us when we went over a school of white perch and a moment later you could feel them pecking away at your fly (usually a Clouser type streamer, sometimes with a propeller added). We fished a few wrecks but wherever we were, Jeff could clearly identify the big fish nearby.



The quarry was drum and walleye. We caught and lost plenty of them! The walleye like to head shake and the drum just punch you in the mouth. I would suggest getting the big drum onto the line ASAP. Trying to hand line a big boy is a mistake.

We put in around 3pm at Rocky Point Marina, which serves a pretty good walleye sandwich if you have time. As you idle out to the lake (Erie) the shoreline cliffs harbor some serious mansions. Coming back in around 10pm the harbor was alive with kayaks and paddle boarders.

You may remember Jeff and Great Lakes Fly Fishing from our April 2022 meeting when he was the guest speaker. Jeff is one of the most knowledgeable guides I have ever fished with and a good casting instructor. He even cleaned some walleyes for my friend to take home as some fishermen prefer to practice 'fillet

and release'. I look forward to my next trip with Jeff and Great Lakes Fly Fishing. I'm thinking maybe Lake St Clair for smallmouth next time.

Jeff is a club sponsor. If you are interested in going out with him to experience fly fishing on the Great Lakes, his business website is at: <https://www.greatlakesflyfishing.com/>

Mac Brown Presentation at August Meeting

Here are a couple of photos from Mac Brown's casting clinic and presentation last month.



At the beginning of his presentation, Mac mentioned the practical benefits of the FFI Casting Skills Development Program. The program develops casting skills through a series of 4 levels of achievement – foundation, bronze, silver, and gold. The skills build on each other as one advances through the levels.

The specific skills to be learned for each level are on the FFI website. One can ‘formally’ achieve the levels and register the achievements with FFI, or be satisfied with self-achievement.

Our club’s group of ‘Casting Friends’ meets Wednesday mornings from 9 – 11 AM year round, weather permitting. We meet at Cottell Park and practice and improve our casting skills using the FFI program. There is no requirement to achieve any particular level, but rather we use the FFI program as a teaching and development tool. It is ‘work at your own pace’, and have club- and FFI-certified instructors to provide guidance. All of us who participate have found a lot of improvement in our casting ability.

Every level of casting experience is welcome, so if you are interested come on out and join in the fun!

Cottell Park
5847 Irwin Simpson Road
Mason, OH

BUFF and the Ohio Council of FFI will also be organizing and hosting a Casting Skills Development Workshop in April 2024.

Trout on the Au Sable River

From Ken Mandel & Haruko Mizoguchi

The week of August 21st, found us at Gates Lodge on the Au Sable River near Garyling, Michigan for a few days of fishing. This was a short trip. We have a longer stay booked for mid-October.

We drove up on Tuesday and fished on Wednesday and Thursday. When we left the impending heat wave coming to Cincinnati, the weather report for the Grayling area was for sunny days with temperatures in the low-80’s. So much for the weatherperson being accurate! We had two days of rain and mist with temperatures barely getting into the 70’s! Still, it was great for fishing and a rain jacket and waders kept us dry. We did full-day trips with guides on both days - Wednesday was with Lance Nelson and Thursday was with Matt Verlack.

The day with Lance was a long drift – about 10 miles on a lower section of the river. Haruko had never fished this water before. Ken had done a section of it last year with Jim Vota. We put in below Wakely Bridge and took out at Parmalee. Between us we landed 16 trout and had a similar number get off. Mostly brookies, but a couple of browns and rainbows, so we did get the ‘perfecta’. Most of the fish were caught on dry flies.





On Thursday we fished the Holy Water from Keystone Landing to Wakely Bridge with Matt Verlack. We had rising trout all day with on-and-off drizzle and mist. Again, we primarily fished dry fly patterns, including a number of flying ant patterns that worked well, and landed a similar number of fish, mostly brookies and browns. Again, a lot got off the hook as they are wary and quickly realize that the fly is not 'food'.

Both days were great. The two areas of the river were very different, and both of course were beautiful. Lots of birds – cedar wax wings, osprey, great blue herons, kingfishers, and of course ducks. A lot of nice late-summer wildflowers. Viburnum were full of berries which will feed birds through the winter. We got to see a few mink as well. One seemed to be as interested in seeing us as we were in seeing it. Overall, a very enjoyable trip and we are looking forward to getting back in October.

If any club members are considering a trip to fish the Au Sable, we highly recommend Gates Lodge, which is right on the river, and any of their guides; all of them are excellent.

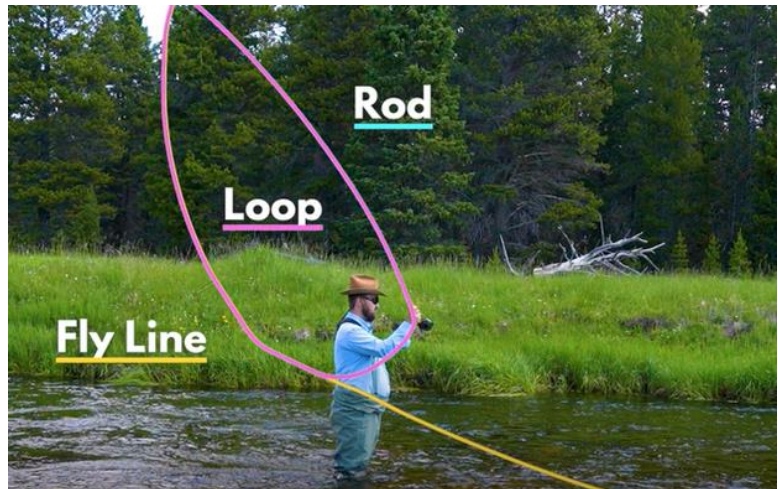


Couple of Videos for This Month

By Ken Mandel

Here's a couple of suggestions of videos that I've found this month.

One, from Venture Fly Company, is a short video demonstrating the roll cast. For those new to fly fishing, the roll cast is a must-have cast for your skill set. The roll cast essentially removes the back cast from the casting motion. This is critically important, as very often when on the water, there is no room for a back cast due to interfering trees, bushes, or other barriers. The other week when Haruko and I were on the Au Sable, we used the roll cast much more than a standard back cast just for this reason. For example, we're on a narrow stretch of river, needing to cast to one bank and have trees close behind us. A back cast is only going to snag our fly in the tree! Here is the link to the YouTube video describing how to do this cast - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnrBUR_iDQ. It is part of their 'Master Class' series of basic fly fishing instruction (www.venturesflyco.com)



The other video that I enjoyed was one, actually two, that I found on the Midcurrent site. It started with a short video by Simon Gawesworth discussing rigs for streamer fishing. He discusses single and tandem rigs and options, and his recommendation, for setting up a tandem streamer rig. He also recommends and shows how to tie a fixed loop knot so that the streamer can swing naturally, rather than using a standard clinch knot. It is a simple modification of the clinch knot, and a useful one to know how to tie. Here is the link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4eI6XxjA6U>.

While looking into the first video, I found that Simon had recorded another longer video which focuses more on how to fish streamer flies. This is about a 30 min presentation, is well done, and also includes the info in the prior recording. Here's the link to that video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obiSR60BSS0&t=10s>

Mayflies in the stream of Butler County

Thanks to Tim Cassani. He obtained permission from Lynn White, the Education & Volunteer Specialist at Butler County Soil & Water Conservation District, for us to share a number of articles that previously appeared in their newsletter. This one is on mayflies in our local waters.

While you're visiting Butler County's streams to collect your water samples, why not explore the underwater world of macro invertebrates? Animals without backbones that can be seen with the naked eye are considered macro invertebrates, such as insects. By investigating the various macro

invertebrates in a stream, such as the mayfly nymph, you may be able to determine if the water quality is good, fair, or poor. Mayfly nymphs (larvae) are among the freshwater macro invertebrates that can be found in the streams of Butler County and, depending on the species, may tell you a little about the water quality. Besides assessing water quality, checking out how these critters function is very interesting as well.

The sensitivity of most mayfly species makes the mayfly a want-to-find insect when assessing the health of a stream. Too much sediment in a stream can inhibit the dissolved oxygen intake through the gills of the mayfly nymph, and they are sensitive to the oxygen levels in the water. Though discovering mayfly larvae is not the only factor to determine the health of the water, taking into account the quantity and ratio to other macro invertebrates found in the stream will give you a good idea.

Mayflies belong to the order Ephemeroptera. The name for the order is derived from the Greek words *ephemeros* meaning “lasting a day” and *pteron*, which means, “wing”. The average duration of an adult mayfly is 24 hours. In fact, because mayfly adults live such a short amount of time, they don’t even develop a mouth to eat! Mayfly larvae are completely aquatic, while the adults are terrestrial. Mayfly nymphs can usually be found attached to the under side of stones in the currents of the stream using its leaf-like or filamentous gills that are running down the sides of the abdomen. So, how do you determine if what you find is a mayfly nymph? The most distinguishing features of the mayfly are the three long tails extending from the end of the flat body as seen in the picture.



Mayfly nymph stage

The appendage-like structures along the abdomen are gills



Adult Mayfly

Not only are mayflies useful when you want to determine the health of the stream, learning how this stream macro has adapted to its aquatic environment is both useful and interesting. Remember that the best place to discover these critters is under a stone that is submerged under flowing (lotic) water. So, when you visit your sample location this month, make sure to flip over some rocks and try to find some mayfly nymphs.

Upcoming BUFF Events & Trips–

Here are club events and trips coming up in September and early October. Register on the BUFF Website. Directions and detailed information are also on the website.

- **Women’s After-Work Outing** - Plan to join us at Carl Rahe Access on the Little Miami River on Thursday, September 14th for an evening of friendship and fishing. This will be our last club outing for this season. Carl Rahe offers several different types of structures that hold fish. Learning to read the water is part of what these after work outings are for.
- **Club Co-ed After Work Outing** - We had to cancel our first try to fish Carl Rahe Access, on the Little Miami north of Loveland, due to high water. So, by popular demand, we are going to try again! Date is Thursday, September 21st. Please note that we will meet up at the access at 5:30 pm due to sundown at 7:30 pm this atime of year.
- **Fall North Carolina Trip** – BUFF’s annual Fall Trip to Bryson City, North Carolina is scheduled for October 4th – 8th (Wednesday through Sunday). The trip leader is Tom Bachey who can be contacted at 513-543-4056 or by e-mail at h2oguy@fuse.net for questions.

Tom’s booking can accommodate 16 anglers in 2 reserved cabins. There are a couple rooms in each cabin that will accommodate couples. Also, Cari Vota has reserved a separate cabin a coinciding Women's Trip on the same dates. Details and registration for both are on the BUFF Website.

For those who have never been down there, you will have access to several high-quality trout and smallmouth streams in western North Carolina within national forests and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park (GSMNP). I believe the Nantahala River will be stocked right before we arrive. A change from last year is, you need a parking pass to spend any time in GSMNP.

The deposit for the trip is \$165 and needs to be mailed to me via check prior to the trip. My address is posted with the details of the trip on the website, which also provides details for accommodations, meals, fishing locations, gear, etc. This trip is very popular and there is usually a waiting list for those who do not get signed up in a timely manner.

Banquet Silent Auction Trips – Reminder to Share Your Experience

From Ken Mandel & Sam Hanna

As BUFF members who won silent auction trips at our March Banquet get out with the guides who generously donated these outings, Sam Hanna and I ask you to please share your experiences with the rest of the club. These are very generous donations, and a commitment from these folks to support Buckeye United Fly Fishers. Sharing your experience is a great way to recognize and express our gratitude for this support, and encourage other BUFF members to consider an outing with these guides. We make sure that the guide service receives a copy of the BUFFER with the article, so they can read about our appreciation.

This month's BUFFER has an article from Tim Cassini from his outing on Lake Erie with Jeff Liskay and Great Lakes Fly Fishing. We thank Tim for the article and Jeff for the donation at the banquet!

Thank you to those who have already shared their experiences! Questions on what to do? Contact Ken Mandel, BUFFER Editor at kengmandel@gmail.com

BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish –

A few photos from this month –

Cari Vota, Sarah Miller and Sara Briechle met and fished the Mad River in August. No trout. Sarah Miller caught some other small fish; maybe creek chubs or minnows. Still looks like they had a good time.



Here are a few photos that Gary Cummins sent, while fishing with Xavier Morales near Jackson Hole WY. It was record hot, low water, and tough fishing but they had a great time. Xavier is always a gracious host.





While this is not a 'fishing photo', it does deserve being included. At the August Meeting, Bryan Tudor recognized Chester Scheid for helping out with cleaning the shelter prior to our July picnic. The park staff had power-washed the shelter earlier that day, but during the day the ducks returned and pooped all over the shelter floor. Chester, who lives next to the park, went home, got a large broom and swept it out as the picnic team was setting things up. Thank you, Chester



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>
Stream Quality Monitoring Bass Island, Mariemont, OH Caesars Creek, Waynesville OH	Saturday, September 9 th Meet at parking areas at 9 AM Sign up on Website	Tom Britton
Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, September 13 th 6:00PM – 8:45 PM Sign up on Website	Hugh O'Donnell
Women's After Work Outing Little Miami River Carl Rahe Park, Loveland, OH	Thursday, September 14 th 6:00 PM to Dusk <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
Monthly Tie & Lie Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, September 15 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Butler County Stream Quality Monitoring 4-Mile Park Hamilton OH	Wednesday, September 20 th Meet at Parking area at 10 AM Sign up on Website	Tom Britton
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, September 20 th 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
Club After Work Outing Little Miami River Carl Rahe Park, Loveland, OH	Thursday, September 21 st 5:30 PM to Dusk <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
Fall NC Trout Quest Bryson City, NC	Wednesday, October 4 th – Sunday October 8 th Register on Website	Tom Bachey
Women's Fall NC Trout Quest Bryson City, NC	Wednesday, October 4 th – Sunday October 8 th Register on Website	Cari Vota

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.

