



The *BUFFER*

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

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President's Letter

Although the weather has been chillier than typical temperatures for entering June for the past couple of years, there is hope on the horizon.

June is one of my personal favorite times of year for fishing. The leaves are on the trees, many flowers are blooming, and most importantly - the panfish are still on their beds! Our Midwest bluegills and bass are some of the hardest-fighting freshwater fish on the planet. If science could hybridize our bluegills to 5+ pounds, while maintaining their aggressive attitude, nobody would fish for anything else!

Our May meeting presentation on the Muskegon River by Kevin Feenstra was outstanding! I had the opportunity to fish the Muskegon River briefly about 15 years ago. While it was an enjoyable day, we had limited success as our group was trying to figure things out on our own without seeking expert advice. It's always a good idea to investigate and learn as much as we can about a waterway before we step into it looking for fish! Kevin's presentation brought the river to life, showing the diversity of wildlife and the tremendous fishing opportunities available there. After viewing Kevin's presentation, I will definitely be looking for an opportunity in the near future to fish the Muskegon, as well as the Pere Marquette.

We have many club activities coming up over the next few months that should be a lot of fun. At the head of the list is the annual club picnic in July. This event will be held on July 9 at Miami Meadows.

Work on next year's versions of our two big events, the Fly Fishing Show and BUFF Banquet, is proceeding well. Ken Mandel, Tom Bachey, and Bryan Tudor have continued to put in great work organizing these events. Of particular note, both the primary headliner (Josh Miller) and an instructor for the fly tying sessions (our own JR Jackson), have been secured for the 2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show.

Have a great month. Tight Lines!

Bob Miller
miller.rm@alta-gila.com

BUFF June Meeting – Wednesday June 11th

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 at about 7:30 PM. ***Please register on the website whether you are having dinner with us or not, so Oasis can set up adequate tables and seating. On-line registration will close on Sunday, June 8th.***

June Speaker – Aaron Rourke, SW Ohio Scenic Rivers Manager, Ohio Department of Natural Resources – “Ohio Scenic Rivers Program”

Aaron Rourke is the Scenic Rivers Program Regional Manager for Southwest Ohio, and his bailiwick includes the Little Miami and Stillwater Rivers with its principal tributary Greenville Creek. Aaron has a background in geophysical sciences from the University of Chicago and had a career in industrial hygiene. He is a Certified Ohio Volunteer Naturalist, was a Trotwood paramedic while involved in neighborhood leadership in west Dayton, and taught high school on the Chicago's South Side. He is the former Director of Development for the City of Chillicothe, and started the Ross County Land Bank.

Aaron has also been active in the attempt to make Chillicothe and Ross County a 'destination trails' community, and in the campaign to get World Heritage designation for Ohio's Hopewell earthworks. Associated with this activity, is his participation as a board member of Heartland Earthworks Conservancy, an organization works to protect riverside forest and the adjacent Hopewell and Adena Native American earthworks. He is a past president of Rivers Unlimited, Ohio's statewide river conservation organization. Rivers Unlimited and the State of Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program are the oldest organizations of their kind in the nation. Aaron also originated the Adopt-a-Trail program for Friends of Little Miami State Park, which assists the Ohio DNR in the maintenance of the Little Miami Scenic Trail from Spring Valley to Cincinnati.



June Dinner Menu –

- Sliced Beef Au Jus
- Tuscan Mashed Potatoes
- Broccoli with Hollandaise Sauce
- Summer Spinach Salad
- Dinner Rolls
- Coffee & Tea

June Tech Talk –

Cari Vota will present the June Tech Talk. She will be talking about Fly Fishers International (FFI). As many of us know, Cari is the President of the Ohio Chapter of FFI and has strong involvement with this organization. We encourage members to stop by the table during our social hour to learn and join in on the conversation with fellow Buffers.

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.

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 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. Click to reserve what you want, and I’ll bring it to the next 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.

Final Reminder –BUFF Picnic – Wednesday, July 9th

From: Bryan Tudor

Please note to save the date!

As we’ve done for the past few years, our July meeting will be our annual picnic. Location is Miami Meadows Park in Milford, OH. We have reserved the shelter by the lake, which can accommodate about 80 people. The pond has blue gill and some bass. It is fully accessible from a walking path that encircles the entire pond, so there is plenty of space to fish if you want to. We will likely have a ‘casting

course' set up if you want to practice casting with some of our casting instructors, and our tying instructors will likely be doing a demonstration as well.

The club provides an excellent picnic dinner – fried chicken, assorted salads, soft drinks, snacks and desserts. The festivities officially begin at 5 PM, but feel free to arrive earlier if you want to fish the pond. The shelter is reserved for the full day. Dinner will start 5:30, and we'll wrap up our little 'clambake' by dusk.



There are tables and benchers in the shelter, but you may want to bring a folding chair if you want to sit outside the shelter.

Please watch for an E-blast indicating that registration is open on the website. Registration will close about a week before the event, and we ask that you register to attend, so we know how much food to purchase.

New Members in May 2025

From: Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

This past month saw us gain 2 members.

Linda Franklin, New Richmond, OH

Brad Pierce, Cincinnati, OH

Jared Birman, Cincinnati, OH

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

Get Involved with the Club – Facebook Co-Administrator

From: Ken Mandel

Here is an opportunity for our members to get involved and support our club. Bob Gustafson has long been the Administrator of our Facebook account. He routinely posts upcoming events, activities and club news to the page. Bob is seeking a person to work with him to co-administer this activity. The goal is to eventually take this one when Bob needs to step down. Anyone who uses Facebook could do this, and the activity only requires a couple of hours a month.

Please give this consideration! If you are interested, please reach out directly to Bob via email – j.r.gustafson@att.net

Logo Wear Update

From Haruko Mizoguchi, Logo-wear coordinator

Are you getting ready to try out your fly fishing skills, or perhaps reclaim peace of mind in a quiet stream? Why not enhance your enjoyment with new BUFF Logo wear. Ordering is simple. From the BUFF Website Home Page, go to "[Member Services](#)", log in with your email address, and select "Order Logo Apparel". We have a great variety of items that can be customized with the BUFF logo. You order and pay online.

When your logo order becomes available, I pick it up from Lebowski Tees in Oxford, and notify you using the email address provided with the order. ***Please reply to this email.*** The standard for delivery, is to hand the order to you at the next BUFF meeting. If you cannot attend a club meeting, we can define an alternative way that is mutually agreeable.

Importantly –

- **There is no shipping option. Orders must be picked up.**
- **If the order is not picked up within 90 days of initial notification of availability the order will be considered abandoned and will be donated to BUFF.**

If there is any question, please contact me at mizoguchiharuko@gmail.com

2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Planning

From Ken Mandel & Tom Bachey

Yes, even though the 2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show will not happen until next February, the planning team is at work and we have exciting progress to share!

As a reminder, the date for the 2026 show is Saturday, February 7th. As usual we will have workshops presented by our Headliner and fly tying workshops on Friday February 6th.

First, our headliner for the show will be Josh Miller. Josh is from western Pennsylvania. He is a teacher guide, and author, having recently published his first book, "Euro Nymphing: Tips, Tactics & Techniques". In addition, since 2016 Josh has worked with the US Youth Fly Fishing Team as a coach and manager, and is currently head coach for the team. During this time the US team has won 2 gold, a silver, and a bronze medal in this competition. We are working with Josh to set up programs for the Friday before the show, and topics for presentations on the Saturday of the show.



You can find out more about Josh on his website – “Josh Miller Fly Fishing” (<https://www.joshmillerflyfishing.com/>) and about his guide service “Trout Yeah Fly Fishing” (<https://www.troutyeah.com/>).

In addition, we also have the person who will lead the Friday tying workshops. These are 2 to 2 ½ hr hands on workshops, and we schedule 3 over the course of the day. For the 2026 show, our tyer is James (“JR”) Jackson. Many will remember JR from when he lived in Cincinnati and was an active member of the club, serving as President in 2016. Unfortunately, during his tenure as President, JR moved to the Albany, NY area due to a job relocation, and has since become an avid and knowledgeable angler on classic Catskill waters. JR has great affection for the club and still maintains his membership! He is an excellent tyer and will be sharing his skills with us in 3 hands-on workshops on the Friday prior to the show. We are finalizing topics for these with him.

BUFF Activities in June

Intermediate & Advanced Casting Classes. The intermediate class will be held on Sunday, June 1st at Cotell Park in Mason from 1 PM – 4 PM. The program will cover “fishing casts”, including accuracy, mending, curving the cast to get around obstacles, lengthening the cast for reach and other topics. The advanced class will on Sunday, June 22nd from 1 PM – 4 PM, also at Cotell Park. This program will focus on lengthening the cast by hauling and shooting line, and how to move with drills to help you improve this. We will incorporate how to use this in fishing and utilize some practice salt water simulations. We will also discuss how to fish from boats in all wind conditions.

Register on the website. The classes will be held rain-or-shine, so come prepared for the weather. Also, have a hat, sunglasses or glasses for eye protection, and sunscreen. A chair is nice as well, as it is a long session and there is some lecture involved.

Women’s Day Trip to Brookville Tailwaters – Thursday, June 19th. This is an all-day wading trip on the Brookville tail waters. The area offers easy wading and shaded areas to fish for trout, and possibly other species. We will be meeting in Brookville at the park by the dam. We’ll then decide, depending on the river level, where to fish. There are many places to fish from the dam to where the tailwater joins into the Whitewater River. An Indiana fishing license is required and should be purchased in advance.

There are picnic tables and restroom facilities at the dam, and at the park in Brookville, near to the river. Can’t stay all day? Join us for a ½ day and leave when you need to.

Registration and waiver are on the website.

Jeff McElravy Rod Raffle Winner – Ivan Pusecket

At the May meeting, we drew the winning ticket for the Jeff McElravy Memorial Rod Raffle. The winner was one of our club members, Ivan Pusecket. Barry Gummow delivered the rod to Ivan.

The rod is a Winston Air 2. It was donated to the club in memory of Jeff by Tim Guilfoile. We had 120 tickets in the raffle at \$10 each. Tickets were sold to BUFF members and also provided to other Ohio clubs associated with FFI, as Jeff was the long-time President of the Ohio Chapter of FFI. All 120 tickets were sold. The \$1,200 proceeds from the raffle have been donated to the Ohio Chapter of Reel Recovery. Jeff was a strong supporter of this organization and participated in their annual fishing program as a mentor. His family expressed their wishes that this organization be supported in his memory.

The photo is of Ivan with his new rod



Spring North Carolina Trip

From: Harry Pass

From May 14th – 18th, 10 of our fellow BUFFERS traveled to the Bryson City area in North Carolina for our annual spring 'trout fest'. Unfortunately, the fishing was not very good, due to high and fast water, which made wading difficult.

Two members caught fish on the Nantahala, and one who went to Cherokee, also had good luck. Those who had booked guided trips on Thursday also caught fish.

On Friday, we all enjoyed the homemade venison chili prepared by Bill Shcroeder. Our final planned dinner, on Saturday, was barbeque from the Barbeque Wagon. However, during Friday night and into early Saturday morning we had a strong storm. When two of our group started out Saturday morning to meet up with a guide to fish the Davidson River, they found that the road leading out from our cabin area was closed due to downed trees and power lines. We remained stuck at the cabin site until mid afternoon. That cancelled any guide trips for the day, and due to



the storm, the streams were again high and not good for fishing. When the road was finally reopened, 6 of our group decided to head home. That left 4 of us to do justice to the barbeque we had ordered for that night's dinner. Needless to say we had plenty to divide up and take home on Sunday.

While the trip did not turn out to be what we wished for, we did have a great time getting to know each other and sharing stories of experiences we have had. I am looking forward to the fall trip back to this area in NC.

Spring Pennsylvania Trout Trip

From: Mark Schlembach

On May 4th, twenty-two Buffers headed to the wilds of North Central Pennsylvania for a week of fishing. This was the first club-organized trip to this area, and we thank Mike Jones for putting this trip together. Although the weather was not cooperative, flooding two sides of the mountain ranges, the area of Kettle Creek where we stayed was fishable except for one day. We stayed at the Kettle Creek Lodge and Cabins and the accommodations were great. We shared many stories on the deck and Jim Neckers found the most comfortable chair ever. Although we did find out that toilet paper was expensive in Cross Forks. You wouldn't understand unless you were there.

There are miles of streams in the area, but we all fished within a few miles of the lodge; typically fishing in Little Kettle Creek or Kettle Creek in the Ole Bull Park section. Most fish were caught on subsurface nymphs; however, one group created their own hatch, all throwing dries, and caught some on top.

Even though the water level was high, everyone did catch fish. Several people caught the trifacta, Rainbow, Brownie, and Brookie. Dave French even landed a large sucker. Many people were catching the wild native Brown and Brook trout, in addition to the stocked rainbows. Lots of trout of various sizes, and lots of enjoyment.

Hopefully this trip stays on the club agenda and becomes a regular spring adventure. Some photos follow, and a larger set will be posted to the photo gallery on the website.



Craig Wilson with a trout on Kettle Creek



Kettle Creek



Lodge



Mike Jones with Brown Trout



Lodge



Jack & Denise Gormley



Muddy Pine Creek



Pine Creek Valley

OSU Webinar on Ticks

From: Ken Mandel

Recently, Cari Vota shared information on a webinar discussing ticks and tick-borne disease in Ohio with some of our women members. Haruko showed it to me, and I thought it was perfect for the BUFFER.

The webinar is presented by two faculty from the Infectious Disease Institute at Ohio State University. While a bit long, it is an excellent discussion of ticks and the risks they bring to humans as well as animals. As being outdoors to fish often brings us into taller growth near a river or lake edge, the topic is of importance. I personally know a few people who have had Lyme Disease, and it is neither trivial nor fun. It can dramatically affect long-term health!



Here are some points as to why this is an important discussion and worth listening to

- Over the last decade the presence of tick species carrying Lyme disease (which is the most familiar tick-associated disease, as well as tick species carrying other potentially serious diseases has increased greatly in the Midwest.
- Because they are a relatively new presence in our area, symptoms that can be associated with, or attributed to tick bites, are frequently misdiagnosed by health professionals. Primarily this reflects a lack of familiarity and history in our area. It's getting better, but we're not there yet!
- Ticks are present year- round, not just in warmer months. They can over-winter and can be active even in cold months.
- Like many insects, ticks have life cycles of eggs, nymphs, larvae, and adult phases. With the exception of their eggs, all life-stages require blood as their nutrient, and all phases can be infective.
- Ticks do not fly, hop or drop from trees. They sit on a plant and when a person or animal brushes by, they can attach themselves.
- Ticks can be TINY! Nymph forms are about the size of a typed 'period' in this newsletter! Larvae are a bit larger. If these forms attach themselves, they can be difficult, if not impossible, to notice.
- Ticks have anti-inflammatory and anti-coagulating agents in their blood. A bite can go undetected for pain or inflammation, and they can remain attached and continue to ingest blood from a single bite.

The discussion describes and shows different forms of ticks, which ticks carry which diseases for humans and animals, and how we can protect ourselves. A basic tenet is to avoid walking and hiking through tall grass areas, use insect repellent, and cover your skin (long pants, long sleeves, etc.). There is also information on how one can submit a found/recovered tick for evaluation to OSU.

The recorded webinar can be accessed at the following link:

https://osu.zoom.us/rec/share/YnpGNieKM1EIMP_QNdtlIKP_-5iN5mGZFGglOjQT6i0F9PfixmmGMEBXeAOc24VM.CzOuNfxHTtHGBBed

Spring Fishing on the Holston River

From: Bill DeShurko

Typically whenever I'm in a group of fly fishers, the topics of conversation will turn to, "Where is the best place to fish?", "What time of year is best?", and "Do you recommend a guide for that area?"

As we come to the end of the Spring season, I'll offer my experiences to the conversation.

Many people are familiar with the South Holston River in Virginia/Tennessee. However, Cherokee Dam, built as a TVA hydroelectric project, entrap both the Holston and South Holston forming Cherokee Lake northeast of Knoxville. The Holston flows from below Cherokee Dam, and near Knoxville, joins with the French Broad to form the Tennessee River. I first fished the Holston 3 years ago in April and have returned for two spring trips a year since.

Below Cherokee Dam, the Holston is relatively shallow and becomes more of a smallmouth fishery when the water warms in the summer. But in the spring, (late March – early May) it is an excellent trout fishery, and is known for its caddis and sulphur hatches. These can be a clothes-, boat- and even fly rod-covered in caddis flies, hatch! I have never experienced a hatch so thick. The fishing is technical - cast 2 feet up-river of where your target just rose and mend immediately. I've found that casting distance changes with each trip. This year I caught risers within 10 feet of the boat, but 2 years ago, 40 – 60 foot casts were necessary.



This year we netted 20+, good sized fish; the one pictured was 18". Almost all were on dries

The guide I work with on these trips is Jeff Sharpe (<https://sharpefly.com>). Simply put, Jeff finds fish. He knows the waters and guides very well. My annual routine with him includes the two trips to the Holston and two trips down the Cumberland. With either trip being changed to the Clinch River if conditions warrant. I highly recommend him for these waters. If you are interested in fishing the Holston, reach out to Jeff

Members Getting Out to Fish

Here is a photo from the BUFF group that did a day fishing the Brookville Tailwaters earlier this spring. Mike Jones organized this outing.



In early April BUFF member Xavier Morales put together a small trip to Missoula, MT. Gary Cummins from our club joined this trip together with John Rost and Paul Stwark, who are not BUFFERS. They worked with Blackfoot Outfitters and fished the upper Clark's Fork and Blackfoot Rivers. Being early April, they had sleet on the first day, temperatures in the mid-70's on the second day, and caught fish! Gary shared a few photos including his best – a 23" bull trout



Another large rainbow



John & Xavier





Gary and Xavier are the two on the right



Gary with his bull trout

Upcoming BUFF Activities

Spring is here! Lots of Activities!!

In-person activities require registration (online on club Website). Activities on water require signing our liability waiver

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Casting Class – Intermediate Skills Cottell Park Mason, OH	Sunday, June 1 st 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM <i>Register on Website</i>	Jim Vota
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, June 11 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website by Sunday June 8th</i>	Bob Miller
After Work Fishing East Fork, Little Miami River Batavia, OH	Thursday, June 12 th 6:00 PM – Dusk <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
BUFF Board Meeting Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Wednesday, June 18 th 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Bob Miller
Women's Day Trip Brookville Tailwaters Brookville, IN	Thursday, June 19 th all day <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
Ohio Fly Tying Guild Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, June, 20 th , 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Casting Class – Advanced Skills Cottell Park Mason, OH	Sunday, June 22 nd 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM <i>Register on Website</i>	Jim 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.

