



The *BUFFER*

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

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

September 1, 2025

President's Letter

We hope everyone enjoyed the last general meeting! Our speaker, Noah Studebaker, did an excellent talk on Brookville Lake, surrounding wildlife, and the tailwater. His talk was structured as a flexible information session with extensive discussion and was very refreshing. We will have to invite Noah back to talk further about the wildlife in the region! Our tech-talk conducted by Cari Vota on the function and activities of the FFI was also very well received.

Although the weather has been more than uncomfortably warm for the past month, many of our members have had a chance to get out and fish frequently, and with good results. While the Brookville tailwater has been a bit inconsistent, I've spoken to several folks who have had success there recently, particularly fishing the holes downstream from the park. I've also talked to several folks who have fished the Mad River within the past month and have reported catching significant numbers, particularly up near the Sullivan and Lippincott Road sections.

As the weather begins to cool a bit, fishing should pick up. Sorry if the text above is a bit trout heavy ... the local fishing in our warm-water rivers and ponds is excellent! Largemouth, Smallmouth, Bluegill, Catfish, White Bass, Walleye, just to name a few ... are a wonderful challenge in the region! If someone could come up with a way to create a 4 to 5 pound bluegill, without changing their personality, I'm thinking that many of us would frequently fish for these at the exclusion of other species!

Have a great September!

Bob Miller

BUFF September Meeting – Wednesday September 10th

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. We appreciate having registration by Friday, September 5th, so we can provide a 'head count' to Oasis for seating and meal preparation. On-line registration will close on Sunday, September 7th.***

September Speaker – Joy Ponder, Rivers Edge Outfitters, Cherokee, NC. “Fishing North Carolina”

Joy is a native of Western North Carolina and has been fishing all her life. She began fly fishing at the age of 8 and hasn't stopped since.

She completed both her college and graduate studies in North Carolina and has spent most of her life in the western part of the state. Joy served over 20 years in the fire service, retiring in 2020 as a Division Chief.

She has been guiding for several years with Rivers Edge Outfitters in Cherokee, North Carolina, and loves sharing the local waters and teaching fly fishing through both wade and float trips. Joy is a frequent volunteer at fishing events and has served on the board of her local Trout Unlimited chapter. She currently serves on the board of the Southern Fly Fishing Hall of Fame.

On her days off, Joy can be found fishing for musky, bass, or saltwater species. She has an adult son, a beagle-mix named Finn, and a rescue kitten named Junebug.



September Dinner Menu –

- Chef's Choice Salad & Dressings
- Chili
- Baked Potato Bar
- Coffee & Tea

New Members in August 2025

From: Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

This past month saw us gain 10 new members. A banner month!

Seth Holton, Loveland, OH
Jerry & Beth Danker, Montgomery, OH
Austin McCoy, Springboro, OH
Tanner McFall, Cincinnati, OH
Ryan Zwick, Oxford, OH
Jeff Roos, Cincinnati, OH
Eric Burns, Hyde Park, OH
Chris Petit, Cincinnati, OH
Elizabeth Kiscaden, Hyde Park, 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!

BUFF Charitable Gifts for 2025–

From: Barry Gummow

Each year BUFF makes charitable donations to organizations associated with fly fishing and/or conservation efforts that reflect our mutual interests. This year donations totalling \$4,500 were provided to the following organizations:

- Casting for Recovery
- Reel Recovery
- Three Valley Conservation Trust
- Isaak Walton League
- Mill Creek Alliance
- Anglers of the Au Sable
- Fishing Has No Boundaries
- Mayfly Project
- Little Miami Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited, Mad River Chapter
- Ohio River Foundation
- Cardinal Land Conservancy

Getting Involved with the Club – Our New Facebook Co-Administrator

We thank John McGinnis, who has volunteered as co-administrator for our Facebook account. John will initially work with Bob Gustafson and eventually take charge of this role from Bob. John is a newer club member, having joined about 1 year ago. Picking up an activity with the club is a great way to get more involved, learn more about the club, and garner more enjoyment from the club. Thank you John!

BUFF Library –

From: Dave Smith

The BUFF Library is currently ‘on vacation’. As we all know, we are in the process of developing a new website for the club. The new site is now up and running, but not all features are yet available. The initial focus has been to provide selected information for our members together with the ability to register for meetings and trips. The library feature is coming, but we are not there yet.

In the meantime, if you are seeking a book on a topic reach out to Dave Smith (dksmith6973@yahoo.com). He can get books from the library boxes and bring it for you to a club meeting.

BUFF Activities in September

September After Work Fishing. The last of this year’s ‘after work’ outings is Thursday, September 11th. We’ll be wade fishing on the Little Miami River at the Carl Rahe Access in Mainville. Meeting time is 5:30 PM and we’ll fish until about dusk. Please register on the website.

Stream Quality Monitoring. Our 2 final SQMs will be on the Little Miami River on Saturday September 13th and on 4-Mile Creek on Wednesday, September 17th. Check the website for location details and meet times. Sign up on the website.

Tenkara Class. Brent Miller will be offering 2 classes to introduce Tenkara fly fishing, a Japanese style of fly fishing. Both are at the pond at Landen-Deerfield Park which is on US-22 in Mainville, OH. Time is 10 AM – Noon. One class is on Tuesday, September 16th and the other is Saturday, September 20th. Equipment is provided! Sign up on the website.

Mad River Day Trip. Bryan Tudor has scheduled a day trip to wade fish the Mad River. Date is Thursday, September 18th. This is limited to 3 anglers. Participants meet at 8 AM in Springfield, OH. Details and sign-up are on the website.

Ohio Fly Tying Guild. Gary Begley’s monthly fly tying session is scheduled for Friday, September 19th. Time is 6:30 – 8:00 PM. This is a Zoom meeting, and the link to participate is on the website.

FFI “Fly Fest 2025”. While not a BUFF event, this 2-day FFI program is on Friday and Saturday, September 26th and 27th, in Grand Rapids, MI. Both days include presentations, workshops, and classes on a range of topics. You can find information on the program, hotel, and register at the FFI website - <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/>

October North Carolina Trout Trip

The fall trip to Bryson City area is scheduled for October 1st – 5th (Wednesday – Sunday). It is a 4-night / 3-day trip. Harry Pass and Cari Vota are trip leaders. There are 3 cabins reserved – 2 for the guys and one for women. Each cabin sleeps 8. At present there are open slots for the men’s cabins, but the women’s cabin is full. Registration and information area on the website.

A \$185 deposit to cover costs is required prior to the trip. Payment is by check prior to the trip (instructions on the website). Fishing requires appropriate state license. We generally fish on our own, unless you prefer to hire a guide yourself. Stocking for the month of October usually takes place just prior or during the week we are there. Main rivers we fish are the Nantahala and Tuckasegee Rivers. There is a trophy water section on the Cherokee Reservation that requires a separate permit to fish. Streams in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, such as Deep Creek, Forney Creek, Indian Creek, Noland Creek, Socco Creek, and the Oconaluftee River are nearby and accessible, and offer wild trout. You will likely catch brown and rainbow trout and some brook trout. No shortage of trout fishing here.

This is a great trip opportunity for those newer to the club and/or newer to fly fishing, as we make sure that any new fly anglers, or those new to the area, are paired up with someone that has experience with both fly fishing and the area.

Registration and more information is on the website, or you can reach out to Harry Pass or Cari Vota.

2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show – Save the Date – Saturday, February 7th, 2026

By Ken Mandel for the Show Planning Team

Things are moving forward for the 2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. Location will again be at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland. This will be our 37th year for the show!

The 2026 Headliner is Josh Miller. Josh hails from Western Pennsylvania, is a former Fly Fishing Team USA member, and is currently head coach of the US Youth Team. Under Josh’s leadership, the youth team has won a bronze, a silver, and 3 gold medals in international competition. Josh is also an expert on Euro nymphing techniques, and recently published a book on the subject. He guides, teaches and enjoys sharing his experiences and knowledge gained while fishing with some of the worlds best anglers. Josh will be doing presentations on the Saturday of the show, and will lead workshops related to Euro Nymphing on Friday, February 6th.



We are also excited to announce the participation of JR Jackson as our tying headliner. An Ohio native and University of Cincinnati graduate, JR spent his formative fly fishing years as an active member of BUFF, and is a past-president of our club. He's had articles featured in *Fly Fisherman*, *The Drake*, and *Hallowed Waters*. JR currently resides in Albany, New York, where the historic fly fishing streams of the Catskills and Adirondacks are now his home waters. He also enjoys fishing the saltwater surf of the Maine and Cape Cod shores. He is skilled at tying flies that consistently catch fish throughout this range of angling experiences. JR is looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at the 2026 show!

JR will lead the hands-on Friday tying workshops. Topics will be *'Catskill Dry Flies'*, *'Streamers'* and *'Saltwater Flies'*. Patterns will include classics as well as some of JR's own creative flies.

Watch for announcements and opening of registration both Josh's and JR's Friday programs, beginning around November.

Other Saturday show presentations include Shannon Young (Maggie Valley, NC), Jeff Liskay (Great Lakes Fly Fishing) and Jim Sauerhaber (Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing). We will also have a great slate of tyers doing demonstration presentations on Saturday, and some great casting programs planned as well.



In mid August we initiated registration of vendors and exhibitors using our new website function. Happily it is working very well! All the regional fly fishing clubs and tyers that we invite will be returning for the 2026 show. Over a dozen vendors have already committed to the show as well. We have several new vendors expressing interest, and we hope to be able provide them with exhibit space.

The show cannot succeed without our members' support, and we will be asking club members to volunteer to help on the days of the show. Watch for announcements, and please step up to help. It is fun and rewarding to see this event be a success.

Show planning team – Tom Bachey (co-chair), Ken Mandel (co-chair), Tom Agin, Scott Biser, David Fraley, Sam Hanna, Kathy LaDow, Bob Miller, Haruko Mizoguchi, Jim Neckers, Kathy Newsom, Lane Stocker, Cari Vota, Jim Vota, Tim Williamson, Craig Wilson.

Leader Needed for 2026 After Work Outings

From Cari Vota.

I have very much enjoyed my time leading our BUFF Club Co-ed After Working outings each summer. But, my activities related to club, being President of the Ohio Chapter of FFI, and other fly fishing related programs has greatly increased. So I am stepping down from leading the After Work Program, and it is time now for someone else to step up and see what they can do for the club. As the leader, you get to pick the dates and locations, start times, etc. This has been a great way for new fishers in BUFF to check out fishing opportunities and locations in our area, from river and streams to a couple of ponds. Everyone gains confidence when you have been there with a group and can see the accessibility, river conditions, and how to read the water.

These are probably the easiest trips we have to set up. The club needs someone to take on the leadership for this enjoyable activity. If no one steps up, there won't be After Work Outings for 2026. If you are interested, please contact me to answer any of your questions (vota@zoomtown.com).

Thanks to everyone that has attended any of our outings over the years. The photo are from the last After Work Fishing we did on the Little Miami in Downtown Milford.



4 Mile Creek SQM Results – Protecting Smalies

From: Tim Cassani & Tom Britton, BUFF Conservation Co-Chairs

BUFF's most recent monitoring of 4 Mile Creek at the Antenen Nature Preserve MetroPark, just north of Hamilton, was on July 23rd. This creek deserves our attention as it can be at risk due to its urban location, and nearby manufacturing, agriculture, and rail lines. It also holds a population of smallmouth bass, a fact that gets lots of attention.

The data our volunteers collect is utilized by Butler County Soil & Water in its management of the watershed. On this date our monitoring awarded the stream a score of 11, on a 1 - 12 scale. This result is well into the 'acceptable' range. Only once in the seven years that we've monitored this site has it scored a perfect 12, and that was in May 2023. A score of 8 is considered to be the gray zone between acceptable and unacceptable, and our average score is 8.9.

The extent for which we show sympathy for our aquatic ecosystems will make us the best friends of wild fish and protect our sport. Come on out and join us. Stay for a while before or after and fish the creek. Our next monitoring at this location will be on September 17th. You can sign up on the website. Attached are some photos of a few of the macro-invertebrates collected from our most recent effort.



Passing of a Fly Fishing Legend – AK Best

From Ken Mandel

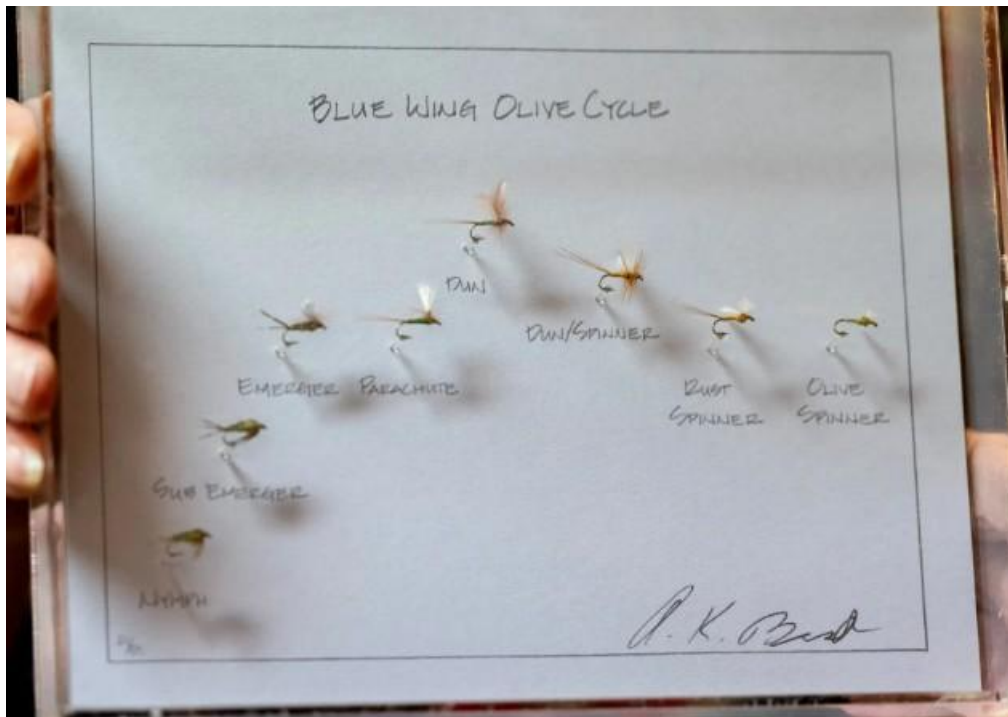
On August 20th, AK Best, known as a master professional fly tyer passed away at the age of 92. He resided in Boulder, CO. As a commercial tyer, he could tie at a rate of 40 flies in an hour, and produced upwards of 36,000 flies a year that were marketed by Orvis, Umpqua, Feather Merchants, and others. AK Best came to Cincinnati as the headliner for our fly fishing show a number of years ago. He tied a range of flies including midge, caddisflies, and beetles, but his specialty was dry flies. He was also an author, and has written many articles for various fishing publications as well as books on fly fishing and tying. "Advanced Fly Tying", by AK Best, is probably the book most known to those of us who enjoy tying. We probably have it in the club library.



AK Best grew up in Iowa, where he lived through his college years. He learned to fly fish (bass and bluegill) as a child. He had a bachelors and masters degree in music education from Drake University, and after college, in 1962, he moved to Alpena, MI (Lake Huron shore) and taught music in local schools. That was where AK learned to fly fish for trout, and started tying, because he could not afford to purchase the flies he needed. That was the beginning of an incredible life-long career. AK moved to Boulder in 1980, and at that time became a full-time commercial tyer. At first, he sold his flies

in local fly shops and gas stations near fishing streams.

I found the image below, a series of his flies showing the life-cycle of the blue-wing olive, to be a wonderful example of his work and talent.



Cumberland River Trip

From: Tom Bachev

On Saturday, August 2, my son-in-law, Garrett, and I had the pleasure to float the Cumberland River below the Cumberland Lake Dam with guide Jim Sauerheber of Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing! A perfect weather day began and continued, with temperatures starting in the upper 50's and finishing in the lower 80's, low humidity, and cloud cover throughout the day.

We met Jim at Winfrey's Ferry and began by speeding upstream to an area known as Rainbow Run and other spots nearby. Jim knows all of the holes, ridges, sunken trees and drop-offs that hold fish, so we began throwing caddis flies and squirmy wormies. Jim adjusted depths for our indicators, switched out to zebra midges and BWO's but nothing. We think we had a couple of strikes in the first hour, but it could have been the bottom playing with our flies. Finally, Garrett landed a little rainbow and another one a few minutes later. Soon, Garrett had 4 fish on and I had yet to land one. Finally, I got one in the boat. Before lunch, Garrett had caught 6 fish and I had 3, all of them no larger than 12 inches or so.

Jim patiently took us up and down the river to hit his known hot spots. We'd float an area once or twice, and unless we caught fish, we'd then move to another spot. Garrett hooked a larger fish that broke off as we were using 5x tippet on. After that, Jim changed us to 4x tippet, and finally, Garrett had a fish! Garrett played him masterfully, giving him line, taking line back as Jim artfully positioned the boat to keep from having the fish go under the boat. After several runs and patience, Jim netted the fish – a 19" rainbow! What a beautiful fish! Pictures were taken and hands slapped. But at a total of 7 to 3, I began to feel less confident, bordering on despondence. But THAT was a beautiful fish! Good for Garrett!



We had lunch, and moved way downstream, fished a while longer and put a few more fish in the boat. We moved back upstream, and the fishing picked up. With the score at 8 to 4, and Jim gave me a break and had me fish downstream, with Garrett fishing behind me. That helped, and I closed the tally to 8 to 6. We switched to mop flies with a bead head caddis on the bottom. I got hot and put 2 in the boat as Garrett got one - 9 to 8! We moved to another spot where Garrett put a couple in the boat, and then it was my turn – WHAM! I set the hook and the line screamed out of my fingers under tension, and the fish was immediately on the reel and began working against the drag. He would come back to the boat then swim away and we did that dance for several minutes. As I maneuvered him close to the boat, we saw a huge shadow around the fish. He was being chased by a big striper! The fish kept going back and forth trying to elude the striper while Jim kept moving the boat frantically to keep the fish

from going under the boat and breaking off the line. The fish would veer left and right getting away from the striper and then dove and came back up trying to stay away from the big predator. By working the boat and the net we scared the striper away and eventually got our trout in the net. We all relaxed,

slapped hands a few times, and I had a big smile on my face! It was a 21" big, fat, brown trout! Another beautiful fish, and my largest brown to date.

We fished a few more spots and ended the day with a tally of 12 to 10 in favor of Garrett. Thanks to Jim, we had a good day, not a great day, but both of us have memories of big fish to take with us. Thanks to Jim and Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing!

If interested in fishing with Jim Sauerhaber and Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing you can contact him at 270-779-7589, or by email (jim.sauerhaber@gmail.com). His website is: www.cumberlandvalleyflyfishing.com. Jim is a regular exhibitor at the Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show as well.

Fishing on the Au Sable River

From: Ken Mandel & Haruko Mizoguchi

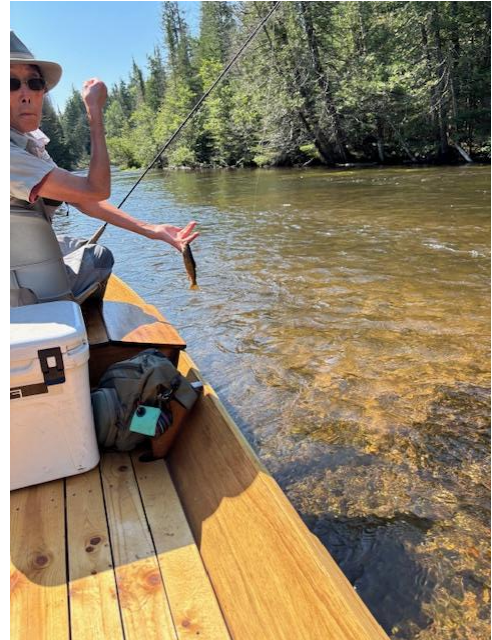
In early August, we visited Gates Au Sable Lodge and had two days, August 7th & 8th, fishing on the Au Sable. Weather was quite warm, it got close to 90°F each day, and the river was also low and the water warm. The policy of the guides working out of the lodge is that if water temperature gets to 70°F, they stop fishing, as it is too stressful for the trout. They also try to find 'cooler' sections of the river to fish.

The two days of fishing were good however. One does not go to the Au Sable with an expectation of catching lots of fish. It is not stocked, so all the fish are native to the river, and much of the river is primarily fly fishing, so the fish have seen every fly known to man, plus a few! It is always challenging angling, but the guides are experts, and it is always fun – warm weather, cold weather, rainy or dry.

The first day we fished with Jordan who took us out on a section of the Au Sable below the dam at Mio. We had never fished that part of the river before. It is much bigger water than above the dam. Since it is a tail-water, the water was staying a bit cooler. We were on the water before 8 AM, and fished until about 3 PM; a good full day. Haruko used her Douglas 5-wt and I had my Helios 5-wt. Most of the day we fished a dry indicator with a dropper midge. We even put on a couple of small, size 20 midge patterns that I have been tying. Haruko out fished the me by far, putting a good number in the boat, and hitting the 'cycle' – brown, rainbow and brook trout. I had a couple of chubs in the boat and a couple of large trout on that got off. But, my best of the day were two 'stick fish' that I managed to get to the boat. Whoopie! Still we had fun and got to experience a new part of the river we'd not fished before.



The second day, was a ½ day float with Lance. It was a shorter day because both air and water temperatures were higher. This day we fished a stretch of the North Branch putting in at the Dam 4 launch. Again, we'd not drifted this stretch of the river before. It is much smaller and narrower, and absolutely beautiful. The north branch is also primarily brook trout, and that is what we caught. Again, Haruko outfished me, about 2:1. We were in Lance's Au Sable boat. Haruko had the front seat, so she could fish both sides, as well as downstream in front of the boat. A good number of her hook ups were from down-stream. The person in the middle seat, **me!**, only has lateral access, fishing primarily to the banks of drop offs to the side. Still, I got a decent number of nice brookies. As the classic Au Sable boat is long and very narrow, you fish from a seated position; the angler cannot stand to cast.



We enjoyed the lodge. They have “Au Sable air conditioning – open the window and turn on the fan. The lodge is right on the river, so evening temperatures did cool down, and the room was quite comfortable. We had a couple of excellent dinners at the lodge, and grilled out one evening. We head back in mid-October for a few days of fall fishing, and a day where we will likely go over to the Traverse City area for some touring. Temperatures will be a lot cooler, and the fall colors should be fantastic.

Side Note from Haruko –

I have been reading “*Nymph Masters*”, Jason Randall’s book. We bought the book when Jason was in Cincinnati as the headliner for 2025 Fly Fishing Show. When I asked him to autograph the book, he wrote, with a mischievous smile, ‘To Haruko, I hope this book helps you outfish Ken’. The book integrates a wide range of information into an enjoyable read. I particularly like the chapter “Where Trout Are”. He explains how stream hydraulics sets up a food conveyor for fish in a wonderfully simple and logical manner. Floating on Au Sable gave me a good opportunity to put what I learned into practice on top of soaking up the peace and quietness of this lovely river with all its inhabitants. And, in case you are wondering, yes, I did out fish Ken on both days.



If you are interested in fishing the Au Sable, we strongly recommend Gates Lodge and Fly Shop. You can find information on the shop, lodging, and guides at – www.gateslodge.com, or contact Josh Greenberg, the owner, at josh@gateslodge.com.

Getting Out to Fish and Other Activities

At the end of August, Cari Vota led a women's day trip to the Mad River. Though fishing was sparse – everyone caught bait fish, but few if any trout – the photos show that everyone had a good time.



Here are a couple of photos from the Advanced Casting Class that Jim Vota led, It was held on Sunday, August 24th at Cottell Park. It was an excellent class that worked on several more advanced casting techniques, and was well attended.



Finally, Tom Agin got out a couple of days ago on the Little Miami River, and landed this nice sized carp. Yes, you can fly fish for anything!



Thank you to everyone who sent in photos and some info on where you were fishing. We all look forward to seeing what our members are doing!

Upcoming BUFF 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>
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, September 10 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website by Sunday, September 7th</i>	Bob Miller
After Work Fishing Little Miami River Carl Rahe Access	Thursday, September 11 th 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
Stream Quality Monitoring Little Miami River Caesar's Creek Access	Saturday, September 13 th Meet at 9:00 AM <i>Register on Website</i>	Tom Britton
Introductory Tenkara Fishing Class Landen-Deerfield Park Mainville, OH	Tuesday, September 16 th & Saturday, September 20 th 10:00 AM – Noon <i>Register on Website</i>	Brent Miller
BUFF Board Meeting Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Wednesday, September 17 th 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Bob Miller

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Mad River Fishing Day Trip Springfield, OH	Thursday, September 18 th Meet 8:00 AM in Springfield, OH	Bryan Tudor
Ohio Fly Tying Guild Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, September 19 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Fall NC Trout Fishing Trip Bryson, City, NC	Wednesday, October 1 st – Sunday, October 5 th Men’s & Women’s Cabins <i>See Website for Registration, Cost, and Information</i>	Harry Pass 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.

