



The BUFFER

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

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December 1, 2025

President's Letter

We had an amazing November meeting! We had the largest crowd we've had in a while, a delicious turkey dinner, and a fantastic presentation by our old friend Jerry Darkes. Jerry's presentation, titled "Favorite Flies of the Upper Midwest," effectively showcased the various types of flies that thrive in our waters. I learned about several new patterns, especially some of the Streamers, that I'm planning to tie this winter!

Winter fishing is here. Many of us put away our equipment until the weather warms up again, but that doesn't have to be the case. One of my all-time favorite days on the water was fishing the Mad River with six inches of snow on the banks. It was an absolutely beautiful day, and I caught, by far, my personal best Rainbow Trout in Ohio. I'm certain there are still bigger trout lurking up there under the undercut banks!

It's also an excellent time of the year to tie flies. When it's too cold to go outside and mow the lawn or engage in other regular activities, it's the perfect opportunity to fill your fly box.

The Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show is coming up! Tom Bachey, Ken Mandel, and the team have done an incredible job organizing the event. They've recruited vendors, booked outstanding speakers, developed the website, advertised, and set up registration tools, among other tasks, to bring this event together. There's still a lot of work to be done between now and the show, so please help make the show a success by volunteering to support this show's activity on Friday or Saturday. The show and the banquet are our two major non-fishing events. They allow us to reach out to the community to provide education and awareness of our sport, and raise funds for our training, conservation, and outreach programs.

Have a wonderful holiday season and go fishing!

Bob Miller

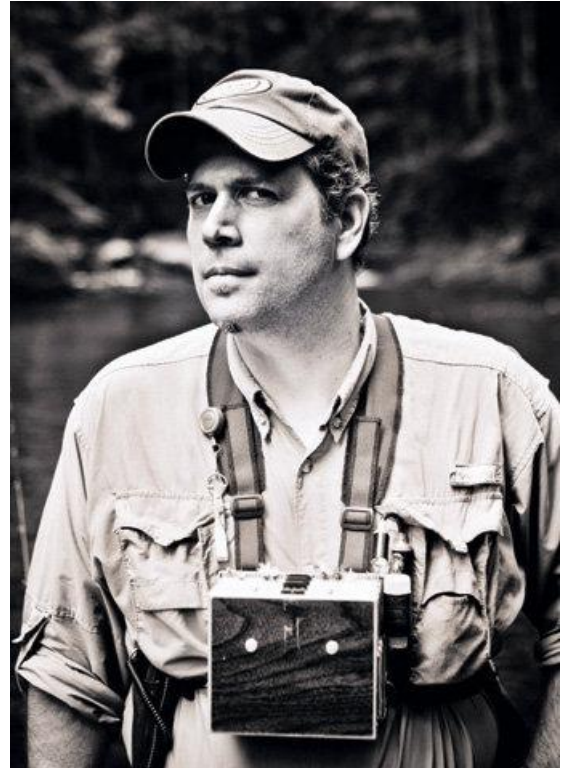
BUFF December Meeting – Wednesday December 10th

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 would appreciate having registration by Friday, December November 5th, so we can provide a 'head count' to Oasis for seating and meal preparation. On-line registration will close on Sunday, November 9th.***

December Speaker – Rob Fightmaster, Fightmaster Fly Fishing – “Fly Fishing the Smokey Mountains”

Rob Fightmaster, the owner and sole guide for Fightmaster Fly Fishing, and has more than thirty years of experience in various aspects of the fly fishing industry.

Rob started Fightmaster Fly Fishing in the fall of 2006. Initially, it was a catch all business, allowing him to work intermittently as a freelance writer and an independent consultant for existing and aspiring fly fishing properties across North America. It serviced clients from North Carolina to British Columbia. All the while, he maintained a small guide business on the side. Late in 2008, he decided to follow his passion and focus solely on guiding and instructing. Since then, he has been listed as “one of the South’s best fishing guides” by Garden & Gun magazine. He was an Orvis Guide of the Year finalist in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019.



Prior to starting his own business, Rob was the Fly Fishing Program Director at Blackberry Farm. During his six years there, he created a fly fishing program from the ground up. He opened a fly shop, restored a trout stream, and received the Orvis Endorsed Lodge of the Year two years in a row. This was the first (and so far only) lodge in the eastern United States to receive the award and the only lodge in the country to ever receive it in consecutive years.

While most of his knowledge comes from decades in the industry and thousands of days on the water, Rob credits his grandfather with getting him started and passing along a love of fishing and the outdoors.

Rob's presentation, "Fly Fishing the Smoky Mountains", will provide a broad overview of the Smokies and surrounding area (geography, geology, seasons, gear, etc.), with a more detailed focus on how to fish for wild Smoky Mountain trout. He will share rambling stories and bad jokes set against a PowerPoint backdrop. Rob is an excellent speaker and this will be a ***“Not to Miss”*** meeting!

December Dinner Menu –

- House Salad w/ dressings and dinner rolls
- Grilled Chicken Breast with Apple Bacon Chutney
- Butternut Squash Orzo
- Honey Roasted Vegetable Medley
- Coffee & Tea

December Tech Talk –

Yes, the Tech Talk will return for December!

Lane Stocker will present the December Tech Talk, and her topic will be “Hopper Dropper Rig”. This is a very common rig used in fishing, so knowing how to set this up, and types of flies we can use is a great discussion. 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 a Tech Talk idea for a fly-fishing-related topic that you can present at an upcoming general meeting, please contact Bryan Tudor at 513-827-5437.

BUFF Library –

From: Dave Smith

As we continue to add functionality to our new website, the BUFF Library remains unavailable on line. The library feature is coming, but we are not there yet. In the meantime, Dave is bringing a binder which lists all the library items to the meetings, and a sign-up sheet. Let Dave know what you want, and he'll bring it to the next meeting. You can return items by bringing them to a following meeting as well. Reach out to Dave Smith (dksmith6973@yahoo.com).

Cast your idea into the current today – let's see where the river takes us!

From Bill Krimmer, Membership Engagement Director

This is an invitation to all members of the club – There's a special kind of magic that happens when fly anglers come together – early morning coffee steaming in the cool air, lines whispering across the water, the burst of excitement when a trout rises, and the stories shared afterwards that somehow get better with every retelling. These moments don't just happen by chance, they're created by us, who share passions for rivers, conservation, and the art of the fly.

This season, we're inviting every member of the club to help design our next new trip or event. **We want your vision in the mix!** Even if you don't have a full plan mapped out, offering one good

suggestion can spark inspiration for the entire club. If you can imagine it, we want to hear it. Please reach out to me with any thoughts and ideas.

Happy Holidays!

Bill Krimmer

Membership Engagement Director Bill.krimmer@gmail.com or 513-833-6783

Fall Trout Quest and Spring Future Trip

From Harry Pass, Smokies Trip Leader

Fall Trout Quest Trip

This past fall members of the club went to Western North Carolina to fish and have social time together. We had two cabins near Bryson City, and Cari Vota had a group of ladies in a cabin further down the hill.

The Tuckasegee river, Nantahalla River, and other creeks and rivers that hold trout are near-by. Unfortunately, at the time of our trip, the Nantahalla had not been stocked, so the fishing there was not good.

There were other streams that our members went to. The Cherokee Reservation has a stream running through it that is stocked weekly. Most of our members went there; fishing was successful.

Smokey Mountain Park was another destination, as well as Nolan Creek. There was successful fishing in these areas as well. Two highlights in these areas were that bears were sighted. The bears ignored our members and went on their way. I have been on these trips many times and never saw or heard of a bear sighting. Deep Creek is another stream that is close to Bryson City. This writer did not have any luck there but saw other anglers there as well as a guide with one.

We had a barbecue on Saturday night and the ladies supplied sides and deserts. We all enjoyed this as well as the social time. Everyone talked about trips they had been on and the events of their day. We have always had this trip around the first week in October but next fall I will try to find the current stocking schedule and hope to be able to get the cabins for that time.

2026 Spring Smokey Mountains Trip

Now I want to talk about the Spring trip to NC. While we were on the Fall trip we heard that March and April were the best time to fish there. I checked and found the 2025 stocking schedule and hope the 2026 schedule is close to the same. I have two cabins reserved for April 8th to 12th, with check out on the 12th. Everyone will be on their own for fishing, and will be responsible for their own meals, with the exception of Saturday dinner. That will be arranged as a group dinner. This trip is especially good for new fly fishermen or fisher-ladies. There are usually some of use who have been on this trip that can give advise to new attendees. New participants can pair up or fish with a group that has been there before.

Registration will become available on the website starting in mid-December. Cost is \$185, which is very reasonable for 4 nights of lodging. The two cabins can accommodate a total of 16 anglers. If there is a couple, there is a private room with a full-size bed in each cabin; we can accommodate 2 couples.

Initially we will limit registration to BUFF members, but if we do not fill the cabins, we can open registration to non-members, but that date has not yet been decided. Payment will be due by March 25th, with no refunds beyond that date.

I am looking forward to helping plan and participating in the spring trip. I fish the Nantahalla more than other streams in the area because it has handicap access areas. This has been a great trip in past years. Hope to see you there.

2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show – Saturday, February 7th, 2026

By Ken Mandel for the Show Planning Team

Remember to mark your calendar for the show on Saturday, February 7th, and pre-show programs on Friday, February 6th.

Reminder to register for the pre-show classes on Friday February 6th

Friday “Master Classes”

Josh Miller, our headliner, will conduct two classes. Details on Josh’s background and a bio are in the September BUFFER. Both will cover topics and provide expert insights on angling using these techniques. Josh is an expert in both. Registration will be limited to 10 –12, and we plan to open registration later this month. **Cost is \$50 per class.**

- **“Advanced Dry Dropper School” – Friday, February 6th, 9 AM - Noon.**
- **Advanced Euro Nymphing School” – Friday February 6th, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM**

Friday Fly Tying Workshops

On Friday, February 6th, JR Jackson will lead three tying workshops. JR is an expert tyer and the programs will include some ‘classic’ flies and a few of his own creations. Classes and schedule are:

- **Catskill Dry Flies – Friday, February 6th, 9 AM – 11:30 AM**
- **Streamers – Friday, February 6th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**
- **Salt Water Flies, Friday, February 6th, 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM**

These are hands-on tying workshops. Participation is limited to 20 – 24 tyers per workshop, with registration opening later this month. Participants should have basic tying skills, and need to bring their own tying vice, tools, a tying light (if desired), and threads. Required tying threads and colors will be listed when we announce opening of registration later this month. **Cost is \$30 per class.**

Public registration is now open, and we have informed our other regional clubs of the programs. Josh Miller's programs are at least ½ filled. If you want to be sure of getting into a desired session, or sessions, we suggest you register soon. Once seats are gone, they are gone!

Volunteer Registration

The success of the show depends on volunteers from our club. We usually seek 70 – 80 club members to help. We have a number of areas where we ask for help –

- Admissions Table
- Booth Watch
- Crafty Fish (formerly Kids Activities)
- Information Booth & Announcements
- Members Booth
- Raffle Sales
- Tying Workshop Assistance
- Beginner Fly Tying (formerly Kids Tying)
- Casting Pond (set up and take down)
- Hall Preparation (Friday midday)
- Load-In and Load-Out (Friday & Saturday activities)
- Presentation Room Assistance
- Tying Demonstration Assistance
- Any Area

You can sign up on the website. Click the “Fly Show Volunteers” icon, sign-in and register for any area(s) you’d like to help. If you are flexible, just click, “any area”. Once we have the information, a show team member will be in touch to follow-up with you and get you scheduled. The more people who offer the help, the less time we need to assign any individual, so you can enjoy the show presentations, and spend time with our exhibitors as well.

We will also have information and sign-up sheets at the December & January meetings.

**Please step up and help!
We cannot make the show
work without our member's
involvement.**



If you have any questions on what is involved reach out to Tom Bachey (h2oguy@fuse.net) or Ken Mandel (kengmandel@gmail.com) who are the Co-Chairs for the show planning team.

Raffles, Raffles, Raffles

2026 Fly Show Raffle sales were started at the November meeting, and will continue at our December and January meetings. Remaining tickets will be sold at the show, on February 7th.

This year's **primary raffle item is bamboo cane rod & wood case made by Ron Barch.** This is a 3-piece, 7' 6" 4-wt rod with an extra tip. The rod comes with a beautiful hand-made walnut case. Retail value is over \$2,500. Tickets are \$20 each, with 120 to be sold.

The second raffle item is a combination set of an **Orvis Pro Waterproof Hip Pack** and an **Orvis Carry-It-All Gear Bag.** Retail value of is over \$500. Tickets are \$10 each, with 120 to be sold.

We thank Ron Barch and the Kenwood Orvis store for their support.



Saturday Program – Saturday, February 7th

Presentation Schedule for 2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show

Time	Main Presentation Room	Fly Tying Demonstration Room	Teaching Room	Casting Pond
10 AM	Josh Miller <i>"The Insider's Guide to Euro Nymphing"</i>	Lance Kekel		Open Casting
11 AM	Shannon Young <i>"History of Fly Fishing in the Smokey Mountains"</i>	Lane Stocker	FF 101	Open Casting
Noon	Jeff Liskay <i>"Fly Fishing on the Great Lakes"</i>	Chad Robinson <i>"Spinning Deer Hair"</i>	Women's Open Forum	BUFF Casting Instructors - Casting Demonstration
1 PM	Josh Miller <i>"Presentation Tips to Catch More Trout"</i>	JR Jackson		TBD
2 PM	Jim Sauerhaber <i>"Fly Fishing on the Cumberland River"</i>			Open Casting
3 PM				Open Casting

The topic for the Women's Open Forum will be "Safety on the Water". Panelists will be from BUFF, and the Northern Kentucky and Miami Valley clubs.

Show planning team – Tom Bache (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.

We are still seeking a person to lead the monthly After Work Outings. I have stepped down from this role due to many other activities and time commitments I have. We generally try to start these outings in early-to-mid spring, so it is really time for someone to step up and be willing to take charge of this program. The after-work outings are 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 easy trips to set up, and the club needs someone to take on the leadership of this enjoyable activity. If you are interested, please contact me to answer any of your questions (vota@zoomtown.com).

2026 BUFF Banquet

From: Bryan Tudor, Banquet Committee Chair

Save the Date – the 2026 B.U.F.F. Banquet will be held on **Wednesday, March 11th** at the **Oasis Conference Center**. The Banquet takes the place of our the regular March meeting. The banquet will run from **6:00 – 9:00 PM**. Attending includes a catered dinner. Reservations are required, and these will open soon through the website. Watch for additional details and announcements.

This event is the club's primary fundraising event, featuring a wide variety of fishing and non-fishing prizes, getaways, guided fishing trips, and much more available through raffles and auctions. We are also seeking donations of both fishing and non-fishing items for the fundraiser. Some great non-fishing donation ideas include restaurant gift cards, museum or theater tickets, gift certificates for cooking, woodworking, or art classes, as well as home décor items, jewelry, artwork, lodging certificates, and more. Donations may be brought to upcoming general meetings, or you can contact me at **513-827-5437** to arrange a convenient drop-off time and location.

Looking forward to seeing you at the banquet!

Bryan Tudor, Banquet Chairperson

2026 Meeting & Speaker Schedule

From: Dolph Greenberg & Jim Vota

January 14 th	Cameron Cipponeri "Atlantic Salmon on the Lower Au Sable"
February 12 th	Joe Clark "Pennsylvania Trout"
March 12 th	BUFF Banquet
April 8 th	Drake Perry "Little Miami River Fly Fishing Opportunities"
May 13 th	Kevin Feenstra "Muskegeon Options"
June 10 th	Lisa Morisettte "Fly -Fishing the West"
July	Picnic
August 12 th	Club trips and/or Jeff Georgin "Fly Fishing in New Zealand"
September 9 th	Ranger Sam "Army Corp of Engineers"
October 14 th	Jerry Darkes "Fly Fishing the Great Lakes"
November 11 th	Schultz Outfitters "Smallmouth Bass Fly-Fishing in Southern Michigan"
December 9 th	Adolph Greenberg "Protecting Nature and the Nature of Protection: the Unholy War against the Holy Waters of the Au Sable"

Getting Out to Fish

A couple of photos from Ted Grossman. He sent these in early November after returning from fishing in the Gulf. Some very nice Redfish!

Thank you Ted for sharing !





That's it for this month!

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, December 10 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website by Sunday, November 9th</i>	Bob Miller
BUFF Board Meeting Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Wednesday, December 17 th 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Bob Miller
Ohio Fly Tying Guild Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, December 19 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley

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.

