



The *BUFFER*

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

Volume 50, Issue 1

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

January 1, 2026

5

President's Letter

We had a great December meeting. Rob Fightmaster did an excellent presentation. Rob is an old friend of the club and one of the most accomplished guides in the Smokies. If you have not fished the streams of the Smokies, or with Rob, I highly recommend you do so.

By the time you receive this, the holidays will be over. Many of us have gained more than a few pounds; however, this is balanced out by the opportunity to share quality time with friends and family and perhaps have the opportunity to spend a day fishing or planning trips for 2026!

Some of my favorite fishing has been in the month of January! While I have been fortunate to have had opportunities, on a couple of occasions, to head south to fish with a fly rod for various species of fresh (my favorite is Peacock Bass) and saltwater (my favorites are Snook, Bones, and Tarpon) fish, these opportunities have been the exception. As I've mentioned before, the trout in the Mad and in Ohio's northern Lake Erie tributaries are still there!

It's also a great time of year to tie flies! When there's snow on the ground or it's just too cold to go outside, spending time at a vice can be a great way to relax, be creative, and get prepared for the coming year.

The Greater Cincinnati Fly Fish Show is approaching fast! Tom Bachey, Ken Mandel, and the others on the team and in the club that have spent quality time working on the show have done an amazing job pulling things together. Ken has booked all of the exhibitor/vendor booths, the team has secured a great lineup of speakers, promotional materials and communications have been widely distributed, and it should be the best show ever! The show represents not only a tremendous asset to the community, but is also one of our two major fundraising events. Funds from the show fuel all of BUFF's conservation, education, and outreach activities throughout the year. In order to ensure that we have a great turnout, please communicate the details of the show to as many of your friends, family, and others in the community as possible!

Have a great month!

Bob Miller

BUFF January Meeting – Wednesday January 14th

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, January 9th, so we can provide a 'head count' to Oasis for seating and meal preparation. Online registration will close on Sunday, January 11th.***

January Speaker – Cameron Cipponeri – “Atlantic Salmon on the Lower Au Sable”

Cameron's passion for the outdoors started at age six, growing into a 20-year career that has taken him across the country, from Northern Michigan to Colorado, Florida, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Whether guiding fly fishing, or hosting outdoor clinics, his patience, humor, and expertise create unforgettable adventures.

Fully licensed and insured, Cameron holds a Coast Guard Captain's License, allowing him to guide on the Lower AuSable River, home to incredible steelhead, smallmouth bass, and Atlantic salmon fishing. From mid-October to December, you will find him on the river, beneath the last dam, Foote Dam, down to Lake Huron chasing Atlantic Salmon and steelhead. He's either using a two-handed rod or a traditional one-handed rod. The rest of the time he spends on the upper Au Sable and Manistee Rivers.

Off the water, Cameron enjoys time with his wife Kelly and daughter Addison, who often join him on fishing and hunting trips. The team also includes three loyal companions—Roper and Mystic, their English Setters, and Honey, an English Labrador.

Cameron's trout trips are run through Gates Au Sable lodge (<https://gateslodge.com/>, 989-348-8462). Trips for Atlantic Salmon, Steelhead and Bass on the lower Au Sable Rivers are run through his own company, Cameron's Fly Fishing Adventures (<https://www.cameronsflyfishingandadventures.com/>, 248-388-1649).



January Dinner Menu –

- House Salad w/ dressings and dinner rolls
- Lemon Herb Chicken
- Oven Roasted Rosemary Potatoes
- Green Beans Almondine
- Coffee & Tea

BUFF Library –

From: Dave Smith

As we continue to add functionality to our new website, the BUFF Library remains unavailable online. 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).

New Members in November & December 2025

From: Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

We've gained 11 new members during November & December of 2025!

Aaron Booth, Goshen, OH

David Gormley, Cincinnati, OH

Will Zurkuhlen, Cincinnati, OH

Michael Sturgis, Loveland, OH

Bob Askin, Lebanon, OH

Mark Gibson, Batavia, OH

David Eldam, Lawrenceburg, IN

Mike Wisniewski, Cincinnati, OH

Mike Size, Cincinnati, OH

Andrew Ellerhorst, Cincinnati, OH

Jeff Geraci, 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!

A Call to All Members

From Bill Krimmer, Membership Engagement Director

As our club continues to grow, we are excited to welcome new members into our fly-fishing community. Each new member brings fresh ideas, unique experiences, and the potential to strengthen the work we do together.

It's common for new members to feel uncomfortable or disconnected from our community when they first arrive. To help them feel at home, we are asking for your support. A warm greeting, shared conversation or a simple invitation to get involved can make a tremendous difference. Many of us remember what it felt like to be new; unsure where to start, eager to connect but not knowing how.

Here are a few simple ways to make an impact:

- Introduce yourself when you see a new member at a meeting or event
- Introduce them to others and start building their connections
- Invite them to participate in projects, committees, or upcoming events
- Share your experiences and what you enjoy most about BUFF
- Suggest how they can get involved

Starting in January 2026, we will be implementing a simple way to help identify new members by including a color-coded sticker on their nametag. The color will represent the year that the member joined BUFF.

2026= RED

2025= BLUE

2024=GREEN

2023= YELLOW

Our strength has always been our sense of community. By reaching out, we not only support our newest members but also help build a more vibrant and engaged organization for all.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year,

Bill Krimmer

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

50th Anniversary Approaching

From Ken Mandel

I am including this note to follow Bill Krimmer's article as a thought and way for newer members to perhaps get involved in activities.

2027 will mark BUFF having been a club for 50 years! 10 years ago, BUFF held a 40th anniversary event with a special dinner, a presentation on the club's history, and a display of awards and memorabilia. I was new to the club at that time. At one of our regular meetings, a couple of our 'more experienced' members were talking about how to put together a presentation for the event. I mentioned that a PowerPoint presentation would be simple to do (I was doing this routinely for business clients' presentations). To make it short, I was asked if I'd help. I did so, and greatly enjoyed it. I got to know a number of our long-time members, built friendships, and got to experience the value of "getting involved". BUFF became much more valuable and important to me by participating in its function, which as you know, I continue to do.

In the next few months, we will reach out to get a group of volunteers to ideate and work on a plan to celebrate our 50th. Planning and organizing an event takes time, so 2026 is the point to start. The team,

with support of our Board, will have the role of putting whatever program seems appropriate together. It could be a wonderful opportunity for newer members, like myself 10 years ago, to get involved, and perhaps take on future roles in the club. Please give it thought.

Ken Mandel

Nominations Sought for 2025 Fly Fisher of the Year Award

From Cari Vota

The Fly Fisher of the Year award is the highest honor awarded to a BUFF member annually. It recognizes the recipient for his/her extraordinary efforts in support and service to our club., organization priorities and activities, and to fly fishing in general. Nominations for this award come from our membership and are voted on by the membership. The 2025 award is presented to the recipient at the March 11th Banquet.

The Board of Directors is accepting recommendations for the 2025 Fly Fisher of the Year Award. Nomination forms will be e-mailed to the general membership this month. They will also be available at the January 2026 meeting. Nominations will only be accepted through January 31st, 2026. Nominees must be BUFF members in good standing. You may nominate no more than one person. Once collected, a ballot will be constructed and presented to the membership attending the February 11th, 2026 general meeting. Members in good standing who are present at the February meeting are allowed to vote (by secret ballot) for one nominee on the ballot. To vote, you must attend the February meeting.

Announcement and presentation of the Fly Fisher of the Year award is made at the Banquet in March.

2026 BUFF Banquet, Wednesday, March 11th, 2026

From Bryan Tudor & the Banquet Planning Team

The 2026 BUFF Banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th at the Oasis Conference Center and replaces our regular membership meeting. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to bring a spouse, family member, and/or friends for an enjoyable evening of dinner, socializing, and bidding on a wide selection of great



prizes. As always, prizes will include both fly-fishing gear and a variety of non-fishing items, making the evening fun for anglers and non-anglers alike.

Why the Banquet Matters

Each year, the banquet allows us to recognize our members who made significant contributions to BUFF, as well as the volunteers who supported our 2025 programs. It is also our primary fundraiser. Funds raised at the Banquet allow BUFF to continue to support important activities such as:



- Teaching children to fish at local pond events.
- Supporting **Casting for Recovery**, which provides no-cost fly-fishing retreats for women who have or have had breast cancer.
- Supporting **Reel Recovery**, which helps men in cancer recovery experience the healing benefits of fly-fishing.
- Contributing to conservation organizations including the Little Miami Conservancy, Rivers Unlimited, Three Rivers Conservation Trust, Izaak Walton League, Anglers of the Au Sable, Mad River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Ohio River Foundation, and the Mill Creek Alliance.
- Assisting with Butler and Clermont County River Clean-Up Days.

Registration & Tickets –

Registration is now open on the BUFF website. You can register and pay for meals and raffle tickets on the website

- **Meal Tickets:** \$55 per person (includes appetizers, entrée buffet, sides, and desserts) **Attending requires purchase of the meal.**
- **Grand Prize Raffle Tickets:** \$10 each
- **General Raffle Tickets:** \$5 each

Dinner Menu (Buffet Style)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appetizers – Cheese & Crackers & BBQ Meatballs • Dinner Rolls & Butter • House Salad with dressings • Caribbean Sliced Pork Loin with pineapple-mango glaze and Jamaican jerk seasoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grilled Salmon with Kentucky bourbon glaze • Tuscan Mashed Potatoes with parmesan • California Blend Vegetables • Double Chocolate Cake & Cheesecake
--	---

A cash bar will also be available.

We look forward to seeing you there!

2026 BUFF Banquet Donation Request

From Bryan Tudor

The Banquet Team is seeking donations of both fishing and non-fishing items as fundraiser raffle items at the Banquet.

Some great non-fishing donation ideas can include, but are not limited to -

- Store, Restaurant Gift Cards
- Museum or Theater Tickets
- Gift Certificates for Cooking, Craft, and/or Art Classes
- Home Décor Items
- Jewelry
- Artwork
- Lodging Certificates

Donations can be brought to the next general meeting (Wednesday, February 11th), or you can contact me (Bryan Tudor) at 513-827-5437 to arrange a convenient drop-off time and location.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at the Banquet

Bryan Tudor

Ties, Lies & Pints

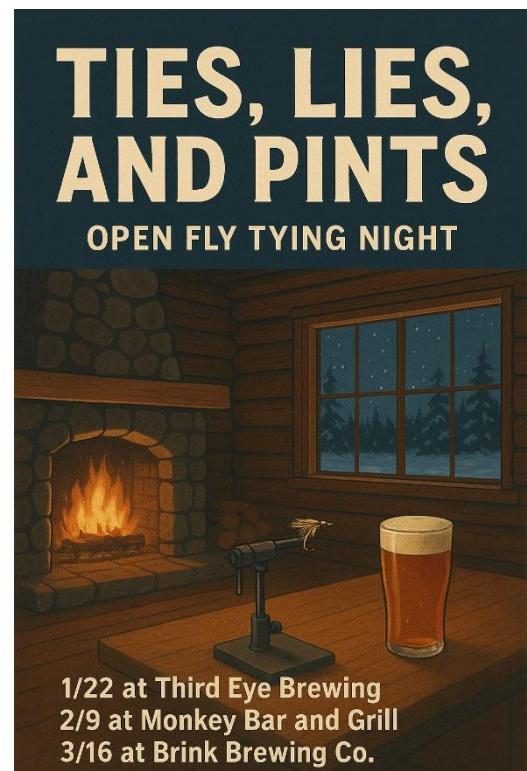
From Patrick Winkler

Come join your fellow BUFF members for an evening of TIES, LIES, and PINTS. Gather your fly tying essentials (tools, vise, materials, light) and start working on filling up that dry dropper box while enjoying a beverage in the company of some really fine folks. We have space set aside at the following locations from 6:30-9:00 PM to tie whatever pattern you'd like in a casual, informal setting.

- Thursday, January 22nd at Third Eye Brewing, 11276 Chester Rd, Cincinnati OH 45246
- Monday, February 9th at Monkey Bar and Grill, 7837 Old 3C HWY, Maineville OH 45039
- Monday, March 16th at Brink Brewing Company, 5905 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati OH 45224

Hope to see you there!

Pat (patwinker74@gmail.com)



2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show – LAST CALL!

Saturday, February 7th, 2026

By Ken Mandel for the Show Planning Team

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

Last Chance to register for Fly Tying Workshops on Friday February 6th

Josh Miller's "masters" classes are filled, but a few seats remain for fly tying classes that JR Jackson will lead:

- **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**

Cost is \$30/class. If interested, please go the BUFF website to register. Access to the registration page is on the site's home page. These are hands-on tying workshops. Participants should have basic tying skills, and need to bring their own tying vice, tools, a tying light (if desired), and threads.

Show 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		Mik Rubush Tenkara
2 PM	Jim Sauerhaber <i>"Fly Fishing on the Cumberland River"</i>			Open Casting
3 PM				Open Casting

Volunteer Registration

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

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 started at the November and December meetings, and will continue at the January meeting. Remaining tickets will be sold at the show, on February 7th.

The 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.

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.

BUFF Fly Tying Classes

From Lane Stocker

We are going to change things a bit for our winter fly tying classes –

We will start with 4 general topic classes. These will go from mid-January thru early February –

- Tuesday, Jan 13th **Filling up your fly box** - Has it been a while since you looked at your fly boxes? What do you need to tie for 2026 season? Let's get together, pull out our fly tying supplies and get the new fly fishing year started out right.
- Tuesday, Jan 20th **Feathers and Tools** - Discussion of feathers used in tying and how they are used. We will go through the club feathers and some of my own stash to learn about this key material for flies. We will also be making and using some fly tying tools. Specifically building dubbing brushes with wire.
- Tuesday, Jan 27th **Nymphs** - 80% of a trout's diet are nymphs. Let's tie some that will get down to where the fish are hiding.
- Tuesday, Feb 3rd **Dry Flies** – my favorite fishing; there's nothing like watching a fish rise to and take a fly you tied.

Beginners Fly Tying –

Classes will be Tuesdays from February 17th – March 10th. I'm going to change things up a bit with our beginning classes. I'm going to open up the classes to everyone. Beginners will be tying larger sized flies, while those with more experience will have smaller sizes with "extras". Trust me, I'll make it challenging for the experienced tyer. For example, if we are tying an Adams, beginners will tie it in size 10, and those with experience, may be doing an 18 or 20! As usual, the more experienced tiers will be available to coach and help our beginner tiers.

- Tuesday, Mar 17th **Articulated Flies** – Articulated flies look alive and are extremely effective for picky fish. We will be learning how to use shanks and mono/wire methods.
- Tuesday, Mar 24th **Flies for White Bass Fishing** – This will get folks ready, and fly boxes stocked up for the white bass trips to Indiana. White with some weight gets you most of the way, but we will be adding some colors and flash to really get them biting.
- Tuesday, April 14th **Flies for Bluegill & Bass** – Spawning season for bluegill and bass will be just around the corner, and this class will get you ready for them. Bully spiders and various other top water flies will be on the schedule.

I'll be setting up registration. Location will be the Springdale Community Center. Times for each session is 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (hopefully 8:30 PM). Watch for an eblast announcing this. Of course, these programs are free for BUFF members. I look forward to seeing you at the classes.

Regional Fly Fishing Shows

There are two upcoming regional fly fishing shows, one in Louisville hosted by Derby City Fly Fishers, and the other in the Cleveland area, hosted by North Coast Fly Fishers. While smaller than the Cincinnati show, they are both excellent shows and have great programs. If you have an open day, consider attending!

The Kentuckiana Fly Fishing Show is on Saturday, January 17th, from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Location is the Paroquet Springs Conference Center, 395 Paroquet Springs Dr, Shepherdsville, KY 40165. Presentations include “Fly Fishing on the Cumberland” by Jim Sauerhaber, “Fly Fishing Red River Gorge” by Bill Carman, “Kayak Fishing on KY State Lakes” by Lee McClellan, and “Kentucky Trout Program” by Nathan Hayes. More information on the show is on the Derby City Fly Fishers website – www.derbycityflyfishers.com.

The Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo, hosted by North Coast Fly Fishers is on Saturday, March 7th, 2026 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Location is Lakeland Community College, 7700 Clocktower Dr., Kirkland, OH 44094. The program will include tying demonstrations from Lance Kelkel and Gary Begley, and seminar presentations by Jeff Liskay (“Roadmap to Success on Steelhead Alley”), Kevin Ramsey (“Secrets of Northern Ohio’s Diverse Fishery”), Gregg Elefterin (“Euro Nymphing”), and Jerry Darkes (“Essential Flies for the Great Lakes Region”). More information on the show can be found at the North Coast Fly Fishers website – www.northcoastflyfishers.com.

BUFF will be present at both shows. We will have an exhibitor’s booth and a few members to share information and do tying demonstrations. The OH FFI chapter will also be at the shows. If you are interested in possibly attending as a BUFF volunteer, reach out to me, and someone will get back to you (Ken Mandel, kengmandel@gmail.com)

Longevity Counts!

Every January, we congratulate those with 5, 10, 15, 20 and more years membership in BUFF. Here is the list for 2025 -

5 Years: Larry Branam
James Farley
Tim Guilfoile
Samuel Hanna
Dave Hicks
Karl Power
Blayne Smith
Donna Somers
David Speer

10 Years: Tom Bachey
Ken Buck
Jody L Corbett
Maurice Docton
Ken Mandel

15 Years: Vique Caro
Jack Gormley
James (J.R.) Jackson
Cecil Osborn
Tim Williamson

20 Years: Tom Knapke
Larry Long
Jim Neckers
Bill & Donna Schroeder
Ken Speicher
Lane Stocker
Andy Sutthoff
George & Judy Sutthoff

10 Year (ctd)s: Haruko Mizoguchi
Nick Rizzo
Don Schrantz
Carlisle Stuart
Mike Vereker
Pamela Vincent
Rayma Waters

20 Years (ctd): Bryan Tudor

25 Years: Gary & Gloria Begley
David French

30 Years: James LeBlond
Art D (Dave) Jones

35 Years: Cas Denton

We thank Cari Vota for compiling the list !

BUFF on the Radio !

Back in November, Bob Miller, Donna Summers, and Ken Mandel recorded a promoting BUFF and the upcoming Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. The program will be aired as on "Spotlight", a local program covering topics of public interest in our area, on Friday, January 2nd at 12:30 PM on WMKV-FM (89.3 FM) It will be simulcast on WLHS (89.9 FM) which covers the Butler County area and is a 'repeater-station for WMKV's programming.

A repeat of the program will also air on January 26th at 5:25 AM for any early birds in our crowd!

WMKV also provides access to programs aired on Spotlight as podcasts. This occurs after the program has aired. About a week after the airing, you should be able to find the podcast by going to the WMKV website (www.WMKVFM.org). Click on "Programs". On the drop-down menu click "WMKV Podcasts". Scroll down the screen to find "Spotlight", and click on the appropriate program date (January 2, 2026) to listen to the show.



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>
Fly Tying Class "Filling Up Your Fly Box" Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Tuesday, January 13 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Watch for Registration on Website</i>	Lane Stocker
BUFF Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, January 14 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Register on Website by Sunday, January 11th</i>	Bob Miller
Ohio Fly Tying Guild Virtual – Zoom Mtg	Friday, January 16 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>See Website for Link</i>	Gary Begley
Fly Tying Class "Feathers & Tools" Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Tuesday, January 20 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Watch for Registration on Website</i>	Lane Stocker
BUFF Board Meeting Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Wednesday, January 21 st 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Bob Miller
Fly Tying Class "Nymphs" Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Tuesday, January 27 th 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Watch for Registration on Website</i>	Lane Stocker
Fly Tying Class "Dry Flies" Springdale Community Center Springdale, OH	Tuesday, February 3 rd 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Watch for Registration on Website</i>	Lane Stocker
Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show – Pre Show Workshops Oasis Conference Center, Loveland OH	Friday, February 6 th Workshops Offered Throughout the Day <i>See Website for Program and Registration</i>	Ken Mandel Tom Bachey
Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Saturday, February 7th 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM <i>See You There!</i>	Ken Mandel Tom Bachey

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.

