



# The BUFFER

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

Volume 50, Issue 3

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

March 1, 2026

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## President's Letter

Our annual Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show is "in the bag," and it's safe to say it was one of the best shows we've had. Ken Mandel, Tom Bachey, the incredible show team, and everyone in BUFF who helped with the show did an amazing job! When the snow fell, a lot of folks were very nervous that we might have a MAJOR problem on our hands. This concern increased as several vendors ended up canceling just prior to the show; however, the team rallied, finding additional vendors and making adjustments. The end result was a tremendous show. Everyone had fun, attendees increased their knowledge of our sport, and the vendors appeared to be very happy with their sales! Thank you to everyone in the club that made this show a huge success!

Our other big event, the BUFF Banquet, is coming up SOON! Date is Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Oasis Center. You need to register prior to attend, and registration closes on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, only a few days from now. Bryan Tudor and the Banquet team have done an excellent job of pulling together a LOT of great items and trips to be auctioned or raffled at this event. This is your opportunity to enjoy a great evening with fellow anglers and friends and find great deals on some awesome fishing and non-fishing items! Please make plans and register to attend.

Warm weather is just around the corner, and we have several great club trips on the horizon. One of these trips, our Spring trip to the Smokies, is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. As of this writing, there are still open spaces in both the men's and women's cabins. Contact Harry Pass if you are interested! We also have several other club trips occurring in the near future, including the Mad River Day trip scheduled for April 21 and the Potter County, Pennsylvania trip scheduled for May 3-9. As of this writing, the PA trip has one opening available. In addition to these trips, there are numerous other opportunities to get involved with the club, including learning fly tying, casting, and fishing skills, doing conservation work, or socializing while tying flies with the membership at local pubs! See the BUFF website for dates and times for all these upcoming activities!

Fish on!

Bob Miller

# **BUFF BANQUET – Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**From: Bryan Tudor**

**The March Banquet, our major fundraising event of the year, takes place in lieu of our regular monthly meeting. It is at the Oasis Conference Center, from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM.**

**Preregistration and purchase of the meal are required for attendance. Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

The Banquet is a wonderful opportunity to bring a spouse, family members, or friends for an evening of great food, fellowship, and fun. The includes dinner, time to socialize, and exciting bidding on a variety of prizes, both fly-fishing and non-fishing related.

The Banquet is also where we recognize members who have made significant contributions to BUFF over the past year, as well as those who volunteered their time in support of our programs and events.



The Banquet is our primary fundraiser. Funds raised by the event support activities such as:

- Teaching children how to fish at youth fishing days at local ponds.
- Supporting Casting for Recovery, which provides no-cost fly-fishing retreats for women recovering from breast cancer.
- Supporting Reel Recovery, which introduces men in cancer recovery to the healing power of fly fishing.
- Supporting conservation and preservation efforts through donations to organizations such as Little Miami Conservancy, Rivers Unlimited, Three Rivers Conservation Trust, Izaak Walton League, Anglers of the Au Sable, Trout Unlimited Mad River Chapter, Ohio River Foundation, and Mill Creek Alliance.
- Assisting with Butler and Clermont County river clean-up days.

## **Event Details –**

### **Registration Information**

- Advance registration and purchase of the meal is required for participation. **Registration deadline is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We cannot accept walk-in registrations on the day of the event.**
- At this point, we recommend you register on the website.

- Login to the website
- Click on the 2026 Buckeye United Fly Fishers Banquet icon
- Scroll down and select the option to register and pay with a credit card. **Registration deadline is March 3<sup>rd</sup>, so at this point it would be wisest to register and pay online. A check mailed upon reading this, will not reach Cari Vota by the deadline.**

### **Dinner Menu (Buffet) – cash bar available**

- Assorted Appetizers
- Grilled Salmon
- Caribbean Sliced Pork Loin
- Salad, rolls, two sides
- Dessert
- Coffee and tea

If you have any dietary restrictions, please contact Brian Tudor ([bryan.tudor@yahoo.com](mailto:bryan.tudor@yahoo.com)). He'll work with Oasis to accommodate you.

#### **Meal Tickets: -**

- \$55 per person.
- You must purchase the meal to attend.

#### **Raffle Tickets: -**

- Grand Prize Raffle: \$10 each
- General Raffle: \$5 each

We look forward to seeing you there!

## **New Members in February 2026**

**From: Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director**

We've gained several new members last month, mostly at the show!

- **Clara Ballinger**, Mason, OH
- **Bob Buckely**, Forest Park, OH
- **Joe Davivosk**, Cincinnati, OH
- **Ryan Geer**, Loveland, OH
- **David Hall**, Loveland, OH
- **Paul Portwood**, Oxford, OH
- **Dean Schultz**, Batavia, OH
- **Michael Smith**, Cincinnati, OH
- **Charles Stratton**, Cincinnati, OH
- **Steve Thompson**, Lebanon, 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!

## In Memory of James LeBlond

James LeBlond, a lifetime BUFF Member since 1995, a beloved father, grandfather, & friend, passed away peacefully on February 12, 2026, at age 74.

An avid outdoorsman, Jim found peace and joy on the water with a fly rod in hand. He was a devoted member of the Buckeye United Fly Fishers, serving as President for three years and giving generously of his time and leadership. He was also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity, the Queen City Anglers Guild, and the Masons.



James served as BUFF President from 1999 – 2001, received a President’s Award in 2003, and the Fly Fisher of the Year award in 2004.

An anecdote shared by Bob Miller was that James was color blind, so he often wore plaid. The request for attendees at his memorial service, held on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, was to wear plaid in his memory. Some of our members who knew James attended.

## 2026 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show – Recap

**By Ken Mandel for the Show Planning Team**

The February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> show was successful. The Friday Tying workshops were well attended, and JR Jackson did an excellent job leading them. Josh Miller’s “masters classes” were fully subscribed, and those who participated said they were excellent. Both JR and Josh commented that they greatly enjoyed the show.

The weather was a bit difficult. The quick blast of snow we had on Friday AM was worse to the east and south, preventing a few vendors from being able to travel. We accommodated their absence, and these folks have already committed to return for the 2027 show. Despite the snow and cold, attendance was good. We had 682 paid entries, plus about 40 kids. While paid attendance was a bit less than last year, adding in volunteers (our club and invited clubs, tyers, and organizations) and vendors, provided attendance of over 800. Importantly, the 2026 show returned a sizable profit for the club – our initial estimate is that we earned about \$3,400. This is very welcome, as all of our expenses for the show continue to increase.





We have already reserved our days for the 2027 show, which will be Friday and Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2027.

***We thank the members of the 2026 Show Planning Team who have worked diligently since last April to put this event together*** - 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. We

also thank the approximately 70 club members who volunteered their time to support the 2026 show.

**Mike Wissman, a BUFF member, won the Ron Barch bamboo rod. It is the second time he has won a bamboo rod in a show raffle! We shouldn't let him buy tickets in future rod raffles!**



**We ask that anyone took photos at the show to please forward them to David Fraley ([info@buckeyeflyfishers.com](mailto:info@buckeyeflyfishers.com)) so we can post them on the website. Thank you!**

## **Opportunities for the 2027 Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Planning**

Planning the show is pretty much as full year effort. We will start work on the 2027 show in April. A couple of our team members are stepping down, so we will be looking for new volunteers to join the planning team. Planning is a 'team effort'; we are all there to help and provide input and instruction, so prior knowledge is not required. Please give it thought. Participating on the team is an excellent way to get involved in a major club activity and meet other club members. If possibly interested, please contact

Tom Bachey ([h2oguy@fuse.net](mailto:h2oguy@fuse.net)) or Ken Mandel ([kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com)), who will continue as co-leaders for the team for the 2027 show.

## Thank You Note from JR Jackson –

I have to start out by saying what a fantastic time I had at the 2026 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show! Ken Mandel, Tom Bachey, and team put together a fantastic show, and I had a wonderful time getting to see so many old friends. I was also amazed, though not surprised, at how many new faces BUFF has brought in since my last time being here. I want to pass along my sincere thanks to everyone who made me feel welcome, helped with arrangements, or stopped by to say hello.

I'd forgotten what a good group of fly tyers we have in BUFF, and I hope those who took my tying classes found something interesting to take back and play with. The tying program is in excellent hands with Lane Stocker at the helm. Jeff McElravy told me more than once that he considered Lane to be one of the best tyers (and fly fishers) he'd ever seen. When you keep the company Jeff did, those are words of high praise. I still hope to fish with Lane someday...

Several people asked me about fishing in my adopted home waters here in upstate New York, so I wanted to write a quick blurb for anyone I didn't get to talk to at the show who shares the same curiosity. I currently live just outside Albany, NY, and fish the Catskills regularly. I spend the bulk of my time fishing the upper Delaware River system, which is one of the most prolific trout streams I've fished anywhere, particularly when it comes to big, stream-born brown and rainbow trout. In addition to the Delaware and its famous tributary, the Beaverkill, the Catskills also boast Esopus Creek, the Neversink, and a variety of smaller streams.

To the north of Albany, we have the Adirondack mountains. The Adirondacks are the home to the "other" Ausable River, just northeast of Lake Placid, NY. While wading the Ausable is often described as walking across greased bowling balls in fast currents, it's a consistent fishery, and one of the prettiest in New York as it rushes through the high peaks of the Adirondacks.

From Albany, I can also be in the Green Mountains of southern Vermont in about an hour, including the Battenkill River of Orvis fame. To the south of Vermont are the Berkshires of western Massachusetts and Connecticut, from which the Deerfield and Farmington River tailwaters originate.

In addition to the freshwater fishing we have within a couple hours of Albany, I fish Cape Cod for striped bass in the spring and fall runs several times each year. I'm far from a "sharpie" as the saltwater folks call their gurus, but I know enough to be dangerous.

All that to say, I am still an active member of BUFF, and if you're interested in any of these fishing destinations, I'm always happy to help out with planning a trip, and maybe even getting out to fish with you for a day or two. I'm forever grateful to BUFF for teaching me the way of the fly in my younger years, and I love nothing more than spending time on the water with anyone from what I still consider to be my home club whenever I can. Feel free to drop me a line at [bearcatjr@gmail.com](mailto:bearcatjr@gmail.com) if you're going to be in the area, or have any questions about fishing here!

# Fly Tying Classes

## From Lane Stocker

Beginners tying is on-going, with remaining sessions scheduled for Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> From 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The format has been changed with those who are more experienced, and attend to help beginners, having an opportunity to tie a more challenging fly as well.

## Additional Classes -

Tuesday, Mar 17<sup>th</sup> **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 24<sup>th</sup> **Flies for White Bass Fishing** – This will get folks ready, and fly boxes stocked up for the white bass trips to Indiana.

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> **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.

Please register on the Website. As always, classes are free for BUFF members.

# Spring Casting and Fly Fishing 101 Classes

From: Jim Vota

## Fly Fishing 101 & Beginners Casting Classes

Registration for the 101 classes is now open. Whether you are a raw beginner, or someone who could use a little refresher, this is the class for you. Sessions will cover introduction, equipment, line system, fly selection, where fish are, catching fish, and being on the water. Feel free to ask questions at any time during the classes. If something is not covered, don't be afraid to ask. The class was developed so you will get a head start when you get to the stream or lake, so you won't be totally lost. **For the 101 class, you only need to sign up one time for the 3 sessions.**

- 3/09 Mon Fly Fishing 101 Springdale Recreation Center 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- 3/23 Mon Fly Fishing 101 Springdale Recreation Center 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- 3/30 Mon Fly Fishing 101 Springdale Recreation Center 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Following conclusion of the FF101 evening classes, we will start our annual casting classes, The beginning casting course will cover basic and roll casts. We will focus will be on how to form and control the casting loop. This is the foundation for all casting. We will work on drills to aid in this learning. The class will be run on two Sundays, April 19<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup>, at Cotell Park, from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Classes are held in the wet or dry, so be prepared for the weather. Bring a chair, hat, glasses/sun glasses (for safety reasons), sunscreen and water. As far as equipment, bring your rod, reel, line and leader. A 5-wt rod, which is probably what most people have, will work well, and a 0X, tapered 7 ½ foot leader is

best for this program. Regardless, what you have, any rod will be good enough! If you don't have a rod, contact Jim Vota ([vota@zoomtown.com](mailto:vota@zoomtown.com)). We will have club rods available. If undecided as to what rod may be best for you, it may be wisest to wait until you have completed the FF101 program, and the introductory casting classes. Our instructors can help with thoughts and suggestions on rods.

### Introductory Casting Class Dates -

- 4/19 Sun Fly Fishing 101 – Beginning Casting Cottell Park 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- 4/26 Sun Fly Fishing 101 – Foundations Cotell Park 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

## Additional Casting Classes

There is no registration required for the April “Spring Casting Warmup” scheduled for Tuesday, 4/14. Just come if you are interested. The May and June classes will have registration on the website.

- 4/14 Tues Casting Warmup Springdale Recreation Center 6:00 – 8:00 PM
- 5/24 Sun Casting Class – Fishing Cottell Park 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- 6/14 Sun Casting Class – Advance Cottell Park 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

## Regional Fly Fishing Shows & Events

### From: Ken Mandel

The Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo, hosted by North Coast Fly Fishers will be held on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Location is Lakeland Community College, 7700 Clocktower Dr., Kirkland, OH 44094. The program includes tying demonstrations and seminar presentations. More information on the show can be found at the North Coast Fly Fishers website – [www.northcoastflyfishers.com](http://www.northcoastflyfishers.com). BUFF will attend and has a booth to share information and do tying demonstrations.

The same weekend is the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, which is in the Detroit area. The Expo is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. There is a connection to their website which has the program and schedule on the BUFF website homepage. The website- <https://midwestflyfishingexpo.com/>

On Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Fly Fishing Film Tour will be in Cincinnati. This event is hosted by Little Miami River Outfitters and starts at 5 PM. Location is Mad Tree Brewing in Oakley. Information on the program and ticket purchase is on the BUFF website.



# 2026 Women's Fly Fishing Calendar

**From: Cari Vota**

So far, we have 4 planned day trips. All are full-day wading trips. Come even if you can only make ½ a day, as we will break for lunch. The trips are a great time to build basic skills, learn something new, and gain confidence at a new local locations.

Watch for registration to open on the website. You will need to purchase appropriate fishing licenses for the locations.

- May 28<sup>th</sup> Thursday Women's Weekday Day Trip, Brookville, IN
- June 18<sup>th</sup> Thursday Women's Weekday Day trip, Mad River, Urbana, OH
- July 16<sup>th</sup> Thursday Women's Weekday Day Trip, Brookville, IN
- Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Women's Day trip, Mad River, Urbana, OH

## A Call for BUFF Club Member Fishing Photos

**From: Jim Vota**

**We are seeking photos of past BUFF events, members and activities for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which will be celebrated in 2027. In addition, we'd like to do one or two regular meeting presentations highlighting our members fishing experiences with photos of those.**

It's never too early to start working on projects for next year. As many of you may know or not know, I'm in charge of the monthly BUFF club meeting presentations. This involves finding speakers for the regular monthly meetings. This process is already underway for 2027. Related to that, I'm working on a couple projects that will require photos from our club members from their fishing trips. The first is a slide show for our club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which will also occur in 2027. The second is to showcase where our many club members have fished over the years.

For the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, I'm looking for photos that anyone would have from past club events. These include fishing trips, banquets, meetings, classes, picnics, past member photos, civic projects, and anything else club or member related. The photo format is not critical. If you have old negatives or slides, or even just photos, as well as more modern digital images any would be welcome. I can digitize the old film formats. Any old photos that are digitized will be returned to you with digital files for the photos.

For the club presentation I'm looking for photos portraying the BUFF fishing experience north, south, east, west, domestic or foreign. Where have our club members fished? What experiences have they had? Depending on how much response I get, this could be one presentation or two. Of course this will need fish pics, but that's only a piece of the big picture. I'd like to see any interesting scenery, animals, sights, events, places, lakes, waterfalls, streams, sunsets, stories... whatever. Don't worry about the quality of the photo if you feel it's interesting. I want to convey the reasons we do this thing. If you have comments or brief stories that would go with the photos, please include those too as well as

locations. Again, the format of the photos is not important as I have the capability to digitize non digital images for presentation use. Everyone who provides photos will get full credit for the photos. Even drone photos or videos. Photos could be from fishing trips 20, 30, 40 years ago or yesterday. This is for the fun and enjoyment of our members at the club's monthly meetings, and to be presented some time in 2027.

In general, I encourage you to take the time when you are out fishing, or traveling to fish, to take photos. Do this for your own enjoyment, if nothing else. Over time things have changed. People no longer purposefully take cameras with them and record events like they used to. There's so much online content. You take quick snapshots with your phone, post them to social media, and then forget the picture. It no longer holds the same meaning. It's so quick and easy to do. I'd like you to consider taking a bit more time in taking the image. Time to reflect and compose. Something you will keep and not just pitch after posting. Something we want to share with friends in a more intimate way. Maybe even hang a photo on the wall at home. I know I've done more and more of the reflective work with photography while fishing and travelling and found it very rewarding.

As far as how to get the photos to me? I'd like you to let me know that you have some photos through email, phone calls or texting. Some digital images up to reasonable sizes can be emailed. I can meet you or come to your residence to collect photos or slides or negatives. They can be digitized at your home. I have an old copy lens and bellows that I just mount on my camera. It's very portable. We could even do this at the club monthly meetings. We'll work out how to get them when you contact me. I really hate using digital drop boxes but that is an option that I might have to resort to. How many photos from a location is up to you. It could be one, it could be five, you decide.

I have seen many photos (and even drone videos) that club members have taken that are marvelous and should be shared with the club. From foreign countries to local waters our collective experience should be shared. If not for an evening's enjoyment, then for inspiration. You never know what could spark an idea. I've included a couple Power Point slides as examples of how this might look. It's still too early to say this is it. They're provided to give inspiration and make you think about the projects and how you look at your time out fishing.

Portage Lake Houghton, MI



First pike



## Vetted External Trips –

**From: Hugh O'Donnell**

This article was in last month's BUFFER, and is repeated to increase awareness.

BUFF offers many trips for fly fishing. However, trips organized by organizations can offer even more opportunities for BUFF members to travel and fish together. We are fortunate in that one of our members (and past NKFF president), Tim Guilfoile, has created trips to Wyoming and Michigan via negotiations with local boy scout councils. A good number of BUFF members have attended these trips in the past and continue to do so. Another trip, announced last year, is an opportunity to fish in Montana on a trip organized by Western Kentucky University. For all these trips, sponsors have booths at the Fly Show in February. They can answer many questions for you. One thing I can add, is that all of these trips are quite affordable for the location and fishing opportunities.

As a club, we are selecting weeks to recommend for BUFF travel, and which do not conflict with BUFF-sponsored trips:

- **Week of May 26<sup>th</sup>** - Michigan Anglers' Base Camp is in Claire, Michigan. This is a scout facility with modern lodging and full food service. The location allows for a 30 to 75 minute drive to many classic and top-rated trout streams. For more information including costs and what is included in the week of fishing see the website - <https://michiganscouting.org/anglers-basecamp/>
- **Week of July 26<sup>th</sup>** – Wyoming Anglers' Base Camp near Cody, Wyoming. This is a primitive scout facility with full food service and transportation to local fishing streams. At this time, there are only 6 spots open. So, for a large group, the week of August 2<sup>nd</sup> may be more suitable. For more information including costs and what is included in the week of fishing see the website - <https://www.anglersbasecamp.org/>
- **Week of September 20<sup>th</sup>** – The WKU-hosted Montana trip is based in Missoula, MT. This group attended the show and had information on this trip. Lodging is local hotels. Fishing for four days via guided float trips is included in the package. Limited fishing experience is required. [wku.edu/flyfishing/](http://wku.edu/flyfishing/)

- **October tbd** – Western Michigan Angler’s Salmon Trip will be offered. Location regarding lodging and details, and dates will be announced later in the year.

If you have any questions, please contact Hugh O’Donnell ([odonnellhj@gmail.com](mailto:odonnellhj@gmail.com)).

## Leader Needed for 2026 After Work Fishing Outings

We continue to search for a club member to take over the monthly ‘After Work Fishing Outings’. These are once-monthly, local, evening outings. Cari Vota who led this program for several years, has stepped down due to other activities and conflicts with her schedule. These are enjoyable and well-attended early-evening fishing events on local streams and ponds. They are easy to set up and lead.

Anyone potentially interested, should contact Cari Vota ([vota@zoomtown.com](mailto:vota@zoomtown.com)) or Bill Krimmer, BUFF Membership Engagement Director ([bill.krimmer@gmail.com](mailto:bill.krimmer@gmail.com)). They can answer any questions regarding what is involved. **If no one comes forward, these outings are not going to happen.**

## Upcoming Spring Activities

**From the list which follows, it is clear that winter doldrums are behind us!**

### Ties, Lies, & Pints – Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>

Another ‘round’ of the popular Ties, Lies, & Pints events is coming up. This one is at Brink Brewing Company, 5905 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati (College Hill). Time is 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM. Gather your tying essentials (tools, vice, materials, and light) and start working on filling up that fly box while enjoying a beverage in the company of some really fine folks. Please register on the website so we have a headcount to set aside space.

### Whitewater River Clean-up

Please join us for our annual cleanup along the banks of the Whitewater River outside Liberty, Indiana. The cleanup will be along the area where we annually fish for White Bass in late April and early May. This is being organized with assistance from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. We will hopefully be joined by members of Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers, Miami Valley Fly Fishers, Central Indiana Trout Unlimited and other interested parties. This will be primarily on land but you may want to bring waders just in case they're needed. Since this is spring, wet conditions are likely.

Date & Time: Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM-noon. Meet at the access just west of the State Road 44 bridge that crosses the Whitewater River. Registration is on the website under the events calendar. Contact Tom Britton ([starwoodtb@gmail.com](mailto:starwoodtb@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## Spring Smokey Mountains Trout Trip

The spring trout trip to Western North Carolina is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Lodging is at Smokey Mountain Retreat ([www.smokymtnretreat.com](http://www.smokymtnretreat.com)), which is located between the Nantahala and the Tuckasegee Rivers in the Bryson City area. Three cabins – 2 for men and one for women are reserved. Each accommodates 8 people. To participate, you need to register on the BUFF website and send in a deposit (\$185) by March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday 4/8 is our travel and arrival day. Thursday through Saturday, pick the streams you want to fish and go for it. We check out of the cabins on Sunday morning. Everyone is on their own for meals. The cabins have a kitchen. Bryson City is nearby and offers local eateries. We do have a group dinner Saturday evening, with the cost divided equally among those on the trip.

Fishing is primarily on the Nantahala and Tuckasegee Rivers, which are stocked. Streams in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, such as Deep Creek, Forney Creek, Indian Creek, Noland Creek, Socco Creek, and the Oconaluftee River are nearby, accessible, and have native wild trout. You will likely catch brown and rainbow trout and some brook trout - no shortage of trout fishing here. We generally fish on our own, but there are guides if you wish to hire one. We also work so that any new anglers to the area are paired with someone that has experience both with fly fishing and the area. We highly encourage folks to travel and fish with at least one partner for safety.

Information on recommended rods, lines, flies, and needs for licenses are on the registration page on the website. Contact Harry Pass, the trip coordinator ([wpass21052@gmail.com](mailto:wpass21052@gmail.com); 513-910-1390) with questions or for more information.

## 2026 White Bass Fishing on the Whitewater River

Registration is open for the annual white bass trips on the Whitewater River in Indiana. This is the spawning run, and it promises an opportunity to land a good number of sizable fish in local waters. Four trips are scheduled. Trip dates are Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> (new member trip) and Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> (new member trip). Register on the website. We reserve 2 trips for “new members” – those new to the club, or who have not done this outing before. Space is limited to 6 anglers per trip, and these fill quickly.

The general plan is to meet in Liberty, IN at 8:30 AM, and fish until about 3:00 PM. These are wading trips, so bring needed equipment. Specific information on what to bring, rods and set-up, fly suggestions, directions, licenses, etc. on the website. Trip leaders are Dan Bonham ([dbonham14@gmail.com](mailto:dbonham14@gmail.com)), Jeff Georgan ([jsgeorgan@fuse.net](mailto:jsgeorgan@fuse.net)), & Kathy Newsom ([knewsom@cinci.rr.com](mailto:knewsom@cinci.rr.com)); reach out to them with any questions.

## Brookville Tailwater Day Trip – Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

On Wednesday, 4/22, Mike Jones will lead a day trip to fish the East Branch of the Whitewater River below the Brookville dam. This is a stocked stream, fishing primarily for brown and rainbow trout. There may also be rock bass, suckers, and other warmer water species as well. The plan is to meet at the Brookville Town Park at 8:00 AM. If interested, register on the BUFF website. There is no limit on

registration number, as there are plenty of locations along the stream to fish. You will need an Indiana license. There is more information on the registration page, and you can contact Mike Jones with any questions ([mikenitrojones@gmail.com](mailto:mikenitrojones@gmail.com); 513-265-2811).

## Take a Kid Fishing – Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

Fishing is a great way for families to bond together, and it also teaches youngsters there is more to life than iPads, iPhones and Xboxes. Introducing our youth to the sport of fishing is the only way to ensure this tradition survives through future generations. Don't overthink about gear. If the kid has a rod, it will work! We'll have club fly rods and crappie poles, and plenty of hot dogs available as bait. We will also have snacks and something to drink for the kids. You bring the child and have some fun.

The event is scheduled for Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Location is Miami Meadows Park. 1546 State Rt 131, Milford, OH (location where we hold our annual July picnic). Every child needs to have at least one adult with them. Pre-registration (website) and completion of the liability waiver is required. The map shows the pond location. There is a shelter with tables and benches next to the bathrooms, and we will be set up there. There is a paved walking path around the pond.



Thanks to all. Please contact Dave Longtin ([dlongtin@zoomtown.com](mailto:dlongtin@zoomtown.com); 513 505-4244) with questions, or if you need more information.

## State of Mill Creek 2026

**From: Tim Cassani; BUFF Co chair for Conservation**

The Mill Creek Alliance (MCA) held their annual State of the Mill Creek address on February 4th. I attended remotely, and am sharing a summary here.

Mill Creek is a very urban stream that flows through Cincinnati into the Ohio River. In the mid 1990's it was considered the most impaired stream in all of North America. That's when the MCA with the aid of the ODNR started their cleanup efforts. While most large rivers in Ohio are doing well, many of our smaller streams however are not, but the Mill Creek is an exception:

- In 2024 there were 15 sites considered impaired on the Creek. In 2025 only three remained impaired.

- There is minimal *E. coli* during the recreational season and there is now a self-serve kayak kiosk station in Salway Park (across from Spring Grove Cemetery). A second kiosk is planned near the yellow bridge in South Cumminsville.
- A total of 11 low head dams have been removed.
- Water quality parameters are available online. Phosphorus and nitrogen levels can be high at certain times of the year, but conductivity is the only parameter that harms most sites on the stream.
- There was a fish kill event in August. The source came from somewhere in Reading and an investigation is still underway. Many fish may have escaped up one of the creek's tributaries, but I haven't seen the official report from the ODNR yet.

For 2026 there is \$1.4M planned for continued restoration projects. Improvements were made to a mile long stretch of Sharon Creek near its confluence with Mill Creek. You'll notice a lot of improvements by Hamilton County Great Parks to Sharon Woods on your next visit to the park. Trail and lake improvements have been made. The lake has refilled and in a couple of years fishing will be allowed again.

Cincinnati City Council is planning an 'Experience Mill Creek' project which could include kayak launches, a lookout tower, food/beverage spaces and maybe even a floating bar! Why not?

On a separate subject, thanks to Ken Mandel, Tom Bachey and all the volunteers who made our fly show so successful and enjoyable again this year.

## Gear Prep for a New Fishing Season

**From: Cari Vota**

In February we set our goals for this new fishing season, but will you be ready? It's easy to put off checking your gear and equipment. There are fishing magazines to read, trip sites to check out, and day dreams of fighting fish. Checking your gear and equipment now will make for more enjoyable trips later on.

- 1) Find a large enough place to lay it all out with good lighting.
- 2) Organize your effort around what you have – equipment (rods/reels/lines), gear (bags/waders/jackets), and flies/fly boxes.
- 3) **Equipment** – Now is the time to thoroughly clean your rods, check for loose guides, check grips and reel seats, etc. Don't forget to clean your lines. Check them for nicks and breaks and repair or replace as needed. Backing should be replaced every couple years if used regularly. Clean your reel of sand, etc. and grease/oil it.
- 4) **Gear** – Now is a great time to check waders for leaks, and fix or replace (NOW, not the day before you need them). Look at your boots – soles worn, missing studs, needs new laces? Is your gear bag or vest up to snuff? Be sure you empty everything out of it before you inspect it! Are the seams still good? Maybe now is the time to try a sling pack or a hip bag or get a lanyard for the local pond trips. Is your rain jacket keeping you dry? Most of the new fly fishing rain

jackets are shorter for wearing with waders, or sitting in a kayak, and have longer bills on the hood to keep your glasses dry.

- 5) As you put everything back in your bag/vest and gear bag, inspect and replace items that are worn or missing. Don't forget to inspect your first aid kit. If you don't have one, now is the time to get that together too. The two most used items in any kit are head ache/pain meds and Band-Aids. Sunscreens have expiration dates (become less effective), so check those replace when necessary.
- 6) Flies need inspection too. Spread out some paper and empty all of your boxes. Day boxes (the one you take with you for just that day) can be a mish-mash by the end of the season. Wipe out all the boxes of sand and dirt. Look at flies for wear and tear before putting them back into a box. Consider how you organize your fly boxes, so getting what you need by trip is easier. By type – nymphs, streams, poppers? By size or color – very small, small, medium, large flies? By species – bass flies, trout, pan fish? Make a list of the flies that need replacing so you have it for tying or buying new.

If you begin now, you will be ready when the weather turns and the fish come calling. It could be your most enjoyable year yet!

## Getting Out to Fish!

**Yes!! While winter weather has remained with us for a lot of the past month, we've had a few folks send in some photos from trips. Hopefully, the recent warming trend continues, and we will see some of us fishing locally, even if it is just on some ponds.**

Ted Grossman was fishing in the Gulf and got these beautiful red fish. He was fishing with Kevin Morelock of Indigo Guide Service. Many of us know Kevin. He fishes rivers in north-west Michigan, and on Lake Michigan spring-thru-fall, and now spends the colder months in the south. Ted mentioned that Kevin is in the process of selling the guide service and is bringing on a new guide to take on the business. The large one was in 35-lb range.





Doug Weaver sent these photos. The tarpon (about 60-lb), blue runner and bonefish were caught on a week-long guided trip in the Honduras that he did last year. It was with Fly Fish Guanaja Lodge and working with their guides. The gar were caught in Tennessee, off the Tennessee River near Loudon. Doug also guides trips in that region of Tennessee (Reelmen Outdoor Adventures). He offers lodging and guided fishing, fishing the Hiwassee and Tellico Rivers for trout while the water temperatures are cool, and Tennessee River for carp and gar in warmer months. He is working on the website, but can be reached by email at [reelmen.outdoor@gmail.com](mailto:reelmen.outdoor@gmail.com)



## Upcoming BUFF Activities

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

| <u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>   | <u>Dates</u>  | <u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u> |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Beginners Fly Tying Class<br/>Session 3</b><br>Springdale Community Center<br>Springdale, OH | Tuesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM<br><i>Register on Website</i>           | Lane Stocker                      |
| <b>Fly Fishing 101<br/>Session 1</b><br>Springdale Community Center<br>Springdale, OH           | Monday, March 9 <sup>th</sup><br>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM<br><i>Register on Website</i>            | Jim Vota                          |
| <b>Beginners Fly Tying Class<br/>Session 4</b><br>Springdale Community Center<br>Springdale, OH | Tuesday, March 10 <sup>th</sup><br>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM<br><i>Register on Website</i>          | Lane Stocker                      |
| <b>BUFF Banquet</b><br>Oasis Conference Center<br>Loveland, OH                                  | Wednesday, March 11 <sup>th</sup><br>6:00 PM – 9:00 PM<br>Register by March 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Bryan Tudor                       |
| <b>Ties, Lies &amp; Pints</b><br>Brink Brewing Co<br>Cincinnati, OH                             | Monday, March 16 <sup>th</sup><br>6:30 PM – 9:00 PM<br><i>Register on Website</i>           |                                   |
| <b>Fly Tying Class<br/>Articulated Flies</b><br>Springdale Community Center<br>Springdale, OH   | Tuesday, March 17 <sup>th</sup><br>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM<br><i>Register on Website</i>          | Lane Stocker                      |
| <b>BUFF Board Meeting</b><br>Springdale Community Center<br>Springdale, OH                      | Wednesday, March 18 <sup>th</sup><br>6:30 PM – 8:00 PM                                      | Bob Miller                        |
| <b>Ohio Fly Tying Guild</b>   | Friday, March 20 <sup>th</sup><br>6:30 PM – 8:00 PM<br>On line -Zoom Link                   | Gary Begley                       |
| <b>Fly Fishing 101<br/>Session 2</b><br>Springdale Community Center<br>Springdale, OH           | Monday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM<br><i>Register on Website</i>           | Jim Vota                          |

| <u>Trip/Activity &amp; Location</u>  | <u>Dates</u>   | <u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u> |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Whitewater River Clean Up</b><br>Liberty, IN  | Saturday, March 28 <sup>th</sup><br>8:30 AM - Noon<br><i>Register on Website</i>           | Tom Britton                       |
| <b>Fly Fishing 101<br/>Session 3</b><br>Springdale Community Center<br>Springdale, OH                    | Monday, March 30 <sup>th</sup><br>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM<br><i>Register on Website</i>          | Jim Vota                          |
| <b>Fly Tying Class<br/>Flies for White Bass Fishing</b><br>Springdale Community Center<br>Springdale, OH | Tuesday, March 31 <sup>st</sup><br>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM<br><i>Register on Website</i>         | Lane Stocker                      |
| <b>Spring North Carolina Trip</b><br>Bryson City, NC   | April 8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup><br><b>Register by March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026</b> | Harry Pass                        |

### 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.

