



the BUFFer

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

Volume 50, Issue 9

www.BuckeyeFlyFishers.com

September 2026

President's Letter

We had a GREAT general meeting in August! Our speaker, Jeff Georgin, did a great job of profiling both the places he'd visited, as well as presenting the fishing opportunities. One of the big surprises to me was that it appears the cost of doing a trip there is not as expensive as many of us believed. It appears that "getting there" is the biggest hurdle!

The stretch of near 100-degree weather may be behind, but the recent excessive rainfall has blown out many of our rivers. BIG storms produced flooding in many areas, particularly some of our favorite moving water in southeastern Indiana. The storms have produced some very challenging and dangerous conditions. Be careful out there, particularly when trying to canoe or kayak through water that's been partly blocked!

Despite the challenging conditions, we continue to get reports of some very good local fishing, particularly for Smallmouth in the Great Miami River. While many of our members have perhaps historically spent more time focusing on the Little Miami River, it appears this may be changing, and more of us are also including the Great Miami on our list of favorite local spots. Additionally, it has been reported that most, if not all, dams that have been challenges to canoeing and kayaking the Great Miami will be removed over the next several years. This will open the river to improved navigation and fishing.

Have a great September!

Bob Miller, President



Bob Miller

"Despite the challenging conditions, we continue to get reports of some very good local fishing...."

Editor's Notebook

Writers Wanted

Have you ever thought about writing an essay or prose about fly fishing? This is your chance. First, I'll explain.

In my first issue, I said I wanted to build the BUFFER to be something to build community and camaraderie for our club and readers. One of the ways to do that is to not only publish stories of our fishing adventures, but also the feelings we have about our sport. Pick up any fly fishing magazine, and you will find an essay or short story by an author about fly fishing.

Some great writers have produced witty and profound content for publications. Others for the books that we adore, like Norman Maclean who penned, "A River Runs Through It." There is also John Gierach, author of more than 20 books and contributor to many magazine articles.

Izaak Walton published the 1st Edition of *The Complete Angler, the Contemplative Man's Recreation* in 1653. Publisher Richard Marriot, described it as a "discourse of fish and fishing, not the unworthy perusal of most anglers." It sold for 18 pence.

People have been writing about fly fishing for a very long time. There is room for such articles in the BUFFER. These books, stories and essays increase readership, and that's what I am trying to do with the BUFFER.

So, if you fancy yourself as a writer, why not give it a try. Not sure about it being good enough? Let me decide, or better yet, help you make it good enough. Afterall, that's what an editor should do. I can help. Editing makes your words better and story stronger.

What about illustrations? Photos are absolutely encouraged. One strong photo can say a lot. Drawings? If you've got the talent, sure. Opinion pieces? Call me.

What about AI? I would prefer that the work be your own. That's how you build an audience with original works.

Give me a call or send me an e-mail. Let's talk about your idea. I'll try to publish as many and as often as possible. Who knows, this may be the start of your freelancing career!

D. Brent Miller, Editor

Contents

- President's Letter
- Editor's Notebook
- Sept. Dinner Meeting
- Committee Corner
- After Work Fishing
- Your Photos
- Calendar

Board of Directors

Bob Miller, President
Bryan Tudor, Vice President
Barry Gummow, Treasurer
Tim Cassini, Secretary

Tom Bachey
Tom Britton
Cari Vota
Dave Smith
Dolph Greenburg
David Fraley
Jim Hunt
Jim Neckers
Harry Pass
Jim Vota
Lane Stocker
Hugh O'Donnell
Bill Krimmer
D. Brent Miller

Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 498911, Cincinnati, OH 45249

info@buckeyeflyfishers.com

www.BuuckeyeFlyFishers.com

The BUFFER Editor

D. Brent Miller

513-535-8735

DBrent@dbrent.com

September Dinner Meeting, Wednesday, September 9

BUFF members are invited to attend the monthly dinner meeting at the Oasis Conference Center, Wednesday, September 9. Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Dinner: Served at 6:30 PM

Dinner includes:

Taco And Fajita Bar
Spicy beef, lemon-lime marinated chicken, corn and flour tortillas, Spanish rice with scallions, onions, peppers, tomatoes, jalapenos, black olives, shredded lettuce, mixed cheeses, salsa, sour cream, and tortilla chips. House Salad

Schedule:

6:00 Social Hour & Cash Bar
6:10 Ten-Minute Tech Talk (TBD)
6:30 Dinner
7:15 Announcements
7:45 Program

September 9. Meeting Program:

Samantha Ferrarelli is the Natural Resource Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at William H Harsha Lake (East Fork State Park) in Batavia, OH. She has a B.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Cincinnati and associate degrees in Wildlife Management and Natural & Historical Interpretation from Hocking College. With 15 years of experience working with USACE managing waterways and over 20 years of working for other private, local and state natural resource organizations she brings a seasoned, holistic view of how water moves through the Miami River basin.



Committee Corner

Board of Director's Meeting Committee Reports

- **Membership** (Harry Pass) Five new members since last board meeting. Total 365 members. Some new name tags are needed.
- **BUFF** (Brent Miller) Some new software may be needed. Brent to request writers at the next general meeting.
- **Communications & Website** (David Fraley & John McGinnis) Absent
- **Membership Engagement** (Bill Krimmer) Cowen Lk event to be rescheduled.
- **Meetings and Speakers** (Jim Vota, Sam Hannah) Jim has started looking into 2027 speakers. Need about 10 speakers.
- **Public Education** (Tom Bachey) Tuesday at Boone County Ext., a joint project with NKFF.
- **Club Education** (Jim Vota) Absent
- **Fly Tying** (Lane Stocker) Absent.
- **Assets and Library** (Dave Smith) Adequate inventory of materials.
- **Conservation** (Tom Britton & Tim Cassani) Sara Miller from ODNR concerned about sediment runoff from the Bass Island construction on the LMR. Both July SQM's accomplished.
- **Women's Fly Fishing** Saturday day trip to the Mad River may be cancelled. The women's cabin in NC is still filling.
- **Raffles & Door Prizes** (Dave Smith) 3D printers (John & Bill) contributing items.
- **FFI** (Cari Vota) Found a new executive director, Matthew Jockers who lives in Montana. Three year contract.
- **Veterans Fly Fishing Program** going well. Cooperating with Veterans Connect. More BUFF veterans participating.

Volunteers Needed

2027 Fly Fishing Expo Planning Team

While the 2027 Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show seems far off – it will be Saturday, February 6th, 2027. We have several team activities that we need to fill as some of our past team members are stepping down. If interested, please reach out to our team co-chairs, Tom Bachey (513-543-4056; h2oguy@fuse.net), or Ken Mandel (513-675-8488; kengmandel@gmail.com).

2027 Banquet Committee

We are seeking a member (or members) to take on the Banquet Chair position, along with volunteers to serve on the planning committee. Planning the banquet is very much a team effort.

If you are interested in taking on a leadership role or joining the banquet team, please reach out to Bryan Tudor (513-827-5437; bryan.tudor@yahoo.com).

BUFF 50th Anniversary

Yes! BUFF was founded in 1977, so 2027 will mark our 50th. A lot has changed over half a century. Cari Vota and Bob Miller have offered to organize a team to work on ideas and plans for a celebration. We are looking to form a small team for the project. Nothing has been set regarding type of event, location, program(s), etc. That will be what the team will work on. If interested, please contact Bob Miller (513-378-6904; bob.miller@alta-gila.com) or Cari Vota (413-476-7112; vota@zoomtown.com).

Veterans Fly Fishers Outsmarted the Forecasters

D. Brent Miller

Previously, the Veterans Fly Fishing program cancelled two events due to a “sky is falling” forecast, while the weather was just fine the days of the cancelled events. So, what to do?

Both the August 1 event at Camp Kern and the August 11 event at Kingswood Park were forecast for thunderstorms and rain.

Determined not to cancel another event, we adopted a new approach to scheduling and conducting fishing events. Perhaps it will be of benefit to others.

Here’s the plan:

1. We meet at the designated time and if it’s not raining, we fish.
2. We meet at the designated time if it is a very light rain, we may fish.
3. We meet at the designated time and if the rain is heavy, we go out for breakfast or lunch or whatever is appropriate for the scheduled time.

It worked perfectly. What could have been a cancelled event turned into an hour of fishing before the rains actually came at each location. The Camp Kern event was a huge surprise catching some very big blue gills and snagging a huge bass. The Kingswood event was a practice in casting.

The camaraderie was great.

The next Buckeye Veterans Fly Fishing event is scheduled for September 8 at Historic White Oak Farm.

Boone County Extension Office Class

Tom Bachey

On Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 6 pm, a joint class between BUFF and Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers conducted a Fly Fishing 101 class. BUFF attendees included Tom Britton, Tim Cassani, Harry Pass, Bill Krimmer, John Czarnicki, David Ladow and Tom Bachey. From NKFF, Joel Stansbury, Tim Guilfoyle, and Allen Hale attended. Joel, John and Tim Guilfoyle are also BUFF members.

The class had 17 people sign up but only 12 people showed up. This class had originally been scheduled for Aug. 11th but we decided to reschedule because of the severe thunderstorms and tornadoes in the area that evening.

Tom Bachey covered topics of Safety and Knots, Joel Stansbury discussed Leaders and Tippets as well as Flies. Bill Krimmer spoke about Fly Rods, Tom Britton talked about fly reels and Tim Cassani explained about fly lines. Tim Guilfoyle wrapped up the evening by talking about casting and then followed that up by taking the class out on the grass to practice casting.

The class attendees asked good questions and seemed to grasp casting fairly easily. Lacey Kessel, Boone County Extension Activity Coordinator had requested the class and gave all of us kudos on our program.

See the photos on the “Your Photos” page.

Fishing on the Au Sable River

Ken Mandel & Haruko Mizoguchi

The week of August 17th found Ken and Haruko in Northern MI, staying at Gates Lodge, and fishing on the Au Sable. We had 3 days fishing with



Jordan Klemish, one of the excellent guides working out of the Lodge, doing ½ day floats on each day. We fished Wakely Bridge to McMasters on the first day, and Parmalee to Whirlpool on the 2nd and 3rd days. These stretches are below the holy water area, and work well with a regular drift boat. We preferred that this time, as Ken is soon to undergo hip replacement, and the low seating in an Au Sable boat are beyond him at present.

Weather was a mixture of sun and clouds with high temperatures in mid-70's. Mornings were cool. We were at 42°F at 7AM on the last day (a harbinger of autumn coming!). We fished a dry-dropper rig on all 3 days using a variety of dries and midges. Fishing is always challenging on this river as there is no stocking. At this point in the season these fish have seen about all flies known to man, plus a few. However, the summer has been temperate and last winter had abundant snowfall. It all contributes to water temperatures staying cool, which is welcomed by everyone. They have not had

these condition in late summer for at least 2 years. Last October when we were here, water was very low with temperatures near 70°F. The guides kept checking with thermometers and if it hit 70, we were off the water.

On day one, Haruko had the 'hot rod', putting a few fish in the boat – a couple of browns and a beautiful brookie. Ken got skunked. He had a few non-committal nibbles, but that was about it. Haruko's hits were on both the dry and dropper. Day two was interesting. The section we fished is wider and deeper. We had numerous hits on our dry flies even though we were not seeing any significant rises and there were no surface hatches or much activity. The fish would actually leap out of the water at the fly. We caught a couple, but the activity while fun, did not lend itself to the fish taking the fly.

Day 3 was Ken's day to shine. He had several in the boat including a very nice brown. In contrast to the day before, all hits were on the midges; nothing went for the dries.



Unfortunately, Haruko did not fare as well, so after we got back to the lodge, she went to the dock and in about 40 minutes caught two nice browns. She stayed with a dry-

dropper and caught both on small (size 20) midges that Ken had tied – one on a black and the other on a green midge; both wrapped with silver wire.



The heavy early spring rains caused significant flooding on the river. We saw areas of slides and places where staircases leading to houses on bluffs had been washed away, and docks destroyed. Boat launches have been repaired, so access is fine. The river along the Gates property has also changed; it is a lot shallower than it was in the past, as the flood moved a lot of gravel along the river bottom. You can now walk to the island behind the lodge without getting in above your knees!

Changes at the Lodge & Shop – There is a major change occurring at Gates Lodge and Fly Shop. After almost 20 years of ownership, Josh and Katie are in the process of selling so they can move on to pursue other interests and desires. The good news is that the new owner is Matt

Verlack. Matt is probably the best Au Sable guide, and we fish with him at least once a year. He is now a partner and will transition to full ownership over the next 2 years. He will not be doing a lot of guiding going forward but is incredibly knowledgeable and is the perfect person to take over this wonderful place. It will be in excellent hands, and we look forward to ongoing trips there.



New FFI Exec Director

After a thorough process, the Fly Fishers International (FFI) Board of Directors has appointed Matthew L. Jockers as FFI's next President and CEO. He will begin his role September 1st. They will send a news release to the membership and media outlets later in August.

Following his retirement from Apple on June 1st, Matt has relocated to Corvallis, Montana. He brings a rare pairing to the role having built a career leading large, mission-driven organizations, while maintaining a lifelong passion for fly fishing. He learned to fly fish at age nine on the Yellowstone River just east of Livingston, where his family counted Dan and Helen Bailey among their close friends. He guided and worked on ranches across Montana and Wyoming through his teens and twenties, including three summers at Dan Bailey's Fly Shop. He is a Certified Casting Instructor and is working toward his two-handed certification.

Professionally, Matt retired from Apple this summer, where he served as a Distinguished Research Scientist and senior engineering research manager leading large, distributed teams. Before that he was a professor of English and data analytics, eventually serving as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Washington State University. Alongside his academic career, he built several tech startups and founded and led a 501(c)(3) nonprofit from the ground up. He knows both what it takes to build an organization and what it takes to steward a large one, which is exactly the balance this next chapter asks of us. We, the FFI Ohio Council, welcomes him aboard. He will be at the Sept FlyFest in California.

BUFF's North Carolina trip Oct 7-11, 2026

This is a self-guided trout fishing in beautiful North Carolina. Go out with a friend, a mentor, or hire a local guide. We will be staying near Bryson City, NC. This is a good trip even for beginners.

The Nantahala and Tuckasegee Rivers in the area are stocked and have delayed Harvest regulations over portions of those streams. There is a trophy water section on the Cherokee Reservation you will need an extra permit to fish. Several other streams in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park offer wild trout, such as Deep Creek, Forney Creek, Indian Creek, Noland Creek, Socco Creek, and the Oconaluftee River are nearby and accessible. The stocking of fish for the month of October usually takes place just prior or during the week we are there.

We have a total of 3 cabins reserved just for BUFF. Each cabin sleeps 8 comfortably. Our Women's Trip is piggybacking on the BUFF Club Trip at the same time. We are still looking for people to fill the 3 cabins we have reserved.

If you have questions, contact Cari Vota or Harry Pass. Sign up now online on our website.

Tenkara Class Planned for Saturday, Oct. 3

D. Brent Miller

The schedule opened up for the weekend of October 3rd, so, let's have another Tenkara class. Learn about this simple style of fly fishing and the art of Tenkara. Originally from Japan, this fly fishing method is a rod, a line and a fly.

Put October 3rd on your calendar for Tenkara.

Lake Erie Fishing Trip

Tom Bachey

On Saturday, August 15, 2026, my older son, Tom and I met Jeff Liskay at 5:50 AM to fish Lake Erie. We had been communicating with Jeff the week before and knew that today would be a difficult day to fish. I had successfully bid this trip at the BUFF banquet earlier this year. I had won this trip last year, too, so we were excited to go with Jeff again.

Jeff has a comfortable boat, basically an enhanced "Bass Boat" with lots of room, all kinds of storage and cubby holes full of gear, 2 gasoline engines, an electric trolling motor and all of the electronics you could have on one fishing boat. The weather turned out to be about as perfect as could be all day on Lake Erie in August: overcast, high maybe 80 deg F, and virtually no wind. The Bad News was, the water temperature was hovering around 80 degrees plus, so the fish, although plentiful, seemed sluggish.

Jeff expertly unloaded the boat from the trailer and off we went from the Rocky River Marina. We motored out into the lake and headed west to fish structure in approximately 20 feet of water. Tom and I started with spinning rods with walleye spinners loaded with nightcrawlers – no fly rods today. We cast out and slowly retrieved to entice fish to hit. After about 3 hours, we had landed a few walleye and a few freshwater drum or sheephead. Some of the drum were large and difficult to land but lots of fun. We would drift with the trolling motor back and forth but then move to another spot if we didn't land a fish. After around 4 hours with 5 walleye and 3 drum in the cooler, Jeff decided to change tactics and switch to trolling.

Trolling involved three bait casting rods in holders on each side of the boat with trolling planer boards on each line. For lures, Jeff put on large minnow lures with a deep-dive "lip" to get the lure down. Jeff varied the color, using green, blue and yellow to see which one would be more effective. I had never fished with planer boards before, so I learned that when one of the boards fell out of line with the others, fish on!! Sometimes, we knew exactly when a fish hit and sometimes we did not know. The obvious ones turned out to be big drum or very large catfish. When a walleye hit, they did not fight much so getting them in the boat was fairly easy. However, the drum and catfish fought hard, took drag and did not want to get in the boat. As the catfish came close to the boat, they heard the small motor and made another run, taking line and making us wonder if we would lose Jeff's lure(s). However, both Tom and I took our time and "finessed" each of these monsters into the net. One of the catfish was over 3 feet long!

At 1:45 pm, Tom and I decided we had had enough, so we headed back to the marina. In the cooler, we had 10 walleye and 4 medium-sized drum. Jeff did his best to put us on fish all day, and you could see both the walleye and other big fish along with the plentiful baitfish on his electronics. At times, you could watch the screen, see the lure pass right by the fish but they would not hit. Jeff said that we need to schedule a day in May when the water is cooler and the fish are more active. We are planning to do just that! Jeff Liskay is a true professional, very knowledgeable about Lake Erie, Lake St Clair, the Detroit River and other locations within the Great Lakes. Jeff also guides in British Columbia and conducts spey casting seminars in the Pacific Northwest. I highly recommend a guided trip with Jeff Liskay.

Your Photos

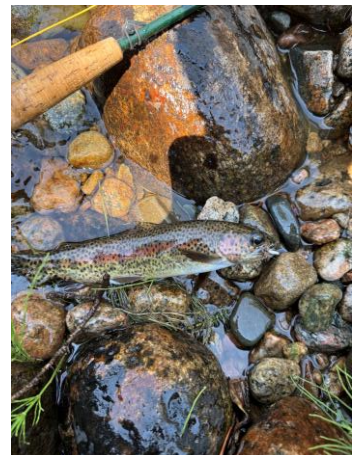
Lake Erie photos by Tom Bachey



Veterans Fly Fishing by
D. Brent Miller



Yellowstone Base Camp
photos by Mike Jones



Boone County Extension Class photos by Tom Bachey



BUFF Calendar

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Veterans Fly Fishing White Oak Farm	Tuesday, September 8 9:00 a.m. – Noon	Brent Miller
BUFF Dinner Meeting Oasis Conference Center	Wednesday, September 9 6:00 – 9:00 PM	Bob Miller
BUFF Board Meeting Springdale Community Center	Wednesday, September 16 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Bob Miller
Ohio Fly Tying Guild Online Zoom Meeting	Friday, September 18 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Gary Begley
Stream Quality Monitoring LMR Caesar's Creek Access	Saturday, September 19 10: a.m.	Tim Cassini & Tom Britton
Stream Quality Monitoring Four Mile Creek	Wednesday, September 23 10: a.m.	Tim Cassini & Tom Britton
Mad River Day Trip Mad River, Urbana	Thursday, September 24 TBD	Coming Soon!
Tenkara Class TBD	Saturday, October 3 10:00 to Noon	Brent Miller
NC Fall Trip/Women's Trip Bryson City, NC	October 7-11	BUFF: Harry Pass Women: Cari Vota

Directions to September Dinner Meeting at the Oasis Conference Center

Click on [link to Google Maps](#). 902 Loveland-Miamiville Rd, Loveland, OH 45140.

