



the BUFFer

Volume 50, Issue 10

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

October 2026

President's Letter

Our September meeting was wonderful. In addition to the normal chance for friends to get together, share some fish tales, and enjoy a good meal, we were able to enjoy a wonderful presentation by our speaker, Samantha Ferrarelli. She gave a great presentation on how dams work, focusing on our local dams and their effect on our waterways. Samantha is a manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and helped to make the process of building, maintaining, and managing the Dams easily understood! Based on feedback from membership, this is one of our most popular presentations in recent years, and we will be asking Samantha to come back at a future date and give us more background on the river history of our region.



Several months ago, we had a key board position (BUFFER Newsletter Editor) that we badly needed to fill as the BUFFer is the primary communication tool for many in our club. Fortunately, one of our members, Brent Miller, stepped up to take this important role. Thanks, Brent!!

Unfortunately, over the next several months, several important board roles will be opening.

David Fraley has been our "Webmaster" and IT guru for many years. A couple of years ago, David created a new BUFF website to replace our obsolete website. This new website uses current software technology. Due to the pressures of a new job and traveling, David will not be able to continue in this role beginning in a couple of months. David assures me that the process of updating this website does NOT require an IT degree or a high level of expertise in that field. Without someone to manage this process, our website will not be usable for very long!

In addition to David, John McGinnis will be moving on from his role managing our Facebook page and being responsible for email E-blasts. John has done a great job of managing these responsibilities for quite some time; however, we will need to fill this role in the near future.

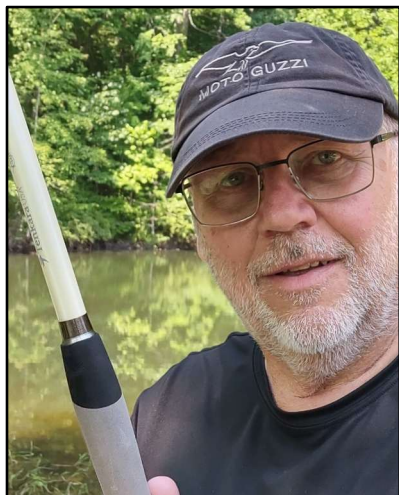
PLEASE volunteer! Communication is the lifeblood of the Buckeye United Fly Fishers. Our organization cannot function without the ability to effectively communicate our club social activities, trips, training, etc.

Bob Miller, President

"Communication is the lifeblood of the Buckeye United Fly Fishers. Our organization cannot function without the ability to effectively communicate...."

Editor's Notebook

Welcome to the October issue of the BUFFer. It's my fourth issue as editor. See anything different? Well, you should read the whole issue before you answer that question.



The fact is, this issue has been produced with new software. Ken Mandel did a great job with the BUFFer for eight years producing the newsletter with Microsoft Word. It's great for documents, but not newsletters, as Ken would tell you. I wanted to use Microsoft Publisher, but that product is going the way of the dinosaurs. Microsoft has decided they would discontinue the product effective October 1, 2026.

This issue of the BUFFer has been produced using Affinity, a Canva product. It was free. No cost to purchase, and it remarkably is similar to Publisher. The user interface is a little different, so it has been a bit of learning curve, but I am getting the hang of it.

This issue is 10 pages. Future issues may be a little larger, hopefully 12 pages. It depends on your contributions, and I must say my "Writers Wanted" column in the last issue produced some writers.

In this issue, you will find the usual columns and announcements. Page 5 is an article by Haruko Mizoguchi about how to get your BUFF logo merchandise. You'll also find Harry Pass' fishing trip report.

Page 6 will make you jump out of your seat or kayak if this happens to you while fishing. I received a letter from one of our Veterans, Pat Grey. She had an experience worth telling. She also lost her Tenkara rod in this North Carolina river, but she was not going in after it!

Page 7 is two articles about fly fishing. What Kind of a Fly Fisher are You, by Tim Cassini, and Fly Fishing is Calling You, by Steve Henke. I think you will find them entertaining and informative.

Page 8 are your photos.

Page 9 is my article about the funniest catch. Not mine. Jeff McElravy's. If he were here, he'd be laughing about this one with you, so it's a bit of a memorial to Jeff.

Page 10 is the calendar.

I had more than enough content for this issue, and had to pick and choose what to print. That's the editor's job. With that said, read on.

D. Brent Miller, Editor



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Bob Miller, President
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October BUFF Dinner Meeting

Join us at our next BUFF Dinner Meeting, Wednesday, October 14, 2026, for a time of camaraderie, good food and a special presentation by Jerry Darkes.

Schedule:

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

Buffet Items:

- Salad
- Soup(Chili)
- Baked Potato Bar

Jerry Darkes

“The status & Recovery of Lake Superior’s coasters”

Jerry Darkes has over 5 decades of fly-fishing experience in fresh and saltwater. He was one of the first fly-fishing instructors in NE OH. Jerry is certified by Fly Fishers International and has taught for over 30 years. Jerry is a well-known author with 4 books and numerous magazine articles to his credit.

Jerry has traveled extensively and hosts groups to a variety of fly-fishing locations.

He has been featured on radio, television, and various podcasts including Wet Fly Swing and Anchored Outdoors. Jerry is also on the Scott Rod and Scientific Anglers Pro Staffs.

He will do a program for women on the history of women fly tyers (prior to the club meeting) followed by a presentation on the status / recovery of Lake Superior’s coasters. For those who are not familiar with coasters, they are lake run brook trout and can reach upwards of 23”. They can be fished for on many of the connecting rivers to Lake Superior as well as the lake.

Women’s October Pre-Monthly Meeting with Jerry Darkes

Jerry Darkes, our October 14th speaker for the general meeting, will be at our special guest at a wonderful pre-meeting get together for our Women’s Meeting. Jerry will be giving a short presentation on “The History of Women Fly Tyers”. We will meet across the hall from our regular meeting room from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. No signup required.

Show up for either the Special Event and/or the general meeting and your name will be entered into a Special Women’s Raffle after dinner.

Look for more information on this special Women’s pre-meeting and general meeting in the next couple weeks.



BoD Committee Reports

Membership (Harry Pass) Two new members since last board meeting. 357 total members.

BUFFER (Brent Miller) Brent found a new software to use. Writers guidelines in process. Need Buffer contributions by the 25th.

Communications & Website (David Fraley & John McGinnis) David to leave the next year.

Membership Engagement (Bill Krimmer) Ken says the MI base camp trip is in October and should be communicated to the membership. MI Base Camp provided a fly rod for raffle at the fly show. After Work event at Sycamore Park on the 24th.

Meetings and Speakers (Jim Vota, Sam Hannah) Jerry Darkis is our speaker in October. Schultz Outfitters is a possibility for the future.

Public Education (Tom Bachey) Seven Hills situation unknown. The Boone County event went well, but possibly gave too much info.

Club Education (Jim Vota) Nothing new.

Fly Tying (Lane Stocker) Working on new patterns to tie and have a list of materials to pack for the fly show. Bill to reach out

Assets and Library (Dave Smith) Absent.

Conservation (Tom Britton & Tim Cassani) Caesars Creek & 4 Mile Creek SQM's scheduled for later this month.

Women's Fly Fishing Programs (Cari Vota) Room in the women's cabin for NC. A special program for women by Jerry Darkis at the October meeting. Women's only raffle at the October meeting.

Raffles & Door Prizes (Dave Smith) Absent.

FFI (Cari Vota) There are a couple of openings on the Ohio board. The Ohio council annual meeting is in October.

Veterans Fly Fishing Had a great outing in September with 8 veterans in attendance. The partnership with Veterans Connect is paying off. Brent to attend Veterans Float & Fish.

Fly show (Ken Mandel & Tom Bachey) Booth sales are going well. All speakers and tiers are set. Only 4 or 5 booths are left open. Working on a database of exhibitors to aid in show management. Event Brite costs being investigated.

Volunteers Needed

Webmaster

The webmaster position is one of our most important tools for communication. It is a WordPress-based site, easy to use. All you need to do is learn the basics, and David Fraley is willing to guide you through that. If you are interested, contact Bob Miller (513-378-6904; bob.miller@alta-gila.com)

Facebook & E-mail Communications

As important as the Webmaster, this position updates our Facebook page and sends out those e-mails that you all get from BUFF. The process is simple to learn, it just needs you. If you are interested, contact Bob Miller (513-378-6904; bob.miller@alta-gila.com)

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. 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).

BUFF Logo Wear is Back!

The long-awaited on-line site for ordering BUFF Logo apparel arrived in August. An easy way to reach the site is to go to the BUFF website homepage and click on the link. It will automatically take you to the site. Alternatively, you can type in <https://buckeyeflyfish.itemorder.com/shop/home/>. Once you reach the site, you can browse the catalogue and place an order.

You will have an opportunity to purchase BUFF Logo apparel through this on-line site during a 2-week open period, 3 times a year. The specific timing of each open period will be announced through BUFF e-blasts. But, if you are one of those people who likes to plan ahead, the next open period will be November 2 through 15. This will be your chance to order holiday gifts as well as get a new logo-wear before the 2027 BUFF Fly Fishing Show, where you can proudly wear it. It will be your only opportunity to purchase logo wear prior to the show.

Orders received during each open period will be processed as a batch so that production of small

number of customized products becomes economically feasible. Please allow 3 weeks from the closing date of a 2-week period for the finished product to become available.

There are three delivery options:

- You pick your order up at Stick N Stitch, the vendor providing this service to BUFF.
- Have it shipped to your home. Shipping charge will be added to your order.
- You pick it up at a monthly club meeting at Oasis. If you choose this option, you will need to pick it up within 2 club meetings. If an item is not picked up within this time period, it will be considered abandoned and will be donated to BUFF

Stick & Stitch is an independent, local small business located at 7535 Easy Street, Mason OH 45040. The proprietor, Ron Henry, made it possible to bring this on-line logo apparel service to our club.

Haruko Mizoguchi, Logo-site Coordinator

Cumberland River Trip

Harry Pass

On September 3rd John McGinnis and I fished The Cumberland river. We drove down September 2nd and stayed at Union Chapel Lodge. After meeting with Jim Saurheber, a guide with Cumberland Valley Fly Fishing, we had a great day on the river.

Jim took us to several spots on the river where we caught some large trout from 17 to 18 inches, maybe bigger. They were rod benders. The fish were all rainbows except each of us did get a brown. Jim provided the flies, leaders, and rods. We used 5wt rods and had two flies on. The top fly was a mop fly and the bottom one was a nymph. The nymph was a size 18. I did use my own rod most of the time.

Jim also coached us the whole time by instructing us where to cast and when to mend. We had strike

indicators on; we had to watch them closely. I learned not to watch John bring in a fish because I would get a strike when I wasn't paying attention to my own line.

I brought 18 fish to the boat and lost 7. One fish I lost was large and bent my rod double. It did not take long for it to break my line. I should have let it run and let the rod and reel do the work. John probably caught as many or more than I did. It was a very hot day with the temperature in the 90's but that did not stop the fish from biting and us from fishing all day.

I am looking forward to another trip with John and Jim.

What would you do?

A letter from Pat Grey

Some of you will recognize the name, Pat Grey. She was part of our Veteran's program starting with the Project Healing Waters days. She has joined us on occasion in our current program and may actually see her at the next one. She is currently living the RV life in retirement. --Brent

Hi Brent. I am in North Carolina. Bad day for Fly Fishing. Lost my Tenkara on this one.

I can't prove it because it's on the bottom of the Neuse River. I wasn't going in after it especially since the alligator snapped it in 2-3 pieces. Even if he didn't break it, I wasn't going in after it. lol

I really think it was an accident on the part of the gator. The man nearby on the dock was crab fishing with chicken. Gators LOVE chicken! I was pulling in my line as the man was pulling up & checking his crab line with a nice chunk of chicken on it. The gator came from below grabbing the chicken but also got my line. Since crab lines do not use fishing hooks - crabs grab on to the chicken & as they get pulled up the idea is to get your net under them

before they let go of the chicken. As the gator & man argued over who's keeping the chicken, the gator got tangled in my line. I tried to slide the rod in - make it shorter to try to reach the line to cut it and also to save the rod. It bowed. I tried to save it. It snapped. I lost the whole rod.

Oh yes, lost my rod. The man crab fishing nearby beat him off with his fishing net. This is my first

encounter with an alligator. I screamed so loud that the man said the alligator is now probably deaf. I think it also had a headache from being hit repeatedly in the head with the fishing net.

Cutting the line would have been easier on a regular fly rod but with the Tenkara the line is at the end of

rod, but I was not sticking my hand down there to grab the line. He snapped my rod.

The gator was still tangled with my line when he swam away. The alligators are protected so I reported the incident to the Federal Game Warden on the base. He said they will watch out for it to make sure it's okay. The game warden asked if I was OK and I said yes it was just scary. I told him that while I was in Alaska, I had three

encounters with bears. One of them was a brown bear that came into camp and smelt the side of my neck and up the side of my face. That was scary, but I felt like I had at least a 50-50 chance sitting very still. With alligators there's no 50-50 chance. With all my body parts accounted for, I start "drifting" home tomorrow.



What's Your Fishing Style?

By Tim Cassani

No, this is not about bait fisherman versus fly fisherman. Although I earnestly believe bait fisherman should be charged more for a fishing license. No, this is not about ability, catch and release versus catch and fillet, conservationism or education. We're fly fishermen after all. This is about style!

Our first option is the beautiful physics of casting flies. We weren't born fly fishing. We graduated from a simpler path and with that degree earned, the path started spinning out of control until the concept of 'style' arose. Too many fly fishing magazines and endless marketing campaigns got to some of us in varying levels. These are some of the styles we've all seen.

- **Johnny rubber legs:** These fisher people wear those rubber hip waders that clip onto your belt. He or she is obviously conflicted. Don't they know you can't catch fish with a fly rod unless you have \$500 waders?
- **The back packer:** Don't bother thinking about what flies to take. Put every fly you have ever tied or purchased in a massive backpack and wade in. God help you if you left your forceps in the bottom of the pack.

- **The water buffalo:** This is the next level of backpacker who has added a chest pack to their ensemble.
- **Fabio with a fly rod:** For this fisher person the first consideration is always appearance. They're absolute slaves to fashion. I'll borrow from the Almighty here, "He that cometh in vanity, departs in darkness."
- **Humpty Dumpty;** I think you know who I'm talking about here. He's famous I hear for his inactivity on club trips. Find a good rock to sit on and wait for the fish to come to you. A good clinical psychologist may say he has an aversion to wading. All those wet rocks can be slippery don't you know!

Any of these styles and many others can potentially be successful. I heard of a guy who was referred to as the Theologian. He's so busy praying for help from the next world that he never bothered to learn how to fish in this world.

Whatever your style, just have a good time and please..... work on your casting!

FLY FISHING IS CALLING!

Steve Henke

Life is about discovering new things, learning new skills, and finding new passions. Yet, too often, we hesitate to try a new interest, hobby, or sport because we convince ourselves that the learning curve will be too steep—or that it will be too difficult, too technical, or simply "not for us."

With a little ambition, a willingness to learn, and the support of the great folks at Buckeye United Fly Fishers (BUFF), anyone can learn to fly fish, enjoy the experience, and find success on the water.

I'm retired and a relatively new fly fisherman. Earlier this year, my son Logan and I decided to take the plunge. In late August, we traveled to Montana and Yellowstone National Park to experience the incredible streams and rivers there—and to try our hand at fly fishing.

I had recently become a member of BUFF after Bill Krimmer kindly invited me to attend a meeting this spring. I went, met several wonderful people, and quickly discovered that the club was filled with knowledgeable and generous anglers who were incredible resources for planning our Montana and Yellowstone adventure.

With their guidance—and just a little ambition of our own—we were able to head west with confidence, enjoy the sport, and make memories that we'll never forget.

And you don't have to figure it out alone. BUFF has a terrific community of people who are willing to share their knowledge, answer questions, and help you get started.

Give it a try. Learn something new. Find a new passion.

Fly fishing is calling you!

Your Photos



The Funniest Catch

D. Brent Miller

It was one of those BUFF dinner meetings back at the VOA. The meeting included an early start for those members who wanted to fish the VOA lake, and quite a few members took advantage of it. Jeff McElravy was one of them.

Jeff was quite a fly fisher. He was also a three-time president of BUFF. Respected. Valued. He was a real Boy Scout. Yes, He actually was a retired Boy Scout leader.

Jeff was fishing on that little inlet that led to a smaller section of the lake. A foot bridge across that inlet allowed walkers and others proceed on the trail around that larger body of water. Jeff was casting under the bridge and retrieving back towards the opening to the larger lake. Cast. Strip. Retrieve. Cast again. It was typical melodic rhythm that Jeff possessed.

He did not expect what happened next.

Just as he cast one more time under that bridge, a duck swam under it also. Jeff's fly landed smack on that duck's head, and the resulting flinch snagged that poor mallard on its crown. He did what any duck would do. Squawk, hiss and attempt retreat ... but ... he was hooked, and Jeff was trying to manage the situation while laughing.

It was quite a situation. A duck trying to escape its capture, and a fly fisher trying to free it.

Jeff reeled it in a little while the duck was trying to fly/ swim away. Squawking mad. Made more noise than you can imagine. You'd think its life was in danger, and he was letting all the other ducks know about it.

Jeff finally managed to grab the line, and hand-over-hand the line and duck into a hand-grabbing closeness. Jeff grabbed that duck by the neck and dealing with all the flapping wings and squawks, he dislodged the fly from the top of that duck's head and let it go. It was squawking and hissing all the way. And, it was free to continue its duck life.

Jeff was like that. He was a compassionate man who lived the values of a Boy Scout life. He was prepared for what might come and what to do.

Jeff passed away recently, and he is very much missed. We all miss him. His patience. His humor. His contribution to our fly-fishing world.

In 2024, I was asked to produce a new brochure for the club. I was looking for a cover photo that symbolizes our sport and generic enough to be all of us on that cover. The photo I found was one of Jeff. He was fishing at Sunnybrook and had one on the line. Because it is backlit, one

cannot really tell who it is, but it is Jeff. He gave permission to use the photo. It's an honor for our club to have Jeff on the cover. It's also a good reminder that he has caught more than fish with a fly rod. Maybe a few trees here and there too.



Calendar

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
After Work Fishing Kingswood Park	Thursday, October 1 5:00 - 8:45 PM	Bill Krimmer
Tenkara Class White Oak Farm	Saturday, October 4 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Brent Miller
NC Fall Trip/Women's Trip Bryson City, NC	October 7-11	BUFF: Harry Pass Women: Cari Vota
Veterans Fly Fishing White Oak Farm	Tuesday, October 13 9:00 a.m. – Noon	Brent Miller
BUFF Dinner Meeting Oasis Conference Center	Wednesday, October 14 6:00 – 9:00 PM	Bob Miller
Ohio Fly Tying Guild Online Zoom Meeting	Friday, October 16 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Gary Begley
BUFF Board Meeting Springdale Community Center	Wednesday, October 21 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Bob Miller
BUFF Dinner Meeting Oasis Conference Center	Wednesday, November 11 6:00 – 9:00 PM	Bob Miller
Mad River Day Trip	Tuesday, November 17	Bryan Tudor

Directions to September Dinner Meeting at the Oasis Conference Center

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

