

TIGHTLINES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Miami Valley Fly Fishers



January Meeting

The January 11th meeting will be via Zoom. The increased community spread of Covid-19 dictates that we suspend in-person meetings that would place our members and their families at risk.

You will receive more information by email on how to sign up for the meeting and the exact time it will begin.

January Speaker

Jerry Yates, Professional Fly Fishing Guide & Instructor

Jerry grew up fly fishing in the Rocky Mountains. After moving to the eastern U.S. as a young adult, he came to know and love the many waters of Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New York.



This is where he created Frog's Fanny Fly Treatment. He did so because he couldn't find anything that would make an artificial fly float properly. Frankly, he was tired of seeing flies look like a wet glob on the water. He wanted something that would keep the fly dry without pretreating it or having to change to a new dry fly. He wanted something that he could use to immediately treat the fly again, even after it was slimed by a fish. Frog's Fanny was the answer to everything. With the help of his father-in-law, he learned how to market it and get it into the hands of fly fishers everywhere. Today, Frog's Fanny is sold all across the U.S. and in many international locations.

When Jerry wasn't out fly fishing or selling Frog's Fanny, he served his communities as a police officer. Recently, after 27 years on the force, he retired and moved to the Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina where he is pursuing his dream of full-time fly fishing.

This move provided the opportunity for Jerry to build a new business. Called Stream Team Anglers, it is not only the new home for Frog's Fanny Fly Treatment, but it is also the business

President's Thoughts ...

Hello again club members.



It is with a heavy heart I am writing the

President's article this month. JD Dukes has been hospitalized and is resting to recover at this time. He reached out to me and asked if I would fill his shoes this month. He hopes to lead the meeting in January and we all hope he will be able to at that time. I pray for his speedy recovery.

At this time we are not going to continue with in-person meetings. JD's plans are to have Zoom meetings with Zoom speakers. Details will be sent out in a future email. I have attended other clubs' meetings who are doing this same thing. Some have been excellent and some not so great. Please turn off all background music, tvs, and pets when joining the Zoom meetings. It helps to keep the meeting going smoothly. Our plan is to do the best we can with the situation we have been dealt. Please stand behind the board as they are all in unfamiliar territory.

Last year's award winners will be announced at the Zoom meeting. Hope to "see" you all there.

Tightlines,
Eric Rice
MVFF Past President

under which Jerry works as a licensed guide and instructor. When working with clients, a significant part of the time he spends is focused on appropriate casting techniques, the entomology of aquatic insects, and how to effectively read water conditions to find fish. He particularly enjoys helping those who are new to the sport, in hopes of continuing the legacy of fly fishing for generations to come. Jerry also works with Mac Brown, the world-renowned fly fishing professional and casting expert, as a guide and instructor.

You can contact Jerry at streamteamanglers.com or by calling 740-296-4825.

Notes from the Library

January 2021

Anticipation, desire, hopes. Expectancy: anticipating with confidence. Such are words that describe a future, our future.

The new (and first) "smart" phone sits on the desk doing nothing, nothing at all save slowly sucking energy out of the wall charger. A loving wife has convinced me that the \$600 "smart" phone will do a thousand things more than the secondhand iPad, the third hand iPod and flip phone I have been using and do it a thousand times faster! So the iPad goes to the grandkids for home school, the iPod full of music goes to the five year old, who has discovered the Beatle's albums, and the flip phone, well there is a box on the top shelf of the closet in the garage for such things.

The phone I must learn to use, must teach, must download to, must upload from, must use to be beneficial and worth the expense. So it is with our desires and anticipated hopes and dreams. We know they will not be serendipitous. We know from all the deadlines we have faced and met that it will involve blood, sweat, and a few tears, but yes we can teach old dogs new tricks and new dogs wisdom through trial. So we anticipate and hope

Tying Class Canceled

The basic class slated to begin January 5th is canceled for the time being.

Get Your MVFF Emails

A number of members have had club emails blocked by their email applications. The best way to prevent this is to "whitelist" the club email address. The most common way to whitelist an email address is by adding it to your contacts or address book. Some email applications might have you add the email address to a safe list. There is no standard method and it might differ from application to application.

If you haven't already done so, add mvffemail@gmail.com to your contacts. In many cases that will do the job.

Dues!

Time to renew and it could not be easier. Just pay using our PayPal portal. Either pay with your PayPal account or by credit or debit card as a guest. Click the Pay Now button on our Home page . . . <https://mvff.us>



and work to keep our bodies and minds sharp and alive for our future.

Off The Shelf:

1. *Matching the Hatch*, Earnest G. Schwiebert

A practical guide to imitation of insects found on Eastern and Western trout waters.

2. *Trout Tactics*, Joe Humphreys

Updated and expanded.

3. *Selective Trout*, Doug Swisher and Carl Richards

A dramatically new and scientific approach to trout fishing on Eastern and Western rivers.

Each of these books are by authors of renown who have through experience and skill both in fly fishing and writing offered their best insights to teach the determined reader to succeed.

Coming soon to the MVFF Library: **Thomas McGuane: *The Longest Silence***

To all our friends at Miami Valley Fly Fishers we look forward with great anticipation to the times we will share together in the bright future.

Check it out. J.W. & C.F.

Trout Unlimited Guidance

Here's what Trout Unlimited recommends for responsible fishing, given what we know about the threats posed by the coronavirus outbreak and the COVID-19 disease:

- Practice appropriate social distancing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend keeping six feet between you and other people. We'll make it even easier — stay a rod's length apart.
- Wear a face covering when you come into contact with other anglers. A Buff or a mask can help keep you safe, and it's a sign of respect for others who are trying to stay healthy during these trying times.
- Avoid fishing from boats if you can — it's tough to maintain social distance in a boat. If you must fish from a boat, remember to cover your nose and mouth with a mask or a gaiter.
- Fish local. Stay close to home.
- Drive to the river separately if you're meeting a fishing buddy. Better yet, consider fishing alone (where that's safe, of course).
- If you don't feel well, or are running a temperature, it's best to stay home.

January Fly of the Month

Mini Bugger



Instructions by Bill
"Woody" Woodward

Photography by
Bob Cain

Recipe

Hook Wet, size 12 – 16
Thread Black 8/0
Weight Lead wire, size .10 (Optional)
Tail Marabou, color of choice
Body Palmered Ostrich Herl, color of choice
Head Thread

1. Flatten the barb on the hook and put it in your vise. Tie in the thread behind the hook eye and wrap it back to the start of the hook bend, laying down a good thread base. (If the fly is to be weighted, make 4-6 wraps of lead wire in the center of the hook shank, then tie in the thread and build a thread ramp at the front and back of the lead wire, covering the lead with thread for a smooth body, then wrap the thread back to the hook bend.)
2. Select a marabou plume and remove the barbs from one side to use as a tail. (The tail should be slightly longer than the hook shank.) Using a pinch loop, tie in the barbs and then bind down the butts to a point about 1/4 of the hook shank behind the hook eye. Trim off any excess butts. (If the fly is weighted, bind down the butts to the rear of the lead wraps, then trim off the excess butts.) Wrap the thread back to the tail tie-in point, making sure to

keep the wraps touching so that a smooth underbody is formed.

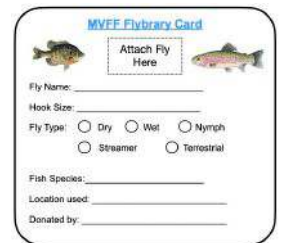
3. Select an ostrich herl and preen the barbs backward so that they are standing up. Tie the herl in directly in front of the tail. (To avoid creating a "bump" at the rear of the body, tie the herl in on top of the hook shank, then make the first wrap under the hook shank, then wrap over the top of the hook shank.) Wrap the herl in tight, touching turns up the hook shank to right behind the hook eye and tie it off. Remove any excess herl. (Be sure to preen the herl barbs backward with each wrap to avoid tying down any barbs.) If one herl is insufficient for the body, tie the first herl off and remove any excess, then tie in a second herl tight against first one and complete the body.

4. Form a neat small thread head, whip finish, and cut the thread.

The MVFF Flybrary

No, this is not a typo.

The "Flybrary" is an idea I stumbled upon while reading a flyfishing website this Spring. What it involves is a manner in which members and/or guests can share with each other the flies they use to catch fish. I can't tell you how many times someone has given me a fly and they have no clue the name of the fly, or how it's used, or the actual effectiveness of the fly. By sharing flies using the "Flybrary," all of those hurdles are overcome.



How the Flybrary works is by establishing a box displayed at our monthly meetings with cards in it. A person wishing to share a fly with others, gets a card, fills out some information about the fly, attaches the fly to the card, and returns it to the box. When another person sees a fly they might want to use, they can take the fly and the card out of the box. Now they have a fly that has been effective in catching fish, some information about how to use the fly, and they have the name of a MVFF member they can contact if they have questions about the fly, or the recipe to make it themselves.

You can get cards at the meetings (when they start happening again) or on the website at <https://mvff.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/MVFF-Flybrary-Project.pdf>.



Below is the 2020 Year-End-Review and fundraising letter from Hope Taft. We had a productive year even with the difficulties presented by the pandemic. We are looking forward to an even better 2021.

2020 has been an unusual year for people and organizations to say the least! The Little Miami Watershed Network was no different. Here is a brief update on how we were able to cope with the pandemic and what that means to the Little Miami River. Read more at . . .

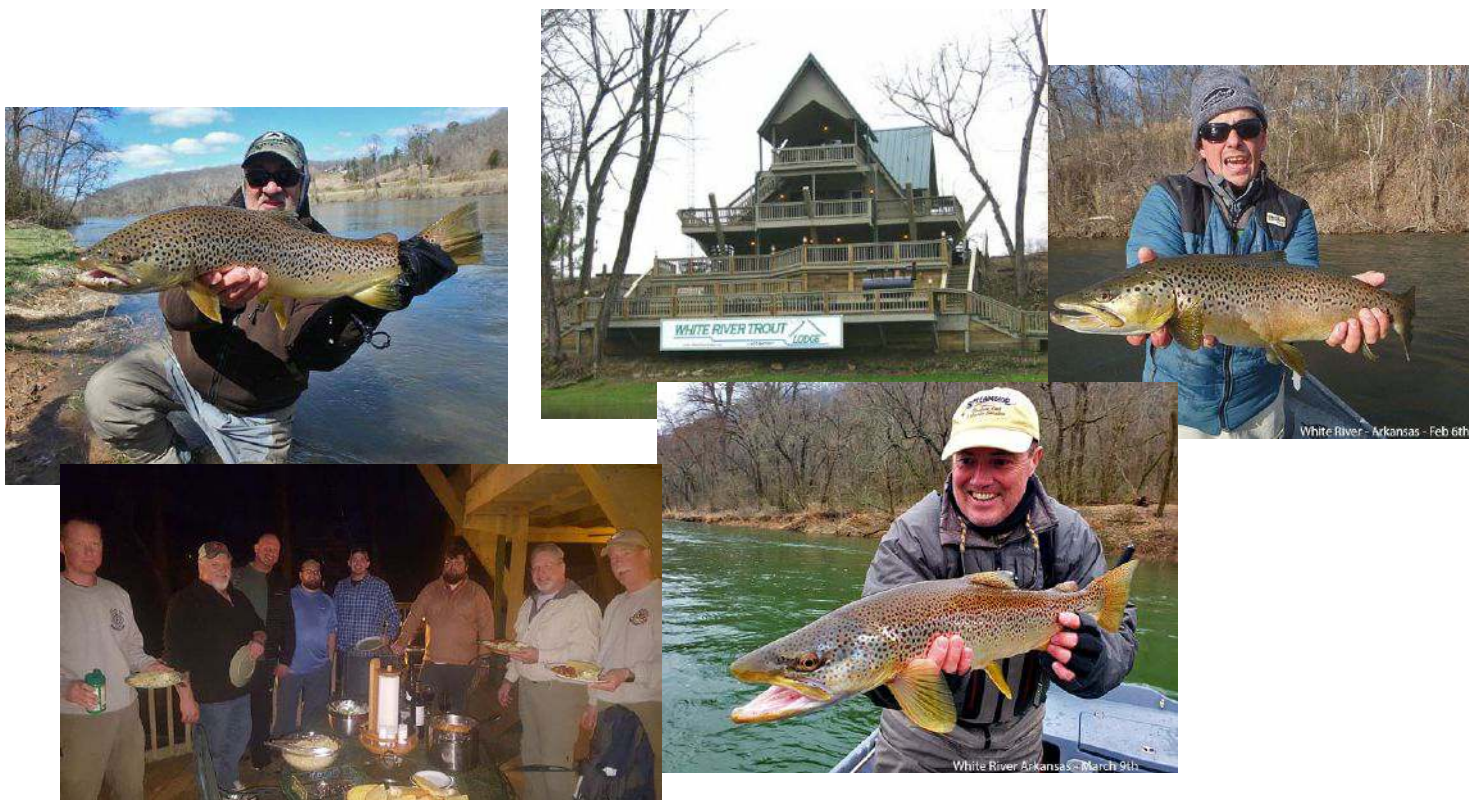
https://mvff.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/LMWN_2020_fundraising_letter.pdf

White River Trip

Winter can be long, and if you're not willing to fish locally in our Ohio weather I have a solution for you! THE WHITE RIVER in Arkansas!!!

Dropping a few miles South can make drastic weather differences, and at times we can be found fishing in T-shirts in mid-February. That's the second great reason to join Ohio Trophy Trout Hunters 2021 White River trout trip hosted by Kelly Neuman, of Streamside Guide Service.

What's the number one reason? I'm glad you asked. Just look at these shots from this fabulous fishery.



It's a great trip and the best bang for your buck in fly fishing, aside from your MVFF dues. You will literally be fishing for a Brown Trout of a lifetime on the waters of The White.

The trip is all inclusive that's your meals, a bed and 4 nights lodging in a very comfortable A-frame on the banks of the White River, and 3 full days guided from a boat . . . all for \$1250 . . . like I said, it's an unbeatable bang for your buck in fly fishing.

We arrive at the lodge on Sunday, February 14th around 5:00 p.m. and depart the morning of February 18th.

To join us or get your questions answered, get in touch with Ron Lewis at (937) 608-7183.



FFI Online is back with updated virtual content on casting, fly tying, fly fishing skills, conservation, FFI Women Connect, episodes on global fly fishing travel, and more.

See what's coming at <https://flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Online>

Also, consider subscribing to The Dispatch from FFI HQ. It's free . . . <https://tinyurl.com/yxp7hdnj>

And for My Next Trick

The other night I was watching TV with my wife, Sal. On the screen was one of the talent shows that are now so popular. The next contestant was a magician who specialized in making things disappear and reappear. After his act I said to Sal, "I didn't find that all that amazing. Fishermen and hunters make things disappear all the time." "They sure do", said Sal, "It's the reappearances they have trouble with." I had to admit she had me there. I remember the first time I was responsible for making something disappear during a fishing trip. Actually, I made a person disappear. It was all very mysterious and awe-inspiring. The most mysterious part about it was that I hadn't been trying to make anything or anybody disappear.

I was fishing at the time with my best friend Bill Durkee. We had snuck into Crazy Lakes, which was a sportsman's club that had long since gone defunct. It was still marked with No Trespassing signs because the county, which now owned the land, didn't want anyone to drown in the many strip mine ponds that littered the property. The trouble was that, along with leaving behind all those wonderful ponds, the club had also left behind many fish that had gone on populating the ponds. The local boys were afraid they would actually overpopulate the ponds and the fish would run out of food and starve to death. We considered removing some of the fish from the ponds a vital public service. After all, nobody would want to live near a bunch of ponds where the fish have all starved to death and floated to the top.

Bill and I were using one of our most common methods of fishing those particular lakes. Hewitt's farm was adjacent to one side of Crazy Lakes. We had come in via a route that involved a path that began on an abandoned road that ran down the side of the farm that was away from Crazy Lakes. We rationalized that we liked that path the best because it was well shaded and therefore more comfortable to travel at that time of day. The trail culminated near a brush pile at the apex of the parabolic end of one of the strip mine ponds. We could see many fish holding in the crystalline water just off the sticks and logs of that brush pile.

Bill and I began fishing immediately, splitting up on opposite sides of the brush pile so we would not be in each other's way. Besides being a great fish attractor, this particular brush pile had the added advantage of having fairly substantial stands of underbrush not far from each side. These came in handy when we heard someone else coming. Though the county had the property posted, it was not fanatical about enforcing that ban. It was well known all over the county that local kids fished, swam, hunted, rode motorcycles and even engaged in amorous exploits at Crazy Lakes, but nobody ever heard of anyone getting more than a \$20 fine for being caught there.

Still, Bill and I were about eleven years old at the time and the thought of tangling with the county deputies struck severe terror into our hearts. Also we had been raised in that farming community and we generally had great respect for No Trespassing signs. Crazy Lakes, however, we considered a special case.

Bill held up a smallish pickerel for me to see after it had attacked his spoon. I was unhooking a hand-sized green sunfish at the time. Then I heard it. The sound of the rusty hinges on the gate where the lane came into Crazy Lakes from the gravel county road was unmistakable and was known to drain every bit of color from the face of local kids for days after they had heard it. The reason it had that effect was that only the county deputies had keys to the gate. Upon hearing that sound, I burst forth with the incantation, "County Mounties!" I say incantation, because when I looked across the brush pile, I found that Bill had totally vanished! I couldn't even see his tennis shoes beneath the underbrush. He was nowhere to be seen.

I watched from beneath my own set of underbrush as the deputy drove by, eating his lunch as he glanced around, scanning the ponds for trespassers in a cursory fashion. I knew he wouldn't be back because Bill and I had seen this show before. The deputies would come in from the county road that ran along the East side of Crazy Lakes, drive through and exit on the railroad access road that bordered the South side of the former club. Once the deputy was gone, I went across to Bill's side of the brush pile.

There was no sign of him! It seemed like he had even rubbed out his footprints. The hill to my right had trees on it, so I started to climb it to see if I could see Bill that way. Upon taking my fourth step up the slope, I encountered an enormous bull snake. Wishing that I could make bull snakes disappear, I decided I would try to backtrack to the bikes and see if Bill had gone back there.

When I arrived at the stone fence by the abandoned road where we had stashed the bikes, I found that I had even made Bill's bike disappear! When I got out to the county road, I thought for an instant that I saw Bill in the far distance, but dismissed the notion immediately. First of all, that person had to be on a motorcycle to be moving that fast. For another thing, going that direction, Bill would be taking the long way home.

During the course of a lifetime spent hunting, fishing and generally spending time in the outdoors, I have made numerous other things disappear. Dove hunting is a wonderful way to make things disappear! Doves are masters of this art. They can make themselves disappear from any patch of sky occupied by pellets from a shotgun. This is related to the disappearing act the hunter provides. Over the course of an afternoon's hunt, dove hunters can make numerous boxes of shotgun shells disappear into nothing but thin air!

Once I saw a friend of mine make my brand new anchor disappear. I will say he did have several advantages in this performance. I don't know how he had trained a bass to distract me at exactly the right time, but its splash as it broke into a school of shad turned my head as Tom decided to drop anchor to combat the breeze that had come up. The biggest advantage he had was that I had just put the anchor in



(Cont'd on next page)

And for My Next Trick (Cont'd)

the boat as we arrived and we had been so eager to get on the water that I had neglected to tie the bow rope to it. Still, it was a masterful performance as he lifted the anchor, pronounced the magic words, "This looks like a great spot!", and dropped the anchor over the side. Nobody ever saw that anchor again.

By the way, outdoors enthusiasts should be extremely careful when choosing what words to use. By all means avoid saying things like, "It doesn't get any better than this", "It could be worse", or "Did you hear something?". The simple phrase, "The truck is just over that saddle" has been known to make whole parties of hunters disappear for many days!

Outdoor enthusiasts can also make numerous types of things appear. Bills are one of the most common items that anglers and hunters can conjure up. This is, therefore, not considered that remarkable among outdoor enthusiasts; sort of a beginner's level trick. Other things that routinely appear when anglers and hunters are in the area are cuts, scrapes, tears in things such as waders and vehicle upholstery, flat tires, bent and broken axles, strained backs, and rainstorms. By far the most common item to appear in the vicinity of outdoor enthusiasts is gear.

My wife often remarks on my ability to make things appear. She will open one of my tackle boxes and start pointing out the new lures that have appeared in it since she last looked in there. She sometimes does the same sort of thing when looking in my gun locker and noting the new arrivals. Usually she does this sort of thing when she is negotiating to determine how much money I can cause to appear in her hands for some project of hers.

There are things that scarcely ever appear around outdoor enthusiasts. Money, tow trucks, feeding fish, numerous game animals, good weather, rock-free campsites, a second copy of the lure a monster fish just broke off and fully-charged batteries seem to mystically evade the locales inhabited by anglers and hunters.

Transmutation, or the ability to change one thing into something else is also common around anglers and hunters. Changing a garage into a room filled with gear is a common trick in this vein. Changing a vacation or college fund into a new kayak or crossbow is another common ploy. The cautionary tale when it comes to transmutation is that women seem far better at it than men. They are especially adroit at sequential transmutation. For example, when an angler changes the trip-around-the-world fund to his new bass boat, his wife will then, in the blink of an eye, transmute that bass boat into her new evening gown, season tickets to the ballet, and new tuxedo for the husband who is still standing there blinking and wondering what happened to that new boat smell.

While I was thinking about that trip to Crazy Lakes, I remembered that I wanted to order more red bucktail so I could tie up some Mickey Finns for a trip to fish for Chain Pickerel with my friend John Power. I began rummaging on my desk to find my Fly Stuff catalog. When I could not find it, I resorted to the information desk. "Sal, have you seen my Fly Stuff catalog?", I said. "Apparently you made it disappear", she said, busily rummaging about on her desk. "And what is it that you are searching for, my dear?", I asked. "My reading glasses", she said. I reached to her forehead and pulled the glasses down to nestle on her nose. "I guess the key to reappearance is that someone else needs to cause the disappearance", I said. "Why don't you disappear?", she said. And poof, just like that, I was at the lake!

~ Ken Davy

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

(Thanks to Jeff Warden for always passing info on to me.)

Ohio DNR Home page - <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/home>

Ohio DNR News page - <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/news>

Interesting link . . . doesn't really cover fly fishing, but still interesting.

<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/education-training/wild-ohio-harvest-community/fishing-tips>

From TakeMeFishing.org

<https://www.takemefishing.org>

<https://news.takemefishing.org/license-sales-1020>

<https://www.takemefishing.org/blog/october-2020/7-psychological-benefits-of-fishing-with-a-fly-rod/>

<https://www.takemefishing.org/how-to-fish/fishing-and-conservation/how-to-humanely-catch-a-fish/>

Here's a link to sign up for emails from Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife - https://feedburner.google.com/fb/a/mailverify?uri=OdnrDivisionOfWildlife&loc=en_US

TU Madmen Work



Here are recent photos of the logjam removal on the Mad River. Thanks to Dave Dailey and Mike Palatas for their hard work, while I directed the operation. Basically, watching them work. We may have other down trees/logjams to address this winter and also preparation for potential in-stream habitat improvement projects.



I am reaching out to you again to assist me in developing the ADOPT-A-BRIDGE/STREAMWATCH Program, to address the litter/open dumping issue in the Mad River watershed. Thank you to those of you who identified a bridge(s) where you would pick up litter. To start building the program we need more volunteers to cover, as many as possible, bridge areas or other public access areas in the Mad River watershed. Some high use areas will need multiple volunteers. The only real commitment for a volunteer is to collect litter at a specific location(s), and allow to be identified, by name, as part of the program. If available, volunteers may be asked to assist with periodic stream clean ups. Once there is a base of volunteers, we can reach out to TU Madmen Chapter and fly fishing club members, as well as other groups and organizations to increase program volunteers. Also, to improve public relations and build support with local leaders, communities, agencies, landowners, businesses, etc.

Please consider adopting a bridge or bridges and being part of the program. If you want to discuss further please call: (740) 816-2213.

Tom Allen

TU Ohio State Council and Madmen Chapter Conservation Chair



Mad River Drift

Here is the current TU Madmen Chapter newsletter. Thank you so much for your continued support and I am hoping that sometime in the coming year, that we can have an outing on the Mad. Looks like we will be busy this winter with down trees and logjams and preparation for potential in-stream habitat improvement projects. FYI-the Mad is fishing well, including a good number of carry overs. The final stocking numbers from ODNR were around 20,000 total browns, made up of around 13,000 yearlings and around 7,000 surplus fingerlings.

Please stay safe and wishing you and your families a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Tom Allen

TU Ohio State Council and Madmen Chapter Conservation Chair

<https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=8049cc4f0cf9c67bcac699302&id=dca23659ba>

MVFF

Miami Valley Fly Fishers Inc., established in 1975 and re-organized in 2016 as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement and preservation of fly fishing in Ohio. Our goal is cleaner water and brighter streams.

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Clipart courtesy of the artist,
Dave Whitlock
davewhitlock.com



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CALENDAR

All in-person events are canceled for the time being.

Check the [MVFF Calendar](#) page or our Facebook Events page for updates & details

<https://www.facebook.com/MiamiValleyFlyFishers/>

Remember, you can find many photos of MVFF happenings on our [Facebook](#) page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MiamiValleyFlyFishers/photos/>

Help!

We have had some very good articles from members in prior issues. It would be great if more of you would submit materials. So if you have been on a fishing trip and want to write an article and share pictures, please send info my way. Maybe you have tactics, equipment tips or some other knowledge you would like

to share. Or you have run across interesting websites you think others might also enjoy. We would welcome the contributions.

Also, If you have ideas on what you would like to see in Tightlines let me know. My contact info is on this page. Thanks.

~ Tom Arnold

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing



MVFF & Dayton VAMC

The MVFF 2020 Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program has been on hold since last March when the lockdown orders were instituted. We were in the midst of the rod building classes at the time.

We're hoping that sometime in 2021 we will be able to get back to our important PHWFF activities. In the

meantime, check out ProjectHealingWaters.org. There's lots of good information to find in exploring this site.

Support Our Local Shops & Those Who Support MVFF

Fisherman's Headquarters
142 S. Keowee St.
Dayton, Ohio 45402
937.222.2224
fishermanshq.net

ReelFlyRod.com
7635 Wilmington Pike
Dayton, Ohio 45458
937.434.8472
ReelFlyRod.com

Mad River Outfitters
813 Bethel Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43214
614.451.0363
madriverroutfitters.com

SmithFly
124 N. Main St.
Piqua, Ohio 45356
937.335.7400
smithfly.net

Great Miami Outfitters
Cross Pointe Shopping Center
101 E. Alex Bell Rd. #140
Centerville, Ohio 45459
937.938.5009
greatmiamioutfitters.com



The Miami Valley Fly Fishers, Inc. is an active Affiliate Club of Fly Fishers International, an international club promoting the benefits of fly fishing and conservation