

TIGHTLINES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Miami Valley Fly Fishers



December Meeting

Our next meeting is December 11th

Kohler Banquet Center
4572 Presidential Way
(Directions on Website)

Meal Price - **\$15.00**

Fun begins at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner reservations are required. There are no standing reservations. You need to make a reservation each month. You can also cancel your upcoming reservation by going to the same page listed below.

Please make your reservation at

<https://mvff.us/reservation/>

by 9:00 p.m. on December 7th

November Raffle Winners

Here are the November meeting winners . . .

- Orvis Clearwater 4 wt, 8'6" Rod with Orvis Clearwater Reel, Scientific Anglers Line, and Backing WON BY: Ken Norton
- Nymph Fishing Book by George Daniel WON BY: Nathan Via
- Simms Challenger Mesh Duffle WON BY: Alvin Vollmer
- 2 Trout Travel Mugs + Seattle's Best Coffee WON BY: Allen Berg
- Fishing Thermometer WON BY: Dave Williams

Good luck at the December raffle where we will have some upgraded prizes!

~ Lew Hofmann



President's Thoughts

Hello everyone and welcome to my December report.

First, thank you to the great crowd of members and visitors that attended the November meeting.



I want you to know that serving as the MVFF President this past year has been a rewarding experience for me and has challenged me in many ways.

When I was elected as President, my goal was to improve MVFF for the future in the club's outreach and volunteer programs. I believe this has been accomplished but we must continue to move forward to share the love for fly fishing and protecting the environment which will provide a future for fly fishers of all ages.

I want to reflect on this past year of 2023. February MVFF I attended the BUFF show in Cincinnati. It was the first show since Covid. Thank you to all the volunteers and the beginner fly tiers who gave their flies away. March was the MVFF Annual Auction which raised over \$5,000.00. In April three members from MVFF were able to present a one-day class about protecting the environment and introducing fly fishing to students at Bellbrook Sugarcreek Middle School. Next year I plan on doing the same in April 2024. In June MVFF members voted to fully fund one lady to Casting for Recovery and one gentleman to Reel Recovery. I hope this support will continue in the future.

Sadly, in July we lost a long-time member, Bill Grimpe, who was involved in many programs that promoted fly fishing. Also, a check for \$1,500.00 was presented to Mike Redmond (Reel Recovery). Paula Smith started the t-shirt program for volunteers. Also, we moved the storage unit to Xenia. Thank you to Jeff and Cindy Davis for your hard work on that project.

In August MVFF presented a \$1,500.00 check to Mary Lee Hahn (Casting for Recovery).

(Continued next page)

President's Thoughts (cont'd)

Eleven MVFF members attended the memorial for Bill Grimpe in September. JD Dukes read a letter of recognition and presented it to his family renaming our Veterans Fund to the William Grimpe Legacy Fund for Veterans.

October 7-8th was the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Adventure at Five River MetroParks. Thank you to Kelly Kingery and the volunteers that made this a great success.

MVFF members elected in November a new Vice President, Ken Davy; Secretary, Jeff Davis; Treasurer, Walt Konek. I have no

doubt that Paula Smith and these board members will continue to lead MVFF forward in 2024.

So far this year we have welcomed 23 new members. We as members need to dedicate ourselves to reach out and expand MVFF and volunteer for club activities so that we can share the love of fly fishing with others.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday,
John Warner, President

Secretary's Notes For November 2023

President John Warner opened the meeting noting the importance of the mentoring program and the need for continuing support. He talked about recent work programs completed on the banks of the Mad River; clearing of invasive honeysuckle. Four students from the Centerville High School Environmental Sciences class attended, Ella Stevens, Konnor Kuns, Jaydon Benson, and Kade Wolf. This is an outreach program headed by member Bill DeShurko and instructor Robert Erwin. Also visiting was Kent Wolf and Madelyn Garis. There were fifty-seven members in attendance.

John recognized all the veterans in attendance reading a quote by President Harry Truman from the WWII memorial in Washington, D.C.

Elections of officers to the Board of Directors resulted in the continuation of Walt Konek as Treasurer and Jeff Davis as

Secretary for two more years. Ken Davy was elected Vice-President for the upcoming calendar year and Paula Smith will assume the President's duties per the MVFF Bylaws.

Chaplin Shawn Johnson noted the sudden passing of Paula's grandson expressing respect and sympathy from the entire club.

Nathan Via shared photos and description of the last Veterans PHW outing at The Zanesfield Rod and Gun Club. Everyone caught trout and had a great day. Thanks goes to member John Raisbeck for making the outing possible and personally paying for the noon meal.

John announced the sign-up for the beginner fly tying classes to begin the first Thursday in January. The annual BUFF show is scheduled for February 3, 2024.

The evening's speaker was George Daniel, award winning caster and medalist nymphing style fisher. His presentation drew wide attention and many questions. Thanks goes to member John Young for organizing such great speakers for the winter meetings.

Respectfully, Jeff Davis



2024 Dues

We are now accepting payments for 2024 dues. The best way to pay is online through our PayPal portal either with your PayPal account or as a guest with a credit or debit card (you do not need a PayPal account). This is also the easiest way for us as it eliminates the burdens of dealing with check and cash deposits.

Let's try to get memberships paid by the end of December!

The payment link is at the bottom of the Home page of our website . . . <https://mvff.us>

Centerville High School Class Update

We got off to a late start but ended with a bang this fall.

Mr. Erwin's Environmental Sciences class is the biggest yet with 25 students. Due to busy schedules for both the class and me we didn't get started until October. And with my knee replacement surgery, we finished the fall semester at the beginning of November. Short but productive.

In our abbreviated time we still were able to get in our Introduction to Fly Fishing Class, a classroom casting lesson, and a somewhat surprisingly successful fishing outing at Centerville's Oak Grove Park.

So, while short, I think we have the kids hooked, and ready to hit the ground running in January when we will start with our fly tying classes. Then finish with an outdoor casting class and a trip to Tom and Sue Boice's pond for "graduation".

Thanks again to MVFF for all the support on this project, and especially to my fellow instructors: Shawn Johnson, Jeff Davis, Steve Rosengarten, and John Young. Now in our 4th year, with everyone's input and support, I think we are getting this down and have a very solid plan for going forward.

~ Bill DeShurko



Mentoring Update

From the Mentoring Committee,

The MVFF Mentoring Committee and mailbox (mvffmentor@gmail.com) was stood up in July 2021 with the Mentor and Mentee resources and sign-up pages going live on the club website shortly thereafter.

The Program has been successful so far with 19 total matches – both Committee-Matched and Mentor Self-Matched. There were no matches in 2022 and the bulk of these matches are from this year, 2023. With many of the previous COVID restrictions now gone, interest in the MVFF Mentoring Program continues to grow. We highly encourage Mentors and Mentees to share their experiences in Tightlines or with the Committee using the Mentoring mailbox listed above.

Program interest continues at a rate beyond our capacity with the number of Mentees greatly outnumbering those that have signed up to Mentor. Those who have become Mentors are now maxed out in their abilities to successfully Mentor new people except for two Mentors that just recently signed up - THANK YOU!!

Our demand for Mentors is high, but our supply is quite low. If we do not get more members signing up as Mentors we will have to put new Mentees on a 'Wait List' until a Mentor becomes available - OR - **SHUT DOWN** the program altogether. (The Board has been advised of a possible shut down of the program.)

Please take a minute or two to go to the club website and sign up as a Mentor - it's that simple.

You do not have to be an expert in any specific area, **just a willingness to share your knowledge with others**. Signing up could give you that extra boost or excuse to get out of the house and do something you enjoy - fly fishing!

Please consider becoming a Mentor and help spread the "wealth" and enjoyment of all that Fly Fishing entails.

Sincerely,

MVFF Mentoring Committee

2024 Beginners Fly Tying Class

There are still openings available!

It is now time to sign up for the 2024 Beginners Fly Tying Classes. These classes are free to members as one of the many benefits of MVFF membership.

The classes will begin January 4, 2024, running from 6:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. Class will continue weekly for 8 weeks. Classes will again be held at Rona Community Church, 1082 Rona Pkwy Dr., Fairborn, OH 45324.

It is easy to sign up; registration for class is now underway. You may register by telephone or by email (email is preferred), by contacting Frank Cox at fcx@woh.rr.com or by signing up at the December MVFF meeting. You may call at 937-603-1312 and leave him a message. Class size is limited to 20 so sign up early. Class sign-up information needed is as follows: name, email and home address, phone number - *and a request to rent a tool kit if you need one.*

We normally have excellent attendance at class. Knowing how many members will be participating helps us to plan for materials and our budget request to the MVFF board for the classes. We only have 10 loaner kits available.

For new students, it is best if you can make all classes (but not required) as you will learn new techniques each week that help to build your fly-tying skills.

If you need to rent a tool kit for the class, the cost is \$75.00. The rental fee will be returned to you at the last session, provided all tools and storage devices are returned in good working order. Please let Frank Cox know if you plan on renting a tool kit.

If you desire to purchase a tool kit, one option for you would be to go Fisherman's Headquarters on Keowee Street in Dayton or Reel Fly Rod in Bellbrook, where you can receive a discount for being an MVFF member. You may also purchase kits on-line or from other fly shops.

Some important points:

- If you have a cold, a temperature or feel sick in any way it is recommended that you do not attend class that day.
- We will maintain a protective distance as much as possible while assisting individuals who need help.
- This is going to be a basic class for those new members and members who would like to learn how to tie flies and have missed out on previous classes. Class size is limited to 20 so sign up early.



The planned class schedule is below. Nearly all of these flies are on the club website at <https://mvff.us/flyes/>

Jan 4 - Slide show, tools, use of whip finishing tool/optional
Wooly Bugger and Squirmy Wormy if time allows

Jan 11 - Ken's Crazy Ant Modified and Foam Beetle

Jan 18 - Tups Indispensable and Ray Charles Flashback Sow Bug

Jan 25 - Bob's Flashabou Nymph and Sparkle Dun

Feb 1 - Dyret Caddis and Bubble Boy Emerger

Feb 8 - Deep Sparkle Pupa and Mop Fly

Feb 15 - Orange Stimulator and Orange Fish Hawk

Feb 22 - Tom Thumb Double Humpy and Screaming Banshee

~ Frank Cox

TU Mad River Chapter Update

ODNR-DOW has stocked rainbows in the lower Clear Fork and Clear Creek Rivers. Unfortunately, they only stocked 500 in the lower Clear Fork but 1,300 in Clear Creek. We have recommended 1,000 in Clear Creek and 2,000 in the lower Clear Fork, in the fall, because the Clear Fork has more holding water and areas to fish.

Recently, we had 2 guys that took 6 undersized browns at Pimtown. They didn't know the special regulations for the Mad and upper Clear Fork are 2 per day and have to be 12" or larger. I think there is a lot of that going on, including the rainbow trout fishing in the lower Clear Fork and Clear Creek, where they are only allowed 2 trout/day. People are only reading the stocked pond regulations, where they are allowed 5 trout per day and no size limit. We are working on signage and please have your members watch out for violators.

~ Tom Allen

The Unabashed Angler's Dictionary (Part 5)

J

Jacket – Jackets are often necessary for the fly angler, due to the affinity of certain types of fish to cool or damp weather. Fishing jackets can often serve as an alternate means of transporting the necessary gear for an outing. This is one reason that it is a good practice to avoid using one's fishing jacket on other types of outings. Nothing ruins a night at the movies like having your paramour slip a hand in one of your pockets only to become impaled on a fly you forgot to return to a fly box. Another reason for the separation of usage is that there are certain aromas associated with the sport of fishing, aromas that are frowned upon in more genteel surroundings.

K

Knots - Knots associated with fishing can be divided into two main categories: those being intentional and accidental. Accidental knots are almost always unwelcome. They appear out of nowhere, often in mid-cast, although some of the most fiendish ones materialize in the bottom of your boat during a particularly spirited battle with a fish. Often the angler must extricate his or herself from this type of knot during the process of untying it.

The intentional knots used in fly fishing can be divided into several types. There are [arbor knots](#), knots for joining the [backing to the fly line](#), knots for joining the fly line to the leader, knots for joining the leader to the tippet, such as the [Surgeons' Knot](#), and knots for tying the fly to the tippet.

The most varied type of knot is the type used for tying the fly to the tippet. Some are simply used to establish a solid connection. These would include the [Clinch Knot](#), the [Improved Clinch Knot](#), the [Trilene Knot](#), the [Orvis Knot](#), the [Davy Knot](#), and the [Double Davy Knot](#). This last knot is named after its creator, Davy Wotton, and not this lowly author. Other knots used for tying on flies have specific purposes, such as the [Turtle knot](#), which is most appropriate for use with wet flies and streamers tied on hooks with turned-down eyes, to achieve a straight presentation. A type of knot that is highly useful for those who swim streamers is the loop knot. The two best loop knots are the [Perfection Loop](#) and the [Rapala Loop](#). The Rapala Loop is also handy for making leaders

of wire when fishing for pike or other toothy creatures. Loop knots allow wet flies and streamers to show much more action than they would if used with the jam knots listed above.

L

Line - No, I don't mean what somebody told you in a local fly shop that resulted in a trip to a pond bereft of fish. The line used in fly fishing is the most important piece of gear the angler has. The line transmits the energy from the motion of the rod through the leader to the tippet and the fly. If the line has too much spool memory, the energy of the cast is wasted. The quality of a fly line is determined by its ability to extend the power of a cast, with control. Fly lines come in different weights from 0 to 15, and in almost any color one can imagine. There are sinking lines and floating lines. There are also lines that float but have a sinking tip. There are almost as many different types of tapers in fly lines as there are fish to catch with them. Practicality has a lot to do with the individual angler's choice of fly line. If you will be pursuing fish in extremely clear water, stay away from brightly colored fly line. If your quarry rarely exceeds 5 pounds, you should be able to get by quite nicely with a 6 weight. If you will be fishing mainly for panfish, a 4 weight should be as much as you will need. Floating fly lines will suffice for most situations. Carry a sinking tip you can loop onto the end of your line for those few times when you need to get your fly down to be in the strike zone. If you fish for trout in lakes quite often, you may need a line with a sink tip or possibly a fully sinking line. A point to remember is that you should never attempt to keep sinking line off the water for long. Either learn to spey cast or make as few false casts as possible. The increased density of a sinking line combined with a shooting basket will help you send sinking line quite far, indeed.

Loop - There are four main types of loops a fly angler will be concerned with. There are the loops at the ends of your fly line, and at the end of your leader. There are [dropper loops](#) used for multiple fly rigs. As previously mentioned in the Knot section, there are loop knots. The type of loop a fly angler must remain concerned with at all times is the loop that a fly line scribes in the sky above them. A tight loop is the desired effect although it can be difficult to achieve under certain circumstances. An open loop creates all manner of difficulties, although when using heavy flies, it is often advisable to open your loop a bit to remove the jolt of a heavy fly coming to the end of the loop too suddenly.

~ Ken Davy

Mad River Drift

Here is a link to the archive of the Trout Unlimited Mad River Chapter newsletter. When you open the link it gives you access to the current and previous newsletters. You can also subscribe here.

<https://us20.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=8049cc4f0cf9c67bcac699302&id=e41b50e209>

Ohio DNR Education Registration

The Department of Natural Resources regularly has educational opportunities on a variety of outdoor, wildlife and sporting topics. Check out the link below and click on Register to read more about particular events you might be interested in attending . . .

<https://apps.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/educationregistration/>

December Fly of the Month

Zoo Cougar

Instructions by Bill "Woody" Woodward
Photography by Bob Cain



Recipe

Hook TMC 300, size 2-8
Thread Tan 6/0
Tail Marabou, yellow
Body Sparkle Braid, pearl
Underwing Calf Tail, white
Wing Two matched Mallard Flank Feathers, dyed Wood Duck
Head Yellow or Olive deer hair

1. Place the hook in the vise and tie the thread in about 1/4 of the hook shank behind the hook eye and wrap a tight thread base back to the hook bend. Then wrap the thread back to the tie-in point and then back to the hook bend again creating a crosshatched thread base.
2. Take a marabou feather and stroke the fibers upward, measure it to about 1/2 a hook shank length, and tie it in at the hook bend as a tail. Lift the marabou butts and wrap the thread forward to the thread tie-in point.
3. Now lay the marabou butts flat on top of the hook shank and wrap thread over them back to tail, then reverse direction and wrap the thread forward again to the original thread tie-in point. (The idea here is to create an even under base for the body.) Trim off any excess marabou. The thread should be at its original tie-in point.
4. Tie in a 4"-6" piece of Sparkle Braid by one end where you left the thread and, with the length of it going toward the hook bend and laying on top of the hook shank, wrap the thread over it back to the tail, then return the thread to the original thread tie-in point. Let the thread hang.
5. Grasp the Sparkle Braid and wrap it forward in tight touching turns to the original thread tie-in point and tie it off. Remove any excess braid.
6. Cut and clean a clump of long calf tail. Measure the clump so that it reaches from its tie-in point at the front of the body back to the middle of the tail, then tie it in at the front of the body with several tight thread wraps. Trim off the butt ends of the hair as squarely as possible in front of the body.
7. Select 2 large, matched mallard flank feathers and strip the fluff off their bases. Stack them on top of each other with their tips touching and both curving down (concave sides down) so that they make one unit. Measure them so that their tips reach to the middle of the tail and tie them in with several tight thread wraps on top of the underwing at the same point where the underwing was tied in. Do a whip finish on top of the feather tie-in wraps. Trim off the feather butts squarely with the underwing butts. (At this point it is suggested that you add head cement or

superglue to the tie down wraps to keep everything secure.) The thread should be at the front of the wing.

8. Cut, clean, and stack a large clump of deer hair. Lay it on top of the hook shank at the front of the wing with the tips extending back to the middle of the wing and make 3 soft turns of thread around it on top of one another. Hold on to the hair butts as you do this to keep the hair in place. Now pull straight down firmly on the thread and loosen your hold on the hair, allowing it to spin around the hook shank. Once the hair quits turning, make several thread wraps through the butts to the front of the hair butts. Draw the hair butts back and take several thread turns in front of them. Let the thread hang.
9. Cut, clean, and stack another clump of hair and, placing it tight against the front of the first bunch of hair, make three wraps of thread around it and spin it in front of the first bunch of hair. Work the thread through the hair butts as you did in step 6, pulling the hair butts back and making several tight thread wraps in front of the hair. Do a whip finish behind the hook eye and cut the thread. (If necessary to fill the hook shank, spin another smaller bunch of hair in front of the second bunch, before you do a whip finish.)
10. Take the hook out of the vise, and, using a double edged razor blade or scissors, trim the bottom of the fly flat except for the tips. DO NOT TRIM OFF THE TIPS OF THE HAIR ON THE BOTTOM OR TOP OF THE FLY, but leave them as a collar.
11. Turn the fly over and bend the razor blade into an arc. Push the blade from the hook eye upward to the hair tips (collar), cutting a rounded head shape into the hair.
12. Now use scissors to finish creating a neat rounded head (see picture).

Note: Use great care when using the razor blade as blood does nothing to enhance the fly!!!

Note: We purposely did not pack the spun deer hair as the fly's creator, Kelly Galloup, believes that leaving the hair unpacked allows the head to move more water on the retrieve and also allows it to dry more quickly.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing



Keep Up to Date

You can find the latest news out of national PHWFF at . . .

<https://projecthealingwaters.org>



FFI has made strides to grow the fly fishing community through the launch of a dynamic new Fly Fishers International website, including the revamped FFI Learning Center, accessible to anyone with a passion for the sport. This modern new website is easier to navigate and highlights FFI's strength in fly fishing education with an incredible repository of videos, articles, and manuals on casting, fly tying, conservation, and fly fishing skills.

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Learn/Learning-Center-Resources>

New for 2023, *The Connection* is the official quarterly newsletter of FFI Women Connect. FFI Women Connect encourages female leadership in FFI Clubs and the fly fishing industry by creating a platform where women can develop fly fishing skills, network with other women fly fishers, and come together for fly fishing experiences.

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Get-Involved/FFI-Women-Connect>

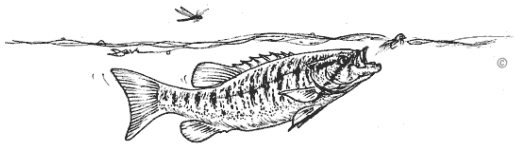
Looking for another way to dive into the world of fly fishing? Try *Fly Fish Forever*, the official podcast of Fly Fishers International. Find *Fly Fish Forever* on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and [Amazon](#), or your favorite podcast source.



Little Miami Watershed Network

Below is the link to Little Miami Watershed Network newsletter (current and past issue) and where you can subscribe. Learn how you can join our network in caring for the well-being of this beautiful river.

<https://us5.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=d0849e781ada00f84ee13de0b&id=cdf41a0888>



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Find All Fishing Reports

Fishing reports are broken down by region – Lake Erie, central, northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest – all of which can be found online.

<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/fishing-resources/fishing-reports-forecasts>

Backyard Wildlife Documents

Some nice resources to check out . . .

<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/wildlife/documents-publications/backyard-wildlife-documents>

DOW eNewsletter

Subscribe to the Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife eNewsletter by filling out the form below. Once submitted, check your email to confirm your subscription.

<https://go.ohiodnr.gov/downnewsletter>

Mobile App

HuntFish OH is a mobile path for Ohio's hunters, anglers and shooters to licensing, game check, regulations, and communication with the Ohio Division of Wildlife.



<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/hunting-resources/huntfishoh-mobile-app>

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.

MVFF Board

President

John Warner

Vice President

Paula Smith

Secretary

Jeffrey Davis

Treasurer

Walt Konek

Tightlines Editor/
Webmaster

Tom Arnold

Clipart courtesy of the artist,
Dave Whitlock
davewhitlock.com



P.O. Box 151
Wright Brothers Station
Dayton, Ohio 45409

Website: mvff.us

CALENDAR

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/>



Did You See the 2023 Michigan Trip Photos?

A great trip. See the story in the November 2023 issue of Tightlines

and check out the photos from this trip - [https://](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.814985170499957&type=3)

www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.814985170499957&type=3

There are lots of other photos and albums on the FB page.

Help!

I always need and appreciate member-submitted material for this newsletter. 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, a new fly pattern or some other knowledge you would like to share. We would welcome the contributions. If you have ideas on what you would like to see in Tightlines let me know. My contact information is on this page.

~ Tom Arnold, Editor

Dues!

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>



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
1908 N. Lakeman Dr.
Bellbrook, OH 45305
855.434.8472
ReelFlyRod.com

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

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



MVFF & Dayton VAMC



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