

# TIGHTLINES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Miami Valley Fly Fishers



## January Meeting

Our next meeting is January 8th

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 January 4th**

## January Speaker

Our Speaker for January is Ryan "Buff" Ratliff from Mad River Outfitters.

While just a few years old his family instilled in him a love for the outdoors. They taught him that it isn't all about the casting or catching, but it is about the full experience. At 10 a friend gave him



an old Garcia fiberglass fly rod and a Sears & Roebuck fly reel. With that old fly rod, the stream around his legs and the feel of a rod deeply bent, his love for sharing fly fishing with others was born.

Nowadays, Ryan's time is spent with his two children and wife. Mad River Outfitters has been an important part of his life for years. With a unique passion for fly tying, he manages the Fly Tying Department, guides and teaches classes.

If time allows, he loves tying flies, loading up the canoe and pulling out the two-hander or Tenkara. With all the memories fishing has blessed him with, it's hard not to want to help others be able to make some memories of their own. Sometimes these moments are on fishing trips, with his kids, or with those he runs into along the journey.

He will be speaking on fishing the AEP area in Ohio.

~ John Young

## President's Thoughts

Welcome to the 2024 new year of Miami Valley Fly Fishers, fun and adventures to come. We had 24 new fly fishers added to our club last year and look to double the numbers this year.

We have an awesome formal mentor program

started by Jeff Warden. His dream is to see this club mentor more and gain new interest and love for fly fishing. We intend to continue this program, building it up and watching it grow! "Passing it on...sharing our knowledge of, and passion, for, the sport of fly fishing."

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas and got to spend time with family and friends. It seems like it's so true - time flies, and there are not enough hours in a day. Today, here we are rod in hand. Waders, boots on the ground, ready for the next fish to tighten the line. There's nothing like making your own fly, tying it on that line and feeling that fish hit it, take it under and bring it in the net. What a proud moment. Taking it off the hook, giving it a kiss and releasing it back to grow bigger for the next time. What? You have never kissed your fish? Maybe it's a girl thing.

If you're like me you don't like to fish when it's cold. It's a great time to clean your line and tie some flies to fill up your box for the season. Or make a dozen or so for the upcoming auction to raise money for the club.

Upcoming events:

MVFF MEETING - January 8th

ADVENTURE SUMMIT AT WSU - January 19th & 20

BUFF SHOW - February 3rd

MVFF AUCTION - March 11th (start gathering items to donate)

Fish on!

Warm Wishes,  
Paula Smith  
MVFF President



# Secretary's Notes

## For December 2023

President John Warner opened the last business meeting of 2023 noting that he has enjoyed leading MVFF, Inc. for the past year. Paula Smith will pick up his duties for calendar year 2024. (Note of correction to November's Notes, Ken Davy was elected vice-president.) Paula presented John with an engraved knife for his work. The financial and secretarial reports were read and accepted. We thank Buckeye United Fly Fishers for including our membership in upcoming classes and events. Shawn Johnson presented certificates of appreciation to those

members who have worked diligently mentoring others. This list can be read elsewhere in this Tightlines edition. As Chaplin for the club, Shawn thanked Ken Davy for donating cards to be used in sympathy and encouragement. Allen Berg presented the Fly casting awards; First flight ...Jim Jones, Seniors ...John Young, Masters ... William Bennett. John and Paula distributed the annual awards. That list is also printed separately in this edition. John Young announced that lifetime members and owners/builders of The Montana Brothers Rodworks, Inc., Doug and twin Dan Daufel, will be returning to MVFF in February for a fly tying course and presentation (February 11&12). J.D. Duker managed the December raffle with aplomb and humor.

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.

Only 40% have paid for 2024. Let's try to get memberships paid in January!

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

## Member Dues Status

Total Members	192
Lifetime	12
Youth	6
Paying Members Total	174
2024 Dues Paid to Date	69
% Paid	40%

*Only 40% of membership dues have been paid as of 12/31/2023.*

*Please help us out by paying your dues today!*



## 2023 Member Recognition

Every December we formally recognize those members whose contributions over the past year helped to sustain our organization and the pursuit of its overall mission. Thank you for all you have done.

The following are the recipients of the major awards . . .

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Dick Matson Award                             | - Jeff Warden - for creating and managing the highly successful mentoring program.  |
| Jake Jaeger Award                             | - Joe Nagel - for his continual efforts to monitor and aid the well-being of our local fisheries.   |
| Founder's Award                               | - Shawn Johnson - for his work with the mentoring group, Centerville H.S. outreach, the chaplaincy, and so much more.   |
| President's Award                             | - Jeffrey Davis - for his years of service to the club including his work with the Library, Secretary duties and the work he did in organizing and inventorying the new storage unit. He was a great help to me (John Warner) if I had a question or needed help. |
| Marty Vandenbrock<br>Outstanding Member Award | - Kelly Kingery - for her promotion of healthy waters and continuous efforts in supporting the art and sport of fly-fishing.  |

## Mentoring Certificate Awards

“The great claim of fly-fishing is that we are always learning”  
~ Theodore Gordon

The following individuals have ardently given of their time and knowledge to teach others the art of fly-fishing. Miami Valley Fly Fishers thanks you.

Angela Chavez	Jason Turpin
Ken Davy	Everett Vanatta
Bill DeShurko	Mike Wolford
J.D. Dukes	John Young
Trevor Ibsen	

## MVFF Board for 2024

Paula Smith, President  
Ken Davy, Vice President  
Jeff Davis, Secretary  
Walt Konek, Treasurer

## December Raffle Winners

Here are the December meeting winners . . .

- Orvis 4# 8’6” rod w/reel, SA line, and backing...  
Everett Vanatta
- Nymphing fishing book signed by George Daniel...  
Matt Arnovitz
- Fly tying kit...Ken Hudak
- Trout travel mug and coffee...John Young
- Makers Mark and coasters...Jerry Connally
- Mystery gift...Ken Hudak
- Jim Calvert’s special bass flies for Project Healing Waters...Jerry Connally

~ Lew Hofmann



# The Unabashed Angler's Dictionary (Part 6)

## M

**Mend** – Throwing slack line into a drift to remove as much drag from the behavior of the fly as possible. Conflicting currents moving at different speeds or possibly in different directions make this activity necessary on nearly every cast on streams and rivers. The amount of mending needed can often be reduced by accurate casting, which will reduce the length of the drift, thus giving less time for the contrary currents to act upon the line and leader.

**Muddler Minnow** - A highly versatile fly, originated by Don Gapen. It is generally considered a streamer and can be used to imitate minnows. It was originally intended to imitate sculpins. However, owing to its spun deer hair head, it can also be used to imitate a grasshopper. It can be used also to approximate a crawdad. Muddlers originally included a squirrel hair overwing behind the head, with a turkey feather wing and tinsel body. This arrangement is often changed to substitute the wing and overwing with marabou, giving more intrinsic motion to the fly. Tyers intent on using the Muddler as a streamer often start it out with a cone head, enabling the fly to achieve greater depths.

## N

**Nymph** – an immature life stage of an insect, or a fishing fly tied to resemble an immature insect, usually an aquatic insect. Fishing nymphs, otherwise known as nymphing, is all the rage these days. Not satisfied with simply specializing in nymph fishing, many people are now pursuing a technique known as European Nymphing, which utilizes longer rods, in-line “sighters” rather than floating strike indicators, and presentations not far from the angler’s boot toes. Nymphing is one of the types of presentations where managing drag is a must, which is why European Nymphing puts such a premium on short casts and short drifts. With less line on the water, there is less possibility of drag.

## O

**Olive** – a very natural color, and, therefore, a good color to include when tying flies. Olive green is a terrific choice when tying Woolly Buggers, nymphs, crawdads, or sculpins. Blue-winged Olive Mayflies are quite possibly the most ubiquitous type of fly that dry fly anglers can count on having to match.

**Orvis** – a high-quality sporting goods merchandiser. They carry a broad range of fly-fishing gear, with full outfits costing anywhere from below \$200 to well over \$1,000. As far as flies and fly-tying supplies are concerned, the angler is far more likely to find everything they need online or in Orvis catalogs.

~ Ken Davy

## A Website to Check Out

There are a lot of good articles on this site for newbies and seasoned fly fishers. <https://guiderecommended.com/>

~ Jeff Warden

### 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/>

# January Fly of the Month



# Flashback Wiggle Stone

Instructions and Photography by Bob Cain

## Tail Section Recipe

Rear Hook....Mustad R70, size 8 (or equivalent)  
Thread.....Black, 6/0  
Tail.....Black goose biots  
Abdomen.....Black SLF dubbing  
Rib.....Medium silver wire  
Head.....Thread  
Connection...6-8 lb. braided line

## Thorax Section Recipe

Front Hook....Mustad C67S, size 6 (or equivalent)  
Thread.....Black, 6/0  
Weight.....Lead wire .025  
Wingcase.....Black Thin Skin  
Wings.....Black goose biots  
Thorax.....Black SLF dubbing  
Flash.....Pearl Flashabou  
Head.....Thread

## Tail Section

1. Place the hook in the vise. Tie in the thread behind the hook eye and wrap a thread base back to the hook barb. Let the thread hang.
2. With 3-4 thread wraps, create a small thread “bump” on the hook shank over the hook barb. This will cause the biots to flare outward when tied in. Let the thread hang.
3. Now select two black goose biots and tie them in, one on each side of the hook bend against the thread bump. (The length of the biot tail should equal  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ <sup>ths</sup> of the hook shank length). Bind down the butt ends and trim off the excess biot butts and return the thread to the tie-in point. Let the thread hang.
4. Tie in a 3 inch length of medium silver wire and wrap the thread back over the wire to the biot tie-in point.
5. Apply dubbing to the thread and wrap it forward to slightly behind the hook eye to form a tapered abdomen. Let the thread hang.
6. Wrap the silver wire forward over the dubbing in 5-6 evenly spaced turns and tie it off at the front of the abdomen. Trim off the excess wire.
7. Form a neat thread head, whip finish, and cut the thread.

## Thorax Section

8. Place the hook in the vise, tie-in the thread behind the hook eye and wrap a thread base back to the hook **point** (not to the barb). Let the thread hang.
9. Cut a 6-7” inch length of 6-8 lb braided line. Thread the line through the trailer hook eye and then firmly lash both ends of the braided line to the side of shank of the front hook. Note: Carefully position the tail section so the hook point is down and then adjust the forward position of the hook so the trailer hook eye is directly behind the main part of the front hook shank and

the eye of the trailer hook is above the hook barb of the front hook with enough slack space to assure that the tail has room to wiggle wiggle when fishing the fly. After making sure the trailer hook is properly positioned, firmly wrap the thread forward over both ends of the braided line  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” toward the hook eye and then fold the braided line back and then wrap back over it for several wraps. Remove the excess braided line, return the thread back to the tie in point and let it hang.

10. In the middle of the hook shank apply 7-8 wraps of .025 lead (or non-lead) wire. Leave space equivalent to twice the length of the hook eye between the hook eye and the lead wraps and also on the hook shank behind the lead to above the hook barb. Tie in the thread behind the hook eye and wrap a small thread dam in front of the lead and also behind the lead to secure it. Return the thread back to above the **hook barb**.
11. Tie in a single strand of Flashabou centered directly on top of the hook shank with the length of the Flashabou extending back over the hook bend. Return the thread to above the hook barb and let it hang.
12. Cut a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ” long  $\frac{3}{16}$ ” wide strip of black Thin Skin. Remove the paper backing and tie the Thin Skin in shiny side up centered on top of the hook shank with the remaining length back over the hook bend. Return the thread to above the hook barb.

(Continued next page)

## Flashback Wiggle Stone (cont'd)

13. Apply dubbing to the thread and wrap it forward to just in front of the lead wraps to form a fat thorax (approximately twice the diameter of the abdomen). Leave enough room to tie in the remaining material and then make a thread head when finishing the fly. Let the thread hang.

14. Pull the Thin Skin forward over the top of the dubbed thorax, make sure it is centered and tie it off behind the hook eye.

15. Repeat this procedure with the Flashabou, making sure the Flashabou is centered on top of the Thin Skin.

16. Take two black goose biots and tie a split wing on top of the fly just behind the hook eye. The wing tips should be angled out and extend back. Trim the excess biot butts.

17. Form a neat thread head, whip finish, cut the thread, and apply head cement.

18. Coat the Thin Skin wing case and Flashabou with epoxy (or with Knot Sense and cure it with a UV light or allow it to cure in sunlight).

19. To complete the fly before going fishing, being careful to not damage the tail, cut the barb off the rear hook at the bend.

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## Save the Dates

### Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show

The Buckeye United Fly Fishers (BUFF) will host the annual Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, Saturday, February 3, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. It will again be held at the Oasis Conference Center, 902 Loveland-Miamiville Road, Loveland, OH.

<http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com/buffsql/index.asp>

### The Adventure Summit

Wright State University Student Union Center

3640 Col. Glenn Hwy.

Dayton, Ohio 45435

February 9 & 10, 2024

The show hours are:

Friday 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Summit Soiree - paid event)

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Free)

<https://theadventuresummit.com>

### Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center

14500 E. 12 Mile Road

Warren, MI

March 9 & 10, 2024

The show hours are:

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

<https://midwestflyfishingexpo.com/>

## BUFF Show Workshops

Please share this information with members of Miami Valley Fly Fishers

On Friday, February 2nd, the day before the Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show, we will have a casting workshop led by our headliner, Susan Thrasher. Time is 9 - 11:30 a.m.

In addition, we will have 3 tying workshops. All are led by Gary Begley. Times are 9 - 11:30 a.m. (overlaps with the casting workshop), 1 - 3:30 p.m., and 4 - 6:00 p.m.

Space is limited - 16 participants for the casting workshop, and 24 for each of the tying workshops. These are hands-on, participation workshops.

Registration is now open to the public and is on the Buckeye United Fly Fishers Website - [www.buckeyeflyfishers.com](http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com). The cost is \$30 for one workshop, \$50 for two, and \$70 for three.

We hope some of your members may be interested in attending.

Ken Mandel

Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show Team



# 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>

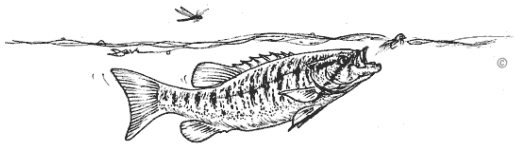
Looking for another way to dive into the world of fly fishing? Try *Fly Fish Forever*, the official podcast of Fly Fishers International. Find *Fly Fish Forever* on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and [Amazon](#), or your favorite podcast source.



## 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

Paula Smith

### Vice President

Ken Davy

### 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](https://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://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](https://fishermanshq.net)

ReelFlyRod.com  
1908 N. Lakeman Dr.  
Bellbrook, OH 45305  
855.434.8472  
[ReelFlyRod.com](https://ReelFlyRod.com)

Mad River Outfitters  
813 Bethel Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
614.451.0363  
[madriveroutfitters.com](https://madriveroutfitters.com)

SmithFly  
124 N. Main St.  
Piqua, Ohio 45356  
937.335.7400  
[smithfly.net](https://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