

# TIGHTLINES



The Monthly Newsletter of the Miami Valley Fly Fishers

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## 50th Anniversary Celebration Meeting

Presidential Center  
4572 Presidential Way  
(Directions on Website)

Fun begins at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner reservations had to be  
made by November 30th. Cash bar.

Entertainment, presentations and awards, tying contest  
winners and more!

For our members who cannot attend  
here is a Zoom link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81188392179?  
pwd=cAus5kx9Poa2fd2JNMacz9ckbc4HTD.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81188392179?pwd=cAus5kx9Poa2fd2JNMacz9ckbc4HTD.1)



## President's Thoughts



I hope everyone has had a blessed holiday season so far, and that the blessings continue through Christmas and the New Year. It's hard to believe my tenure as President is already coming to an end. I would like to express my gratitude to all

the people who helped keep our programs running during this year. In terms of raw numbers, the club fluctuated quite a bit this year, but there was a healthy influx of new members that bodes well for our longevity.

Congratulations and best wishes go to our new club officers, President - Karen Via, and Vice President - David Williams. Secretary - Kelly Kingery, and Treasurer - Jim August. Please do what you can to show them the support they will need! I also hope you all got your RSVPs in to attend our Christmas Dinner, December 8th at the Presidential Banquet Center, 4572 Presidential Way, Kettering.

Since this meeting will also be the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the club, there will be some special presentations and remembrances as well as the annual awards. The festivities start at 5:30 p.m. The awards are given to show appreciation to members who provided exemplary service, and our casting competition winners.

The BUFF show will be held February 7, 2026, at the Oasis Conference Center, 902 Loveland-Miamiville Road Loveland, Ohio. Volunteers are needed,

*(Continued next page)*

## Thanks

On behalf of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, we want to thank our judges who helped decide the winners of our fly tying contest, Cari and Jim Vota. They are excited to be part of our contest and assured me the decision won't be easy due to the level of skill and passion of our members. Thanks, Cari and Jim!

Thanks also to our members who tied flies for the contest. The submissions were wonderful and we look forward to sharing them with all of you.

Karen Via

## November Raffle Winners

Our lucky winners . . . .

- Sage reel - Paul Dennis
- 9' 6wt TFO rod - Jeffrey Davis
- Tenkara rod - Everett Vanatta
- Fishpond Stream Pack - Dr. John Balazs
- Eddie Bauer backpack - Mike Waggoner
- Bourbon Whisky - Allen Berg
- 1884 hat - David Snow
- 7' 3wt. Custom rod by Thomas Nugent - David Williams
- Fly box - Ken Lackey
- Buckeye tree walking stick by Randy Evans - Tamie Chapman
- \$50 Mad River Outfitters gift card - Andy Goetz
- \$50 Krogers gift card - Joe Gilmore
- \$100 Mad River Outfitters gift card - Walt Konek

~ John Warner

## Secretary's Notes

November 10, 2025

President Ken Davy opened the meeting welcoming new members Dr. David Atkins and Jodi Hoover. There were 50 members present.

Treasurer Walt Konek read the monthly report noting expenses and preparations for the upcoming 50th anniversary dinner in December.

Discussion and vote was taken on Honorary (lifetime) memberships. Further information will be given at the December meeting.

Vice-President, Karen Via, reported on the progress and needs for the December anniversary dinner.

## President's Thoughts (cont'd)

including someone to coordinate the volunteers and make sure the booth is properly set up.

Finally, I have found it a challenge and an honor being president throughout this year. Any and all success we have had during the year has been completely attributable to the many committees of volunteers who have stepped up to ensure our missions were completed. I thank you all for your service. Showing up is by far the rarest and yet most necessary commodity in any volunteer organization. It is workers showing up that brings planning to fruition. I encourage you all to find something to volunteer for during the coming year. The experiences that come from it are well worth the time it takes! Thank you for a wonderful year and here's to an even better 2026!

Ken Davy, President  
Miami Valley Fly Fishers



Nominations were put forward for the three open board positions beginning in January 2026. Kelly Kingery was nominated by Jeff Davis to be the next club secretary; Kelly accepted the nomination and was duly elected by the club members present. Jim August was nominated by Walt Konek to be the next club treasurer; Jim accepted and was duly elected. David Williams was nominated by Karen Via to be the new vice-president; Dave had accepted though was not present at the meeting and was duly elected.

Shawn Johnson and Dr. Balazs gave an update on John Young noting that he was recuperating well after lengthy surgery.

The club enjoyed Jeff Liskay's presentation of fly fishing the Great Lakes region. His eloquent speaking style and slide show was a great success. He can be reached at [greatlakesflyfishing.com](http://greatlakesflyfishing.com).

John Warner capped the night off with a stellar raffle.

Respectfully, J.W. Davis



## Miami Valley Fly Fishers 1975 - 2025

### Fifty Years of Fly Fishing, Friendship & the Future

In 1975, the Miami Valley Fly Fishers began with something small—but powerful: a simple letter sent by Jim Hawkins to local fly anglers. That letter sparked curiosity, gathered a few dozen like-minded anglers, and launched what would become one of the region’s most enduring fly-fishing communities.

From those earliest meetings, MVFF was built on three core ideas: learning, fellowship, and stewardship. The club quickly took shape—adopting bylaws, holding monthly meetings, publishing a newsletter, and organizing outdoor gatherings at Deeds Park. Fly tying classes soon followed, giving beginners their first chance to wrap thread and craft flies alongside experienced mentors. Many still remember those early sessions as the moment they truly fell in love with the sport.

By the late 1970s and early 1980s, the club was thriving. Membership was growing, annual auctions became a highlight, casting competitions brought friendly rivalry to the pond, and club trips expanded from local waters to the Smoky Mountains, Michigan, and beyond. Distinguished guest speakers—including legends like Dave Whitlock—packed meeting rooms and fueled imaginations.

Just as important as fishing, however, was MVFF’s early commitment to conservation. Members rolled up their sleeves to stock thousands of trout in the Mad River, work on habitat improvements, and later help form what became the Madmen Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Long before “stewardship” became a buzzword, MVFF members were living it.

In 1985, the club celebrated its 10th anniversary by honoring its charter members—anglers whose dedication helped cement the traditions we still enjoy today. By then, MVFF had become more than a fishing club. It was a community of teachers, learners, conservationists, and friends.

Today, five decades later, the heart of the Miami Valley Fly Fishers remains unchanged. We still gather to share stories, learn new techniques, explore new waters, protect the rivers we love, and welcome newcomers into the fold.

From one letter in 1975 to the vibrant club we are today, MVFF stands as proof that when anglers come together with shared purpose, great things happen—on the water and far beyond it.

Here’s to the next cast, the next generation, and the next 50 years.

### A Short List of Some of Our Speakers Over the Years: A Who's Who of Fly Fishing Legend

Carl Richards	Jay “Fishy” Fullum	Joe Humphreys
Dale Clemens	Jason Randall	Jim Teeny
Tom Nixon	Dustan Harley	Charlie Craven
Dave Whitlock and Joan Whitlock	Jerry Darkes	Larry Solomon
Ray Schmidt	Chris Helm	Gary Borger
Dick Talleur	Bob Clouser	Jason Borger
Tom Rosenbauer	Jerry Kustich	Ed Jaworowski
Lefty Kreh	Ray Schmidt	Skip Morris
Bob Clouser	Matt Supinski	Kelly Galloup



## Miami Valley Fly Fishers 1975 - 2025

### Memories

I first joined the Miami Valley Fly Fishers around 1991, and over nearly three and a half decades, this club has given me far more than I could ever have imagined. I've had the privilege of getting to know an incredible group of dedicated, welcoming members—and I've learned so much from every one of them. Along the way, I've been honored to serve our club in many roles: as a board member, summer meeting quartermaster for several years, Project Healing Waters volunteer, Tightlines editor (December 2001–March 2006 and again from November 2015 to the present), and even creating the club's original website way back in the early days.

Through countless trips, outings, and classes with fellow members, I've deepened both my knowledge of fly fishing and my appreciation for the friendships this club inspires.

Some of my fondest memories go all the way back to our legendary Spring Ohio Power trips. Held each year around Memorial Day at what is now the AEP Public Recreation Lands near McConnellsville, these weekends were something truly special. Twenty to thirty members typically attended, with some stretching it into an extended stay. Ken Hudak would arrive early in his Airstream—often alongside Everett Vanatta—to stake out our campsite. Then the rest of us would roll in with campers, tents, and just about every type of watercraft imaginable: belly boats, canoes, pontoon boats, kayaks—you name it. Shore fishing? Not much of that! Add in great bass and bluegill fishing, evenings spent around the campfire, and a Saturday fish cookout, and it's no wonder this became one of the most beloved events of the year.

Fly tying classes were another highlight I eagerly anticipated each season. My earliest memories are of tying in the basement of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oakwood, learning from talented tyers like Jake Jaeger and Doug and Dan Daufel. That's where my serious fly tying journey began. Later, the classes became even more structured under the leadership of Bill "Woody" Woodward, who guided both beginners and intermediate tiers with help from Bob Cain, Dale Stephens, Jerry Redford, and others. With 20–25 members in a class at times, those sessions introduced many of us to this vital part of the sport—and Woody taught for years with unwavering dedication.

Rod building was another unforgettable chapter. Jim Corbin, a member since 1980, launched our first rod-building class in 1982 and continued teaching all the way through 2020. For decades, it was a club favorite. With help from Dick Matson, Ray Lee, Joe Nagel, and Joe Hill, Jim guided countless members through the process. I personally built four Sage rods in his classes and even rebuilt a bamboo rod. I fish them exclusively today and take great pride in every one. Those classes remain some of my most cherished memories.

One of the most meaningful experiences of my membership has been volunteering with Project Healing Waters. As a combat veteran myself, I found it deeply rewarding to work with other veterans facing difficult challenges. We shared laughs, learned from one another, built new skills, and helped restore confidence—both on and off the water. It was truly a special thing to be part of.

Then there were my early days as quartermaster. Not long after I joined, our club founder, Jim "Hawk" Hawkins, pulled me aside in line at Culp's Cafeteria—where we held meetings at the time—and "convinced" me that taking over the summer quartermaster duties would be a great way to get to know members. With some hesitation, I agreed. A week later, he pulled into my driveway in his convertible loaded with coolers and gear—and just like that, I was officially in the job. It turned out to be one of the best decisions I made in the club. I served for several years and eventually, just like Hawk before me, persuaded another member to take the reins.

Now, as I approach 35 years with Miami Valley Fly Fishers, it's hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. What remains constant is my deep gratitude for the friendships, the experiences, and the countless memories made along the way. This club has truly been—and continues to be—a cornerstone of my life.

*~ Tom Arnold*



Saturday, February 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Oasis Conference Center  
902 Loveland-Miamiville Road  
Loveland, Ohio

Admission is \$15 (kids under 12 free)  
Exhibits of gear, supplies guides fly shops  
Demonstrations all day  
Kids activities  
Indoor casting pond  
Fly Fishing 101  
Women's Open Forum

Register for workshops to be held on February 6th at:  
<https://buckeyeflyfishers.com/fly-show/fly-show-workshops/>

All the information at [buckeyeflyfishers.com](https://buckeyeflyfishers.com) or scan the QR code above.

This is a great show that a good number of MVFF members attend each year. We will, as always, have a table at the event. If you are interested in helping and/or tying flies contact us at [mvffemail@gmail.com](mailto:mvffemail@gmail.com).

## 2026 Dues

We are now accepting payments for 2026 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). Just go to the bottom of our home page (see link below) and click on the Pay Now button.

<https://mvff.us>

# Fly of the Month: Extended Body Light Cahill

Instructions by Bill "Woody" Woodward  
Photography by Bob Cain



## Recipe

Hook ..... Dry, size 12-14  
Thread ..... Olive, 6/0 or 8/0  
Tail/Body ..... Mallard flank feather, dyed wood duck  
Thorax ..... Rabbit dubbing, cream  
Wing ..... Snowshoe rabbit  
Head ..... Thread

1. Place the hook in the vise, then attach the thread slightly behind the hook eye and wrap a tight thread base back down the hook shank to a point just in front of the hook point.
2. Select a feather and strip the fluff from its base, then, holding it by the tip, stroke the barbs back toward the base of the feather, creating a tip section approximately the length of the hook shank. DO NOT STRIP OFF ANY BARBS.
3. With the barbs stroked down toward the feather butt, grasp the feather slightly in front of the tip section, concave side up, in your right hand, and tie it on top of the hook shank above the hook point with a couple of loose thread wraps using your left hand. The tip of the feather should be pointing out over the hook bend. The tie-in point on the feather should be slightly below the tip section. Grasp the tip section and pull it back toward the hook bend, creating a folded barb abdomen about a hook shank in length on top of the hook shank. When you have an abdomen that suits you, tighten the thread wraps and bind down the feather butt with a couple of extra tight wraps. Remove any excess feather butt. Wrap the thread forward to a point about 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the hook shank behind the hook eye.
4. Now pull down 1-2 barbs (DO NOT STRIP THEM OFF) on either side of the feather tip section and trim off the remaining tip section between the barbs that you pulled down. This should leave you with a forked tail at the end of the abdomen section.
5. Snip a small clump of hair from the bottom of snowshoe hare foot. (Be sure to stand the hair up to even the tips and cut it close to the skin.) Remove the long guard hairs from the clump, then tie it in tightly by the butts on top of the hook shank about 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the hook shank behind the hook eye as a wing. The tips of the clump should be pointing toward the hook eye and the wing should be about a hook shank in length. Be sure to keep the hair on top of the hook shank and don't allow it to spin. Trim off any excess hair butts and wrap the thread back to the abdomen tie-in point.
6. Dub the thread, forming a 2"-3" noodle, then wrap it forward from the front of the abdomen to the back of the wing. (Be sure to cover all the thread wraps.) Now lift the wing and take several turns with the dubbed thread tight in front of the wing to stand it up. Take an x-wrap of dubbed thread behind and under the wing to cover any remaining thread wraps, then form a neat dubbed head between the wing and the hook eye.
7. Remove any excess dubbing and form a small thread head, whip finish, and cut the thread.
8. Use your fingers to spread the wing hair to the sides, comparadun style.

## Save the Dates

### MVFF Monthly Meeting

#### 50th Anniversary Celebration

December 8th - start at 5:30 p.m.

Washington Room - Presidential Center, 4572  
Presidential Way, Kettering, Ohio 45429

Special dinner (free to members), entertainment, tying  
competition winners, annual awards and  
presentations.

(Reservations closed November 30th.)

### Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show

February 7th - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Oasis Conference Center  
902 Loveland-Miamiville Road  
Loveland, Ohio

Registration for workshops (February 6th) is open -

<https://buckeyeflyfishers.com/fly-show/fly-show-workshops/>

Full information at [buckeyeflyfishers.com](https://buckeyeflyfishers.com)



### 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>

### 2026 Dues

We are now accepting payments for 2026 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). Just go to the bottom of our home page (see link below) and click on the Pay Now button.

<https://mvff.us>

## Ohio Fly Tying Guild Fly Tying Demos

Join us each month at the Ohio Fly Tying Guild Zoom meeting for live online fly tying and techniques demonstrations. These events will be held the 3rd Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time. So mark your calendars to plan ahead. If you missed the first sessions, you can view the recordings at the following YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@OhioFlyTyingGuild>

Subscribe and you should get notices when new videos are available.

Fly Fishers International member Gary Begley from the Buckeye United Fly Fishers club near Cincinnati, Ohio will be leading the sessions. Topics of discussions and demonstrations will cover tying tools, materials, hooks, and the techniques to put it all together to create a fly that will catch fish. These are interactive events, so don't be afraid to make comments, or to ask questions. We hope to see you at the meetings.

If you are an FFI member you can subscribe to the Ohio Council of FFI at the link below and you will get notification of the next session with the Zoom invitation.

<https://mailchi.mp/bb30fc8451a5/ffi-ohio-council-newsletter-10328552?e=e08d356fda>



## Little Miami Watershed Network

Visit our website for updates on activities and opportunities to support us in volunteering.

Keep in touch at . . . <https://lmwn.org>

Below is the link to Little Miami Watershed Network newsletter (current and past issues) 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/?>



## OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### 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/>

### 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>



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>

*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.

### 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  
Ken Davy

Vice President  
Karen Via

Secretary  
Jeffrey Davis

Treasurer  
Walt Konek

Tightlines Editor/  
Webmaster  
Tom Arnold

Clipart courtesy of the artist,  
Dave Whitlock  
[davewhitlock.com](http://davewhitlock.com)



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

Website: [mvff.us](http://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/MiamiValleyFlyFishers/>



## Did You See the 2025 Michigan Trip Photos?

Another great trip!. See the story in the November 2025 issue of Tightlines and check out the photos from this trip and many others on our Facebook page - -

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

## 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 by emailing me at [mvffemail@gmail.com](mailto:mvffemail@gmail.com).

~ 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](http://fishermanshq.net)

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

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



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
[Affiliate Club](#)

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