

TIGHTLINES



The Monthly Newsletter of the Miami Valley Fly Fishers



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January Meeting

Our next meeting is January 12th

Kohler 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 8th



President's Thoughts



Happy 2026, my friends. I'm sure my first newsletter article should contain lots of promises to be a great leader and include incredible plans for the new year.

But before I get to that, I must first recognize the

wonderful planning committee and everyone else who contributed in any way to the overwhelming success of our 50th Anniversary Celebration. While we intended December 8th to be a special night, none of us expected to receive so many pictures, member interviews and stories that David Williams transformed into an incredible video presentation. Member and musician Gary Reece provided spectacular entertainment, and the number of members and friends who turned out to celebrate our history as Ohio's oldest fly-fishing club was equally amazing. Thank you all, and if you were unable to join us or simply want to see it again, a link to the video presentation is now posted on our website! Congratulations also go out to our 50th Anniversary Fly-Tying Contest winners - Kathy Williams (streamer), Kelly Kingery (dry fly), Greg Czarnecki (nymph/emergent) and Jim Calvert (creator's choice). We look forward to sharing their special recipes, and maybe even tying instruction from our distinguished winners!

I also want to thank our outgoing board for everything they did over the last year. Ken, Jeff and Walt, you are a tough act to follow, and David, Kelly, Jim and I will do our best to lead the club forward into 2026.

On January 10th, members have an opportunity to attend a special fly-tying class sponsored by Dr. Tom Perry at Spring Run. Interest was extremely high with all 12 spots taken in a couple of days!

(Continued next page)

MVFF Board for 2026

Karen Via, President

Dave Williams, Vice President

Kelly Kingery, Secretary

Jim August, Treasurer

2025 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 - Karen Via

Jake Jaeger Award - Bill DeShurko

Founder's Award - Jim Calvert

President's Award - Tom Arnold

Marty Vandenbrock
Outstanding Member

2025 Casting Winners

Our casting competition overall winners were revealed at the December meeting.

We had another great season of casting events and thank all of you for participating. The competition is fun and a great way to test your skills.

First Flight Division - Emily Reeves

Seniors Division - Kelly Kingery

Masters Division - Bill Bennett

President's Thoughts (cont'd)

Also in January, Bill DeShurko and his team of volunteers will resume teaching Centerville High School students the fine art of fly-tying, casting and water conservation.

On February 7th we will be joining our friends from BUFF for their annual Greater Cincinnati Fly-Fishing Show. We need volunteers to speak about our club and demonstrate fly-tying. A sign-up list will be circulated at our January meeting or let a Board member know if you are interested. This is a great opportunity for new members to have fun and meet folks who could become some of your best friends!

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent this amazing club, and for sharing our passion with each other and the community.

Happy New Year,

Karen Via
MVFF Club President



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>

NOTE: If you are a new member who paid on September 1st or later you are considered paid for the following year (2026).

January Speaker

Sara Low has been a New York State licensed fishing guide and fly fishing instructor with more than 20 years of experience organizing and leading fishing trips for novice and experienced anglers. Ms. Low served as a staff member of fishing schools in New York and Rhode Island and is a founding partner of High Spirits Unlimited, a travel company devoted to fly fishing trips.

Off the water she curated an award-winning exhibit on “The History of Women Fly Fishing,” at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, chaired the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, and served as a director of Juliana’s Anglers, a New York fishing club for women with four years as the club’s first president. Ms. Low was a director and officer of Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, a not-for-profit angling organization promoting river protection. She was honored by the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum as the Outstanding Flyfisher of the Year. Her articles on fly fishing have been published in magazines, newspapers, journals, and on-line including The Fly Fishing Insider, Broadcast, Wild Rhode Island, the Providence Journal. She lectures on fly-fishing topics and has been featured as a celebrity speaker for many years at the Fly Fishing Shows in New Jersey and Massachusetts, on Ask About Fly Fishing, as well as fishing clubs across the country in addition to appearing on speaker panels for organizations such as the American Museum of Flyfishing and Brown University.



fly
in

A former executive in entertainment advertising, Ms. Low is thrilled to be introducing anglers to the joys of fly fishing.

This presentation will be by Zoom. A Zoom invitation will be sent by email prior to the meeting.

~ John Young

Secretary's Notes December 8, 2025

This celebration being Miami Valley Fly Fishers 50th anniversary nearly 100 members and guests were in attendance. Long time member Gary David Reece provided music during the social hour and dinner. (GaryDavidReece.com) Ken Davy led his final meeting as president. After an hour of socializing Kohler Catering put out another special meal. Kohler was also responsible for the beautifully decorated 50th anniversary cake. All past club officers in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized. Teri Gauvey was responsible for the table center pieces. The members of the 50th anniversary committee led by Karen Via were also recognized. Ken Davy explained his design of the new club patch and pin.

Secretary Jeff Davis read the roll call of honored lifetime members. Jim Hawkins, founder, Thomas Allen, William Bennett, Jr., James Calvert, Dan Daufel, Doug Daufel, Todd Mikesell, Steve Rader, Dale Stephens, Michael Wolford, William Woodward, and John Young. Two lifetime members were recognized in their passing, Jerry Redford and William Grimpe.

By proclamation of the club board and overwhelming election of the membership at the November club meeting, Thomas Arnold was awarded honored lifetime membership for his thirty-five years of dedicated support and work on behalf of Miami Valley Fly Fishers. Not least has been Tom’s ardent work editing, producing, and publishing of the club monthly newsletter, *Tightlines*. Tom is only the fifteenth member to be so honored in the club’s 50 year history...Tom was also honored with the President’s Award.

Allen Berg announced the annual casting competition awards...First Fight, Emily Reeves, Seniors, Kelly Kingery, Masters, William Bennett.

Dave Williams, the new vice president and lead of the audio/video staff (Rick Ordeman and Chris Evans), introduced several interviews with past president Dave Oertel, Jim Corbin and Mike Browne, and another video by past president Nathan Via.

Ken Norton announced the winners of the 50th anniversary fly tying competition: Dry Fly...Kelly Kingery, Nymph...Greg Czarnecki, Streamer...Kathy Williams, Creators Choice...Jim Calvert.

Ken Davy presented the annual awards: Dick Matson Award...Karen Via, Marty Vandebroek Outstanding Member Award...Tom Boice, President’s Award...Tom Arnold, Jake Jaeger Award...William DeShurko, Founder's Award...Jim Calvert.

Respectfully, J.W. Davis

Fly Tying Contest Winning Flies



Kathy Williams's winning streamer fly, "Morris Minnow"



Kelly Kingery's dry fly, "Cats Meow"



Greg Czarnecki's nymph/emergent category fly, "Colonel Fuller"



Jim Calvert's creator's choice fly, "Golden anniversary popper"

50th Anniversary Video on YouTube

We have posted the 50th Anniversary video that many of you saw at our December 8th meeting. Dave Williams did a fantastic job of producing this video and it is now available for all to see. Below is a link to it and other videos on our YouTube channel.

www.youtube.com/@miamivalleyflyfishers6515

Passing of Dave Oertel

Sadly, long-time MVFF member Dave Oertel passed away on December 21st.

Dave was MVFF President when Karla Riste of the Dayton VA reached out to MVFF about starting a Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program. Dave was all in on this idea and his dedication and enthusiasm for this partnership is what resulted in such a vibrant collaboration that engaged numerous veterans over the years. The first PHWFF/MVFF/Dayton VA program began on April 27, 2010. That first session had 18 veterans enrolled. And that was just the beginning of a valuable program that touched the lives of so many veterans. Some ultimately became members of MVFF and continue to this day.

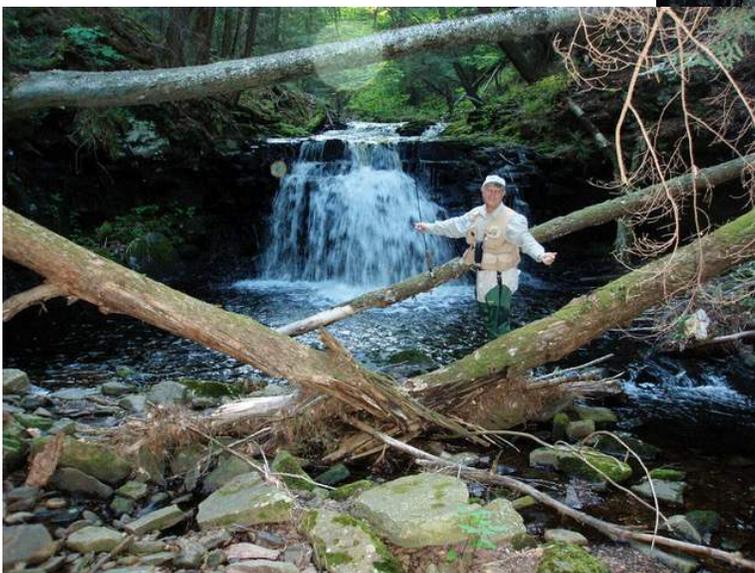
We had an article in the August *Tightlines* with Jim August and Jeff Davis meeting with Dave.

<https://mvff.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/MVFF0825.pdf>



Dave was a gentle man and very giving of his wisdom, time and talent. I met him initially with a telephone call regarding MVFF and he invited me to a meeting as his guest the following week. During the dinner he mentioned a Project Healing Waters program that he chaired at the Dayton VA the following week, and asked me to attend, without any obligation or commitment. He candidly said PHW might not be for everyone, but he felt the giving to the program was a hundredfold rewarding, and good for the soul. He was correct and I remain involved to this day with the program. May he rest in peace.

~ Carl Markstrom



Our condolences to his family. A very good man who will be missed.

<https://www.newcomerdayton.com/obituaries/david-oertel>

Dave on one of his trips to Pennsylvania with a group of club members.



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 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.

TU Mad River Chapter Update

MVFF members might be interested in the plan for in-stream habitat and riparian area improvements, including bank stabilization in a 3rd section on the Mad River at Pimtown Rd. An update is that the project plan has been approved by Ohio EPA and U.S. Corps of Engineers. We hope to complete the project by spring. Always need volunteers and they can contact me. Would love to see MVFF members participate.

Thanks and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Tom Allen

ptallen111@insight.rr.com

Here's a link to TU Mad River Chapter newsletters

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

Fly of the Month: Grey Boy Spanflex Buzzer

Instructions by Bill "Woody" Woodward
Photography by Bob Cain



Recipe

Hook Curved Caddis, size 10 -12
Thread Black or desired body color, 6/0 or 8/0
Body Thread
Rib White Spanflex
Cheeks Orange Spanflex
Flashback Mylar tinsel, color of choice
Thorax Thread
Head Thread

1. Tie in the thread behind the hook eye and wrap a tight thread base back down the hook shank to slightly in front of the hook point. Remove the thread tag and let the thread hang.
2. Cut a 4"- 5" piece of white Spanflex and tie it in by one end where you left the thread, then, keeping it on top of the hook shank, wrap over it with tight thread wraps to about halfway down the hook bend. Now wrap the thread in tight wraps back to where you tied in the Spanflex forming the abdomen. (You want to have a slight taper in the abdomen.) The length of the Spanflex should go out over the hook bend.
3. Now grasp the Spanflex, and stretching it slightly, palmer it in evenly spaced turns over the abdomen back up the hook shank to a point about 1-2 hook eye lengths in front of the hook point and tie it off. Wrap over the Spanflex butt with touching turns to slightly behind the hook eye. Remove any excess Spanflex. The thread should now be behind the hook eye.
4. Cut a 4"- 5" piece of orange Spanflex to use for cheeks. Tie it in by its middle under the hook shank right behind the hook, then pull both ends together back toward the hook bend and bind them down under the hook shank with tight touching turns back to the front of the abdomen. You should now have two tag ends hanging together under the hook shank in front of the abdomen.
5. Now use thread to build up a thorax between the hook eye and the front of the abdomen that is thicker than the abdomen. End with the thread in front of the abdomen and let it hang.
6. Cut a 2"-3" piece of mylar tinsel and tie it in by one end at the front of the abdomen on top of the hook shank. The length of the tinsel should extend back toward the hook bend. Wrap the thread in tight touching turns back to behind the hook eye and let it hang.
7. Grasp the orange Spanflex tags and pull them (one on each side) up the thorax to the top of the hook shank to right behind the hook eye and tie them off tightly. They should come together right behind the hook eye on top of the hook shank. Be sure to stretch the Spanflex, but not too tightly. (Looking at the thorax from the bottom, you should see a "V".) Trim off the excess Spanflex.
8. Now pull the mylar tinsel over the top of the thorax and tie it off right behind the hook eye. Remove any excess tinsel.
9. Form a small thread head, whip finish, and cut the thread.
10. Coat the entire fly with a light coat of nail polish and/or UV resin. Pay special attention to cover the top and bottom of the thorax.

Mid-Week Fly Fishing 2026

Ken Davy has once again put together a list of fishing spots and a schedule from March - October. Ken has also included info on the fishing potential of these waters and suggested flies. There are links to a map for each location. These events are on the club Calendar page of our website and Facebook page as well (Events).

Lots of fishing spots and links to maps here. Go on the scheduled date and you can meet up with fellow members. Or just check out some of these places when you choose. We're hoping to get even better turnout this year.

They start at 4:30 p.m. (come anytime). If you have specific questions about events contact Ken at tigr75@gmail.com.

Date	Location	Special Considerations	Map	Fishing Info
19-Mar	Delco Park		https://maps.app.goo.gl/iUgJXwx2Rx19tNwRA	Tiny streamers or mayfly nymphs for the crappies. Foam beetles or beadhead nymphs for bluegills. Bushy marabou streamers or crawdad imitations for the bass.
7-Apr	Rosewood Park		https://goo.gl/maps/D8UQYWmoxhcDGMRA	Bluegills, some are large, reports of bass.
23-Apr	Beaver Lake		https://maps.app.goo.gl/nyuVgJEtGaVdxD62A	Also access to Beaver Creek.
5-May	Eastwood Lagoon	Kayaks	https://goo.gl/maps/7LSKUJazx8fYWboSu5	Bass, crappies and bluegills. Olive Woolly Buggers, Zoo Cougars, and Marsh Hares for the bass. Many SMB in this water.
21-May	Oak Grove Park		https://goo.gl/maps/iBV9FWjR2wJTiXsR6	Fish quartering out from shore with poppers or foam bugs for big bluegills, or with Clousers, Buggers, or Zoo Cougars for bass. Some big bass in here. What to do for crappies is anybody's guess.
9-Jun	Beavercreek Community Park		https://maps.app.goo.gl/8j1rWa75WWGAocHB6	Panfish, bass and some huge carp.
25-Jun	Arthur Fisher Park		https://goo.gl/maps/X45zijDf6FYLZvb36	Fishing for early season bass, and bluegills. Olive Woolly Buggers, or Muddlers for the bass, poppers or foam beetles for the bluegills. Cast about 5 feet from shore for gills, up to 10 feet for the bass.
7-Jul	Miami View Park		https://goo.gl/maps/to6qZjp9aqVDj3uM8	Bluegills, catfish and bass.
23-Jul	Rip Rap Road Park	Wading, Kayaks (long portage)	https://goo.gl/maps/79oLpdMUDLkNvGWOA	Bring your waders and/or your kayaks! This one is on the Great Miami River in July. Kayakers, bring your portage wheels because it's about 300 yards from the parking lot to the river.
4-Aug	Fuggin Pond		https://maps.app.goo.gl/ha93VqBtqDNXqlh49	Bluegills and largemouth bass.
20-Aug	Deer Meadow Park		https://goo.gl/maps/CquLJGskM7Ug1766	Fishing for bass and big bluegills.
8-Sep	Wellfield Park		https://maps.app.goo.gl/imxBay3ZpyTDevam6	This pond gets deep abruptly. It holds anything that is in Stillwater River.
24-Sep	Lofino Park		https://goo.gl/maps/nfzb6JGFax84Nejs6	Fishing for bass, crappies and bluegills. Olive Woolly Buggers, Zoo Cougars, and Muddlers for the bass, both LMB and SMB. Green Wienies or tiny streamers for the Crappies. Popper and dropper for the bluegills. (Or, if you're Shawn, a sponge spider and a Higga's SOS.)
13-Oct	Carriage Hill - Cedar Lake	Kayaks, canoes	https://goo.gl/maps/Svz7GDDjR9uSaCiu5	Fishing for bass, crappies and bluegills.

Save the Dates

Fly Tying Class

January 10th - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Spring Run Farms

Hosted by Tom Perry. Instructors Tom Perry, Jim Calvert and Eric Rice

Enrollment is full.

MVFF Monthly Meeting

January 12th - start at 5:30 p.m.

Kohler Center, 4572 Presidential Way, Kettering, Ohio 45429

Speaker: Sara Low - High Spirits Unlimited

Make your reservation now at <https://mvff.us/reservation/>

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

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>

NOTE: If you are a new member who paid on September 1st or later you are considered paid for the following year (2026).



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>



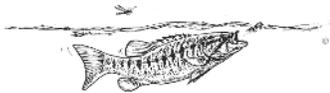
Little Miami Watershed Network

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
Karen Via

Vice President
Dave Williams

Secretary
Kelly Kingery

Treasurer
Jim August

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/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.

~ 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



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