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Clipart courtesy of the artist,

Dave Whitlock.

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ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR
NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE:

Thursday,

May 25, 2017

Next Meeting

May 8, 2017

Dayton FOP Shelter /
Casting Pond
4275 Powell Road
(Directions on Website)

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Meal Price - \$10.00

The fun starts at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for our next outdoor meeting and enjoy a grilled meal, camaraderie, and the casting competition!

Ohio Power 2017

The Ohio Power Trip is here again! The dates for 2017 are **June 02 – 04 (Fri. – Sun.)**. Some of us will be there on Memorial Day (May 29) if you want to come early. We will be somewhere in campsite C – most likely down the lane in the shade near the second restroom (outhouse). We will place MVFF signs in trailers so you know where we are camped and in cars that will be parked to hold spots for members to use. Saturday morning will be the big Camp Pancake Breakfast cooked by your hosts. Feel free to bring anything to contribute. Saturday evening we will have a potluck fish fry. Be sure to bring something to share for this big meal! If you have never been to this event, you will not be disappointed!

Two items you **MUST** bring (and carry) with you are a **current Ohio fishing license** and an **American Electric Power (AEP) Recreation Land Permit**. The AEP permit is required for camping, fishing, or hunting on the AEP Recreation Land. There is no fee for the permit.

The new permits are only good through the end of each year (the old ones were good for life).

To obtain an AEP Recreation Permit, go online at, <http://www.aep.com/environment/conservation/recland/permit.aspx>, or contact ODNR Division 5 Office at 1076 Old Springfield Pike, Xenia, Ohio, (937) 372-9216. Permits will have all the rules for

President's Thoughts



Well, the weather is still in flux with lows dipping into the 40s and highs one day of 85 and the next in the 50s. I have faith though that soon it will soon settle in to a nice warm pattern. Spring has brought lots of opportunities

though. I know that at least it has been great for mushroom hunting for those who have been out, myself included.

Another opportunity that has come our way some of you have already heard about. If you attended last month's membership meeting you were able to meet Chris Fritz from Bonbright Distributing here in Dayton, Vince Cicchinelli, SweetWater Brewing Co.'s Market Development Manager in Cincinnati, and Patrick Sullivan, Regional Sales Manager for SweetWater Brewing Co. out of Atlanta, GA. <http://sweetwaterbrew.com> They were gracious enough to provide the beer for the dinner, free of charge, so that we could have an idea of the different options they offer as well as to taste the quality of the product. From my impromptu survey during the evening, it seems everyone enjoyed them and it was quite favorable.

Every year SweetWater Brewing Co. runs a 4 month "Save Our Water" campaign during the summer and looks for organizations with like-minded interests to partner with and help with some fundraising efforts. Chris approached me for a partnership opportunity with Miami Valley Fly Fishers because he not only is a fly fisher, but often visits our website and Facebook page and has seen what we are about.

Here are some facts about what kind of involvement we would be looking at:

- We will not have to sell SweetWater beer
- We will not have to pull a liquor license
- We will not have to buy any marketing materials
- We will not have to do anything different than what we currently do

use of the land. The same link for the permit also has a link on the page to maps of the AEP Recreation area.

The American Electric Power (AEP) Recreation ground has nearly 380 campsites and more than 350 lakes and ponds. The campsites are primitive with only a well (hand pump) for water nearby as well as pit toilets for bathrooms. Some of the larger lakes have unimproved boat ramps, but a 9 hp limit applies to all boat motors. The lakes are plentiful with mostly bluegill and bass. You might also see carp and beavers.

Make sure whatever means you bring to fish from is properly licensed and has the required safety equipment. The Division of Watercraft is always there checking (and writing tickets for those not following the rules). Currently Ohio requires a license for everything but a belly boat. For Ohio boating laws see <http://watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/laws/boating-laws-in-general>. For safety equipment required see <http://watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/requiredequipment>.

For specific Ohio fishing regulations for this outing see <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/fishing/fishing-regulations/site-specific-regulations> under the section of "Inland Lakes, Reservoirs, Rivers, & Streams." Then search for "American Electric Power Company Waters".

Questions?: Contact **Ken Hudak** at (937) 673-8869, or **Everett Vanatta** at (937) 835-3621.

Directions: I-70 to Zanesville, go south on Route 60 to Gaysport, go east on 376 to just across the Morgan County Line, go left on C-91 (you will come to a fork in about ¾ of a mile – take the fork to the left to stay on C-91), go right on C-11 for 2.2 miles (C-91 will end at C-11 or Cloud Hollow Rd), then go left on T-944. You will cross 284 and the entrance to Campsite C will be on your left.

Alternate directions: If you want to stay on paved roads follow these directions. I-70 to Zanesville, go south on Route 60 into McConnelsville, go east (left) on 78 (also N. 7th Street in town – if you go past the cemetery you missed your turn), go north east (left) on 83 to 284, take 284 north to sign for campsite C and turn right – the entrance to the campsite will be on your left.



Casting Competition Volunteers Still Needed

The Casting Competition will start in May when our outdoor meetings begin. The club is still looking for more help in taking over the casting competition as the past cast of judges has been doing it for nearly a decade. We have put together a description of what the job entails and you can view it at . . .

<http://mvff.tripod.com/Reference/Casting-Competition-Description.pdf>

Please contact Ken Hudak, Jeff Warden, Dan Matousch, or Kelly Kingery if you are interested and willing to work on this important club activity. The past judges will work with you to show you the ropes and what needs to be done.

Thanks.

~ Jeff Warden

President's Thoughts (cont'd)

- Bonbright Distributors will work with a local bar/pub to host after-event parties where any SweetWater beer sold will have a percentage of proceeds go to MVFF (EX: after a MVFF river clean up, everyone goes to "pub" and has a refreshing SW beverage and laughs and tells big fish lies = MVFF receives money. EX: after a TNT everyone goes to "pub" and has a frosty cold SW beverage and calls each other on how big that fish really was = MVFF receives money)
- Bonbright will do all the marketing (signage)
- Bonbright will do any promotional materials (logoed cups with the MVFF/Save Our Water Campaign/SweetWater Brewery logos)

Please go to SweetWater Brewing Co's website and look at their Save Our Water Campaign, <http://sweetwaterbrew.com/vibe/save-our-water-returns> see what they are about, and see how it could benefit the club. I know that Bonbright has done this with other organizations in the region, such as Five Rivers MetroParks and New Belgium's Fat Tire beer in conjunction with their cycling initiative. Over the course of the partnership they have raised just under \$200,000 for FRMP.

It is the feeling of the Board that a decision such as this should go before the membership, and I felt that the deadline we were given to make a decision was too short to give everyone an opportunity to think about it and then cast their vote before May 5th.

So, you have the nuts and bolts of the proposal. You have looked at SweetWater's web site. You've decided how you want to vote. NOW you have to **get your vote in by the June meeting.**

- **Vote at the June Meeting June 12th at the FOP, 4275 Powell Road**
- **Or Mail your vote by June 5th to:** MVFF, PO 151, Wright Bros Station, Dayton, Ohio 45409
- **Or Email your vote by June 5th to:** ffpcclay@gmail.com

SweetWater Brewing Co. is more than just beer. I personally don't drink beer, but I can find value in supporting a company who has a vision to save our waters, stand up for the right to clean water, and who also loves and lives the fly fishing lifestyle that we all do. "As a brewery, clean water is important to us because it's a main ingredient in making tasty beer. But in a broader sense, clean water is vital to a healthy community as a source for drinking and fishing," says SweetWater Founder and Big Kahuna Freddy Bensch.

Speaking of last month's meeting – what a great Spring Fling! Kudos to Amy Aspenwahl for all the fantastic raffle items!! Thank you to all who participated as well.

Our special speaker, Jason Randall was, once again, amazing. Jason brings his science, his passion for the sport, his humor and personal experiences into his delivery and leaves you feeling like you sat across the table from an old friend over a cup of coffee when he is done. All who attended learned a lot and walked away with a lot of new techniques to try. Many thanks to John Young for bringing such great talent to our club.

I hope to see you at the first outdoor meeting of 2017!

Kelly Kingery
MVFF President

May Fly of the Month



As a foreword, it is very important that you leave a clear “gap” between your materials and the hook eye. This gap provides space for the helmet to be fitted from the front of the hook over the materials and secured in place.

1. Place the hook in the vise with the hook point up. Start the thread about 1/4” behind the hook eye and wrap a tight thread base back to under the hook barb. At this back end point make 6-10 wraps to form a thread ball. (This ball will help secure the rabbit strip in place.)
2. Take a 2”- 3” piece of straight rabbit strip and trim one end to a small point to help create a tapered tail at the back of the fly. With the skin toward you, hold the strip against the hook shank with the cut flat end slightly in front of the thread tie-in point and place a small dot in the center of the strip on the skin at the point where it meets the hook bend. (This should be somewhere around the center of the strip.)
3. Now push the hook point through the dot you made on the skin, then take the hook out of the vise and reposition the strip so that it lies straight on the hook shank with the fur going toward the hook point and the pointed end of the skin extending back past the hook bend.
4. Now put the hook back in the vice, hook point up, and brush the hair back so that it is evenly distributed on either side of the hook bend.
5. At the point where you formed the thread ball, brush back the fur on the strip to expose bare skin. Hold the strip in place (straight and in line with the hook shank) tight against the ball and tie it down over the bare skin with 5-6 thread wraps (try to keep the thread wraps on top of one another as much as possible). The sides of the strip should fold down evenly on both sides of the hook shank.
6. Now lift the rabbit strip and do at least 10 tight thread wraps directly under the strip against the skin, then wrap the thread forward to the middle of the hook shank, then lay the skin down on top of the hook shank and brush the hair back to cover the back tie-in point of the skin.
7. Cut a 4”- 5” piece of crosscut rabbit strip and trim one end to a small point. Measure the strip so that the tips of the fur extend slightly past the back of the hook bend. Tie the strip in by its point, skin side toward you, at the middle of the hook shank (or slightly farther back if necessitated by the fur measurement). Once the strip is tied in, wrap the thread forward to the initial thread tie-in point.
8. Lift the straight skin strip back out of the way and apply a very light coating of super glue to the hook shank from the tie-in point of the

Fish Skull Skulpin Bunny

Instructions by Bill “Woody” Woodward

Photography by Bob Cain

Recipe

- Hook.....Streamer, 4xl, size 2 - 6
Weight.....Fish Skull Skulpin Helmet, small, brown or olive
Eyes.....Gold 3D, 3 mm
Thread.....Brown or olive, 6/0
Tail and back.....Rabbit zonker, straight cut, 1/8”, olive or brown barred
Body and fins.....Rabbit zonker, cross cut, 1/8”, olive or brown

crosscut strip forward to where you left the thread.

9. Grasp the crosscut strip and wrap it forward, using tight side-by-side wraps, to one wrap past where you left the thread and tie it off. (Be sure to stroke the fur back after each wrap to avoid binding down the fur.) Depending on how thick the rabbit strip is, you should reach the thread tie-in point in 3-5 wraps. Remove any excess crosscut strip.
10. Brush the crosscut fur back so that it is straight and evenly distributed on all sides of the hook shank, then, using your fingers, evenly separate the cross cut fur on top (in this case, the top is the side toward the hook point.) of the hook shank.
11. Now grasp the straight rabbit strip and pull it firmly over the top of the divided crosscut fur (similarly to making a wing case on a nymph) and tie it down tightly in front of the crosscut fur. Remove any excess straight strip, wrap a small thread head, and cut the thread. (The thread head is important as it is the base for the helmet.) (You should still have about 1/4” of clear space behind the hook eye - if not, you may have trouble mounting the skull helmet.) Brush all the fur back toward the hook bend. Note: The basic tail and body of the fly is now complete. It consists of a simple, straight cut rabbit strip running from the front to the back of the fly that representing the back and tail of a sculpin. It also includes a single cross cut rabbit strip wrapped around the hook shank to form the underbody and front fins of a sculpin.
12. Now take a Sculpin Helmet and slip it on the hook to see if it fits properly. (The top of the helmet should be toward the hook point.) If your spacing is correct, then the helmet will fit snugly against the front of the fur and the thread head, leaving a very small gap between the front of the helmet and the eye of the hook.
13. If the fit is okay, remove the helmet and apply a coating of super glue to the top, sides, and bottom of the thread head, then push the helmet into position again. Make any final adjustments then push the helmet against the thread head until the glue sets.
14. Reattach the thread in front of the helmet and form a small thread dam to secure the helmet in place. Do a whip finish and cut the thread. Apply head cement to the thread dam.
15. Apply a small drop of super glue in the middle of each helmet eye socket and stick on the 3D eyes that came with the helmet.



Casting *Competition* News!

It's time for the outdoor meetings, which means it's time to dust off those casting skills. It is also time for a new group of judges to take over. Your outgoing judges - Ken Hudak, Lash LaRue, Dan Matousch, and Jeff Warden will give the new judges a hand this year. The new team will take over 100% by next year, if not sooner. Come on over – visit and cast a bit.

The only thing required to participate in the casting events is for you to show up. You don't even have to own a fly rod (although, if you do, you can cheat by practicing at home – just don't tell the judges; they might, no – they will – give you a hard time). There is no age requirement or limit, no height requirement, and no previous casting experience is needed. **Regardless of skill level, EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

CASTING COMPETITION CUT-OFF TIME

Casting will be held ONLY from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

No casting will be allowed after 7:00 PM. The cut-off time will help ensure we are not holding up the meeting with scoring, etc., and give us somewhat of a chance to grab some dinner. So come on over and cast early. **If no one is casting, at the discretion of the judges, we might close as early as 6:30 PM.**

This Year's lineup of events:

- **May** - **Dry Fly**
- **June** - **Nymph**
- **July** - **Roll Cast** (Max. of 15 casts allowed to attempt all targets)
- **August** - **Bass Bug**
- **September** - **Distance competition** (Using an average of several casts)

Casting *Competition* – this month (May) is the Dry Fly.

A maximum of 3 false casts will be allowed per target. We will have you start with the fly in target 1 or in your hand. (Judge's decision on meeting night.)

Casting *Competition* Divisions are as follows:

First Flight: Those that have never won a casting event and all new casters.

Seniors: Casters who have previously won a First Flight casting event or former winners of the First Flight casting division.

Masters: Former winners of the Seniors casting division.

Competition Guidelines:

Everyone will cast to the same five rings, using the club rod.

One person from each division will be determined the winner of that night's competition.

Based on your cumulative scores of all the events, an overall winner will be determined for each division and presented a traveling trophy in December.

Scoring:

(Judges will make the final ruling on all scores; there will be no ties for any event.)

All casters will start with 100 points.

- (-0) Those skillful enough to place the fly inside the gold ring will not lose any points.
- (-1) Any fly that lands inside the black ring will result in the deduction of 1 point.
- (-2) If the fly lands outside all the rings, 2 points will be deducted.

The person in each division with the highest score will win the event for their division.

At the end of the outdoor season, overall winners of each division will be determined by averaging scores of all events entered. Whoever has the highest score total in their division will be awarded a trophy at the December awards banquet. Even if you don't win an event, you could still be the overall winner of your division (it's happened before!). So come on over and cast.

Remember - although we do keep score and everyone would like to win, the real point of doing this (other than to just have a good time) is to improve our casting abilities.



Good Luck!

Jeff Warden

Watch for TNT Events

Spring is here, and I know that we are all ready to hit the waters!

Stayed tuned for monthly TNT events throughout the spring and summer. TNT events are held on an evening during the week at a local park and a chance to meet up with fellow club members for a nice evening of fishing. They are a great way to meet folks and to maybe find a new place to fish.

If anyone has a favorite local pond that has public access and wants to suggest it for a TNT event, please let Steve Hamilton (akhammy67@gmail.com) know, and we will get it on the schedule!

Looking For Mentors

We still need Fly Fishing Mentors for our new club members. If you volunteer to serve in such a capacity, your information will be on a list in the new member packet that they can reach out to for help with questions, casting, or just needing a fishing buddy. What a great way to make them feel welcome and get to know members in the club.

If you would have an interest in being a Fly Fishing Mentor please email Paula Smith, Vice President - rvfly49@gmail.com, and include your name, phone number and email. I hope to let the new members have an opportunity to reach out and get acquainted with fly fishing as well as socializing with other club members.

~ Paula Smith



Challenge Coin Presented

A Challenge Coin was recently presented to Dave Oertel, former MVFF President, for his contributions to the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program and MVFF's partnership with the Dayton VA.



Bill Grimpe, MVFF's PHWFF Program Chair (left) with Dave Oertel

A number of years ago Karla Riste, a USAF veteran who worked in the Occupational Therapy Department of the Dayton VA, heard about the national PHWFF and decided it was something that would be valuable for the vets she was working with.

One of her first steps was to contact MVFF's Dave Oertel and that got things rolling! Dave enthusiastically undertook the club's involvement in this project. That was seven years ago and the program has flourished since then with scores of veterans participating in fly tying, casting instruction and even the building of their own rods. Then each year during the warmer months there have been innumerable fishing outings for the vets on area public and private waters.

Dave's commitment to and belief in the potential benefits of the program got it off to the right start and we are all grateful for his leadership. Karla and Dave are our local PHWFF pioneers and both now recipients of Challenge Coins.

Mad River CleanSweep

June 10th is the next scheduled bi-annual Mad River CleanSweep and we need your help. Please plan on attending for all or part of the CleanSweep. Our past efforts have been very successful and we need to keep it going . . .

Saturday, June 10, 2017

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Meet at the 36 Bridge

***Dress for the weather; bring work gloves, pickup trucks, drift boats, and canoes needed.

Check in at Ohio Trophy Trout Hunter on Facebook, www.tumadmen.org or call Ron Lewis at 937-608-7183 for more

CALENDAR

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	PHWFF Fly Fishing Program Dayton VA, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
May 6	Trout release, Stonelick Lake
May 8	MVFF Outdoor Meeting, Dayton FOP Shelter/Casting Pond 4275 Powell Rd., 5:30 p.m.
May 25	Deadline for June Tightlines articles
June 2-4	Ohio Power Outing
June 3-10	Canadian Fishing Trip
June 3	Kleen Sweep of the Little Miami River
June 10	Mad River CleanSweep

Check our Facebook
Events page for updates & details

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

Looking For Volunteers

As I am sure most of you know, MVFF has a lot of various opportunities throughout the year for members to volunteer their talents and time in outreach, education, and goodwill efforts. In an effort to make sure that we are putting the word out to all who are interesting in helping, we are creating a list of members that wish to volunteer and what they would like to volunteer for...

So, if you are interesting in volunteering, please send the following information to Steve Hamilton (akhammy67@gmail.com):

- Name
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Things you would like to volunteer for (fly tying, outreach, education, rod building, casting, etc.)

Thank you all for your time, your talents, and your commitment to the club and to the community!

~ MVFF Volunteer Committee

Got Photos?!

In addition to needing written material for this newsletter, we need photos. Everyone likes photos! If you've been on a recent fishing trip, think about writing an article for *Tightlines*. At the very least send some pics (and give us some details we can post with them). We will get them on the website and on the club's Facebook page as well. We would welcome the contributions.

If you have ideas on what you would like to see in *Tightlines* or added to the website let me know. My contact information is on page 1.

Thanks.

~ Tom Arnold



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TIGHTLINES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Miami Valley Fly Fishers

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MVFF is an Affiliate Club
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Federation of Fly Fishers