

TIGHTLINES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Miami Valley Fly Fishers



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

MVFF OFFICERS

President

Joe Nagel
(937) 620-8269
joe.nagel@gmail.com

Vice President

Nathan Via
(937) 367-3381
nocturn56@aol.com

Secretary

Matt Mullins
(937) 689-9440
troutbum937@gmail.com

Treasurer

JD Dukes
(410) 858-0440
sailing63@aol.com

Website

www.mvff.us

Submit articles
and information to:

Editor

Joe Nagel
(937) 620-8269
joe.nagel@gmail.com

Clipart provided free.
Courtesy of the artist,
Dave Whitlock.

More information at:
www.davewhitlock.com

**ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR
NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE:**

**Friday,
December 26, 2014**

**This Month:
The MVFF
Awards Banquet**

Next Meeting

December 8, 2014

**Kohler Banquet Center
4572 Presidential Way,
Kettering, Ohio**

Doors open at 5:30 P.M. ,
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
(RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.)

Directions on Website

RSVP to Mike Wolford at 937-667-9392 or
E-Mail him at: toflyfish@woh.rr.com
by **Thursday, Dec 4, 2014.**

(NOTE - New Dinner Price is now **\$15.00**)

This month:

The Annual MVFF Awards Banquet

An annual tradition, the MVFF Awards Banquet is a time to meet and greet friends, share a good meal and recognize members' contributions and accomplishments. Please join us in recognizing and celebrating many of those who made significant contributions to the club this past year.

Membership Renewal Reminder

2015 Membership fees are due **NOW**. The membership fee remains unchanged at **\$35.00**.

Membership dues comprise 50% of our annual budget. Our club depends upon support such as yours in order to:

- Provide quality speakers at our indoor meetings
- Offer our outstanding Fly Tying Classes
- Participate in community projects (i.e. - PHWFF)
- Continue to promote the sport we love so much

If you have already renewed your membership for 2015 - thank you! If you have not, please bring your membership dues with you to the December meeting.

The club is counting on **you!**

President's Thoughts



Being the newsletter editor for the past 6 years, in addition to this year's Club president, has given me some advantages which may not have been available to me otherwise.

For instance - in preparing this article (my final one as president) I was wondering what past presidents had to say in their final articles. Finding this information was easy for me, as I have all of the newsletter articles from the past 6 years on file.

It seems that in December, we club presidents become quite reflective about our year in office. We recount our accomplishments, and we look forward to the year to come. In re-reading those articles, I believe my predecessors had every right to be proud. The club has come a long way in the time I have been a member, and my hope is that it will continue to do so for years to come.

So, I guess I will follow the same pattern as well (why tempt fate, huh?). While going through my files, I also found my notes from our first board meeting of 2014. Here are some of the highlights (and results):

Spring Tune Up - I think this was well received, and a lot of fun!

The New TNT - We tried to make TNT events more accessible, but we were unable to get leaders to head up events. Maybe next year...

Member Appreciation Night - (Come on, this was easy; who doesn't like a free steak dinner, right?)

MVFF "Swag" - This was not as popular as I thought it would be, but still, there are bunch of you out there with MVFF Logo hats, shirts and travel mugs!

Continued on Page 2

President's Thoughts Continued from Page 1

In all, I think the club had a very good year in 2014, and I am looking forward to 2015. Allow me to introduce your Board for next year:

Nathan Via	President
Scott Davis	Vice President
JD Dukes	Treasurer
Phil Clay	Secretary

Please join me in congratulating Scott and Phil in joining Nathan and JD on the Board. I can assure you the club is in good hands.

But before Nathan and his board gets set for next year, join us at the December meeting in recognizing all of the members whose hard work has enabled the club to thrive in 2014. And there are a lot of them; in addition to our major awards, over **40** certificates of recognition will be presented.

As the year winds down, the club is in good financial health, and membership is strong. And the reason for this is **YOU**. All of us together make up the club – it is what we make of it, and I think we are doing a pretty good job. Let's all help the Board continue to do so next year as well.

Now, for my parting note - after much consideration, I have decided it is also time for me to step down as newsletter editor. I have enjoyed being the newsletter editor these past six years, but the time has come to turn this important duty over to someone with fresh ideas (and fresh legs). I will continue as newsletter editor while a new editor is being selected.

I thank you for the privilege of being both your President and newsletter editor. It has been quite a unique and rewarding opportunity to be able to serve the club in this manner.

See you on the water.

Tight lines,

Joe Nagel, President

The Bamboo Ballad

A Multi-Part Article About Bamboo Fly Rods, by Club Member Jerry Wallace

Part II – History

The history of making bamboo fly rods is very interesting. From early rod makers experimenting with bamboo tips on wooden fly rods to secret machining rooms in the golden age to the shared knowledge of today's craftsmen. The early craftsman used Calcutta cane from India, it tended to be pithy and bug infested. Some believe that is why flaming the canes originally started. Tonkin cane was tried as a rod material in the early 1900's and soon became the bamboo of choice. Bamboo fly rods are not unique to the USA, makers are all over the world; Japan, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, France and more. My quest and education thus far has been with classic USA rod crafters. Names like Goodwin Granger, Bill Phillipson, James Heddon, Everett Garrison, Ed Payne, Paul H. Young, Bill Edwards, Lyle Dickerson, Orvis, Pinky Gillum, Hiram Leonard and more have filled my time. One interesting fact is that many of the early makers started out as gunsmiths or machinists. The exacting work of their prior vocations served them well in the precision work needed manufacturing bamboo fly rods. During the golden age the process of making the rods was highly secretive. Legend has it Hiram Leonard was fully aware of the business advantage that his machinery gave him, and kept his rod-forming machine under lock and key with the threat of firing any employee that dared to enter the room where it was housed. That is a far cry from today where the fine details of making a rod are freely shared. The early masters spawned other rod-makers who after learning the craft struck out on their own. I believe there are basically three main classes of bamboo rods. You could argue four, if you consider trade rods.

Completely handmade by one or just a few people (Dickerson, Payne, Leonard, Garrison, E.W. Edwards, modern craftsman).

Handmade production rods mass produced but to exacting standards with refined processes (Granger, Phillipson, Heddon, Uslan).

Plain production rods, mass produced to make as many as possible (South Bend, Horrocks Ibbotson, Montague).

Trade rods, produced by many makers from South Bend to Edwards, sold under a different brand name such as Winchester, Union Hardware, LL Bean and more.

The brands and makers mentioned above are just but a few that were around in the early to mid-1900's. There were several concurrent events that marked the end of the golden age of bamboo rod making. First came the trade embargo on china from 1950 -1971 which effectively ceased the flow of Tonkin cane. The cane in companies that closed their doors was quickly bought up by suppliers and competitors. Then at the time when bench stocks of Tonkin were running low – the advent of fiberglass as a rod making material allowed rods to be produced in a fraction of the time that a cane rod could be made. They were lighter, 'low maintenance' fishing tools that could stand a lot of use (read abuse) and their manufacture didn't require the level of skill involved with producing a fine cane rod. Some bamboo makers could not make the transition to the new materials and closed their doors. This sparked the end of the golden age of bamboo rod building. There were several factors, but the embargo on bamboo had some part. As the demand for cane dwindled with the switch to synthetics, the market for cane became quite small and mainly limited to home craftsman and the few remaining commercial firms that continued to build cane rods. The publication of the Garrison/Carmichael book in 1977 as well as the Cattanach book in 1992 helped to spawn a reawakening in the craft and renewed appreciation for the bamboo and the cane rod-building craft.

Next Month - Part III: Buying a Bamboo Rod

This Month's Fly – December 2014 Edition



Dick's Bug

Instructions by Bill "Woody" Woodward
Photograph by Bob Cain

Recipe

Hook.....Wet/Nymph, size 10-16
Thread.....Black, 6/0
Head.....Bead, brass/gold/black, sized for hook
Tail.....Krystal flash or equivalent, pink pearl
Rib.....Copper wire, small
Body.....Peacock herl or peacock dubbing in a dubbing loop

1. Place the bead on the hook, then attach the thread slightly behind the bead and wrap a tight thread base back down the hook shank to the hook bend. Let the thread hang.
2. Cut a short length of flash and tie it in at the hook bend as a tail. The tail should be the length of the hook shank. Tie down the butts of the flash up to behind the bead head with tight wraps of thread. Remove any excess flash and leave the thread behind the bead.
3. Cut a 3"-4" piece of copper wire and stick one end into the back of the bead (not through the bead) and then bind down the length of the wire with tight thread wraps back to the hook bend. The remaining length of wire should be projecting out past the bend of the hook and will be used as the rib. Let the thread hang.
4. Select three or four peacock herls, remove the brown butts and tie them in by the butt ends at the hook bend. Take the thread and make 4-5 palmered wraps of thread over the length of the herl to create a peacock rope. Wrap this peacock rope forward to behind the bead and tie it off. Remove any remaining herl. *(If using dubbing, form a dubbing loop at the hook bend and fill it lightly with dubbing, then twist the loop tight and wrap the loop forward in tight touching turns to behind the bead and tie it off. Remove any remaining loop.)*
5. Grasp the copper wire and palmer it through the peacock body to behind the bead. Tie it off and remove any excess wire.
6. Do a whip finish behind the bead and cut the thread. Apply head cement to the whip finish if desired.



Rod Building Class 2015

This Long-Running Class (since 1981) is Officially Ready for Sign-Ups!

When:

Rod building classes will begin **Saturday, February 14** and continue for about 4 weeks total. The morning classes (5 **new** students only) are from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (see note at bottom of page). The afternoon classes (5 **old grads** only) are from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

Where:

At my shop (165 Miami Dr.) in Yellow Springs.

How to Enroll:

If you're at all **serious** about securing a position in these classes send a **deposit** of **\$100** immediately! It's a first come, first served basis. Don't wait a month and then find out we're filled up. A phone call or e-mail (see below) will buy you one week to get your deposit in. You're not in until you've paid!

Total Cost?:

The course fee is \$10 – covers thread, glues, and finishes, etc. (no tattoos!). Rod parts (reel seat & insert, cork rings, & guides) run about \$50. This is using the lower end of the best components – we don't tolerate junk! Of course you can crank this figure up with nickel-silver seats, burlwood inserts, tic guides, etc.

I offer St. Croix, Pac Bay and Temple Fork blanks. These blanks can run from \$80 to \$400 dollars. Rod bags and cases of various types are also on hand.

What else?:

If you've got questions, need advice on choosing what's best for you, or whatever, give me a call. Answers are generally free (correct answers are .05 ea.). You're welcome to test cast my personal rods.

Visiting professor Raymond X. Lee has assured me that he again will honor us with his presence. Nowadays, he serves as both my eyes & brain. What could be better!

Rod wrapping jigs are also available as well as the turning motors for curing finishes. A modest rental fee is charged.

Jim Corbin
165 Miami Dr.
Yellow Springs, Oh 45387

Phone (local call from most Dayton exchanges): (937) 767-1326

E-mail: jlcobrods@aol.com

Note: The first class for beginners starts at 9:30 am, remaining sessions start at 10:00 am.

November Meeting Re-Cap

Our friend **Brian Flechsig**, from **Mad River Outfitters** in Columbus, was the speaker for our November meeting.

The topic of Brian's presentation was Tenkara. I know some members are familiar with Tenkara, but for the majority of us, this was our first introduction to this style of fly fishing. And it **IS** fly fishing - a specialized type of fly fishing, with no reel.

Brian took the mystery out of Tenkara for us, showing us the equipment, flies and techniques used. Most commercial Tenkara rods available today are telescopic, collapsing down to around 20 inches in length. This makes them highly portable, and easy to take almost anywhere.

Brian summed up Tenkara as follows:

- It's simplistic, but effective
- Tenkara is complimentary to traditional fly fishing techniques
- While simple, it offers a lifetime of learning opportunities

For more information about Brian and Mad River Outfitters, visit their website at <http://www.madriverroutfitters.com/>.



Brian Flechsig from Mad River Outfitters at the November meeting, teaching us about Tenkara.

(Photo courtesy of Scott Davis)

MVFF CALENDAR For December, 2014

- 8 - **MVFF Indoor Meeting** (Reservations **Are** Required - See Page 1 for Details.)
- 9 - **Casual Fly Tying**, Gander Mountain, 8001 Old Troy Pike, Huber Heights, OH 45424, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- 26 - Deadline for Articles for Next Month's Issue of **Tightlines**

MVFF Message Board

The MVFF Message Board now has over **480** registered members!

Also, you can now read messages without registering or logging in. Just go to the club's web site at <http://www.mvff.us> and you will find a link to the board in the upper left-hand corner.



MVFF is now on Facebook! Follow us at:
<http://www.facebook.com/MiamiValleyFlyFishers>

MVFF Email

Miami Valley Fly Fishers is trying to improve communication with members by making greater use of email. To be sure our messages reach you, please put the following address in your email address book:

mvffemail@gmail.com

Then send us an email subject "Email Address Check" to be sure we have your correct email address. Don't forget to include your name.

REMINDER FOR CLUB PURCHASES

ALL CLUB PURCHASES MUST RECEIVE PRE-APPROVAL IN ORDER TO BE REIMBURSED. AMOUNTS OVER \$50 REQUIRE BOARD PRE-APPROVAL. AMOUNTS UNDER \$50 CONTACT THE CLUB TREASURER FOR PRE-APPROVAL. PLEASE BE SURE TO USE THE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FORM, WHICH CAN BE FOUND ON THE CLUB'S WEBSITE AT THE FOLLOWING LINKS:

http://mvff.tripod.com/Resources/AP_Form.pdf OR http://mvff.tripod.com/Resources/AP_Form.xls

2015 Fly-Tying Class Schedules

LOCATION:

The Lodge at Gander Mountain, 8001 Old Troy Pike, Huber Heights, OH.

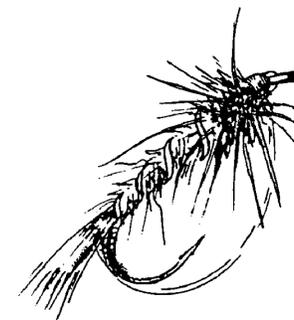
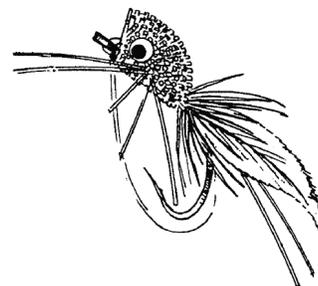
The room is reserved from 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. on the following dates for these classes.

BEGINNER'S 2015 CLASS SCHEDULE

(All Tuesdays)
January 6
January 13
January 20
January 27
February 3
February 10
February 17
February 24
March 3
March 10
March 17
March 24

INTERMEDIATE 2015 CLASS SCHEDULE

(All Thursdays)
January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29
February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26
March 5
March 12
March 19
March 26



The following dates are also reserved to allow for re-scheduling if required due to severe winter weather:

Beginner's Class: March 31 / April 7

Intermediate Class: April 2 / April 9



Travis Markley
Store Manager
Phone: 937-236-9786
Fax: 937-236-9854
Email: gm193mgr@gandermountain.com
www.gandermountain.com

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7635 Wilmington Pike todd@reelflyrod.com
Dayton, Ohio 45458 www.ReelFlyRod.com



813 Bethel Rd., Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 451-0363
Brian Flechsig
www.madriveroutfitters.com

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104 Valley Street
Dayton, Ohio 45404
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This Month's Meeting:

The Annual MVFF Awards Banquet

December 8, 2014
Kohler Banquet Center



Visit Us On The Web:

<http://www.mvff.us>



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

FISHERMAN'S HEADQUARTERS

CHRIS HOCHWALT
ROD AND REEL REPAIR

142 S. KEOWEE ST
DAYTON, OH 45402
FULL LINE TACKLE AND LIVE BAIT
937-222-2224
937-222-7323
FISHERMANSHEADQUARTERS@GMAIL.COM
CUSTOM ROD BUILDING FLY TYING

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An Active Member Club
Federation of Fly Fishers