



# Ohio Fly Line



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## No FFF Club in Your Area? Start One!

The Ohio Sub Council (OSC) to the Great Lakes Council (GLC) is fast becoming a positive force for Ohio Fly Fishing and Fly Fishing in general. At the FFF Annual Conclave in Livingston Montana this past August, Ohio was showcased in a very positive way. Mike Bryant, OSC Vice-President and President of Buckeye United Fly Fishers (BUFF) in Cincinnati, was elected to the FFF National Board of Directors. Also, North Coast Fly Fishers (NCF) in Kirtland, OH was the recipient of FFF's highest club award, the McKenzie Cup. Congratulations to Mike and NCF for their hard work and dedication to our sport. We are thankful for their willingness to donate their time and energy to advance fly-fishing for all of us, and BUFF and NCF are just two examples of how dedicated enthusiasts in FFF clubs make a difference for all fly fishers.

There are many FFF members in Ohio who do not belong to an FFF Club because they live too far from one of the eight active FFF Clubs, and therefore miss out on the camaraderie and educational opportunities (teaching & learning) that are part of a FFF Club. But, did you know that it's pretty easy to start a FFF club, and that you can do it with as few as 10 people? You can, and here are five simple steps to get you started:

1. Determine if there is an interest in forming a Fly Fishing club in your area. Communicating with local fly shops or fishing shops and their patrons will give you a pretty good idea of interest level.
2. Locate a facility to hold an investigative meeting. Again your local shop can be of great assistance with this, and many community rooms in libraries, churches or schools can be used at no cost.
3. Advertise this initial meeting via your fly shops, libraries, local newspaper in the sports section, etc. A sample ad might say "If you're interested in forming a fly fishing club, meet at the Small Town Library on Thursday at 7 p.m." It's that simple.
4. At this initial meeting you can discuss forming a club and decide if you want to have a follow up meeting. Select a leader to do a follow up and to keep the ball rolling. Ultimately, this group may become your first group of club officers.
5. At the follow up meeting your organizational team should have a general outline for the structure of the new club.

These steps are detailed in a three-page outline available from the OSC just for the asking. Send an e-mail to [President@ohiofff.org](mailto:President@ohiofff.org) and I'll get it right out to you, or if you don't have e-mail, mail your request to P.O. Box 442, Shelby, OH 44875.

We very interested in helping start new clubs and recruiting existing clubs to join FFF & OSC. We have the expertise and documentation to get a new club formed or to get an existing club to join FFF. Whenever possible we attend initial and organizational meetings to help jump-start the process, and it doesn't stop there. We can supply bylaws, policies, procedures and program guidelines so you don't have to "reinvent the wheel." All this is available at no cost once your club is organized.

Keep in mind an Organization's success is determined by the efforts of its members. The individual Ohio FFF Clubs are highly successful and they have joined together to help OSC attain the same levels of success. Let us help you to become part of that trend.

*Don Van Buren, President, OSC*

## **Ohio's Little Miami River**

A hundred Smallmouth bass eagerly await your chosen lure as you slip your silent canoe into the clear waters of the Little Miami Scenic River at the Jacoby Road Launch. If they could talk they would tell you many a fish tale of this timeless treasure of a river beloved by thousands of people in Southwest Ohio.

Your solo experience begins early on a gloriously quiet summer morning as the morning sun streaks through the riverfront forest canopy dancing and sparkling as it reflects off the rippling water. You cast, sensing the line as it gracefully lights upon the water.

Up ahead, unaware of your silent presence a stately Great Blue Heron, like you, seeks a favorable strike perhaps to carry its reward on a six-foot wingspan back to a nearby rookery and its nest with young awaiting a tasty fish meal.

You've entered a world of beauty, this shimmering river corridor, a world so removed from the hectic day-to-day world you've left behind. You and your fly rod quiver with eagerness to explore this wonderful adventure in a landscape nurtured and molded for thousands of years into a welcoming gift unmatched by man.

For decades local citizens like you have cared for this river, cleaning its banks of the trash which would despoil its beauty. Organizations like Little Miami Inc. have spearheaded energetic clean ups. OEPA researchers have studied the fish, insects, and chemistry of this home for some 84 fish species. Sport and non-sport species have revealed to researchers much information so useful in determining the overall health of this exceptional warm water habitat.

Along the 105-mile course of the Little Miami some 50% of its course is in "full attainment" of state water quality standards. Much progress has been made since 1983 when only 4% of the river's meandering ecosystem was so fully restored.

New residential and commercial development, leapfrogging east to the river's edge from the Cincinnati and Dayton metropolitan areas with runoff and sewage treatment plant effluent is the focus

of concern by conservationists and public officials alike OEPA has begun to require reductions for treatment plant discharges for nutrients like phosphorus. Phosphorus is a key ingredient for algae blooms with can quickly overtake a stream and reduce life-giving oxygen levels so important to aquatic life.

Little Miami Inc has spoken out on behalf of this restoration effort, and has lent the organization's expertise in the acquisition of some 36 riverfront nature preserves along the valley. Over 500 river valley families have lent their private financial support to LMI to help assure that the march of progress does not overtake and destroy this irreplaceable natural place, a river that time has quietly preserved.

A strike! Your rod bows to welcome the Smallmouth that has awaited your arrival. At your reward comes closer on a splashy dance across the water's glimmering surface, your adrenaline rushes, your heart quickens, and you know why you've come to the Little Miami. As you lovingly remove the lure from your trophy's lip, and you gently slide your friend back into the watery ripples you feel your sense of place, your sense of responsibility in protecting this outstanding and remarkable river for your children and your children's children.

*Note: Learn more about the Little Miami National Wild & Scenic River and how you can help protect this treasure at [www.littlemiami.org](http://www.littlemiami.org). On October 8, 2005 a "Little Miami Celebration" event will be held for river supporters at Nisbet Park in Loveland OH. The public is welcomed.*

Author: Eric B. Partee is Executive Director of Little Miami Inc. LMI was founded in 1967. The mailing address is LMI, 6040 Price Road, Milford OH, 513/965-9344.

## **6th Annual GLC Fly Tying Expo**

This year's Expo will be Saturday, December 3, 2005 at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason, MI. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children. If you are an FFF member in good standing and would like to tie at this event, contact Dorothy Schramm by e-mail at [jdschramm@oceana.net](mailto:jdschramm@oceana.net). Dorothy will send you a packet to complete and mail back to her. Remember, you do not have to be a master tier to tie at this event. Additional details are on the GLC website at [fffglc.org](http://fffglc.org).

## WHY BOTHER TO LEARN

By James Caswell, Mohican Fly Fishers

First thing Saturday morning, every Saturday morning, I sit in my 'Lazy-Boy' recliner chair, pajama-clad, sleepy-eyed, coffee-clutching, T.V. viewing. Looking for anything about fly-fishing. Lately there is less and less of it, no idea why, just is. So, I find one. Some guy fly-fishing for Bonefish in Belize.

If I can't get away for some of that at least I can live vicariously by watching it on the boob-tube. Poor substitute, but better than none at all. Anyway, it was all there, the multi-colored bonefish flats, the 16 foot boat, the guide pointing and the dude casting. The guide complaining about the cast not going where it should. The sport complaining about the wind blowing his cast where he did not want it to go.

The fish are impossible to see even with copper colored polarized sun glasses. The dude can't hook the fish, he can't play them, they get off, he can't get them on the reel like he should. In fact, it seemed that the more things went wrong, the better he liked the whole trip. Almost like, if things had gone well, it might not have been any fun.

One thing I will single out. Here is a guy who has spent mega-bucks on a long distance fly-fishing vacation and his casting is poor. Sadly, he doesn't even know it. No one had the heart to tell him? I don't have the answer to that one. But, "friends don't let friends go to Belize and not know how to double-haul." Not good friends anyway. He would pull in line with his left hand on the back-cast and then feed it right into the forward cast, killing his line speed. Distance was not an arrow in his quiver that week.

So, he could not reach some fish, so what? He didn't have the line speed to get the fly out fast enough to get it in front of some fish either, that's what. Did it cost him a few fish? Sure did. Make the guide happy, the guide who had busted his butt to get him in front of some nice fish and then have him insult (I do consider it an insult when you can not fulfill your obligation with the fly rod) the guide by not knowing how to cast? Of course.

The guide would say, "Make a cast at ten-thirty, forty feet!" His cast would go to twelve-thirty and thirty feet. "Darn wind, sure makes it hard to get the fly out, heh, heh, heh!" Did he actually land a few fish. Yes, he did actually get a few. And it made him thrilled. He had a wonderful time. He can't wait to come back again. Never caught any fish like the bonefish, greatest fish that swims. Most of the ones he caught ran about two pounds or less.

So, is that how it should be? Fun makes it all worthwhile? If you can scrape up the bucks to get there, go for it? So what if the guide works to get you onto a lot

of fish and you can't get a fly to most of them, as long as you have a great time it makes it all alright? Perhaps it does. I am not going to make a call on that. You might, or might not. My point is this.

Would he have had a better time if he knew how to DH? Would the guide have worked even harder to get him into even better or bigger fish? One can only guess at that. I think as a guide I would have been more willing to do something like that. Why put a client onto a real trophy when he won't be able to handle it? If he can only handle a two-pound fish, why take him where there are ten pounders? Horns of an enigma on that one, too hot for me and above my pay grade.

I will leave you with this. I know we have all heard the phrase that goes something like this. "You make it look so easy!" And we reply that if you do it right it is easy, if it was work we wouldn't do it, or we would at least get paid for it. If you will learn more than you need to know, if you will practice casting in ways you don't yet need, if you will spend a few hours a week drilling those moves into your subconscious, if you will do things like that, it will not only look easy, it will be easy. ~ *JC*

## FFF President to Attend Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo™

The McKenzie Cup winning North Coast Fly Fishers will host their premier fly tying event on January 14, 2006 at the Croatian Lodge & Party Center in Eastlake, OH from 9-4. FFF President & CEO Pete VanGytenbeek has accepted our invitation to attend this year's show, and will give a talk about FFF then take questions from the audience. Don't miss this opportunity to meet "Van" and learn about the great things being done at FFF for all fly fishers.

Additional vendor space has been added this year and new Celebrity Tiers have committed to this event. Interested vendors and FFF Clubs wishing to tie at this event should e-mail Joe Valencic at [flyfishohio@yahoo.com](mailto:flyfishohio@yahoo.com) for details. Since this is an FFF event, all tiers must be FFF Members in good standing. Memberships will be verified. If you do not already belong to FFF, sign up through your local club or complete the application on the back page of this issue. New FFF Members will receive a Grab Bag of Scientific Anglers merchandise valued at \$50 just for signing up.

Additional details on the Expo will be on the NCFE website in early October at [www.ncff.net](http://www.ncff.net).

