

# Mending Lines

April  
2019



CLUB MEETING  
MEMBER'S FAVORITE FLIES  
April 18

CLUB MEETING  
CASTING CLINIC &  
MINI FLY SHOW  
May 16

BIG BROTHERS /  
BIG SISTERS OUTING  
May 18

## Upcoming Events

- CLUB MEETING - APRIL 18  
MEMBERS FAVORITE FLIES
- LITTLE ELKHART CHAPTER TROUT  
UNLIMITED SPRING OUTING- MAY 4  
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- BIG BROTHERS / BIG SISTERS  
OUTING - MAY 18  
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM AT DUPONT YMCA
- CLUB MEETING - MAY 16  
CASTING CLINIC & MINI FLY SHOW  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- JUNE OUTING - JUNE 9  
PIGEON RIVER, MONGO, IN  
AT NASBY DAM  
PREY: TROUT / SMALLMOUTH
- JULY OUTING - JULY 12 - 14 **TENTATIVE**  
WISPERING OAKS - BALDWIN, MI  
PREY: TROUT & OTHER SPECIES
- AUGUST OUTING - AUGUST 16 - 18  
DALEVILLE, IN - WHITE RIVER  
PREY: SMALLMOUTH

All club meetings are held at the Classic Cafe from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, unless otherwise noted. See [www.3rff.org](http://www.3rff.org) for more details.

## Curly's Creel

I would like to welcome all of the new members who have joined the Club this year. We try to present to our Club Members as many opportunities to expand their knowledge of Fly Fishing, Fly Tying, Fly Casting, and to fellowship with other Fly Fishers at our Club Programs, Club Outings and Club Events such as representing our Club at various Fly Shows, DNR Outings, our Big Brothers/Big Sisters event, and other events. If, you have any questions or suggestions, please contact a Board Member.

I would like to thank all those that helped with our Fly Show this year. The weather cooperated and it was good show. We are still learning. I would like to thank the Fly Show Committee for another job well done. The Vendors and Fly Tyers are looking forward to next year's Show. I would also like to thank those that helped work the many Fly Shows in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Hopefully, you have all of your fly rods, reels, and line ready for this Spring Fishing because I think the weather is finally going to turn.

The Coho and Steelhead are on the bite in the lakes and the rivers up North. The water is starting to warm up in the rivers, creeks, and small ponds. The Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass are on a feeding frenzy right now getting ready for their spawning season. The Northern Pike are feeding as well in the shallow water of the rivers and creeks. I saw a video with Kyle and Brandon, our newest Board Member, fishing and catching some nice Pike. The Walleye have moved into the rivers to spawn and were biting until the recent rains which muddied and raised my home rivers, the Wabash & Mississenewa. The Crappies were biting in the Mississenewa Reservoir until the recent rains came all week long raised and muddied the water. As soon as the Walleye spawn and move back to the lakes the White Bass will move into the rivers to spawn followed by the Crappie. It is like clock-work on my home waters of the Mississenewa Lake and River. Then we have the Bluegill going on the beds and of course it is time for Mushroom Season. Don't you just love Spring.....

The TRFF Board Members have planned some fantastic programs and outings for this year and next. I hope all of you come out and join us and have a great time at these programs and events. The Club can only be as good as the Members make it.

We also have plenty of opportunities to get together with other groups and their activities such as Saint Joe River Valley Fly Fishers, Little Elkhart Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Derby City Fly Fishers, Project Healing Waters, the Tie-A-Thon and others. I will keep you posted on their events.

Get Out and Wet a Line

Curly Hodson

# THE 2019 SHOW IS OVER

By: Steve Harris

At this time I'd like to thank the fly show committee for all their time and effort that runs this show. Thanks: Dan Brophy, Ron Dixon, Curly Hodson, Tom Kline, Ken Schiefelbein and Kerry Shipman for all the hard work, hours they put in.

I'd like to thank those that worked the other shows:

Cleveland: Jerry Drake (Even if he did call me a damn rat)

Heartland: Curly Hodson, Lynn Burry, and Jim Lindhorst

Louisville: Ron Dixon, Curly Hodson and Ken Schiefelbein

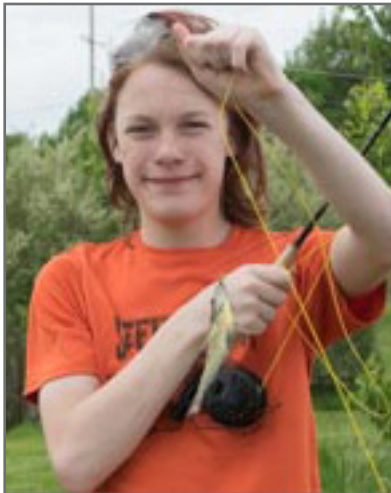
Cincinnati: Ron Dixon, Jim Foote, Rick Hinton and Jerry Drake

Thanks to all the volunteers that signed up to work the show at their accepted times.

I need to say a very special thanks to Brandon Altimus. Brandon is new to this club this year. From day one he's jumped in with both feet. Volunteering to do whatever needs to be done. He helped to create the thumb drives for the show. He helped Friday to set-up and helped the vendors get set-up. Then helped at the meet and greet. All in all he put in a 12 hour day and was back at 6 on Saturday working all day doing anything that he saw that needed done! I don't think he sat down once. He also stepped up and agreed to fill an opening on our board of directors.

A very special thanks goes out to Larry Wilson. For making the filming for the show look so easy. Larry and Trina are still doing the web site and newsletter, even with all the stuff they have on their plates at this time. The officers and Board of Directors wish you the best in your Journey. We hope someday things will slow down enough, so you can lookup and see the sun.

Thanks,  
Steve Harris



## THREE RIVERS FLY FISHERS / BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OUTING IN MAY

The annual 3RFF/BBBS outing is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th from noon to 3pm. The event will be held at Parkview YMCA off DuPont Blvd. The outing consists of splitting the kids up into 3 groups and teaching them casting, fly tying and entomology. We then take them to the pond and let them fish with their new skills and the flies they just tied. Officer Bryan Beneke will attend again this year and give a 15 minute presentation.

**Please consider volunteering. This is one of the best things we do as a club and the kids always have fun.**

We still need volunteers for casting and fly tying but we

especially need enough members to pair up one on one with a kid when going down to the pond to fish. I will have the sign up sheet at the front table at both our April and May club meetings. You may also contact me at [landtwilson@me.com](mailto:landtwilson@me.com) or 260-417-8918.

Larry Wilson



# Tie-A-Thon Tyers & Flies 2019

Three Rivers Fly Fishers Members tied 2400 flies this year. Tim Scott and I would like to thank those that participated. Listed below are the Tyers and the Flies they tied.



Bob Hudson  
Griffith Gnat  
100 Size #14



Curly Hodson  
Soft Hackle Hares Ear  
100 Size #14



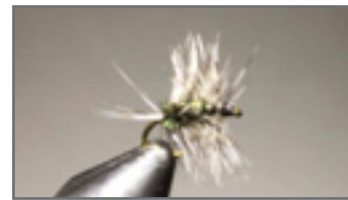
Jim Foote  
Devil Bug  
100 Size #10



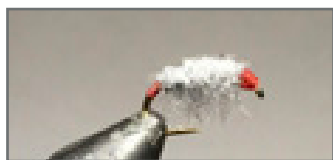
Brent Walchuk  
Elk Hair Caddis  
100 Size #14 & #16



Dan Brophy  
Foam Beetle  
100 Size #10



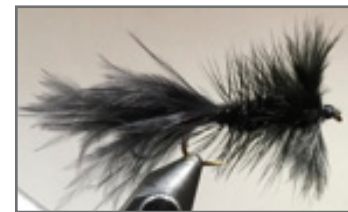
Ken Schiefelbein  
Griffith Gnat  
100 Size #20



Curly Hodson  
Curlys Arkansas Scud  
100 Size #14



Dennis Plank  
Jimmy Rubber Leg  
100 Size #10



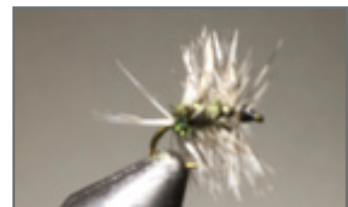
Kyle Hammond  
Woolly Bugger  
100 Size #6



Curly Hodson  
Elk Hair Caddis Olive  
100 Size #14

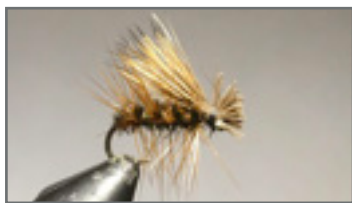


Don Privett  
Foam Beetle  
100 Size #14

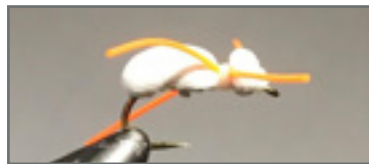


Larry Croninger  
Griffith Gnat  
100 Size #18

# Tie-A-Thon Tyers & Flies 2019- *continued*



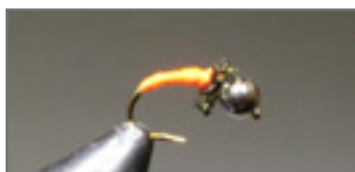
Curly Hodson  
Elk Hair Caddis Peacock  
100 Size #14



Don Privett  
Foam Beetle  
100 Size #14



Larry Croninger  
Pheasant Tail Nymph  
100 Size #14



Lynn Burry  
Bead Head Nymph  
100 Size #14



Jamie Thompson  
Foam Beetle  
200 Size #16



Tom Kline  
Clouser Minnow  
100 Size #8



Lynn Burry  
Soft Hackle  
100 Size #14



Steve Harris  
Crackleback  
100 Size #14



Larry Wilson  
Elk Hair Caddis  
100 Size #14



Rick Hinton  
Soft Hackle  
100 Size #14



Steve Hutsell  
Pheasant Tail Nymph  
100 Size #14 & #16

# BASIC HOOK COMPARISONS

Or when is a Tiemco the same as a Mustad

By: Lynn W. Burry

So you're busy at your tying bench, getting ready for your next outing, and you run out of the hook you need to finish up the four dozen flies you'll need this weekend. There are a lot of overhanging trees where you're fishing and that's why you need four dozen flies. But that's another story. Anyway, now what do you do? If you are like a lot of tyers I know, you open that special drawer of stashed hooks you picked up at a local garage sale or fly show.

They are still in the original package, but what are they other than just another hook? Utilizing your hook comparison chart you quickly find a suitable substitute and continue tying.

Or one night you are sitting at your bench, sipping a pleasing single malt (sorry bourbon drinkers) thinking about that next super-fly design no one has come up with yet that will catch thousands of fish (and the contents of a fisherman's wallet) while making you rich when Umpqua picks up your design for distribution.

As the design continues to rattle around in your brain, you have chosen everything you will need except for the hook. Suddenly, like a big Brown ambushing a Super Moto, you figure a 4X long, 1X strong down eye is exactly what is needed for this new streamer. So where do I go to get one? Especially when the nearest pro-shop is a couple hours drive away.

Most of the fly-fishing catalogs or web pages have comparison charts on their hook selection pages. Every hook manufacturer has hook charts, but only for their product line. There are also a number of good downloadable charts on the internet. The one I provided at the end of this article was found on Pinterest.

With that information, you can order the exact size and style hook (like a Mustad 9-R74-9672 in size 6) you want from your favorite mail-order supplier or pick them up the next time you are at the pro-shop.

The provided chart is by no means complete but does give you some helpful basic information. However, if you are looking for a barbless extra fine wire, 2X long left hand limerick bend with a side turned eye, you are on your own. But in today's industry, there is probably someone out there that makes it. You just need the right chart to find it. In the mean time keep tying. There are a lot of trees not caught yet.

Until next time, "May the inside of your waders (or boat) always be dry!"

Lynn

# BASIC HOOK COMPARISONS - *continued*

| <b>Dry Fly Hooks</b>   |        |        |         |              |            |
|------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------------|------------|
| Hook Description       | Tiemco | Umpqua | Daiichi | Mustad       | Eagle Claw |
| Wide Gape Down Eye     | 100    | U001   | 1100    | 9-R50X-94845 | L059       |
| Wide Gape Straight Eye | 101    | U003   | 1110    | NA           | NA         |
| 2X Long                | 5212   | NA     | 1280    | 9-R30-94833  | NA         |
| 1X Short Down Eye      | 921    | NA     | 1310    | NA           | NA         |
| <b>Curved Hooks</b>    |        |        |         |              |            |
| Hook Description       | Tiemco | Umpqua | Daiichi | Mustad       | Eagle Claw |
| Heavy Scud             | 2457   | U202   | 1150    | 9-C068       | L056       |
| Light Scud/Emerger     | 2487   | NA     | 1130    | NA           | L055       |
| Midge/Emerger          | 206BL  | U201   | 1140    | NA           | NA         |
| 2X Long Curved Shank   | 2302   | U204   | NA      | NA           | NA         |
| 3X Long Curved Shank   | 200R   | U203   | 1270    | 9-C53S       | L052       |
| <b>Wet/Nymph Hooks</b> |        |        |         |              |            |
| Hook Description       | Tiemco | Umpqua | Daiichi | Mustad       | Eagle Claw |
| 2X Heavy Sproat Bend   | 3769   | NA     | 1530    | 9-S70-3399   | NA         |
| 1X Long                | 3761   | U101   | 1560    | NA           | L057       |
| 2X Long                | 5262   | U103   | 1710    | NA           | L063       |
| 3X Long                | 5263   | U301   | 1720    | 9-R73-9671   | L058       |
| Swimming Nymph         | NA     | NA     | 1770    | NA           | NA         |
| <b>Streamer Hooks</b>  |        |        |         |              |            |
| Hook Description       | Tiemco | Umpqua | Daiichi | Mustad       | Eagle Claw |
| 4X Long Down Eye       | NA     | U302   | 2220    | 9-R74-9672   | NA         |
| 4X Long Straight Eye   | 9395   | NA     | 1750    | NA           | L281       |
| 6X Long                | 300    | NA     | 2340    | NA           | NA         |
| <b>Specialty Hooks</b> |        |        |         |              |            |
| Hook Description       | Tiemco | Umpqua | Daiichi | Mustad       | Eagle Claw |
| Egg Hook               | 105    | U501   | 1510    | 9-C67S       | NA         |
| Bass Hook              | 8089   | U502   | NA      | 3366         | NA         |



# MEMBER'S PICTURES

Pictures by Kyle Hammond

Kyle took Brandon out fly fishing for Pike in March. Looks like they were well rewarded in spite of the weather!



Brandon casting from the front of Kyle's canoe.



Brandon's first ever Pike on the fly. Nice way to start out!



Another nice fish on the fly for a cold, windy, rainy day!

Each Newsletter, favorite fly patterns from our members are highlighted. Please submit your favorite fly for the next newsletter!

# Member's Favorite Flies

## STS BUGGER

- HOOK: DAIICHI 1560 (1XL, 1XH)
- THREAD: BLACK, 6/0
- TAIL: MARABOU, BLACK
- TAIL: CRYSTAL FLASH, (3 PIECES)
- BODY: PEACOCK HERL, NATURAL
- HACKLE: SADDLE, FURNACE BROWN



## PHEASANT TAIL SOFT HACKLE

- HOOK: MUSTAD 3906B, DAI-RIKI 730, TIEMCO 3769/3761, H&H 905, #12-#16
- THREAD: CAMEL, 6/0
- RIB: GOLD OR COPPER WIRE, SMALL
- TAIL: PHEASANT TAIL FIBERS, NATURAL (6-8 FIBERS)
- ABDOMEN: PHEASANT TAIL FIBERS, NATURAL (6-8 FIBERS, BUTTS OF TAIL FIBERS)
- THORAX: PEACOCK HERL, NATURAL
- HACKLE: HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE, SPARSE (2 TURNS)





# MISSISSINEWA RIVER WHITE BASS

By: Curly Hodson

One of my favorite times of the year is upon us. The days are getting longer and the birds are once again singing their songs just before the break of daylight. I have been fishing for walleye on the shores of the Maumee River down stream from Waterville, Ohio as the walleye have made their annual trek into the rivers and creeks that feed into Lake Erie to spawn. First the males and then the females make the journey. Then about this time of the season the females have spent their eggs and both male and female are beginning to head back to the Lake. When the marble-eyes have done their thing this sets in motion many events that are in the near future. The largemouth bass are on a feeding frenzy. The bluegills are readily available to take both on top water and subsurface flies, mostly subsurface until the water warms a little more. The crappies are on a good bite and then there is the "white bass" run. This is probably the closest link to the walleye movement, which could be set in motion with an egg timer. When the walleye move out the white bass move in, and by in, I am not talking only the Maumee River but the Mississinewa River, which is close to my home. I guess you could consider it my home river. I have fished this river for many years and some of my best memories of fishing it were with my two boys from the time they first held a pole in their hands to just last year, and now with my grandkids. When the water warms to between 45 and 55 degrees the white bass move from the Reservoir into the river to find a suitable spawning area. The fish will congregate in schools on shoals and shallow rock beds for a period of three to four weeks. During that period you are at the mercy of the spring weather due to the rainy conditions affecting the water height and clarity.

I am specifically talking about a stretch of river between just north of Marion to Lafontaine, about a 7-9 mile stretch of water. This area is part of the Mississinewa SRA and is controlled by the DNR. In this area is where the Battle of Mississinewa took place and there are several historical Indian sites. There are several designated locations on the river to put in and take out Skeeter type kick boats, canoes, kayaks, or johnboats. There are innumerable spots along the both sides; more access on the east, of the river to bank fish or areas to wade in and walk upstream and downstream. The current is usually not too fast so wading is fairly easy. Of course, I have my favorite spots. There are also regular boat ramps on the Reservoir that you can trailer a boat and motor upstream to these locations. Remember these are schooling fish so if you catch a white bass while floating you may want to stop and get out and wade. You can fish from Matter Park to Four Mile Bridge or from Troyers Bridge all the way to the Highway #13 Bridge. There is good fishing all the way from the Dam down to Peru.

At the writing of this article the river is high. The water clarity at this time is chocolate milk. I didn't take the water temp this morning. When the white bass are "in" you can catch 40 to 50, 1 1/2lb -2lb bass an hour. It is a blast. I would suggest a 5 or 6 wt. rod, floating line, 9 ft. tapered leader. There are some holes where you could use a sink tip line but for the majority of the water it isn't needed. You can use Woolly Buggers, Chicago Leeches, Clousers, probably Jerry Hohlas fly with the twister tail or Jerry Drakes Sparrows although I haven't tried them yet but I think they will catch about anything, or you can use my favorites, Curlys Pearl Shimmer, Curlys Pearl Gill Shimmer, (mostly chartreuse or white although some years orange or olive have been hot. Curlys Crappie Candy (emerald shiner) is a fly I designed specifically for this river. I have caught bluegill, crappie, largemouth, smallmouth, and white bass during the same float trip on Curlys Pearl Shimmer (chartreuse) that I specifically designed for this river. Count down and retrieve or wet-fly swing with bites during the drift and at the end of the swing, and slow retrieve at the end of the swing.

This river is not just a good fishery in the spring but through the summer and fall you can catch white or black crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and some white bass that remain in the river and don't move back out to the Lake. I have even caught rainbow trout back in August 2003, when they released trout in the tail waters of the Dam. In the mid 90's the white bass went through post-spawn stress and most of the white bass died off but after a few years they were back and more plentiful than ever. These are not striped bass or hybrid striped bass that look similar. They aren't too bad on the table if caught when the water is cold.

I have maps of the area if you would like one and if you decide to take this adventure you might want to give me a call about the water conditions and if I am available I could also spot for you or a group since I do live nearby and if you twisted my arm I might even go along or direct you to some hot spots. If you have a spin fisherman in your group or if you desire to stoop to such standards, twister tails, 1/6 rooster tails, and paddle bugs work great. A red tube jig with white tips, under a slip bobber is working great for crappie right now.

# MISSISSINEWA RIVER WHITE BASS - *continued*

Still there is one more event that takes place just after the Walleye run: mushrooms, mushrooms, and mushrooms.

“Many Men Spend Their Life Fishing Not Realizing It Is Not the Fish They Are After”  
Henry David Thoreau

### **My go to Flies:**

Curlys Pearl Shimmer

Curlys Pearl Gill Shimmer

Curlys Crappie Candy Emerald Shiner

Curlys Crappie Candy Various Colors

Pink Lady

\* I have also caught Steelhead and King Salmon on Curlys Pearl Shimmer tied in purple and in pink as well as chartreuse and orange, in sizes #4 & #6.

The Walleye are moving into the Maumee River up by Toledo Ohio right now. It won't be long the White Bass will do their annual thing. The Crappie will be moving up the river and into the bays to spawn. Several years ago the Mississenewa Dam had a section that dropped about six feet. It took a few years to fix and during that time the summer pool was kept to the depth of the winter pool to keep stress off the dam until the repairs could be made. An unexpected event happened during the shut- down period. The Crappie decided to grow and grow and they are still growing. In 2010 13" crappies were being caught on a regular basis. In 2011 14" crappies were caught, 2012 15" crappies, 2013 16" crappies. There were also some 17" crappies caught last year but not by me. I saw them caught by my buddies but I wasn't lucky enough to land one. Right now the river is up and muddy.

\* Just another side note: I have caught my Indiana double limit of 16 Walleye in the Mississenewa River also. I will not reveal that location.

Please send your information to a board member to be listed in the next newsletter.

## Member Content

Mending Lines is looking for member content!

Some suggestions are:

- Pictures of fish caught by members, families, friends... Look at the fishing pictures in the local papers for ideas.
- Pictures and notes from trips. Your notes do not need to be a final article. They can be turned in and reviewed for inclusion in Mending Lines.
- Items for sale.
- Fishing and casting lessons learned.
- Favorite websites or blogs.
- Short stories - fact or fiction!

## For Sale

Curlys Fly Shop  
White River Guide Book  
\$24.50 tax included  
(Qty 2 available)



## For Sale

Curlys Fly Shop  
Pro-Lite FTL230  
\$105.00 tax included  
(Qty 3 available)



## Membership Rates

Dues are for one year beginning January 1 through December 31.

Individual Rate: \$25.00 per year

Family Rate: \$35.00 per year

Junior Rate: \$5.00 per year

Corporate Rate: \$50.00 per year

## Corporate Sponser

Craig Ludwig - Indiana Policy Review  
260-417-4094

## Officers

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