



**Member Handbook**

## **History Of Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers**

Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers was sanctioned in April 1979 by the Federation of Fly Fishermen located in Bozeman, Montana. The Federation of Fly Fishermen presently has nearly 300 member clubs throughout the United States and several foreign countries.

### **Origins of the Organization**

The organization began with informal meetings of people interested in fly fishing. A charter committee originated the By-Laws for MTFF, which was unanimously adopted by the charter members.

### **Purpose of the Organization**

The purpose of the organization is to foster fly fishing among the members and to encourage enjoyment and conservation for our membership.

### **Dues**

Membership dues are due by January 1 of the membership year. All benefits expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current membership year.

In 2012, MTFF made a decision to break away from the Federation of Fly Fishermen, so we are not affiliated with them anymore due to the expensive yearly membership and the lack of benefits to the club.

## **Monthly Meetings**

Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers monthly meetings are held the FIRST Wednesday of each month (except December) at Ellington Agricultural Center Region II Building located on Edmonson Pike in Nashville, TN.

Meetings come to order at 7:00pm. We have a social hour from 6:00 till the meeting begins. Prior to each meeting various educational activities can be offered such as Fly Casting Clinic, Fly Tying Clinic, or just about anything a member needs (starting at 5:30) so new members may receive valuable assistance and helpful hints from experienced members. Member requests for help should express their need in the MTFF Forum or send an email to the Membership Committee Board Member. Activity announcements will be announced in the monthly newsletter.

Each monthly meeting will feature a different program directed to fly fishing and/or fly tying techniques; members relating recent trips or fishing experiences; or guest speakers sharing their expertise to make us all better fly fishers. Each program endeavors to be fun and educational.

No monthly meeting is held in the month of December, instead MTFF holds an annual Christmas event. Announcements concerning dates and details are published in the club's newsletter and on the website several months prior so everyone can make plans and reservations to attend. Fine dining, door prizes galore, and drawings for rods, reels, and accessories and other prizes make this a great time for all.

We try to conclude each monthly meeting before 9:00pm. Every member should try to attend each and every meeting.

## **Board Of Directors Meetings**

In addition to monthly meetings, the club's Board of Directors meetings are held on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tuesday of each month (except December) beginning at 6:30pm at the Ellington Agricultural Center Region II Building located on Edmonson Pike in Nashville, TN.

Any club member may attend any Board Meeting to present ideas or suggestions to the Board to be presented to the general membership.

## **Monthly Newsletter**

Each member receives the club's monthly newsletter announcement with a link to the newsletter usually sent by the first of the month. The newsletter is filled with the latest club news, programs, classes, outings, and upcoming events for members. The newsletter is also a valuable link to members who cannot attend monthly meetings or miss a meeting. The newsletter is emailed to each member directly once their yearly dues have been paid. You may also submit information to the newsletter committee such as pictures, etc. and must be submitted by the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month in order to be in the following month's newsletter. Submit this information by emailing it to the Newsletter Committee Director. More club information can be found on our Facebook page as well as [www.MTFF.org](http://www.MTFF.org)

## Outings

Before the first of each year the club's Board of Directors set the upcoming years schedule for monthly outings. Non Middle Tennessee outings are for three (3) days: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but some people choose to go a few days early or stay a few days later on the outings that are farther away to increase the fishing time due to the long travel time.

*It is your monthly fishing vacation, have as much fun as you can.*

There are also a selected number of one day outings to local rivers and lakes. Check the Outings Schedule for locations and dates.

If you are interested in traveling to new places or finding new favorite destinations, then the monthly outings will be your way to explore new areas. The club has an outing every month, except December. There is an Outing Sign-Up sheet for each outing on the MTFF Shop website and at the meeting prior to the outing. If you are interested in going on the outing, sign up online or at the meeting.

Signing up for the outings is the best way for the club to keep up with who is going. In the event of cancellation (due to weather or other circumstances) the Outing Leader will notify everyone that the outing has been cancelled or changed. This will save a long drive and not be able to fish.

Members who may have any medical conditions, physical limitations, or takes special medications, to please inform the Outing Leader or Outings Committee Director.

On our website, all the information you can possibly need for each outing is listed. Go to the Outing Section and click on the outing you are interested in.

If there are any questions, contact the Outing Leader, Outing Committee Director, post a question in the "MTFF Forum" on the Shop website, email a club member or ask a question on a Facebook page. You will surely get an answer from someone.

Check the website, [mtff.org](http://mtff.org). Click the "Outings" for all up to date information on the current outings.

## Accommodations

Each outing is different. Some outings are as close as the Caney Fork River or as far as the White River in north Arkansas. Accommodations may range from primitive camping to staying in cabins or bunk houses. Some outings will be in a group campsite that the club will have reserved. Some will be individual sites where you will be responsible for reserving your own site or on a first come first serve basis. The type of accommodations available and what you need to do prior to the outing, will be in the outing handout and posted on the club website.

The club tries to stay at the same campground, but sometimes campgrounds fill up and not everyone can stay at the same place or you may choose to stay in other lodging nearby. Campsites start filling up six months or sooner. Don't wait to make your reservation. If the site is full, the club tries to find a common meeting site, which is usually at someone's campsite at the campfire. Contact the Outing Leader or another club member if this occurs, we like to hang out in the evenings and have a good time telling stories and talking about fishing.

### Primitive:

If the accommodations are primitive camping, do not expect water, electricity, or bath houses; however, a port-a-potty is usually onsite. This type of camping is not typical. Don't let the living conditions sway you from this type of outing; it could turn out to be your favorite. And there are almost always alternative lodging available nearby for those that don't like to camp.

If camping gear is a problem, there are local outdoor retailers that rent camping equipment such as REI, or contact the Outing Leader, Outings Committee Director, post a question on the website or Forum under "Outings". Sometimes there might be spare gear out there amongst the club members you can use.

If someone goes on camping outings, they can typically expect to pay very little. If you are wondering what items' you should take on a camping trip, there is a camping/outing checklist on the website at:

[mtff.org/MTFF-OutingChecklist.htm](http://mtff.org/MTFF-OutingChecklist.htm)

### **Developed Campsites:**

Most of the outings include camping at a state or national park around the state which usually have designated campsites, walking trails, paved parking, and most importantly bath houses with toilets and/or showers. In most cases at these types of campsites, the park allows two campers per a site, so if you team up with someone, you might be able to reduce your costs as these campsites charge a per day fee.

### **Cabin/Bunkhouses:**

A few of the outings allow us to live it up in cabins or bunkhouses. There is usually a bed, sofa bed, kitchen, bathroom, heating/cooling, TV, etc. All the comforts of home, but you are fishing during the day instead of working around the house. On these outings it is very important to make sure you have signed up and paid in advance to have a spot in the cabin or bunkhouse. These fill up quickly sometimes and extra cabins may need to be reserved ahead of time. The club makes the reservation for these facilities and the club member pays the club for their spot. Payments can be made online thru the Club on our website.

### **Personal RV:**

Many of our members have RV's. On just about every outing there are RV hookups or at least a level place to park without hookups.

### **Driving Directions/Travel:**

Even though the club outing is a group function, getting to the outing is usually an individual's responsibility; however, some people choose to ride together to share costs on gas, camping, food, etc. If you are trying to drive in a group, ride up with someone, or if you have some extra room and you would like to see if anyone wants to ride with you, contact the Outing Leader, Outings Committee Director or post a message on the Facebook page or MTFF Forum. Driving direction to the outing can be found in the Outing Handout on the website under "Outings", or you can find them on other websites on the internet.

### **Meals:**

One thing that the club does well besides fly fishing is eating. You are on your own for meals, snacks and drinks. If you don't have the necessary cooking gear/utensils, contact the Outing Leader or Outing Committee Director, or other members going on the trip. Many of us have accumulated a lot of gear throughout the years and a stove is a necessary item. Instead of running out at the last minute to buy portable propane stove or grill, check with other members, I am sure they will not mind sharing. Also check with local outdoor sports retailers, some of them have rental gear. You might be able to rent a stove and just purchase fuel.

On a few of the outings, our members support potluck dinners; such is the case on the Caney Fork Freeze Out. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish, or dessert. We also have Cast Iron Cookout each year and everyone is encouraged to bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert. There are also times when the club agrees to line up a catered dinner. Everyone who attends the dinner chips in a little cash to cover the cost of the meal.

## **Classes and Clinics**

From time to time, MTFF has classes regarding fly fishing techniques or “How To’s” at the outing. This is a good chance to get some on stream instructions from a few of our seasoned fisherman. These classes are very informal and usually last about an hour. If there is a free class on the outing, we usually gather at the group campsite and walk to the stream or river from there.

## **Wading and Floating**

### **Water Conditions**

This is a tricky subject to discuss. With fly fishing on tailwaters, we are at the mercy of generation times and weather. If you go trout fishing, it will most likely be on the Caney Fork or Elk River since both of those rivers are the closest trout rivers to Nashville. Something everyone must learn when fishing the tailwaters across Tennessee is “How to deal with the generation?” The Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) and the TVA, generate electricity from Center Hill Dam (Caney Fork tailwater). The best way to get the generation schedule is to access the TVA website or call the 1-800 phone number.

***Please use extreme caution when wading below the dam; the water is subject to sudden rise and violent turbulence. Remember, SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY!***

***We encourage the buddy system, don't go wading alone.***

## **Merchandise for Members**

Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers offers items for sale with the club logo to its members. Hats, club patches, stickers, long and short sleeved fishing shirts and the Project Healing Waters Logo that can be added to any order as well. T-shirts are available for purchase on line at the MTFF Shop website or at the monthly club meetings. Also available is a MTFF License Plate

## **Library for Members**

Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers has an extensive library of books and video tapes for loan to its members covering all phases of fly fishing and fly tying. Members may check out book and tapes for 30 (thirty) days free of charge at each monthly meeting.

The club from time to times updates the library to stay abreast of the latest in fly fishing and fly tying techniques.

## **Epilogue**

Well there you have it! For your investment, you have at your local disposal many advantages and opportunities to learn the basic and advance fly fishing and fly tying.

Each one of us will achieve levels of success in both fly fishing and fly tying. Some of you will “pick it up” faster than others. This does not mean that whatever level you progress to, that you cannot catch fish, enjoy the fellowship of other members or just plain have a good time and enjoy the great the great outdoors.

With the ratio of “old” members to “new” members in the club today, new members have a great opportunity to learn from seasoned fly fishers and tier’s. We all had to learn from either books or friends; NO one is born with the knowledge to cast or tie a fly. Everyone was a beginner at some point in time.

With any endeavor, be it learning to bowl, play golf or learning to fly fish, it takes practice, patience, persistence along with a sense of humor to achieve whatever goals you set for yourself.

While learning the basis of fly fishing or fly tying, let’s not lose sight of what we are striving to achieve, that is, to catch fish and above all have a good time doing it.

Please make yourself available to the many benefits offered by Middle Tennessee Fly Fishers. Attending meetings, serving on various committees, participating in classes, or making monthly outings and enjoying our great sport of fly fishing.

## **Club Online Information Resources**

Website <http://www.mtff.org>

MTFF Shop <http://www.middletennesseeflyfishing.com/shop>

Forum <http://www.middletennesseeflyfishing.com/smf>

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/mtff.org>

***Tight lines and good fishing!***