



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

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www.MVFF.org

2015



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<a href="#">Membership Meeting</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Executive Board Meeting</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Liars and Tyers</a> .....	1
<a href="#">President's Corner</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Project Healing Waters</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Club Outings</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Alto Lake Youth Fishing Day</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Willow Creek Gila Trout Survey Results</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Fishing Reports</a> .....	3
<a href="#">New Members</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Board Meeting Minutes</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Classified Ads</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Willow Creek Gila Trout Survey Photos</a> .....	4

## Membership Meeting

There will be no MVFF general membership meeting in August. Many members will be fishing and the rest of them should be. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

## Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 17 August

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 17 August at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

## Liars and Tyers

Liars and Tyers will not meet in August. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

## President's Corner



Bob Silver is my fishing guru! On July 9, my brother, his friend and I met Bob and two of his friends at Mogote Campground for the Club trip

to the Conejos. On Friday, we fished the Meadows section of the Conejos where the stream flow was around 370 cfs. Bob kept saying to add weight until you either catch fish or hang up on the bottom. So I added weight and added weight, until I had seven bee bees in my Toobie and finally started to dredge some of the big fat Browns out of the deeper holes.

The next day, we all went to Osier station on the Cumbres and Toltec steam railroad to fish the Rio de Los Pinos. I had always walked down the railroad's right of way to an old roadbed that leads down to the river, but Bob said to work my way down to the river sooner. So I dutifully bushwhacked down the canyon wall. After slipping and sliding down the descent to the bottom, sure enough there was a nice long stretch of river with deep pools and long runs and riffles. This stretch of the river obviously doesn't get much pressure because there was no shortage of 14 to 20 inch Browns that were eager to eat a dry fly. In the afternoon, the wind came up, blowing any hatch off of the water and making any cast difficult at best. Bob and his friends went to Osier Creek to catch some Rio Grande cutts and we went back to camp to practice our 12 ounce curls.

As it turned out, we were too early for the Green Drake hatch on the Meadows section of the Conejos on that trip. But Mary and I went back about two weeks later and the hatch was in full swing. By that time, the stream flow was down to 108 cfs. We started fishing about 9:30am and, within 30 minutes, the fish were moving into the shallower, flat areas of the river and gulping the insects off of the top of the water. We had started fishing with a foam body Green Drake dry fly and a red annelid dropper. Before the hatch started, we caught a few on the dropper. After the hatch, however, the fish were concentrating on the dry fly to the point that we just took the dropper off because it was simply in the way. For a little over two hours, we caught fish as fast as we could cast,

hook the fish, land it and get it off. Then, as fast as the hatch started, it was over. We dredged a couple more out of a deep hole with a double nymph rig and decided to call it a day—but what a day!

Unlike recent years, the spring runoff has lasted into July but has finally subsided. Late spring snow and abundant rains through the summer has kept the grass high, the forests healthy and the streams full in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. Next month, we will resume our regular monthly meetings and Liars and Tiers. The Board meets at 7:00 pm on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> to plan the fall agenda. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please email me at [president@mvff.org](mailto:president@mvff.org) or come to the Board meeting. All Board meetings are open to members. In the meantime, we are just getting into the prime fishing season so get out there and fish.

Tight Lines,

Jim



Ron Bellerose  
PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters had a great July. We had 3 fly tying events, one with our local Vets, thanks to Ray Kirby for fly tying at the Las Cruces VA Clinic on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Ted Mack and 3 vol-

unteers held a fly tying event at the Ft Bliss wounded warrior transition battalion on July 24<sup>th</sup> and Chuck Mueller will be having the fly tying at the Las Cruces VA Clinic on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

We also had a Ft. Bliss group up on the lease fishing on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We had 3 female wounded warriors that fished and had a really great time. We had a total of 6 Vets fishing and they all caught fish. Also we have a good chance of some of these soldiers joining the club in the future. August will be a slower month for PHW. I will be gone until the 8<sup>th</sup> but we will have fly tying on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Have been told by many command individuals what a great thing we are doing for the soldiers and Vets. Let's keep it up. Thanks to all our volunteers.

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For more information about PHWFF see [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org). Contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), [flyfishnh@hotmail.com](mailto:flyfishnh@hotmail.com) if you wish to volunteer to help out

## Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2015 and would welcome suggestions from members. Where do you want to go? Let them know. If you have comments or suggestions for additional trips pass them to any of the Board members. Trips now in the planning stages are:

- Oct. - Nov. — trip to Kodiak Island, Alaska
- Nov. 11-15 — annual fall trip to the San Juan
- Fall — Lady Anglers will be going to the Conejos.

## Alto Lake Youth Fishing Day

August 22, 2015

Volunteers are needed to help out with the youth fishing event at Alto Lake. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will be stocking the lake with Rainbow Trout and catfish for the event. This should be a lot of fun!

This event is being organized by Larry O. Cordova, Staff Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Forest Service, Lincoln National Forest, Smokey Bear Ranger District, 575-630-3007, [lcordova@fs.fed.us](mailto:lcordova@fs.fed.us).

Please contact Jeff Arterburn for more details and possible car-pooling for MVFF and Gila/Rio Grande Trout Unlimited volunteers from Las Cruces: [jeffgilatu@aol.com](mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com).

## Willow Creek Gila Trout Survey Results

June 26 – 27, 2015

Jeff Arterburn



A fish sampling survey of Willow Creek and Little Turkey Creek by electrofishing was conducted in late June. This section of stream was hit hard by the 2012 fire and subsequent ash flows. Recovery efforts include installation of a temporary fish barrier near the junction with Gilita Creek that will be replaced by a permanent barrier in the future, repeated stocking with South Diamond Gila Trout, and physical removal of non-native trout. This area is

open to fishing with special regulations, and is currently the most accessible place in New Mexico to catch a Gila Trout.

The crew also sampled the small tributary, Little Turkey Creek, which now flows through shallow riffles and pools ~0.5 cfs, which suffers from a scoured stream channel, unstable and incised stream banks and lacks riparian canopy and other woody vegetation.

In total 59 Gila Trout were netted, including several beautiful brood stock fish in the 13-18" range. Other native species netted include Speckled Dace (1,684), Desert Sucker (8) and Sonora Sucker (1) and one angry beaver! The good news is that no non-native Brown Trout were collected.

With the monsoon rains a planned second sampling in July was canceled, but there is a lot of opportunity for future stream restoration and habitat work projects that will enhance this area for continuing improvement and recreational fishing for Gila Trout.

If you are interested in more information about the survey results, or would like to be included in future planning for volunteer events please contact Jeff Arterburn: jeffgilatu@aol.com, (575) 649-9729.

See page 4 for photos of the project.

### Fishing Reports

*Editor's note: Few fishing reports were sent in for July. Verbal reports have reported the Rio Peñasco to be muddy from the recent rains and the fishing spotty. Recent reports say the stream has been flowing clear again but fishing still spotty. If you go be sure and send us a report so the info can be passed to all the Club members.*

**7/13/15, Blaine Goss** — Yikes! Ray & I just returned from a nonproductive trip to the Lease. Last time we caught 36 trout. Today we caught 2, baby ones as well. There is evidence of a small blowout from last week. It left the river high, fast and chocolate. We think that the water will not clear up for a while. Postpone immediate plans to fish the river and save some money as well.

### Welcome New Members

- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Brian Brown               | Ruidoso Downs, NM |
| Steven Ferguson           | Estancia, NM      |
| Charles & Rebecca Gassman | El Paso, TX       |
| Linda Woelfel             | Anthony, NM       |

### MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

The MVFF Board of Directors did not meet in July, ergo, no minutes.



### Classified Ads

**Editor's Note:** *From time to time someone asks me about listing something for sale in the newsletter, so I have instituted a new topic for inclusion in the newsletter. Whenever you have something to sell, buy or trade, let me know. You may also place an ad for a service as long as it is flyfishing related. I plan to place the ad in the newsletter but I am also planning on placing them on the web page where they will stay for a somewhat longer time.*

**For Sale:** Blaine Goss—2014 Echo Fiberglass rod. 7'4" 4wt, 3pc. Comes with Echo rod sock and case. Virtually brand new. Attractive rod. I took it to the lease once, and to the Alumni pond 3-4 times. If you ever wanted to try a fiberglass rod, this is for you. It is a fun rod that is more flexible than graphite rods. I paid \$180 for it last year and it is for sale for \$80. (575-639-1575)



### Willow Creek Gila Trout Survey Photos



Large adult Gila Trout sampled in Willow Creek



Nick Smith and Jim Brooks sampling Willow Creek downstream of the Little Turkey Creek confluence



Jeff Arterburn with a Gila Trout sampled from Willow Creek



Jeff Arterburn and Nick Smith electrofishing Willow Creek



The first cast carries our fly, and our hope, into the world of the trout.  
The next move belongs to the fish.

*Steven J. Meyers*

**Quick Look Contact Information**

2015 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President:</b>	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• <b>V-Pres.:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• <b>Secretary:</b>	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• <b>Treasurer:</b>	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
<b>Board Members</b>	
• <b>Position 1:</b>	Paul Turner (575) 523-6880
• <b>Position 2:</b>	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• <b>Position 3:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• <b>Position 4:</b>	Ray Rodriquez (575) 524-9420
• <b>Position 5:</b>	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• <b>Position 6:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• <b>Position 7:</b>	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• <b>Position 8:</b>	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• <b>Position 9:</b>	Dennis Lanpher (575) 642-2946
<b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b>	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	<a href="mailto:newsletter@mvff.org">newsletter@mvff.org</a>
<b>Membership Committee Chairman</b>	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	<a href="mailto:membership@mvff.org">membership@mvff.org</a>

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund	
Market Value as of 30 June 2014	\$11,487

**Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund**

The Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship Fund is an endowed fund at New Mexico State University which is funded by MVFF member donations. Earnings from the fund are used to provide scholarships for students at NMSU majoring in fisheries or related fields.

The recipient of each scholarship is determined each April by the MVFF Board with the award being made for the fall semester.

Even though the fund is endowed additions can be made to it at any time. The larger the fund, the more earnings are available for award. If you are interested in contributing please make checks out to the **NMSU Foundation** and on the "for" line of the check, identify "Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship Fund for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give consideration and help honor Norm.

**Current Email Addresses Needed**

Many of the email addresses in our files are not current as members change to other internet providers. These addresses will not be distributed, but will only be used to relay club information or reminders for club meetings and other club events. Please send your address changes to [membership@mvff.org](mailto:membership@mvff.org).

**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Print**

Help support the MVFF Habitat Restoration Projects and purchase a limited edition "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout" print. This beautiful printing of an original watercolor of our native state fish is a limited series of 150 high quality 12 x 18 prints that are numbered and signed by New Mexico artist Michelle Arterburn. The cost of each individual print is \$25.00, with the proceeds dedicated towards habitat restoration projects. If you live out of town and wish the print mailed to you please add \$5 for postage. See the MVFF website for purchase.



**\*\*\*\*\* REMEMBER \*\*\*\*\***  
**MVFF MEMBERSHIPS & NM FISHING LI-**  
**CENSES EXPIRE ON 31 MARCH**

### Membership Information

Membership is open to anyone who supports the activities of the club. Membership fees are shown below. Members are provided with the opportunity to attend informational monthly meetings, purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco, and participate in other Club activities such as a summer picnic, annual awards banquet, casting clinics, fly tying classes, and Club sponsored fishing trips.

There are several options for the payment of dues. A family is defined as a club member, their spouse and all children 17 years of age or under.

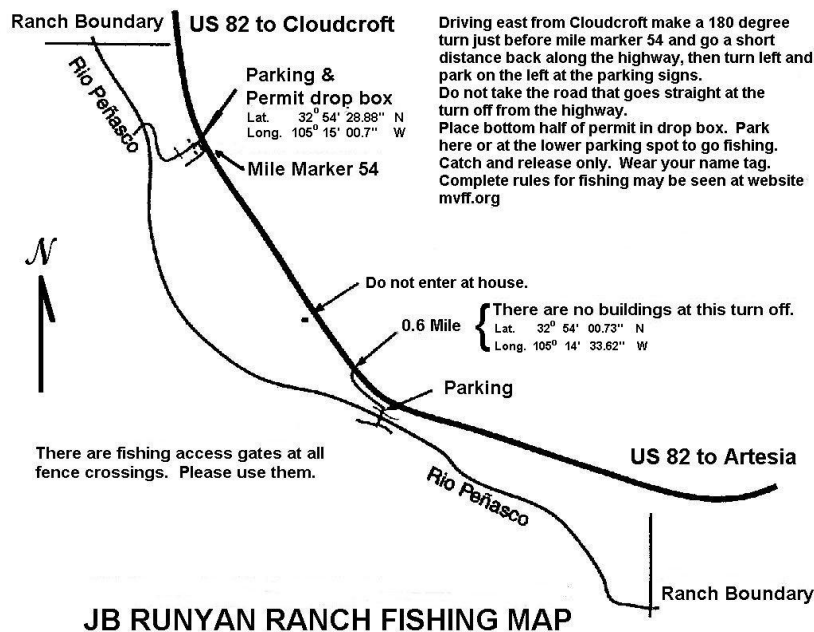
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880), Tom Wobbe (575-522-5437) and Donna Mabie (575-522-3810) in Las Cruces. Permits can be obtained from the land owner, but you should phone (575-687-3362) the night before to ensure someone will be there to sell them to you. Permits can be ordered through the club web page (mvff.org) by filling out the form and mailing as directed. Cost is \$25.00 per day. Kids under 18 fish free but must be accompanied by an adult club member with a permit. You must be a current member (current dues have been paid) of MVFF to fish the lease. Please wear your MVFF identification badge while on the property. New or replacement badges can be obtained by contacting Jim Hulsey. In addition, members can purchase a one-day, one-time permit for guests.

#### Directions to the Lease:

Follow NM 82 east from Cloudcroft, NM or west from Artesia, NM. The turn off to the lease is located on the right side of the road about 100 yards before mile marker 54 coming from Cloudcroft or 100 yards on the left past mile marker 54 coming from Artesia.



MESILLA VALLEY FLYFISHERS, INC.

PO Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

Membership and/or Permit Application

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Do you need a name badge? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ or renewal \_\_\_\_\_?

Membership Categories: Individual Family Circle the one desired.

1 Year \$20 \$25

3 Years \$50 \$60

Life \$400 \$500

For family membership: Name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children \_\_\_\_\_

Note: All memberships expire on 31 March. New memberships received on or after 1 January will expire on 31 March of the following year.

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership fee if applicable \$\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Permits @ \$25 per permit = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total =\$\_\_\_\_\_

Send remittance with this form to the address shown at top of page.