



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of  
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2222  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222  
www.MVFF.org

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## Membership Meeting

Monday, 9 May

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 9 May at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. The meeting will feature Chris Canavan who will describe efforts to develop a watershed restoration plan aimed at improving water quality in Black Canyon Creek. The creek is currently impaired for temperature under New Mexico water quality standards and is not meeting its designated use for high quality coldwater aquatic life, which includes the Gila Trout. The restoration plan is directed at mitigating that impairment and improving habitat for the Gila Trout. Black Canyon is a special place where anglers have the opportunity to fish for Gila Trout above the barrier during the season that is open from July 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, catch and release, single hook/artificial lure. MVFF & TU have long-standing commitments to this fishery and hope to help Chris implement this restoration plan in the near future. The Club trip to Lee's Ferry will also be reported on. Should be great!

Doors will open at 6:30pm and cookies and coffee will be served.

## Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 16 May

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 16 May at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

## Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 25 May

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 25 May at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *Hot Wire Prince Nymph*. The tying session will be led by professional tyer, Tim Mack. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies will be available for beginning tyers.

## President's Corner

David Carmichael



I'd like to share with everyone the hand painted water-color thank you card the club received from the Warrior Resilience Center at Fort Bliss (see page 5), expressing appreciation for the most recent Project Healing Waters outing

to the club lease on the Rio Penasco. Thanks to Ron Bellerose, Jim Sorenson, Jim Ellett, the Cowbells, and all the club volunteers who made that activity such a success.

It is also my pleasure to report that William Lubenau is the recipient of the Norm Mabie Scholarship for 2016. The award was presented by Jim Sorenson at the NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology scholarship award banquet held at the Farm & Ranch Museum on April 21. Will was born and raised in Alamogordo, NM. While growing up his father was a fishing guide at Elephant Butte, which

lead to Will being on the water for a large portion of his life. Growing up surrounded by fishing and hunting molded Will into the person that he is today, and it is with little surprise that he has chosen to study Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences at New Mexico State University. Following the completion of a bachelor's degree program Will plans on pursuing a master's degree in fisheries. It is his goal to one day become a fisheries biologist for a state agency and manage sport fish.. Congratulations Will!

As many club members are aware, we are in an era of renewed debate about the benefits, management, and even the potential disposal of public lands. These issues are of special interest to anglers, because they affect access to our public fisheries. Lawmakers in every western state except California have proposed bills to return federal lands to the states, and the implications of such actions for recreation have been discussed by various media outlets, such as the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited, High Country News, The Wilderness Society, Western Lands Project, and the New York Times. What many Americans may not know is that a novel experiment in the semi-privatized management of the Valles Caldera in New Mexico has been conducted for the past 14 years. It is instructive to note that despite doing good work in a number of areas,

the Valles Caldera preserve failed to be financially profitable or even self-supporting. Thus, the experiment was abandoned, and the 89,000 acre Valles Caldera National Preserve became part of the National Park System last fall. The change in management is likely to improve fly angling access to some great little hidden waters on public lands. Let's take a look at them and the preserve.

**Hidden Waters Notebook:** San Antonio Creek and East Fork of the Jemez River

The Valles Caldera is located in a beautiful section of the Jemez Mountains, along New Mexico Hwy 4, between Los Alamos and Jemez Springs. It consists of a volcanic caldera (collapsed magma chamber) encompassing a 13-mile wide valley dotted with 8 or more volcanic cones. It contains expansive meadows, enormous elk, and it is home to the headwaters of San Antonio Creek, the East Fork of the Jemez River, and several small tributary streams. Initially part of the Cabeza de Baca land grant, the property was patented in 1867, and used for livestock grazing and logging until it was purchased by the U.S. government in 2000. For much of that time the property was heavily over-grazed. In the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it is estimated that up to 100,000 sheep were grazed on the property. As recently as the 1950s and 60s, private owners ran more than 9,000 head of cattle in an area that can typically support

only 750 head. The Valles Caldera Trust's own research has documented the extensive damage to the watersheds and fisheries that resulted from over grazing, and many of the conservation efforts of the past 14 years have been focused on fisheries restoration.

The property was purchased by the federal govern-

ment in 2000 for \$97 million, with monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. As part of the purchase agreement, a provision was included by former NM Senator Domenici that the land would be managed not by federal agencies, but by a board of trustees made up of private citizens appointed by the President. It was hoped by some that this experiment in private management of public lands would provide a model of how to reduce the need for the BLM and



Valles Caldera overview from NM Hwy 4

USFS. The board was tasked to continue livestock grazing, and to manage the property for timber and recreation, including fishing and elk hunting. There are many archeological sites and Native American sacred areas on the property that need to be managed as well. Important progress was made in fisheries restoration, including replacing culverts that had blocked the movement of fish, and excluding livestock from the riparian areas. However, despite charging higher than average fees, the income generated could not cover the costs of managing the land under a sustainable multiple-use approach (as opposed to maximizing livestock production).

Within the Valles Caldera, both San Antonio Creek and the East Fork of the Jemez have the character of alpine meadow streams. Especially the East Fork is very narrow but surprisingly deep; it is possible to step across it in the headwaters area, and it has the feeling of a marsh, with its narrow channel meandering through thick stands of tall grass. The San Antonio is almost as narrow in some of the upper reaches, but much more open in lower sections (see photos). Both streams contain wild brown trout, and the East Fork has rainbows as well. They are not especially picky when it comes to fly selection. The main challenge is precision casting under challenging conditions, those small waters skills again. The streams present a target often only a yard or so wide, and a missed cast to either side will get you snagged in the tall grass. If it is breezy or windy, hitting the water and missing the grass is even more challenging. The water is often pretty shallow, so the fish can be



San Antonio Creek

spooky. Therefore, it is advisable to cast from a position well downstream of the targeted fish/feeding lane, and it is helpful to cast from a kneeling position.

Avoid making low back casts, as the grass behind you will snag your flies and snap them off. Outer bends, undercut banks, and pool tail outs are among the most productive spots. In some of the very tight headwaters areas, the most effective technique is sneaking to within a rod's length of the water, crouching in the grass, blindly dapping the fly on the water, and setting the hook when you *hear*

the take. In the middle portion of San Antonio Creek there is a warm spring entering the creek; it is a nice place to relax for lunch, but the water for some distance downstream is too warm to find trout holding there.

The streams in the Valles Caldera are designated as special trout waters in which fishing is limited to artificial flies and lures. They are great for a hopper/dropper set up, although because of the shallow depth of many runs, the dropper needs to be short. Foam hoppers in yellow or brown work well, as do crickets and cicada patterns in black. Other go-to dries include ant and bee patterns, and a small pheasant tail or drowned ant makes a great dropper. If it has been raining recently, a San Juan worm pattern is worth a try.

Under the new management, access requires a \$20 weekly pass or a NPS Senior visitor pass.

You will also need to check in at the HQ and obtain a back country vehicle permit. The bag limit is 2 trout at least 15" in length. Waders and privately owned landing nets are not permitted; you can borrow a net at the HQ. Be sure to take sunscreen to protect against the UV radiation and a good bug repellent to ward off the deer flies. Also, it is good to remember that what John Gierach calls "standing in a river wav-



Miriam releasing a colorful brown trout amid the tall grass at the headwaters of the East Fork, Jemez River

ing a stick” could in this instance be considered “standing in a meadow waving a lightning rod.” Keep an eye on the weather, and avoid thunder storms during which you will be the tallest thing in the meadow. For more information, see [www.nps.gov/vall/planyourvisit/fishing.htm](http://www.nps.gov/vall/planyourvisit/fishing.htm)



Ron Bellerose  
PHW Coordinator

Project Healing Waters is still going strong with many Vets thanking PHW and the Mesilla Valley Flyfishers for their part in working with the Vets.

The next organized PHW event will be with the Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion and the Cloudcroft VFW. This will take place from May 11<sup>th</sup> thru May 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be doing the fly tying on May 11<sup>th</sup> in the evening and fishing at the Cloud Country pond on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Never know how many will participate. More info to follow.

Flies! Flies! Flies! Last chance to get the flies that you do not want to tie yourself. I will have the flies available at the May general meeting. \$10 a dozen. All proceeds go to PHW fishing trips.

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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.

## Willow Creek Work Crew

June 24-26

TU Contractor and retired USFWS Fish Biologist Jim Brooks is planning a work project at Willow Creek and is seeking volunteers interested in helping out. The plan is to have two electro-shocking crews working from the barrier site at Gilita confluence upstream over the course of 1.5 days. The plan is to camp at the State Game and Fish cabin site with other agency personnel from the USFWS, USFS, and NMDGF. Campfires, poker, cribbage, fishing lies, and the op-

portunity to fish for Gila Trout will fill out the weekend. Depending on the response, Jim may provide the food and cooking for a nominal cost, and participants should bring their own drinks.

## Comments requested on new rules for NMDG&F Volunteers

In response to Senate Bill 231 that was passed and signed by the Governor, the Department is developing a program to recruit, train and utilize the services of volunteers, and is currently **seeking public comments on the draft rule** currently under consideration. The link below will take you to the proposal: New Rule Development for Department Volunteer Program: <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/>

Some considerations of the new Rule include the ability for volunteers to ride in and drive NMDG&F vehicles, haul gear and opportunities for reimbursement for personal vehicle mileage and per diem. The new rules provide that eligibility of potential volunteers will be validated with a formal background investigation as prescribed by the director. **Comments are requested before the proposal is presented to the State Game Commission during the May 12<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting that will be held in Silver City at the Murray Hotel Ballroom, starting at 9:00am.**

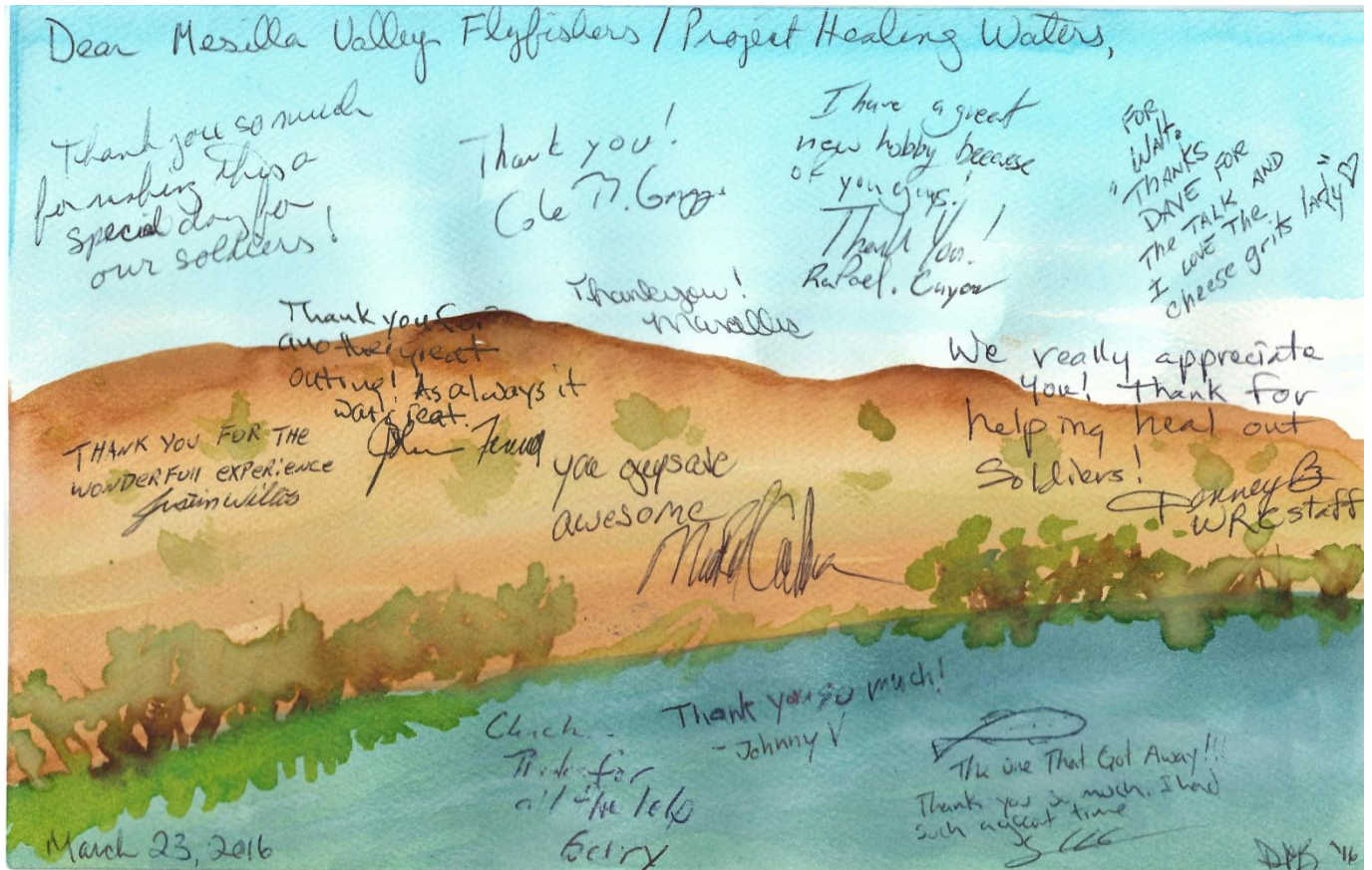
## Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible future outings 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:

- May 3-7—trip to Lee's Ferry.
- Oct. 1-9—trip to Kodiak. Contact Tom Lightfoot (575-521-4546) for info.
- Nov. 3-6—Club trip to San Juan

## Welcome New Members

Leafa Fiore	Cloverdale, CA
Jason Haynes	El Paso, TX
Lance & Leesa Lee	Hobbs, NM
Richard & Maria Prosser	High Rolls Mt., NM



### Hot Wire Prince Nymph



- Hook:** TMC 5263, Mustad 9672 or any equivalent 2XL long nymph/streamer #14 to #18
- Bead:** copper 1/8" for #14, 3/32" for #16 to #18
- Thread:** black UNI 8/0
- Tail:** black goose or turkey biots
- Body:** brassie size UTC black and hot blue
- Abdomen:** Ice Dubbing Blue
- Collar:** brown hen hackle
- Wing:** white goose or turkey biot





**Quick Look Contact Information**

2016 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>V-Pres.:</b>	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• <b>Secretary:</b>	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• <b>Treasurer:</b>	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
<b>Board Members</b>	
• <b>Position 1:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <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) 520-5768
• <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.

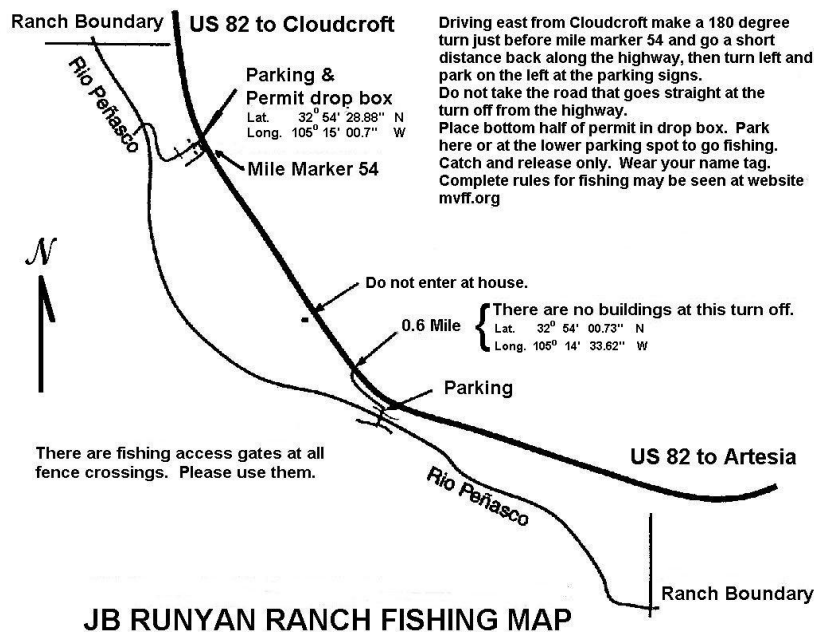
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### 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.