



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

June

2018



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Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — newsletter@mvff.org

Membership Meeting

There will be no MVFF general membership meeting in June. 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

There will be no MVFF Board meeting in June. The next meeting will be in August. See you then.

Liars and Tyers

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

President's Corner

David Carmichael
Mabie Legacy News

Following last month's successful fundraiser for the Mabie Scholarship Fund, we will be doing another installment over the summer and into early fall. The club recently received a donation from



David Mabie of some of his parents' fly fishing gear, and

we will be raffling or auctioning them off and adding the proceeds to the scholarship fund. I've included photos of a few items here, but the entire collection of gear includes the following items:

- Sage LL 590-3 Graphite III rod, dark red blank, red and gray wraps, walnut reel seat
- Norm Mabie custom rod (pictured), reddish brown blank, red and gold wraps, birdseye maple burl reel seat, with spare tip section
- Ross San Miguel Three reel (pictured)
- Ross San Miguel Two reel (pictured)
- Ross Gunnison G-2 reel and spare spool
- Ross Gunnison G-1 reel
- Landing net, birdseye maple handle
- Garcia 8ft 2 piece fiberglass rod



The board is still working out the details of how the fundraiser will be run, but we hope to distribute the prizes at the Fly Fishing Film Tour event at Ardivino's

Desert Crossing in October. So, if you are interested in owning a piece of MVFF history, start saving your spare change and keep an eye on the newsletter over the summer to see how you can have a chance to win one of these items.

Confirmation of Poaching at the Lease

For some time now, a number of club members have suspected that people have been trespassing on the club lease and poaching fish, especially from the section of the stream near the lower waterfall. The highway runs very close to that part of the stream, and access to the water is a simple matter. It would also be easy to fish the lower part of the lease undetected by following the river up from the downstream properties. Over the past year, a couple of us have seen evidence such as empty worm containers or salmon egg jars left in the vicinity of the lower waterfall. A couple of weeks ago, Bill Schumacher found additional evidence of poaching near the lower falls, in the form of this monofilament and bait hook rig wrapped around a soda can (pictured). It now seems



increasingly likely that we're seeing evidence of some fairly consistent poaching activity, rather than just a rare occasional occurrence. It is frustrating to think that many of the fish paid for and stocked by club members are being illegally harvested by non-members who don't even have permission to enter the property. Such activity undermines our efforts to improve the fishery for club members, and if fishing success declines, it also has a negative financial impact on Jim Ellett's ranch operation. Unlike a stand-

ard fishing rod, a rig like this one is very easy to conceal, making it challenging to spot someone in the process of fishing illegally or accessing the ranch property with the wrong sort of gear. It would be prudent to keep an eye out for people on the lease whom you don't know, and to introduce yourselves to others you meet. Remember, club members are supposed to be carrying their club ID while on the lease, so it should be possible to know if you encounter non-members. If you see any inappropriate activity, please let Jim Ellett and/or one of the board members know. If you see anyone harvesting fish, you can politely question them. If possible, take note of the license plate numbers on vehicles in parking areas that are unfamiliar to you, or if someone is parked along the highway near the river; it may be possible to have the game warden follow up. Many of our members join the club specifically so they can fish the lease, and it doesn't take long at all to clean all the fish out of a section of stream using bait fishing tactics. By being observant and questioning suspected rule-breakers, hopefully together we can reduce or eliminate illegal fishing pressure on our lease. Thanks everyone.

Just a quick reminder about handling fish: some of the Lady Anglers as well as Chuck Mueller spotted a large rainbow trout floating belly up below the lower water fall. As we haven't had any big floods on the lease lately, I suspect the fish died from being mishandled. Please make sure to use barbless hooks and handle the fish as little as possible. Wet your hands before handling the fish, and if the hook is embedded too deeply to be easily removed, cut the leader as close to the hook as you can. For a more thorough discussion of safe handling of trout during catch and release, please follow this link: <http://frontrangeanglers.com/catch-and-release-trout-best-practices-1-10-2014/>

Summer Reading Recommendation

If anyone is looking for an interesting summer read, I recommend **The Feather Thief**, by Kirk Wallace Johnson. It is a quirky, fascinating and horrifying book about criminal activity by some members of the elite fly tying community who dress Victorian style salmon flies such as those pictured here.

The book investigates the true story of the theft of 299 rare bird skins from the British Natural History

Museum. The case is the largest ever heist of animal specimens from a museum, and it has greatly impacted the scientific research significance of the largest such collection in the world. The feather thief focused on those rare and endangered species whose feathers are most coveted by elite fly tiers, including Cotingas, Indian Fruit Crow, Resplendent Quetzal, Birds of Paradise and Cock of the Rock. Among the



Wentworth Reflection by Luc Couturier



Cotinga and Quetzal pattern, Luc Couturier

stolen specimens were many that had been collected in the 1850s by Alfred Russel Wallace, co-discoverer of the principle of natural selection. (The chapter devoted to his career is fascinating in its own right.)

I won't spoil the ending of the book for you, but I will say that I found the stories about some of the fly tiers pretty shocking. Don't get me wrong; the Victorian style flies dressed by elite tiers are truly remarkable. The flies themselves show an amazing level of skill, craftsmanship and creativity. Many require 40 hours or more to assemble, about as long as it takes me to build a custom fly rod. So, I appreciate the skill in-

involved. It seems that most of the elite tiers don't actually fish, at least not with the Victorian flies they dress; instead, their creations are viewed as works of art. There is also a pervasive belief within their ranks that authentic designs require the use of exotic feathers, even if it is illegal to sell and/or possess them.



Indian Crow (Pyroderus) feathers for sale on eBay

Some years ago we heard a great hue and cry about the impacts to our sport/hobby as a result of hair stylists buying up quantities of hackle feathers to weave into their clients' hairdos, but there was no such outrage from the fly tiers about the theft of



Cotinga cayana feathers for sale on eBay

priceless historic bird specimens. The rare feathers are like drugs to some of these folks, and I was really surprised by how many of the tiers were willing to downplay the significance of the heist, receive stolen feathers and impede the investigations. The attraction of these feathers is so powerful that when Eddie Wolfer, a fly tier known for owning a pet live Blue Chatterer, was rushed to the hospital to undergo surgery for a brain tumor, two other fly tiers came to his house, convinced his (former?) girlfriend to sell his pet which they then killed and sold at the next fly tying show. Another tier who was interviewed for the book happens to be a millenarian who believes that the eventuality of the Rapture removes any responsibility we might otherwise have to care for nature, including rare bird species.

This aspect of the book reflects poorly on the 3 dozen or so people who make up the core of elite tiers of classic Victorian fly patterns. In fact, someone I en-

countered at NMSU recommended the book to me, with the apparent implication that I should be aware of how the actions of these tiers influences the perceptions of the general public about fly anglers as a whole, whether that perception is justified or not. It is a challenge in many areas of conservation; there are those who claim to appreciate something special, whether it be birds, fish, archeological artifacts, etc., who will nevertheless engage in activities that diminish, endanger or destroy the very things they purport to admire. And those few who are willing to break the rules can cause problems that tarnish the good image fostered by most enthusiasts.

Despite my somewhat gloomy comments, the book is a pleasant and easy read that I knocked out during a couple of recent airline flights from El Paso to Houston and back. I think you'll enjoy it, and perhaps see some of the conservation issues relating to our hobby from a different angle. Enjoy the summer! [↑](#)



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters will be in a slow down mode for the summer. We will still have fly tying on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 9am until 11am and on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1pm until 3pm at the new Las Cruces VA Clinic.

I have also scheduled a fly tying event and fishing on the lease in July. I plan on doing fly tying on 13 July at Ft. Bliss and fishing at the Lease on the 14th. I expect to have quite a few soldiers (up to 15) to be fishing. More info will be coming out next month. Volunteers will be needed for the fishing event.

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

Lady Anglers Spring Trip to the Peñasco

Submitted by Debbie Hamlyn



The Lady Anglers fished the Rio Peñasco on the Club Lease and the Mulcock Ranch from May 17-20th. On Day one, 7 Lady Anglers began our day around 9 AM on the Club Lease in the upper section and we fished from the gate entrance up to the upper waterfall. We had beautiful warm weather and little wind which made it comfortable. However, we found the fishing to be difficult for whatever reason and several of us had not been to the lease since the flood and seemed to do more exploring than fishing. Despite that, we were all successful in catching many chubs and about 6 fish which we caught primarily with Hares ears and Copper Johns. We also learned that the new pools that were created since the flood were deep and we adjusted our lines accordingly.



On Day 2 we began to fish at about 9:30 AM at Mulcock Ranch and were joined by 2 more Lady Anglers as well as Gary Mann who we were pleased to have with us. Some of us started the day at the pools at the bridge and we fished up to the end of the property. Some walked way down to different pools in the meadow as well as the waterfall. We had a better fishing experience at the Mulcock Ranch. We all caught a lot of chubs but at least 25 fish. We had success with San Juan Worms, Copper Johns and Hares Ears. Overall we always love the camaraderie we enjoy with our fellow Lady Anglers and we come away with great fishing stories to share!! [↑](#)

Another Mabie Legacy Raffle at the Film Tour in October



Bob Silver

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Mabie Legacy Scholarship through the rod raffle. The Board wants to thank Bob and Lee Widgren for the idea and for building a special rod for the occasion. Ted

Hopkins was the lucky winner. He has a trip scheduled in Colorado and it will be put to good use.

Recently, Norm's son, David, gave the Club four reels, a birdseye maple net and 3 rods that belonged to Norm. The Board decided to use them to add to the scholarship. In October, Robert Ardivino will be hosting the 2nd Annual Fly Fishing Film Tour at Ardivino's Desert Crossing restaurant. The Board decided to raffle the equipment at the Film Tour. The reels include two Ross Gunnison and two Ross San Miguel reels. The rods include a Sage LL (lightline), a custom rod made on a Fischer blank and an older fiberglass rod. The net is made from birdseye maple and is very handsome. The equipment belonged to Norm and while used, is in excellent condition. I will include pictures of the equipment in next month's newsletter with specs on the rods and reels. The board is still working out the details of how the fundraiser will be run. Keep an eye on your email for more information about the raffle from the Club. [↑](#)

Rio Peñasco Fishing Report

May 17th, 2018

Submitted by Chuck Mueller



I arrived at the Lease around 9:30am with the temperature at 78°. Got my fly rod rigged and noticed I had taken my 5wt reel for my 7 foot 4wt rod, but I had no choice but to deal with it. I was on

the stream just a little before 10am and noticed the water level was really low and very clear. There was no hatch going on so I decided to fish with streamers. I had two Bunny Leeches that we tied at April's Liars and Tyers. I started fishing below the upper bridge working my way down river. The Bunny Leech worked well, catching a nice rainbow about 10 inches and then I lost the streamer to the tree gods. I tied my last Bunny Leech on, caught another fish then lost it to the tree gods just above the middle water fall.



With both of the Bunny Leeches gone, I tied on a chub pattern that I found on You Tube. Within minutes I caught 3 rainbows in the pool below the middle Waterfall. Working my way down stream I caught 5 at the cave hole and continued to move down stream. At the big pool just

above the big arroyo is when the action really started. Within 40 minutes I managed to catch 18 more rainbows. At times I had a fish on every cast. It was 12:15 when I headed back to the truck for lunch. After lunch I went to the lower section and caught 6 more rainbows, 1 at the overhanging tree, 2 at the irrigation take out and 3 below the water fall. The wind picked up at 1:30pm, so I made my way back to the truck. Even though I only fished about 4 hours I had a very good day on the river with four rainbows over 12 inches and the biggest was 15 inches, and I had only caught one chub all day. When I left the temperature was 94°. Below is a picture of the temporary bridge at the lower crossing.



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.

Current trips planned are:

- Sept. 20 - 24 — Lady Anglers will be fishing with Wolf Creek Anglers in CO.
- Nov. — Annual fall Club trip to the San Juan.




Vise for Sale

Ray Rodriguez has a Rotating Griffin Patriot Cam fly tying vise for sale. It has a pedestal and c-clamp plus extra post for higher adjustment of jaws. Asking \$100 dollars for it. Contact phone (575) 520-5768.



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 21, 2018

The board met but for lack of a quorum was unable to conduct business. Those members attending discussed various forth coming activities. Members attending were David Carmichael, Jim Hulsey, Bob Silver and Chuck Mueller. 

Quick Look Contact Information

2018 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (612) 720-3456
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Position 4:	Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
• Position 5:	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Position 9:	Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Bob Silver (575) 522-6325	membership@mvff.org
NMSU AF Student Representative	
• Dillen Martinez ()	

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.

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, to purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco and to participate in other Club activities such as an 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.

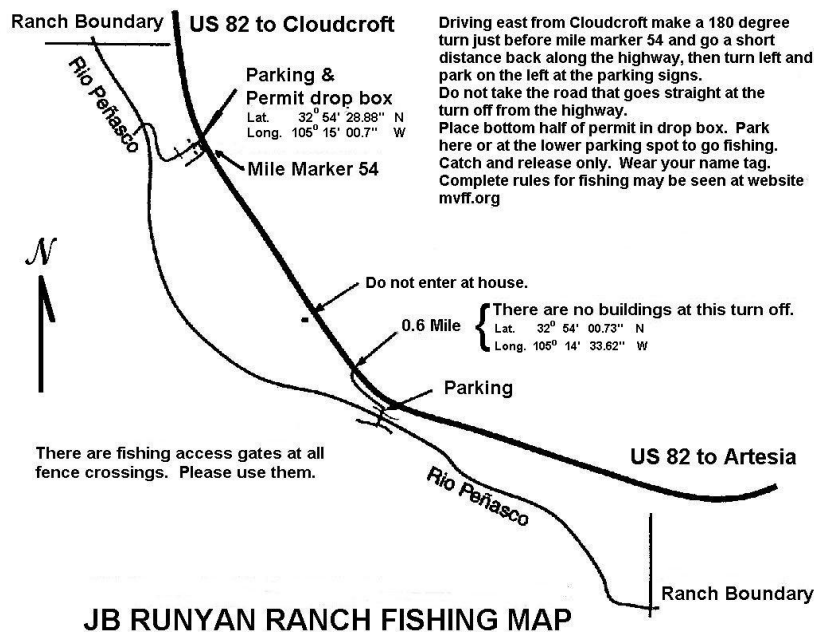
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880) or Bob Silver (575-522-6325) 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.