



TALE WATERS

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

April

2019



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

Membership Meeting

Monday, 8 April

The MVFF general membership meeting will be held on Monday 8 April at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. David Carmichael will present a short talk and slideshow entitled "A Short Hike on Small Streams," about backpacking and fishing in the Cruces Basin Wilderness in northern New Mexico.

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

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 15 April

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 8 April at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 24 April

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 24 April at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room

starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *Baetis 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



Spring has definitely arrived, perhaps even a bit early. The desert is awash in the yellows and purples of blooming wildflowers, along with claret cup cacti and *Yucca bacatta* blossoms. What used to be considered the winds of April have been with us for a month already, and the high country has been receiving some odd thunderstorm events that would in the past normally be expected to occur in summertime. A couple of weeks ago, I took a group of anthropology students camping in the Gila National Forest during spring break, and I can report that snowmelt was well underway during the time of



Sapillo Creek during mid-March snowmelt runoff

our visit. When we arrived at the Gila Cliff Dwellings on March 19, the peaks in the Diablo Range were still white-capped with snow. By the time we returned home on the 21st, those same peaks were nearly devoid of snow. Almost all the rivers and streams we saw, including the West and Middle forks of the Gila, Little

Creek and Sapillo Creek, were running high and dirty. Only the East Fork of the Gila was clear, as it drains an area that was lacking significant snow accumula-

tion. All those rivers should be running clear and closer to normal flow by now, so it might be good time to get out there and wet a fly.

Club Activities

The past month has been a very busy one for the MVFF, and the next couple of months look to be just as fun-filled. A special thanks goes out to everyone who helped make the Kid's Fishing Clinic on March 30th a success. Without the efforts of the 18 club members who volunteered, along with our partners Casey Harthorn, local officers of NMGF, Sportsman's Warehouse and Domino's Pizza, hosting all those kids and activities would not be possible. Although there were fewer kids/families in attendance this year than last, lots of kids were catching fish like crazy. And the smaller groups meant that we could take things at a slower pace at the exhibits and tables, spending more time talking to or instructing those who did attend. All the kids got a prize, many of them rods or tackle boxes, courtesy of Sportsman's Warehouse or the club. And everyone got plenty of pizza. Thank you all!

There are a couple more volunteer opportunities coming up for club members. On the evening of April 11, Miriam Carmichael will be representing the MVFF at the Sportsman's Warehouse Ladies Night. She will have a table set up to distribute club literature and have an exhibit of club activities and the basic components of fly angling gear that would be needed to begin the sport. I have a prior commitment to teach a class for the Texas Master Naturalist Program, so I won't be able to help out at Ladies Night. It would be a great help if one or two more club members could help Miriam for 2-3 hours, by visiting with interested potential anglers/members, demonstrating casting with our yarn indoor casting rod, etc. Please contact Miriam or me if you can assist on April 11.

Last month the club made a tentative commitment to participate in a fly-fishing event with the VFW Post 11999 for the Warriors in Transition again in May of this year. This is an event that Ron Bellerose has coordinated for several years, as part of Project Healing Waters activities, and we would like to continue our support for Vets in our region even though we are no longer in PHW. The event involves a fly-tying session/class on the afternoon of May 15th, followed by fishing at Cloud Country Estates, 10 miles east of

Cloudcroft, from noon until 5pm on May 16th. Ron will be unable to participate this year, and I will be out of town as well, so we are putting out a call for two or three volunteers to do the fly-tying class and act as casting/fishing instructors on the 16th. Please contact Ron or me if you are able to help the club keep this outreach program up and running this May. Thanks!

The lease is being stocked on April 6, in advance of the Lady Anglers' annual spring trip to the Rio Penasco, May 2-4. There should be about 500 more trout in the river than there were last month, so there will be a good chance of everyone having a successful day on the river. Be sure to renew your club membership and New Mexico fishing licenses before heading out onto the water.

Our next meeting of the general membership will be on Monday, April 8 at 7pm at the NMGF offices on Northrise. In lieu of a guest speaker, I'll be presenting a short talk and slideshow entitled "A Short Hike on Small Streams," about backpacking and fishing in the Cruces Basin Wilderness in northern New Mexico. The Cruces Basin is a real gem; off the beaten trail, but not very difficult to access. Real wilderness that only requires a short hike. Lots of trout and breathtaking scenery. I hope you'll come to the meeting and check it out.



Beaver Creek, Cruces Basin Wilderness, New Mexico

Conservation News

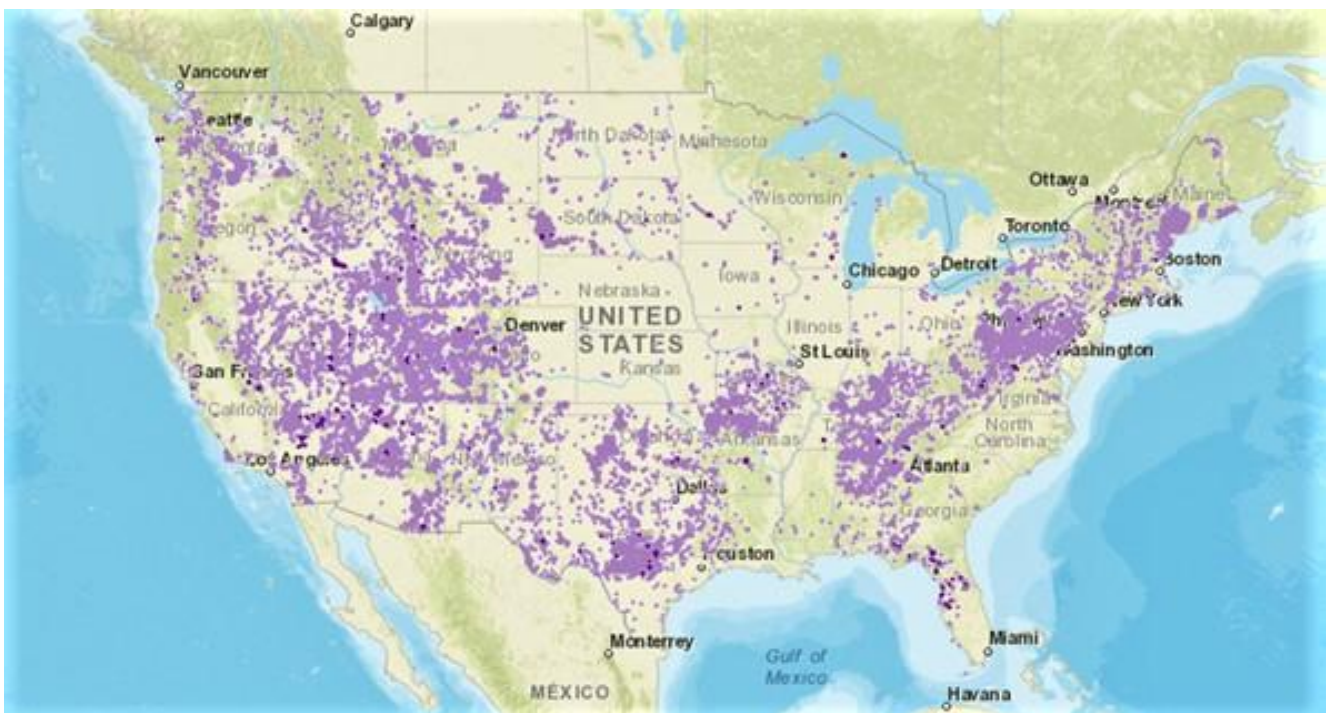
The March 27 issue of the El Paso Times reports that restoration efforts have been underway on the Rio Ruidoso at Two Rivers Park. A team from Rocky Mountain Ecology has installed rock structures to reduce bank erosion and to create plunge pools. Large elm trees were removed and replaced by willows that

are intended to shade the stream and cool the water temperatures. The Village of Ruidoso received a grant from the New Mexico Environment Department River Stewardship Program, and the project is focused on the portions of the stream within the village limits where the fishery was temperature impaired. Hopefully, the new structures and vegetation will improve the aquatic insect fauna, provide more trout holding water, and a more diverse set of flow conditions. The contract ends this summer, so perhaps we might expect to see improved fishing opportunities by next fall.

Outdoors enthusiasts received some good news this past month, as the President signed into law the bill to permanently restore the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This fund has contributed to more than 44,000 conservation projects nationwide since its inception in 1964. Although I have discussed the LWCF in previous newsletters last fall, I thought it might be interesting to provide a summary of some of the projects with which New Mexico anglers might be familiar. LWCF monies have been used to enhance parks, water quality initiatives, and access projects in every county in the state, including Eagle Nest Lake, Mesilla Bosque Park, Sugarite Canyon State Park, City of Rocks, Bluewater Lake, Glenwood Fish Hatchery, Elephant Butte Lake, Caballo Lake, Park View Hatch-

ery, Santa Clara Pueblo Lakes, Lisboa Springs Hatchery, Conchas Lake and Villanueva State Park. Lesser known programs housed within the LWCF include the transfer of federal lands to state and local governments for parks; there have been 20 such transfers in New Mexico since 1949, including lands adjacent to Aztec Ruins and Bandelier. Another program involves the LWCF partnership with the Wild & Scenic Rivers program. Funding from the LWCF has contributed to the restoration of more than 700 river miles in 13 river drainages in 8 states. The reinstatement of the LWCF is a genuine victory for conservation and our efforts to encourage outdoor recreation in what is becoming an increasingly sedentary U.S. citizenry.

Unfortunately, this victory may well be largely undermined if the Trump administration's rewrite of the Clean Water Rule becomes official policy. I have previously discussed this disastrous policy shift (see January 2019 newsletter), so I won't go into great detail here. Suffice it to note that if the current administration's proposal becomes policy, headwater streams, wetlands and springs all over the country will once again be subject to industrial pollution. The proposed rule will give mining and logging interests a free hand to develop and pollute the most sensitive portions of our water supplies, river drainages and fisheries. Nationwide, about 60% of all waterways will



Purple areas mark the freshwater springs/headwaters that will no longer be protected under the new Clean Water Rule proposed by the Trump administration. (Sara Van Note for ensia.com, March 19, 2019)

lose protections; in the arid Southwest, that figure is at least 81%, and in New Mexico, almost all our drainages would lose protection. The (pre-Trump administration) EPA determined that mining in the western U.S. has contaminated headwater streams in more than 40% of all the watersheds in the west (*Liquid Assets 2000: America's Water Resources at a Turning Point*, p. 10. EPA). The new proposed rule would open even more drainages to such damage.

A Call to Action. The current administration is rushing the new proposed rule through the approval process at break neck speed, as it has with other efforts to roll back environmental protections. **The deadline for public comments on the proposed change is April 15.** I urge you to make your feelings about this rule change known to our elected officials. As fly anglers, we are certainly concerned about the aspects of the environment that affect our fishing hobby and/or livelihoods. But this particular rule goes well beyond that, as it will have truly draconian effects on the environment as a whole. The map on the previous page illustrates the results of a recent survey of the freshwater springs that would become unprotected, and which could then be legally contaminated. Land management over vast areas of the country would return to the policies of the "bad old days," and upland areas of the Rocky Mountains, Colorado Plateau, Appalachians, Ozark/Ouachita Plateau, and Cascade Range will be especially vulnerable. And, as we are now seeing in the vicinity of Roswell, groundwater contamination stays around for generations; it is not something that will be easily reversed when a new administration takes up residence in Washington, D.C.

Trout Unlimited is committed to protecting and enhancing the health of our fisheries, and has been involved in the battle over the proposed Clean Water Rule since the outset. Perhaps the easiest way to send a comment would be to access the TU webpage at <http://standup.tu.org/> where you will find comment forms for both the Clean Water Rule and the renewed permit for Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay drainage. To me, it seems clear that these two environmentally disastrous actions are connected; by eviscerating the 2015 Clean Water Rule, the administration would be paving the way for approving the construction of the Pebble Mine which would likely

contaminate the drainage supporting the world's most productive sockeye salmon run.

We really are at a crossroads here. Or perhaps I should say we are at a confluence. More than at any time since 1970, what we as a population, as a country, do about the treatment of our natural resources and environment in the next few years will determine what sort of place we bequeath to our children and grandchildren. There has always been human greed, and as far back as 150 years ago there have been those who wanted to exploit public lands for personal gain. But when those proclivities are combined with political forces that are stacked against government transparency, operatives who serve the interests of a few corporate titans, and land managers who disregard established science, we are truly in danger of seeing severe environmental damage that will not be reversible in our lifetimes. As we make plans for summer fishing trips, let's all think about how those planned destinations would look if they become contaminated with mining effluent; and let's do what we can to preserve and enhance those places, rather than writing them off. Thanks for caring.



Wetlands in the Bristol Bay drainage headwaters that will no longer be protected from pollution under the newly proposed Clean Water Rule.




Fly Fishing Outreach

Ron Bellerose
Coordinator



Focus Outreach is moving along with about 6 fly tiers each month. In April we will tie two versions of the Elk Hair Caddis and in May we will be doing the Stimulator. Also we will

try to do a trip to the lease for some fishing. Otherwise not much going on.

For more information about the MVFF Fly Fishing Outreach Program contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com, also if you wish to volunteer to help out. 


Lady Anglers Update

Mary Hoffman




The Lady Anglers is a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have fun doing it. Information on our fishing trips is made available to women on our Lady Anglers e-mail list and

through announcements in the MVFF newsletter and at club meetings. Beginners are welcome and the only requirement for joining us is MVFF membership. To join our e-mail list, or for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at 505-710-5229 or westerngirlnm@gmail.com.

The Lady Anglers will be fishing the Rio Penasco at the MVFF lease and the Mulcock Ranch on May 3rd and 4th of this year. Thanks to Miriam Carmichael for organizing this spring trip. No other trips are planned at this time. 


Annual Kids' Fishing Clinic

The annual Kids' Fishing Clinic was held on Saturday, 30 March at Alumni Pond, NMSU from 9am until 2pm. The weather was great and we had plenty of volunteers. There were fewer kids this year resulting in a surplus of pizza but everyone did their part and ate more. For more details check the President's column. Photos are on page 7. 

Stocking the Lease

Saturday, 6 April

We will be stocking about 400 Rainbow trout at the lease this Saturday April 6th. The stocking truck will arrive at 9:30am at the Ellett Ranch house. This would be an opportunity for anyone new to see the Lease and participate in stocking fish that you may catch in the near future. Only you will know where the fish you planted are.

Carpoolers will meet at the former K-Mart store parking lot on Hwy 70 and I-25 (the K-Mart is next door to the Allen Theater). Carpools will leave at 7am to meet the stocking truck by 9:30am. 

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



2019 Upcoming Activities: Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

May 10-12 Volunteer Angler Science Stream Survey at Willow Creek, Gila

National Forest

Please join us for a fun weekend at beautiful Willow Creek in the Gila National Forest to help collect important stream flow and habitat data on this Gila Trout restoration project stream. The group will plan to arrive and set up camps on Friday May 10th. We'll break into groups on Saturday and head to the different stream sections where everyone will have a chance to learn and apply the various methods for assessing stream habitat conditions. The data collected will be used to develop plans for restoration and improvement of the habitat and stream structure that will also improve the fishing for native Gila trout. On Sunday you can fish and/or hike to fish in one of the most beautiful spots in the Gila National Forest. Please contact Jeff Arterburn (jeffgilatu@aol.com) to sign up or for more information.

Saturday June 1st Aldo Leopold Kids Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts

Please help us host this year's Aldo Leopold Kid's Fishing day at Lake Roberts on Saturday June 1st. We will be expecting from 100-150 kids and it will be a lot of fun! The lake will be stocked with brood fish from Mora National Hatchery and it's likely that a new world record Gila trout will be swimming the depths. We need a big group of volunteers to help host the booth and help introduce kids to fishing with flies, it's a tough lake for regular fly casting but a fly-and-bubble spinning rig works great and wouldn't you like to see a kid bring in that new world record on a fly pattern you provided? This coincides with the NMDGF free fishing day and the U.S.F.S. will be providing special camping arrangements for "vendors" so this

GRG-TU Logo T-shirts to support local trout restoration and conservation efforts.

Peanut butter logo on black

- May 2 - 5 — Lady Anglers trip to the Lease and Mulcock's ranch

Gills/Legs: Antron or Flouro fiber, pulled back from wingcase

Kids' Fishing Clinic April 30, 2019





MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 18, 2019

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by Jim Sorenson at 7:27pm in the NMDG&F Conference room. Board members present were: Jeff Arterburn

(Secretary), Chuck Mueller (Treasurer), Jim Sorenson (acting VP), Jim Hulsey and Ron Bellerose. Board Members absent were: David Carmichael (President),

Dillen Martinez, Robert Ardivino, Tom Johnson (Vice President, is on a temporary leave of absence) and Bob Silver (Membership). Non-Board members in attendance were: none.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the February 18, 2019 Board Meeting were approved as published in the March 2019 issue of the newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report and reviewed the banquet expenditures. The available current account balance is \$10,763.71. The report was accepted by the Board.
3. **Membership Report:** No report.
4. **Fly Fishing Outreach:** Ron Bellerose reported that the fly tying sessions have been well attended, and he used the club camera and projector for demonstrating tying a zebra midge. Ron will not be holding the fly tying sessions June–July–August. The VFW in Cloudcroft would like to schedule this year's activities on Wed–Thurs–Fri the week before Memorial Day. Ron will not be available, and he suggested that Dave Medler, who worked with the group last year, may be available and he asked the VFW to contact David. The plan for hosting the Wounded Warriors Transition Battalion is still pending, they are now looking at the end of June for their event with 12–14 participants. For more information and volunteers interested in helping out with the MVFF Fly Fishing Outreach Program contact Ron Bellerose (575–680–5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com)
5. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited:**
 - Jeff Arterburn reported that the Aldo Leopold Kids Fishing Clinic at Lake Roberts will be held on Saturday June 1st. The organizing group led by Dustin Meyers from U.S.F.S. has started planning and they are expecting 100–150 kids to be involved. There is a real need for donated funds to support the purchase of T-shirts and prizes for the kids participating.

This subject will be discussed at the next board meeting.

- The spring angler science volunteer project will be held at Willow Creek the weekend of May 10-12. Members wanting to get involved in Trout Unlimited and interested in helping out on projects are asked to contact Jeff Arterburn by email to: jeffgilatu@aol.com
6. **NMSU American Fisheries Students:** No Report.
 7. **Presentations and Events:**
 - The presentations for April 8 and May 13 were not identified at the time of the board meeting.
 - Arrangements were discussed for the Kids' Fishing Clinic at the NMSU Alumni Pond Saturday March 30th. Ron will be ordering the pizzas (~40) and drinks, and snacks. Jim Hulsey will provide large coolers and Jim Sorenson can haul coolers, and will also transport the tables. Chuck and Ron will check the storage for prizes, etc. A motion was approved for spending up to \$300 for additional prizes as needed. Jim Sorenson will contact David to discuss other arrangements, and the stocking, porta-potty's, publicity, etc. Chuck and Julie are planning to help with the text for publicity. Chuck will check with Dillen about the NMSU permit.
 8. **Rio Peñasco Lease.** Jim Sorenson talked with Andy Ellett who identified a local septic company contact, and Jim has left a message requesting a quote for quarterly cleaning. Jim will report on the details at the next board meeting.
 9. **Other discussion items:** The need for a higher resolution MVFF Logo was recognized again and will be considered in the future.

The next MVFF Board Meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Quick Look Contact Information**2019 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 (505) 401-3640

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.

**Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund**

The Mabie Legacy 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 scholarship recipient is selected each April by the faculty members of the NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology.

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 "Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund, for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the MVFF Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give it consideration and help honor Norm and Donna Mabie.

***** REMEMBER *****

MVFF MEMBERSHIPS & NM FISHING LICENSES 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.

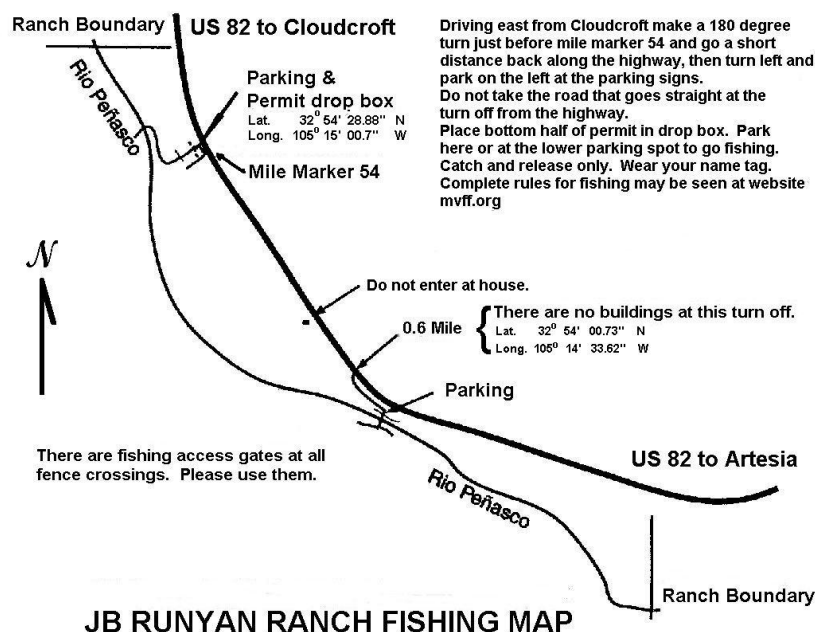
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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 or, if you had rather, you may pay through PayPal. 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 Bob Silver. In addition, members may purchase 1-day, 1-time permits for up to 2 guests per trip. Each guest must have a permit. One-time means a person can go as a guest one time only and must be a member to ever go again.

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.