



# TALE WATERS

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

February

2020



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Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — [newsletter@mvff.org](mailto:newsletter@mvff.org)

## Membership Meeting

Monday, 10 February

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 10 February at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Bill Parker will be our guest speaker. Bill is the owner of Parker Trout Farm & RV, in Sacramento, NM., and he provides the rainbow trout with which we stock the club lease on the Rio Peñasco.

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

## Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 17 February

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 17 February following the General Membership meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

## Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 26 February

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 26 February at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room

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

### Club News



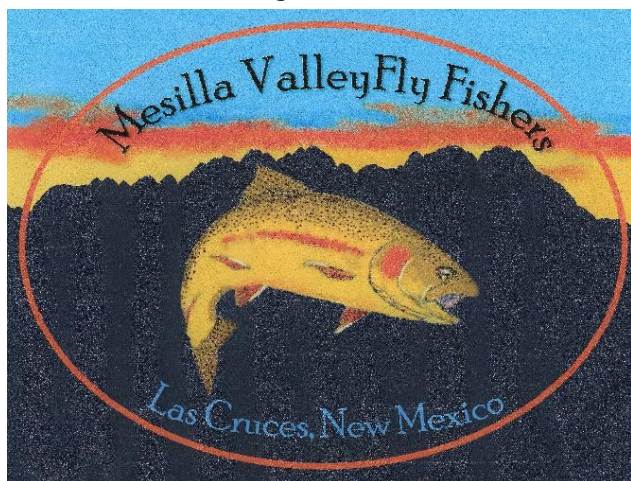
Another successful Annual Banquet is behind us, and I'd like to thank everyone who attended, and who pitched in to make the event run smoothly. I appreciate the company and hospitality provided by

those members who accompanied our guests, Skip and Carol Ann Morris, at dinner Friday night at Ardovino's Desert Crossing, and lunch on Saturday at The Game II. Thanks to Josie and Teako Nunn for once again catering the event. And a special thanks goes out to our Prize Committee members, Bob Silver, Jeff Arterburn, George Sanders and Brad Shuster, who put together a great collection of prizes for the raffle. A list of the winners of the larger prizes is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you were able to attend one or both of Skip's presentations, I hope you learned a few tidbits about fishing creeks and using emerger patterns; there seemed to be a little something for everyone in the presentations. If you couldn't attend the banquet, or if you didn't get a chance to purchase one of Skip's books, or some of Carol Ann's artwork, you can check out Skip's website at [www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com](http://www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com). The home page contains links to his blog, YouTube channel, his books, articles and DVDs, as well as links to Carol's artwork.

After generating a new proposed club logo, several versions of the design were displayed at the banquet, and the attendees were invited to vote for their favorite. The accompanying image was voted as the favorite by a wide margin, and I appreciate receiving your

input. As suggested by the oval outline, this version is intended to be used for a patch, or embroidery on a hat or shirt. There is another version without the curved text that is more appropriate for club letterhead stationery. The next step will be to have a printer and embroiderer turn the concept into designs that can be stitched and printed. In the meantime, the club still has some merchandise bearing the old logo, and those things will now become collectors' items, so snap them up through our club website, or at the next club meeting.



At the suggestion of several board members, we've arranged for Bill Parker to be our guest speaker at the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the general membership. Bill is the owner of Parker Trout Farm & RV, in Sacramento, NM., and he provides the rainbow trout with which we stock the club lease on the Rio Peñasco. Bill will tell us about how he operates his trout farm, so come prepared with any questions you have. Hope to see you there!

### Water Quality Issues

Last month, while attending an historic preservation committee meeting in Brownsville, Texas, I passed this sculpture in the lobby of the Harlingen airport. At first glance, my reaction was "what a brilliant sculpture!" Upon further examination however, I realized that Miguel the Mahi-mahi is made completely of plastic debris washed up on the beaches of South Padre Island. How gross is that?

At least it is good to see that people are discussing the growing problem of plastic pollution in our waterways, as that is the ultimate source of the plastic junk that washes up on our beaches. If you are interested in viewing Connie Lovell's other sculptures, in-

cluding Dolly the Dolphin and Rusty the Red Snapper,



*Miguel the Mahi-mahi, by Harlingen artist Connie Lovell*

they and her beach clean-up projects are featured at [www.washeduptexas.org](http://www.washeduptexas.org).

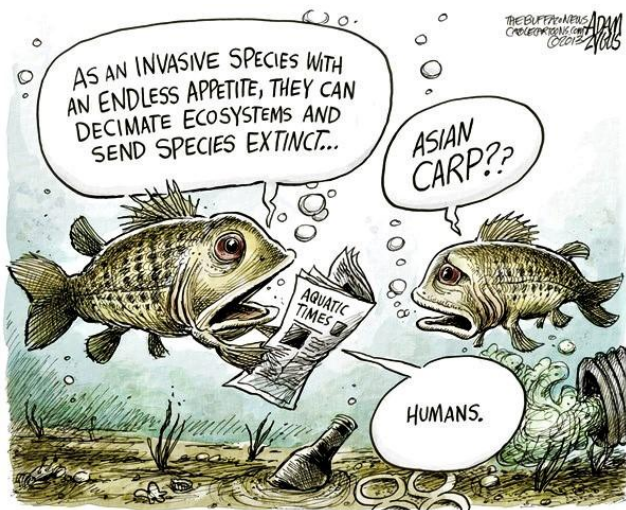
It seems that almost every month there are reports of new threats to our streams and rivers from the actions of the government and/or the extractive industries. This month is no exception. Wilderness Watch reports

(<https://wildernesswatch.salsalabs.org/hr5598/index.html>) that The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and (Canadian) Voyageurs National Park are threatened by open pit mines, including the proposed PolyMet and Twin Metals mines. More than 1,000 pristine lakes and 1,200 miles of streams are contained in the Boundary Waters watershed, and they are especially sensitive to the acids and heavy metals found in open pit mining pollution. Follow the link to read about and provide your support for HR 5598, the bipartisan bill that would protect 234,328 acres in the Rainy River watershed in northeastern Minnesota which includes the Boundary Waters park.

Many elected officials in Washington, D.C, and agency supervisors whom they have appointed to run some federal agencies, would like us to forget that global climate change is a real phenomenon, the effects of which are already impacting our fisheries. It is perhaps surprising therefore, that the NOAA recently released information on the harmful effects of coastal



acidification on Dungeness crab viability (<https://research.noaa.gov/article/ArrMID/587/ArticleID/2581>). Due to the high price of crab meat, the Dungeness crab fishery is the most valuable fishery on the West Coast, but it is being threatened by the acidification of coastal waters. When CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed by seawater, the water's acidity increases and the abundance of carbonate ions in the water is reduced. This makes it more difficult for corals, crabs, and other shellfish to construct their shells. In the case of Dungeness crabs, recent research documents the corrosion of external shells and legs of young crabs, as well as damage to the neural receptors that allow crabs to move and locate food in their environment. The potential for such damage was known, but it wasn't expected to occur until much later this century. Humans are nothing if not efficient and prolific polluters.



*Scientists estimate that 33% of all aquatic insects are threatened with extinction worldwide. Maintaining water quality has become an ever-increasing challenge because of the large number of chemicals people use in everyday life. Without clean water, life on Earth will become difficult or impossible for mayflies and stoneflies, not to mention people. — (Boris Kondratieff, Dir. of the Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity, Colorado State University,*



### Raffle Prize Winners

The MVFF Annual Banquet was held on January 25, 2020. This year the Prize Committee selected over

\$2,000 in prizes. The winners of the major items were:

Bob Widgren rod, Sage Trout LL — Jim Hulsey,  
Guided Conejos trip with Bob Widgren — Teako Nunn,  
Lamson Velocity reel — Charles Shuster,  
Lamson Speedster reel — Chuck Mueller,  
Fishpond Nomad net — Ron Bellerose,  
BW wader bag — G. Kasper,  
Simms wading staffs — Jamie Van Zandt, Mike Engleman,  
Fishpond sling pack — Lisa Meyer,  
Sage rod tube — Jodie Kincaid,  
Clear Creek rod tube — Jim Mulhouser,  
Fly boxes with files — Ted Hopkins, Jim Mulhouser,  
Esteban Quirarte,  
San Juan fly box with flies (Tim Mack) — Bill True,  
Fish Skin reel cases — Ron Bellinger, Debbie Hamlyn, Robert Ardovino,  
Sun gloves (2 pair) — Ron Bellinger (both pairs),  
Ketchum release tools — Charles Willis, Bob Silver,  
Anglers Image magnetic fly boxes — Ron Bellinger (2), Jim Sorenson, Josie Nunn,  
Fishpond Arrowhead zinger — Charles Shuster,  
3/4/5 tippet spools — Dave Lucoski, Ted Hopkins, David Brown,



### 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](mailto:westerngirlnm@gmail.com).

At this point, no trips are planned but we will probably hold an informal casting practice in Las Cruces on a Saturday morning during the first quarter of the year, followed by a no host lunch at a local restaurant.



## Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President

**GRG-TU for MVFF February 2020**

### Status of Gila trout recovery project for Whitewater Creek.



NMDGF Gila trout Biologist Ryder

Paggen gave a presentation on the Whitewater Creek project at the 2020 Gila trout Recovery Team (GRT) meeting, and everything looks on-track for 2020. The map shows the results of extensive environmental DNA (eDNA) testing for Rainbow trout that was conducted in May 2019, with three replicates for every 250 m segment providing thorough coverage. This highly sensitive method detected the presence of Rainbows in the Redstone Park vicinity where the upper southern tributary fork joins the main stem. The entire main stem was treated again, with neutralization at the confluence of the South Fork above the Catwalk section. Multiple treatments and repeated electrofishing passes were focused on the positive areas and were completed last fall from Sept 23-Oct 2, 2019 with three fish collected. Another round of eDNA testing will be conducted this spring, and if those results are clear the door will open to restocking the entire Whitewater Creek watershed with Gila trout!



Whitewater Creek eDNA sampling May 2019

There were quite a few promising new gains for Gila trout in NM and AZ shared at this years GRT meeting. Please let us know if you would like to hear more about these, or if you would like to get more involved with the Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of TU. We need

your support and help as volunteers and engaged leaders to develop new strategic plans and pursue grants and fundraising to support native trout conservation habitat assessment and restoration projects and educational activities in our region. Southern New Mexico has incredible opportunities for unique fly fishing adventures, including the southernmost population of Rio Grande Cutthroat trout, and our signature species: Gila trout. Looking forward to activities this spring, we will be scheduling the next Willow Creek Volunteer Stream Survey in May 2020 and hope you will join us! The Western Regional Rendezvous Trout Unlimited Meeting will be held in Taos NM May 29 – June 1, 2020. This event will be held in the Taos Ski Valley at "The Blake" resort hotel with great accommodations, interesting presentations and fun activities and fishing options planned. Please let us know if you are interested in attending.



Catch & release Gila trout: share the gold.

We are also working with the students at New Mexico State University to start a College Fly Fishing Club affiliated with the Trout Unlimited 5-Rivers College Program. This will be a great opportunity for our members to share your passion for fly fishing and conservation, and to help introduce the next generation to our sport and ethos. Please consider donating your used gear or gifting new equipment to help outfit NMSU students so that they can go fishing!

Volunteers for all of these projects and activities are always needed! If you would like to serve on the GRG-TU Board of Directors or get involved in any of our activities *PLEASE* contact Jeff Arterburn by email to: [jeffglatu@aol.com](mailto:jeffglatu@aol.com).

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

You can help support our native trout conservation/restoration and outreach/education efforts by purchasing one of our beautiful T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo. We have two colors available: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on black. These are great looking, well-made shirts for a great cause at only \$20 each. Please include \$5 for shipping if you want the shirt(s) mailed. Contact Jeff Arterburn to get yours, and to sign up for the next volunteer event: [jeffgilatu@aol.com](mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com).



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black



### 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.

After many years of organizing trips, Chuck Mueller is stepping aside, and we really need other volunteers to step up and take on these projects. David Lukcoski has volunteered to organize the Club trip to the San Juan in the spring of 2020. Maybe you have a trip you would like to head up. Please think about it and let David or Chuck know if you can help out.

Trips currently being planned are:

- San Juan spring trip Mar. 30 – Apr 2. Contact David Lukcoski, [dlukoski12@gmail.com](mailto:dlukoski12@gmail.com) or 575-491-5667 for additional info.



### MVFF Library

MVFF has a considerable library which is now in the custody of Club member Mark Dankel. Mark would like to make these books available to members. If you wish to borrow any of these books let Mark know and he will bring them to the next membership meeting. Mark can be contacted at [mpdankel@msn.com](mailto:mpdankel@msn.com).

A list of the books can be found in the November 2019 issue of Tale Waters.



### Parking at Alumni Pond, NMSU

Those fishing at Alumni Pond on the NMSU campus should be aware that parking on the campus is tightly regulated and strictly enforced with fines being administered. However, parking is generally free after 4:30pm on weekdays and all day on weekends. To obtain the various rules and regulations with info on how to get parking permits see the NMSU visitor webpage at <https://park.nmsu.edu/visitor/>.



### Waders for Sale

Club member Bob Schoener has a pair of Orvis waders for sale. They are the Guide Weight type for colder water, have only been used two or three times and are in new condition. The boots are size 11 and are felt-soled. They are also Orvis. He will sell them at a very reasonable price. Contact Bob at [rbschoener@gmail.com](mailto:rbschoener@gmail.com) or 575-635-7889.





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**Mop Fly**

**Hook:** competition curve hook, #10 to #14 or jig fly hook #10 to #14

**Bead:** tungsten 3mm black, slotted tungsten for jig fly

**Under Wire:** non toxic weighted wire or lead wrap, 0.15

**Thread:** UNI black 6/0, Ultra 70 denier

**Body:** mop chenille, chartreuse

**Collar:** black ice dub or any flashy black dub

**Hot Spot:** ice blue mylar, large or mylar sheet cut to size

Can also tie tan or cream with mop chenille.

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**Banquet Photos**

## MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2020

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:00pm in the NMDG&F Conference room. Board members present were: Jeff Arterburn (Secretary), Ron Bellerose, David Carmichael (President), Jim Hulsey, Dillen Martinez, Chuck Mueller (Treasurer), Bob Silver (Membership) and Jim Sorenson (Vice President). Board members absent were: Robert Ardivino. Non-Board members in attendance were: John Merritt.

1. **Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from the December 16, 2019 Board Meeting, as published in the January 2020 issue of the newsletter, were approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report. The available current account balance is \$10,045.17. The treasurer's report was accepted by the Board.
3. **Membership Report.** Bob Silver reported that we currently have 275 members.
4. **Fly Fishing Outreach.** Ron Bellerose reported that a fly tying session is planned for January 15, and he may schedule bi-monthly sessions depending on interest. For more information, members should contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com).
5. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited:**
  - Jeff Arterburn reported that the Gila Trout and Chihuahua Chub Recovery Team meeting will be held in Silver City, NM at the Gila National Forest office on Thursday January 16th, 2020. Jeff and Brad Shuster will be attending; Jim Brooks and Jeff will present the recovery team with an update on the Willow Creek Habitat Assessment Citizen Science Project, and will report back with updates from the meeting.
  - There is an opportunity for New Mexico Environment Department 319 Watershed Restoration Funding for habitat restoration work on Black Canyon, possibly starting 2020. This type of funding may be targeted in the future in coordination with the watershed plan for

Willow Creek that is contracted to Natural Channel Design, Inc.

- NMSU Students will be back on campus January 22, and Jeff reported that efforts to start a new Fly Fishing Club at NMSU that will be affiliated with the Trout Unlimited 5-Rivers College Program ([www.tu.org/5rivers](http://www.tu.org/5rivers)) will be getting underway in January 2020. TU and MVFF members are encouraged to consider donating used (or unused) equipment for the student club to use, since many of the participants will be new to fly fishing and in need of all types of gear and tackle.
- The Western Regional Rendezvous Trout Unlimited Meeting will be held in Taos NM May 29 – June 1, 2020. This event will be held in the Taos Ski Valley at "The Blake" resort hotel with great accommodations, interesting presentations and fun activities and fishing options planned.

Volunteers for all of these TU projects and activities are always needed, and 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](mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com)

6. **NMSU American Fisheries Students.** Dillen will contact Dr. Caldwell for an update.
7. **Presentations and Events.**
  - David talked with Bill Parker about giving a presentation on the possible dates Feb 10<sup>th</sup> or March 9<sup>th</sup>, and is waiting for his reply. He will also call Pat Blankenship at Conejos River Anglers. Jeff will initiate contact with Williams Creek Anglers in Pagosa Springs, CO, to see if they might be available for a presentation this spring.
  - Ron submitted a request for scheduling the NMDGF Conference Room on Saturday Jan 25<sup>th</sup> for the afternoon presentation at 2pm by Skip Morris, and will confirm that with David ASAP. Jeff will contact Game II to reserve tables for ~15 guests for the lunch preceding

the presentation. David has made arrangements for the guests to stay at Ardovino's Desert Crossing. Jim Sorensen requested an invoice for catering with Teako Nunn from Sparky's. David will check on table cloths and buy more if needed. Volunteers should plan to meet at St. Paul's for setting up chairs and tables at 4:30pm, with the meal to be served at 6 pm.

- The Kid's Fishing Clinic is scheduled for Saturday March 21, 2020. Dillen will coordinate with AFS to get the required NMSU permit. Bob and Ron will check on the status of available prizes, and Ron will order food and drinks for the event.
- The Spring San Juan trip will be held March 30–April 2, 2020. A sign-up sheet will be available at the banquet, and an email was sent to the membership. Interested members should contact David Lucoski,


dlucoski12@gmail.com or 575–491–5667 for additional info.

8. **Rio Peñasco Lease: N/A**

9. **Other discussion items:**

- Requirement for visitors posting NMSU Parking permits when they park to fish the Alumni Pond on the campus was discussed. There have been occasions when ticketing occurred at times when it was assumed the campus offices were closed. Visitors can obtain 5 free passes on line, parking meters are available, visitors can park for free in the nearby dirt lot and annual visitor passes are available for purchase.
- David will provide an update on the new MVFF logo design and seek input from members during the Banquet.

10. The next MVFF Board Meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2020.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm. 



**Quick Look Contact Information****2020 Officers of the Club****Officers**

- **President:** David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
- **V-Pres.:** Jim Sorenson (505) 710-4264
- **Secretary:** Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
- **Treasurer:** Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045

**Board Members**

- **Position 1:** David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
- **Position 2:** Ron Bellerose (575) 680-5516
- **Position 3:** Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
- **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) 642-5865
- **Position 8:** Jim Sorenson (505) 710-4264
- **Position 9:** Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640

**Newsletter & Web Page Editor**

- Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880 [newsletter@mvff.org](mailto:newsletter@mvff.org)

**Membership Committee Chairman**

- Bob Silver (575) 642-5865 [membership@mvff.org](mailto:membership@mvff.org)

**Lady Anglers**

- Mary Hoffman (505) 710-5229

**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.

**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.

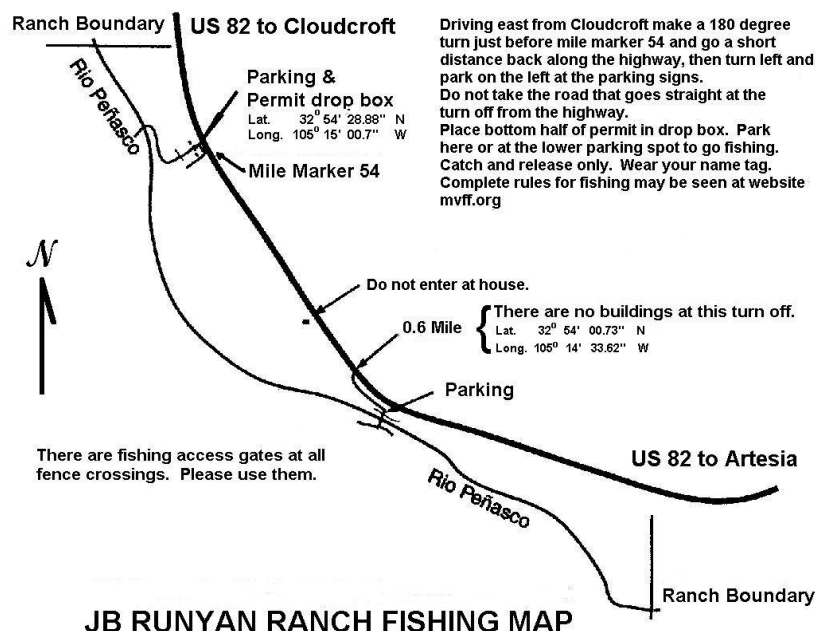
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

## 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](http://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.