



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

December

2021

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

Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club will hold no in-person meetings until early in 2022.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Last month I enjoyed a quick trip to the San Juan for what has become something of a tradition. Fellow club member Lisa Meyer and I have birthdays within a week of each other, and a few years ago we began meeting at the San Juan to celebrate. This year, after we had all been fully vaccinated, Miriam and I met up with Lisa and her husband Rick Wessel, who drove over from their home in Pecos, NM. Fellow MVFF board member Robert Ardovino joined us and brought his own drift boat. The weather was unseasonably warm, with daytime temperatures in the low-70s, and Miriam was thankful for that; her previous visit to the San Juan was on a New Year's Day that

involved freezing temperatures and snow. During this trip, the water levels were surprisingly low, with a flow rate of about 375 cfs on one day, followed by an even lower flow the next day (325 cfs). At those flow rates, the river was very shallow in many places, and it was possible to easily wade completely across the river in the Braids and in the Simon Point area. In addition, just as our home waters have been altered by flooding, so too, have parts of the San Juan been reconfigured by the high flows last summer.

Above Texas Hole, many familiar beaver lodges have been swept away, and a number of deep runs and holes have been filled with gravel and silt. There have been changes in the area of Last Chance Riffles too. The state has developed a major day use picnic area and river access at Crusher Hole, extending upstream almost to Durrangler's Corner. That entire area was overrun by anglers, and Last Chance, once my favorite spot to wade, has slipped well down on my go-to list. In case you haven't heard, the founder of Abe's Motel and Fly Shop passed in April of 2019, and



A gorgeous fall afternoon wading the Braids area, San Juan River

the business is for sale. That means that Fisheads San Juan River Lodge is the main game in town when it comes to motels. I have had good experiences with them in the past, and we hired guides through Fisheads this time.

One guide was excellent, but the one with whom

Robert and floated on our last day was more focused on his upcoming subscribers' trip to Belize than he was to putting us on fish, and he copped an attitude all day. A very, very long and tense day.

Nevertheless, despite the changes to our favorite spots, the crowded conditions in some areas, and a guide with a sour attitude, we had a great trip overall. Miriam took the honors for the largest trout, a fat 24-inch rainbow caught while fishing a #8 brown bunny leech with a #18 red chironomid dropper. Lisa took the honors for the most



Miriam's 24-inch rainbow trout, San Juan River

fish in a day, boating 20+ trout on her float trip, also using the bunny leech rig. My best fish was a 22-inch rainbow, caught on a #18 chironomid in a shallow slot alongside a small gravel bar. Robert caught several really nicely colored brown trout in the 16-inch range. Baetis nymphs and



Robert enjoying a Texas Hole sunset, San Juan River

emergers in size 20 and 22 were also effective during hatches, and at sunset in Texas Hole. Rick worked as film-maker as he has rotator cuff injuries to both shoulders which prevent him from casting at the moment. Bottom line, no matter what the fishing conditions may be, it's still possible to enjoy a trip by focusing on the important

things, like good wine, fine meals, and great friends.

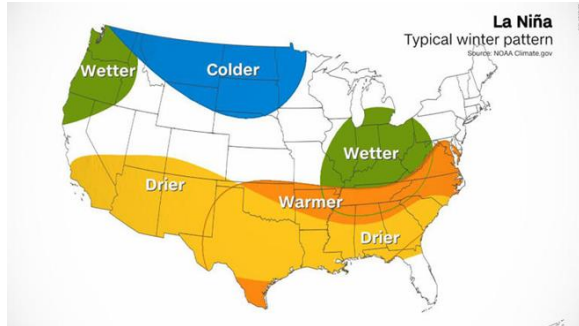
Environmental News

In case you have not seen the latest Bulletin from the NMDGF, the department is hosting two virtual meetings to discuss the potential stocking of hybrid striped bass into Caballo Reservoir. The meetings are scheduled for December 7 and 14 at 6:30 pm, and citizen comments can be provided by mail and email. Here is the link to the NMSGF announcement: [Public meetings to discuss potential stocking of hybrid striped bass into Caballo Reservoir - New Mexico Department of Game & Fish \(state.nm.us\)](https://www.state.nm.us/gf/publicmeetings/)

As club president, I'm on the mailing list of many fishing related organizations and agencies, including some that express concerns about the aging of our ranks and the future of our sport in the context of climate change. Recently, I was contacted by River Source, a water resources advisory team based in Santa Fe. River Source is doing something about both issues. They are committed to watershed restoration and erosion control, as well as wetlands stewardship throughout New Mexico. They also train young people to become involved in watershed protection, often in partnership with Native American groups across the state. Here is a link to their most recent newsletter which summarizes the activities undertaken by recent Interns, and to a video about the Watershed Academy 2020 graduation. There is also a place to make a donation to help support their educational and watershed management programs. [Growing the next generation of water and land protectors-the Watershed Academy - River Source](https://www.riversource.org/)

If you've been following the weather news, and/or you have relatives living in Seattle like I do, you already know we are well into a La Nina weather pattern. The Pacific Northwest has experienced a couple of major jet stream storms that resulted in flooding between Seattle and Vancouver. Seattle received 10 inches of rain in November, and the nearby mountains got as much as 50 inches. That will not be what we experience in southern New Mexico. As highlighted in this map from NOAA,

we can expect a drier than normal winter, and snowpack amounts are predicted to be low again



this year. Even so, it will still be chilly in the mountains, and winter fishing is safer and more comfortable if care is taken in layering appropriately. Here are some suggestions from Trouts Fly Fishing and Simms. [[Trouts Fly Fishing | Layering For Winter](#)] Stay safe, stay warm, and stay tuned.



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited
Jeff Arterburn, President



GRG-TU for MVFF December 2021

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

Our beautiful T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo in colors: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on-black are sold as part of our fund-raising for trout restoration and conservation efforts. 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: <mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com>.



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black

If you are a current or former TU member looking to renew your membership please use the standard renewal form on the TU website: <https://www.tu.org/trout-unlimited-3/> or call 1-800-834-2419.



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.

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



Board of Directors Meeting

There was no Board Meeting in November and, so, no minutes. The Board will probably meet in the near future via a ZOOM meeting. Discussions are ongoing.



Quick Look Contact Information

2021 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Helen Zagona (575) 532-5668
• 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:	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
• Position 8:	
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Bob Silver (575) 642-5865	membership@mvff.org

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.

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
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.

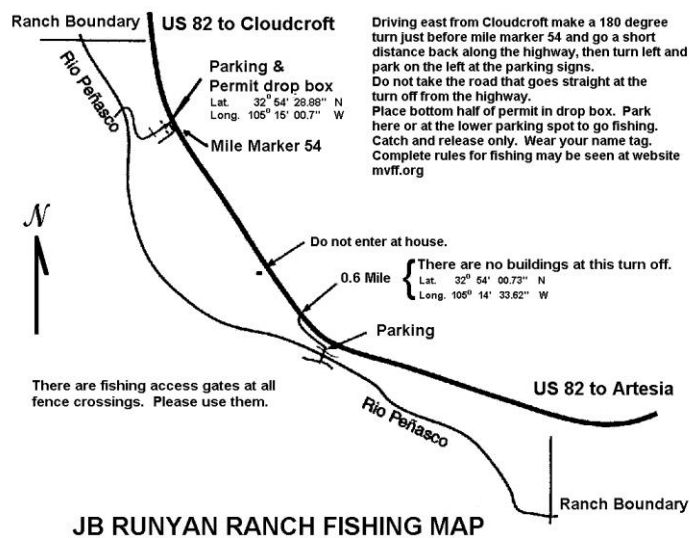
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.