



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

October

2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meetings	1
President's Corner	1
Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited	5
MVFF Library	6
Minutes of Board of Director's Meeting	6

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

Meetings

The next meeting of the general membership will be October 17th, at 7pm at the NMDGF conference room on Northrise. Note that the date of the meeting has been pushed off by one week this month because of a scheduling conflict at the facility. We will have two presentations by NMSU fisheries students at this month's meeting. See the President's Corner for additional Info.

The next meeting of the MVFF Board of Directors will be on October 24, at 7pm, via Zoom.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Club News

The next meeting of the general membership will be October 17th, at 7pm at the NMDGF conference room on Northrise. Note that the date of the meeting has been pushed off by one week this month because of a scheduling conflict at the facility.

We will have two presentations by NMSU fisheries students at this month's meeting. Giulio Del Piccolo will discuss his research on the habitat use of the Chihuahua Chub, a species of conservation concern in New Mexico. The Mimbres is the only

river in the US where the species still occurs. John Smith will describe his efforts to develop a statewide sampling protocol for crayfish in the Midwest. Crayfish are a critical component of many aquatic systems in North America, but there isn't much information available on how to sample and manage crayfish populations. Both presentations sound like they will provide interesting insights into the ecological systems we rely on to support game fish habitats, so I hope many members will adjust their calendars and help us provide a good audience for our new student members.

In November, we will hear from three other fisheries students who are working with Trojan (MYY) Brook trout and Rio Grande Cutthroat trout in northern New Mexico. And in December, long-time member Mary Hoffman will give a presentation on the final disposition of the stream access case decided by the New Mexico Supreme Court this past summer. Sounds like a great line-up to me, and I hope to see many of you there.

I'm close to finalizing arrangements to host Pat Dorsey as our guest speaker at the MVFF Annual Banquet on February 11, 2023. I'm waiting for final confirmation of the date from St. Paul's Methodist Church, but I expect to receive approval in the next few days. Pat Dorsey is a well-known expert fly-fishing guide and author who has written five books and numerous articles on fly fishing and fly tying, and he serves as the Southwest Field Editor for *Fly Fishing* magazine. Pat is co-owner and head guide for The Blue Quill Angler fly shop in Evergreen, Colorado, which serves the Denver front range area. He also runs Pat Dorsey's Fly Club which provides members with seasonally selected top-quality flies. We

have not yet worked out the details of what Pat will discuss in his presentations, but I'll let you know as soon as they have been decided. Mark your calendars and stay tuned!

Musings about Fishing

This week I was visiting the hospital for a medical procedure, and because my personal email address includes a reference to a particular fish I caught, the nurse asked me about my interest in fishing and the species I like to pursue. She was aware of people fishing for bass in the El Paso area, but was curious about trout, and she asked why I fish for trout. I replied that I like to fish for trout because trout live in beautiful places. Fishing for trout means visiting beautiful places and enjoying the surroundings as part of the journey.

Some things just seem better, more meaningful, and more enjoyable, when they are done at a leisurely pace. Examples might include sipping and savoring a dram of fine Highland single malt. Or cooking elk and green chili stew, and enjoying the kitchen aromas as it simmers for hours. Or finding one's way through the wilderness to stand in awe at the sight of a high mountain lake. And easing quietly along a trout stream and dapping a fly into each tiny pocket that might hold a beautiful native trout.

Why are these sorts of activities so often turned into competitions? Who caught the most fish per hour, or the biggest fish? Who can bake a dessert in the shortest time while being put under pressure to create extra drama? Who can slug down the most brewskis and still make it home safely? And why do such competitions sometimes bring out the worst in us?

I didn't start out as a fly angler. I began fishing the Pecos River with salmon eggs and spinners

when I was perhaps five years old, but I didn't discover fly angling and fly tying until the 6th grade. I still sometimes fish with conventional tackle, and I have hanging in my office a replica mount of 32", 14.5 lb. walleye that I caught and released in Trout Lake, Ontario, using conventional tackle. I understand the excitement of catching a large and challenging fish. What I don't understand is lying about one's fishing exploits. I know there are lots of jokes about anglers telling lies; John Gierach has even written a book titled "All Fishermen are Liars." I have chosen to believe that most of us are not, and have generally shrugged off such claims as jokes. But I have to admit, I was pretty shocked to read that two anglers competing in the Lake Erie Walleye Trail (LEWT) Series championship tournament were disqualified for cheating. They stuffed about 8 lbs. of large egg sinkers and



Gila Trout, Whitewater Creek, Gila National Forest

some walleye fillets from smaller fish into the ones presented at the weigh-in to increase the overall weight of their catch. [Fishermen are accused of using weights in winning fish to cheat at a tournament : NPR](#)

One wonders how many undersized fish were sacrificed to

produce those fillets. It also seems a bit surprising that the cheats were not caught sooner, as the same team was disqualified from a tournament event last year, and they were under suspicion by other anglers all season. Perhaps because the LEWT Series tournaments are not catch-and-release, it may be easier to get away with using weights that will be surreptitiously removed when the fish are cleaned after the weigh-in. Anyway, the linked story is interesting reading. The cheating duo was disqualified from the season finale event, and thereby lost the Team of the Year award too; and they are now under investigation by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. It

is not clear to me why anyone would feel like a winner when cheating is behind the “win.” Yes, there are sponsorships and prize monies at stake, but how do they live with the fact that they can only win if they cheat? Wouldn't it be better to just go out and enjoy the fishing for its own sake?

Interesting News Items

Yvon Chouinard, founder and owner of the outdoor equipment company Patagonia, has launched a new initiative in an effort to address global climate change and the environmental destruction that is a result of our business-as-usual approach to natural resources exploitation. He has given away the entire company and placed all shares of stock into the Patagonia Purpose Trust and the Holdfast Collective. Company profits will be distributed as a yearly dividend dedicated to fighting the environmental crises we are now facing, and it is hoped that other companies will change their existing business models in similar ways. It is an interesting approach to solving a significant problem. I don't know how it will go, or whether other companies will be inspired to follow suit, but you can read more about the motivations and details of the plan here in Yvon's own words. [Reimagining Capitalism — Patagonia](#)

I just couldn't resist passing along this interesting bit of news. A couple of months ago, paleontologists working in SE Utah discovered fossilized vomit in the Late Jurassic period Morrison formation. This is the same formation that is famous for its dinosaur fossils, such as stegosaurus and brachiosaurus. Well, it seems this 150-million-year-old puke was deposited by a bowfin fish that regurgitated a meal of frogs and salamanders in a shallow lake or pond. Pretty awesome that so much can be learned from a small pile of Jurassic barf. Enjoy!

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/jurassic-barf-puke-from-150-million-years-ago-reveals-prehistoric-predator/ar-AA11Pylq>



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President

For MVFF – October

Find out about Trout Unlimited Events happening in our area and around the country



using the online: [TU Events Calendar](#)

Thanks to GRG-TU Volunteer Mentors for your help with the Gila River Festival Fly Fishing Field Trip on Sunday September 25th! Thank you to Jason Amaro, Ron Belanger, Pat Lamb, Brad Shuster and our GRF Volunteer Leia Barnett, the Gila Campaigner for Wild Earth Guardians, for helping with the 2022 “Introduction to Fly Fishing Field Trip” for the Gila River Festival. It was a beautiful day with lots of water in Whitewater Creek and all the mentors showed up on time 8:00 am and ready to go at the Catwalk. Several folks who were registered didn't show up, we're still not sure what happened, but they missed a great day, and their registration fees all go towards the great cause of supporting the Gila River Festival!

Revised Gila trout Recovery Plan has been Published.

Volunteers needed for habitat restoration on Little Turkey Creek in November 2022.

We have scheduled a volunteer work project for the Little Turkey Creek tributary of Willow Creek in the Gila National Forest. We'll all work hard but will also enjoy great camaraderie and delicious group meals. **Your participation will make a difference!** This will be a great opportunity to meet new friends who share our dedication to native trout and healthy watersheds. We are looking for volunteers for two full days (November 4–5). We will work entirely within designated Wilderness within ~1 mile of the trail head. Activities will include cutting and planting willows, construction of one rock dams and at least one Zuni bowl, placement of log vanes where bank erosion needs halting, and construction of a log jam at suitable site. Volunteers should bring personal

camping gear, work gloves, shoes that can get wet or waders. A skilled camp cook and tasty food will be provided, volunteers just need to show up with their own drinks and snacks. We'll camp in the big open space next to the corrals by the NMDGF Cabin, and other camping options are available just upstream at the Ben Lilly Campground. Volunteers should try to arrive by Thursday evening (November 3rd) and the major workdays are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, no planned work on Sunday, just clean up and travel. A detailed schedule of the full week of activities is provided below and if you have additional time on your hands we'd love to have help with the stream habitat and bank erosion monitoring and camp set up and take down. **Contact Jim Brooks (505-331-5926) arroyodejaime@gmail.com**.

Volunteers needed for habitat restoration on Little Turkey Creek in November 2022.

We have scheduled a volunteer work project for the Little Turkey Creek tributary of Willow Creek in the Gila National Forest. We'll all work hard but will also enjoy great camaraderie and delicious group meals. **Your participation will make a difference!** This will be a great opportunity to meet new friends who share our dedication to native trout and healthy watersheds. We are looking for volunteers for two full days (November 4-5). We will work entirely within designated Wilderness within ~1 mile of the trail head. Activities will include cutting and planting willows, construction of one rock dams and at least one Zuni bowl, placement of log vanes where bank erosion needs halting, and construction of a log jam at suitable site. Volunteers should bring personal camping gear, work gloves, shoes that can get wet or waders. A skilled camp cook and tasty food will be provided, volunteers just need to show up with their own drinks and snacks. We'll camp in the big open space next to the corrals by the NMDGF Cabin, and other camping options are available just upstream at the Ben Lilly Campground. Volunteers should try to arrive by Thursday evening (November 3rd) and the major workdays are

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DRAFT Activity Schedule for Little Turkey Creek/Willow Creek October/November 2022

Date	Activity
24-28 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term habitat monitoring at 5 sites • Potential to pile rocks/prep for next week • Potential recon with NCD to mark sites for work
2-3 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential recon with NCD to mark sites for work • BEHI/Habitat monitoring • Photo point monitoring • Cut willows/soak • Pack in wilderness work camp
4 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut willows/soak • Pile rocks/select logs for vanes • Build one rock dams, zuni bowl • Install log vanes
5 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build one rock dams, zuni bowl • Install log vanes
6 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers depart • JEB begin deconstruction
7-8 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack out wilderness camp • General clean up • Final check

Presentation and Panel Discussion at NM-TU State Council meeting in Taos October 29th.

The NM-TU State Council meeting is scheduled for October 28-30 at the Sagebrush Hotel in Taos, and Jeff and Brad Shuster will be attending as the chapter representatives. In addition, there will be

a public presentation Saturday evening featuring Erica Nelson, an indigenous fly-fishing guide based in Colorado, followed by a panel discussion about diversity, partnerships with cattle growers, partnerships with tribes and their waters and shared goals in cold water conservation. The meeting agenda will also include planning for the upcoming **TU Western Regional Meeting that is scheduled for May 19–21, 2023**. Details on these and other events can be found on the Trout Unlimited [Events](https://www.tu.org/events/) [Calendar](https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/New-Mexico-Council-Retreat-67234): <https://www.tu.org/events/> go to <https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/New-Mexico-Council-Retreat-67234>

New Mexico's TU Priority Waters: Gila Headwaters and Upper Rio Grande.

Maps of the Gila and Upper Rio Grande watersheds for the TU Priority Waters project are nearing final drafts. The next step will involve identification of specific projects and the conservation strategies to be implemented over the next 5 years, and we invite your input and perspective. We are planning a meeting to discuss the Gila and will announce the schedule soon.

Article Published “Megafires pose increasing threat to New Mexico's native trout” by Matt Dahlseid (mdahlseid@sfnmexican.com) Sep 24, 2022.

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/megafires-pose-increasing-threat-to-new-mexicos-native-trout/article_c0d89942-1e73-11ed-81df-737cb812d6c8.html

This article covers the impacts of the 2022 fire season on NM's native trout, and features many of the individuals working with Gila trout and Rio Grande Cutthroat trout. The concluding paragraph sums it up with a quote from me saying: *“New Mexico's native trout advocates realize the daunting road ahead to help Gila and Rio Grande cutthroat trout expand their range. They don't believe a trout is just a trout, and they hope New Mexicans realize the special resource they have in these native species. “They've sustained the original residents and we want them to be there to sustain us — to provide us with a connection back*

to our natural history,” Arterburn said. “If there's anything, I hope the people can find a place in their hearts for native fish because they definitely deserve to survive in our future.”

We hope to see you at one of our volunteer projects or elsewhere on the water!

Contact Jeff Arterburn for more info and to sign up for the next volunteer event or be more involved in our conservation efforts: jeffgilatu@aol.com.

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



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black

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>.

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*.



MVFF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2022

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn (Secretary)

The MVFF was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:07 pm, via Zoom. Board members present were Jeff Arterburn, Jeremiah Blount, David Carmichael, Chuck Mueller, Jim Hulsey and Helen Zagana. Not present: Robert Ardovino, Robert Kopczyk, George Sanders and Bob Silver.

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the Board meeting held August 15, 2022, were approved as published in the September newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report. The current available balance of club accounts is \$ 14,609.53. The report was accepted as presented.
3. **Membership.** No report.
4. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.**
 - Jeff Arterburn reported on final plans for hosting an introduction to fly fishing field trip for the Gila River Festival on Sunday September 25th with participants meeting at the Catwalk at 8am.
 - Jeff and Brad Shuster will attend the NM-TU State Council meeting in Taos October 28-30 at the Sagebrush Hotel. A public presentation featuring Erica Nelson, an indigenous fly-fishing guide based in Colorado, followed by a panel discussion about diversity, partnerships with cattle growers, partnerships with tribes and their waters and shared goals in cold water conservation. The meeting agenda will also include planning for the TU Western Regional Meeting that is scheduled for May 19-21, 2023. Details on these and other events can be found on the Trout Unlimited Events Calendar: <https://www.tu.org/events/> go to <https://tu.myeventcenter.com/event/New-Mexico-Council-Retreat-67234>

- The TU Priority Waters project has generated near-final drafts of maps for the Gila and Upper Rio Grandes watersheds. The next step will involve identification of specific projects and the conservation strategies to be implemented over the next 5 years. TU is in the final stages of hiring a new staff member who will coordinate work on the upper Rio Grande, and efforts are underway to establish resources to support hiring a dedicated project manager staff position with responsibilities for work in the Gila in NM and AZ.
5. **Old Business:** David reported receipt (9/1/22) of a signature page for the Mabie Legacy Scholarship from Pete Emerick with the NMSU Foundation, which he had already signed and submitted. He expects this will finalize the deal. No additional details on plans for the lease stocking were available.
 6. **New Business.** Upcoming Speakers and Events: The October 17th meeting (note schedule change to 3rd Monday of the month) will feature presentations by NMSU graduate students Giulio Del Piccolo on his studies of native chihuahua chub, and John Smith will discuss his research on crayfish. The November 14th meeting will feature NMSU American Fisheries Society students working on the novel genetic approach using "Trojan Trout" as a tool for restoration of native trout populations. David reported that Mary Hoffman was writing a summary of the recent NM State Supreme Court legal decision on stream access, and he will ask if she would be willing to give a presentation to the club. A speaker is needed for the December 12th meeting. David has contacted Pat Dorsey as a possible

banquet speaker Jan–Feb 2023. The board discussed other possible speakers from the region in CO such as the Gunnison, Roaring Fork, and San Juan–Pagosa area.

7. Jeremiah initiated discussion of the possibility of delivering zoom presentations and/or recordings of future club meetings for members unable to attend in–person meetings. Options for hosting the videos such as YouTube or FaceBook may also be feasible. The Board

is interested in this possibility and will investigate the requirements for file storage and the WiFi connectivity options, and will also ask the NMSU AFS students for suggestions, acknowledging their much greater familiarity with video technology.

8. The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Quick Look Contact Information

2022 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Vacant
• 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) 635-5381
• Position 5:	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
• Position 8:	Jeremiah Blount
• Position 9	Robert Koczyk
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 635-5381	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 donated 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.

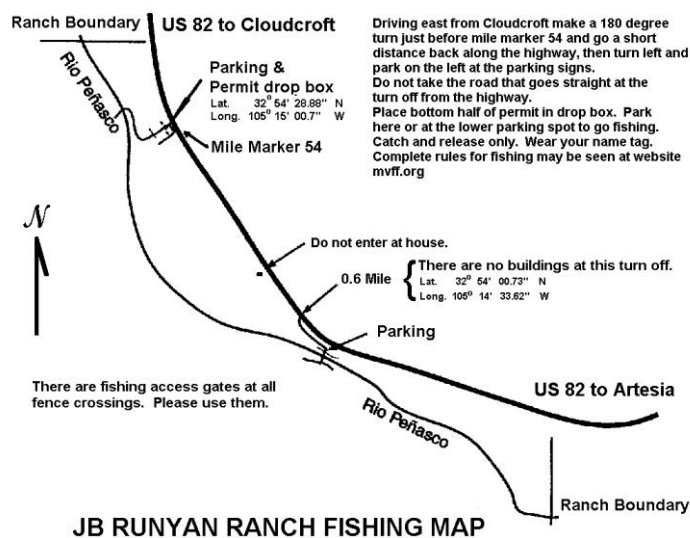
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-635-5381) 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.