



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

January

2023

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

Meetings

There will be no meeting of the general membership in January due to preparations for the annual banquet to be held on February 11. See the President's Corner for additional info.

The next meeting of the MVFF Board of Directors will be on January 9, at 7pm, via Zoom.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Club News

The big news right now is the resumption of our traditional Annual Banquet which is scheduled for February 11, 2023. It will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave., Las Cruces, at 7 pm. As in years past, the meal will be catered by Sparky's out of Hatch, NM, and this year the desserts will be provided by Ardivino's Desert Crossing. Banquet tickets are \$10 per person, but that includes two free raffle tickets (a \$10 value). The raffle drawing should be very special this year. The prize committee has assembled an impressive list of prizes worth more than \$4,000. They include a guided fishing trip for two on the San

Juan River, a 2-day guided trip with Solitary Anglers on the Culebra and Conejos Rivers, a Bob Widgren 8ft 4wt fly rod, three TFO Lefty Kreh fly rods, a Tenkara Sawtooth rod, Fishpond landing nets, Simms wading staff, sling pack, fly boxes, and many smaller items of tackle and gear such as fly lines, tippet, nippers, etc.

A page of 5 tickets will be emailed to every current MVFF member. Tickets are \$5 each, or 5 for \$20. Follow the directions on the tickets and mail your checks to MVFF, PO Box 2222, Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222. You can print extra pages of tickets and they will also be sold at the banquet. You may also use PayPal to purchase the tickets by clicking the link on the MVFF website home page. You don't need to be present to win, but the banquet will be more fun if you are there!



*Pat Dorsey, owner and head guide,
Blue Quill Anglers*

Our guest speaker will be expert fly-fishing guide and author Pat Dorsey. Pat is owner and head fishing guide at The Blue Quill Angler fly shop in Evergreen, Colorado. He has written five books and many articles on fly fishing and fly tying, and

he serves as the Southwest Field Editor for *Fly Fishing* magazine. He also hosts Pat Dorsey's Fly Club which provides members with seasonally selected top-quality flies appropriate for southern Colorado and the Denver front range region. Club members will have a chance to meet Pat at lunch on Feb. 11, at a restaurant to be determined. After that, Pat will present a fly tying workshop/demo on "Tying and Fishing Tailwater Flies." During the banquet, he will provide a less technical program about "Fishing Colorado's Best Trout Streams."

At present, plans are for the fly-tying demo to be held at the NMDGF conference room, 2715 E. Northrise Drive, at 1:30p. We will let you know if that changes (due to possible hunter safety class schedule changes). If you didn't sign up for the fly tying demo at the last club meeting, please contact me and let me know your interest so I can give Pat a reasonably accurate head count for the session.

There will be no meeting of the general membership during January, but the board will meet on January 9th via Zoom. The main agenda items will be to finalize the officer assignments for the upcoming year, make final preparations for the banquet catering, begin making plans for the Kid's Fishing Clinic, and initiating planning for an introductory fly fishing class for the American Fisheries Society student members from NMSU. All MVFF members are welcome to attend board meetings, so if you are not on the board and would like to see how board meetings operate, email me and I'll send you the link for the Zoom meeting. There will be no February meeting of the general membership, as it would occur just two days after the banquet.

Conservation News

Although I may be partial to wild game such as elk, or oryx, I suppose I enjoy a good beefsteak as much as the next person. But, as I indicated in the December 2022 newsletter, I find it irksome when trout habitat on public lands is trashed by illegal or improperly managed livestock grazing. In the Valles Caldera, the damage is being caused

by illegal grazing. In the Gila Wilderness, the damage is a result of the persistence of a significant herd of feral cattle in the Gila River drainage. The exact numbers of cattle are unknown, but estimates are that 50-150 cattle remain even after a quarter century of removal efforts. The USFS maintains that aerial shooting is the most effective method to remove feral cattle, but they are receiving pushback from the New Mexico Cattlegrowers Association, the members of which prefer horseback roundups, though that approach has been shown to be less effective. While the debate goes on, feral cattle continue to degrade the riparian zones along trout streams similar to those that Trout Unlimited, MVFF, USFS and USFW agencies have worked so hard to restore as habitat for wild trout. [Controversy over Forest Service's planned aerial shooting operation to remove feral cattle from the Gila Wilderness | The NM Political Report](#)

As you may recall, the (local) Gila/Rio Grande chapter of Trout Unlimited and the MVFF have been active in, and recognized for our restoration efforts for Gila trout in the western portion of the Gila National Forest. Similar efforts are underway in other parts of the Southwest as well, including Big Bear Creek in the Rio Bonito watershed near Ruidoso, where Rio Grande Cutthroat restoration is gearing up. Another effort is underway in Sand Creek, within the Great Sand Dunes National Park in the northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the east side of the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado. A recent article from *High Country News* provides an interesting and informative overview of those efforts which are being led by Estevan Vigil, aquatic biologist with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife. To date, more than 14,000 Rio Grande Cutthroat fry have been stocked into the upper portions of Sand Creek and in Upper Sand Creek Lake, in an effort to create a hedge against future climate warming. [Can assisted migration save the Rio Grande's cutthroat? - High Country News \(hcn.org\)](#)

I know it's cold out there right now, and some of the mountain roads are closed because of snow or construction. But the fish still need to eat, the

water is nice and cold, and most anglers stay home in the winter, so you'll have lots of water to yourselves. So, until we see you at the Annual Banquet, get out there and catch some trout.



Late winter fishing on the Frying Pan River near Basalt, CO. (Miriam Carmichael photo)



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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



**For MVFF – January
Upcoming Trout Unlimited
Gila/Rio Grande Chapter
Events for January 2023**

We are looking forward to sharing information and making plans for native trout conservation work in the new year with upcoming Gila trout recovery team and the Rio Grande Cutthroat, Chub and Sucker conservation team meetings that will both be happening later this month (January). With the finalization of the Gila trout Recovery Plan completed, the New Mexico Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office will be disbanding the Gila Trout and Chihuahua Chub Recovery Team and transitioning to move forward with a less formal "Implementation Team." While there are many questions afloat at this time, we are hoping to be involved in continuing and expanded roles in this

next phase to address challenges and pursue opportunities to advance the restoration of Gila trout. Climate change, drought, landscape-scale wildfires and invasive species are just a few examples of the challenges facing Gila trout. The Wilderness Ranger District of the Gila National Forest held an open public comment request on a proposal to remove unbranded and unauthorized cattle from the Gila Wilderness (closing January 9th, with comments emailed to: comments-south-westerngila@usda.gov, addressed to Gila National Forest, Attention: Planning Program, with subject: Gila Wilderness Livestock Removal). These unauthorized feral cattle have caused extensive damage to habitat in the Gila River watershed, and it is important to remove them from the landscape.

We have been working behind the scenes with TU staff to develop the Priority Waters strategic action plan for the Gila Headwaters to be pursued over next 5 years. Several regional TU staff members will be joining us for the Gila trout meeting. I've included a working draft map of the GH region in this newsletter (page 4) and encourage you to take a look and let me know if you have any comments or suggestions. This will be eventually used to support the TU Priority Waters information campaign. I've suggested modifying the map with a more visible color code for the roads. The USFS and TU have teamed together to create a new TU Staff position dedicated for work in the Gila. The job search is open and hopefully will be filled with an outstanding applicant!

We will begin planning soon for a **Spring 2023 volunteer habitat restoration project** on the Little Turkey Creek project at Willow Creek in the Gila NF looking at dates late March–April. The agenda is being developed for the **TU Western Regional Meeting in Taos, NM, May 19–21, 2023**. We hope to see you on the stream at the next volunteer event. YOUR participation will make a difference!

Find out about Trout Unlimited Events happening in our area and around the country using the online TU Events Calendar:
<https://www.tu.org/events/>

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://gifts.tu.org/member/renew> 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, December 19, 2022

Submitted by David Carmichael

The meeting was called to order by David Carmichael via Zoom at 7:05 pm. Board members in attendance were Jeremiah Blount, Dave Brown, David Carmichael, Jim Hulsey, Robert Kopczyk, Chuck Mueller, George Sanders and Helen Zagona. Not present: Robert Ardivino, Jeff Arterburn. Membership Chair Bob Silver was also in attendance. We welcomed Dave Brown who was just elected to the board at the December 12 meeting of the general membership.

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the November 21, 2022 board meeting were approved as published in the December newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report, and the club's current balance is \$12,844.63. Report was approved as presented. Chuck reported that we have only sold 40 tickets for the raffle at the Annual Banquet in February, and that we need to have tickets available for sale on the club website and by mail. Jim Hulsey will set up a link to ticket sales on the website soon. Chuck will visit the club post office box just prior to the banquet in order to collect any raffle tickets that have been purchased via snail mail. Members who decide to purchase tickets by mail need to make sure they are sent far enough in advance that they will arrive before Feb. 11.
3. **Membership.** The winner of the door prize drawing at the Dec. 12 club meeting was Robert E., who was attending the meeting via Zoom from Houston. We are trying to identify and locate him in order to deliver the prize. Bob Silver checked the members list and suggested that Robert E. is probably Robert Egan. David will attempt to contact him to see that he receives the fishing permit for the club lease. Bob will soon be sending out membership renewal reminders to club members who

are in arrears, and he will include a statement encouraging members to purchase raffle tickets in advance of the Annual Banquet.

4. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.** No report, as Jeff had a scheduling conflict.
5. **Old Business:** Old business included a number of details related to planning for the Annual Banquet in February:
 - Guest speaker Pat Dorsey has been out of the country, guiding in Argentina, so details of his travel arrangements and presentations have not yet been worked out. At the December club meeting, only 6 members signed up for Pat's fly-tying workshop. David told Pat there would probably be 10-12 members in attendance, so members need to contact David in the next month if they are interested in attending, so a firm estimate can be provided to Pat ahead of time. David will book Pat into the Marriott near NMSU, as it is more conveniently located than is the Hilton along I-25.
 - After some discussion about the details of catering, it was decided that Helen will research the costs of enchiladas at both Andale's and ChaChi's prior to the board making final food order decisions at the January board meeting. David heard back from Robert Ardivino regarding desserts for the banquet, and Robert says Ardivino's Desert Crossing can do desserts worthy of the banquet for \$250. The board agreed to go with that option. The meats and sides will be catered by Sparky's as in years past.
 - It is an Annual Banquet tradition to present an appreciation gift to Jim and Earlene Ellett, the landowners where we have the club fishing lease on the Rio Peñasco. The board voted to provide a

\$150 gift certificate for The Lodge in Cloudcroft as this year's gift. David emailed them an invitation to the banquet.

- George reported on the Prizes Committee purchases of prizes for the annual banquet raffle. The major prizes include a guided fishing trip for two on the San Juan River; a 2-day guided trip with Solitary Anglers on the Culebra and Conejos Rivers; a Bob Widgren 8 ft 4wt fly rod, three TFO Lefty Kreh fly rods in 3, 4, and 5 wt; a Tenkara Sawtooth rod; Fishpond landing nets; Simms wading staff; sling pack; four fly boxes, and lots of smaller items such as nippers, tippet, fly lines, etc. David will include this list in the January newsletter to help encourage members to purchase raffle tickets.

6. New Business.

- **Upcoming Speakers and meetings.** David submitted the list of proposed dates for club meetings to the NMDGF, and the second Monday of the month has been approved for Feb-May and Sept-Dec 2023. Pat Dorsey's fly-tying workshop on February 11 has been tentatively confirmed by NMDGF, although that could change if more hunter safety courses are added to their schedule.
- There will be no meeting of the general membership in January; instead, the board will meet via Zoom on January 9th to address final preparations for the Annual Banquet. Zack Klein, NMSU fisheries researcher, and Terry Arrington of Williams Creek Anglers have been identified as speakers for spring meetings of the general membership, with details yet to be worked out.

- Jeremiah provided a summary of our recent experiment of streaming the December club meeting via Zoom. Seven club members participated, including folks in Alamogordo and Houston, and their long-distance participation comprised about a third of the attendance at the meeting. This seems to be a successful start on the effort to modernize how we deliver meeting content. David will contact Skip and Carol Ann Morris for information on how we might archive videos for later viewing by the membership. We will continue to experiment with Zoom over the next few months, and will also research other streaming platforms before the board decides about long-term commitments involving streaming services, computer hardware, etc.
- We have a new Board of Directors for the next year, and the next step is to fill the four officer positions mandated by the MVFF Bylaws. Chuck agreed to continue on as Treasurer, but the positions of President, Vice-President and Secretary remain undecided. The board agreed to table the consideration of the other three officer roles until our January meeting, to allow individual board members to consult about the duties involved, and decide whether they are able to serve. David will scan and distribute copies of the Bylaws to assist in those efforts. Bob Silver agreed to continue as Membership Chair, and Jim Hulseby will continue as our web page administrator.

7. The date of the next Board meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.



Quick Look Contact Information

2023 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	TBD
• V-Pres.:	TBD
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	Dave Brown
• 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 Kopczyk
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.

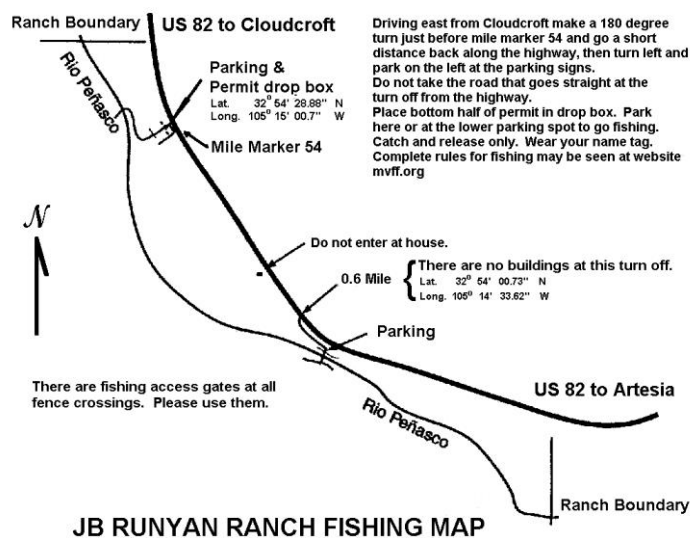
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.