



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

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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 February due to preparations for the annual banquet to be held on February 11. See the President's Corner for additional info.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

Banquet Reminders



The MVFF Board members have worked hard to reboot our traditional Annual Banquet event with a bang, and we're hoping for a good turnout. The banquet will be held at 7 pm February 11, 2023, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave., Las Cruces. As in years past, the meal will be catered by Sparky's of Hatch, NM., the enchiladas will be from Chachi's, and this year the desserts will be supplied by Ardovino's Desert Crossing. Banquet tickets are \$10 per person, but that includes two free raffle tickets (a \$10 value). The raffle drawing will be special this year as 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 has been 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, or bring them to the banquet. 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 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 11:30, at the Cattle Baron restaurant on Telshor. After lunch, Pat will present a fly-tying workshop/demo focused on "Tying and Fishing Tailwater Flies." The fly-tying demo will be held at the NMDGF conference room, 2715 E. Northrise Drive, at 1:30.

At the banquet, Pat will provide a less technical program about "Fishing Colorado's Best Trout Streams." He will also have some of his books for sale, so bring your checkbook or credit card.

Club Officers Needed

The annual banquet is normally the time when the outgoing officers hand off stewardship of the club to the incoming officers. This will not be the case this year, as we still don't have the President, Vice President, or Secretary positions filled. We need to have those positions filled by May so we can re-register the club, which we must do each year. At our most recent board meeting, planning for future events was paused until the immediate challenge of designating officers is met.

I believe the pandemic has interrupted the momentum we've always had regarding planning and hosting club activities. Also, social science researchers have found that people are less and less inclined to be "joiners" these days, and all sportsmen's and outdoor clubs are facing similar challenges when it comes to maintaining memberships and finding people willing to help manage the clubs. We are more fortunate than many groups, as our membership has continued to grow, and I believe we have more than 300 members. But, about half our membership, including many who live in Carlsbad, Midland, and the Texas panhandle join the club only to gain access to the fishing lease. That's fine, but the club mission statement in the Bylaws and Certificate of Incorporation identify five primary club objectives, only one of which is fly fishing. The others include education, habitat rehab and restoration,

promoting a general interest in conservation, and cooperation with government entities involved in conservation and fisheries management.

What seems to be currently lacking is enthusiasm from the general membership to help run the club, and to keep the activities that drew members to the club from becoming discontinued. The other board members and I routinely invite club members to the board meetings, and until recently, that informal process has been sufficient to replace board members and officers who leave after serving for several years. Such is not the case right now. Most of the board members have served for many years; some have ongoing commitments to their businesses, careers, or other organizations. Some are dealing with health issues, or otherwise "aging-out." The bottom line is that we need some younger members to step up and take on some of the officers' duties and help keep the club viable. There will be an opportunity to talk to other members about this issue at the banquet, and then in the following couple of months some folks will need to step up; I hope this won't be our last annual banquet. I'm already receiving requests for casting lessons, and invitations to participate in activities such as the Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3t), and an outdoor expo at Leasburg Dam State Park, but those things are in limbo until the officer positions get sorted out. Anyone ready to help?

Conservation News

My intent this month is to keep the newsletter short. (No, it is not necessary for the club President to write an article or travel log for the newsletter; that's just been my way of assisting with the education component of the club mission statement.) But I would be remiss if I didn't mention the good news about the Bristol Bay sockeye and rainbow trout fishery. On January 31, the EPA announced that the agency is issuing Clean Water Act safeguards to protect the water quality in Bristol Bay from mining runoff. The final rules prohibit the discharge of mine waste into the headwater tributaries of Bristol Bay, thus protecting the largest sockeye salmon run in the world. In 2022, a record 66 million sockeye returned to

Bristol Bay, and commercial fishermen, sports anglers, subsistence anglers, Native Alaskans, and the majority of residents in the region who reap the economic benefits are celebrating. Here is a link to the press release from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

[Momentous Clean Water Safeguards Secured for Bristol Bay | Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership \(trcp.org\)](#)

See you at the Annual Banquet on February 11th.



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited



Jeff Arterburn, President

Upcoming Trout Unlimited Gila/Rio Grande Chapter Events for February 2023

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, January 9, 2023

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn

The MVFF was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:05 pm, via Zoom. Board members present were Robert Ardivino, Jeff Arterburn, David Carmichael, Jim Hulsey, Chuck Mueller, George Sanders, Bob Silver and Helen Zagona. Not present: Jeremiah Blount, David Brown, Robert Koczyk.

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the Board meeting held December 19, 2022, were approved as published in the January newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report. The current available balance of club accounts is \$12,040.80. The report was accepted as presented.
3. **Membership.** Bob Silver reported that he had several recent inquiries about membership status. He is going through the roster with plans to update the MVFF database and send reminders to those with lapsed dues. The Board noted that active membership status is required for eligibility to purchase raffle tickets.
4. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.**
5. **Old Business:** Jeff Arterburn informed the Board of the ongoing search for a new TU Project Coordinator for the Gila region, with expectations that hiring decisions will be made in early February. He is planning to attend the upcoming Gila Recovery Team Meeting in Silver City and will participate virtually in the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Conservation Team Meeting the following week. He reminded the Board of the upcoming TU Western Regional Meeting that is scheduled for May 18-21, 2023 in Taos. Plans will include showing NMSU Creative Media Institute student films focusing on the Gila River, and a meeting session focusing on Gila trout and Apache trout. Planning for the Spring 2023 Volunteer Habitat Restoration projects is underway and dates will be finalized and announced soon.

Details on TU events can be found on the Trout Unlimited Events Calendar: <https://www.tu.org/events/> go to <https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/New-Mexico-Council-Retreat-67234>

6. Old Business.

- The arrangements for the upcoming MVFF Banquet scheduled for February 11, 2023. David will contact the staff at St. Paul's Methodist Church to finalize payment for the venue and custodial services. Noted author, fly-designer and fly-shop owner Pat Dorsey will be the banquet speaker that evening and will conduct an afternoon session covering fly design, tying and fishing tail-water flies. David will confirm the reservation of the NMDGF conference room for Saturday afternoon. Cattle Baron Restaurant was suggested for participants having lunch on Saturday. Helen is working with Sparky's Restaurant who will provide brisket, pulled pork, coleslaw, beans, condiments and disposable plates and flatware, coffee, and iced tea. Ardivino's Desert Crossing Restaurant will provide desserts. Green and red enchiladas will be purchased from Chachi's Mexican Restaurant and Bob will pick these up at 3pm. The Board discussed expectations for attendance ~85, and food amounts to order. Chuck will purchase garbage bags to collect trash, and also some Ziploc bags to take home any uneaten food. Tablecloths are also needed: 14 round and 8 rectangular. Jeff reported that the raffle prize purchases from \$4K allocated are nearly complete. David will pick up the tumbler for the raffle tickets from storage. David said the doors will open to begin setting up

the food at 5:30 pm with the dinner starting at 7 pm.

- The discussion of selecting Board officers was initiated, with Chuck volunteering to continue serving as Treasurer, and Bob Silver handling Membership. The position of Secretary was discussed, with Jeff Arterburn indicating willingness to continue in that role, or alternatively Robert Kopczyk had indicated his interest in that position, but since he was not present that decision was deferred. The discussion then moved to the discussion of the President and Vice President roles, but no one present, the majority of whom have been serving on the board for many years, were able to commit to filling those positions. These positions are necessary for continued operation of the club and are required for the formal nonprofit tax filing with the state. The

potential for amending the bylaws, and the possibility of operating with co-presidents were considered, along with the drastic option of disbanding the club if the selection of officers cannot be completed by the state filing time in May. The discussion was incomplete without the three newly elected board members, and David indicated that he would continue the discussion with them seeking their input. The possibilities of discussing this at the Banquet, scheduling an additional Board meeting, and holding an open club organizational meeting were mentioned. The officer selection was tabled and considering the lateness the motion to adjourn presented.

7. **New Business.** N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.



Quick Look Contact Information

2023 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	TBD
• V-Pres.:	TBD
• Secretary:	TBD
• 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.

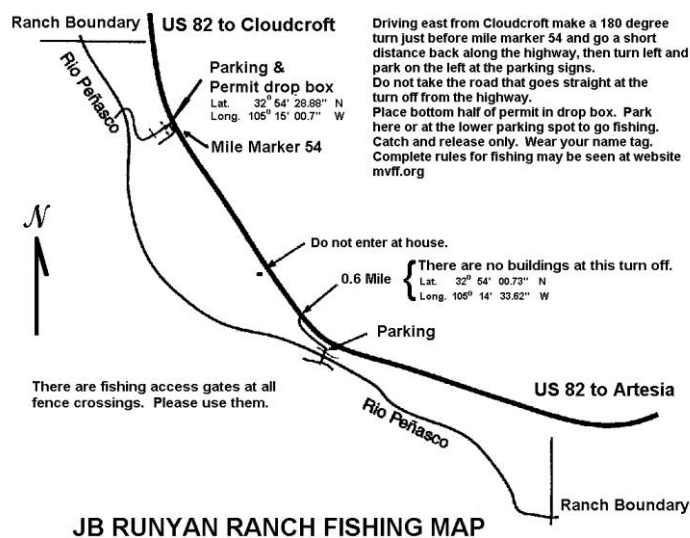
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.