



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

March

2023

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

Meetings

The next meeting of the general membership will be on Monday, March 13, at 7pm at the NMDGF facility at 2715 E. Northrise Drive, Las Cruces. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Zach Klein, Assistant Professor in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology at NMSU. See the President's Corner for additional info.

The next meeting of the MVFF Board of Directors will be on March 20, at 7pm, via Zoom.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

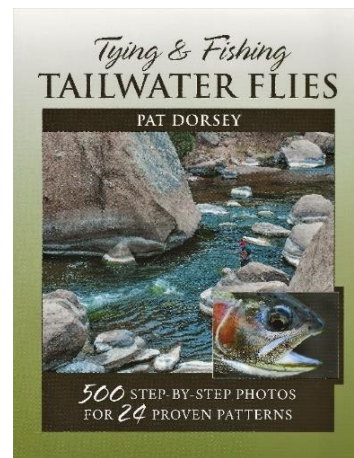


The next meeting of the general membership will be on Monday, March 13, at 7pm at the NMDGF facility at 2715 E. Northrise Drive, Las Cruces. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Zach Klein, Assistant Professor in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology at NMSU. Zach earned his PhD at the University of Idaho, and he taught at Emporia State University, Kansas, before coming to NMSU in 2020. He will present a brief introduction to his research on the ecology of

freshwater fishes. I hope many of you will attend the meeting and help give him a strong, post-pandemic welcome to our fly fishing community.

Annual Banquet

I'm happy to report that last month's resumption of our annual banquet tradition was a success. As you may recall, we tried to book Pat Dorsey as our guest speaker two years ago, but then our activities were curtailed due to the pandemic. Pat is a bona fide fly fishing celebrity, part of the group of experts that travel "the circuit" of fly fishing shows, including Landon Mayer, Tom Rosenbauer, Kirk Deeter, etc. The week after his visit to our banquet Pat appeared at the Fly Fishing Show in Denver, and the week after that at the Texas Fly Fishing & Brew Festival in Dallas. We were fortunate to be able to bring him to Las Cruces, and he had an enjoyable time. He was pleased with the turnout at the banquet (66 attendees), and at the fly-tying demonstration in the afternoon. I know club members bought some of his books, thus lightening the load going back to the airport. But if you missed the fly-tying demo, and are interested in learning how to tie Pat's go-to midge patterns, you'll want to track down a copy of *Tying & Fishing Tailwater Flies*. It is concise, informative, very clearly illustrated, and it includes all the patterns Pat tied at the fly-tying demonstration on the afternoon of February 11.



I want to thank all the club members who attended the events, and who helped with setup and clean up at St. Paul's Methodist. Also, thanks to the board members who helped with all the details that made the banquet a success, such as setting up the



Annual Banquet guest speaker Pat Dorsey discussing the major tailwater fisheries in southern Colorado

catering, buying all the raffle prizes and running the raffle, getting all our vendors paid, and selling tickets at the door. I also appreciate the board members and club members who joined me for meals with Pat Dorsey; our hospitality did not go unnoticed, and it contributed to Pat's sense of really being welcomed to our community. There are a lot of moving parts that need to be coordinated to pull off the annual banquet, and many of the other activities the club undertakes throughout the year, and I appreciate all the efforts on the part of those who pitched in to make it happen! A list of the raffle prize winners may be found below.

If you enjoyed the food, you can thank Josie and Teako Nunn, owners of Sparky's in Hatch, and Robert Ardivino, who brought the desserts from Ardivino's Desert Crossing. And in case you're wondering, the enchiladas were from Chachi's this year.

Fly Fishing Film Tour

At our last meeting of the Board of Directors, it was decided to host a screening of the Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3t). As in the past, the event will be held at Ardivino's Desert Crossing, and the date will be on a Sunday afternoon in late April or early May. A meal will be provided, and there will be a nominal charge, but the event will be a good way to get folks charged up for a summer of fishing.

As of the date of this writing, the date has not been finalized, so watch future newsletters and your email for details.

Transitions

This will be my last newsletter column, as I'm stepping down from the board and the office of club president. It has been fun

and rewarding to be involved in the activities that keep the club running, but after seven years, I believe it is time for someone else to take the helm; to provide new perspectives and energy. It has been a pleasure to work and play with all the club members who have participated in the various club activities that bring us together around the topic of cold water and fishing despite our location in the middle of the Chihuahuan Desert. I offer a special thanks to the board members who help carry the load and keep the club moving forward. Bob Silver will be taking over, and as he is a long-time member of the board, and a past President, I can assure you the club will be in good hands. Tight Lines!



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 March, April and
May 2023**

**April 20-23, 2023, Volunteer Habitat Restoration
project**

Consideration of the current status of snowpack and road conditions has required us to push our dates for the next round of work on Little Turkey Creek at the Willow Creek Campground in the Gila National Forest back to April 20–23. We had hoped to get in earlier to maximize the success of the planned willow plantings, since most studies recommend spring planting of willow slips before budding occurs. This is the first time that the Gila has received significant moisture and a real snowpack in many years, which is very welcome news, but it's made an early entry impossible and with other intervening obligations the April 20th to 23rd was selected as the best option. The advantages are that conditions should be more comfortable, and we can guarantee that you will be well fed, have great camaraderie, and your efforts will help restore this beautiful watershed for Gila trout! If you are interested in helping out, please contact both **Jeff Arterburn** <jeffgilatu@aol.com>, 575-649-9729 and **Jim Brooks** <arroyodejaime@gmail.com>, 505-331-5926; to get you on the list for planning and communications.

Get Involved in Trout Unlimited!

TU collectively does so many things Nationally, and the numbers of dedicated staff supported by grant funding is growing rapidly, but it is the local chapters and the grass roots individuals who choose to pursue specific opportunities and really make things happen. If you would like to get more involved with our GRG–TU Chapter, there are several ways you can do that. We cover such a huge region we need the representation of local leaders to make sure we have the greatest positive impacts where they are needed. A great way to jump in is to help out with the **TU–Western Regional Meeting in Taos scheduled for May 18–21, 2023**. TU National and the New Mexico TU Council will **help to cover travel costs and meeting expenses** for active participants and especially wants to **support individuals interested in joining chapter boards and taking on leadership roles**. That's you!!! If you're interested, please contact Jeff for more info.

The TU–Western Regional Rendezvous will feature sessions on native Gila trout and Rio Grande Cutthroat trout, a field trip to the USFWS National Hatchery at Mora, and a film festival May 18th at the Taos Center for the Arts that includes films produced by NMSU Creative Media Institute Students focusing on the Gila River. We are **looking for financial support to cover the students travel and meeting expenses**. We thank those members who have already donated (!!!), and encourage you to consider helping out. If you are able to contribute any \$-amount please send a check made out to GRG–Tu to my attention at 105 Pecan Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88001 and help us make this happen!

Add your voice to the Wetland Jewels Survey for the Gila River watershed. Amigos Bravos is seeking input from TU Chapters, MVFF, and anyone else with interests in the Gila River watershed to construct a “Wetland Jewels Survey” for the Gila River watershed. This survey seeks to identify critical wetlands in the Gila & San Juan watersheds and will only take a few minutes of your time to complete. The objective is to combine high-detailed mapping with stakeholder input on desired watershed functions to identify the keystone areas that help provide those watershed characteristics.

Here is the Link to the Gila Survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6x5HxhxkRyus0WD1a_QfPtVvNC9SvBpLvl2UoB4Bm1oqiXQ/viewform

For additional context check out this link to a similar exercise that was completed on the Carson National Forest:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6x5HxhxkRyus0WD1a_QfPtVvNC9SvBpLvl2UoB4Bm1oqiXQ/viewform

The deadline to submit the survey for the Gila is March 31, 2023.

You can find out about other 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.



New Raffle

The Banquet prize of a one-day float trip with Guide Evan Claassen on the San Juan River is being raffled again. The winner declined the prize and graciously offered to let the Club raffle it again. We will soon have raffle tickets available for sale online on the Club website www.mvff.org. This will work just like the Banquet raffle. Each ticket is \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. When you buy tickets online they will be automatically deposited into the raffle. You can also print tickets from the webpage, fill them out, and mail them to the Club's PO Box with your check. The deadline is May 6, 2023. The winner will be selected at the

Club's May meeting on May 8, 2023. You don't have to be present at the meeting to win. The trip is valid until the end of 2023.



Raffle Prize Winners

The Prize Committee did an outstanding job at picking prizes for the Banquet and assembled over \$4,000 in prizes. The winners follow:

- A Bob Widgren Custom Rod by Custom Flyrod Crafters - **Michael Korsman**
- Guided Trip Private Water 2-full days for 2 anglers with Solitary Anglers - **Amy Buesing**
- One Day Float Trip with Guide Evan Claassen - **Steve Campbell**
- Sage fly reel - **Miriam Carmichael**
- Galvan Brookie fly reel - **Steve Weigt**
- Lamson Remix fly reel - **Jeff Arterburn**
- TFO Lefty Kreh fly rod 5 wt - **Will Keener**
- TFO Lefty Kreh fly rod 4 wt - **George Kasper**
- TFO Lefty Kreh fly rod 3 wt - **Ron Bellanger**
- Tenkara Rod - **George Sanders**
- Brodin net - **Jeff Arterburn**
- Brodin net - **Michael Korsman**
- Umpque wader belt - **David Brown**
- Scientific Angler 5 wt fly line - **Larry Prior**
- Scientific Angler 5 wt fly line - **Cheryl Chandler**
- Scientific Angler 4 wt fly line - **Jeremiah Blount**

Fly Fishing Accessories Winners:

- Gavin Wall
- Alison Mann
- Mark and Peggy Wiatt
- Henry Rodriguez
- Steve Campbell
- Ron Bellarose
- Steve Weigt
- Bob Silver
- George Sanders
- Sam Latham
- Dave Lucoski
- Lisa Moreno



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*.



Rod Carrier for Sale

One of our members has a new Thule/Denver Outfitters 2-rod 10 ft rod carrier for sale. Asking price is \$250. He can be reached at 480-688-9431 for more information.

<https://www.flyrodcarrier.com/thule-rodvaul-2-product/>



MVFF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, February 20, 2023

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn

The MVFF was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:08 pm, via Zoom. Board members present were Robert Ardivino, Jeff Arterburn, David Brown, David Carmichael, Jim Hulsey, Chuck Mueller, George Sanders and Helen Zagona. Not present: Jeremiah Blount, Robert Kopczyk and Bob Silver.

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the Board meeting held January 9, 2023, were approved as published in the February newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report. The current available balance of club accounts is \$10,510.36. The report was accepted as presented.
3. **Membership.** N/A
4. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.**
5. **Old Business:** Jeff Arterburn reported that tentative dates for the Spring 2023 Volunteer Habitat Restoration project at Willow Creek in the Gila National Forest have been set for March 17-19, depending on the status of snowpack and road conditions. [Note added: the dates have been rescheduled to April 20-23. Additional details are provided in the TU section of this newsletter.] Jeff reported that search for a new TU Project Coordinator for the Gila region is proceeding to interviews with expectations that hiring decisions will be made in March. The TU Western Regional Meeting scheduled for May 18-21, 2023 in Taos, NM, will include showing NMSU Creative Media Institute student films focusing on the Gila River, a meeting session focusing on Gila trout and Apache trout, and discussions for a possible field trip to the USFWS National Hatchery at Mora are in progress. This will be a great opportunity to interact with TU National and Regional staff and members from across the West. Members who are interested in getting more involved in TU are

encouraged to contact Jeff to discuss possible support for travel expenses.

6. **Old Business.**

- The Board discussed the recent MVFF Annual Banquet which all agreed was a success. David reported that speaker Pat Dorsey was pleased with the turnout at the afternoon fly tying session and greatly enjoyed the club's warm welcome and enthusiasm. There were 64 adult and 2 children attending the dinner and the food provided by Sparky's Restaurant, Ardivino's Desert Crossing Restaurant, and Chachi's Mexican Restaurant was all excellent, with enough available to feed up to ~90 guests, so these amounts should be used for planning future banquets. Jeff reported that he and Bob have been arranging delivery of those prizes won by members who were not in attendance. The board requested a list of the major prize winners for publication in the Newsletter.
- The discussion of selecting Board officers was continued and David reported that Jeremiah has volunteered to step into the Vice President position. David mentioned that Robert Kopczyk had indicated his interest in the position of Secretary, but further discussion was not possible because Robert was not able to attend the meeting. Jeff and George mentioned preliminary discussions with Bob Silver in which he would consider serving in the president role if other members are able to contribute significantly with help organizing club meetings and events. The discussion will be continued and hopefully can be resolved at the next meeting.

7. New Business:

- A brief discussion of interest in organizing fishing trips to the San Juan were discussed, recapping the logistics and outcomes from previous events which included either professionally guiding or experienced club members.
- Subsequently the board discussed interest from the NMSU Fisheries students in participating in an introduction to fly fishing outing, and the board was enthusiastic about having an on-stream event in which we cover the student's cost for permits, and we provide an instructional class covering the basics of rigging, knots, and strategies for fishing the major types of fly patterns that represent the important aquatic trout foods and their life cycles. David will contact the students to continue with planning.
- The board discussed interest in organizing a showing of the current F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour and Robert indicated that he would again be interested in hosting the event. Cost estimates of the films are ~\$1K depending on the packages selected, and potential dates were considered with June being recommended. David will proceed with submission of the paperwork for F3T.
- David mentioned interest from Leasburg State Park regarding possible club participation in their Outdoor Expo set for Saturday October 7th, and the board expressed interest in continuing the discussion as a potential outreach event.
- David also mentioned discussions with a representative from the Project Healing Waters organization, which has a new CEO, and their interest in addressing past issues and supporting clubs efforts

with additional staff handling administrative tasks. Everyone agreed in the value of this important program, while recognizing the challenges previously encountered, and recognizes that this is an opportunity for club members with strong interest in re-starting a PHW program to step up and get involved.

- A potential issue involving a member purchasing permits for fishing the Runyon Lease was raised when the individual stated intent to use the permit as a point of access to adjacent private land, rationalizing this loosely based on the recent stream access issue that has not yet been fully resolved legislatively or through NMDGF rule making processes. The board reviewed the permit instructions, which clearly indicate they provide access solely to the Runyan property and in no way should be construed by anyone as a mechanism for trespassing. Additional communications to the membership and potential new signage at the lease were recommended.
- Future club meetings were discussed with plans underway for NMSU Fisheries Professor Zach Klein presenting on his research projects at the March 13th meeting, and Terry Arrington from Williams Creek Anglers and the Running Rivers program in Pagosa Springs, CO. Possible topics for the April 10th meeting were suggested with George and Brad discussing their Fall 2022 Wyoming trip. Additional topics for club meetings were suggested, including an overview of the "big picture" of restoration work and goals in the fire-impacted Willow Creek watershed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.



Quick Look Contact Information

2023 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	Bob Silver (575) 642-5865
• V-Pres.:	Jeremiah Blount
• 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.

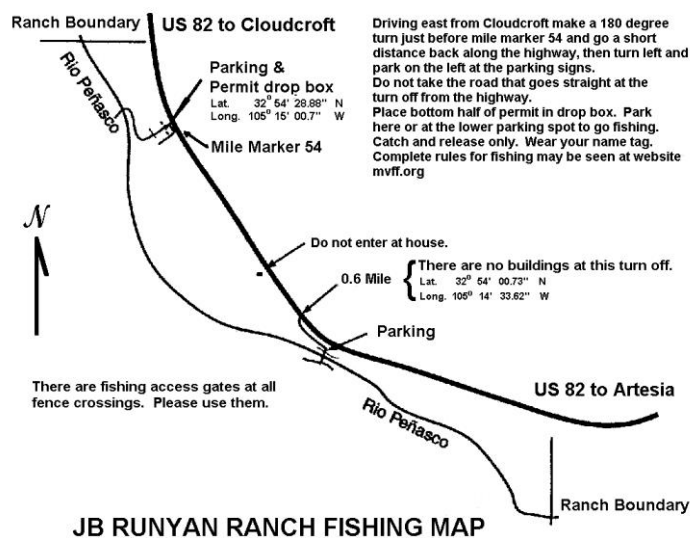
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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 (preferred method). 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.