



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

May

2023

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

conservation through recreation, education, and on-the-ground projects” (<https://www.runningrivers.org/>).

The next meeting of the MVFF Board of Directors will be on May 15, at 7pm, via Zoom.

President's Corner

Bob Silver



May General Membership Meeting May 8th

The May 8th meeting will feature Terry Arrington from Williams Creek Anglers and the Running

Rivers program in Pagosa Springs, CO, and Kevin Terry the southwestern director of the Western Water and Habitat program of Trout Unlimited. Come hear about a region of southern Colorado that is within reach of southern NM anglers. The meeting will be held Monday May 8th at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Conference Room located at 2715 E Northrise Dr, Las Cruces, NM 88011. We'll open the doors at 6:30pm and the meeting starts at 7pm. Hope to see you there!

In last month's newsletter I said our goal for the year was to help people get out to fish more. That means helping people get started all the way to taking trips. At the last General meeting we took a poll of what members would like the Club to offer. Most everyone said they needed help from casting, to rigging, to learning locations where to fish and going on organized trips.

So, the following is a summary of what is happening in the Club. There are a few on stream clinics and a picnic at the lease still to be planned.

Guided Float Trip Raffle

Meetings

The next meeting of the general membership will be on Monday, May 8, at 7pm at the NMDGF facility at 2715 E. Northrise Drive, Las Cruces. We'll open the doors at 6:30pm and the meeting starts at 7pm. The club will also be holding the drawing for a guided San Juan River float trip raffle so make sure you purchase your raffle tickets. Hope to see you there!



Terry and Kevin with a nice fish while floating on the upper Rio Grande in Colorado

Our guest speakers will be by Terry Arrington of Williams Creek Anglers in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, and Kevin Terry, the Southwestern Director of the Western

Water and Habitat program of Trout Unlimited. They will be talking about the numerous fly fishing venues in the region and highlighting ongoing TU projects in the region. They will also talk about the Running Rivers Program, a non-profit organization whose mission is to *“conserve and restore native fish populations in freshwater ecosystems by inspiring people to engage in*

Don't forget that the float trip on the San Juan with Evan Claassen will be raffled off at the May General meeting on May 8th. Here is a second opportunity at a great prize. This is a one-day float trip that guide and Club member Evan Claassen is donating. Tickets can be purchased online from the Club's web page at www.mvff.org look for 'Special Functions'. This will work just like the Banquet raffle. Each ticket is \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. When you buy tickets online through PayPal they will be automatically deposited into the raffle. You can also print tickets from the webpage here, fill them out, and mail them to MVFF, PO Box 2222, Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222 with your check. The mail-in deadline is May 6, 2023.

Guided Trips to the San Juan

Speaking of guided trips, Dave Brown and Chuck Mueller are working with Evan Claassen to organize two trips this summer to the San Juan River. Each trip will be for 9 Club members for 3 days and include a combination of a float with guides and wading with other Club members experienced on the San Juan. Reservations for lodging and the dates and details are being worked out.

Casting Classes in May

To get people out fishing we have set up a casting class every Wednesday evening in May beginning May 3rd at 6:30PM at the Aggie Pond behind the Pan Am Center on the New Mexico State University campus. Dave Carmichael and I will take turns giving casting instruction. If you plan to attend please send me an email at rsilver@nmsu.edu or to president@mvff.org so we know you are coming. Bring your rod and reel. We can inspect your gear for you. But, we will have rods and reels to use if you don't have equipment yet. Classes will be on May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st at 6:30PM. The pond is between the Pan Am Center and the Football Stadium. There is free parking on campus after 4:30PM.

Online Fly Fishing Classes via ZOOM

On May 11th and May 16th from 7 to 8 PM Jeff Arterburn and I will host classes on fly fishing. Rather than doing this in person we felt that we

could reach a larger audience and record the session for viewing later too by using ZOOM. Jeff and I are working on topics for the class which will range from the basics about equipment, knots, resources of additional information, common insects and flies to use, water conditions and other topics. We will send out an email with an invite to log into ZOOM a week before each class and offer what we call a "tech check" if you are new to using Zoom.

2023 Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3t) on June 18th

Robert Ardovino of Ardovino's Desert Crossing in Sunland, Park, NM will be hosting the screening of the 2023 Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3t). This is a nice opportunity to visit with other fly fishers and enjoy a great meal. There will be a nominal charge. The event will be a good way to get folks charged up for a summer of fishing.

Other Events Needing Volunteers

We need some help from Club members at the **Aldo Leopold Kids Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts June 3rd**. Please come to Lake Roberts to help at this family event to show kids and parents about fly fishing. We need a couple of people willing to tie flies and others to demonstrate casting. Some Gila trout will be stocked, including some very large surplus broodstock that would thrill anglers of all ages and reveal just how big a trophy Gila trout can grow! If you plan to attend, please email me at president@mvff.org. Some of us may go up the night before and camp.



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President

GRG-TU for MVFF May-June 2023

Little Turkey Creek Volunteer Habitat Restoration Project

April 20-23, 2023 – (photos by Jennifer Frey)



The recent volunteer event was a great success!!! We had 13 NMSU student participants, a total of ~30 volunteers from TU, MVFF, Amigos Bravos,

and other conservation and sporting groups who traveled to the Gila NF Willow Creek Campground coming from all around New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona. It was heartening to see that most of the rock structures and willow plantings we installed last November were in good shape and still functioning after this wet winter, and hints that many of these willows were beginning to sprout holds great promise as they head into a full growing season. This time the volunteers built >40 additional one rock dams and other structures extending through the upstream forks of Little Turkey Creek, and then plugged two massive head cuts that were impacting a wetland and cutting into an alluvial drainage of a side canyon where the access trail crosses on the trip back to camp. The NMSU students really led the rock rolling effort for the team and the resulting structures are already getting started with their work rebuilding the stream. With the planting of an additional 300+ willow poles we have a lot of hope invested in reestablishing this critical riparian vegetation. Retired NMDGF Wolf Biologist Nick Smith was an incredible camp cook and we all enjoyed his delicious, creative and bountiful meals featuring wild game meat and fish! Everyone had fun and worked hard and it is incredible how much work was accomplished. We are able to run these events thanks to a grant funded by the New

Mexico Environment Department's River Stewardship Program that supports projects to improve

habitat for fish and wildlife and provide safe water for swimming and other recreational activities.

Thanks to everyone who participated, and we hope that all of you keep on the lookout for future announcements of the next project dates. We hope to see each of you again on the stream



NMSU Fisheries and Wildlife Volunteers with Dr. Jennifer Frey

soon!

May 12-17, 2023, Volunteer Stream Habitat Restoration project Gila National Forest

The next opportunity for volunteers to help with

our habitat restoration work on Little Turkey Creek at the Willow Creek Campground in the Gila National Forest is scheduled for May 12-17. We are planning for construction of new wood/log structures and conduct stream monitoring/survey. Beginning May 12th Jim Brooks will monitor fish habitat at our 5 long term sites, and will establish a longitudinal profile for Little Turkey Creek, 3 bank profiles, and within bankfull habitat measures. A group of retired smoke jumpers will bring their expertise and cross-cut



Jim Brooks checking on the wild caught Yellowfin Tuna fillets

saws and tools for moving big material, planning work on log jam construction from May 15-17. Food will be provided with an outstanding camp cook, Lief Ahlm, in charge of the meals. 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.

Upcoming Kids' Fishing Events that need Volunteers

There are three upcoming youth fishing events where TU and MVFF volunteers are requested:

1. **Saturday May 6th Grant County Youth Event at Bear Canyon Reservoir.** This event is sponsored by NMDGF, who will be stocking catfish in the lake, and features a fishing booth that is being organized by Jason Amaro. He needs 2-3 volunteers to help with rigging. Contact Jason Amaro for details and to sign up by email: <amaro_jason@hotmail.com>
2. **Aldo Leopold Kids' Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts, Saturday June 3, 2023** The Gila National Forest Wilderness Ranger District USFS and other groups for holding the Aldo Leopold Kids' Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts during the free fishing day Saturday June 3rd. Arrangements are being made to make sure that everything can be covered for this wonderful family event. It does sound like there will be Gila trout available for stocking, including some very large surplus broodstock that would thrill anglers of all ages and reveal just how big a trophy Gila trout can grow!
3. **28th Annual Youth Fishing Derby at Grindstone Lake, Saturday June 3, 2023.** Lincoln NF-Smokey Bear Ranger District USFS Wildlife Biologist Staff Larry Cordova, <larry.cordova@usda.gov> will be organizing the annual kids' fishing day at Grindstone Lake, 501 Resort Drive, Ruidoso, NM, 88345 United States. This is a great event with a variety of activities and prizes for the kids and everyone usually catches a lot of fish!

Please let us know if you can help out with any of these events!

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.

Please consider joining the board for our chapter boards and getting involved in leadership roles. If you're interested, please contact Jeff for more info.

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: jeffglatu@aol.com.

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



Dinnertime for the volunteer crew



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.



Don't Forget New Raffle

Don't forget about the Float Trip with Evan Claassen on the San Juan River. The Banquet prize of a one-day float trip for 2 with Guide Evan Claassen on the San Juan River is being raffled again. We now have raffle tickets available for sale online through the Club webpage at www.mvff.org. This will work just like the Banquet raffle. Each ticket is \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. When you buy thicketts online through PayPal they will be automatically deposited into the raffle. You can also print tick

ets from the webpage, fill them out, and mail them to MVFF, PO Box 2222, Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222 with your check. The deadline is May 6, 2023. You can print extra pages of tickets and they will also be sold at the meeting. The winner will be selected at the Club's General Membership 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.



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, April 17, 2023

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn

The MVFF was called to order by Bob Silver at 7:20pm, via Zoom. Board members present were Jeff Arterburn, David Brown, Chuck Mueller, George Sanders and Helen Zagona. Not present: Robert Ardovino, Jeremiah Blount and Robert Kopczyk.

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the Board meeting held March 20, 2023, were approved as published in the April newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report. The current available balance of club accounts is \$9,129.59. Chuck noted an issue with an auto-pay charge of \$10 when he was attempting to manage costs of the F3T film festival package. The report was accepted as presented.

3. **Membership.** Members are reminded that MVFF membership renewals were due April 1st, coinciding with NMDGF Fishing licenses. Bob will be updating the list and sending email reminders.
4. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.** Jeff Arterburn reported that the Spring 2023 Volunteer Habitat Restoration project at Willow Creek in the Gila National Forest will take place April 20-23. The roads are clear and have been graded. Participants are expected to arrive on Thursday with full workdays scheduled Friday and Saturday, then departing on Sunday afternoon. The planning and arrangements for the TU Western Regional Meeting scheduled for May 18-21, 2023, in

Taos, NM, are progressing well. The NMSU CMI students and two faculty advisors are planning to attend, and we are raising scholarship funds to support this. Jeff viewed a near-final version of the Gila trout film and said it was very good. The possibility of having the films shown at a future MVFF meeting was discussed with enthusiasm by the Board. A motion was made for MVFF support for the students' attendance at the TU-WRR with a donation of \$250. Chuck will coordinate issuance of a check with Jeff. There are three upcoming youth fishing events where TU and MVFF volunteers are requested; these include:

- **Saturday May 6th Grant County Youth Event at Bear Canyon Reservoir**, sponsored by NMDGF with fishing booth organized by Jason Amaro < amaro_jason@hotmail.com >; there are two events scheduled for the NM free fishing day on **Saturday June 3rd**
- **Aldo Leopold Kids Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts**; and
- the **28th Annual Youth Fishing Derby at Grindstone Lake**.

Another event involving a fishing component is being organized by Carol Ann Fugagli of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, which will take place July 19-23, 2023 in the Gila Forks area with a focus on teenage youth and would involve instructor(s) in fly fishing and fly tying. The Board discussed the stock of youth fishing rods the club currently has in storage (~30 spin-cast sets) and it was agreed that these are available for use as prizes for youth events where club members participate anywhere in the State. Please contact Jeff if you are interested in more details for any of these events.

5. **Old Business:**

- Bob reported that club members stocked ~260 Rainbow trout in the Rio Peñasco on Saturday April 8th, and fishing on the lease should be good.
- The date for showing the F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour was finalized for Father's Day,

Sunday June 18, 2023 at Ardovino's Desert Crossing Restaurant. Bob will be working with Robert Ardovino to investigate possible sponsors for the event.

- Raffle tickets for the Guided float trip on the San Juan with Evan Claassen are available online at the website (www.mvff.org). Each ticket is \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. Tickets with checks mailed to the Club's PO Box will be entered into the raffle drum. The deadline is May 6, 2023, and the raffle will be held at the May 8th Meeting.
- Bob summarized results from the recent membership interest survey, finding strong interests in fly fishing and casting instruction, mentoring for less-experienced anglers, social events such as on-stream cookouts and club trips to fly fishing destinations. Bob will get efforts started for planning instruction and mentoring events including fishing at the Rio Peñasco lease, with details to be available in the newsletter. Trips to the San Juan were prioritized and Dave Brown expressed interest in helping to set up trips, with others including Dave Lucowski, Helen, and Chuck sharing experience, providing advice and helping with contacts.

6. **New Business:**

- The May 8th meeting will feature Terry Arrington from Williams Creek Anglers and the Running Rivers program in Pagosa Springs, CO, and Kevin Terry the Southwestern Director of the Western Water and Habitat program of Trout Unlimited. This will be the last General Meeting until the Fall.
- The board discussed David Carmichael's many years of service as MVFF President and a motion was approved to allocate \$800 for a guided fishing trip of his choosing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.



Quick Look Contact Information

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

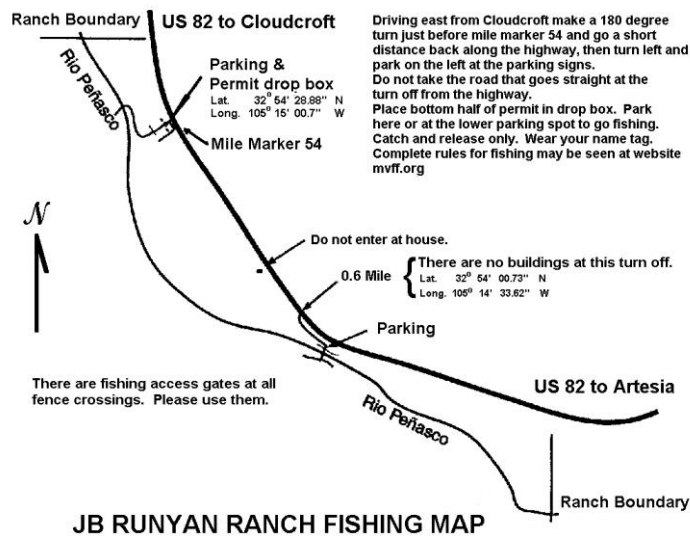
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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. If you do not place a signed/dated permit in the proper receptacle before fishing, then you have not agreed to the terms stipulated on the permit and will be trespassing on private property.

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.