



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

September

2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meetings	1
President's Corner	1
Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited	2
Fly Fishing Equipment for Sale	4
MVFF Library	4
The San Juan River is Calling	5
Minutes of Board of Director's Meeting	5

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

Meetings

The next meeting of the general membership will be on Monday, September 11, at 7pm at the NMDGF facility at 2715 E. Northrise Drive, Las Cruces. Chuck Mueller will be giving a talk about the San Juan River and the two upcoming trips to the "Juan" in November 2023.

Dave Brown, organizer of the trip, reminds us that there is still time to register. 50% of the total trip cost for each angler is due as their deposit on Monday 9/11 with the balance being due at the October meeting on 10/9. Details of the trip can be viewed [here](#).

The next meeting of the MVFF Board of Directors will be on September 18, at 7pm, via Zoom.

President's Corner

Bob Silver



Welcome back from the summer sojourn. The next MVFF meeting will be on Monday, September 11, 2023. Chuck Mueller will be giving a talk about the

San Juan River and the two upcoming trips to the "Juan" in November 2023. After what seems like

a summer of 100+ degree days that has lasted forever so far, it will be nice to hear about a river that is one of my favorites. I will always remember the feeling of slipping into the river and feeling the coolness of water around my waders despite the hot daytime temperature.

Most of us know the "Juan" as the river below Navajo Dam. But the river rises in the San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado, on the west side of the Continental Divide. It then flows southwest into New Mexico, past Farmington, northwest into Utah, and west to the Colorado River near Rainbow Bridge National Monument in southeastern Utah. The river is 360 miles long. Its chief tributaries are the Animas, Los Pinos, Piedra, La Plata, and Mancos rivers, all in northwestern New Mexico. The cold water that discharges from Navajo Dam provides the cold water needed for an exceptional tailwater trout fishery. If you are a fan of Tony Hillerman books you will enjoy the view of the drive through the Navajo Reservations and sandstone bluffs on the river.

Want to fish the "Juan" with experts then come listen to Chuck explain the "ins and outs" of fishing this special place. There are some openings left for the two trips that the Club is sponsoring. There are two 4-day trips on November 1-4 and November 4-7. Each trip can take 12 people. Arrangements have also been made for guides. Full details can be found on the www.mvff.org website under Newsletters then click on the July Newsletter. Arrangements to share transportation from Las Cruces can be made.

The meeting on Monday, September 11 will be held at the NM Dept. of Game and Fish conference

room located at 2715 Northrise Dr., Las Cruces, NM. Doors open at 630pm and the presentation will start at 7:00pm.

Regards, Bob



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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



GRG-TU for MVFF September-2023

Fly Fishing, Education and Conservation

In the August 16, 2023, edition of Trout Unlimited's online magazine, author Kirk Deeter answers a frequently asked question: is Trout Unlimited a "conservation entity", or an organization rooted in "fishing for trout?" <https://www.tu.org/magazine/fishing/fishing-vs-conservation/>. He answers with an analogy: "the most abundantly clear lesson I have learned is that you cannot have one without the other. It's like peanut butter and jelly. You can go one way, or you can opt for the other, but only when you smash 'em together does the real result come together in a way that delivers results." I'm guessing that most of us would agree with that conclusion; it's hard to not appreciate the resource when you're standing in a beautiful pool flicking a fly over a healthy pod of feeding trout, and the first step towards a conservation ethic can start from the simple hope that the fish you just released will be there again the next time you come to fish that spot, maybe even a bit bigger than today, and that someday your kids or grandkids or even the neighbors grandkids will also have the chance to fish that same spot again far into the future. The experience of standing in a stream in which the watershed has been impacted by wildfire provides another way to recognize the importance of conservation and restoration, while your eyes survey the surrounding forest reduced to black sticks and record the gouged out banks and massive sediment loads released by flooding that choke

out fish habitat and prevent their successful spawning, the desire to make it better can be overwhelming. In addition to our ongoing habitat restoration projects that will be seeking volunteers this Fall, we are organizing a meeting with leadership from multiple Federal and State Agencies, and other Conservation and Outdoor Sporting Groups that will be held in Black Canyon Creek to identify opportunities for working together and in coordination to address the damage caused by last year's Black Fire. Stay tuned for more information following that meeting.

If fly fishing and conservation go so well together, it follows that promoting fly fishing education can also be a gateway to involving more people in TU's conservation programs. The Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited is involved in several different educational activities that are targeting elementary school kids, women anglers, and college students.

Working to Develop Trout in the Classroom (TIC) programs in Southern NM.

Pat Lamb, the Secretary of the Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is helping to lead an effort by New Mexico Trout Unlimited to secure a grant from the newly established Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund for "Trout in the Classroom" projects. The fund was created by the 2023 New Mexico Legislature to support a wide range of outdoor and conservation activities, using some of the windfall revenues from record oil and gas production in the state. Trout in the Classroom is a program in which students in elementary schools have an opportunity to raise trout in their classroom for eventual release in the wild. The program is designed to encourage young people to appreciate the benefits of cold-water fisheries and the environment in our state, as well as introduce them to opportunities for fishing. New Mexico Trout Unlimited is seeking funds to establish the "Trout in the Classroom" program in schools throughout the state. The program has been implemented in several schools in northern New Mexico over the past several years. This is the first time an effort has been

made to establish programs in the southern part of the state.

The Gila/Rio Grande Chapter has identified two schools in southern New Mexico to participate in the program if the grant request is approved. They are G.W. Stout Elementary in Silver City and Mesilla Park Elementary in Las Cruces. Eric Head, the new Trout Unlimited Gila trout Project Manager for southern New Mexico, is heading up the effort in Silver City, where he has contacted school officials, lined up equipment and other resources for the program. Even if the grant is not secured, it may be possible to kick-start the program in Silver City using equipment that is available from a similar program in the area that had been run with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff in the past. Discussions with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish regarding the source of fish eggs for the TIC program in southern NM are ongoing, with possibilities for obtaining native Gila trout for use in the program. Patrick Lamb has coordinated the efforts in the Las Cruces area starting from scratch, contacting school administrators and faculty to get things rolling. Chapter member Dave Brown and others have also been involved in gathering information to support the grant request.

If successful, efforts may be made to establish more programs in southern New Mexico in the future. For all TU members who are interested in helping out with the projects, through active involvement and/or support with personal financial contributions, please contact any one of the GRG-TU Team members Jeff Arterburn, Eric Head, Patrick Lamb or Dave Brown for more info. This is a great example of what can happen when you have volunteers willing to step up, anything is possible! Our GRG-TU Chapter covers a huge region, we need the representation of local leaders to make sure we have the greatest positive impacts where they are needed.

Fly Fishing 101 Class

Jeff Arterburn and Bob Silver have been working with Jennifer Morgan from the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish to respond to interest in

learning about fly fishing from women living in southern NM region. The amount of interest has been incredible, and generated a wait-list with over 60 women who want to take a fly fishing class! This past Saturday August 19th Jeff and Bob were joined by Melissa Garnett, who works for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in the Roswell Office as a Public Information Officer, to teach a "Fly Fishing 101" class for the first group of 15. The class covered the basic knowledge, equipment, skills and etiquette needed to get started fly fishing. The class went very well and we will be planning for additional 101 classes. If you know of other women from our region who may be interested please share our contact information and we will add them to the contact list. No membership or previous experience is required. In addition to the classes for women, we are also working with New Mexico State University College students and will be offering afternoon/evening classes to help them get started with fly fishing.

Questions? Please contact Jeff Arterburn, (575) 649-9729 with the Trout Unlimited: Gila-Rio Grande Chapter at jeffgilatu@aol.com, or Bob Silver with Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers at (575) 642-5865, rsilver@nmsu.edu.

Volunteer Habitat Restoration Project Scheduled for November 3-4-5.

The next opportunity for volunteers to help with habitat restoration work on **Little Turkey Creek at the Willow Creek Campground in the Gila National Forest** is scheduled for November 3-5. We are planning for more willow planting as well as new construction and maintenance of the rock and wood structures. We will have a dedicated camp cook featuring wild game & fish menus 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.

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/>

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.



Fly Fishing Equipment for Sale

Karen Erickson is selling her vest, net, lines, leaders and tying stuff. She also has a bunch of rod cases. She can be reached by email kberickson1@gmail.com or at 575 644 1427.



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*.



The San Juan River is Calling!!

When:

- Trip A: November 1st – 4th
- Trip B: November 4th – 7th
- Select Trip A or Trip B or Both, depending on your availability

Who:

- Members of the MVFF Club—if you have fly fishing friends who are not members, who might be interested in going, have them join the club, so they can attend!

What:

Two – 4–day fishing trips...Trip A and Trip B...choose Trip A, or Trip B or Both!

- Day 1 – Travel Day to Navajo Dam, NM
- Days 2–3 – Fishing Days on the San Juan River
- Day 4 – Travel Day to home

Space is available for the first 12 members who sign up and pay their deposits.

3 fishing guides in drift boats available both days arranged by MVFF member, Evan Claassen (first come, first served). Can request a 4th guide/boat if needed.

Where:

- The club has reserved the Octagon Inn along with the Cabin for both Trip A and Trip B dates.
- [Octagon Inn in San Juan New Mexico—Hotel and Lodging in San Juan, New](#)

Mexico

#2 Rd. 4275 Navajo Dam, New Mexico 87419

- The Octagon Inn sleeps 9 in twin beds spread out in 3 bedrooms and has 2 bathrooms.
- The Cabin sleeps 3 and has 1 bathroom (good for family/couple)

Costs:

- Lodging (3 nights), + meals [3 Breakfasts, 2 packed lunches, and 2 group suppers] = \$210/angler
- Guided float trip (per angler) = \$250/day + tip (10% – 20% cash)

Payment:

- Make checks payable to MVFF with San Juan Trip in the memo
- 50% deposit to the MVFF Club by Sept 11th Club Meeting
- Balance due to the MVFF Club by Oct 9th Club Meeting

Register: Contact Dave Brown (dwbrown3@com-cast.net/915.206.0626).

Status: (as of 8/07/23)

- Trip A: 4 reservations with 2 openings remaining
- Trip B: 2 reservations with 7 openings remaining.

MVFF Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn

The Board meeting was called to order by Bob Silver at 7:04 pm, via Zoom. Board members present were Robert Ardovino, Jeff Arterburn, Jeremiah Blount, David Brown, Jim Hulsey, Chuck Mueller, George Sanders and Bob Silver. Not present: Helen Zagana.

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the Board meeting held June 19, 2023, were approved as published in the July newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report. The current available balance

of club accounts is \$8,553.41. The report was accepted as presented.

3. **Membership.** Bob reported that several new members have joined, primarily from areas outside of Las Cruces. He is continuing to work on the roster and will be contacting members who are arrears in their dues. Members are reminded that MVFF membership renewals were due April 1st, coinciding with NMDGF Fishing licenses.
4. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.** Jeff

Arterburn reported that Pat Lamb is taking a key role working with the new Gila Project Manager Eric Head and David Brown along with other NM TU Chapters across the state to make contacts with schools and develop a proposal seeking funds for new "Trout in the Classroom" (TIC) programs in southern NM. Jeff will provide more details in an article in the September Newsletter. Jeff and Bob Silver are planning to teach a "Fly Fishing 101" class for women in southern NM on Saturday August 19th, covering basic knowledge and casting skills needed to get started fly fishing. This first class was limited to 15, but over 60 women in the region are interested in taking the class. Planning for subsequent classes and on-stream events is underway. The NMSU students in the American Fisheries Society are also interested in a fly fishing class and we will be working with them this Fall. The Chapter is involved in inviting a variety of representatives from State and Federal agencies and other conservation and outdoor recreation groups for a field day trip to Black Canyon in September to survey the fire damage and discuss plans for restoration efforts. The NM-TU Council is planning for a retreat at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in October. The next volunteer habitat project for Little Turkey Creek is scheduled for November 3-5. Details will be provided in the newsletter.

5. **Old Business:** The rescheduling of the F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour was discussed and Robert reported that there were no more available weekend dates in 2023. An alternative plan was considered to show the films at the club banquet, and locations for an afternoon showing such as the Branigan Library were suggested.
6. **New Business.** David Brown reported the status of members who have registered for the MVFF Fall 2023 San Juan fishing trips, counting 8 anglers at this time with room for more. Additional details

will be provided in the newsletter and emails to the club, and at the next general meeting. The MVFF has been contacted by an individual in Mayhill who owns a trailer and property with some riverfront access, who may be interested in arrangements for club members using the facilities. The topic will be considered further with arrangements for a visit to provide more information. Chuck brought up the topic of the club treasurer role, which he has been serving in for many years, and mentioned the time and effort of the role that is exasperated by the burden of dealing with PayPal. The club needs to address this critical position. Jim received a call from a member who is interested in selling a variety of fly fishing items and has requested a notice be placed in the newsletter. The Board supports that and revisited the topic of hosting a "swap meet" format at an upcoming general meeting, with general agreement that this would be in the interests of the club. Bob mentioned the recent (8/7/2023) news from the State Attorney General stating that his office will be actively investigating allegations where landowners have blocked access to rivers and streams in defiance of state law, as an important step towards resolution of this issue. <https://www.nmag.gov/new-mexico-attorney-general-raul-torrez-announces-effort-to-ensure-public-access-to-rivers-and-streams-in-new-mexico/>

The next MVFF General Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 11th and Chuck will give a presentation on fishing the San Juan tailwater. Speakers for the October 9th meeting are being identified, and Jeff will make contacts with the NMSU AFS students. The November 13th meeting will feature presentations on Silver Salmon fishing. The next MVFF Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday September 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.



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	(915) 206-0626
• 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 Koczzyk	
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.

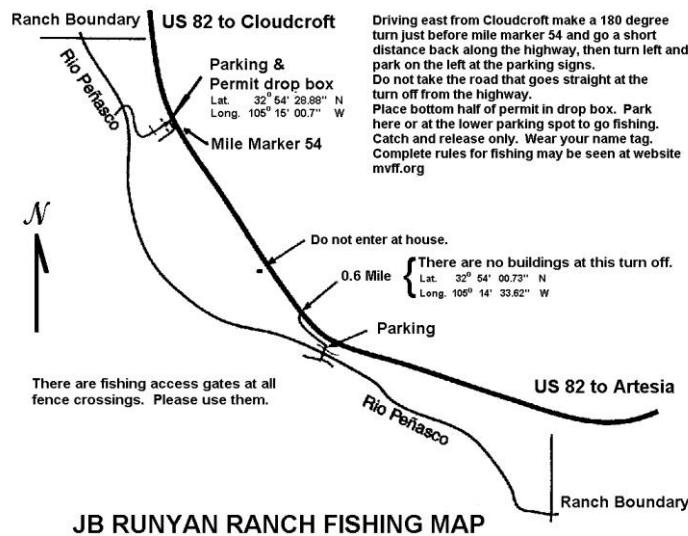
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.