



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222
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www.MVFF.org

January

2024

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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, February 8th, at 7pm at the NMDGF facility at 2715 E. Northrise Drive, Las Cruces. We will also open the meeting to remote viewing on Zoom.

The next meeting of the MVFF Board of Directors will be on January 15th, 2023, at 7pm, via Zoom.

President's Corner

Bob Silver



Well, 2023 sure flew by. It seems 365 days go by faster each year. That might have something to do with growing older, so say the older generation. Now that 2024

is upon us, I am looking forward to the Club activities we are planning. Members asked the Board to put together trips to different locations. So that is a goal for 2024. The two San Juan trips last year were very successful from all reports. Dave Brown and Chuck Mueller did a great job organizing those trips. Evan Claassen is an outstanding guide, and he was tremendous helping everyone with his knowledge. This year, Dave Brown and Chuck Mueller are planning three trips within a day's drive of Las Cruces. In some cases,

locations may be closer to some of our out-of-town membership.

Two will be to the San Juan. It is a great place for floating and wading. It is large enough and has good access that makes it possible to take more fishermen per trip than to smaller rivers. The other trip will be to southern Colorado (probably Conejos River or Arkansas River). The details are being worked. At the Banquet (February 2, 2024) we will be asking members for their input regarding the locations for fishing trips they want to go on for this year and next, especially trips that might be a two-day drive or further.

Speaking of the Banquet, Save-the-Date. It will be February 2, 2024. We have selected some very nice prizes for the raffle worth almost \$2,500. Tickets are available online from the Club website. Go to www.mvff.org click on **ENTER**, then along the left side of the page click on **Special Functions**. Then just follow the instructions. I will also be sending everyone a sheet of tickets by email. You must be a Club member to win but you don't have to be present to win.

In addition, the details are being worked out for a picnic and fishing clinic at the Ellett Lease in April.

We need your help and experience. It is customary to elect new Officers and Board members each year. New people bring new ideas and experiences to share. It is my experience that new people add energy to the activities of a Board and its leadership. This is where we need your input. The following positions are coming open: President, Treasurer and Board members. Along with the raffle tickets, I will be sending information about the duties of the Officers and Board members. Please consider running for a position, it is not that burdensome. I don't want to see us being

a Club where the same ten people manage the activities. We use Zoom for Board meetings, so it does not matter where you live. The regular monthly meetings are in-person but by Zoom as well. If you take a position, you will be mentored by a previous officer or board member to help a smooth transition.

Bob



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



GRG-TU for MVFF January-2024

Happy New Year! 2023 was an incredible year for Trout Un-

limited in southern NM, and 2024 promises even more!

There was **Great News** for the team of volunteers that were recently awarded a **\$40K grant** from the NM Outdoor Recreation Program to fund Trout in the Classroom (TIC) programs across NM! These funds will provide equipment to start up two brand new TIC classrooms in Mesilla Park and Silver City later this year, and to support the field trips for the students to release the fish they have raised. Our TU volunteers are already on the job, obtaining used or donated equipment and spending their own personal \$'s buying missing equipment and plenty of mileage to jump start additional new TIC classrooms in Alamogordo, Ruidoso, and hopefully Silver City. Pat Lamb and Brad Allen are working with Seth and Ken from Bosque TU in Albuquerque and NMDGF to coordinate the transport and delivery of Rainbow trout eggs for the Alamogordo and Ruidoso schools. TU Gila Project Manager Eric Head and USFS Fisheries Biologist Eileen Henry are working with GRG-TU Volunteer Julie Binko in Silver City and hoping to get a Native Gila trout TIC classroom up and going. All these folks deserve a big round of applause and even more, we could really use your **financial donations to get these classrooms**

going!!! We've also been involved with introductory fly fishing educational classes for Women and College Students and hope to be scheduling 2024 classes soon.

Volunteers working on the **habitat restoration of Little Turkey Creek** in the Gila National Forest made great strides towards healing this fire-damaged watershed in 2023. We submitted a proposal to the NM Environment Department's River Stewardship Program titled "*PHASE 2 POST-WILD-FIRE RESTORATION OF LITTLE TURKEY CREEK. Willow Creek Watershed, Southwestern New Mexico.*"

We had significant professional help in preparing the proposal from our friend Kent Johnjack, who is a TU member of the Tucson AZ *Old Pueblo* Chapter who started coming over to the Gila for our volunteer events and drank enough of our Kool Aid to stick with us and put together a really strong proposal. With fingers crossed for funding we have a plan to continue this critical restoration work and focus on problem areas that haven't been addressed yet and extend the distribution and density of riparian vegetation throughout the corridor to shade the stream and ultimately support beaver populations moving upstream through the system. Eric Head wrote an article for the December 27th edition of the TU weekly E-newsletter *Trout Weekly* describing ongoing efforts titled "Another serving of Turkey (Creek) for the Gila Centennial". Here's the link: https://www.tu.org/magazine/conservation/restoration/another-serving-of-turkey-creek-for-the-gila-centennial/?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=none&_zs=m0CCb&_zl=2cSs3

We will be planning a **Spring 2024 Volunteer Work Project** with the last remaining funds of our current grant. It's still too far out to be able to choose specific dates, but we'll be watching the weather and road conditions and stream flows to determine when we can get in there safely. We hope to get in early enough in the season to be able to successfully plant willows, and will need to inspect and do maintenance on existing rock and log structures along with some new construction. Please stay tuned and let us know if you are

interested in helping us restore this beautiful watershed and other projects for Gila trout. Please reach out to one or more of us on the leadership team and we will add you to the list for planning and communications (send an email to **Jeff Arterburn, Las Cruces** <jeffgilatu@aol.com>, **Jim Brooks, Albuquerque** <arroyodejaime@gmail.com>, and/or **Eric Head, Silver City** <eric.head@tu.org>).

There will be a lot of other TU-related events happening this year. Numerous events will be held in recognition of the **100th Anniversary of the Gila Wilderness 2024** so stay tuned for more details. Kids fishing derbies are great events to participate in and planning is underway for the Aldo Leopold Kid's Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts, and also the Smoky Bear Ranger District will be organizing the Kids Derby at Grindstone Reservoir for the free fishing Saturday in June. We are hoping to help out by organizing river/lake trash clean-up projects so please let us know if you would like to get involved in those.

The AZ-TU Annual Native & Wild Trout Meeting in Phoenix, AZ is scheduled for April 11, 2024. The TU Western Regional Rendezvous meeting will be held in Idaho Falls, Idaho – May 17-19, 2024.

Don't forget that TU is offering an **introductory ½ price deal (\$17.50) for new TU members** to join so take a look at the flyer printed in this MVFF newsletter and pass it on to anyone you think might be interested in joining TU. This membership is a great gift anytime and all memberships help support important conservation work and come with the high quality "TROUT" Magazine and its great stories, news, and photos.

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. 



MVFF Library

MVFF has a considerable library which is now in the custody of Club member Mark Dankel. Mark would like to make these books available to members. If you wish to borrow any of these books let

Mark know and he will bring them to the next membership meeting. Mark can be contacted at mpdankel@msn.com.

A list of the books can be found in the November 2019 issue of *Tale Waters*.



MVFF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, December 18, 2023

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn

The Board meeting was called to order via Zoom by Bob Silver at 7:02pm. Board members present were Jeff Arterburn, Jeremiah Blount, Chuck Mueller, Bob Silver and Helen Zagana. Not present: Robert Ardovino, David Brown, Jim Hulsey and George Sanders.

1. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from the Board meeting held November 20, 2023, were accepted as published in the December newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report showing current available balance of club accounts to be \$8,091.94. The report was accepted as presented. Chuck noted that 105 lease permits had been sold.
3. **Membership:** Bob will be sending a message out to the membership. The MVFF website needs updates. The attempt to broadcast the December meeting presentation by Zoom was successful. The hard 1-hr time limit of the free subscription was enforced; an enhanced subscription is available for \$149/year. During future zoom presentations time for Q&A will be designated and attendees will be muted and encouraged to use the Chat box function. The board discussed the slate of board members and officer positions. Bob will continue as President, Jeremiah as VP, Jeff as Secretary, Dave will continue organizing club trips, Chuck will assist the transition to a new treasurer during the next few months. Bob requested that board members provide descriptions of their respective Board Officer duties, particularly the President, Treasurer and Web-Master-Newsletter Editor. Ted Hopkins is interested in serving. Helen will be completing her term on the board.
4. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited:** Due to time constraints, there was no report and Jeff will provide a write-up for the January newsletter.
5. **Old Business:**

6. New Business:

- Bob relayed some discussions he had with David Brown who will be planning trips for 2024, starting with a Spring trip to the San Juan, tentatively looking at May 14-20 dates. Summer trips are being considered, such as the upper Rio Grande, and another Fall trip to the San Juan is likely for November. Jeremiah suggested investigating opportunities for warm water fish at Caballo and Elephant Butte, looking at April for White Bass, and other members agreed.
- Bob discussed interest from club members in fly fishing skill "tune-up" opportunities and fly tying. The club has received a large amount of tying supplies that will support tying events. The club will continue with the introductory fly fishing classes for the NMSU students women's fly fishing classes after the holidays. Helen offered to help out with the Women's classes. Bob will work towards scheduling an on-stream clinic for a club picnic at the lease.
- The MVFF Banquet is scheduled for Friday Feb 2, 2024 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W Griggs Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88005, with doors opening at 4pm. Bob has a projection system although questions remain about the screen to be used. Sparky's will be providing meats, enchiladas, sides, and beverages, and an order will be placed with Ardovino's Desert Crossing Restaurant for desserts, anticipating ~85 attendees. Bob described a nice list of prizes (~3K) including a custom fly rod by Bob Widgren, guided float and wade trips to private waters, etc. that will be finalized this week.

The next MVFF Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday January 15th, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.



Quick Look Contact Information

2024 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 Zagana	(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.

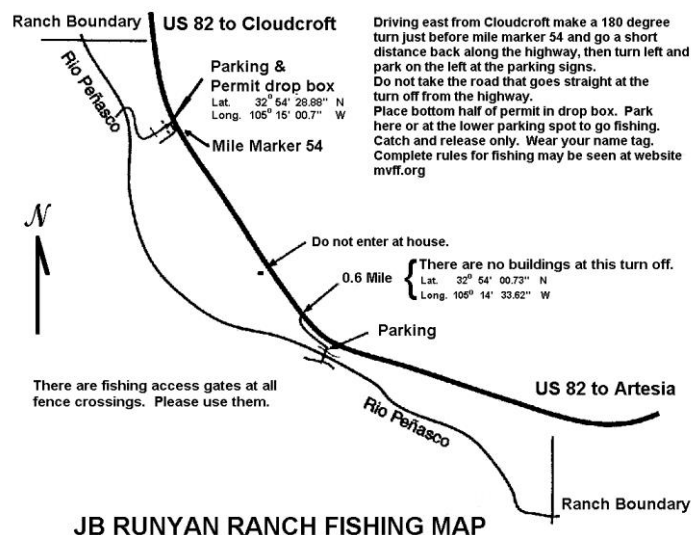
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.