



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222
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www.MVFF.org

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

Meetings

The next meeting of the general membership will be on Monday, March 11, 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 February 19th, 2024, at 7pm, via Zoom.

President's Corner

Bob Silver



Last Friday night we celebrated the 2023-2024 Annual Banquet. The food was excellent and the camaraderie was great. Teako Nunn of Sparky's in Hatch put on

a feast of barbeque, enchiladas, beans and coleslaw. The meal was crowned by dessert made by Ardivino's Desert Crossing Restaurant in Sunland Park. We showed two very good fishing videos from the FlyFishing Film (F3T) 2023 series which the Banquet attendees agreed were very relatable to setting precious time aside to enjoy fishing. The Banquet was capped by the Raffle, and we managed to broadcast the Raffle via Zoom to members who could not attend. The lucky winners of the raffle are listed below. There is a

special prize given called the Attendance Prize. When you attend a meeting, you are given a ticket to put into the red coffee can. Also, tickets are put into that can for helping with Club events. This year the prize was a Brodin Gallatin Net, and it was won by Amy Buesing.

I wanted to thank everyone who helped set up the room and with the cleanup afterward.

We are planning a picnic and flyfishing classes this spring so watch your email for coming events.

Bob



- Flybox loaded with flies – James Warren
- Flybox loaded with flies – Ron Belander
- Flybox loaded with flies – Tom Lighfoot
- Brodin S2 Frying Pan Net – James Warren
- SIMMS Wading Staff – Rita Moreno
- Solitary Angler two-day guided trip for two on Culebra Creek – Ted Hopkins
- Guided Float Trip on the San Juan for two with Evan Claassen – Brad Shuster
- Custom Flyrod made by Bob Widgren
- Custom Flyrod Crafter – Bob Silver
- Lamson Liquid Reel 3-Pack reel and 2 spools – Rita Moreno
- YETI Hopper M20 backpack cooler – Sam Latham



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



GRG-TU for MVFF February-2024

We are planning a **Spring 2024 Willow Creek (Gila National Forest) Volunteer Work Project for April 4 – 7, 2024**. We'll be watching the weather and road

conditions and stream flows to make sure we can get in there safely. We are planning to plant willow poles and bundles and will need to inspect and do maintenance on existing rock and log structures along with some new construction. Participants will arrive Thursday and work full days Friday and Saturday. We provide delicious hot camp meals for breakfast and dinner, with sandwiches for lunch, starting Thursday night through Sunday breakfast. It's a lot of fun and very rewarding to be part of a team working to restore stream habitat in this beautiful watershed for Gila trout. We need an accurate head count in order to plan the food so 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>). For additional information 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



Volunteer Work Crew for Little Turkey Creek Project Gila National Forest

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. 

"Trout in the Classroom" Programs Ruidoso Elementary and Alamogordo High Schools

Submitted by GRG-TU Secretary and Volunteer:
Patrick Lamb

It was like a Pony Express delivery in the days of the Old West. Trout eggs that were produced at the New Mexico Game and Fish hatchery in Mora were shipped out during the start of a major winter snowstorm on Jan. 11. They were handed off three times in route to White Mountain Elementary School in Ruidoso and Alamogordo High School in Alamogordo for delivery the next day to start two new "Trout in the Classroom" programs. The eggs went first to the Lisboa Springs hatchery at Pecos, where they were kept overnight. The next morning, as the storm got worse, they were shipped to

Albuquerque where they were distributed to several locations in northern New Mexico and then the remaining eggs were driven by two New Mexico Game and Fish specialists to Ruidoso and Alamogordo. The eggs arrived safely in the late afternoon of Jan. 12 and were immediately placed in nesting baskets inside the 55-gallon tanks.

Although the Trout Unlimited "Trout in the Classroom" program has been around for some time, this is the first opportunity to involve TU volunteers helping to run TIC programs in southern New Mexico. I also want to thank the other TU Volunteers who have been actively involved in these efforts: Ken Tabish, TU Bosque Chapter President, who has volunteered his time and driven down from Albuquerque to Ruidoso twice to help get the program started; and Brad Allen of the U.S. Forest Service, who works at the Smoky Bear Ranger District in Ruidoso but lives in Alamogordo, who is coordinating the Alamogordo High School program. Efforts are also underway to get a "Trout in the Classroom" program at Stout Elementary School in Silver City, which is working with the USFWS and USFS to initiate a "Native Trout in the Classroom" program that will be raising Gila trout. Trout Unlimited Gila Trout Specialist Eric Head is working along with GRG-TU Volunteer Julie Binko to initiate that program, hoping to get the rather extensive paperwork in order to possibly start this spring semester but otherwise launching in the next school year. We are also working with an elementary school teacher in Las Cruces about starting a program here with funds from the recently awarded NM Outdoor Equity Program grant to the NM TU Council, and this program is expected to get underway during the 2024-25 school year.

The TIC program is intended to give students an appreciation of the importance of clean cold-water fisheries and to encourage them to participate in fishing. Students are involved in checking water conditions and progress of the fishes' growth in the aquarium during the semester-long program. At the end of the semester, students will make a field trip to release the fish in local area lakes or streams.

Teachers in the third-grade classes at White Mountain Elementary raised funds last year to purchase necessary equipment to conduct the program. The Alamogordo High School program is utilizing equipment for a similar program some years ago.

We have been assisting in coordinating the projects which so far have gone "swimmingly well"! Of the 35 trout eggs that were delivered at White Mountain Elementary, all but three hatched and at this time are tiny fry starting to swim in the aquarium, where students can watch them grow every day. Similar success has been noted in Alamogordo. The fish at White Mountain Elementary are in the classroom of third-grade teacher Michelle Thurston and another third-grade teacher, Rachel Lutterman, has been coordinating the daily maintenance of the program.

Stay tuned to the MVFF newsletter for further developments regarding these exciting programs for our kids!



Pat Lamb and teacher Michelle Thurston with White Mountain Elementary school students standing in front of the tank.



Ken Tabish of the TU Bosque Chapter installing equipment for the tank.



White Mountain Elementary school teacher Rachel Lutterman getting ready to put the eggs in the aquarium at White Mountain Elementary.



MVFF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, January 15, 2024

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn

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

1. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from the Board meeting held December 15, 2023, were accepted as published in the January newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report and current available balance of club accounts is \$5,867.26. The report was accepted as presented. Chuck noted that 50 raffle tickets have been sold through PayPal. He is working on filing the 990 forms with the IRS and expects to finalize that this week.
3. **Membership:** Bob will be checking the status of membership with tickets purchased, since only

active members can participate.

4. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited:** Jeff summarized recent accomplishments and plans for 2024 activities. The \$40K proposal to the NM Outdoor Recreation Program for funding Trout in the Classroom (TIC) programs across NM was successful and will provide equipment to start up two brand new TIC classrooms in Mesilla Park and Silver City later this year. Pat Lamb and Brad Allen have already been working with schools in Ruidoso and Alamogordo, respectively, and are coordinating the delivery of eggs. We recently submitted a proposal to the NM Environment Department's River Stewardship Program titled "PHASE 2 POST-WILDFIRE RESTORATION OF LITTLE TURKEY CREEK, Willow Creek Watershed, Southwestern New Mexico" to continue the habitat restoration work that

is making great progress. We are planning a Spring 2024 Volunteer Work Project in early April if weather and road conditions and stream flows are prescient. Other events are being planned including the Aldo Leopold Kids' Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts, the Kids Fishing Derby at Grindstone Reservoir that will likely be scheduled for the free fishing Saturday in June. Numerous events will be held in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Gila Wilderness 2024 so stay tuned for more details. We are also hoping to help out by organizing river/lake trash clean-up projects. 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.

5. **New Business:** Planning for the Annual Banquet was discussed. The event is scheduled Friday Feb. 2, 2024 at St Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W Griggs Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88005. Set-up will begin at 4pm, and the general doors will open at 5:30 PM. The food order with Sparky's has been finalized, and Ardovino's will provide desserts. Bob has the raffle prizes and needs to get the F3T swag items from Robert. The plan is to show 2 films during the evening, to be selected by input from the board, with drawings for swag in between the films and followed by the full raffle. Possible layout for efficient registration and purchase of additional raffle tickets were discussed. Dinner tickets will be sold at the door for \$10 each, which includes 2 free raffle tickets and a door prize ticket. Raffle tickets have been distributed by mail for individual printing, and are available on PayPal

on the website: www.mvff.org. Tickets submitted by mail must be received prior to the event. All raffle tickets are \$5 apiece or 5 for \$20. At least \$2K in raffle tickets will need to be printed for sale at the banquet. Tablecloths need to be purchased (Walmart or Amazon): 16 round and 8 rectangular. Purchase of an appreciation gift for Jim Ellett was discussed.

6. David Brown discussed planning fishing trips for 2024, and he has started a matrix of regional locations. A Spring trip to the San Juan is being scheduled and likely another in the Fall. Summer trips are being considered, and it was suggested that David contact and continue discussions with Evan Classen, Noah Parker, Pat Blankenship and Terry Arrington. Robert volunteered to help with selection of housing options.

Bob reported that the wooden bridge crossing has been repaired at the lease. There are two new road crossings that have been cut through the stream to allow Jim access.

Bob visited the trailer in Mayhill and discussed details for club members to reserve with a minimum stay of 2 nights for 2 people at a rate of \$50/person per night. The trailer has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, will sleep up to 6–7 people, has a large kitchen and porch, no internet but a new cell tower is being installed. Arrangements will be made through Ed. Bob will continue discussions to finalize arrangements.

7. The next MVFF Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday February 19, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.



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 Zagona (575) 532-5668
- **Position 3:** Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
- **Position 4:** Bob Silver (575) 642-5865
- **Position 5:** Robert Ardivino (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 newsleter@mvff.org

Membership Committee Chairman

- Bob Silver (575) 642-5865 member-ship@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.

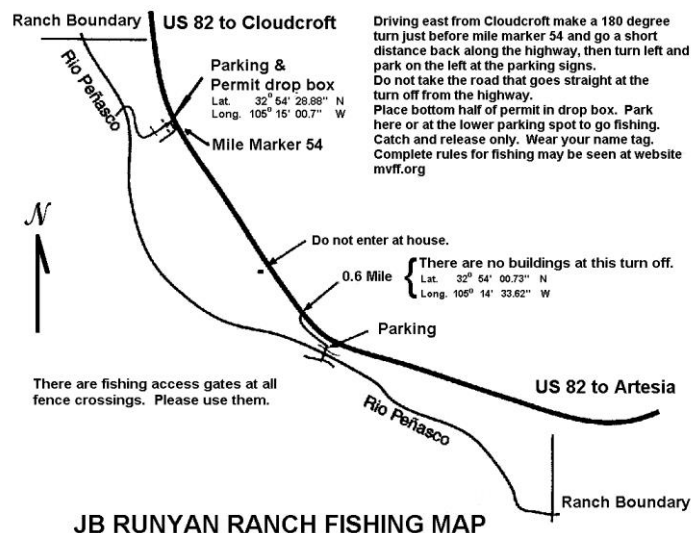
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.