



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

November

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

www.MVFF.org

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, November 11th, 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 November 18th, at 7pm, via Zoom.

President's Corner

Bob Silver



Remembering John Gierach

You may have already heard the news that author and self-described trout bum John Gierach died on Thursday, October 3rd from a heart attack. He lived in Lyons, Colorado. He was one of my favorite authors. When I was too busy to leave town, I could delight in his style of writing about fishing. I could appreciate both the funny parts as well as the practical aspects of his stories. Over the course of his writing career, Gierach authored more than 20 books and countless articles for magazines and publications like TROUT

magazine. I admired him as somebody who loved the outdoors and figured out how to make a living from his flyfishing interests.

Keep Your Eyes Open while Fishing

I almost got hit by a car while fishing. When someone yells "O GOD" it pays to look up. I was on the Conejos River this summer when a car went off the edge of a forest service road right above me and tumbled down a steep hill into the river.



I watched the car make a couple of rolls in disbelief. Then I decided I better get out of the way. It made a huge splash and stopped rolling once it landed in the river. Fortunately, the driver was the only person in the car, and he was uninjured despite rolling five or six times. It was a Subaru; in case you are wondering. The

local authorities pulled the wreck from the river later that day. It sure messed up fishing in that spot. So, be careful driving on forest service roads and beware of the surroundings while you're fishing. Surprising things do happen.

Future Club Plans

First, we have a trip to the San Juan planned for November 7 – 10th, 2024. There is an opening for a woman to share accommodations with two other women. It is wonderful to have women express an interest to participate in the trip. Flyfishing is not just for guys. There is also an opening for one more man on the trip. **If you are interested in the trip, contact David Brown 612-849-3570.** The membership asked the Board to plan more trips. This will be the fourth Club trip this year. So, we hope the Club members will take advantage of the last opportunity for the year. Consider these trips as an educational experience as well as enjoying the camaraderie of others. If you go with a guide, you will learn more on that day than going by yourself in ten trips.

Next year, we are looking into a White Bass trip to Elephant Butte Reservoir during the spring spawning season. The White Mountain Apache tribe in Arizona rents Hurricane and Cyclone Lakes. These lakes hold trophy Apache Trout. The Club rented these lakes many years ago. It was one of the first trips after I joined. The trip would be in early summer in 2025. In addition, David Brown is also planning a few trips to other locations as well.

MVFF Annual Banquet

Chris Dombrowski will be our guest speaker at the annual Banquet. Chris is the author of two books of nonfiction—*Body of Water: A Sage, a Seeker, and the World's Most Alluring Fish* and *The River You Touch: Making a Life on Moving Water*—both published by Milkweed Editions, as well as three acclaimed collections of poetry, most recently *Ragged Anthem*. A longtime river-

guide, he lives with his family in Missoula, Montana, where he directs the Creative Writing Program at University of Montana. Chris's writing has been highly acclaimed, and I am looking forward to someone of his caliber speak at our banquet. The link to his webpage is <https://www.cdombrowski.com/>

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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



A Kids Fishing Day at Grindstone Reservoir is being organized by the USFS Smokey

Bear Ranger District in Ruidoso for **Saturday September 28th, 8am-1pm**, and we are seeking volunteers to help run a fly fishing booth. Interested volunteers should contact Jeff Arterburn(jeffgilatu@aol.com) to coordinate. (See related photos below)

Pat Lamb has been very involved in organization of **Trout in the Classroom (TIC) programs** for our region and recently secured the egg agreement for the school in Ruidoso, and Eric was recently notified by NMDGF with approval of the permit needed for use of Gila trout in TIC following submission of the curriculum plan previously developed by USFWS staff Angela Palacios. Several changes in the TIC permitting and requirements are being implemented by NMDGF, and NM TU state lead staff member Dan Roper recently announced hiring of part-time staff to work with the statewide TIC committee to navigate the process.

Jeff and Brad will Attend the **NM-TU State Council Retreat in Red River October 18-20** and plan to visit sites of TU habitat restoration projects in the area. TU Staff Eric Head is planning a **BBQ social event in the Silver City area on October 26, 2024** with location and times TBD. Eric was

recently contacted by a Boy Scout Troop in Silver City interested in developing a **Merit Badge Program**, and will report on the requirements and needs so we can evaluate this opportunity. Contract arrangements for the Phase 2 **Little Turkey Creek Habitat Project** are still being finalized and we are planning a volunteer event in early November, over a weekend Friday-Monday with dates TBD.

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*. 



Fly fishing information station at Kid's Fishing Day, Grindstone Reservoir

29th Annual Kid's Fishing Day

On September 28, the MVFF club was represented by three members at the Trout Unlimited 29th Annual Kid's Fishing event at Grindstone Reservoir in Ruidoso. Ron presented fly tying demonstrations for the kids and adults, and Dave Brown and Ted Hopkins provided fly casting instruction and encouragement. Smokey Bear also made an appearance to encourage everyone to practice fire safety to help protect our forests. His message is especially poignant following the devastation Ruidoso experienced in the South Fork and Salt fires last summer. It's good that so many kids and their families were still able to fish at Grindstone. Dave reports that many more volunteers will be needed next year to keep up with the interest and energy of the kids, so mark your calendars as soon as the events are announced by TU.



Dave and Ron at the vice



Dave and Ted get a bear hug from Smokey Bear



Photos from a successful club picnic on the Rio Penasco, courtesy of club member Dan Janish.



MVFF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2024

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn

The Board meeting was called to order via Zoom by Bob Silver at 7:08 pm. Board members present were Jeff Arterburn, Dave Brown, Jim Hulse, Dave Lucoski, and Bob Silver. (Absent: Robert Ardovino, Jeremiah Blount, George Sanders)

1. The **Meeting Minutes** from the August 26th Board meetings were approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Dave Lucoski presented a treasurer report showing a current balance of \$9,256.37 with several expenses expected but not yet invoiced. The report was accepted by the board.

3. Membership Report. Bob plans to provide the corrected list of member names to Dave Lucoski so that he can update the database. Dave Brown requested access to the MVFF email contact list so that he can send information about club fishing trips.

4. Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited. A Kids Fishing Day at Grindstone Reservoir is being organized by the USFS Smokey Bear Ranger District in Ruidoso for **Saturday September 28th, 8am-1pm**, and we are seeking volunteers to help run a fly-fishing booth. Interested

volunteers should contact Jeff Arterburn (jeffgi-latu@aol.com) to coordinate. Pat Lamb has been very involved in organization of **Trout In the Classroom (TIC) programs** for our region and recently secured the egg agreement for the school in Ruidoso, and Eric was recently notified by NMDGF with approval of the permit needed for use of Gila trout in TIC following submission of the curriculum plan previously developed by USFWS staff Angela Palacios. Several changes in the TIC permitting and requirements are being implemented by NMDGF, and NM TU state lead staff member Dan Roper recently announced hiring of part-time staff to work with the statewide TIC committee to navigate the process. Jeff and Brad will Attend the **NM-TU State Council Retreat in Red River October 18-20** and plan to visit sites of TU habitat restoration projects in the area. TU Staff Eric Head is planning a **BBQ social event in the Silver City area on October 26, 2024** with location and times TBD. Eric was recently contacted by a Boy Scout Troop in Silver City interested in developing a **Merit Badge Program**, and will report on the requirements and needs so we can evaluate this opportunity. Contract arrangements for the Phase 2 **Little Turkey Creek Habitat Project** are still being finalized and we are planning a volunteer event in early November, over a weekend Friday-Monday with dates TBD.

5. Club Fishing Trips. The next trip is planned for the **San Juan Nov-7-11, 2024** and at this time the roster is wide open for people to sign up. Dave Brown is organizing the trip and can be contacted at: 915-206-0626, dwbrown3@comcast.net. Lodging for up to 12 anglers is available at the Rainbow Lodge Enchanted Hideaway Navajo Dam, and other camping and lodging is available in the area. Guided Float Trips with Evan Claassen will be available. This is a great deal for all MVFF Members!

6. Club Meetings. Bob initiated a discussion identifying some of the difficulties the club has faced using the projector in the NMDGF Conference Room and he plans to discuss the situation

with the DGF staff. He has also experienced difficulties trying to zoom the presentations and needs someone to serve as a dedicated zoom operator during the meetings. Jeff suggested that some presentations may be suitable for an entirely virtual zoom meeting, with the advantage that this would be available to all members regardless of their physical location. The club may try this at the **October 8th meeting WY fishing trip presentation** by Brad Shuster & George Sanders. Bob reported that there were ~17 attending the Sept. 9th meeting with guest speaker Jerry Hicks, inventor of a folding net-wading staff called NETRekk net website: <https://www.netrekk.com/>. Projection difficulties occurred but Jerry gave a nice presentation and demonstration of the net-staff, and he offered to give the club discounts on purchases. Bob contacted Chris Dombrowski and he is interested in speaking at the **2025 MVFF Banquet. A Club Picnic at the Rio Penasco is planned for Saturday October 19th**. The club will provide green chile stew for lunch, and members will be responsible for purchasing permits to participate and pre-registration to ensure that enough food will be available. The board will consider stocking the lease if fish are available.

7. Newsletter. Bob and Jim are discussing plans for transferring responsibilities for the newsletter and website. David Carmichael and Robert Trompler have indicated their interest in those areas, respectively, and Bob will continue these discussions. The registration for the website, merchandise, etc. will need to be updated.

8. The NMSU American Fisheries Students are planning a "Welcome Back BBQ" on Wednesday Sept 18th, 5:30pm and Brad and Bob will attend representing GRG-TU and MVFF.

9. The next MVFF Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday October 14th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 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:	David Lucoski`	
Board Members		
• Position 1:	Dave Brown`	(915) 206-0626
• Position 2:	David Lucoski`	
• 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	Jim Hulsey	(575) 635-5381m
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.

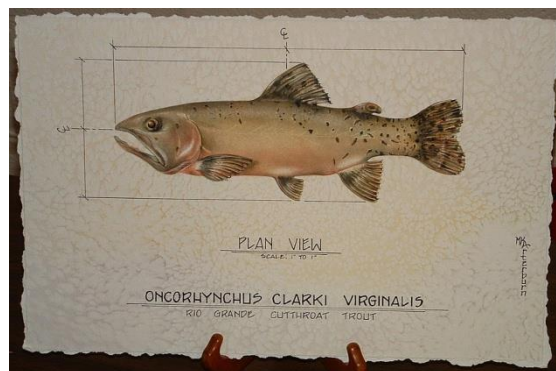
Even though the fund is endowed additions can be made to it at any time. The larger the fund, the more earnings are available for award. If you are interested in contributing, please make checks out to the **NMSU Foundation** and on the "for" line of the check, identify "Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund, 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.

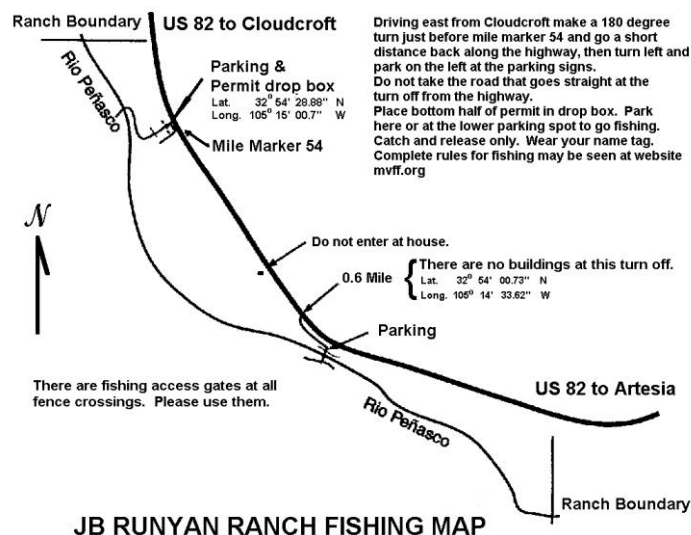
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.