



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

April

2016



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starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *Prince Nymph*. The tying session will be led by professional tyer, Tim Mack. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies will be available for beginning tyers.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Most of New Mexico lacks the large sorts of rivers that comprise the most famous trout fisheries in other parts of the western United States. Yes, we have the San Juan and the upper Rio Grande, but most of our

cold water fisheries are small to medium sized streams. Many of our trout streams are actually the small headwaters of rivers that become slow and warm at lower elevations; some even shrink or dry up altogether as they leave the mountains. Yet, small headwater streams are critical to protecting and restoring native Rio Grande cutthroat and Gila trout populations. In addition, they are generally clean, cold, and beautiful, and they often provide the solitude many fly anglers seek. Of course it is fun to travel to large rivers and catch large fish, but we should also embrace our small and very small streams: our hidden waters. Our hidden waters provide us the opportunity to become skilled at fishing them... skilled at fishing places that would confound anglers who routinely fish large rivers such as the Roaring Fork, the Green River, the Madison, the Colorado, or the Yellowstone. So, in celebration of our small streams, and the fishing opportunities and challenges they afford us, I offer the first in a series of occasional reports on selected hidden waters from our region.

Membership Meeting

Monday, 11 April

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 11 April at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. The guest speaker will be Meredith Campbell, a graduate fisheries student from NMSU. Her presentation will be "Asian Tapeworm in an Endangered Southwestern Fish." Should be great! Doors will open at 6:30pm and cookies and coffee will be served.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 18 April

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 18 April at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

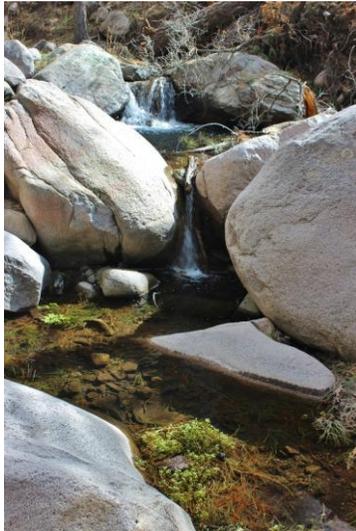
Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 27 April

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 27 April at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room

Hidden Waters Notebook: Three Rivers Creek

Three Rivers Creek drains the northwest slopes of Sierra Blanca in the Sacramento Mountains. Until recently, it was easily accessed via a trail from the Three Rivers campground about 8 miles east of Tularosa and the Three Rivers Petroglyph Site. About four months ago, the area was hit by a massive storm accompanied by high winds that knocked down many mature trees, including junipers at the lowest elevations and ponderosa pines further upstream. The windfalls are still there, partially or completely uprooted, or even snapped off close to the ground, strewn about like so many match sticks. A few years earlier, much of the lower portion



of the drainage was scoured and rearranged by massive flooding during the summer monsoons of 2008. Participants in my archeological field school that year



were awakened by the roar of the floods passing the petroglyph park and the sounds of boulders the size of basketballs crashing along the river bed. In the morning, we saw that mature ponderosa pines had been uprooted in the wilderness area and floated downstream nearly all the way to Hwy 54.

So, on my visit last month, I was curious to see whether Three Rivers Creek had recovered. First, the good news.

Three Rivers Creek has indeed recovered, and it is populated with many brook trout ranging from 6–12 inches in length. In years past, I only saw small rainbow trout in the lower reaches of the stream, so it

would seem the brookies were naturally transplanted from the headwaters during flooding. The water is clean, the stream bed is gravelly, and when I visited during mid-March, the water temperature at midday was 44 degrees. The aquatic insect fauna seems to be abundant and varied, including midges, at least two kinds of mayflies, some pretty large caddis, crane fly larvae and pupae, and aquatic worms (see photos). All these insects were collected with two quick dips of a small aquarium net, a recovery rate higher than I've ever had

in similar sampling efforts on the Rio Penasco. The brookies were so enthusi-



astic about taking my beadhead PT that I didn't even try imitations of the other insects. I encountered two other fly anglers on the creek just above the USFS parking lot, so



there are some other folks already getting reacquainted with the fishery.

Now the bad news... With all the broken and toppled trees, getting to the water can be a real challenge. In some places it is possible to work two or three substantial pools before ducking under or crawling over large tree trunks crisscrossing over one another. In other places, it is difficult to even identify the old trail, let alone follow it. About the first mile is manageable at present. Even in the areas where it is possible to reach the water, presenting the fly is a challenge. Note that I didn't call it "casting;" instead, dapping, swinging the fly, or using a bow-and-arrow cast or short side arm flip will be called for. I was using a March Brown 4wt rod that converts down to a 6 ft length, and there were still some areas that were

very tight. So, it seems that Three Rivers Creek offers plenty of opportunity to practice our small water skills. It will be even more challenging once the willows leaf out in a few weeks. I contacted the Lincoln National Forest office to see if they had plans to clear the trail. Trail repairs are scheduled for May, and will be conducted by Smokey Bear ranger district personnel and an Arizona Conservation Crew comprised of military vets, but for now, fishing Three Rivers Creek will require real bushwhacking.

Nevertheless, I'm still curious about the middle and upper portions of the creek, and I'll be out there again soon trying to find a way up the drainage. If any of you find it before I do, please let me know.

Don't forget to renew your New Mexico fishing licenses and club memberships before heading out to the water this month.



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters has had a great month and first quarter. The wounded Warrior Resilience program from Ft Bliss was again a great success thanks to all our volunteers. We had 16 soldiers fly tying on the 16th and 18 soldiers fishing on the 23rd of March. The Cowbelles once again had a great lunch/dinner for all. I estimate 50 troops and volunteers were served. Also the Cattlemen's Association has taken an active role in supporting PHW.



A donation of a heifer and processing of the heifer was donated by ranchers Wade and Jessie Berry. An estimated value of close to \$1,500. Thank you so much for your support. We would not be able to work with this group of soldiers if we did not have the support of Jim, the Cowbelles and all the MVFF volunteers.

We have a fly tying event at Ft Bliss on Friday April 8th and fishing at the lease on April 9th. I have limited the count to no more than 10. I will be looking for 3-4 volunteers to work with the group on Saturday April 9th. We also will have fly tying on April 27th at the Las Cruces VA Clinic.

Just to let you know that Project Healing Waters is in no way associated with the Wounded Warrior Program. Only 16% of donations are used for salary and overhead. Also all donations made in the local area go directly to our area Vets. This goes for cash donations and well as donations in kind.

Rod building is going great. We have 8 Vets building fly rods that I hope will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks to all my volunteers.

For more information about PHWFF see www.projecthealingwaters.org. Contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com if you wish to volunteer to help out.

MVFF Lady Anglers Trip

Rio Peñasco, April 14 - 17

Lease Reserved for Women

MVFF Lady Anglers will have another spring fishing weekend April 14 to 17. They will fish at the Mulcock Ranch on Friday 15th and fish the MVFF Lease waters on the Rio Peñasco Saturday April 16. There will be a sizable group fishing the Lease and men should not plan on fishing that day. Any woman member of MVFF is welcome to join them. For more information call Helen at 532-5668.

Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible future outings and would welcome suggestions from members. Where do you want to go? Let them know. If you have comments or suggestions for additional trips pass them to any of the Board members. Trips now in the planning stages are:

- May 3 - 7—trip to Lee's Ferry.
- April 14 - 17—trip to Lease by MVFF Lady Anglers. Contact Helen Zegona (532-5668) for info.
- Oct. 1 - 9 trip to Kodiak. Contact Tom Lightfoot (575-521-4546) for info.

Welcome New Members

Rick Pagan	Albuquerque, NM
Derrick & Leigh Ann Kallman	Alamogordo, NM
Kathy Dockery	Houston, TX

Jarrett & Connie Hines	Las Cruces, NM
Trevor & Amanda Bellows	Hobbs, NM
Thomas & Christine Salazar	Las Cruces, NM



Prince Nymph



Hook: TMC 3671 or standard 1XL nymph hook
Thread: brown 8/0
Tail: brown goose biots
Body: peacock herl
Rib: French gold tinsel or fine gold wire
Wing: white goose biots
Beard: wet fly hackle fibers, brown
Bead: brass, gold, optional
Weight: lead wire, optional



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 21, 2015

Submitted, John Kennedy, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the NMDG&F Conference Room by President David Carmichael. Board members present were David Carmichael, Jim Sorenson, Gary Mann, John Kennedy, Chuck Mueller, Bob Silver, Dennis Lanpher and Ray Rodriquez. Non-Board members in attendance were Ron Bellerose, Tom Wobbe, Jim Hulsey and Paul Turner.

1. The minutes of the February 15, 2016 Board meeting were approved as published in the March, 2016 issue of the newsletter.
2. The Treasurer reported a balance of approximately \$11,400. The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.
3. Tom Wobbe reported that the Club has approximately 336 members, and the Club is still growing. Over 100 members are couples. The membership rolls will be checked soon to eliminate the names of members who have not paid annual membership dues.
4. Ron Bellerose reported on Project Healing Waters. Ron recently returned from a PHW Conference in

Orlando, Florida. Topics discussed were well received and informative. The Conference was sponsored by a VA Grant. Ron found out that PHW directs only 16% of its revenues to salaries and overhead, and the remaining 84% goes to projects and needed supplies. On March 30 there will be fly tying for wounded warriors at the VA Clinic. On May 14 & 15 there are 2 days of fly tying and fishing at the lease for the Wounded Warriors Transition Team. Additional programs and trips will be planned.

5. The next stream improvement project at the lease will probably be towards the end of April.
6. The Kids Clinic is scheduled for April 2.
7. Meredith Campbell will be our speaker at the April General meeting.
8. There was a brief discussion concerning various Conservation groups which request the Club's support on various issues.

The next Board meeting will be April 18, 2016.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.



Quick Look Contact Information

2016 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Secretary:	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• Treasurer:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Position 4:	Ray Rodriquez (575) 520-5768
• Position 5:	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• Position 9:	Dennis Lanpher (575) 642-2946
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	membership@mvff.org

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund	
Market Value as of 30 June 2014	\$11,487

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund

The Norm Mabie Memorial 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 recipient of each scholarship is determined each April by the MVFF Board with the award being made for the fall semester.

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 "Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship Fund for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give consideration and help honor Norm.

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 LI-
CENSES 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, purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco, and participate in other Club activities such as a summer picnic, 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.

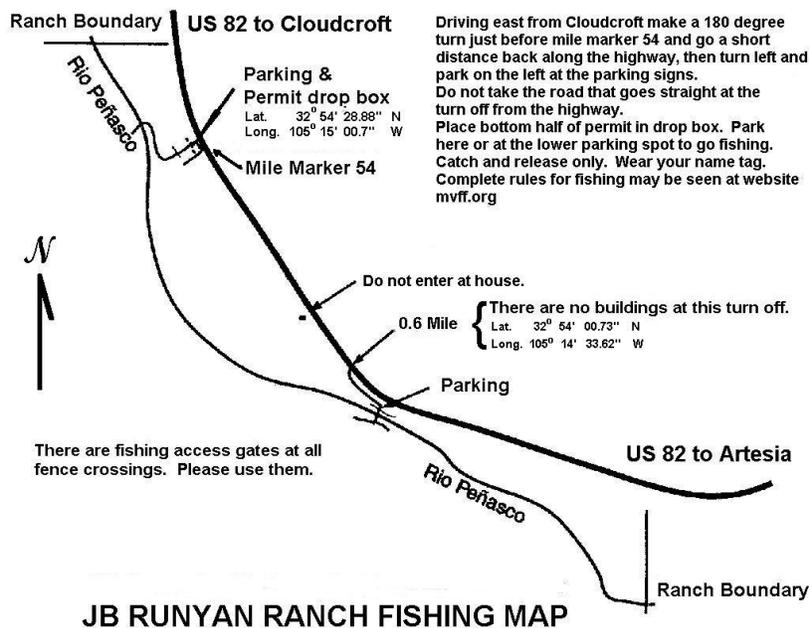
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880), Tom Wobbe (575-522-5437) and Donna Mabie (575-522-3810) 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. 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 Jim Hulsey. In addition, members can purchase a one-day, one-time permit for guests.

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.