



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

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Membership Meeting

There will be no MVFF general membership meeting in August. Many members will be fishing and the rest of them should be. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 15 August

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 15 August at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Liars and Tyers will not meet in August. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

President's Corner



David Carmichael
Club members who have been reading the newsletter regularly in recent months will have noticed that one of the themes of my writings has been the importance of

public lands to our sport of fly fishing. More specifically, I have suggested that we all need to remain vigilant in our efforts to preserve our public lands and to maintain our access to them. It seems that some citizens, even anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts, sometimes take our access to public lands for granted, failing to appreciate the wonderful gift they represent. The stewardship responsibilities implicit in this gift was addressed by Theodore Roosevelt more than 100 years ago:

We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people have ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune... So it is particularly incumbent on us to so act throughout our lives as to leave our children a heritage for which we will receive their blessings and not their curses. We have rights but we have correlative duties.
(Theodore Roosevelt, 1886)

The heritage to which Roosevelt was referring is the vast area of public lands, especially in the western United States, that the federal government holds in trust for the American people. He recognized that our wild lands are not to be enjoyed only by the rich (as is often the case in Europe) but by all of us. In a very real sense, the existence of open spaces and wild lands that are accessible to the public is central to our identity as Americans. Yet, there is a persistent and recently resurgent ideological threat to the maintenance of public lands in our own backyards. Indeed, even one of our New Mexico elected officials has sponsored legislation that would turn over federal lands to states or private entities, even though it is widely understood that doing so would lead to privatization. A number of media outlets have recently addressed the likelihood of privatization, including Trout Unlimited, The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Trust, Southwest Fly Fishing, and High Country

News. I'd like to take a somewhat different approach in considering what we wish our land management and access to be.

This summer, Miriam and I have a wonderful opportunity to visit Scotland for a family wedding. After the wedding, we will spend some time in the Highlands, near the legendary River Spey which offers some of the best salmon and trout angling in the world. I wish I could

say we will be fishing the Spey for a few days and catching a 20 lb. salmon, but at this writing I'm not even sure if we will be wetting a hook at all. Scotland, home of Spey casting, has relatively little public land; yes, there is fantastic fishing, but public access is very limited indeed.

Scotland contains about 30,000 square miles of land, about the same size as South Carolina. But, 432 people own half of the land; 16 people own about 10% of the country. Many families have been tenants for generations, as there is little land available in which to expand residential ownership. Public land amounts to 13.8% of the country, and that percentage includes Crown lands and the easements for highways, railroads and hydroelectric systems. In other words, rather little of the public lands are actually available to the public and suitable for fishing. If one wants to fish, it means becoming a member or a guest of a fishing club, or booking access to private waters.

To get an idea of the costs of accessing private water (most of the productive lakes and rivers), I looked up

the rates for club waters and private estates on the River Spey. If one purchases access through a club, the rates are about \$70 per day per rod. A season pass for a visitor runs \$770. This doesn't include any gear or guide services. The most desirable beats are on private estates, many of which host anglers and hunters who stay at the estate, or who purchase fishing access to the river. At Tulchan Estate, the rate for fishing

only is \$370 per rod per day, or \$2,215 per rod for a week. If one wishes to reserve an entire beat for a week, the cost is \$13,293. Access to both club and estate waters is



Andrea Carmichael watching trout in a Highland stream for which we did not have fishing access (2003)

often booked months in advance.

In comparison, public land holdings and access are far more available in much of the western United States. According to the US census, public lands comprise 39.8% of the country as a whole, with the highest percentage of federal lands (96%) occurring in Alaska. New Mexico and Colorado rank 9th and 10th with 47% and 43% public land respectively. Texas is essentially the reverse of Alaska, with only 4% public land and 96% private ownership. Not surprisingly, only 1% of Texas lands are available to sportsmen for hunting, often with a high cost of access... essentially the European pattern. In New Mexico, residents only pay about \$35 to fish public lands for a year, and non-residents only pay \$65 per year. Such access to quality resources is unheard of in many other countries, so we should cherish and defend our natural resources heritage.

Contrary to what one often hears from the politicians and the news media, the majority of citizens across the western United States are supportive of federal lands. In a poll recently published by the *Missoulian* newspaper (Missoula, Montana), 76% of the citizens polled in six western states, including New Mexico



Carmichael Burn (creek), southern Uplands, Lanarkshire (2003)

and Colorado, believe that federal lands help the economy of their regions, and the citizens of all those states favor federal management (over state or private). The majority of westerners (77%) approve of the BLM, USFS, NPS and US Fish and Wildlife agency efforts to manage public lands. Thus, the continued efforts to take lands away from federal management appear to be ideologically and politically motivated, and intended to benefit the few rather than the many, in defiance of what citizens actually want.

So, as we search for a place to fish in the Scottish Highlands, I hope all of you are out enjoying the many benefits of fly fishing and keeping an eye on those officials and elites who would like to diminish our access to that very special heritage represented by our public lands.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLYFISHING



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator

Project Healing Waters is in its summer slowdown pace with fly tying on the last Wednesday of the month at the local VA Clinic. We are planning a San Juan trip for 16–19 August. I will be out

of State from 28 July until 11 August and I do not take anything electronic with me, so I will be out of touch with all but my phone, a flip top that only makes and receives phone calls.

We have donated fly tying material and equipment that is available at really good deals (donations). I will have some of the items at the board meeting in August as well as the September club meeting and fly tying. All donations go to supporting our local Vets.

Sportsman's Warehouse opens on July 29 and I have talked to the manager and we will be having some fund raisers at the store soon after the opening. Manager is in full support of PHW.

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.

Rio Peñasco Fishing Report

Evan Classen – 7/17/16

Arrived at 6:15am yesterday (7/16/16), weather was nice and cool. Fished the canyon section for several hours. It was dead! Nymphed at all levels of the water column, switching flies frequently. We caught dozens of chubs but the trout didn't show themselves. We saw one other group of 3 fishermen in the upper canyon area, they arrived at approximately 8am. At 10 we moved down to the lower parking lot and walked down below the falls. The second pool below the plunge pool was full of nice trout and many chubs. The huge brown that normally lives in the plunge pool has moved down there and we had him come up and examine a size 10 Dave's hopper before

sinking down to the bottom of the pool. Landed 1 trout in 7 hours of fishing, very slow, was the closest I've come to being skunked in many years.



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:

- Sept. —Lady Anglers trip to the Gunnison area.
- Oct. 1-9—trip to Kodiak. Contact Tom Lightfoot (575-521-4546) for info.
- Nov. 3-6—Club trip to San Juan

Welcome New Members

Travis Epperson	Lubbock, TX
Mike Gomez	Lovington, NM
Elliott Goodwin	Lubbock, Tx
Steve & Kim Jensen	Alamogordo, NM
Donald Lewis	Mason, TX
Gordon Wells & Ciara Cusack	Cloudcroft, NM

MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

The Executive Board did not meet in July and therefore there are no minutes to report. The next meeting will be in August.

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.

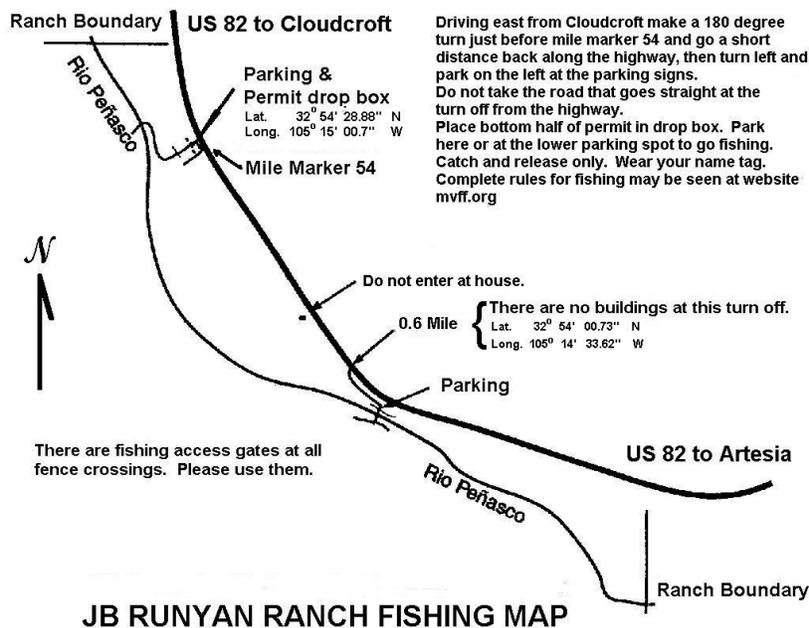
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.