

# Tale Waters

December 2008



**Mailing Address: MVFF, P.O. Box 2222, Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222**

**Website: [www.MVFF.org](http://www.MVFF.org)**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Membership Meeting .....                             | 1 |
| Executive Board Meeting .....                        | 1 |
| Liars & Tyers .....                                  | 1 |
| President's Corner .....                             | 1 |
| Project Healing Waters .....                         | 2 |
| Lease Stocked .....                                  | 2 |
| Annual Banquet .....                                 | 2 |
| Club Outings .....                                   | 3 |
| New Members .....                                    | 3 |
| Tying Instructions for <i>Foam Grasshopper</i> ..... | 4 |
| Calendar of Events .....                             | 4 |
| Fishing Report .....                                 | 5 |
| Ballot for Election of Board Members .....           | 6 |
| Board Meeting Minutes for November .....             | 7 |

## Membership Meeting

Monday, 8 December

The monthly membership meeting will be held on 8 December at 7:00 PM at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Randall Vallee will talk on Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. Coffee and cookies will be served.

## Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 15 December

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

## Liars and Tyers

Monday, 22 December

Liars and Tyers will meet Monday 22 December at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00 PM. The group will be tying the *Foam Grasshopper*. The tying session will be led by Tim Mack. Tim manages the ATF flyshop in El Paso and is an accomplished tyer. A photograph and recipe is

presented later in this newsletter. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies available for beginning tiers.



## President's Corner

Although I will be writing my last article as out-going president next year, I am going to discuss the status of MVFF and recent activities in this issue. I feel that MVFF is in good shape and will continue to provide activities that its members will enjoy in 2009 when Jeff Arterburn takes over as your new president. Our by-laws require that the president is elected by the Board of Directors and we have normally had the vice-president assume this role after spending one or more years in this capacity. We will have several openings available on the Board of Directors next year and I encourage members that are willing to serve on the board and attend our monthly meetings in Las Cruces contact me before the December 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting if you are interested. The officers elected by the board are automatic members of the new board, but we like to have five at-large board members. You will find a form for voting on new board members later in this newsletter so take the time to vote by email or call me if you cannot attend on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

We have an exciting program set for the Annual Awards Banquet on January 17<sup>th</sup> with a great raffle featuring several fly rods and reels. You will see more details about the banquet and related activities in this issue, but I strongly encourage you and your family to attend this event even if you can't participate in the flytying and casting sessions set for earlier in the day. If you only plan to attend the banquet, you should not feel obligated to donate the \$25/family optional donation to defray program expenses. We have many new members that have never attended our annual

banquet and it is certainly a family-friendly event with plenty of great food. I would like to know how many plan to attend so contact me by January 10<sup>th</sup> if possible so we can order enough BBQ and have seating set up before you arrive.

We have had over 30 new members join MVFF in the last two months and had a record of 54 daily permits used on the Rio Penasco in October. It looks like we will have nearly 300 daily permits used on the Rio Penasco this year, but the number of anglers per day was only four or five even in October. We currently have 197 individual or family paid memberships with most members coming from the Las Cruces and El Paso area, but many others from eastern New Mexico and Texas. My tenure as president has been enjoyable because the members are always willing to assist on club activities and duties. For example, 16 members assisted with the trout stocking on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 14 members helped with our first flyfishing outing on the Rio Penasco for the servicemen in our Project Healing Waters program on November 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be setting up a display at the grand opening of the Bosque State Park on the Rio Grande on December 13<sup>th</sup> so plan to attend if you can. We also hope to get more members actively involved in projects like the stream restoration projects being planned for Black Canyon Creek and the Rio Peñasco and the kid's fishing clinics. We will notify you about upcoming events by email and newsletter so watch for these notices.

Although I have let fishing slack off in November, you should remember that if you are too busy to go fishing, you are too busy.



On November 13<sup>th</sup> a group of 14 MVFF volunteers met the group of soldiers from Ft. Bliss in Alamogordo and escorted them to the Lease and assisted them in putting their new found fly fishing skills to use. They found that actual stream side flyfishing is considerably different from what they had imagined and they seemed to love it. The weather was great and several of the soldiers caught fish or had opportunities to catch fish. After fishing the Club

hosted a hamburger/hot dog cookout for the soldiers prior to their return to Ft. Bliss. Jim Ellett graciously offered the use of his grill and patio for the cookout. A couple of the soldiers decided to fish rather than eat.

These activities have proven to be tremendously helpful for these active duty personnel who have chosen to stay in active duty, yet are in rehabilitation to overcome the obstacles associated with their military service related disabilities.

MVFF members have donated their time to teach, but have found that the activities are rewarding to them also to see the wounded warriors enjoy learning a new sport and seeing the smiles on their faces.

See [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org) for additional information.

### Lease Stocked

Sixteen MVFF volunteers showed up at the Rio Peñasco on Sunday morning 16 November to assist in stocking. The fish truck arrived about mid morning and everyone grabbed a bucket and got busy. With so many volunteers stocking only took a couple of hours. Two hundred each of 5-inch brown trout and 6 to 8-inch rainbow trout were stocked.

After lunch many rigged their flyrods and took advantage of the free fishing allowed for members of a work party. Fishing was great.

### Scott Sanchez To Present At Annual Banquet & Conduct Workshops

Saturday, 17 January 2009

Our annual banquet will be Saturday, January 17, 2009 with Scott Sanchez, well known guide, fly tier, speaker, and teacher as the banquet speaker. Scott will also conduct workshops during the day on Saturday. Scott fishes and guides out of Jackson, WY, and is associated with Jack Dennis. He is recognized as an innovative fly tier, has written several books and numerous articles about fly fishing, and comes highly recommended by several club members.

There is a full schedule of workshops on the 17<sup>th</sup>. From 9:30 - 12:00 noon at the NM Dept. of Game & Fish conference room Scott will tie his flies, give pointers (bring your vises and materials), talk about when/how to use these flies, discuss entomology, etc.

For lunch the club will provide deli sandwiches. From 1:30-3:00pm, the activities will move to Alumni Pond at NMSU where Scott will demonstrate casting techniques (bring your fly rods), discuss how and when to use weighted lines, presentation tips, etc. The banquet will start at 6:00pm at St Paul's Methodist Church, which is where we had it last year. Spouses and children are invited. Scott will be the featured speaker. Scott's presentation at the banquet is geared towards family, and has been given rave reviews by other clubs. The club will provide BBQ brisket, chicken, sausage and drinks, with members asked to bring salads and desserts. A raffle will take place during the dinner. Prizes are being accumulated, and will include several high end rods built by club members and other goodies. Tickets and information will follow in a separate communication.

Workshops, lunch, dinner for the family, and an exciting presentation on fly fishing make for a pretty special day! A program such as this requires the club to incur additional costs, and so we are requiring a \$25 fee for participants of the workshop. This will also cover the banquet for non-members. There will

be no fee for MVFF members attending the banquet onlt. **WE NEED A HEAD COUNT** to comfortably accommodate everybody, so, **TODAY, PLEASE SEND A CHECK**, payable to MVFF, Box 2222, Las Cruces, NM, 88004-2222, marked "Banquet/Workshops". Let's make this event our biggest and best ever!

**Club Outings Planned**

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2009 and would welcome suggestions from members. Where do you want to go? Let us know. If you have comments or suggestions for additional trips pass them to George Sanders, (575) 527-5536, who has volunteered to chair the "Outings" committee.

**Welcome New Members**

- |                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Mike Buechter            | Alto, NM       |
| Barton Byars             | Ruidoso, NM    |
| Jack & Wyan King         | Alto, NM       |
| Herb & Judy Phifer       | El Paso, TX    |
| Raymundo & Carmen Rincon | El Paso, TX    |
| Carroll Sallaz II        | Las Cruces, NM |

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**Stocking - Fall 2008**



The crew



Christian, Brennan and Brian Townsend  
Members from Portales

### Foam grasshopper

The center of attention for the Liars and Tyers this month will be the *Foam Grasshopper*.

Grasshopper patterns do very well during late summer months and on through the fall. They have

been extremely effective this year at the Rio Peñasco lease. Many catches of 25 to 30 fish days have been reported.



- Hook:** TMC 5263 #8-12
- Thread:** color to match foam
- Body:** 2mm Foam (tan, yellow, olive, black or color of choice)
- Dubbing:** color to match foam
- Hackle:** brown, grizzly, or black to match the foam; brown for yellow, tan or olive
- Wing:** underwing pearl krystal flash
- Overwing:** elk hair natural or bleached
- Legs:** Sili Legs or round rubber color to match body or, blue or red to match naturals in late season



### MVFF Monthly Events Calendar

| Month     | Events  | Trips | General Club Meeting<br>Topic/Speaker                               | Clinics or Lease Projects  |
|-----------|---|-------|---|--|
| Nov.      | Liars & Tyers<br>24 Nov.<br><i>Deceiver</i>         |       | 10 Nov. "Qwestern Women in Waders" by Helen Zagona & Karen Dennison | 12 Nov. - PJHW meeting, 6:30pm at Sportsman's Warehouse<br>13 Nov. - PHW outing to lease.<br>16 Nov. - Stocking of Lease |
| Dec.      | Liars & Tyers<br>22 Dec.<br><i>Foam Grasshopper</i> |       | 8 Dec. - Randall to talk on Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.     |  |
| Jan. 2009 | Liars & Tyers<br>29 Jan.                            |       | No monthly membership meeting - Banquet instead.                    | 17 Jan. - Scott Sanchez Fly Fishing Clinic. And annual banquet.  |

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## Fishing Report

November 1, 2008

*The following report was filed by El Paso member David Carmichael. His fishing companion was Miriam Payne also of El Paso.*

It seems to be Indian Summer on the Rio Peñasco ... the temperatures were warmer than expected (mid to upper 70s) but there was a chill in the late afternoon breeze, and by sunset it was sweater weather. The water was normal flow and very clear, skies partly cloudy. There were BWO and trico hatches underway by midday, and we saw some small red dragonflies in mid afternoon, but much of the insect activity was still hoppers. As we pushed through the thoroughly dry streamside grass, droves of hoppers of several sizes and colors committed mass suicide by leaping into the trout feeding lanes. Yet, the bite seems to have slowed a bit over the past three weeks. The osprey we photographed last weekend perched in a dead tree eating a fish didn't make an appearance; perhaps it has moved further south in advance of the colder weather.

We saw 6 other anglers on the lease, including the Watts from Lubbock who were kind enough to photograph some of the action. This is more anglers than we've encountered on the lease waters before, but there was still plenty of action. Miriam and I combined for 26 fish on hopper/dropper combinations, and we had a couple of rises to a parachute Adams. Unlike our two visits last month, nearly all the fish were caught on the nymphs, either a flash back PT or a copper john; perhaps half a

dozen trout were hooked on the hoppers, brown, yellow and black/orange.

The weather was great and we were treated to a fantastic sunset, and we had two especially noteworthy catches that are worth reporting. Shortly after noon, I hooked a rainbow double: one on the hopper and another on the dropper at the same time. I saw both fish come off the bottom after the flies, nearly colliding in the process; the smaller (10-11") took the hopper while the chunky 15 incher slugged the dropper. With the fish pulling in different directions, the smaller one was able to release itself, but I landed the one on the dropper. Later in the afternoon after finding some nicks in my leader, I tied on a new one and switched to fluorocarbon, just in case there was a big one lurking under the bank somewhere. It was a fortunate choice. On my first cast with the new leader, I hooked into the largest fish I've caught in this region, a 21+ inch brown. It was hooked on a #16 flash back PT, and after it made four powerful runs and a couple of attempts to break me off on rocks, I finally netted the beauty. [I was using a March Brown Hidden Waters 9ft, 4wt rod, a seven piece travel/backpack rod that packs down to about 16 inches. I'm a field rep for March Brown, so if you're interested in seeing this or other models of their rods, you can contact me through the club.] I've attached a photo of the brown, and the beautiful sunset that finished off an extraordinary day.



Sunset over the Rio Peñasco



David Carmichael with his 21" birthday fish.

### Election of Board Members for 2009

It is once again that time of year when we elect a slate of board members to run the Club for the coming year.

All of the nominated candidates have volunteered to serve. Please mark your choices on the ballot below by checking the square in front of each name. If you or any of your friends are interested in a position then write in the name in the appropriate place and mail

the ballot to the address on the newsletter letter head or bring your marked ballot to the December membership meeting. The Board will certify the results at the Board meeting in December (which all members are invited to attend) and will elect new officers to take office at the Club banquet on 17 January 2009.

**Please vote for only nine members.**

The nine nominees receiving the most votes will constitute the new Board of Directors.

| POSITION        | √ | NOMINATED CANDIDATE  |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| Executive Board |   | Paul Turner          |
| Executive Board |   | Jeff Arterburn       |
| Executive Board |   | Donna Mabie          |
| Executive Board |   | Gary Mann            |
| Executive Board |   | George Sanders       |
| Executive Board |   | Tom Wobbe            |
| Executive Board |   | Bob Silver           |
| Executive Board |   | George Thomas        |
| Executive Board |   | Randall Vallee       |
| Executive Board |   | (write in candidate) |
| Executive Board |   | (write in candidate) |

**MVFF Board Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 17, 2008

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order at 7:05pm in the NMDG&F conference room with Paul Turner presiding.

In attendance: Paul Turner, Jim Hulsey, Tom Wobbe, Blaine Goss, Jeff Arterburn, Randall Vallee, Vickie Vallee, George Sanders, Bob Silver and Gary Mann.

Absent: Donna Mabie

1. Minutes of the October Board Meeting as published in the November newsletter were corrected so that item 8 read "The New Mexico Environment Dept. wants the club's help and Paul will know more after the meeting with Matt Shultz on Oct. 29." The minutes were then approved as corrected.
2. The Treasurer's report presented by Gary Mann was approved. The Report shows the Club to have a balance of \$11,896.
3. Turner reported on his meeting with Matt Shultz, New Mexico Environment Dept., concerning possible stream restoration projects. One project in which the Club would be most interested would be restoration along the Black Canyon Creek in the Gila Mtns. Turner also reported that approx. \$800 is still available for rehab projects on the Rio Peñasco.
4. The Project Healing Waters fishing trip was reported to have been a great success with 14

volunteers showing up to assist 10 soldiers in their first fly fishing attempt.

5. Gary Mann reported on the status of the various efforts for the annual banquet to be held on 17 January. Scott Sanchez will conduct a clinic during the day and will speak at the banquet that night.
6. Tom Wobbe reported on fishing pressure on the lease using data taken from analyzing the permit stubs placed in the drop box at the site. He also reported that the Club has 197 paid members.
7. The stocking of the Rio Peñasco went well with 16 volunteers helping to stock 200 5-inch brown trout and 200 6 to 8-inch rainbow trout.
8. A thousand copies of the Club's brochure are to be printed as present supplies are almost depleted. Jim Hulsey will see that this is done.
9. As time permits Jim Hulsey will coordinate with Randall Vallee to add a page on the MVFF Website for *Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing*.
10. A discussion of the coming election of board members was held. Most of the present members are willing to serve another year if elected. Club by-laws concerning the election were reviewed.
11. Potential fishing trips for the coming year were discussed. Nothing definite was decided.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

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**Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing**



**Quick Look Contact Information**

| 2008 Officers of the Club               |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Officers</b>                         |                               |
| • <b>President</b>                      | Paul Turner (575) 523-6880    |
| • <b>V-Pres.</b>                        | Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773 |
| • <b>Secretary</b>                      | Donna Mabie (575) 522-3810    |
| • <b>Treasurer</b>                      | Gary Mann (575) 521-7793      |
| <b>Board Members</b>                    |                               |
| • <b>Position 1</b>                     | Blaine Goss (575) 522-1981    |
| • <b>Position 2</b>                     | Randall Vallee (575) 373-9470 |
| • <b>Position 3</b>                     | Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437      |
| • <b>Position 4</b>                     | Bob Silver (575) 522-6325     |
| • <b>Position 5</b>                     | George Sanders (575) 527-5536 |
| <b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b> |                               |
| • Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880             | newsletter@mvff.org           |

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund</b> |                 |
| Principle Account                  | \$10,930        |
| Operating Account                  | 0               |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>\$10,930</b> |

**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.

**Bamboo Rod Repair**

Club member Karen Erickson is interested in working on old bamboo rods. If you have one that needs repairs give Karen a call at (575) 524-7729.

**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](mailto:membership@mvff.org).

**Angler's Nook**

Donna's Shop is open as usual. Please contact her at (575) 522-3810 for your fishing and tying supplies. She also has membership information and fishing permits.

**Club members receive a 33% discount on most items at the Angler's Nook.**

**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. See the MVFF website for purchase.





### 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.

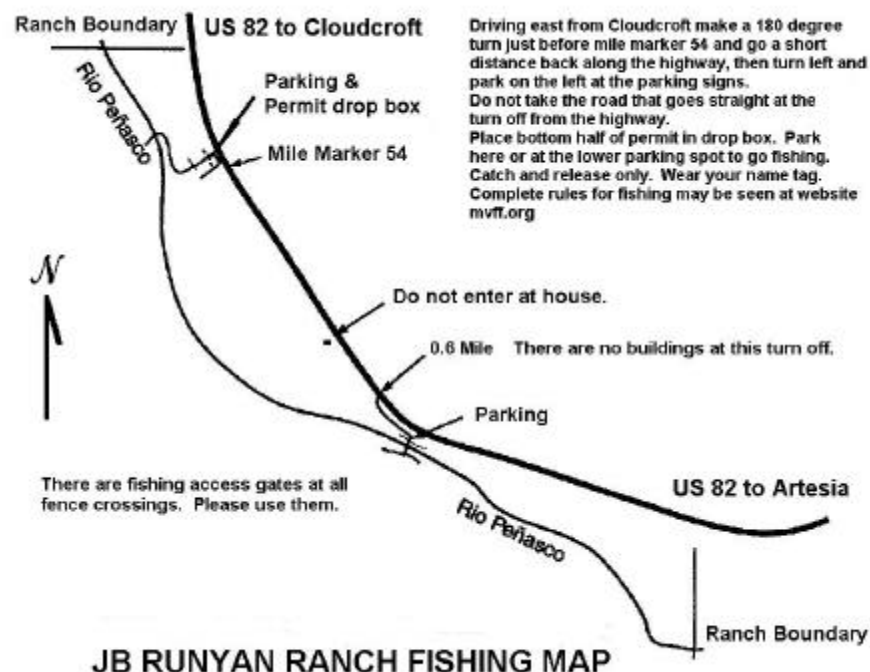
|         |       |            |
|---------|-------|------------|
| 1 Year  | \$20  | Individual |
|         | \$25  | Family     |
| 3 Years | \$50  | Individual |
|         | \$60  | Family     |
| Life    | \$400 | Individual |
|         | \$500 | Family     |

### Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from any of the Club Officers or Board Members and are also available at the *Angler's Nook* (575-522-3810) in Las Cruces and the ATF fly shop in El Paso (915-225-0570.) 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 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 out of town 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 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.