

Tale Waters

JUNE 2005



A Federation of Fly Fishers Club

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

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our membership level in order to receive bulk mailing for the newsletter, stock the lease, make San Juan trips, hold picnics, raffles and other club activities. Please take a few minutes and mail in your renewal so that your club remains a viable and stable organization.

Several members, including myself, are planning another trip to Kodiak Island for the Silver Salmon fishing in September. The excitement is building as the fly tying of those bright colored salmon flies have begun and visions of a 30" salmon taking the fly, with each tied. Hopefully, there will be some big fish tales to hear about in October.

Several club members are planning out of state fishing trips in the coming months, so we should have some good fish stories to hear about later. If you have plans and make a successful fishing trip, most other club members would enjoy hearing about your success, so take a few minutes and write up a brief review of your trip and send in a fishing report, along with a few pictures to the webmaster or e-mail president@mvff.org.

Tightlines,
Tom

No Meeting in June

There will be no general membership meeting in June. The Board will meet on 13 June instead of their regular date.

President's Corner

Remember, it's a dry heat, as we always say about the New Mexico high heat days! So, even though we have had several 100+ days, it will be cooler on the streams. We have had several good fishing reports from MVFF members who have been fishing the Rio Peñasco Lease. We stocked the stream last month; however several of the reports have been of fish being caught that are larger than the stockers, so why not give it a try.

We have several members who have signed up to go to the San Juan on June 24-26. It could be great fishing, as by then the 5,000 cfs flows should be well over, and the San Juan trout will have rested and be eager to take a fly. Take a look at the websites www.JFLY4TROUT.COM and WWW.CUSTOMFLYS.COM to see current river conditions. If you plan to go, please contact Tom Wobbe via president@mvff.org or call 522-5437 or 649-0388, leave a message if no answer.

We still have many members who have not renewed their memberships, that were due March 31. We need to maintain

Use of piscicides in NM streams

Editor's Note: On 19 May Dr. Paul Turner, representing MVFF, attended a meeting in Governor Richardson's office to discuss the use of antimycin in NM streams. The following is his report on the meeting.

I attended the meeting to discuss the Commission's ban on the use of antimycin for recovery efforts for native trout as a representative of the Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers, Federation of Fly Fishers, and Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen and member of the Gila Trout Recovery Team. This meeting was attended by Gov. Bill Richardson, Ned Farquhar, Bruce Thompson (Director, NM Dept. of Game and Fish), Joanna Prukop (Sec., Dept. of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources), Oscar Simpson and Jeremy Vesbach (Pres. and Exec. Dir., NM Wildlife Federation), and Norm Seigel (NM Trout), Bill Schudlich and Bill Reily (Trout Unlimited) and myself. We discussed the issues and concerns about the "ban" on the use of piscicides in relation to its negative effect on the recovery programs for Gila and Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

Based on instructions to Director Thompson from Governor Richardson, I believe this problem will be alleviated by the

time of the July Game Commission meeting. Gov. Richardson asked Thompson to work with the Chairman of the Commission to develop a policy for the judicious use of chemicals in efforts to recover native trout. The obvious intent of the Governor's statements was to allow the use of antimycin for the second "clean up" treatment in the West Fork of the Gila River above the waterfall downstream from the mouth of White Creek in a timely fashion before the end of the summer. Hopefully it will not be necessary to try electrofishing as a complete eradication method. Repeated electrofishing can be used as control methods but has been shown to be unsuccessful in eliminating all surviving fish except in very simple, small environments. Considering the brushy nature and amount of in-stream cover in sections of the West Fork and its tributaries, it would be impossible for electrofishing to be successful even after spending over \$100,000 in time and expenses in a serious effort.

Club Trip to the San Juan

The club is planning a trip to the San Juan River on 24—26 June. The trip was postponed from the originally planned dates because of the high volume of water (5,000 cfs) being released from Navajo dam by the Bureau of Reclamation. Present plans call for the flows to be gradually reduced beginning on 15 June. It is not clear what the flow rate will be while we are there, but should be low enough to allow wading and fishing. Might be a good idea to have a wading staff though. The San Juan has needed a good flushing for sometime and everyone expects the fishing to be great once the water goes down some.

The Club will not be hiring guides for this trip. That is reserved for the fall trip, scheduled for October.

There will be a potluck dinner on Saturday the 25th at the pavilion in Pine Creek campground. This is the same one we have used several times in the past. The Club will furnish the main course, probably barbecue, and everyone should bring a side dish or dessert. We will start eating at 7 p.m.

Since this is a Club sponsored event using club funds, attendees should be paid-up members. This is a great opportunity for all you new members to come out, meet some of the folks and have a good time.

For planning purposes we need to get a rough idea how many are going to attend. If you plan on being there let Tom Wobbe know.

Gila Trout

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a proposal to reclassify the Gila trout from endangered to threatened. The proposal calls for the service to work with New Mexico and Arizona to develop rules for limited fishing in areas that would not compromise Gila trout restoration.

The agency will accept public comments through July 15 and will hold a public meeting at 7 p.m. June 29 in Silver City.

The proposal is available on the internet at <http://ifw2es.fws.gov/NewMexico> or by calling (800) 299-0196.

Fly Casting Clinic

Each fall the MVFF conducts a fly casting clinic if there is enough interest. The clinics are held at NMSU's Alumni Pond so that water will add realism to the instruction, i.e. the drag on the line as it is lifted from the water. A clinic is planned for this fall, September or October prior to the San Juan trip, if there is sufficient interest.

If you would like to attend this clinic please contact the instructor, Richard Keding, at 382-7498. The fee will be \$15 for members and \$35 for non-members. \$20 of the non-member fee is applied to a membership in the Club.

MVFF 2005 Scholarship Recipient

Last month it was announced that the MVFF Board of Directors had selected Justin Mapula as the recipient of the MVFF scholarship for the Fall Semester of 2005. Since that time a photo of Justin accepting the award has become available and is shown below.



Club member Dr. Paul Turner presents Justin with the MVFF scholarship award.

Liars and Tiers

Liars and Tiers will meet Thursday 30 June at the New Mexico Game and Fish offices starting at 7:00 PM. The group will be tying Blue-Wing Olive comparadun type flies. This is a standard dry fly which is useful on every stream in the west. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies available for beginning tiers.

Quick Look Contact Information**2005 Officers of the Club****Officers**

- **President** Tom Wobbe (505) 522-5437
- **V-Pres.** Paul Turner (505) 523-6880
- **Secretary** Jeff Arterburn (505) 524-0773
- **Treasurer** Al Trompler (505) 532-5668

Board Members

- Richard Keding (505) 382-7498
- Bob Pridgen (505) 526-9132
- George O'Connor (915) 584-9318
- Bob Silver (505) 522-6325
- Jim Hulsey (505) 524-1880

Newsletter Editor

- Jim Hulsey (505) 524-1880

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined MVFF since the last newsletter:

Marc Robert Las Cruces, NM
 Walter Stapp Las Cruces, NM
 Ken Wall Fairfax Station, VA

Norm's Shop is Open

Norm's Shop is Open as usual. Please contact Donna at 522-3810 for your fishing and tying supplies. She also has membership information, fishing permits and extra newsletters.

During the month of June all hackles will be reduced by 25% and all other in stock items by 10% for Club members.

Private Fly Tying Lessons

If you are interested in learning how to tie flies, Joseph Lopez would like to give private fly tying lessons at Norm's Shop. Please call Donna Mabie at 522-3810, and she will help you get in touch with him to work out the arrangements and cost. Joseph is a club member and avid fly fisherman. Norm taught Joseph to tie flies and build rods when he was a young boy. Joseph just recently moved back to the area. Give him a try!

Norm Mabie Endowment Fund

The scholarship has been named in honor of Norm Mabie. The NMSU Foundation will be handling the checks for the Club. We plan to deposit the donations until we have accumulated \$10,000 so that a permanent endowment at New Mexico State University can be created. Until that time when the endowment has been established, MVFF will continue to provide an annual scholarship from MVFF funds. Help us raise the fund. Please bring a check to the next meeting or mail a check to the Club. 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." 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.

Presently the fund contains \$4,245. We are doing fairly well but still have a long way to go.

Useful Websites for Fishing in NM

www.flyfishnm.com

Fishing northern New Mexico watersheds.

www.ifly4trout.com

Mike Mora's website for the San Juan.

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 print that is 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.

Newsletter on Website

Each month the *Tale Waters* is placed on the MVFF webpage (www.mvff.org), usually several days prior to being mailed, in Adobe Acrobat format. If you wish to view it there you have the advantage of seeing it earlier and in color.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP - DUE MARCH 31
And don't forget to renew your NM fishing license

Spinney Reservoir Fishing Trip

Steve Lewis and Randy Hulsey

Editor's Note: Club members Steve Lewis (Elbert, CO) and Randy Hulsey (Colorado Springs, CO) fished Spinney Reservoir earlier this spring. Here is the first installment of their account of the trip. The final episode will be presented next month.

Fishing the first few days after opening day at Spinney Reservoir is again a celebrated event. The drought years and an overpopulation of Northern Pike wreaked havoc with the celebrated trout of this widely-recognized Colorado Gold Medal trout water for several years. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has been trying various strategies to alleviate the Pike problem and seem to be having some success in this area. Unfortunately, they are not having much luck with the weather. Two of the most promising tactics to prevent immediate consumption of the stocked trout are to wait until just before the reservoir is iced over to stock much larger trout than usual. The metabolic level of the pike has begun to slow down because of the colder water and they do not follow the stocking boat to feed on the newly released trout. The other is to allow unlimited catch and keep of the pike in the reservoir. This second one we like a lot. The timing of the opening day is critical to the number of fish seen in the water and number of fish caught. Each year the timing of the opening and the attempted spawning are difficult to achieve because they will not open the reservoir until it is ice

free because of the safety factor for the people that choose to fish from boats.

But, enough of the background, back to our first day of fishing at Spinney. We arrived an hour or two before the access gates were opened to allow entry of the masses. We discovered that even though we arrived about two hours early, there were about 80-90 vehicles in front of us. Some had arrived about 7:00 P.M. the evening before opening day. Before the gates were finally opened about 6:00 A.M. approximately 125-150 vehicles were in the line. We slept/relaxed for about an hour before rigging up for the mad rush for the shoreline and the hundreds of fish we anticipated we would see cruising the shoreline attempting to spawn. Before everyone decides to kick us out of the club for trying to catch these "spawning" fish, please understand that this is stillwater fishing and with no flowing water to support the attempts to spawn by these magnificent fish, the spawn will be unsuccessful because the eggs will not have enough oxygenated water flow for the eggs to survive. At the magic moment of opening the gates at sunrise it was kind of like the old TV program that showed the would-be land owners in their wagons and on horseback scrambling off to stake out land claims in the newly opened western lands. Well, opening day at Spinney is not much different. You get there early, race to a parking spot and stake out a few feet of shoreline and hope your neighbors are friendly and cooperative. ----To be continued----



Steve (left) and Randy with a couple of nice ones.

The Trilene Knot

This month we present another knot that is useful to the flyfisher. The Trilene knot, sometimes called the Berkley Trilene knot, is a strong, reliable connection that resists slippage and premature failures. This knot can be used to join tippet to hook, although tippets larger than 12-lb test produce knots that are hard to tighten.

Hook knots are stronger when the line has been passed twice through the eye of the hook, where the size of both the eye and line allow.

To become proficient at tying this knot start by using 10 or 12 pound test line, take these instructions, sit quietly in a chair and practice. Be careful with hooks. You may consider cutting the point from a hook to practice with just to eliminate the chance of hooking yourself.

Once you can tie the knot without looking at the instructions, tie it ten times per evening for a week. Sit in front of the television and practice. Quickly, you will develop your own way of twisting the line and making loops that work best for you. Then a couple of days before a trip, refresh your self.

1



Run end of line through eye of hook and double back through the eye a second time.

2



Loop around standing part of line 5 or 6 times. Thread tag end back between the eye and the coils as shown.

3



Wet the line and tighten knot with a steady, even motion without hesitation. Trim tag end leaving about 1/4 inch.

Product Review

Closed Cell foam Strike Indicators

A good strike indicator can help you catch more fish. It allows you to judge what your flies are doing under the water and it allows you to adjust the flies to the depth the fish are feeding. A hunk of macramé yarn seems to work well except when its windy. But, a new type of indicator has come to my attention just before a trip to the San Juan. It is a small cylinder of what appears to be closed cell rubber similar to neoprene rubber that a wet suit is made from. There are two sizes. The smallest is about the size of an eraser of a Number 2 pencil. The larger, is about the size of the tip of your index finger. They come in a variety of colors. I like the two-tone in darker colors. In March, I made a trip to the San Juan and tried the small indicator. I liked the way it floated and the way it cast. One problem of some non-yarn type indicators is that they will slide down your line while you are casting. These indicators have small rubber loop (see the picture) that seems to grab the line and by making a double loop around the indicator head, I had no problem keeping the indicator in place and it was easy to

adjust when I needed to change the depth. Donna Mabie at Nom's Shop and Tom Prestidge at the ATF shop in El Paso have these items in stock. They come in bags of four for \$3.95.

Bob Silver



2005 MVFF Monthly Events Calendar*

Month	Events	Trips	General Club Meeting Topic/Speaker	Clinics or Lease Projects
January	Liars & Tiers 27 Jan.		22 Jan. 6 pm MVFF Banquet & Raffle, Featured speaker - Dutch Salmon	NM Trout Conclave - Jan 15 Albuquerque, NM Sandia Prep School
February	Liars & Tiers 24 Feb		14 Feb. Alaska Fishing with Doc Warner	Peñasco Improvement Project
March	Liars & Tiers 31 Mar. Wooly Worm		14 Mar. Yucatan Fishing with Al Trompler	Peñasco Improvement Project NM Trout Fly Tying Symposium- Mar 26, Sandia Prep School, Albuquerque
April	Liars & Tiers 20 Apr. Elk Hair Caddis		11 Apr. Fishing the San Juan with Jude Duran	Fish stocking at Lease Kids Fishing Clinic-April 23
May	Liars & Tiers 26 May Prepping for San Juan		9 May Dr. Colleen Caldwell on Whirling Disease	
June	Liars & Tiers 30 Jun.	San Juan Trip Jun 24-26	No general membership meeting.	
July	Liars & Tiers 28 Jul.		No general membership meeting.	
August	Liars & Tiers 17 Aug. (Wed)		8 Aug. Prepping for the San Juan	
September	Liars & Tiers 29 Sep.		No general membership meeting.	Sept. 10 Annual Picnic & Raffle
October	Liars & Tiers 27 Oct.	San Juan Trip Oct. 7-9	10 Oct.	<i>Casting Clinic</i>
November	Liars & Tiers 16 Nov. (Wed.)		14 Nov.	<i>Fish Stocking</i>
December	Liars & Tiers 29 Dec.		12 Dec.	

* **Bold text** in table means confirmed and *Italics text* means tentative

Membership and Lease Information

Please contact any of the Club Officers or Board Members to obtain a fishing permit for \$20.00 per day. Student permits (12 or over) cost only \$12.00 per day. 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 Hulse. 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.
Attn: Membership
P.O. 2222, Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222
Membership Application
(Please print clearly)

NAME: _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Membership Status: (check one) Regular (\$20) _____ Family (\$25) _____

Membership Status: (check one) Renewal _____ New _____

What would you like to get out of belonging to the Club?

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 1136
LAS CRUCES, NM

Next Meeting:

New Mexico Game and Fish Office
2715 Northrise Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico
(next door to the Peter Piper Pizza store on the feeder road of Highway 70)

There will be no monthly meeting in June.

Directions from I-25:

- Exit Del Rey Blvd and follow the lane for Del Rey.
- At the Del Rey traffic intersection make a right.
- Go to the next traffic intersection and make a left at the light onto Northrise Dr.
- You should see Piper Pizza on your left and the next building is the New Mexico Game and Fish Building, 2715 Northrise Drive