

Tale Waters

MAY 2005



A Federation of Fly Fishers Club

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

Website: www.MVFF.org

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May Program

Dr. Colleen Caldwell, Assistant Fisheries Unit Leader for the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, will present a talk on research on whirling disease transmission that has been completed at the aquatic laboratory in the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences. The title of the presentation is "Susceptibility of Rio Grande cutthroat trout to experimentally induced infection with *Myxobolus cerebralis*" by Colleen Caldwell and Robert J. DuBey.

President's Corner

MVFF Members have been quite active with the many activities that have been happening with the club. We had our largest attendance meeting in several years for Jude Duran's presentation at the April meeting. What an outstanding presentation it was, with Jude's power-point presentation along with his explanation of the many technical aspects of nymph fishing in simple, easy to understand terms. If you missed it, you missed a truly great presentation!

Several club members made the trip to the Rio Peñasco Lease to stock 325 trout in the stream. It's

always a fun trip to see the lively trout swim to a new found freedom, just waiting to hit member's flies. If you missed out, make a mental note to participate during the next Rio Peñasco stocking.

Our monthly fly tying, Liars & Tiers, sessions have been going very well, with great leadership from Tom Korsmo and regular input from many members. If you can work these fun sessions into your schedule, you will find them both enjoyable, and interesting whether you are an experienced tier or just a beginner, so drop in for the upcoming sessions. See the calendar for the dates.

The Kids Fishing Clinic was a rousing success with over 60 kids and their parents attending, to learn the enjoyment we all have with fishing. The excitement and energy that the kids have, makes one remember those early years of learning to fish. A big thank you for the participation from MVFF members, who came to help with this great event.

Don't forget our next San Juan trip coming up on June 24-26th. We will have a sign up sheet at the May meeting or you may e-mail president@mvff.org or call me at 522-5437 or 649-0388 if you plan to join in. We plan to have a pot-luck dinner, Saturday evening at 6PM at the picnic shelter with the club furnishing barbecue and members bringing a pot-luck dish. Guides are not reserved, however, less experienced members will be able to fish with more experienced members during this trip or you may want to reserve your own guide.

Don't forget to send in your membership dues as all memberships expired March 31. Thanks to those who have sent in your renewal membership.

Tight lines,
Tom

Kids Fishing Clinic

The Annual Kids Fishing Clinic sponsored by MVFF, New Mexico Game & Fish, and this year's addition,

Wal-Mart, took place Saturday, April 23 at the Aggie Alumni pond on the NMSU campus.

This year approximately 60 kids participated along with their parents, 15 MVFF members, six members of the NMSU Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and several representatives of the NMG&F and NM Parks Depts. It all made for a large crowd and everyone had a great time.

After each kid registered they were sent to a series of learning stations. Learning stations this year consisted of regulations, fish guts (anatomy), fish identification, fly tying, fish prints, knots and boat safety. After the kids went through all of the stations they were issued a fishing rod and reel and then went to the casting clinic. After graduating from the casting clinic they were baited up and sent to the pond to catch a whopper. Unfortunately, few fish were taken. NMG&F had stocked the pond with 80 pounds of trout the previous Monday, but they just weren't biting. The weather was a little unsettled with a front moving in, so perhaps that had something to do with it. Following the fishing everyone dined on pizzas and soft drinks supplied by Domino's Pizza and MVFF. The last event of the day was the awarding of door prizes to those lucky kids who had their tickets drawn from the jar. Prizes consisted of fishing gear donated by Wal-Mart.

Rio Peñasco Stocked

Members of the Club met at the Lease on the Rio Peñasco Saturday, 16 April, for a fish stocking work party. Bill Parker, owner of the hatchery, met the group about noon and they proceeded to stock approximately 325 8- to 10-inch rainbow trout. The fish were scattered all the way from the northern boundary down stream to where irrigation water is being diverted below the lower bridge. The fish looked to be in great shape and should be well acclimated by now. The water was clear but somewhat low because of irrigation going on upstream. After the stocking, a few members fished for a while. The fishing was great but the catching was a little tough. The weather was a little unsettled and changed every few minutes, but there was a good blue wing olive hatch during most of the day. Inspection of the caddis cases showed that they are

just about ready to emerge and probably are doing so by now.

Members who participated were Tom Wobbe, Paul Turner, Bob Silver, Jim Hulsey, Tom Morris, Donna Mabie and Gary Mann.

Rio Peñasco Improvement Project

Club members made a trip to the stream Saturday, 16 April, to stock trout and plant the remaining containerized black willows that didn't get planted last month. Most of them were planted near the diversion for the downstream irrigation channel.

The good news is that a high percentage of the bareroot plantings have already started leafing out. It appears that the leafout on the peachleaf willow, chokecherry and red-osier dogwood is over 95%. It is harder to tell the percentage for the cottonwoods because they came from three different sources. It is known that the cuttings from Burn Lake have leafed out well because they were recognizable. Other cottonwoods that were from cuttings along the Rio Grande were planted higher on the bank and many had not leafed out yet, but may still do so since it has only been a little over a month since they were planted. It appears that short term survival has been excellent, but until the growing season is over we won't have a true feel for the relative success of our efforts. It is safe to say that even 25-50 % survival will change the appearance of the stream dramatically in the future. Since fencing out the livestock, streamside grasses and other herbaceous vegetation are getting taller than in the past and there are substantial in-stream macrophytes developing along with filamentous algae in the water.

The baffles haven't had much impact yet because there haven't been any flood events. Construction methods will probably have to be modified for the two remaining baffles because of the rock layer that is only a foot or so below the surface. T-posts may be tried if they can be driven through the rock layer. Another alternative is to use large boulders if a good nearby source can be found and the use of suitable equipment to move them can be arranged.

MVFF 2005 Scholarship Recipient

The MVFF Board of Directors selected Justin Mapula as the recipient of the MVFF scholarship for the Fall

Semester of 2005. Justin is the incoming vice-president of the NMSU Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and has a 3.90 GPA in the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences. He also runs on NMSU's Cross Country Team and works for Dr. Wiebke Boeing, the new Fisheries faculty member at NMSU. He and five other fisheries students assisted with the Kid's Fishing Clinic.

New Mexico Game & Fish

Aquatic Research Education Prog.

Kevin Holiday who is the NM Game & Fish Aquatic Resource Coordinator made a short presentation at the April meeting. He was seeking volunteers for a special program that is being set up for fishing and aquatic educational clinics to be conducted for NM educators and students to get them better acquainted with the resources available in New Mexico. The goal is to provide information that may used in the classroom to further educate students about how to protect and preserve our streams, forests and other natural resources.

Volunteers are needed from various fishing clubs throughout the State to assist in the clinics. Several Club members volunteered to donate 16 hours a year to help with the program and to represent the MVFF, primarily in the southern part of the state. Each

volunteer will be recognized with a special patch for their fishing vest and the satisfaction of helping out on this program.

Liars and Tiers

Liars and Tiers will meet Thursday 26 May at the New Mexico Game and Fish offices starting at 7:00 PM. The group will be tying San Juan type flies at the May session to get ready for the Club trip to the SJ in June. RS-2's and thread larva will be the order of the day, just think small. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies available for beginning tiers.

Welcome New Members

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

- Nick Armano Albuquerque, NM
- Richard Buchanan Las Cruces, NM
- Greg Butler Las Cruces, NM
- Dr. Edward Hernandez Las Cruces, NM
- Jack Martin Swarthmore, PA
- Guy Pearce Anthony, TX
- Marc Robert Las Cruces, NM
- Dutch Salmon Silver City, NM
- Juan Tristan El Paso, TX
- Kara Waeckerlin Albuquerque, NM



Kid's Fishing Clinic

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

- Bob Silver (505) 522-6325

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 \$3,725. We have a long way to go.

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 May all hackles will be reduced by 25% and everything else by 15% 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!

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.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP - DUE MARCH 31

And don't forget to renew your NM fishing license

Floating the Gila

Editor's note: Club member Paul Turner recently made a float trip on the Gila River. Here is his account of the adventure.

Ron Hover, Dich Spall and I finished our float trip on the 40-mile reach of the Gila River in the Gila Wilderness on April 6th. We started the float on April 1st after spending the previous night at the bunkhouse at the Game and Fish Department's Heart Bar Ranch (it was 19 degrees when I got up so being inside was nice). Marshall Conway, a retired Game and Fish employee, moved my van back to the Heart Bar after we started our trip. Ron and Dick drove down to NM from Idaho on March 30 and 31. We met at Cliff, NM and left Dick's vehicle at the takeout on the Gila River at the mouth of Mogollon Creek before driving up to Gila Hot Springs area, about a 2½ hour drive over some curvy mountain roads.

Ron wanted to use his pontoon boat for the trip and Dick and I used my canoe. Because of its higher profile and wider nature, the pontoon boat was considerably slower than my canoe so we had to go somewhat slower than I had expected. The advantage of the pontoon boat was that it was able to go slower down many of the blind channels and make adjustments in its position in the often narrow channel more easily than we could in my canoe. It was also more stable than my canoe because of its wider stance and the outrigger effect of the two pontoons. The next time I float this stretch I plan to rig up some decking to reduce the chance of water coming in over the canoe's sides when we go through standing waves or get tipped over partways when we hit rocks or limbs in the water in the rapids and runs. Another disadvantage of the pontoon boat is its wider nature makes it difficult to make it through narrow chutes between boulders or trees in the channel.

We found out that we had to go down rapids first in the canoe or give Ron a bigger headstart because we moved more rapidly and would sometimes not have enough room to pass him in critical spots. We managed to have this problem the first day and almost tipped the canoe before we learned our lesson. Because the canoe was so much faster, we usually would stop regularly and wait for Ron to catch up to make sure he didn't have a problem behind us that we wouldn't know about. We often would get over a ¼ mile or more ahead very quickly in faster sections so we had a lot of waiting time to check out blind sections with obvious potentially dangerous sections where the stream ran into bluffs or places where the channel went through sections where a big February flood had cut new channels through

the riparian vegetation. Because of the waiting time we had, I would regularly check out blind or tricky looking reaches on foot before Ron would arrive. We lined through many stretches because we had the time to do it and it was often a safer way to go. We found one badly damaged aluminum canoe pinned on some boulders in a rapids the second day out. The fellows in this canoe had lost most of their gear and had to walk back out to where we had started about 8-10 miles upriver about a week before we floated the river.

The reason to be especially careful of damaging your canoe is obvious when you realize that there is no way to get out but to walk/wade up or down the river to the starting point or the takeout. Considering that this could be up to a 20-mile hike with whatever gear you could carry or hadn't lost in a rollover, having a serious problem was not something to be taken lightly. Also if your canoe was damaged so that it couldn't be used you would just have to leave it on or in the river until you could redo the trip and try to get it out (if still possible after making any needed repairs).

Because of the greater time it was taking us to float the river with the pontoon boat, we had to give up on doing any fishing after the second day. I was disappointed in not having more opportunity to fish, but certainly enjoyed the adventure anyway. We saw beautiful country and highly variable riverside scenery as we floated. We saw two bald eagles, an osprey, many black hawks, turkeys and many smaller birds along the way. We saw tracks of many mammals and signs of beaver activity, constantly. We saw no other humans until near the takeout point and rarely saw any recent sign of people (not even many footprints except our own). We were essentially on our own and would not have had anyone to help us if we had a problem until a plane or helicopter could find us potentially several days later. My son, Clint, had convinced my worried wife that they shouldn't notify potential rescuers until Friday (8 days after our start); we reached our takeout early in the afternoon of the 6th day.

I took many scenic pictures, including many of Ron in his pontoon boat, but few of my canoe in action because that was not possible most of the time. I have many memories of the trip and the great buddies who drove nearly 900 miles one way to NM so I could take a float I have been wanting to take for decades. It won't be that long before the next time I float this river. I have already started making plans and purchases for the next trip. Now that I know more of what to expect, I feel comfortable with inviting others to accompany me the next time. If you are interested in a float next year, let me know and I will start making some plans.

The Orvis Knot

There are many knots that are useful for fishing. But, there are two that are easy to tie and if you can tie them you may not have much need for all of the others. These knots give close to full line strength and also work with fluorocarbon line. To become proficient at tying these knots 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.

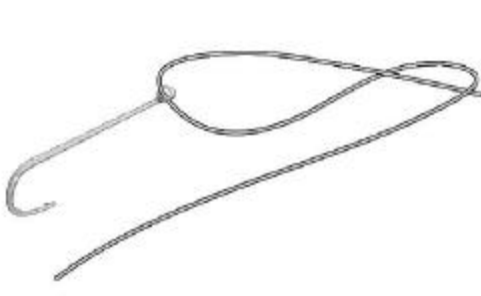
Once you can tie the knots without looking at the instructions, tie each knot ten times per evening for a week. Sit in front of the television and practice. Quickly, you will develop your own way of twisting the line and making loops that work best for you. Then a couple of days before a trip, refresh your self. You will find that these knots work very well. The first knot was presented last month and here is the second.

This knot is called the Orvis knot and can be used for nymphs and dry flies. The actual knot itself is very small so it seems to work well with size 20 and smaller flies. I used it several weeks ago on the San Juan without any failures. I made a modification to the instructions shown below. I grew up using the improved clinch knot and my fingers seemed to be "trained" to wrap the line in the direction away from my body. If you are like me, then in step 2 and 3, everywhere it shows the tag end going under the standing end of the line, just go over the standing end instead. This allows you to twist the wraps away from your body. It works just as well.

Good luck and tight lines

Bob Silver

1.



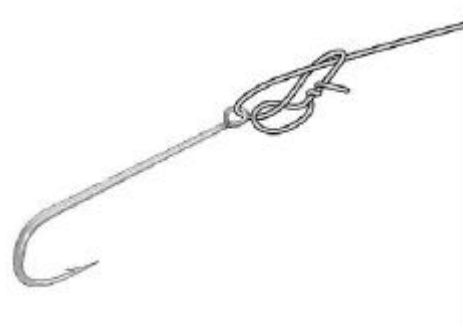
Pass the end of the tippet through the eye of the hook, then round the tippet and back through the loop that you have just made.

2.



Take the tag end and wrap it round the second loop twice.

3.



Now lubricate and tighten the knot.

4.



Finish by trimming the tag end.

Knot photos and accompanying captions are courtesy of Frog Hair and Gamma Technologies. Visit www.froghairfishing.com for more information.

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	Penasco Improvement Project
March	Liars & Tiers 31 Mar. Wooly Worm		14 Mar. Yucatan Fishing with Al Trompler	Penasco 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	<i>Fish stocking at Lease</i> Kids Fishing Day-April 23
May	Liars & Tiers 26 May Prepping for San Juan		9 May Dr. Colleen Caldwell on Whirling Disease	
June	Liars & Tiers 30 Jun.	<i>San Juan Trip Jun 24-26</i>	No Meeting	
July	Liars & Tiers 28 Jul.		No Meeting	
August	Liars & Tiers 17 Aug. (Wed)		8 Aug. Prepping for the San Juan	
September	Liars & Tiers 29 Sep.		12 Sept.	<i>Annual Picnic and Raffle</i>
October	Liars & Tiers 27 Oct.	<i>San Juan Trip Oct. 7-9</i>	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 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.
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

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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)

Dr. Colleen Caldwell on
"Susceptibility of Rio Grande cutthroat trout to experimentally induced
infection with *Myxobolus cerebralis*"

May 9 - 7:30 PM

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**