

Tale Waters

May 2008



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

Website: www.MVFF.org

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Membership Meeting

Greg McReynolds (TU) to Speak

Monday, 12 May

The monthly membership meeting will be held on 12 May at 7:00 PM at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Greg McReynolds, Public Lands Coordinator for Trout Unlimited in New Mexico, will be the speaker. His topic will be *"Trout Unlimited and Conservation Issues in New Mexico."*

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 19 May

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 19 May at 7:00 PM at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Thursday, 29 May

Liars and Tyers will meet Thursday 29 May at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at

7:00 PM. The group will be tying the *Muddler Minnow*. Tying will be demonstrated by Joseph Lopez. 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

What type of fishing do you want for the future?

Paul Turner

After finishing my tax returns and home improvement jobs I have decided to tackle an issue that I need to address. When Greg McReynolds, Public Lands Coordinator for Trout Unlimited in New Mexico, called last week about MVFF supporting several TU conservation initiatives that could have an impact on the future of trout fishing in New Mexico and the West I decided to share a few personal opinions with the MVFF membership. Although the Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers is not formally affiliated with Trout Unlimited or the Federation of Fly Fishers many of our members belong to these organizations. TU and FFF often work with state and federal agencies and legislators to influence decisions that impact aquatic habitats and future fishing opportunities. As president of MVFF and board member of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation I often receive requests to lend support to various initiatives. Some of these requests seem appropriate for the MVFF to support. For example, the MVFF Board of Directors has voted in the past to support protection of the Valles Vidal in northern New Mexico and several initiatives related to recovery of the Gila and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. However, some requests for support do not impact future fishing opportunities in New Mexico and may be controversial with the membership. If I think this is the case, I check with other officers and board members to get their opinions or send out a request for comments via e-mail. At other times I simply don't respond to the request because I'm too busy,

didn't check the request in time to meet the deadline for responding, or feel it is inappropriate. We may send information about various issues and initiatives out to the membership so that you can become better informed and decide whether to contact the appropriate agency or legislators. What this discussion boils down to is that most requests for support have to be decided on a case-by-case basis.

It would be far easier for me to simply never take a position on any issue. However, I often find this impossible to do because of my background and concerns about the future. We are all shaped by our experiences, contacts with others, and the collective knowledge we have accumulated during our lifetimes. Because I spent most of the 1960s as a university student during the awakening of the environmental movement in the United States, I became concerned about environmental issues that had been unknown to the public and largely ignored by our government. This period produced landmark national legislation like The Clean Water Act, The Clean Air Act, The Endangered Species Act, and The Wilderness Act and led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. In 1972 I started teaching in NMSU's Department of Animal, Range and Wildlife Sciences and soon became directly involved with several of these acts working on the recovery of the endangered Gila trout. During this "work" I developed friendships with people like the Campbell family that ran a pack outfitting operation in the Gila Wilderness and employees of the Gila National Forest and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish involved with the recovery effort. They were fully committed to saving the Gila trout from extinction, and in the case of Doc Campbell and many others, had been working to do so long before the passage of The Endangered Species Act made it a national priority. After spending years "working" in wilderness areas I came to fully appreciate the beauty and wildness that makes New Mexico special. You should know that New Mexico's Senator Clinton P. Anderson and the ranching community were actively involved in passage of the Wilderness Act and that a New Mexico forester, Aldo Leopold, recommended the wilderness concept to the US Forest Service in 1924. Today the Gila Wilderness Area is listed as the nation's first wilderness area; a concept that has since spread worldwide.

In summary, I continue to be involved with environmental and conservation issues and will continue to pass selected initiatives on to the membership. You may not always agree with my opinions and are welcome to discuss your perspectives with me. However, to simply ignore pressing issues and not make our desires known to our land and water managers and politicians endangers not only the air we breathe and the waters we have to fish, but the environment that we and our children will have to enjoy in the future. Remember if you're too busy to get involved with issues that affect our fish and waters, you are leaving the future up to others who may have little appreciation for the value of aquatic habitats and species to anglers.

Paul

MVFF Charter Member Dies

Bill DeGrow, MVFF charter member, passed away on 3 May 2008 at age 86. Bill was active in the Club until just recently but health issues forced him to move to Michigan to be near his sons. He was in Michigan when he died.

Bill was one of the initial members of the Board of Directors when the Club was incorporated in October 1991.

Board Member Resigns

Due to a conflicting work schedule, Jeremiah Richardson has resigned his position on the MVFF Board of Directors. Anyone interested in serving on the Board should notify Paul Turner. A replacement will be named to the position during the May Board meeting.

Norman Mabie Memorial Scholarship Recipient for 2008

Mike Anderson was awarded the Norm Mabie scholarship at the NMSU Department of Fishery and Wildlife Science's Annual Awards Banquet on April 17th. Mike is a fisheries graduate student at NMSU and is working on the impacts of cattle and elk grazing on the brown trout populations of the Valles Caldera National Preserve in the Jemez Mountains northwest of Albuquerque. Mike is a MVFF member and gave a presentation on his research at our March

meeting. He also led the October 2007 electrofishing survey on the Rio Penasco and manned the Aquatic Insects station at the Kid's Fishing Clinic in April 2008. His undergraduate degree is from Northern Arizona University and he has worked several summers for the Montana Fish and Game Department. He will be finishing his research in 2008 and will be able to apply the scholarship to his tuition for the fall semester at NMSU.



Mike Anderson manning the electoshocker. He is assisted by Paul Turner and Randall Vallee.

Kids' Fishing Clinic a Success

MVFF held their annual Kids' Fishing Clinic this year on 5 April at Alumni Pond at NMSU. About 75 kids participated and all had a great time. After signing in each kid went through the various learning stations of the clinic such as Bugs, Knots, Fly Tying, Fish Guts, Regulations, Fish Identification and Casting. After completing the clinic each was loaned a fishing rig if they didn't have their own and went fishing in the pond. NMDG&F stocked the pond with 300 trout a few days prior to the event. Even though the weather was beautiful and conditions seemed good, few trout were caught, the only disappointing part of the whole event. The kids were awarded prizes, donated by Sportsman's Warehouse, and were fed pizzas and soft drinks at noon. Over 20 volunteers from MVFF, NMDG&F and students from NMSU participated. The rods and reels and much of the other materials were furnished by Ti Piper who is contracted by the NMG&F to provide statewide support for these types of events.

Project Healing Waters

MVFF has recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Incorporated (PHWFFI).

This MOA sets forth the terms on which PHWFFI is willing to enter into an agreement with MVFF to provide fly fishing and fly tying experiences to our wounded warriors.

Randall Vallee and Chris Evey have been delegated to coordinate and direct the efforts. Toward that end, they have had meetings with William Beaumont Hospital in El Paso, a military hospital associated with Fort Bliss. They are now in the process of obtaining the required equipment and materials and once that is done fly tying sessions will be scheduled.

If you wish to learn more about the project browse their website at projecthealingwaters.org.

If this is something you like to get involved with, contact any board member.

Fish Stocked in Lease

Paul Turner

Fifteen MVFF members participated in stocking of 300 rainbow trout on April 27th. The weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed the outing and lunch together in the Ellett's backyard. Because we didn't have a good feel for how many were planning to attend, it was a bring-your-own lunch. Afterwards several of the members took advantage of the free fishing on days when we stock or have a work party. My wife had bought her license, but decided to not fish as her allergies have been bad here in Las Cruces. I did get my flyrod out and fished downstream from the upper bridge with some good action. I released four rainbows ranging from 4 to 15.5 inches. I also had a number of strikes that I missed, including one nice rainbow that tried to eat my strike indicator and was able to watch several trout holding at feeding sites and occasionally coming to the surface as if they were feeding on something. I talked to several other anglers, including Brian Gillis, Lynn Matthews, and Jim Hulsey, that also caught similar numbers and sizes of rainbows. The presence of the 4-inch rainbows from the upper boundary downstream confirmed another successful year class of wild-spawned trout and essentially documents that they are spawning in the

fall. This allows the rainbows to have a full year of growth in their first year and explains why the smallest rainbows we caught during our October 27th, 2007 electrofishing survey were already in the 10 to 12-inch range. I suspect that these rainbows from last year's spawning are already in the 12 to 16-inch range so fishing should be excellent in the next few months. I landed two rainbows that appeared to be from the stocking a few hours earlier so they will add to the number of available trout and survived the stocking in flying colors. Most of these rainbows were in the 7 to 10-inch range so they were in the slot between last year's trout and this year's new year class of rainbows. I still hope we got some natural spawning of brown trout last fall and encourage anglers to watch for browns in the 4 to 8-inch range this summer that would confirm a 2008 year class.

Brian Grenier and Mark Rupcich had joined Brian Gillis and had camped on the stream Saturday night with Jim Ellett's permission so they could fish before our stocking on Sunday. Others helping with the stocking included Charles Graham, Jim Hulse, Linc Leapley, Gary and Alison Mann, Lynn Matthews, Terry Moore, Paul, Kay and Kristina Turner, and Tom and Jeffery Wobbe. Jim Ellett and his wife assisted us and enjoyed the companionship with MVFF members. The trees are leafing out and the willows are blooming even though the morning temperatures are still chilly. Streamflow was still clear and relatively high although there has been little rain so far this year on the Rio Peñasco. I'm sure that fishing on the Rio Peñasco will

be great in the next few months so members should take advantage of the mild temperatures and plan some trips.

Club Outings Planned

The Club is planning a possible trip to Elephant Butte to fish for stripers. An e-mail will be sent soon to members to determine interest level. The e-mail will contain details such as cost and number that can be accommodated.

A club trip(s) to Kodiak, Alaska is in the planning stages. This trip will take place in late September. If you are interested, contact Bob Silver.

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2008 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

Travis Dio	Lubbock, TX
Tanner Giles	Lubbock, TX
Brian Grenier	El Paso, TX
Vincent Hoppe	Mesilla Park, NM
Linc Leapley	Las Cruces, NM
Charles Mueller	Las Cruces, NM

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Rio Peñasco, Fishing Report

Date Fished: 5/04/08

Location Fished: Lease

Fisherman Filing Report: Bob Silver

email address: board4@mvff.org]

Other Fishermen: None

Water Temperature: 60

Water Conditions: Normal, Clear

Air Temperature: Low 80's

Weather Conditions: Cloudy in the afternoon, light wind from the SE

Hatches and time of day: Big blue wing olive hatch at lower bridge 7:45-8 AM and in the flats at 2 PM

Give us all the gory the details:

I can't remember a better day on the lease, 25 fish-Really! All rainbows. Many were in bright red spawning colors. Best fly gray RS2 size 18 as a 24 inch dropper below a size 16 double hackle peacock dry fly. Used a #9 split shot 10 inches above the RS2. I was surprised by the size of the fish, most were between 12 and 17 inches. Only caught four that were smaller than 11 inches. Fish are in great shape. Seems like they made it through the winter in good shape. Used 9 foot leader tapered to 6x and 5x flourocarbon tippet. AND caught a 3 1/2 inch rainbow. and saw several more. So there is some spawning taking place naturally. Go before the weather gets hot. Make sure you get there before the BWO hatch in the early morning

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MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 21, 2008

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order at 7:00pm in the NMDG&F conference room.

In Attendance: Paul Turner, Ron Bellerose, Jim Hulsey, Tom Wobbe, Gary Mann, Bob Silver, Chuck Hennessee, George Sanders, Donna Mabie and Richard Newton. Absent: Randall Vallee and Jeff Arterburn.

1. Minutes of the March Board Meeting were approved as published in the April newsletter as well as the Treasurer’s Report presented by Gary Mann.
2. Paul Turner stated that the annual MVFF scholarship was awarded to Mike Anderson (who led the electro-fishing at the Rio Peñasco last year). He has a high GPA and seems quite likely to remain involved in fisheries. He has assisted the club on numerous occasions. Paul will do a biography on him for the newsletter.
3. Stocking the Rio Peñasco club waters will be done on Sunday, April 27. More on this in the newsletter. The Board approved the purchase of 300 trout for this stocking.
4. The Board approved funds for signs to be posted at various places on the Rio Peñasco informing possible trespassers that they must be members of the club and purchase permits to fish on that portion of the river.
5. Seventy-four kids attended the Kids’ Fishing

6. Clinic on April 19th. It was disappointing that not many fish were caught.
7. Jeremiah Richardson has resigned as a member of the Board due to his conflicting work schedule. The Board will solicit and vote on a volunteer replacement.
8. The Spring 2009 full-day workshop was discussed with no definite plans laid out.
9. E-mails are to be sent to members informing them of a planned club-fishing trip at Elephant Butte. Billy Jack Miller will probably be the selected guide.
10. Twelve members signed up to take the rod building classes at the Sportsman’s Warehouse. Joseph Lopez was to be the instructor, but has been sent to Albuquerque to work for six weeks. Bob Silver and others will take over this task.
11. Twelve to 13 people are interested in the Kodiak, Alaska fishing trip. About one-third want the first week and the rest want the second week of the trip.
12. Other possible fishing trips were discussed such as a hiking trip to fish the Gila in May. George Sanders is planning to go to the Green and the Gunnison Rivers in June. Stone Lake was mentioned as a possibility. More on this in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Stocking the Lease



The Stocking Crew



Another bucketfull



Jeffrey Wobbe stocks a few.

Quick Look Contact Information

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

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund	\$10,777
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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.

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.
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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.



<p>RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP - DUE MARCH 31</p> <p>And don't forget to renew your NM fishing license</p>
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Muddler Minnow

The center of attention for the Liars and Tyers this month will be the *Muddler Minnow*.

The *Muddler Minnow* was developed by Don Gapen of Anoka, Minnesota in 1936, to imitate the sculpin and was popularized by Montana fisherman Dan Bailey. It is now a popular pattern world-wide and is likely found in nearly every angler's fly box, in one form or another. The dense deer hair head pushes water and creates vibrations that attract fish even in off color water. It is generally tied unweighted but

can be weighted with lead wire or even a cone head. The *Muddler Minnow* is an old fly that seems to have fallen out of favor with most modern fly fishers but it is a great baitfish imitation and is worthy of a spot in your fly box.

This version of the fly was tied by Charlie Craven and was presented with detailed tying instructions at <http://www.charliesflyboxinc.com/flybox/details.cfm?parentID=54>.



- Hook: TMC 9395 #2-10
- Thread: 6/0 for body and wing, 3/0 for hair head
- Tail: Matched Slips of Mottled Turkey Quill
- Body: Gold Mini Flat Braid
- Underwing: Tan Calf Tail
- Overwing: Matched Slips of Mottled Turkey Quill
- Collar: Natural Deer Hair Tips
- Head: Spun and trimmed natural deer body

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MVFF Monthly Events Calendar

Month	Events	Trips	General Club Meeting Topic/Speaker	Clinics or Lease Projects
May	Liars & Tyers 29 May <i>Muddler Minnow</i>		12 May - Speaker: Greg McReynolds on "TU and Conservation Issues".	
June	Liars & Tyers 30 June <i>Rusty Rat</i>		There will be no general meeting in June	
July	Liars & Tyers 31 July <i>Deceiver</i>		There will be no general meeting in July	

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.

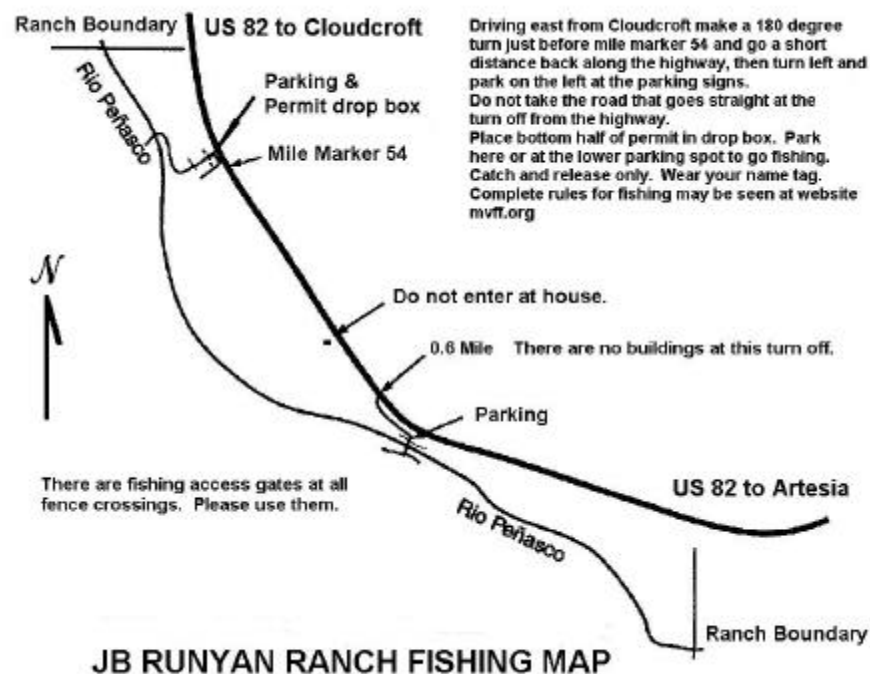
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.