



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

May

2011



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Membership Meeting

Monday, 16 May

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 16 May at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Note that this is a week later than usual. The special guest speaker will be Bob Widgren. He will speak on the Los Pinos in Northern New Mexico. Winning ticket for the Sage rod raffle will be drawn at the end of the meeting.

Bob will give a streamside clinic at the Lease on the 15th. Read about it later in this newsletter.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 23 May

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 23 May at 7:00pm at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Note that this is a week later than usual. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 25 May

Liars and Tyers will meet Wednesday 25 May at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting

at 7:00pm. The group will be tying *Mabie's Foam Back Emerger*. The recipe can be found later in this issue. The tying session will be led by Tim Mack. Tim manages the Sportsman's Elite flyshop in El Paso and is a professional tyer. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies will be available for beginning tiers.



President's Corner

The month of May will start off with a Project Healing Waters outing to the lease on May 5th. There will be between 20 to 25 soldiers from Fort Bliss and it would be nice to have one volunteer for each soldier to make this day special for them. Please read Ron Bellerose's report in this newsletter and contact him to volunteer.

The monthly general meeting has been moved back a week to May 16th. We did this to avoid having the casting clinic on Mother's Day. Bob Widgren will be holding his clinic at the lease on Sunday May 15th at 9am. Members can either car pool from the Kmart lot at 6:45am or join up with us at the Lease. Bob Widgren is our guest speaker for Monday's general meeting and will be talking about fishing the Los Pinos in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado. This meeting will be your last chance to buy a raffle ticket for a Sage 3 or 4wt fly rod. We'll draw the winning ticket at the end of the meeting. Ticket prices are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

Matt Shultz with NM Environment Department has a willow planting project on the Mimbres River near the Cooney Campground the weekend of May 20th. The project should only take about six hours on Saturday which will give you a chance to fish the Mimbres, Lake Roberts, or Sapillo Creek. There may also be a chance to plant willows on Sapillo Creek on Sunday. We will be camping at Lake Roberts and have a pot luck dinner Saturday night where a good time should be had by all. I will have more information at the

general meeting along with a signup sheet for volunteers.

New Mexico Game and Fish will have their free fishing day and Kid's Clinic on June 4th. They are asking for our help with the clinic at the Alumni Pond on the NMSU Campus. Please check your calendars and see if you can volunteer for this event.

Our club is planning a few trips for this summer. The first trip is to the South Fork of the Rio Grande leaving on July 6th and returning on July 10th. This trip is limited to 12 members and will require a \$50.00 deposit by May 16th at our general meeting. For more information, please contact me @ 575-647-4045 or email chuck_wagon46@hotmail.com. We will soon have information on other trips that we are planning for later this summer and fall.

Just a reminder that you can buy MVFF hats at the meeting for \$15 from Ron Warnke.

Hope to see you at the general meeting.

Chuck



Ron Bellerose

PHW Coordinator



PHW had a total of 20 vets, 12 volunteers and 4 staff for our fly tying event on April 7th. It was a great success and a lot of flies were tied. The casting event on April 21st proved to be a learning experience for us all. With 16 vets, 11 volunteers and 3 staff the casting went well in spite of the winds but the fly tying that we did at the lake was an even bigger success. For our next group we expect to use the area with 2 picnic tables so as to do more fly tying and casting.

Our next meeting with the vets will be on May 5th. I expect to have as many as 29 vets and can use as many volunteers as we can get. A 1 to 1 volunteer/student ratio when fishing with the vets makes for a great day for all. To add to the fishing event, the Cow Belles will be putting on the lunch/dinner for us. Just the lunch alone makes the trip really great. So to all our great volunteers, mark

your calendar, take a day off from work, support our troops to make this a day that they will remember and continue the sport of fly fishing. Thank you all.

For more information about PHWFF see www.projecthealingwaters.org.

Contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), roncor@hotmail.com) if you wish to volunteer to help out.

Rio Peñasco Casting & Fishing Clinic

Sunday, 15 May

Bob Widgren will conduct a casting and fishing clinic at the Rio Peñasco lease on Sunday, 15 May. People wanting to car pool should meet at the Kmart parking lot on North Main at 6:30am. Those driving from other sites should plan on arriving at the Lease by 9:00am. There is no fee associated with the clinic but if you plan on fishing a permit will be required. Be sure your NM fishing license is current since the local Game Warden has been checking.

Contact Bob Silver for more information (575-522-6325 or silver@mvff.org).

Mimbres River Willow Planting

May 20-22

The MVFF and Gila Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited (GRG-TU) groups are planning to participate in a project that will involve willow planting on the Mimbres River by Cooney Campground the weekend of May 20th-22nd. Mimbres means 'willow' in Spanish appropriately enough! Matt Schultz from the NM Environment Department is coordinating this project, and has received confirmation from the Gila National Forest that we can plant willows along this area with easy road access. This project will work like many of the other projects we have participated in, where people can arrive Friday evening or Saturday morning, then meet around 9:00am Saturday for project overview and volunteer registration, and get right to work planting willows in identified sections along the stream through the afternoon. There might also be some willow planting opportunities on Sapillo Creek. Any effort contributed by volunteers is greatly

appreciated! Participants will have the rest of the day Saturday, and all day Sunday to do as they please, which typically involves fishing on the Mimbres, Sapillo, or Lake Roberts for our group! Dispersed camping opportunities are available at Cooney Campground (i.e. no vault toilet), but developed camping is available not too far away at Lake Roberts in the Mesa and Lake Roberts Upper End Campgrounds. We are currently exploring the possibility of having the camping fee waived for volunteers, and this information and a complete description of logistics will be distributed to interested parties.

Please contact Jeff Arterburn if you are interested in participating on this project.

Email: jeffgilatu@aol.com; or arterburn@mvff.org
Cell: (575) 649-9729,

Alumni Pond - Kids' Fishing Clinic

Saturday, 4 June

Richard McDonald of the NMDG&F has requested the MVFF provide assistance again this year with the free fishing day at Alumni Pond. The event will run similar to last year and will be from 8am - 12pm. There will be several stations to be manned and Club volunteers will be needed for each. Details will be sent out as they become available. Mark your calendar and be sure and volunteer.

Lake Roberts - Kids' Fishing Derby

Saturday, 4 June

We have been contacted by Tawnya Brummett from the Wilderness Ranger District, Gila National Forest, who is organizing the Lake Roberts Kids Fishing Derby that will be held on free fishing day June 4th, and asked for MVFF and GRG-TU members to participate again this year. Last year's event was competing with several other happenings in Silver City, so attendance was affected, but this year that won't be a problem and they are expecting to have a crowd. We are planning to run a booth and have fly casting activities for the kids. The USFS and USFWS are planning some special things with Gila trout surplus brood stock from the hatchery for the derby this year, so that should be entertaining and we may be asked to participate in those activities too. We will

start setting up our booth at 8:00am. The registration will begin at 9:00am, and the kids will proceed through the different stations. Depending on the crowd, the plan will be to run the stations until 11:00-11:30. They will have hot dogs and drinks for the kids, and then the derby weigh in will occur at 12:00pm.

The USFS will also be doing some work in July or August on the shores of Lake Roberts to improve angling access. The supplies for these projects will be purchased with habitat stamp dollars from NMDGF. Jeff Arterburn will be coordinating volunteers interested in participating in these efforts, and you can contact Tawnya Brummett, Wilderness Ranger District, Gila National Forest 575-536-2250 e-mail: tbrummett@fs.fed.us for additional information.

Rod Raffle

The club is selling raffle tickets for a rod. The drawing will be held during this month's general meeting. The winner need not be present to win, but you must come out to the meetings between now and then to buy the tickets. Remember, the more you buy the better your chances. The meeting this month will be your last opportunity.

The winner will have a choice between two Sage ZXL rods, a 3wt 8½ foot or a 4wt 8½ foot.

Snow Lake Enhancement Project Selected for Funding in 2011

The Southern Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has selected the Snow Lake Enhancement Project for full funding during their April meeting. This project was selected from among 50 applications submitted, and received strong support for the positive impacts on the goals of the program to provide watershed restoration, infrastructure improvement, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality in the Gila, Lincoln, and Cibola National Forests. The project seeks to enhance the environmental quality and recreational experience at Snow Lake by revamping infrastructure, fixing trails, planting cottonwoods and willows, reducing sedimentation, and improving water quality. The awarded funds \$106,514 will represent the first steps towards the long-range NMDGF goals of improving this area, and the vision of creating an

accessible Gila trout fishery for the public. The proposal included the leadership and contributions of Matt Schultz (NM Environment Dept.), Jerry Monzingo (Gila Natl. Forest Fisheries Biologist), Kevin Rodden (NM Dept. Game & Fish), Jeff Arterburn (Gila Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers), Debra Preusch (Aldo Leopold High School Youth Conservation Core), Dave Chandler (The Wellness Coalition Youth Conservation Core), and Joseph McGurrin, from the National Office of Trout Unlimited, who has led a number of successful native fish projects in the region, and TU's involvement will also include serving as the financial contracting agent for the project. The success of this application was made possible because of the broad base provided by these partnerships, and the real need to improve fisheries, infrastructure and water quality in our region. This project will provide opportunities for those groups and individuals who are interested in helping to achieve these goals, so keep tuned in for more information about how you can get involved.

New Funding Opportunity: Western Native Trout Initiative

The Western Native Trout Initiative, a venture of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and a National Fish Habitat Partnership, is pleased to announce the start of a "Small Project Funding Program" for 2011. The purpose of this program is to provide a source of funding to organizations that desire to become involved in the conservation – protection, restoration or enhancement – of western native trout at the local level. The small project funding program specifically supports collaborative approaches and partnerships involved in local efforts or community-based programs that provide for habitat, educational or public recreational angling programs that contribute to the Initiative's efforts to conserve western native trout.

The Western Native Trout Initiative has secured a start-up grant of \$15,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is seeking additional program funding from a variety of other foundations to match these dollars in order to enable the program to expand in scope over time. The initiative is seeking

project proposals requesting up to \$3,000 from local trout fishing clubs, watershed councils or communities interested in native trout conservation, angling, or educational efforts.

The Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) is all about getting projects done that will help improve the abundance of western native trout across a variety of landscapes. WNTI – a collaborative effort of 12 western states including Alaska, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Forest Service, the US Bureau of Land Management and many tribal and public or private conservation-minded organizations – annually solicits native trout conservation projects for funding through the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

The application process is fairly simple and is web-based through the WNTI web site. Detailed information about what types of projects are eligible for funding and the application process is available by visiting <http://www.westernnativetrout.org>.

Note: The deadline for submission of project proposals to the Western Native Trout Initiative is June 10, 2011. Jeff Arterburn will be working to identify potential projects in our region that can involve MVFF and GRG-TU members.

Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible outings for 2011 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, chairman of the "Outings" committee.

Trips currently planned are:

- July 6-9, - South Fork, CO
- October 6-9, - San Juan River

Welcome New Members

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| John McAchren | Clovis, NM |
| Philip Daly | Las Cruces, NM |
| Victor & Marry Maldonado | El Paso, TX |
| Zakarian & Hilda Montes | Canutillo, TX |
| Gus & Perla Ramos | El Paso, TX |
| Ray & Teri Trejo | Deming, NM |

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MVFF HATS

Available in Khaki, Steel Blue, Stone & Chrome
Cost \$15.00 with all proceeds going to the General Fund
Add \$5.00 for shipping if needed
Contact Ron Warnke (575-532-5600) or warnke@mvff.org to order



Colors from left to right: - Stone- Steel Blue - Khaki - Chrome

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Lady Anglers Survive Blustery Weekend

Helen Zagona



Well, we survived. Some of us caught fish in the process. But we all agreed that it was another fun weekend for the Lady Anglers. April 9 and 10, our Spring weekend at the Lease turned out to be the brown-out blustery weekend that was forecast. But after meeting Friday for a lovely evening with a delicious dinner, all ten of us decided to get an early start on Saturday and see if we could beat the worst of it. It was challenging but if we were able to get a fly to the water where we wanted it, usually the fish were receptive. Several of us hooked a good number of fish on various nymphs. I fished the uppermost part of the Lease waters, hoping to stay sheltered a bit. Those pools are guarded by many trees and brush and a very steep bank. After spending an hour losing many flies, I finally got the hang of it and was able to roll cast to some fairly tight spots. Hooking the fish was the easy part, landing them in that terrain was a different matter and I lost most of them

but did land two. Under the conditions, I felt it was a success.

At lunch I learned that many of the others had similar experiences. We even found out that one of our anglers (who shall remain nameless) discovered a new use for a flyrod! Fishing in the lower river, she spotted a very large heifer making her way toward the same pool that our heroine was just about to fish. Undaunted, she used her rod to swat that cow and smack her back away from the river, saving the pool for more important purposes.

By 2:00 the wind was horrible. The sky took on a pale color that some thought was smoke. But fortunately, it was the dust of gypsum particles blown up from the White Sands. Some brave souls continued fishing and others decided they had had enough fun for the day. Several of us then used the afternoon to assist Dr. Colleen Caldwell collect tissue samples of chubs for DNA research. She had her shocking device and after receiving permission from Mr. Ellett, we formed an assembly line shocking, netting and carrying the chubs to the bank where we clipped a small part of a

fin and then released them back to the river. We found interesting other fish also. For example we netted lots of native Long-nosed Dace and we netted a couple of trout fry, indicating that our trout are successfully reproducing in the river. We also netted a nice brown trout. Interesting because we had only seen rainbows all day.

We had lots of stories to tell over wine and appetizers that evening, followed by another fantastic dinner. By Sunday morning the wind was really howling and the

weather had turned cold. Even the most hardy of us decided regretfully that we would call it a weekend and head home early. We all decided that it was a fun weekend anyway and perhaps the disappointing weather actually was helpful in improving our skills. We look forward to our next adventure.

If you know of other women who would like to join us, who would like to learn to flyfish or polish their skills, we would love to include them in our plans for the year. Contact me at hzagona@yahoo.com.

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Quick Look Contact Information

| 2011 Officers of the Club | |
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| Officers | |
| • President: | Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045 |
| • V-Pres.: | Bob Silver (575) 522-6325 |
| • Secretary: | Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050 |
| • Treasurer: | Gary Mann (575) 521-7793 |
| Board Members | |
| • Position 1: | Paul Turner (575) 523-6880 |
| • Position 2: | Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050 |
| • Position 3: | Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773 |
| • Position 4: | Ron Warnke (575) 532-5600 |
| • Position 5: | George Sanders (575) 527-5536 |
| • Position 6: | Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045 |
| • Position 7: | Bob Silver (575) 522-6325 |
| • Position 8: | Gary Mann (575) 521-7793 |
| • Position 9: | Ron Bellerose (575) 680-5516 |
| Newsletter & Web Page Editor | |
| • Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880 | newsletter@mvff.org |
| Membership Committee Chairman | |
| • Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437 | membership@mvff.org |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund | |
| Total | \$11,003 |

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.

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.



***** REMEMBER *****
**MVFF MEMBERSHIPS & NM FISHING
 LICENSES EXPIRE ON 31 MARCH**

Membership Information

Membership is open to anyone who supports the activities of the club. Membership fees are shown below. Members are provided with the opportunity to attend informational monthly meetings, purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco, and participate in other Club activities such as a summer picnic, annual awards banquet, casting clinics, fly tying classes, and Club sponsored fishing trips.

There are several options for the payment of dues. A family is defined as a club member, their spouse and all children 17 years of age or under.

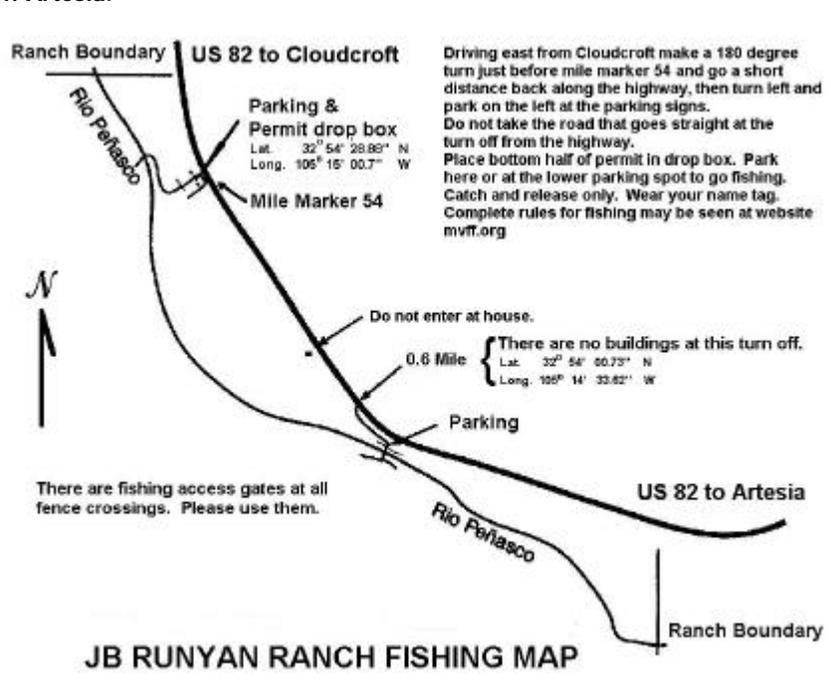
| | | |
|---------|-------|------------|
| 1 Year | \$20 | Individual |
| | \$25 | Family |
| 3 Years | \$50 | Individual |
| | \$60 | Family |
| Life | \$400 | Individual |
| | \$500 | Family |

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880), Tom Wobbe (575-522-5437), Donna Mabie (575-522-3810) in Las Cruces and the Sportsman's Elite fly shop (915-587-4867) in El Paso. 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/Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ email: _____

Are you a current member? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you need a name badge? _____ Yes _____ No

New Membership _____ or renewal _____?

Membership Categories: Individual Family Circle the one desired.

1 Year \$20 \$25

3 Years \$50 \$60

Life \$400 \$500

For family membership: Name of spouse _____ No. of children _____

Note: All memberships expire on 31 March. New memberships received on or after 1 January will expire on 31 March of the following year.

_____ Membership fee if applicable \$ _____
_____ Adult Permits @ \$25 per permit = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Send remittance with this form to the address shown at top of page.