

Tale Waters

November 2004



Mailing Address: MVFF, P.O. Box 2222, Las Cruces, NM 88002-2222

Web site address MVFF.org

Stream Improvement Project & Rod Give Away

On December 4 and 5, 2004, we are planning to build four structures in the streambed at the lease. Bill Zeedike, a stream restoration specialist, has designed the structures for a section of the stream downstream of the lower bridge within the newly fenced area. The purpose of these structures is to reposition the streambed into a narrower meandering channel that will deepen and stabilize the streambed. This is the final part of the stream restoration project that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funded, which paid for the fencing materials. The fence and the structures will begin to make an improvement in the stream that should also improve the fish holding capacity. We are really going to need some help with this phase of the project. To kindle the volunteer-spirit for Club projects, the Board approved a chance to win a prize for those that participate. For this project, there will be a chance to win nice fly rod. To get the work done, we are hoping for 30 volunteers. Each person will receive a ticket for each day worked and

Fish Stocking, 6 November 2004

About three hundred trout will be stocked at the lease on Saturday, 6 November. The stocking truck will arrive about 10:00 AM and meet us at the Ellett ranch house. This is fun event for the whole family and they'll be able to help stock fish. In addition, only those that help will know where they were stocked. This is also the only event where you release the fish before you catch them! Carpools will leave the K-mart on Highway 70 in Las Cruces at 7:30 AM with a stop for coffee in Cloudcroft.

ATTENTION

The New Mexico Game & Fish Office has moved – see last page for directions

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at the end of the project there will be drawing. You must be present to win. Please, contact Bob Silver (522-6325) if you are planning to attend. If the machine answers, leave your name and telephone number. If we don't have enough help, we will postpone the project and contact you. We will be working in the stream so bring hipboots or waders. Also bring a lunch and something to drink. Please bring any of the following tools if you can: sledge hammer, chain saw, leather gloves, ax, and limb cutters. For those that want to carpool, we will leave from the Las Cruces K-Mart on Highway 70 promptly at 7:30 AM.

Three Important items

1. Tell us what would you like to see in the way of new programs and ideas for Club Activities?
2. Tell us if you want your name shared with other members in the Alamogordo –Tularosa area? A club member would like to meet other members in his area. Occassionally, members outside of Las Cruces have asked for names and addresses of members near them. The Club considers membership information confidential, but if you give us permission, we will share your name only on a case-by-case basis.
3. If you want to be reminded of Club events by email – send us your email address again it will be kept confidential.

MVFF Ballot of Officers and Board Members

We are soliciting candidates for leadership positions. The following ballot shows the names of individuals who have expressed an interest to serve as Officers and Board members for 2005. This is your opportunity to help the Club with new ideas for 2005.

President Tom Wobbe or write in candidate _____

Vice President Paul Turner or write in candidate _____

Secretary Jeff Arterburn or write in candidate _____

Treasurer Al Trompler or write in candidate _____

Candidates for Board Members: Bob Silver, Bob Pridgen, George O'Connor, Wade Hedgecoke,

To be an officer requires 1 to 2 hours one evening every third Monday of the month. Meetings are held at the NM Game and Fish Office in Las Cruces. Please submit names to Wade Hedgecoke (see contact info below) or by mail at the Club address or via the MVFF website (www.mvff.org). Elections will be held in December.

The Trip to Kodiak Island by Bob Silver

Many people have asked to see the presentation about the trip again so it will be shown at the November meeting. We had a great time and still have plenty of new pictures to show. The long awaited trip began when Al and I left Las Cruces at 5am for a 7am flight to Dallas. In Dallas Al's son Robert joined us for the trip to Alaska. Jeff, Bob, Tom and Wade had a more gentlemanly schedule with a flight that left for Denver at noon. The round trip for both parties was a festival of delays mostly because of weather, but a few airline blunders thrown in for character building. After plane changes in Dallas, Seattle, and Anchorage, Al, Robert, and I arrived in Kodiak. The others spent the night in Anchorage. We collected them the next morning from the first flight from Anchorage. After unpacking luggage, we were on our way to the Pasagshak River and Lake Rose Tead. On the 45 minute drive, we crossed several of the other rivers that we would fish during the week. The Pasagshak is close to end of the southern portion of the Road System where it empties into the Pacific Ocean. We began to fish, but except for Al, none of us had ever seen a Silver salmon. A few bright red sockeye salmon were in the final stages of spawning. Thousands of carcasses littered the bottom of the lake and river. We were witnessing the end of the salmon's life cycle. It was extraordinary to see this after reading so much about the scale of these

spawning runs and to realize we were only seeing a fraction of the salmon that spawn each year.

Finally, the first bunch of grey Silvers slide into the pool I was fishing. Al saw them too and pointed them out. Their backs were dark grey and their sides very light silver. They were big and fresh from the ocean, which we could hear just a half mile away. Everyone stared for awhile. I know I was awestruck with the idea that this was the quarry, and I really was in Alaska fishing for them. No one said much, but we all must have had the same feelings. The bite on the Pasagshak was off that day. No one caught a Silver, but we got used to fishing with the bigger rods and large flies. We soon learned that fishing for salmon is nearly the same as for trout. The presentation, drift, and retrieve are very important and the fish will spook if not approached carefully. The next day, after a good night's sleep, we fished



***"Our biggest fish weighed
about 18 pounds!"***

We encountered local fishermen!

The Norm Mabie Endowment Fund

The Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund is growing. Norm donated time to teaching young kids about fly fishing. I personally know he kept some kids out of trouble by giving them a hobby. If you belong to the Club, he probably imparted knowledge that you use today. To remember his generosity, we can't think of a better way than to establish an endowed scholarship at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in his name. The University endowment program requires ten thousand dollars. Once the amount is reached NMSU will invest the money in a very secure investments and each year some of the interest will be used for the Norm Mabie scholarship. Any remaining interest above the scholarship amount will stay in the account. The account will be managed jointly by the MVFF Board and by Donna Mabie.

Any amount that you are able to donate is very welcome and your name will be included in the

Events and Information

Norm Mabie's Fly Shop the ***Angler's Nook*** is

OPEN

If you need some supplies, please call Donna at 522-3810 in advance to make sure she is home. Also, if you have suggestions for frequently used fly tying items that she might order, please let her know. The address is 2711 Claude Dove, Las Cruces. If you don't find what you need, she will order your items.

Liars and Tiers

Tom Korsmo has volunteered to hold a monthly liars and Tiers to teach fly tying. Please contact Tom for details and the location. He can be reached at 521-1755

NM Trout voted to match pledges to a total \$500 and She Fishes! is donating \$200

scholarship account. By making the check out to the Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund (deposit only), the donation is tax deductible. We have about 300 members. If each member would donate \$50, we would have well over the amount needed. We have pledges from two clubs in Albuquerque, NM Trout and ***She Fishes!***. In addition, each Board member has pledged \$50 and the Mabie Family members in Texas and Pennsylvania also have sent pledges. We will report the total collected in next month's newsletter. Thank you for remembering Norm.

Club Officers

Quick Look Contact Information

President Richard Keding (505) 382-7498
 Vice President Tom Wobbe (505) 522-5437
 Secretary Jeff Arterburn (505) 524-0773
 Treasurer Al Trompler (505) 532-5668

Board Members

Jim Hulsey (505) 524-1880
 Bob Pridgen (505) 526-9132
 George O'Connor (915) 584-9318
 Bob Silver (505) 522-6325
 Paul Turner (505) 523-6880

KODIAK TRIP from page 2

the American River. From the bridge, we saw schools of about 30 fish. Big and grey just like those in the Pasagshak. It wasn't long before Bobbie Hedgecock had hooked up, then Robert Trompler. We had a double going. Once hooked, these fish are likely to jump and swim up or down stream in a flash. My first fish took me under the bridge and wrapped around a stump. When you see a 15 pound fish fly several feet through the air, words can't describe how powerful those fish feel.

At the beginning of the trip, I remember confidently telling everyone that we wouldn't see a Kodiak bear along the Road System. Well, that's what the literature said. I had to eat those words almost right away. We saw several bears, especially on the American. We saw enough sign to make us look over our shoulder once in awhile. At the November meeting, we'll show a couple of pictures on the American before and after a bear showed up. All the fishermen retreated to the top of the bridge, but not before Bob Pridgen, who was playing a salmon when the bear appeared, wound up donating the fish for the bear's lunch. We did not have any bad experiences, but it is wise to be cautious if you go.

The third day, we tried the Olds River. I think it became everyone's favorite. The river seemed to hold more salmon and there were numerous pools and holes especially along brushy banks. The challenge was to place the fly right at the edge of the brush, dead drift it along edge of the bank, and detect the strike without getting hung up. Jeff became the brush master. It seemed he was hooked up every time I looked. Strangely, the salmon would take a dead drifted fly very subtly. There would be little indication except the fly would disappear from sight and the line would stop moving. When the hook was set there would be an explosion in the water. Landing these fish in the brush was not easy. Thankfully, we could use

10 and 12 pound leader.

Landing these fish is simply an indelicate act as compared to landing a trout. They are far too big to handle by hand. Carrying a big net is impractical. The Alaskan approach is to slide them up the gravel bar and that seemed to work best. Often, you could steer them into shallow water and they would beach themselves trying to escape. Applying tricks for landing them quickly became an art form, but sometimes it just took time to tire them out. Their strength and stamina are good reasons to stay with an 8 or 9 wt rod. Green, chartreuse, and white-chartreuse were the best colors for flies. Naturally, we had tied enough pink and purple flies to choke a bear. Robert Trompler came up with a nifty small white-chartreuse marabou fly that worked really well. We tied up about 20 more that night. The next day, Tom Wobbe and Al Trompler looked like they were giving a fishing demonstration. Even the spinner fishermen were impressed.

Al thought that once we had fished for a couple of days, we would all tire out. Instead, the process of getting ready in the morning became like clockwork. Each day, we got better at fishing, so by the end of the trip we were even more enthused. We became fishing commandoes on a mission. Kodiak has enough rivers and streams that are close enough together that in a short drive you have several fishing options. We never got bored and we didn't fish ever river. One day at low tide, Al, Jeff, and I walked all the way out to the mouth of the American River at the ocean. We watched as several pairs of salmon worked their way into the river from the saltwater. Al even caught one.

According to the Alaska Game and Fish website, Silver salmon on Kodiak Island can weigh as much as 20 pounds! We caught several that we estimated at 18 pounds. Many were easily in the 12 to 15 pound range. During the week, we also fished the Buskin River and Salone Creek. Salone is the closest to the town and just past the busy Coast Guard Station. It was ironic to see bear tracks there too.

2004 MVFF Monthly Event Calendar

Month	Picnics	Trips	General Club Meeting Topic/Speaker	Clinics or Lease Projects
March			March 8 Fly-tying - San Juan Flies	March 20 Lease work party
April			April 12 - Get Ready for the San Juan Trip	Fish stocking at Lease and Kids Fishing Day April 17th
May		San Juan Trip May 15-16th		
June		Green River Trip June 18-23	No Meeting	None
July			Guest Speaker Dr. Victoria Pritchard	Improvement Project July 17 and 18
August			Prepping for the San Juan and Fly-tying San Juan Flies	Stream Improvement Project August 7th
September			No Meeting	Stream Improvement Project September 11th
October		San Juan Trip October 15, 16 & 17	Presentation on the trip to Kodiak Island for Silver Salmon	Casting Clinic 2-3 Oct
November			2 nd Presentation on Kodiak Island for Silver Salmon	Fish Stocking 6 November 10 AM at the ranch house. Carpools leave at 7:30 AM
December			TBD	Stream Improvement Project 4 and 5 December Contact Bob Silver

Membership and Lease Information

Please contact any of the Clubs 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.
P.O. 2222, Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222
Membership Application
 (please print clearly)

NAME: _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Do you want to receive the monthly Newsletter via email or by regular mail? (check one) Email _____ Regular Mail _____

Membership Status: (check one) Regular (\$20) _____ Family (\$25.00) _____

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

How can you help the club? _____

Kodiak Trip from page 4

We rented two cars from Budget when we arrived on the island. If you fish the Road System, you will need a car. None of the rivers are very far from town. It took about 45 minutes to an hour to reach the Pasagshak River. All of the other rivers and streams were closer to town. The road follows the coastline and mountain passes because of the mountainous terrain inland. The road changes from paved to gravel about 2 miles before the American River, but the road was never in bad shape. It is graded regularly. Since we were driving rented passenger cars, we were careful about the potholes. Reaching Lake Rose Tead did require care to avoid getting stuck on the muddy rutted two-track. That was the only dicey spot of the whole trip. The cars did get dirty on the dirt roads, but it rained frequently enough to wash them clean too. Weather is a factor on Kodiak. It was never cold, but it is damp. It was 50 to 60 during the day and a little colder early in the morning. You can count on rain, squalls, and periods of cloudy drizzle. We were never far from the cars so a quick change was possible. Clothing that you would normally wear to fish the San Juan in the fall or early winter is enough to keep you warm. But, make sure you have a good rain jacket with a hood. We had short periods of driving rain where without a jacket you would have gotten mighty wet. Food and fishing supplies were never a concern. Our motel was a block from two really good sporting goods stores, a McDonalds, a grocery store, restaurants and the shops of the "Kodiak Mall." We also found a WalMart where we bought a small \$20 gas grill for cooking a shore lunch of fresh salmon every day. The town and businesses cater to the hunters and fishermen. By the Harbor Master's office, there is a public fishing cleaning station that we used to fillet fish for the trip home. The motel had a small freezer and we bought a cooler to take the fillets



Tom Wobbe in the Olds River - one of our favorites

home. Every morning as we were leaving, vans from various flying services would be picking up groups of "**sports**" who were flying to the remote parts of the island that could be reached only by floatplane. Sometimes we would see them again that evening if the weather was bad. We met people that had been fishing the Road System for more than 20 years. No matter the weather, if you can get to Kodiak, you can fish the Road System. We saw bald eagles, seals and sea lions, bears, and deer.

Did we have a good time – yes we did! Would we go again – **absolutely!**

we'll have new pictures at the November meeting and answer any questions about the trip



Bob and Jeff in Kodiak Alaska on the American River with a Silver salmon in 2004.

New Mexico Game and Fish has moved!

Their new address is 2715 Northrise Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico
(next door to the Peter Piper Pizza store on the feeder road of Highway 70)

2nd Presentation on Kodiak Island

8 November

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

MVFF
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Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

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