



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

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Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — newsletter@mvff.org

Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club will hold no in-person meetings until later in the year. However, on February 8 there will be a membership meeting on Zoom. See Dave's President's column for details.

Liars and Tyers



Chuck Mueller has prepared a 4-part video series on tying midge patterns from the larva stage to the adult stage. Part three mentioned in last month's edition of *Tale Waters* gave instructions on tying a basic midge, Griffin's Gnat along with a Hi-Vis version, that works well on the San Juan.



This month Chuck presents the fourth, and final, basic midge, that also works well on the San Juan. The Parasol Zebra Midge Emerger is an easy dry fly pattern for beginners and novices. Part four has been finished and is available now. To view the videos just go to the MVFF web page, click on the link tab and select Like Us on Face Book.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

Club News



Early on in the pandemic, there did not seem to be much interest among club members in holding virtual meetings. Perhaps now that many of us have been acclimated to visiting and conducting business via Zoom, that may be changing. This week the Board of Directors held our first board meeting in a year, in the form of a Zoom meeting. As a way of easing back in to club activities, while maintaining social distancing, Jeff Arterburn has offered to host a Zoom meeting for the general membership at the same time that we would normally hold our face-to-face club meeting, February 8 at 7pm. Jeff has been elected to represent the State of New Mexico on the Trout Unlimited National Leadership Council, and he serves on the Native Trout Working Group. He will speak about the status of Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout, and opportunities to fly fish for them in New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. Please join us for what should be a very interesting presentation. (The meeting link is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.) If participation is good, the board will try arrange for other presentations throughout the spring.

Three members of the board stepped down at the end of last year: Ron Bellerose, Bob Silver and Jim Sorenson. All of these fellow club members have made significant contributions to the board, and to the successful functioning of the club. On behalf of the club, and myself, I extend a sincere thank you for their hard work and commitment to the club, which in some cases has spanned more than a decade. George Sanders and Helen Zagona

have agreed to join the board for the upcoming year. Some of the officer assignments will change hands over the coming months, but the transition will take some time, as some of the board members attend to family medical issues, business challenges due to COVID-19, and the transfer of signatory authority. Club members should expect to see officer and committee chair roles being formalized by the end of summer. Anyone interested in helping out on one or more of the committees should contact one of the board members. You do not have to be on the board in order to serve on a committee.

Il Pescatore Completo

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I've made an effort to seek out and watch videos that I might not have discovered if I had been fishing streamside rather than getting acquainted with the couch. In newsletters throughout the past year, I've shared links to what I think are some of the better, more educational and well-produced fly-fishing videos, and I hope you have found them to be entertaining. This month, I'd like to share what has become one of my all-time favorite fishing videos, "Il Pescatore Completo," or The Complete Fisherman, produced by Yvon Chouinard and Patagonia Films. In this short video, we are introduced to the Valsesiana style of fly fishing developed in the Italian Alps. The video features Arturo Pugno, whose fishing techniques are at once simple, minimalist, yet complete. He builds his own rods, ties his own flies, and even makes his own fly lines and leaders of horsehair. More importantly, through a lifetime of careful observation and practice, he has learned the river, its surroundings, its currents, and its fish. He reminds us of the true essence of fly fishing: appreciating the presence of and



River Sesia in Val Sesia (Sesia Valley) flowing from Monte Rosa in the Italian Alps.

connection to cold, moving water. ([Il Pescatore Completo | The Complete Fisherman - YouTube](#)).

Conservation

Simms and Trout Unlimited announced last month that they are launching a multi-year partnership to undertake restoration and conservation measures on the Gallatin River, one of the best wade-only trout streams in Yellowstone country. The river is threatened by growing suburban development, irrigation demands and fishing pressure. TU will be adding a staff member whose responsibilities will be focused on the needs of the Gallatin. Maybe a job for one of our fisheries grad students from NMSU?

[Simms, TU Partner to Focus on the Gallatin in Montana - The Wading Room |](#)



If you wade around a bit in the wading room on the Simms website (yes, they call it that), look for the Simms Fishing Products tab. In the wake of what has been a pretty emotional and divisive year, the company is offering new tee shirts that express one of the sentiments I've promoted over the years. Fly fishing should be one area where folks from all walks of life, and all parts of the political spectrum, can agree on the need to restore, conserve, and maintain access to healthy fisheries. Check 'em out!

Diversions, the Good Kind

At the board meeting earlier this week, Chuck Mueller noted that at least one positive thing has come out of sheltering at home: his fly boxes are full. Not only is he stocking up on the patterns he

uses the most, Chuck is also making instructional videos on how to tie some of his flies. Check out the information elsewhere in the newsletter, or track the videos down on the MVFF Facebook page.

If you would like to try your hand at tying some flies in the Valsesiana style, here is a link you might find useful. [Valsesiana: Fly Fishing Perfection with Silk-bodied, Soft-hackle Wet Flies \(fishingdiscoveries.com\)](http://Valsesiana: Fly Fishing Perfection with Silk-bodied, Soft-hackle Wet Flies (fishingdiscoveries.com))



If you are new to fly tying, or you're not ready to try tying Valsesiana patterns without using a vice, there are

some other interesting options. My daughter found a company called Postfly that sells handy little boxes containing all the materials you need to tie about a dozen flies of a single specific pattern and size.



I've been receiving one box per month as gifts from my daughter, and the kits are pretty awesome. Here is a photo of the Rainbow Warrior kit I received last month; it includes thread, hooks, body materials, a completed example of the fly, and a link to a how-to video on the Postfly website. The boxes also contain a small but entertaining newsletter, with a story about the person

who tied the completed fly, and some other useful item, like the drink cozy shown in the photo. The kits are great if you want to learn to tie a new fly pattern, and you don't already have all the necessary materials on hand. (www.postflybox.com)

I recently purchased a streamer kit from Flymen Fishing Company (www.flymenfishingcompany.com). This package has enough material to tie 6 articulated streamers designed by Blane Chocklett. I haven't tried to tie this pattern yet, but I'm glad I get to try it out before buying a quantity of fish spine and tail shank hardware. I'm quite far behind Chuck in terms of getting my fly boxes filled, but hopefully by the time I catch up, we'll be able to travel to some of those secret fishing holes. Until then, stay safe, stay healthy, and be kind.



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



The month of January was a very busy time for southwestern native trout conservation team meetings, reviewing the accomplishments of an unprecedented field season

in 2020, and optimistically making plans for more important work ahead beyond the shadow of the pandemic. Each of these sessions involved full day meetings with panels of presentations

representing the wide group of participants in the multi-State, multi-Agency sponsored Gila Trout Recovery Team (AZ-NM), and the range-wide Rio Grande Cutthroat trout (CO-NM) conservation team. These meetings were held virtually by zoom, as most of our interactions have been due to the constraints required to suppress transmission of the virus. The major advantage associated with the zoom world is the ability to participate from your living room, and we would like to extend that opportunity for you to participate in a presentation and discussion focused on the current status of Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout and the opportunities that exist to fly fish for these native trout across our region in AZ, NM and southern CO.



Jeff Arterburn with a colorful Rio Grande Cutthroat trout
I will be hosting a **Zoom meeting for the MVFF club and Trout Unlimited members** at our “usual” club meeting time on **Monday February 8, 2021 at 7pm**. Please tune in to hear about some of the ongoing work and plans for 2021, and to discuss

some of the incredible opportunities available to fish for these special and amazing native trout! The session will open at 6:30 pm, with the presentation at 7pm and discussion following.

Here is the zoom meeting link:

<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/99266365844>

Meeting ID: 992 6636 5844

As a prelude to this presentation, I encourage you to watch the short (~2 min) NMDGF film that was released last Fall showing the ongoing Gila trout Restoration in Whitewater Creek. The removal of non-native hybridized trout from Whitewater Creek in the Gila National Forest is now complete, after many years of advocacy, planning and a tremendous multi-agency effort to enable the first round of Gila Trout stocking in the upper watershed in 2020. Check out the video at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYY5CISd2qE&feature=emb_title

GRG-TU Logo T-shirts to support local trout restoration and conservation efforts.

Our beautiful T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo in colors: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on-black are sold as part of our fund-raising for trout restoration and conservation efforts. These are great looking, well-made shirts for a great cause at only \$20 each. Please include \$5 for shipping if you want the shirt(s) mailed. Contact Jeff Arterburn to get yours, and to sign up for the next volunteer event: <mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com>.



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black

If you are a current or former TU member looking to renew your membership please use the standard renewal form on the TU website: <https://www.tu.org/trout-unlimited-3/> or call 1-800-834-2419.



MVFF Library

MVFF has a considerable library which is now in the custody of Club member Mark Dankel. Mark would like to make these books available to members. If you wish to borrow any of these books let Mark know and he will bring them to the next membership meeting. Mark can be contacted at mpdankel@msn.com.

A list of the books can be found in the November 2019 issue of *Tale Waters*.



For Sale — Fly Tying Materials

With my eyesight getting worse, I am going to get rid of my tying stuff, and most of my flies. Also have several rods and reels, and have a "Fly Tiers Benchside Reference" and other books, regal medallion vise, a dubbing twister, line winder, hackles, elk and deer hair, dubbing, hooks, beads, thread, yarn and lots of miscellaneous items. I'll get it together in the garage so we won't be cooped up in the house, and we can look it over.

Call me at (575) 644-1427 — Karen Erickson



MVFF Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Submitted by David Carmichael

The MVFF was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Board members present were Robert Ardivino, Jeff Arterburn, David Carmichael, Chuck Mueller, Jim Hulsey, George Sanders, and Helen Zagona.

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the most recent Board meeting, February 17, 2020, as published in the March 2020 newsletter, were approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report, and a separate accounting of the Sydney Ellett fund. Current balance of club accounts is

\$11,910.44. The total amount collected for the Sydney Ellett Fund is \$2,117.26.

3. **Membership.** No report.
4. **Trout Unlimited.** Jeff Arterburn was elected to represent the State of New Mexico on the Trout Unlimited National Leadership Council, and he serves on the Native Trout Working Group. On Monday, February 8, he will host a Zoom meeting for the MVFF club membership with an update on the current status of Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout, and opportunities to fly fish for these native trout across our region in AZ, NM and southern CO.
5. **Upcoming Speakers and Events.**
 - At 7pm on February 8, 2021 the club will conduct a virtual meeting of the general membership via Zoom. It will not be a full meeting, as there is not much business to discuss, but Jeff Arterburn will make a presentation on the status of efforts to restore Gila and Rio Grande cutthroat trout, and where you can fish for them. If the club response is good, the board will explore offering additional remote programs this spring. Jeff will send out the meeting invitation and link.
 - Mark Dankel has offered to make a presentation to the club on the topic of heritage bamboo fly rods. A firm date has not been set, but it will probably occur in early fall, after we hope to have resumed face to face meetings.
 - It will probably be August or September before we resume stocking the lease, as that activity involves a larger group of participants than is permitted during the pandemic.
 - We have a tentative agreement with professional guide and fly-tier Pat Dorsey to be our guest speaker at the next Annual Banquet. When the initial contact was made, it was for a

January 2021 banquet, but by last August, that was cancelled and we agreed in principle to bring Pat here sometime in the next year. The board discussed the possibility of bringing him here in September, as a way to restart our regular meetings with a bang, but a decision has not yet been made.

- Chuck Mueller will contact David Lucoski to begin planning a club fishing trip to the San Juan for next October or November, in the hope that the general public will be sufficiently vaccinated by then to allow for a resumption of travel and activities involving folks beyond our immediate bubbles.
 - David will check with the Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) organization to see whether we can arrange a showing in lieu of a regular general membership meeting for later in the spring.
6. **Board Officers.** Four members of the board stepped down at the end of the year: Ron Bellerose, Dillen Martinez, Bob Silver and Jim Sorenson. George Sanders and Helen Zagona have agreed to join the board for the upcoming year. It is expected that some of the officer roles will

change hands over the coming months, but that transition will take some time, as some of the board members attend to medical issues, business issues, and the transfer of signatory authority and the like. The extended transition period should not be a problem because there aren't a lot of club activities underway at the moment. Club members should expect to see officer and committee chair roles formalized by the end of summer. Until then, the existing assignments will remain as they are. Anyone interested in taking on the job of Membership Chair should contact the board; you do not have to be on the board in order to serve on a committee.

7. **Appreciation Gift.** In a normal year, the club would have held our Annual Banquet last month, and we would have presented Jim and Earlene Ellett with a gift as a token of our appreciation for their allowing us to have the club fishing lease on the Rio Peñasco. The board voted to send a gift certificate despite not being able to host the banquet this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.



Quick Look Contact Information

2021 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Unfilled
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Helen Zagona (575) 532-5668
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Position 4:	Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
• Position 5:	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
• Position 8:	Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Bob Silver (575) 642-5865	membership@mvff.org

Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund

The Mabie Legacy 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 scholarship recipient is selected each April by the faculty members of the NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology.

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 "Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund, for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the MVFF Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give it consideration and help honor Norm and Donna Mabie.

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. If you live out of town and wish the print mailed to you please add \$5 for postage. 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, to purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco and to participate in other Club activities such as an 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.

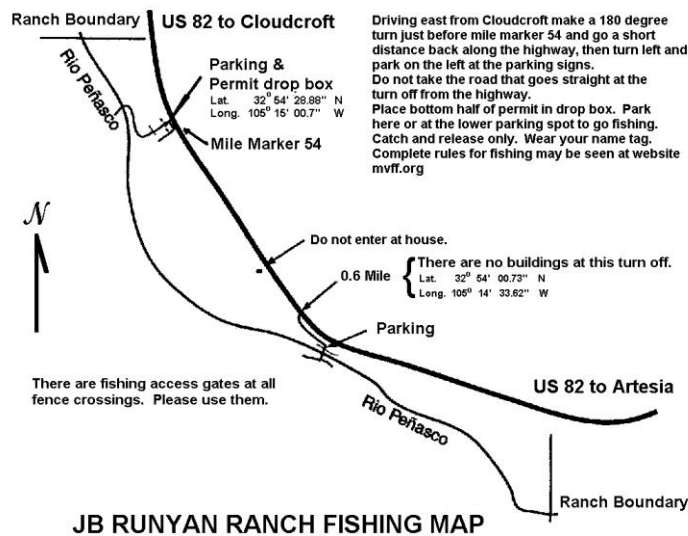
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880) or Bob Silver (575-522-6325) in Las Cruces. 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 or, if you had rather, you may pay through PayPal. 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 (current dues have been paid) 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 Bob Silver. In addition, members may purchase 1-day, 1-time permits for up to 2 guests per trip. Each guest must have a permit. One-time means a person can go as a guest one time only and must be a member to ever go again.

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.