



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

March

2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meetings	1
President's Corner	1
Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited	3
MVFF Library	4
Board Minutes	4
Skip Morris' Trout-Fly Proportion Chart	4

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

Meetings

There will be a virtual club meeting on Monday, March 14, at 7 pm. See the President's Corner for details.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

Club News



Las Cruces Public Schools has announced the resumption of its Special Education Fishing Clinics, at Alumni Pond on April 27, 28 and 29, from 9am-1 pm. Betsy Ladd has specifically asked MVFF members for help setting up poles. For more information, you can reach out to Betsy at bladd_5@msn.com.

I would like to invite all members to a virtual club meeting on Monday, March 14, at 7 pm. Our club continues to grow, and we now have about 350 members. We recently stocked the lease with 200 trout, and I expect that increasing numbers of members will be fishing the lease in the coming weeks. I thought it might be useful to use a PowerPoint presentation to show the current conditions and best fishing locations on the lease. The information will be useful to new members, but

conditions have changed so much in the past six months that it should also be of interest to those who have fished the lease for many years. I will have our membership chair Bob Silver email the link to the Zoom meeting later this week so keep an eye on your email inbox.

As many of you know, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout is the New Mexico state fish. Its historic range included the Pecos drainage upstream of Ft. Sumner; the Canadian River upstream of Conchas; the Rio Grande upstream from Albuquerque; and the Rio Grande tributaries in what is now the Gila National Forest. RG cutthroats were also present in the Pecos River tributaries in the Sacramento Mts., including the Rio Peñasco. The Rio Grande cutthroat has been replaced in 90-95% of its historic range by non-native species such as brook trout (Behnke, *Trout and Salmon of North America*).



Rio Grande Cutthroat, headwaters of Cebolla Creek, NM

About this time last year, NMSU fisheries student Ben Armstrong gave a Zoom presentation to the club membership about his research on using "Trojan horse" males to change the sex ratio and eradicate undesirable brook trout populations from streams. This technique is being used as an

alternative to piscicides in fisheries where non-native brookies could be replaced by native trout. This research, which is directed by Colleen Caldwell at NMSU, is featured in an informative and well-illustrated article in the most recent issue of High Country News. ([Can a modified invasive trout save the cutthroat? — High Country News - Know the West \(hcn.org\)](https://www.hcn.org/stories/can-a-modified-invasive-trout-save-the-cutthroat/)). Two of Colleen's fisheries students, Kelsie Field and Michael Miller, are working on the introduction of super-male brook trout into Leandro Creek on Vermejo Park Ranch, as a way to reduce wild breeding of brook trout, thus reducing competition with Rio Grande cutthroats. Check it out.

NM Supreme Court Decision on Non-Navigable Rule

Thanks to club member Mary Hoffman for following the NM Supreme Court case regarding the non-navigable rule and citizen access to public waters, and for keeping the MVFF Board informed of the progress of the case. The non-navigable rule is a Game Commission rule that allows private landowners to prevent public access to public waters flowing through private lands. We received good news this month, as the court has determined that the non-navigable rule violates the New Mexico constitution.

([New Mexico Supreme Court Invalidates "Non-Navigable Rule," Voids Certificates To Close Public Water – New Mexico Wildlife Federation – New Mexico Wildlife Federation \(nmwildlife.org\)](https://www.nmwildlife.org/news/new-mexico-supreme-court-invalidates-non-navigable-rule-voids-certificates-to-close-public-water))

The 2017–2018 Game Commission issued five certificates allowing private landowners to block access to parts of the Rio Chama, Pecos River, Mimbres River, Alamosa Creek, and Rio Peñasco. The court will issue an order voiding those certificates. Similar moves and counter

moves have played out in other states across the west, so it shouldn't be too surprising that it happened here. While the court decision is a win for kayakers and the average angler, there are private fishing businesses and fly-fishing guides who are not happy with the outcome, as it may be difficult to prevent the public from fishing areas that have been enhanced by landowners for paying clients. One hopes that all anglers will respect landowners' property rights by refraining from trespassing across private lands to access waterways.



NM Supreme Court Justice Bacon demonstrates fly casting while informing counsel for the defense of the need to stand on the stream bed when wading (Eddie Moore/Albuquerque Journal)

Environmental News

In the January 2022 newsletter, I included a lengthy discussion about plastic pollution in our streams, rivers, and the ocean, entitled "Plastic Soup." The effects of plastic pollution on the environment are demonstrably harmful, likely to be long-lasting, and are increasingly visible even to those who are not in the business of monitoring pollution. The world is presently producing more than 500 million tons of plastic per year, and



30-foot-tall art piece entitled "Turn off the Plastic Tap," by Canadian artist Benjamin Von Wong, installed at U.N. African HQ in Nairobi, Kenya

only about 9% of it gets recycled. In what is perhaps a surprising but certainly encouraging development, 175 United Nations delegates recently agreed to negotiate the world's first global treaty to stop plastic pollution ([The world's nations agree to fix the plastic waste crisis \(msn.com\)](#)).

The plan is to have the agreement drafted in the next two years, a remarkably fast schedule for the U.N. While this time line may seem (and may indeed be) optimistic, there is new support for change that has not been in place for previous attempts at reducing pollution. The current initiative is supported by 140 countries, 300 environmental scientists, and nearly 100 leaders of multinational corporations, including PepsiCo, Coca Cola, and Unilever, three of the largest plastic using corporations.

There is good news regarding wildlife restoration funding. The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership reported last month that in the previous year, anglers and hunters generated a record \$1.5 billion in conservation funds for use by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. The funds are generated by excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing tackle and boat equipment and fuel. Since the beginning of these tax provisions, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has dispensed more than \$25.5 billion to state conservation and recreation projects. [A Record \\$1.5 Billion is Going to Conservation—Thanks to YOU | Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership \(trcp.org\)](#) The TRCP story contains a link to a spread sheet showing how much funding is being provided to each state.

Leaders and Tippets

In 2020, the speaker at our annual banquet was Skip Morris, well known author of several fly tying books. A couple of years before that, his wife Carol Ann was our featured speaker. Since the onset of the pandemic, they have maintained a presence in the world of local fly-fishing clubs by giving virtual presentations via Zoom. In their latest outreach effort, I recently received a link to a fly-tying chart they are offering to club members for free. **You can see the chart elsewhere in this**

newsletter (page 4), or you may access it and print as many copies as you like from their website at this address: <http://www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com/skip-morris-trout-fly-proportion-chart.html>

The new season of Fly Fishers International weekly Zoom fishing skills workshops is up and running. Recent presentations include fly tying by master fly tyer Koichi Kawa, and an introduction to Spey casting equipment by Molly Semenik. If you want to sign up for future presentations, just follow this link. [FFI Online Opportunities \(flyfishersinternational.org\)](#) Once you are on that page, you can scroll down to another tab that will provide access to recordings of previous Zoom presentations. Enjoy!



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited
Jeff Arterburn, President



GRG-TU for MVFF March

There is a lot to look forward to in the coming year, and we hope to see you at one of our volunteer projects or elsewhere

on the water!

Contact Jeff Arterburn for more info and to sign up for the next volunteer event or be more involved in our conservation efforts: jeffgilatu@aol.com.

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

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*.



Board of Directors Meeting

There was no Board Meeting in February and, so, no minutes. The Board will probably meet in the near future via a ZOOM meeting. Discussions are ongoing.

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



Skip Morris's TROUT-FLY PROPORTION CHART		
Traditional Dry Fly	Parachute Dry Fly	Compara-dun/Sparkle Dun
<p>A. Wing: tip of eye to mid-bend B. Tail: full hook length C. Body: up slightly past mid-shank D. Hackle Fiber Length: 1 1/2 to 2 times gape</p> <p>NOTE: Rough-water and hair-wing flies may have wider hackle-collars and shorter bodies than this.</p>	<p>A. Wing location: just past 3/4 up shank B. Wing: tip of eye to mid-bend C. Tail: full hook length D. Hackle Fiber Length: 1 1/2 to 2 times gape</p> <p>NOTE: Wings on parachute flies are sometimes shorter than this.</p>	<p><i>Photo: Compara-dun Illustration: Sparkle Dun</i></p> <p>A. Wing location: 3/4 up shank B. Wing: tip of eye to mid-bend C. Shuck: 1/2 to 3/4 shank (Sparkle Dun) or Tail: full hook length (Compara-dun)</p>

www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com

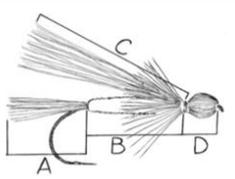
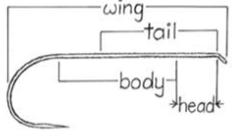
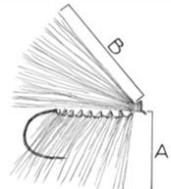
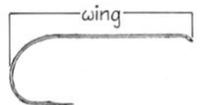
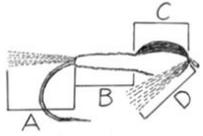
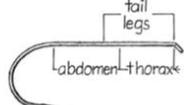
Skip's latest books: 500 Trout Streams (an Amazon e-book) and 365 Fly-Fishing Tips for Trout, Bass, and Panfish (Stackpole Books)

* All flies tied and illustrations drawn by Skip Morris

Photographs and layout by Carol Ann Morris

© Skip Morris

www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com

Skip Morris's TROUT-FLY PROPORTION CHART		
		
Stonefly Dry Fly	Caddis Dry Fly	Nymph
 <p>A. Tail: 1/2 to 3/4 shank B. Body: about 3/4 shank C. Wing: about a full hook length D. Head: about 1/4 shank</p>  <p>NOTE: Dry flies that imitate stonefly adults vary considerably in their proportions.</p>	 <p>A. Hackle Fiber Length: 1 1/2 to 2 times the gape B. Wing: full hook length or barely beyond the bend (or, once mounted, extending slightly past the bend)</p> 	 <p>A. Tail: 1/2 to 2/3 shank B. Abdomen: up slightly beyond mid-shank C. Thorax and Wing Case: slightly less than 1/2 shank D. Legs: 1/2 to 2/3 shank</p> 

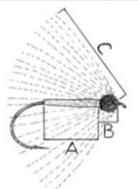
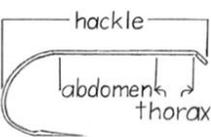
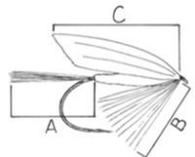
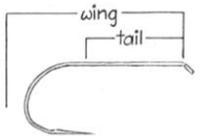
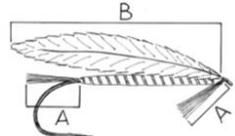
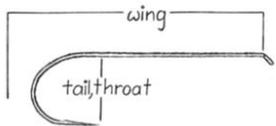
* All flies tied and illustrations drawn by Skip Morris

Photographs and layout by Carol Ann Morris

© Skip Morris

Skip's latest books: 500 Trout Streams (an Amazon e-book) and 365 Fly-Fishing Tips for Trout, Bass, and Panfish (Stackpole Books)

www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com

Skip Morris's TROUT-FLY PROPORTION CHART		
		
Soft-Hackled Fly	Wet Fly	Streamer
 <p>A. Abdomen: 2/3 to 3/4 shank B. Thorax: 1/4 to 1/3 shank C. Hackle Fiber Length: up to full hook length</p> 	 <p>A. Tail: 3/4 shank to full hook length B. Hackle Fiber Length: 1 1/2 to 2 times gape C. Wing: extending to rear edge of bend or a bit beyond</p> 	 <p>A. Tail and Throat: gape or 1/3 body (or longer) B. Wing: up to 1 1/2 times shank</p> 

* All flies tied and illustrations drawn by Skip Morris

Photographs and layout by Carol Ann Morris

© Skip Morris

Skip's latest books: 500 Trout Streams (an Amazon e-book) and 365 Fly-Fishing Tips for Trout, Bass, and Panfish (Stackpole Books)

Quick Look Contact Information

2022 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	
• 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:	
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.

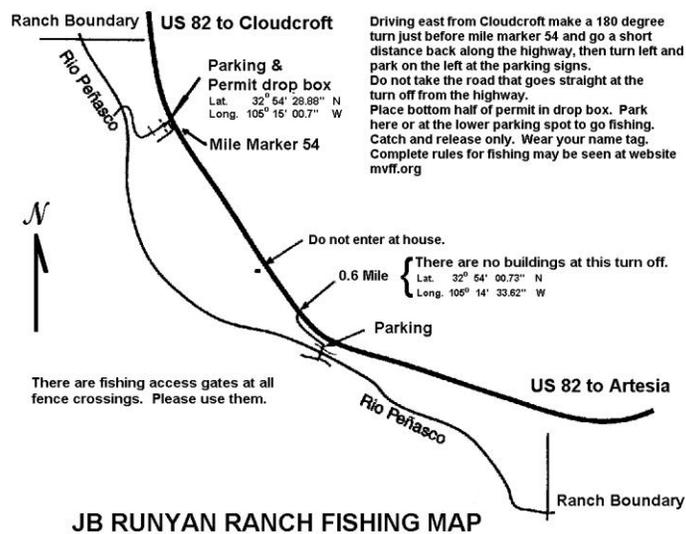
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.