



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

April

2022

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

Meetings

There will be an in-person club meeting on Monday, April 11, at 7 pm in the NMDGF meeting room. COVID waivers will be required. The Presentation will be by Taylor Streit. See the President's Corner for all the details.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

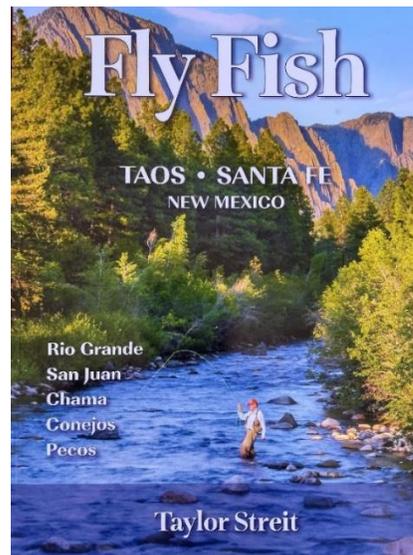
Club News: In-Person Meetings Restart



I'm happy to announce the return of in-person meetings of the general membership. In the past, we have had our general meetings

at the NMDGF facilities on the second Monday of the month, followed by the board meeting on the third Monday of the month. However, for the time being, NMDGF is limiting groups to one meeting per month, so we have reserved the facilities for April 11, and May 9, at 7pm. Pursuant to state protocols, all groups using the conference room will need to have attendees sign a COVID waiver. A copy of the waiver is provided elsewhere in the newsletter. You can print it out and complete it in advance of the meeting, or there will be blank forms available at the meeting.

Our guest speaker will be Taylor Streit, well-known New Mexico fly-fishing guide and author. Taylor was born in New York's Hudson River Valley, near the Catskills, where he started fishing at the age of 7 or 8. He relocated to Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico in 1969, and opened the Taos Fly Shop in 1980. He has been a professional guide for more than 40 years, and in 2001 he was inducted into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. Taylor will discuss his latest (5th) book, *Fly Fish Taos/Santa Fe, New Mexico*, a guide book on northern New Mexico, which has been ten years



in the making. Taylor will have copies of the book for sale at the meeting, and if you already own it, bring it to the meeting and get it signed. Taylor will also discuss

the current forecast for the upcoming trout fishing season in northern New Mexico, and he will share some information about the stream access issue we've been following in the news.

Here is a link to an Albuquerque Journal article about the book and its author. [Author's latest book a guide to fly fishing in Northern New Mexico - Albuquerque Journal \(abqjournal.com\)](https://www.abqjournal.com/author-taylor-streit-a-guide-to-fly-fishing-in-northern-new-mexico/)

During the club business portion of the meeting, I'll provide a short slide show about the current conditions at the club lease on the Rio Peñasco, along with information on where fish are likely to be found following the most recent stocking.

Fly Rod Raffle

Don't forget, now that April is here, it is time to renew both your club memberships and New Mexico fishing licenses. As an extra incentive to encourage members to attend our two upcoming meetings in April and May, and to renew memberships, we will hold a raffle for a Sage LL 590-3 fly rod formerly owned by Donna Mabie. It is a 9ft 5wt light line rod that is a nice all-around rod for New Mexico trout waters. Here is your chance to own a vintage rod in great condition that is also a bit of MVFF club history. Tickets will be \$2 each, or 3 for \$5, and everyone who has renewed their club membership will receive an additional raffle ticket for free. We'll sell tickets at the April and May meetings. For those who have renewed your membership, bring the receipt to the meetings to receive your bonus ticket. The rod will be awarded at the May 9th meeting. Hope to see you there.

Environmental News

The much debated, and intermittently enforced Clean Water Act turns 50 this year, and a number of research groups are marking the anniversary by examining its efficacy. One such group, Green Matters, has summarized and provided a link to *The Clean Water Act at 50: Promises Half Kept at the Half Century Mark*, a study released by the Environmental Integrity Project, March 17, 2022. The study was

conducted to determine the extent to which the Clean Water Act has accomplished its intended purpose of reducing pollution and improving water quality throughout the United States. More specifically, the goal of the Act was to make rivers and lakes across the country safe for drinking, fishing, and swimming. Unfortunately, that noble goal has not been met. In fact, the overall findings of the report indicate that 51% of the rivers and 55% of the lakes studied remain too polluted for recreational use. ([U.S. Water Pollution Is So Bad, 50 Percent Is Too Polluted for Swimming \(greenmatters.com\)](https://www.greenmatters.com))

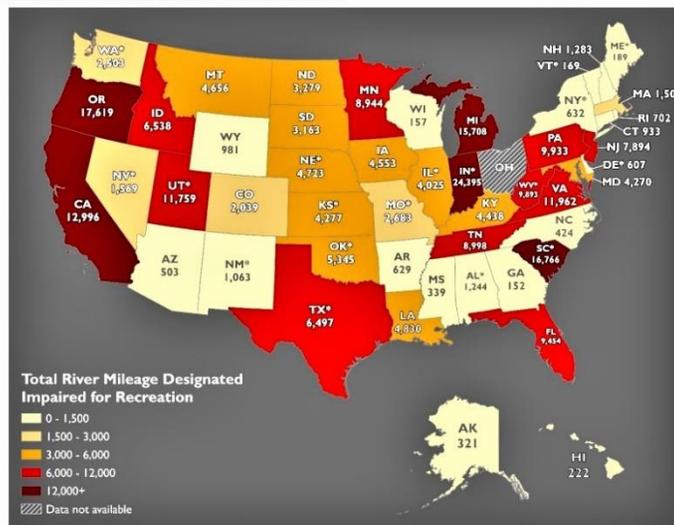
I suppose if there is any good news in the CWA report, it is that New Mexico has many fewer polluted water sources (23%) than many other states, such as Michigan (95% impairment), Indiana (73%), and Minnesota (57%). The accompanying map shows the number of impaired river miles by state, and the data for each state can be found in the CWA report linked here [[CWA-report-3.23.22-FINAL.pdf \(environmentalintegrity.org\)](https://www.environmentalintegrity.org/CWA-report-3.23.22-FINAL.pdf)]. It would seem that those of us who care about fishing, swimming, or drinking non-polluted water should be keeping a closer eye on those activities that impact water quality (mining, drilling, and agriculture), and on the state and federal agencies that are tasked with regulating those activities

for the public good. Be careful where you wade.

Leaders and Tip-pets

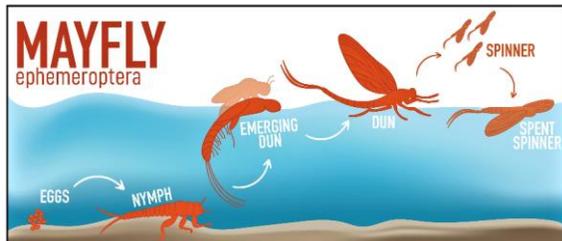
For those members who are new to the club, or new to fishing the club lease on the Rio Peñasco, it is worth pointing out that we are fortunate to have home waters on a spring creek that produces mayfly hatches all

MAP 1: RIVER & STREAM MILES CLASSIFIED AS IMPAIRED FOR SWIMMING AND WATER CONTACT RECREATION¹⁹



States with asterisks reported useable data only for swimming and other primary water contact recreation impairments, not for secondary water contact recreation, such as kayaking. Ohio is not included because it does not count impairments like the other states.

year round. It is often possible to entice a trout on dry fly patterns, such as an olive Comparadun, a parachute Adams, or Purple Haze, even in the middle of winter. Of course, the timing of the hatch, and the size of the mayflies vary by season, with winter hatches of smaller flies coming off later in the day than they do in the summer. Learning the details of those behaviors is part of the fun of becoming familiar with the club lease. Nevertheless, it's true that more than 90% of a trout's diet is from food eaten underwater. Not only are aquatic insects available underwater for most of their lifetimes, there are other food items, such as worms, snails, and chubs that never transform into an airborne food source. Therefore, it behooves the fly angler to become familiar with the appearance and availability of underwater fish foods. To get started with mayflies, here is a link to a nice little presentation by Trouts Fly Fishing on the life cycle of the mayfly. Once you are familiar with it, you'll probably want to carry at least a couple of different patterns representing nymphs and emergers, as well as a pattern to imitate spent spinners. ([Trouts Fly Fishing | Understanding The Mayfly Life Cycle](#))



Get out and enjoy some fly fishing. It's transformative.



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



GRG-TU for MVFF April Progress with preparations for GRG-TU habitat restoration work in 2022

We are making progress securing the approvals, agreements and permits that will allow out Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited to begin habitat restoration on the Little Turkey Creek tributary of Willow Creek in the Gila National Forest with funding from the NM Environment Department River Stewards program. We will be meeting with the agency staff and contractors for a detailed on-site planning session to finalize logistics and map out the work sites. This



Site for future habitat work in upper Black Canyon.

project involves hand-built construction using natural materials and requires a vigorous volunteer base to make it all happen. We are planning to provide delicious camp cooking in a beautiful part of the Gila, and a great opportunity for you to help restore critical habitat for Gila trout.



Beavers at work in upper Black Canyon.

A parallel project is beginning for habitat work on the upper Black Canyon Creek in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, and we participated in an on-site visit last week. This project will use similar methods

over several miles of creek and will provide additional opportunities for volunteers to help out. This project funding was awarded to Dan Taylor from Bat Conservation Intl. and will most likely begin in Fall 2022. We are hoping to draw volunteers from many different groups interested in conservation and stream habitat restoration, which will give you a chance to meet new friends who share our dedication to healthy watersheds and riparian ecosystems and all of the biodiversity they support!

Please stay tuned for additional announcements as we begin to schedule volunteer events, 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.



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black

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>.

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*.



Board of Directors Meeting

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

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.

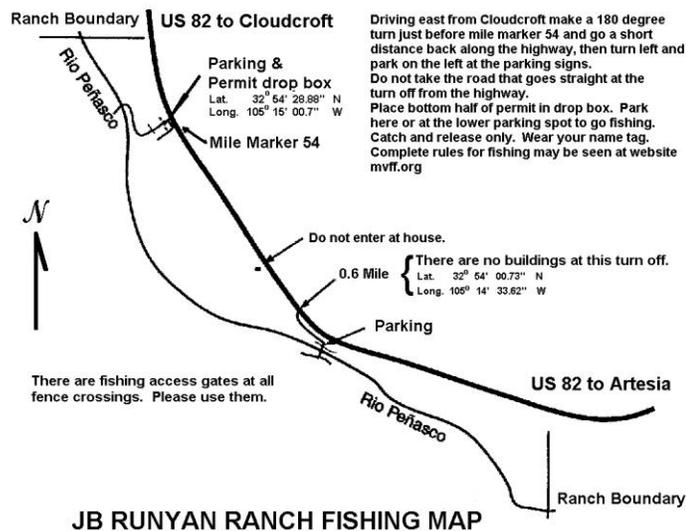
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.



COVID-19 Liability Release Waiver

COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic. Due to its capacity to be highly transmittable from person-to-person, the government has set recommendations, guidelines, and some prohibitions which the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), its volunteers, contractors, and agents adheres to comply.

In consideration of my participation in the foregoing, the undersigned acknowledge and agree to the following:

- I am aware of the existence of the risk on my physical appearance to the venue and my participation to the activity of the NMDGF that may cause injury or illness such as, but not limited to Influenza, MRSA, or COVID-19 that may cause sickness, even severe and possible death.
- I have not experienced symptoms that of fever, fatigue, difficulty in breathing, or dry cough or exhibiting any other symptoms relating to COVID-19 or any communicable disease in the last 14 days.
- I have not, nor any member(s) of my household, traveled by sea or by air, internationally within the past 30 days.
- I did not, nor any member(s) of my household, visited any area within the United States that was reported to be highly affected by COVID-19, in the last 14 days.
- I have not been, nor any member(s) of my household, been diagnosed to be infected of COVID-19 virus, in the last 14 days.

Following the pronouncements above, I hereby declare the following:

- I am fully and personally responsible for my own safety and actions while and during my participation in the NMDGF sponsored event and I recognize that I may be in any case at risk of contracting COVID-19.
- With full knowledge of the risks involved, I hereby release, waive, discharge the NMDGF, its volunteers, contractors and agents, and assigns from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever, directly or indirectly arising out of or related to any loss, damage, injury, or death, that may be sustained by me related to COVID-19 while participating in any activity while in, on, or around the premises or while using facilities that may lead to unintentional exposure or harm due to COVID-19.
- I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the NMDGF, its volunteers, contractors and agents from and against any and all costs, expenses, damages, lawsuits, and/or liabilities or claims arising whether

directly or indirectly from or related to any and all claims made by or against any of the released party due to injury, loss, or death from or related to COVID-19.

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing Liability Release Waiver and understand its contents; that I am at least eighteen (18) years old and fully competent to give my consent; that I am the parent or legal guardian of my child under eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent to give my consent; that I have been sufficiently informed of the risks involved to myself, and or my child, and give my voluntary consent in signing it as my own free act and deed; that I give my voluntary consent in signing this Liability Release Waiver for myself, and my child, as my own free act and deed with full intention to be bound by the same, and free from any inducement or representation.

Signature of Parent/Guardian
(if child is under 18 years of age)

Date

Signature

Date