



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

May

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, May 9, at 7 pm in the NMDGF meeting room. COVID waivers will be required. David Carmichael will present a PowerPoint presentation on current conditions at the club lease on the Rio Peñasco. See the President's Corner for all the details.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

Club News



It is my privilege to report that the Gila/Rio Grande chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers are the most recent recipients of the Apache Trout Distinguished Service Award. The award was presented by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Trout Unlimited Arizona Council at the 13th Annual Native & Wild Trout Conference on April 21. The clubs were nominated by Dustin Myers and Yvette Paroz of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in recognition of our contributions to citizen science and signage on Willow Creek, and our involvement in stocking at Whitewater Creek, and at the Aldo Leopold Kid's Fishing Derby at

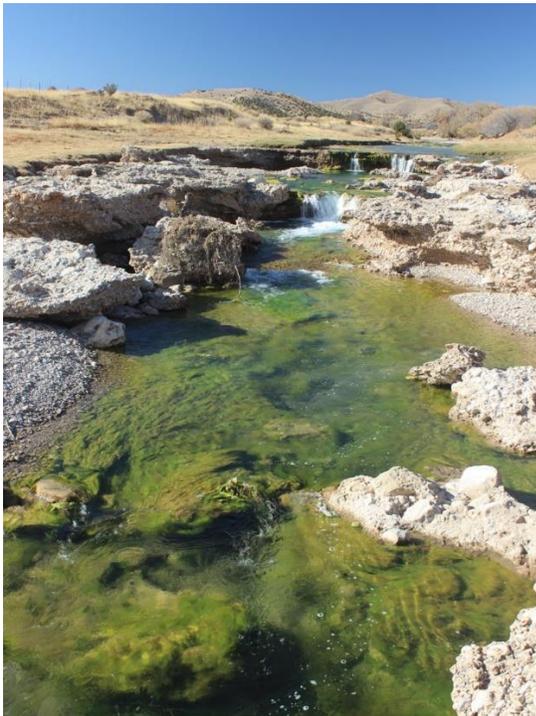
Lake Roberts. Please see Jeff Arterburn's article in the newsletter below for details about how to become involved in upcoming conservation activities on Little Turkey Creek in May and June.

If you weren't able to make it to last month's meeting of the general membership, you missed an interesting slide show presentation by Taylor Streit. He spoke a little about his latest book, and a lot about where the good fishing is right now in northern New Mexico. As we have heard elsewhere, increased air temperatures and reduced snowpack have resulted in lower flows in many of the rivers in New Mexico and adjacent states. Perhaps somewhat ironically, the lowered water levels in the upper and middle Rio Grande have resulted in some of the best fishing conditions Taylor has seen in years. Because the water is low, it is easier to get into, and to wade across it at various places. In addition, otters have cleaned out many of the suckers, carp and northern pike, which has improved conditions for the trout. The Taos Fly Shop is running guided trips to the Rio Grande, with several options, including hiking down into the gorge, camping and floating the Middle Box, and floating the area near Pilar. The shop is also guiding on private waters on the Rio Conejos, and on small streams in the Tusas Mountains; so, something for everyone. Here is Taylor's contact information if you would like to

Taylor Streit Shop: 575-751-1312
 338 Paseo Del Pueblo Sur Cell: 575-741-0202
 Taos, NM 87571 taylor@taosflyshop.com
www.taosflyshop.com

book a trip with him or his son Nick who now runs the fly shop.

The next meeting of the general membership will be on Monday, May 9, at the NMGF conference room at 7pm. I will do a PowerPoint presentation on the current conditions at the club lease on the Rio Peñasco. Due to heavy flooding last fall, the character of the stream has changed in many places, and some of the favorite holding areas of the past have been altered and have significantly less potential to produce fish. I'll provide details about the areas that have changed, and I'll also have a few words to say about where we stocked trout, and where members will have the best opportunities to catch a few. And, don't forget, everyone who attends the meeting will receive one free raffle ticket for the vintage Sage LL 590-3 fly rod; additional tickets will be sold at the meeting, and the drawing will be held at the end of Monday's meeting. See you there!



New configuration of the lower falls on the club lease at the Rio Peñasco

Environmental News

Hey, it's getting pretty crazy out there. Temperatures are soaring, winds are howling, and the fire season seems to be getting longer and more intense each year. Hotter, drier conditions mean reduced snowpack, less rain, and higher

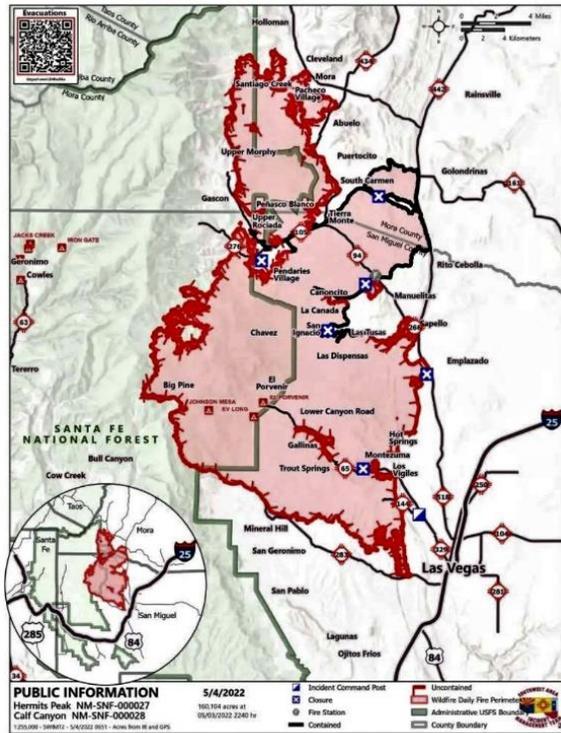
evaporation rates, which translate to lower river flows across many parts of the west. American Rivers, the non-profit conservation advocacy group, has named the Colorado River as the country's most endangered river for 2022. The Colorado has lost 20% of its historic flow in the past 22 years, and Lake Mead is at its lowest level since the Hoover Dam was built in 1935. For the first time ever, water managers have declared a water shortage in Lake Mead, which will result in significant reductions in the flows released to the states of California, Arizona and Nevada. For more information on what can be expected in the near future, and how water users are responding, check out this piece from ABC News ([Colorado River America's most endangered; ranchers work to combat climate change \(msn.com\)](#)).

According to the New Mexico fire map there are about 35 wild fires burning all across the state. ([New Mexico Wildfire Map – Current New Mexico Wildfires, Forest Fires, and Lightning Strikes | Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center \(fireweatheravalanche.org\)](#)) The largest of these is the combined Calf Canyon and Hermit's Peak fire, which is also currently the largest fire in the country. The USFS recently admitted that one of the two fires was the result of a prescribed burn that got out of control; the cause of the other one is still under investigation. The fire covers portions of the Pecos Wilderness area within the Santa Fe National Forest, and it has burned the drainages of a number of trout streams on the eastern slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, including the Mora River, Gallinas Creek, Tecolote Creek, El Porvenir Creek, and the Sapello River. At least 166 homes have been destroyed so far, and many others in Mora and San Miguel Counties remain under threat. ([Calf Canyon Information – InciWeb the Incident Information System \(nwcg.gov\)](#))

Those counties have household incomes that are half the national average, so many families lack the resources needed to cope with evacuation, temporary relocation, and the replacement of belongings that were lost in the fire. If you are so inclined, here are two websites that have been set up to receive financial donations that will be used

to purchase food, hygiene supplies, etc., and distribute them to those who need them most:

- Taos Community Foundation Fund for Taos – for disaster relief <https://www.taoscf.org/>
- Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation: <https://www.lvnmcf.org/donate-now/>



The Spring/Summer 2022 issue of *New Mexico Wild*, the newsletter of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, is devoted to the discussion of various management concerns about water quality throughout the state. One of the articles provides some new information about efforts to curtail mining in the Pecos River drainage. Senator Heinrich has introduced the Pecos Watershed Act, and it has been scheduled for a committee hearing in the U.S. Senate. That bill would establish a mineral withdrawal for the entire Pecos watershed outside the Pecos Wilderness (within which mining is already disallowed). It would prevent new mining claims from being established that could pollute the Pecos River, and the bill is broadly supported by locals and other user groups, including anglers who frequent the state’s second most-fished river. Unfortunately, Comexico, the mining company that hopes to reopen the defunct

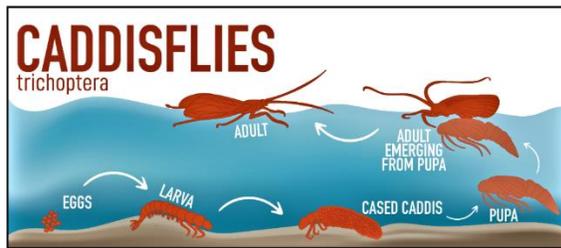
Terrero Mine, has objected to the USFS determination that the Thompson Peak area is wilderness, and the company recently filed 216 new mining claims in the area. If developed, those claims would threaten Santa Fe’s critical drinking water source and the entire surrounding watershed. For more details, and for a link to the federal government website containing relevant environmental review documents, follow this link to the newsletter ([NMWILD-newsletter-Spring-2022-for-web.pdf](#)).

Tippets and Leaders

I know most of our club members don’t do much saltwater fly fishing, but I couldn’t resist sharing this short story about the new all-tackle world record peacock bass caught with a fly rod on the Rio Marie in Brazil. The fish was officially measured at 91cm, or about 36 inches in length, and the weight was somewhat more than 20 lbs. It was caught on a Thomas & Thomas Exocett SS 350 9-wt rod. Of course, the story is partly an advertisement for T&T rods, but hey, it’s a really good photo of a very impressive fish. Also, T&T makes very fine fly rods. I own a couple, I’ve built several, and I’ll build you one if you want. [New world record for peacock bass! – Thomas & Thomas \(thomasandthomas.com\)](#)

Last month I included a link to the Trouts Fly Fishing tutorial on the life cycle of the mayfly. We certainly have decent mayfly hatches on the Rio Peñasco, so club members intending to fish there should be familiar with mayfly patterns. However, as the weather heats up, the mayfly hatches occur earlier and earlier in the day. In fact, for many of us who live a couple of hours away from the lease, by the time we drive up there, the hatch will likely be done for the day, often by 10 am or earlier. So, this time of year, it is likely that members will do just as well, or better, with fly patterns that imitate caddis flies at different stages in their life cycle. This is especially the case if you keep typical fly angler hours, starting late in the morning but staying on the water until dusk. The happy hour just before sunset is often dominated by caddis action. So, here is a link to a discussion of the

caddis life cycle: [Trouts Fly Fishing | Understanding The Caddis Life Cycle.](#)



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited



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

GRG-TU for MVFF May

GRG-TU habitat restoration work on Little Turkey Creek in 2022

We are getting started on the work on Little Turkey Creek tributary of Willow Creek in the Gila National Forest with >\$130K funding from the NM Environment Department River Stewards program. We held a successful on-site reconnaissance meeting April 7th with agency staff from the USFS, NMED and USFWS to evaluate the methods proposed for work in this Wilderness setting. A small team with very sharp tools met April 28th – 29th to clear the first mile of access trail (see photo's 1-5). **We need volunteers for these two upcoming projects:**

1. **Stream habitat monitoring session the week of May 16th–22nd; contact Jim Brooks by email: arroyodejaime@gmail.com.** This project collects pool/riffle ratio and stream discharge and substrate data that are part of our long-term monitoring efforts and reference for evaluating the impacts of the restoration work that is just getting started.
2. **On-stream habitat construction work ~June 9th – 14th; contact Jeff Arterburn by email: jef-fgilatu@aol.com.** This project involves hand-built construction using natural materials and requires a vigorous volunteer base to make it all happen. This is a beautiful part of the Gila,

and while we'll all work hard, **your participation will make a difference** and you are sure to meet new friends who share our dedication to native trout and healthy watersheds, we'll enjoy great camaraderie and delicious group meals. I guarantee that this event will be a lot of fun and you'll want to come back again!

The **Aldo Leopold Kid's Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts on Saturday June 4th, 2022**. Volunteers are needed to help with the GRG-TU/MVFF booth, helping kids learn to cast with our fly-casting game, handing out bait and gear, and doing the various other jobs that are necessary to run the event since all of the participating agencies and groups are understaffed. The USFWS will be stocking some very large, retired brood stock Gila trout, so volunteers can take the opportunity to fish after the event ends ~1 pm. Bring a float-tube and you'll have a chance to hook up to an incredible fish!

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: jef-fgilatu@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.

Photos from Little Turkey Creek



Trail clearing team at break.



Trail Clearing Crosscut



Pull don't push that crosscut saw.



Keep the cross-cut saw blade pointed outwards.

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*.



One of many, many trees blocking the trail.



13th Annual Native & Wild Trout Conference

Apache Trout Distinguished Service Award

2022: New Mexico Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited & Mesilla Valley Flyfishers



Apache Trout - Distinguished Service Award

The award recognizes an organization for its support of a wide range of efforts to protect and restore some of our great natural treasures – native and wild trout. These organizations have made long-term contributions to the conservation of these vital resources.



Gila Trout - Distinguished Service Award

The award recognizes an individual who has shown remarkable leadership and commitment to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on water, trout, other wildlife and their habitats.



MVFF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, April 18, 2022

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn

The MVFF was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:07 pm, via Zoom. Board members present were: Jeff Arterburn, David Carmichael, Chuck Mueller, Jim Hulsey, and Helen Zagona. Not present: Robert Ardovino, George Sanders,

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the previous Board meeting held December 23, 2021 were approved as published in the January 2022 newsletter. No Board meetings were held in January, February or March of 2022.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report. Current balance of club accounts is \$ 13,530.02. Chuck has set up a debit card for the account and is using this to pay the monthly storage unit fees. Jim

Hulsey noted the club needs to pay the annual fees for the website.

3. **Membership.** No report.
4. **Trout Unlimited.** Jeff Arterburn gave an update on the stream project on the Little Turkey Creek tributary of Willow Creek that focuses on major problem sites where erosion is releasing large amounts of sediment, with installation of structures and willow planting to restore critical habitat and reduce water temperatures for Gila trout. The NM Environment Department River Stewards program awarded >\$130K grant funding to GRG-TU or this project, and the contract has been finalized and the team is authorized to begin work. An on-site reconnaissance meeting

was held April 7th, with a large group of agency staff from the USFS, NMED, USFWS, and GRG-TU inspecting the proposed site and evaluating the methods of proposed work for the minimum tools decision needed to work in this Wilderness setting. The day was very successful and all participants state that this was an “excellent project”. The USFS is finalizing a formal collaborative agreement specifying the roles and responsibilities of all parties. A small team is planning to clear the first mile of access trail April 28th –29th and will be planning opportunities for volunteers to help in May and June. The development of a map showing the Gila Headwaters Watershed for the TU National Strategic Plan for Watershed Prioritization is in progress. Trout Unlimited is planning an in-person National Meeting in Portland Maine July 20–24 and Jeff, as the NM National Leadership Council (NLC) representative, is planning to attend. The Aldo Leopold Kid’s Fishing Derby will be held at Lake Roberts on Saturday June 4th, 2022, and GRG-TU/MVFF will host a booth at the event. The board voted in favor of MVFF donating \$550 for printing logo-themed gifts for the kids, with additional funds to be provided by the NM-TU Council. Volunteers are needed to help with the fly-casting game, handing out bait and gear, and various other jobs necessary to run the event since all of the participating agencies and groups are understaffed. The USFWS will be stocking some very large, retired brood stock Gila trout, so volunteers can take the opportunity to fish after the event ends ~1 pm. Please contact Jeff for details and to volunteer.

5. **New Business.** David is working on modifying the design of the new MVFF logo for embroidered patches and hat’s, where better

resolution and color schemes are required. He will send the revised artwork images to the board for review. Chuck raised a question of identifying which members currently hold MVFF mailbox keys, and this information needs to be updated.

6. **Upcoming Speakers and Events.** The next in-person meeting at the NMDGF Conference Room is scheduled for May 9th, 2022. David will give a presentation on the Rio Peñasco and talk about fly patterns that have been successful recently. The raffle for a classic Sage “Light Line” 5 wt fly rod was initiated at the April club meeting and will be concluded at the May meeting. No MVFF meetings are planned for the summer months. Jeff has invited Craig Springer, who works for the USFWS in Albuquerque, to give a presentation at the September 12, 2022 meeting. Craig has written extensively about trout in NM and recently published the book titled “America’s Bountiful Waters” with a national scope of 150 years history of fish and aquatic species conservation, including a story on Gila trout. His presentation will feature additional local historical information and recent photos and will be an excellent way to start up the MVFF meetings after the summer pause.
7. **Old Business.** The current Board Members are continuing in their respective roles for the upcoming year, but we really need other members to join in for the health of the club. Anyone interested in participating should contact a board member; you do not have to be on the board to serve on a committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm



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.

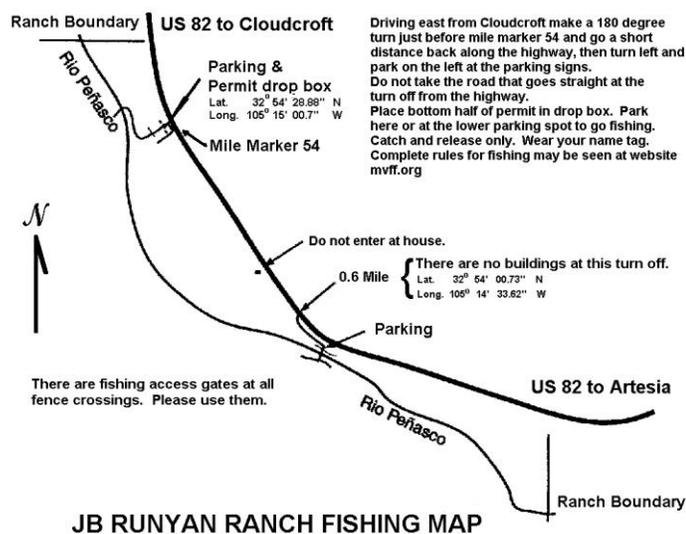
| | | |
|---------|-------|------------|
| 1 Year | \$20 | Individual |
| | \$25 | Family |
| 3 Years | \$50 | Individual |
| | \$60 | Family |
| Life | \$400 | Individual |
| | \$500 | Family |

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