



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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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meetings	1
President's Corner	1
Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited	3
MVFF Library	5
Board Minutes	5

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

Meetings

The next meeting of the general membership will be on Monday, September 12. Jeff Arterburn has arranged for Craig Springer to be our guest speaker. Craig works for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Albuquerque, and he has written extensively about wild trout in New Mexico. See the President's Corner for all the details.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Club News

Bill True was the lucky winner of both the raffle for the Donna Mabbie Sage fly rod, and the door prize at the May 9th meeting of the general membership. Good luck on the water, Bill; that's a very nice vintage rod that still has many good years in it. Thanks again to Alison Mann for the donation of Gary's fly-fishing clothing; as of our May meeting, it seems nearly all of the items have been claimed by someone who will make good use of them.

At the May 16 Zoom meeting of the Board of Directors, we welcomed two visitors, and during the New Business portion of the meeting, they were nominated for and confirmed onto the board. Your new board members are Jeremiah Blount and

Robert Kopczyk. In other new business, at the request of club member Amy Buesing, I asked the board to consider making a donation to Casting for Recovery, to help support the participation of breast cancer patients in the group's retreat program. After some discussion, the board decided unanimously to donate \$500 to the cause. Details about Casting for Recovery and how it functions may be seen here: [Sisterhood of the fly rod | Washington Examiner](#).

The next meeting of the general membership will be on September 12, and Jeff Arterburn has arranged for Craig Springer to be our guest speaker. Craig works for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Albuquerque, and he has written extensively about wild trout in New Mexico. He will discuss his new book on the history of aquatic species conservation, *America's Bountiful Waters*, including regional information on Gila trout.

The board also discussed resuming a couple of popular club events, including the Kid's Fishing Clinic, and club fishing trips. The Kid's Fishing Clinic at Alumni Pond on the NMSU campus has traditionally been held in the spring, but we have received some recent inquiries from the community, so we are looking into whether it would be possible to hold the event this coming fall, perhaps in October or November. If anyone has feedback on this proposal, please contact one of the board members. Regarding club fishing trips, after many years of planning excursions near and far, Chuck Mueller has passed the torch to whomever steps up to the plate next. If you are interested in taking the initiative for planning trips, contact Chuck, and he will help get you oriented with issues such as making housing reservations, negotiating discounted guide trips, and moving funds through club accounts. San Juan anyone?

Environmental News

Wildfires all across New Mexico have dominated the environmental news for the past month, and they continue to do so. Although we are beginning to see some significant cloud buildup, we have not yet received enough rain to help much with putting out the fires. The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire has now burned 315,830 acres, and it is about 54% contained. Uncontained areas of the fire are burning in the headwaters of Willow Creek, Mora Creek and Bear Creek above the vil-

lage of Pecos, and in the Cow Creek and Bull Creek drainages to the east of the village. From what I've heard, the fire fighters did not use fire retardant within the Pecos drainage (because it is toxic to fish), but there is no word yet about direct fire damage, such as whether ash being flushed into the river will be sufficient to harm the fishery.

The Black Fire in the Gila National Forest has grown to about 255,000 acres and is only 25% contained. As of this writing, it has been determined that the fire was human-caused, but further details have not been released. The fire is uncontained in the areas of Black Canyon and the headwaters of the Mimbres River. Unfortunately, as a result of the continued growth of the fire, and the logistics of moving firefighting assets to where they are needed, the Gila NF has been closed to recreation. Therefore, activities sponsored by Trout Unlimited have been postponed for the time being. This includes the planned restoration activities on Little Turkey Creek, and the Aldo Leopold Kid's

Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts. See the article below for more details.

After being turned aside by the courts, efforts to build the Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay drainage, have been in limbo. The mine proponents have expressed their intention to challenge the rulings against development, so the multi-decade effort to protect the salmon runs is not yet finished. Bristol Bay is home to the world's largest Sockeye salmon fishery, and the proposed mine is extremely unpopular with almost every group and

constituency that has commented on the project over the years. The permitting process pursuant to Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act is back in the hands of the Environmental Protection Agency, which is considering finalizing watershed protections based on decades of scientific research. If you are interested in signing the petition to the EPA, and/or receiving updates on the process, here is a link: ([EPA Comment Period Pe-](#)

[tition | Stop Pebble Mine Now](#)) The public comment period is open until July 15.

Good News for Salmon Fisheries officials in Oregon and Idaho are reporting that this year should be a very good year in terms of the numbers of returning Chinook salmon. Fishing days are being ex-

tended because fish counts of returning salmon at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River are much higher than expected. So far, returning salmon numbers are 50,000 above the 10-year average, and the counts are the highest recorded since 2016. The reason for the resurgence seems to be better ocean conditions: somewhat cooler



Smokey sunrise over the Organ Mts., courtesy of the Black Fire, Gila NF



USFS Aerial view of the Black Fire, Gila NF, view to north.

ocean temperatures that resulted in lower mortality of smolts. [With spring chinook salmon run up 30% at Bonneville Dam, more fishing days added on lower Columbia River – oregonlive.com](#)

Pink salmon are doing exceptionally well at the moment too, and their population numbers are at peak abundance, though the reasons may be different and more complex than

the situation with the Chinook. Pink salmon have a much shorter life cycle than other species of salmon, and that appears to provide an adaptive advantage. They grow more quickly, increasing their weight by 500% in the first four months at sea. They are fully grown and return to their waters of origin in about 18 months. When ocean water temperatures are a bit higher, pink salmon are better at colonizing new inlets, and they are also able to recover more effectively from the periodic low population numbers. There are other interesting issues at play, such as interactions with hatchery salmon, and size reduction due to increased competition for food in the oceans. Check out this article for more information:

[\(Too Many Pinks in the Pacific | Hakai Magazine\)](#)

Leaders and Tippetts

I am asked fairly regularly for suggestions about which flies to use on the Rio Peñasco, or on other streams I fish often. Usually, I'll tell the person to have patterns on hand that imitate emerging *Baetis* mayflies, pupating caddis flies, and adults of those bugs. Perhaps even more importantly, one should have a couple of patterns that imitate the nymphs of those insects, as well as a chironomid larva, and a San Juan Worm. Now, like other club members, I tie many of my own flies, and I collect a sampling of fly patterns tied by other anglers, so my fly boxes are full of dozens of patterns. Nevertheless, if truth be told, I probably catch 90% of the trout I hook on one of only half a dozen patterns. In part, this is almost certainly because those are the patterns with which I feel most comfortable and confident. It is also because most of

the time, the size and presentation of flies are more important than the pattern. As a result, one can shed most of the complexity of fly patterns, fly fishing gear, etc. and still be successful. ([Keep it Simple – Proven Tactics for Fly Fishing Success \(msn.com\)](#))

The most important things to know are which insects live where on the river,

what their natural life cycle is, when to use your go-to fly patterns, and how best to present them. There aren't really any secret spots or foolproof fly patterns that will guarantee success. It takes time on the water to build the experience which will result in more hookups. This is the reason for the popularity of the meme "Old Guys Rule;" we've been around long enough, and we move slowly enough to be in tune with the rhythms of the river



and the behavior of the bugs and other foods on which the trout feed. Simplify, slow down, and go catch some trout.



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited



Jeff Arterburn, President

GRG-TU for MVFF – June

The message replicated below was sent by email to Gila/Rio Grande Trout Unlimited Chapter Members on June 1, 2022, and is repeated here for general information. Additional reports on the status of the Black Fire, impacts on trout populations, and revised scheduling of project dates will be reported as they develop.

“Postponement of Planned Activities in the Gila National Forest due to Fire.

We regret to inform you all that due to continuing growth of the Black Fire and considering the Level II+ fire restrictions that are currently in place and the extreme fire prone conditions across the Gila National Forest, we are postponing all planned activities in the Gila National Forest until conditions have changed. **This includes the planned habitat restoration work on Little Turkey Creek in June, and the Aldo Leopold Kid’s Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts that was scheduled for this upcoming Saturday June 4th.** At this time the lake is still expected to be open, and the most recent communications indicated the USFWS was still planning to stock excess and retired brood stock Gila trout. The Black Fire is continuing to grow and is now more than 250K acres at the time of writing. The Southwest Area Incident Management Team 3 is now coordinating the large-scale response. Firefighters have been successful in holding the northern flank, but strong downslope east winds are pushing the fire to the south and east. Efforts are focused on establishing control lines to slow the fires growth south towards McKnight Mountain. Expected storms with increased risk of lightning starts are imminent. A large fire response camp has been established near Camp Thunderbird and increased road traffic associated with the fire response is expected so please use extreme caution when traveling in these areas.

The Black Fire has significantly impacted Gila trout in this area, with high intensity burning through Main Diamond and South Diamond Creeks, both sources of historic lineages, and Black Canyon Creek where recreational angling has been allowed. At this time expectations are rock-bottom low, but once the ashes are settled, we will be there to participate and contribute to the response and restoration.

Please stay tuned for more news and a revised schedule for work on Little Turkey Creek, which will likely be delayed until Fall.

Saturday June 4th Kid’s Fishing Day: Grindstone Reservoir

The June 4th Kid’s Fishing Day at Grindstone Reservoir is still happening, and additional volunteers could help out with this event. Larry Cordova, USFS Wildlife Biologist for the Lincoln NF–Smokey Bear Ranger District, < larry.cordova@usda.gov > is organizing this event and the hours of operation are 8 am – 1 pm. Ron Bellerose < fly-fishnh@hotmail.com > will be setting up a fly-tying demo for the kids. Please contact these folks if you are interested in helping out. The fishing is usually great, and the kids have a fantastic time.”

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*.



MVFF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, May 16, 2022

Submitted by David Carmichael

The meeting was called to order by David Carmichael via Zoom at 7pm. Board members in attendance were Chuck Mueller, Jim Hulsey, Helen Zagona, Robert Ardivino, and David Carmichael. Not present: Jeff Arterburn, George Sanders. At the May 9 meeting of the general membership, club members who might want to learn about the Board functions, and/or join the Board, were invited to attend the Zoom meeting. In response to that invitation, club members Jeremiah Blount and Robert Kopczyk attended the meeting as visitors.

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the April 18, 2022 board meeting were approved as published in the May newsletter
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report, and the club's current balance is \$13,547.58. Report was approved as presented.
3. **Membership.** No report.
4. **Trout Unlimited.** No report was presented at the meeting, as Jeff was in travel status. However, Jeff later provided an extensive update on the citizen science activities and Kid's Fishing event at Lake Roberts. That report will be placed in the June newsletter.
5. **Old Business.** David is finally in receipt of the revised documents from the NMSU Foundation that detail the management of the Mabie Legacy Memorial Scholarship. The new agreement has gone through several revisions over the past six months, but before

signing it, David would like the Board to vote on it. Because not everyone had the chance to review the document before the meeting, David will query the Board via email in the next week, and take the appropriate action in keeping with the votes.

6. **Upcoming Speakers and Events.** Jeff has arranged for Craig Springer of the US Fish and Wildlife Service to give a presentation at the September 12, 2022 meeting of the general membership. David noted that just prior to the pandemic, a tentative agreement was made with Pat Dorsey to be our guest speaker at the annual banquet than ended up being cancelled. David will reach out to Pat to see if he is available for next winter. Robert suggested contacting Lance Peterson who guides in Baja California, and Board members were asked to provide additional suggestions for who they would like to see speak at one of our future meetings. The next meeting of the Board will be in August.

7. **New Business.**
 - At the request of club member Amy Buesing, David asked the Board to consider making a donation to Casting for Recovery, the group that organizes fly fishing retreats for patients recovering from breast cancer. After some discussion, the Board voted to donate \$500 to the local

chapter which serves New Mexico and the Texas panhandle.

- It was suggested that the club start working on resuming some of our pre-pandemic events, beyond the monthly club meetings. It was reported that some board members have received inquiries from the community about whether and when we might have another Kid's Fishing Clinic. It was suggested that we should try to present a clinic next fall, rather than waiting for the traditional spring timing of the event. It is unclear whether a fall event would work for the other groups and agencies who participate, such as NMSU chapter of the American Fisheries Society, NMDFG and Sportsman's Warehouse. David asked all the board members to check their files for any information they have on the

points of contact for these groups so we can coordinate with them over the summer. It would be appropriate to begin planning new club fishing trips, to destinations such as the San Juan or other destinations visited in the past. Chuck is sufficiently busy with the role of club treasurer, but he is willing to help someone take up the reins for planning club trips. Board members or club members who have trip ideas should reach out to Chuck for information.

- After seeing what the Board does and how it operates, Jeremiah Blount and Robert Kopczyk were nominated as new Board members, and their nominations were approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm



Quick Look Contact Information

2022 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Vacant
• 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:	Jeremiah Blount
• Position 9	Robert Koczzyk
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.

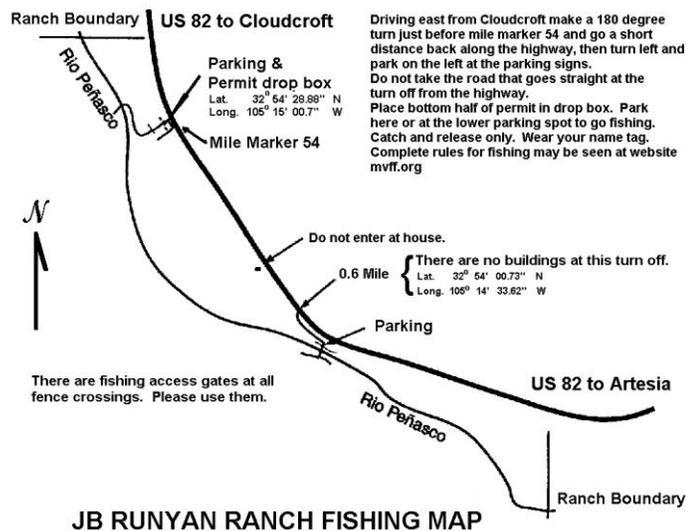
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.