



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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2016



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Membership Meeting

There will be no MVFF general membership meeting in June. Many members will be fishing and the rest of them should be. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

Executive Board Meeting

There will be no MVFF Board meeting in June. The next meeting will be in August. See you then.

Liars and Tyers

Liars and Tyers will not meet in June. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

President's Corner



David Carmichael

Well, summer is upon us, and the next meeting of the general membership won't be until September. Hopefully many of you will be traveling and fishing this summer, but the board will try to keep the newsletters coming. If you

have Internet access as you travel, check out the latest installments, and maybe even file a fishing report for the rest of the members.

First, some news and updates on earlier reports. Don Pendergrass at Sportsman's Elite in El Paso donated the remainder of their fly fishing/tying supplies to Project Healing Waters. I picked up the donation, valued at just over \$16,000, and Ron Bellerose drove down and hauled it all up to Las Cruces. Thanks Ron! PHW should be all set with fly tying materials for quite a while.

Miriam and I had a nice day of fishing at the lease last Sunday. The water was about six inches higher than normal and very clear; probably the clearest I've ever seen it. It was possible to view the bottom in most of the deep holes we visited. The clarity made the fishing a little challenging, but we caught some nice trout ranging up to 16 inches, and we lost track of the number of chubs we hooked. There was a BWO hatch (size 20) underway when we arrived about 11:00, and a caddis hatch came off about 6pm. In between, the action was slow, but we also enjoyed watching the thunderstorms in the distance, and had a visit from a nursery herd of 20 mule deer. I noticed an empty Powerbait container near the lower waterfall, so it may be that trespassing bait fishermen have been taking out quite a few trout. I'm open to suggestions about how we might address this problem.

Rob Ruff sent in a quick report on his visit to Three Rivers Creek last month. He notes that it is almost impossible to cast into the stream in the lower 2 miles because of all the fallen timber. He also hiked in to the headwaters from the Bonito Creek drainage and the Crest Trail, but didn't find any trout in the upper section. Last week I was camping at Three Rivers with a group of UTEP archeology students, and I had a chance to fish the lower section of the creek for

an hour. The USFS staff from the Smokey Bear Ranger District and a veterans group from Arizona spent about two weeks working on the trail, and they told us that about 1.5 miles of the trail had been cleared of fallen timber. The work is slow going because the trail is within the White Mountain Wilderness, and they have to use hand saws rather than chain saws. Their hard work made it easier to walk the trail, but that didn't make "casting" any easier. I was able to catch and release five brookies during my short visit, but I hooked far more locust trees and willows than I did trout. Some of my students reported getting their feet covered with small leeches; I didn't see them, but they were apparently about the size of a small San Juan Worm pattern.

I expect that many of us will be fishing on public lands this summer. I invite everyone to spend a little time thinking about what that means; about the importance of public lands and federal watershed management for our sport, the health of our environment, and for our emotional well-being.

Gentlemen, why in heaven's name this haste? You have time enough. Ages and ages lie before you. Why sacrifice the present to the future, fancying that you will be happier when your fields teem with wealth and your cities with people? In Europe we have cities wealthier and more populous than yours, and we are not happy. Why, in your hurry to subdue and utilize nature, squander her splendid gifts? You have opportunities such as mankind has never had before, and may never have again.—(Lord James Bryce 1888 The American Commonwealth, v.2)

Lord James Bryce was a British politician who served as ambassador to the United States during the late 19th century, a time before the conservation movement in the U.S. had developed. He visited the western frontier and was awed by the majesty of the vast stretches of nature that still existed in the U.S. He was also dismayed at the way it was being developed

for short-term economic gain at the expense of all the other values it contained. Those sentiments are still valid today.

Bryce was not alone in his observations. Adam Smith is often quoted, especially his famous passage on *laissez faire* and the "invisible hand" which is often presented as the basis for supply-side economic policies, including privatization of public lands. But, Smith is often misquoted or taken out of context; in many passages he argues passionately against the sorts of policies that today drive the economic growth of big business, the extractive industries, and environmental degradation. For example:

Of all those expensive and uncertain projects which bring bankruptcy upon the greater part of the people that engage in them, there is none perhaps more perfectly ruinous than the search after new silver and gold mines. (Adam Smith 1776, The Wealth of Nations)

Last month the State of New Mexico filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the owners of the Sunnyside Mine over damages caused by last year's contamination of the Animas River with acid mine drainage and iron oxide sludge. The suit is not a surprise, but it is ironic that the state is targeting the EPA which was trying to clean up the pollution caused by 150 years of mining pollution.

Mining in Colorado, and elsewhere throughout the western U.S., was spurred by the passage of the General Mining Law of 1872. Signed by President Grant, the law was intended to help settle the west and use the vast open spaces for productive purposes. There are no provisions in the law for environmental protection or the definition of mine reclamation. The law has certainly led to the production of wealth, but it has also left significant environment damage throughout much of the western U.S., including in the San Juan Mountains and Silverton region of southern Colorado.



Cruces Basin Wilderness, New Mexico

There are tens of thousands of mines dotting the landscape, and 16,000 miles of western streams have been polluted by mine diggings and/or runoff. Sixteen years ago the EPA determined that 40% of the headwaters of all western watersheds have been polluted by mining. Of course, these are the same headwaters that often represent the last refuges for



Waterfall on Holden Prong
Aldo Leopold Wilderness

wild trout populations. The 1872 law allows both foreign and domestic mining companies to extract minerals from publically owned lands without making payments to taxpayers. Public lands are sold to miners for \$2.50–\$5.00 per acre. Multinational mining companies removed more than \$11 billion worth of minerals in the past 8 years, but do not make payments to the government. Coal, oil and natural gas companies pay royalties of 8–12.5% on resources removed from federal lands, and those funds are used to address environment damages; no such funds are collected for remediation of abandoned mines. When large spills occur, the damages are so great that the mining companies often go bankrupt. And, as in the case of the Animas spill last year, the State of Colorado cannot afford the cleanup costs, so they fall to the federal government (aka taxpayers).

The General Mining Law of 1872 needs to be replaced with a law better suited to the challenges of this century. It is also important to keep a close eye on our

elected officials, as the 1872 law is explicitly a mechanism to transfer public lands to private companies at rock bottom prices, so to speak. Such transfers can have a direct impact on environmental quality and the accessibility of fisheries, hunting grounds and other areas of interest for recreational use.

Everything is connected; anthropologists, ecologists, climate scientists, Native Americans, and others who bring a holistic perspective to their observations of the earth know this. Many fly anglers know it too. Our cold water fisheries are harbingers of change and measuring sticks of environmental health, and mining is still taking a toll. Management of watersheds, ecological systems, soils and landscapes exceed the scope and the financial abilities of state and local agencies. Fortunately, some politicians and policy-makers are beginning to pay attention:

There is little doubt federal management needs to improve, but I do not support any effort that jeopardizes or calls into question the future of our public lands heritage. (Montana Governor Steve Bullock, 2015, in his veto of a public land transfer bill)



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters is still going strong. We had a fly tying event on 25 May that went well tying streamers.

We have a Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion fly tying event at Ft Bliss on 10 June and we will be fishing the lease on June 11th. I am all set for fly tying with help from Tim Mack but will be looking for a few volunteers to work with the Warriors fishing on the 11th. I expect to be at the Lease around 9am. I expect from 5 to 8 soldiers to participate. Will also have fly tying on June 29th for our local Vets with disabilities. This will be held at the Las Cruces VA Clinic.

A great donation from Sportsman's Elite estimated at over \$16,000. Not quite sure how all the materials will be utilized but I am quite sure it will be for PHW

Aldo Leopold Kids Fishing Day
Lake Roberts NM, June 4th, 2016



Congratulations to Camren Feldman from Silver City NM who won the L.L. Bean Flyrod Outfit!



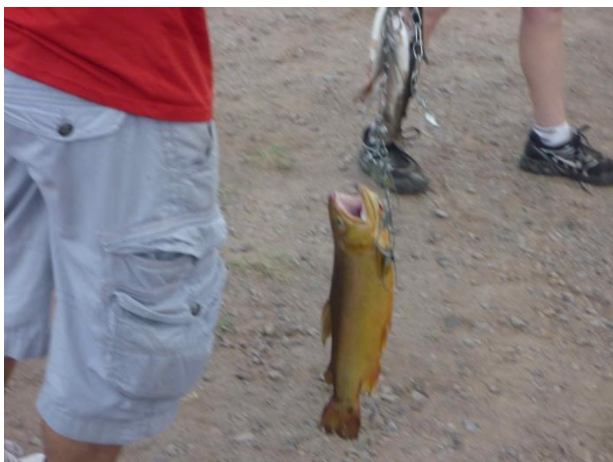
Coloring Booth



Fly Casting



Fly Casting



Gila Trout



Smokey Bear Visits

Thanks to all the kids, parents, staff members (U.S.F.S., U.S.F.W.S., NMDGF), donors, and M.V.F.F. and GRG-TU volunteers who helped make this event a great success!!!

Quick Look Contact Information

2016 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Secretary:	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• Treasurer:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Position 4:	Ray Rodriquez (575) 520-5768
• Position 5:	John Kennedy (612) 720-3456
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• Position 9:	Dennis Lanpher (575) 642-2946
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	membership@mvff.org

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund Market Value as of 30 June 2014	\$11,487
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Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund

The Norm Mabie Memorial 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 recipient of each scholarship is determined each April by the MVFF Board with the award being made for the fall semester.

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

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 LI-
CENSES 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, purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco, and participate in other Club activities such as a summer picnic, 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.

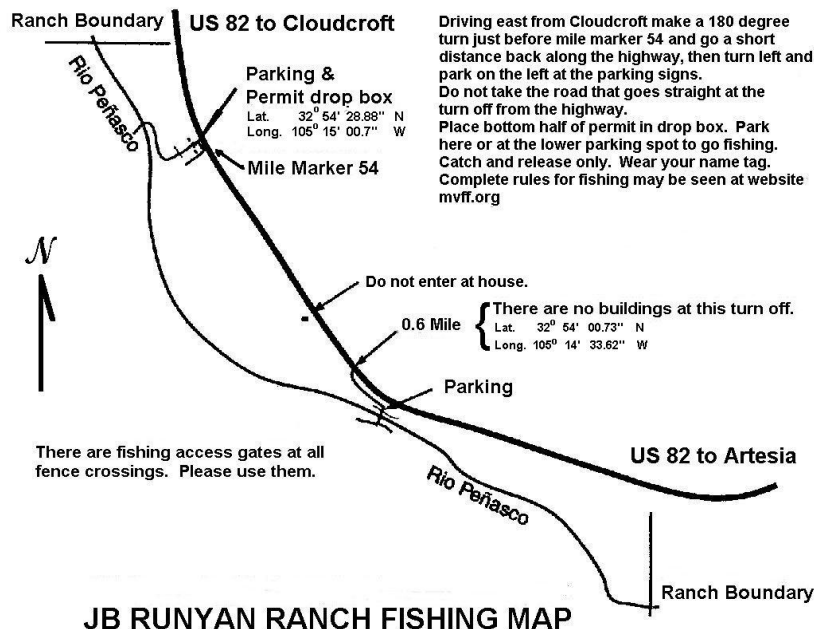
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880), Tom Wobbe (575-522-5437) and Donna Mabie (575-522-3810) 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. 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 Jim Hulsey. In addition, members can purchase a one-day, one-time permit for guests.

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.