



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 2222
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222
www.MVFF.org



March

2016

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Membership Meeting

Monday, 14 March

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 14 March at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Guest speakers will be Dustin Myers and Jerry Monzingo from the U.S. Forest Service, Gila National Forest Office. They will give a presentation featuring the current status of the forest and Gila Trout and near term projects. Should be great!

Doors will open at 6:30pm and cookies and coffee will be served.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 21 March

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 21 March at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 23 March

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 23 March at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room

starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *BWO Loop Wing Emerger*. The tying session will be led by professional tyer, Tim Mack. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies will be available for beginning tyers.

President's Corner



David Carmichael

March marks my first month as your new club president. It is a pleasure to step into this role as part of a group as well-organized, active and collegial as the Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers.

I want to thank Jim Sorenson for his two years of able service as president; he has set the bar high, and I will do my best to follow in his footsteps in helping the club to enhance the fly fishing experience for all our members. If you have interests that haven't been included in past club activities or ideas for speakers or trips, please contact me or one of the other board members, and we'll see what we can do to address them.

Last month we had another successful year-end celebration at our annual banquet. With about 75 members in attendance and the most extensive list of prizes we've seen in recent years, there were plenty of opportunities for members to walk away with some great equipment and other prizes. The big winners were Amy Buesing, George Giovanni and Paul Turner, who all won fly rods. As always, the brisket, sausage and pulled pork from Sparky's were great, as was the new item, smoked turkey breast; thank you Josie and Teako! Teako said he is considering adding the smoked turkey to the menu at Sparky's, so if you liked it, let him know. Our banquet speaker Tim Cammisa gave an interesting talk on how to prepare for fishing unfamiliar waters and how to record our experiences in a way that will help in planning future

trips. Earlier in the day, Tim put on a great fly tying demonstration, and if you are interested in viewing his work and techniques, there are links to dozens of his fly tying videos on his webpage at www.troutandfeather.com. The videos are quite good, and he is celebrating the recent milestone of reaching 1 million viewers on his website.

Some years ago when I was introducing my daughter to fly fishing, she made an interesting observation. After discussing casting, fly lines, tippets, fly selection and presentation, she commented, "So Dad, I guess the point of fly fishing is to make it as hard as possible to actually catch a fish?" Although she no longer feels that way, from her vantage point as a beginner, it seemed there was a lot to learn. That much is true; one of the great things about fly fishing is that no matter how much experience one has, there is always more to learn. In that sense, fly angling is a contemplative endeavor. So, in the interests of contemplation, let's reflect on what Leonardo (Da Vinci, not DiCaprio) had to say about rivers:

"When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come."

In modern terms, this quotation might be interpreted to mean that ongoing change is the fundamental essence of the universe, or that the flow of a river is a metaphor for life. But as anglers, we know that it is more literally true as well. The very rivers we fish and enjoy are constantly changing, affected by everything from fluctuations in precipitation, deforestation, fires, grazing, and floods to subtle shifts in bottom structure, currents, cloud cover and shadows falling across the water. When we revisit a stream, even one we know well, we are really making its acquaintance all over again. And our days on the water are not simply an opportunity to catch fish; they are opportunities to observe and perhaps become immersed in the rhythms of nature, both large and small.

The Rio Penasco is a wonderful spring stream, well-known for having reliable *Baetis* hatches even in winter. We are fortunate to have access to the Penasco as our home waters, and I encourage all our club members to take time to visit the lease whenever you can. Last month Miriam and I fished the club lease during mid-week, and had a wonderful time. Although the unseasonably warm temperatures caused the hatch to come off earlier in the day than we ex-

pected, mayflies were still emerging at 11:30 while we were rigging up our rods, and the trout happily took our RS2 emergers until 2:30. Yes, we had a good afternoon, catching 15 trout and almost as many chubs. And Miriam took the honors for the largest trout of the day, a nice 15-16 inch holdover male rainbow. But we also experienced the magic of being in the water when a mayfly emerges and lifts off the water nearby, the soaring visit by a red-tailed hawk, and the intimate beauty of ferns greening up under a waterfall. These are the experiences that make it worthwhile to visit the river again and again, each time touching the first of what is still to come.



Next on our agenda is the general club meeting on March 14. Our guest speakers will be Dustin Myers and Jerry Monzingo from the U.S. Forest Service, who will discuss the status of the Gila National Forest and Gila trout conservation efforts. I hope to see you at the meeting, or on the river.



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



Rod building, rod building, all is going great. We have 8 Vets building their own fly rods this year. Hook & Hackle fly shop has donated 600 fly rod blanks with components to Project Healing Waters. We have 7 Vets building graphite rods and one is building a bamboo rod. Lots of thanks goes out to Karen Erickson for her help with the Vet on building this fly rod.

We have had a couple of fishing events this last month and a couple of fly tying events. We will also be working with the wounded warrior transition battalion several times this year. Dates to be finalized shortly.

We have the wounded warrior resilience program fly tying on March 16th and fishing at the lease on the 23rd. We need as many volunteers as possible for these events. We also tie flies on the last Wednesday of the month at the Las Cruces VA Clinic. If you have not volunteered to work with these Vets, try it, you will have a great feeling of support to the Vets.

I will be attending a PHW training session, leaving on the 12th of March and returning on the 16th. Hope to have some good info on what is going on with the program, ways to get more donations and tools to support the handicapped Vets.

All donations that come from the local area stay in the local area to support our local Vets. Any donations/checks need to specify the Las Cruces area in the memo section. Thanks for all the support from the MVFF club, the NMG&F and all our great volunteers.

For more information about PHWFF see www.projecthealingwaters.org. Contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com if you wish to volunteer to help out.

MVFF Lady Anglers Trip

Rio Peñasco, April 14 - 17

Helen Zagona



MVFF Lady Anglers will have another spring fishing weekend April 14 to 17. We will fish at the Mulcock Ranch on Friday 15th and fish the MVFF Lease waters on the Rio Peñasco Friday and Saturday April

16 and 17. All Lady Angler outings are famous for fun fishing and delicious meals. We also plan festive Happy Hours to re-live our triumphs on the water. Any woman member of MVFF is welcome to join us. For more information call Helen at 532-5668.

New Mexico Native Trout Update

Jeff Arterburn



An open comment period is concluding 03/04/16 for the proposal to construct a permanent fish barrier on Willow Creek in Catron County NM, located approximately 300 feet upstream of the confluence with Gilita Creek. It is extremely important to have this permanent structure replace the existing temporary gabion barrier in the same location, in order to provide protection for the population of native Gila Trout that have been restored to this stream and are available as a recreational fishery. This permanent fish barrier will protect this upstream section from invasive non-native trout species that may be located downstream, and provides needed improved performance since the temporary gabion only serves as an impediment to upstream migration during low stream flows. Planning is in preparation for a willow pole planting project on Willow Creek this season, which is a great way for individuals and families to get out and have a fun weekend, while helping to start the stream habitat recovery process so that we will have improved fishing for the future. Another exciting opportunity is on a fast track to restore Gila Trout to Mineral Creek. The Whitewater Baldy Fire resulted in extirpation of non-native trout and depending on one last round of survey results to verify their absence, the plan is to stock this stream with Gila Trout. Whitewater Creek is also on track for restoration efforts, and for more information follow this link to the NMDGF Gila Trout Recovery and Angling page, then under the "Current Projects" tab you'll find the Gila Trout Management Update presentation from the public meeting in Glenwood 2/16/2016. <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/native-new-mexico-fish/gila-trout-recovery-angling/> We'll also be planning to help out during the June 4th Kid's Fishing Derbies at Lake Roberts and Grindstone Reservoir so mark your calendars for those events.

Winners of MVFF Raffles

Here's the list of winners for the raffles at this year's MVFF Banquet on February 20.

Annual Participation Prize:

- Guided Trip Christian Mondok

PHW:

- Float Tube Duane Sorenson
- Pack ?
- Fly Rod Tom Johnson

- Brodin Gallatin Net Mike Frederick
- TFO Reel Gary Mann
- C&F Lg. Fly Box Kay Turner

Fund Raiser Raffle:

- Czech Nymph Rod By Bob Widgren Amy Buesing
- Winston Boron Rod George Giovanni
- Dave Carmichael Custom Rod Paul Turner
- Fishpond Big Horn Bag Dick Newton
- Brodin Cutthroat Net J. Sam Moore, Jr.
- C&F Fly Box Duane Sorenson
- Grey Reel Larry Pryor
- Folstaf Wading Staff Abby Sorenson
- Sage Rod Case Kay Turner
- Hardy Reel Bob Silver
- Colorado Fishing Book Jeff Arterburn
- TFO Ticrx Rod Jeff Arterburn
- C&F Fly Box Curtis Bondie
- Fishpond Wasatch Vest Will Lubenau
- Elgin Hair Stacker Ted Hopkins
- Galvan Reel Amy Buesing
- TFO Reel Mary Hoffman
- C&F Fly Box Tim Commisa
- Elgin Hair Stacker John Kennedy

Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible future outings and would welcome suggestions from members. Where do you want to go? Let them know. If you have comments or suggestions for additional trips pass them to any of the Board members. Trips now in the planning stages are:

- May 3 - 7—trip to Lee’s Ferry.
- April 14 - 17—trip to Lease by MVFF Lady Anglers. Contact Helen Zegona (532-5668) for info.
- Oct. 1 - 9 trip to Kodiak. Contact Tom Lightfoot (575-521-4546) for info.

Welcome New Members

- Robert & Georgia Briscoe Midland, TX
- John Claborn Lubbock, TX
- Michael & Lindsey Daniels Las Cruces, NM
- Quintin & Rachel Dean Las Cruces, NM
- Theodore & Marcie Hansen Las Cruces, NM
- Will Lubenau Las Cruces, NM
- Joel & Marti Smith Roswell, NM



BWO Loop Wing Emerger



- Hook:** TMC 100, #16 to 22
- Thread:** UNI 8/0, olive or olive dun
- Tail:** antron yarn, amber or rust
- Body:** BWO dubbing, super fine or similar
- Loop Wing:** Mallard flank feather
- Hackle:** dun dry fly, Whiting Farm or any other dry fly hackle
- Optional:** to add some flash, rib with pearl mylar





MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 15, 2015

Submitted, John Kennedy, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order at 6:53pm in the NMDG&F Conference Room by President Jim Sorenson. Board members present were Jim Sorenson, Chuck Mueller, Gary Mann, John Kennedy, Dennis Lanpher, Ray Rodriquez, Jeff Arterburn, Bob Silver and David Carmichael. Non-Board members in attendance were Paul Turner, Dick Newton, Ron Bellerose, Jim Hulsey, Tom Wobbe, and Will Lubenau and Dominique Lujan from the American Fisheries Society.

- 1. Minutes of the January 18, 2016 Board meeting were approved as published in the February, 2016 issue of the newsletter.
- 2. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$11,559. The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.
- 3. Tom Wobbe reported that the Club has 324 members, 112 from Las Cruces; 54 from El Paso; 30 from Lubbock; 10 from Alamogordo, etc. Lease permit sales have been slow over the winter, but soon should pick up.
- 4. Ron Bellerose reported on Project Healing Waters. PHW will have a raffle at the Annual Banquet on February 20th. Prizes will include a fly rod built

and donated by a vet, and a float tube. 8 vets are building rods. Ron will attend a PHW Information meeting in Orlando, Fla. in mid-March. Ron has also begun working with a local Boy Scout troop on their fly fishing merit badge.

- 5. Jeff Arterburn reported for the Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited. There was good attendance at a recent meeting, and various projects were discussed. A report is due out in June concerning the Black Canyon project with hopefully a grant for spring 2017 work.
 - 6. Will Labenau reported that the The American Fisheries Society held its annual meeting from February 4 to 6 in Flagstaff, Ariz. Excellent comments were received about the NMSU Chapter.
 - 7. The Annual Meeting/Banquet and Raffle is all set.
 - 8. The Lease/Stream Improvements, Round 2, will occur sometime in mid to late March. Lease stocking will occur at the end of March or early April.
 - 9. The Kids fishing clinic will be April 2.
- The next Board meeting will be March 21, 2016.
Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.



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 Rodriguez (575) 524-9420
• 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

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.

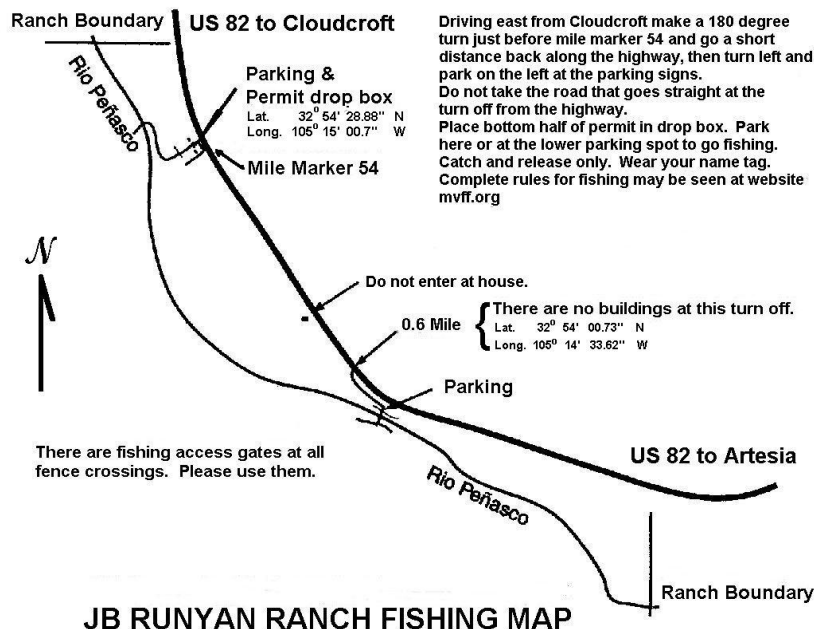
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.