



TALE WATERS

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

July

2018



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

Membership Meeting

There will be no MVFF general membership meeting in July. 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 July. The next meeting will be in August. See you then.

Liars and Tyers

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

President's Corner

David Carmichael

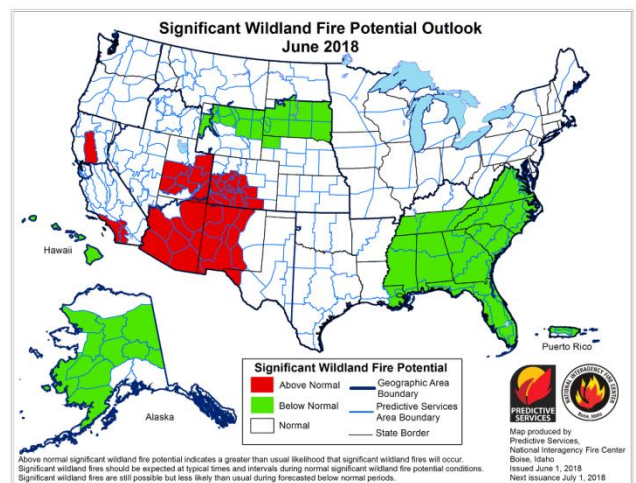
My apologies for the newsletter being so late this month. Miriam and I have been driving across the west on our way to visit family in the Seattle area. We've been camping, visiting national parks, fishing and otherwise spending time in places with intermittent Internet access and electrical infrastructure. Despite their being delivered



late, we've seen some things and learned some things which will hopefully be of interest to those of you who are not preoccupied with your own fishing exploits.

It's Hot and Dry Out There

I'm sure you've noticed that it is especially hot this summer, but it is also very dry. In fact, we're seeing low water conditions even in the Pacific Northwest. Climate scientists and weather forecasters are saying that the conditions we're experiencing now are harbingers of the new normal. As shown in this map compiled by the National Interagency Fire Center, the greater Southwest is at very high risk of wild fires this season. On our way through the Southwest, we saw at least a dozen places where wildfires had been started by someone throwing smoking materials out of their vehicles. Large areas of grasslands, sage brush scrub, and even woodlands were charred, smoldering or actively burning, and in one case, fire fighters were still on the scene trying to control the spread of the fire in the strong winds. Campgrounds all across the region have restrictions against open campfires. So, please be especially careful out there.



Before I took my current job at UTEP, I served as the first tribal archeologist for the Hopi Tribe in Arizona. It has been a few years since I took students to visit the Hopi reservation, and Miriam had never seen it, so we decided to spend a couple of days on the reserva-

tion, catching up with some of my old friends. I was hoping to take some photographs of the traditional dry land farming techniques used by the Hopis, but we couldn't find any fields that had been planted this year. One farmer told us that this is first time in living memory that nobody planted crops at Hopi. This new development is devastating to a subsistence farming society whose members have planted those mesas and arroyos since the 1100s. Some tribal members wonder whether the traditional renewal and fertility rituals that have brought the snow and rain to the Hopi mesas for thousands of years may no longer be effective in the face of all the environmental damage being inflicted on the earth by the world's industrial economies. One wonders how to argue with that perspective.

Bryce Canyon National Park and Vicinity

We were hoping to visit the famous Antelope Canyon area on the Navajo reservation near Lake Powell, but we learned the hard way that the required guided trips must be reserved months in advance. Our initial disappointment was soon replaced with pleasant surprises as we instead explored the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bryce Canyon National Park in southern Utah. You may recall that Grand Staircase-

Escalante is one of the two national monuments in the region that Zinke and Trump have decided to break up and open up to mining. Their actions are being challenged in court via a number of lawsuits regarding the Antiquities Act (under the authority of which they were created) and questions about the limits of presidential authority to reverse National Monument designations. Personally, I hope the lawsuits prevail and Grand Staircase-Escalante survives the current onslaught against our public lands, but just in case it doesn't, I'm glad we saw it now, before the strip mining spreads into the national monument lands.

Between us, Miriam and I have visited about half the country's national parks and a quarter of our national monuments, but we nevertheless found ourselves truly awestruck by the magnificent views and geological complexity of Bryce Canyon. When we hiked from our nearby campsite to the Bryce Amphitheater, as we reached the canyon rim we simultaneously let out involuntary gasps of wonder and awe. The vastness of the vistas and the colors and shapes of the geological formations are truly remarkable, and we agreed that Bryce Canyon National Park is in the top three parks we have ever visited. Aside from the visual details, there are other aspects of the park and the adjacent monument lands that contribute to its attractiveness. The area stretching from Moab and Arches National Park to the east, to Zion National Park to the southwest creates a sizable tourism and outdoor recreation zone. There is an interesting mix of lands



Before: View of Bryce Amphitheater from Sunset Point, Bryce Canyon National Park

that have greater and lesser degrees of environmental sensitivity, and which therefore offer a variety of activities to suit all sorts of visitor experiences. There are hiking trails, paved bike trails, ATV trails, and horse packing activities. There are primitive camp-grounds, glamping localities, motels adjacent to the parks and upscale lodges in the parks. The monument lands are open to hunting and fishing, and they protect tens of thousands of prehistoric archeological sites. And there is a general lack of obvious industrial infrastructure: few utility lines, almost no billboards, and no oil and gas wells, strip mine pits, mine tailings, and access roads for extractive industries. In other words, there is a large swath of largely undeveloped lands, already previously managed by the BLM and USFS that drives the outdoor recreation tourism of all of southern Utah.

There are a number of streams in and adjacent to the monument lands that offer good fly fishing, including the east and west forks of the Sevier River, the Virgin River, Fremont River and Clear Creek. Fisheries in the Sevier River and Fremont drainages have been featured in Southwest Fly Fishing magazine (Nov/Dec 2016 and March/April 2013, respectively). There are also fishing opportunities at the Boulder Mountain Lakes and several popular impoundments in the area. Additionally, two other rivers in the region, the Escalante and Paria are tributaries to the Colorado River, so anything that seeps into them will end up in the Colorado which is also a significant fishery.

It really is quite amazing and sad to think that elected public officials would knowingly destroy such a well visited area of public lands that is appreciated and supported by a majority of the region's residents and the general public as well. But that seems to be precisely what is happening. A recent article by Steve Becker (*GreeningZ*, March 20, 2018) reports that despite statements by Trump and Zinke to the contrary, evidence indicates that administration officials are serving the interests of a few CEOs of mining and drilling companies at the expense of other public lands stakeholders and the environment itself. Bryce National Park alone generated \$213 million in outdoor tourism revenue in 2017, while the Alton coal mine 8 miles from the park supports only 30 jobs.

The intended break up of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument could result in an eight-fold increase in coal mining in the vicinity of Bryce Canyon National Park (*The Salt Lake Tribune*, 7/13/2018).



Before: Black Canyon section of the East Fork, Sevier River, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. (Utah Division of Water Quality photo)

The long term environmental impacts of expanded strip mining in the area include air pollution from strip mining and increased truck traffic on new access roads; increased noise levels; reduced night sky visibility; increased wildlife roadkill; and pollution of waterways by runoff from mine tailings and processing plant chemicals. A couple of photos are included here to show what the local impact of such facilities looks like, but these pictures don't capture the damage caused to regional water quality and fisheries.

If you have followed the political rhetoric related to the reduction of national monuments throughout the western United States, you will probably recall that the present administration has claimed that past presidents have used the Antiquities Act to over-reach, designating National Monuments that are larger than necessary to protect the antiquities and natural resources of concern. I wondered about this claim with regard to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, so researched the monument website and Bryce Canyon printed materials, and found some very interesting things. First, the NPS website for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument has been scrubbed of most information relating to its sci-



After: Coal Hollow strip mine near Bryce Canyon National Park (The Salt Lake Tribune, 7/13/2018)

entific and recreational values. The website is dominated by information about the proposed altered boundaries and the discussion of mining claims. Remarkably, the website includes a detailed discussion of how to file mining claims under the 1872 Mining Act (an outdated and problematical law that I've discussed in previous newsletters)! In other words, the administration has completely dismissed

the natural values and public stakeholders that justified the creation of the monument in the first place. Indeed, the official monument website is completely misleading, if not outright disingenuous.

It was in the Bryce Canyon information that I found the justification for the extent and location of the lands protected by Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument. The monument lands are a physical and chronological link filling in the gap between Zion, Grand Canyon and Arches National Parks. That in itself might not seem like a big deal, but here's the thing: the **Grand**

Staircase is the most complete sequence of sedimentary rocks in the world. From the Grand Canyon at the bottom, through Zion in the middle, to Bryce Canyon near the top, the sequence contains a nearly unbroken record of 525 million years of geological history, a more complete record than is found anywhere else in the world. This is why the national monument was designated to be as large as it is; to protect the world's longest sequence of sedimentary rocks for future scientific research, and to protect the thousands of archeological sites that document the efforts of earlier human cultures who adapted to that wild environment. The Grand Staircase includes five ecological life zones, from low lying Lower Sonoran desert to coniferous forest. It contains tens of thousands of archeological sites relating to the Anasazi and Fremont cultures dating from A.D. 950–1100. The monument also contains more information on climate

changes that occurred at the end of the dinosaur era than any other place in the world. The size, remote location and range of natural resources provide extraordinary opportunities for geological, paleontological, archeological and biological research and public

education. The (for now) unspoiled natural area allows for solitude and a range of recreational activities unlike any other landholdings in the country.

How sad it will be if we are not able to protect such a special place from permanently destructive energy



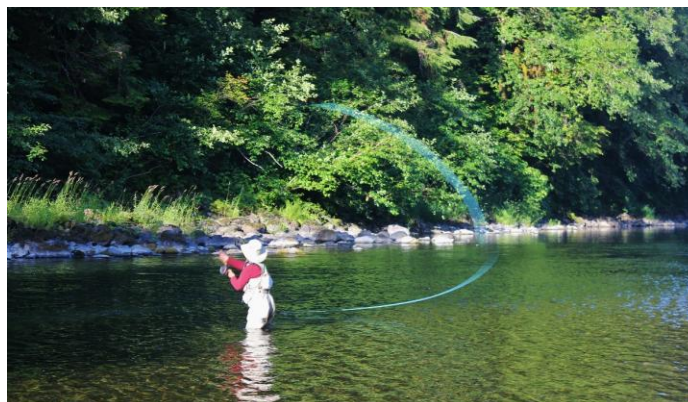
After: Drill pad near Bears Ears National Monument (GreeningZ photograph, 4/20/18)

development with its modest short term profits, especially when the coal industry is already in decline in response to market forces anyway. If you have any desire to fish the trout streams of southern Utah, it might be prudent to do so sooner than later, as new coal and uranium leases have already been

sold, and the runoff from both sorts of mining will likely devastate area fisheries.

Mark Your Calendar

On a more upbeat note, there are a couple of club activities that are in the works, and planning has proceeded sufficiently that they can now be penciled in on your calendars. First, our second edition of the Fly Fishing Film Tour event will be held at Ardivino's Desert Crossing in Sunland Park, NM on November 11, 2018. Cabela's has already indicated their intention to participate again this year, and as noted in last month's newsletter, we are already putting together



Miriam learning spey casting on the Bogachiel River, Olympic Peninsula

some really nice prizes for the raffle. Ticket prices should be the same as last year. Second, I have a commitment from Molly Semenik to be our guest speaker at the next annual banquet. We are still working on the details, but she will teach two casting classes and present a talk on her latest book. More

details will follow, but we are currently planning for the weekend of January 26, 2019. Until next month, stay cool, stay safe, and good fishing. [↑](#)



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing will have a fishing event at the lease on 14 July. I expect 15 or more participants in this event. We will provide lunch for them, hot dogs and hamburgers. I will need as many volunteers as I can get to help with the fishing and even a couple to help with the cooking. Jim Ellett will be out of state but is letting us use his grill and back yard. This is the Ft. Bliss Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion.

We will also have fly tying on Tuesday July 10th and on July 18th.

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. [↑](#)

Lady Anglers Update

The Lady Anglers are a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have fun doing it. The Lady Angler fishing trips for 2018 are already planned and fully booked. This spring, we fished the Rio Peñasco on the Mulcock Ranch and the Club lease. In the fall, we will be fishing the Upper Rio Grande area in Colorado from September 20 to 24. Our guides for the Colorado trip will be from Wolf Creek Anglers, the fly shop headed up by Brad Shallenberger who spoke at the club meeting on February 12th. We will be floating and wading on the fall trip.

Information on Lady Angler events and fishing trips is made available to all women on our e-mail list and through announcements in the Club newsletter and at monthly Club meetings. Beginners are welcome and the only requirement for joining us is MVFF membership. To add your name to the e-mail list, or for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at 505-710-5229. [↑](#)

Fishing & Rod Report



First fish caught on the Norm & Donna Mabie Legacy Flyrod

When: May 24, 2018

Where: South Platte River, a mile south of the Spinney Mtn Reservoir spillway, Colorado

What: feisty little brown

Guide: Robert Younghanz (The Bug Guy)

Comment: Outstanding flyrod, love it!

[↑](#)

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.

Current trips planned are:

- Sept. 20 - 24 — Lady Anglers will be fishing with Wolf Creek Anglers in CO.
- Nov. — Annual fall Club trip to the San Juan.

[↑](#)

Vise for Sale

Ray Rodriguez has a Rotating Griffin Patriot Cam fly tying vise for sale (see June issue of Tale Waters for photo). It has a pedestal and c-clamp plus extra post for higher adjustment of jaws. Asking \$75 dollars for it. Contact phone (575) 520-5768. [↑](#)

MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

The board did not meet in June. The next Board meeting will be in August. [↑](#)

Quick Look Contact Information

2018 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (612) 720-3456
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• Position 4:	Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
• Position 5:	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• Position 9:	Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Bob Silver (575) 522-6325	membership@mvff.org
NMSU AF Student Representative	
• Dillen Martinez ()	

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, 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.

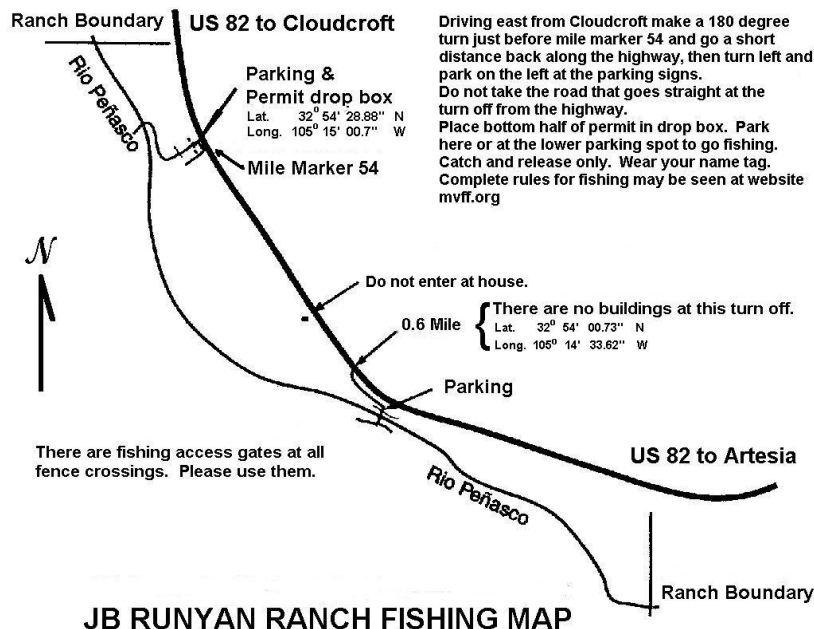
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulseley (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. 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 Hulseley. 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.