

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

Meetings

Editor:—Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Club held no meetings in April and will do the same in May, following state-wide directives. Since we don't meet in June, July or August I'll see you in September (hopefully).

President's Corner

David Carmichael

COVID-19 and the fishing lease

As most of you are aware, New Mexico remains under a statewide emergency public health order, and we are advised to stay home except for emergency or essential outings. While some of us might

consider fly fishing to be essential travel, I don't believe the state would agree. Several club members, and some non-members, especially from Texas where essential travel orders are not in place, have contacted me to ask whether the lease is available for fishing. I've asked them to please follow the New Mexico stay at home orders which are in force until at least May 15. Even after that date, when some hospital rules will be eased, it looks as if stay at home orders will remain in force for some time longer.

"New Mexicans, I implore you to honor your social contract with your state. These orders are not friendly suggestions; heed them and protect your-

selves, your families and your communities. (Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, <https://cv.nmhealth.org/2020/04/06/stay-at-home-order-extended/>)

Compared to surrounding states, we are doing pretty well overall at flattening the curve, though Native American reservations in the northwestern part of the state have been hit pretty hard. I doubt anyone in the club is more gung-ho about fly fishing than I am, so if I can forego fishing for a while, I'm sure everyone can. The fish will still be there and will still be feeding in the weeks and months to come. Until widespread testing and/or a viable vaccine is available, following the stay at home orders is our best defense against the spread of COVID-19. Not only will it protect us, our family, and our club members, but it will minimize the potential for overwhelming the health care workers and hospitals upon whom we will depend if we need medical attention. Thanks for your ongoing contributions to the effort.



Mabie Legacy Scholarship

Just because we can't go fishing doesn't mean we can't continue some club functions. The NMSU department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology will not be holding their annual spring awards banquet this year, but the club is still supporting fisheries education by awarding the Mabie Legacy Scholarship. Due to the economic downturn we are experiencing, the proceeds of our scholarship account are not

enough to fund the award. So, after polling the board members, we voted unanimously to write a check from our club funds in the full amount of the scholarship (\$750). I expect we will know who the recipient will be by next month, and I'll report the results in the next newsletter.

Stay-at-Home Activities

Several club members have reached out to thank me for including video links in the last newsletter, so I thought it would be good to suggest some other resources to pass the time and appeal to our sense of outdoor adventure. The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership has provided a list of suggestions for books that sportsmen and women might enjoy reading while sheltering at home. Here are a few of their recommendations, and the others may be accessed at this website.

- Matthew Miller (2019), *Fishing Through the Apocalypse: An Angler's Adventures in the 21st Century*
- Aldo Leopold (1939), *A Sand County Almanac*
- Dan Egan (2017), *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*
- Douglas Brinkley (2010) *Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America*
(www.trcp.org/2020/04/24/reading-recommendations-stuck-home-sportsmen-women/)

If you are a bit less into reading right now, and more into eating fish, you might check out this article from Outside magazine on the Salmon Sisters. Emma Teal Laukitis and Claire Neaton, aka the Salmon Sisters, grew up in a commercial fishing family in Alaska, and though they continue to work in commercial fishing, they have expanded their business to include cooking, casual women's fashions, and the celebration of coastal Alaskan culture. In this article, they discuss some aspects of their family and work, and even provide a couple of recipes, for Superfood Salmon Cakes, and Coconut Curry Fish Soup. www.outsideonline.com/2411835/salmon-sisters-cookbook-fish-cooking-tips. You can also order their cookbook through a link in the Outside magazine article. My copy just arrived, and although I haven't had a chance to try making it yet, the Alaskan cioppino recipe looks delicious!



If you're feeling cerebral or jocular, you might think about streaming some Shakespeare plays direct from Shakespeare's Globe theatre in London. You may do so for free between now and the end of June. There are 5 plays being featured, each for a couple of weeks, and they may be accessed at the Globe's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCwN-jwNNNQN-8sfKG-gg8uA.



For more fly fishing videos, check out the Simms website (www.simmsfishing.com) and click on the tab at the top that says it all: "You get one life, fish it well." I love the new slogan. And, as of May 1, the 2019 Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) videos are available for download or on demand streaming for \$3.99 to rent, or \$9.99 to purchase. The link for those films, the ones we showed at last fall's viewing at Ardovino's Desert Crossing, may be found at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/2019flyfishingfilmtour>.

Bristol Bay Town Hall Meeting

Last week I joined about 300 other attendees to participate in a virtual town hall meeting to learn about the latest news and current status of the Pebble Mine

permit application in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska. The meeting was hosted by the Wild Salmon Center and sponsored by the Defend Bristol Bay Coalition. The coalition includes Trout Unlimited (<https://standup.tu.org/save-bristol-bay/>), the United Tribes of Bristol Bay (www.utbb.org), Salmon State (<https://salmonstate.org>), Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay (fishermenforbristolbay.org), the Bristol Bay Native Association (<https://bbna.com>), and the Wild Salmon Center (www.wildsalmoncenter.org).

You might think that with a global pandemic underway, the federal government would be fully focused on that, but you'd be wrong. The White House and the Army COE are pushing full steam ahead to try to ram through a faulty Draft Environmental Impact Statement and get the Pebble

Mine permit approved before next fall's election. The Army COE is the lead agency because the proposed mine would destroy wetlands, and that action requires a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. You may recall that the Clean Water Act is also under direct assault by the current administration, as is the NEPA process.

The Bristol Bay watershed supports the world's largest wild salmon run which last year saw the return of a record 62 million salmon at a time when nearly all of the other U.S. salmon runs are in decline. In other words, the Bristol Bay fisheries are thriving precisely because its waters are pristine and responsibly managed as a fishery. The salmon support a \$1.5 billion per year commercial and recreational fishing industry, as well as 16 Native American tribes comprising about 7,000 people who rely upon the fishery for their subsistence.

In this pristine environment, Canadian-owned Northern Dynasty Minerals proposes to build an open pit copper and gold mine. Pebble Mine CEO Tom Collier

claims that the company will only excavate a small mine for 20 years, and won't mine the rest of the ore body. However, mining the small parcel is widely understood to be not economically viable, and the mine would likely be expanded for perhaps the next 100 years. This common ruse, called **subdividing impacts** to make projects seem more benign, is explicitly prohibited by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



Sockeye salmon spawning grounds in the Bristol Bay watershed. Is this really the place for the world's largest open pit mine?

The proposal really is to establish an entire mining district with a wide array of supporting infrastructure, not just the mine footprint. The project would include a massive industrial development site at Amakdedori Bay (critical habitat for beluga whales), an ice-breaker ferry system across Lake Iliamna with

two terminals, 83 miles of access roads with 200 stream crossings, a large coastal port, and a 270 MW power plant fueled by natural gas, that would itself require 188 miles of new pipeline, 94 miles of which would run across Cook Inlet. These facilities would occupy the Bristol Bay region for generations.

More to the point of the town hall, the Draft EIS has been released, has been reviewed, and has been found to be fatally flawed. The Department of Interior said the draft was so inadequate that it "precludes meaningful analysis." Alaska Senator Murkowski said the "DEIS has failed to meet my standard of a robust and rigorous process." Nevertheless, the administration is fast-tracking the approval of the mine permit.

There are several key concerns that are either omitted altogether, or which are so poorly researched that approving the mine permit cannot reasonably be justified. There is no analysis of the inevitable mine expansion, from the initial 20 years out to 100 years. There is no consideration of the impacts of the 83

mile road system, the natural gas pipeline, the ferry system, or the coastal transportation ports on the fisheries. There is no discussion of the effects of tailing pond failures, or the mechanisms the company would use to contain leachate chemicals (acids) in the event of a spill or leakage. There is no discussion of the effects of the mining district on land ownership, either U.S. public lands, or those of Native American corporations. There is no tribal health impact statement, as required by law. The required closure and reclamation plan is missing, as is a plan for compensatory mitigation in the event of containment failure or other types of pollution. Perhaps most surprising, the proposal and analysis doesn't even include an economic feasibility study.

For many years, critics of environmental regulation have argued that federal law should be modified to require economic impact analyses for projects, rather than making decisions based on the study of environmental affects. Yet, in the case of the proposed Pebble Mine, even the most basic cost benefit details, such as the mining company's financial viability, have been ignored in the rush to approve the mine permit. Northern Dynasty Minerals is underfunded and has lost its three former co-investors. In the third quarter last year the company reported \$40 million in losses, and needed to take a loan of \$3.5 million just to stay afloat (www.nrdc.org/experts/joel-reynolds/pebble-mine-scam-no-clothes). Former Rio Tinto mining company analyst (and former partner of Northern Dynasty) reviewed the business plan and concluded that the proposed project, which involves mining just 10% of the deposit, is "not economically feasible." That is, either Northern Dynasty is proposing to open a mine which will cause them to lose money (partly why they lost their investors), or they are lying about how large the mine will be; it can't really be limited to 10% of the deposit and still be viable. The Pebble Mine proponents have repeatedly refused to produce an economic feasibility analysis, not even for the purposes of recruiting prospective investors, or in response to requests from Congressional committees, or Army COE consultants tasked with evaluating the estimated costs and feasibility of the mine.

Because of all these concerns, and others, the mine

has consistently been rejected by Alaskans and by citizens and businesses around the country. The last time public comments were solicited, 80% of Bristol Bay area residents rejected the mine. Yet, the proposal is being fast-tracked by political forces, in opposition to the science and the will of the people. In fact, Pebble Mine's CEO has so little regard for the views of Alaskans, or the rest of the U.S. citizens who have participated in the public comment process, that he claims no one even cares what happens in Alaska (www.nrdc.org/experts/joel-reynolds/pebble-mine-ceo-no-one-gives-rats-ass-about-alaska). I guess Upton Sinclair got it right: "it is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding it." According to Bloomberg, Collier will receive an extraordinary bonus of \$12.5 million if he gets the permit approved before next fall's election.

But, don't take my word for it. If you haven't already seen it, check out the video "*The Breach*," and see if you think the Bristol Bay fisheries are worth saving (<https://thebreach.vhx.tv/products/the-breach-feature-film>). If so, you can visit any of the websites shown for the Coalition members listed above to find out more about the current status of the proposed mine permit, and to see how you can make your concerns known to decision-makers. Writing legislators and regulators may be some of the most important work we can do at this time of sheltering in place and social distancing. Hang in there everyone.



Lady Anglers Update

Mary Hoffman



The Lady Anglers is a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have fun doing it. Information on our fishing trips is made available to women on our Lady Anglers e-mail list and through announcements in the MVFF newsletter and at club meetings. Beginners are welcome and the only requirement for joining us is MVFF membership. To join our e-mail list, or for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at (505) 710-5229 or westerngirlnm@gmail.com.

No trips are planned at this time.



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



GRG-TU for MVFF May 2020

The Aldo Leopold Kids Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts will unfortunately not be held as planned on June 6th due to concerns that

COVID-19 health recommendations will still be precluding large public gatherings. At this time it is uncertain if the event will be postponed to the Fall or canceled for 2020. Additional details of plans for stocking the broodstock Gila trout will be provided when available.

GRG-TU Logo T-shirts to support local trout restoration and conservation efforts.

You can help support our native trout conservation/restoration and outreach/education efforts by purchasing one of our beautiful T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo. We have two colors available: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on black. 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: jeffgilatu@aol.com.



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black



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.

After many years of organizing trips, Chuck Mueller is stepping aside, and we really need other volunteers to step up and take on these projects. David Lukcoski has volunteered to organize the Club trip to the San Juan in the spring of 2020. Maybe you have a trip you would like to head up. Please think about it and let David or Chuck know if you can help out.

No trips are currently being planned.



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.



Board Meeting Minutes

There was no Board Meeting in April and, so, no minutes. The Board will not meet until June at the earliest.



Quick Look Contact Information

2020 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Jim Sorenson (505) 710-4264
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Ron Bellerose (575) 680-5516
• 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:	Bob Silver (575) 642-5865
• Position 8:	Jim Sorenson (505) 710-4264
• 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) 642-5865	membership@mvff.org
Lady Anglers	
• Mary Hoffman (505) 710-5229	

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.

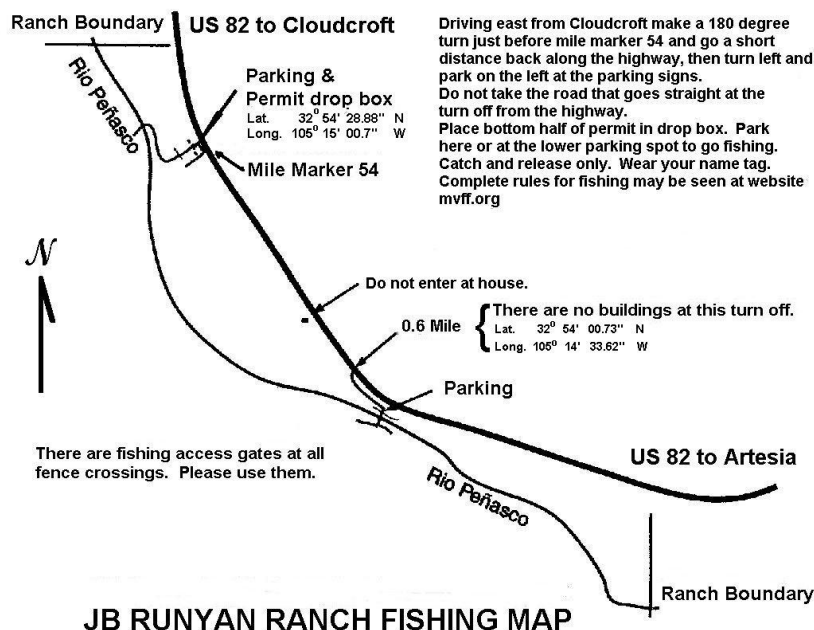
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

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