



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

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

Meetings

Editor:—Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club held no meetings in May and since we don't meet in June, July or August I'll see you in September (hopefully).

President's Corner

David Carmichael

Mabie Legacy Scholarship Award

I am pleased to announce that Joel Gilb is the Mabie Legacy Scholarship Award winner for 2020-2021. Joel is from Arizona, but he grew up in Maine, so it would seem he's had some personal experience with



the full range of North American ecosystems. He will be completing his degree in Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology in the upcoming academic year. This summer he is working for a second summer as an intern at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and his career goal is to work as a ranger or environmental educator with an agency like the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Joel has been an active member of the NMSU chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) for three years, serving as President for a year and Secretary for two years. He was team captain for the NMSU AFS quizbowl competition, and led NMSU to the championship at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona-New Mexico chapters last January.

COVID-19 Notes

Since last month's newsletter, I've continued to receive a variety of questions and assertions about COVID-19, fishing, access to the club lease, and New Mexico's response to the coronavirus in general. I guess the urge to go fishing is so great that some would like to think that COVID-19 is no big deal, and that travel restrictions are not warranted. I hope everyone will follow the official state policies which in New Mexico are informed by the science. Several useful links were provided in last month's newsletter.

Some people have alleged that COVID-19 is no worse than the flu, but the numbers just don't support that view. The determination of the fatality rate for COVID-19 is still a work in progress, and there are various estimates being considered, but all indicate that COVID-19 is significantly more severe than the seasonal flu. Current numbers reported by Johns Hopkins University indicate a fatality rate of about 6 percent in the United States (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu>). In contrast, the fatality rate for flu in the US is about 0.1 percent. These figures would suggest that COVID-19 is up to 60 times more lethal than the flu. Even the lowest, most conservative fatality estimates for COVID-19 are at least 6 times greater than the flu.

There are still large outbreaks of COVID-19 occurring across the country and around the world, even though we are well into summer. So, the rate of spread doesn't seem to be greatly diminished in warmer weather, as is the case for the seasonal flu. Additionally, there are now widespread reports of multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) showing up among young adults in their 20s. The symptoms are similar to those of Kawasaki disease: inflammation of blood vessel walls, heart damage, kidney damage, and stroke. So, the suggestion that young people are more or less immune to the disease, or experience mild symptoms, seems to be premature. The notion that the two diseases are similar in their

severity and spread has been pretty well dismissed by most researchers.

It has been suggested to me that we should allow young people to go out, party, and get exposed to COVID-19 so they can establish immunity, like we did with “chicken pox parties” decades ago. Is COVID-19 really as benign as chicken pox? No, it isn’t. Prior to the development of a vaccine in 1995, there were about 4 million cases of chicken pox each year in the United States. Those infections resulted in about 10,000 hospitalizations and up to 150 deaths per year. That works out to a maximum fatality rate of .0000375, or about .004% (4 one-thousandths of a percent). Using the estimated fatality rate of 6% for COVID-19, we can calculate that COVID-19 is 1,500 times more lethal than chicken pox was before a vaccine was available. These numbers suggest that it is not a good idea to encourage transmission of COVID-19 prior to the availability of widespread testing and the development of a vaccine. Sweden has been attempting something similar in an effort to reach herd immunity more quickly, but that experiment is not going very well, and the people who developed that plan are regretting it. The COVID-19 fatality rate in Sweden is 4 to 9 times higher than in the neighboring countries of Denmark, Norway and Finland. It is even 33% higher than the U.S. rate, and the economy has not benefitted from their public health gamble; their GDP has dropped as much as that of the U.S. and Germany.

So, where does this leave us? The Center for Disease Control is still recommending that travel be restricted to essential trips only, this is still the official New Mexico state policy as well (<https://cv.nmhealth.org>). The New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides has taken the position that travel to hunting and fishing activities qualifies essential travel (www.nmoutfitters.com), but the state and most public health officials would disagree. It is not so much an issue of whether hunting and fishing activities allow for social distancing, because they generally do. The main concern is the effects of our travel on communities near the places where we fish and hunt. The reason for the concern, according to Dr. Ashish Jha, Director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, is that “we’re early in this outbreak. We’re not anywhere near done”

(www.npr.org/2020/05/26/862012540/as-us-nears-100-000-covid-deaths-where-is-the-country-headed). So far, the disease has hit large cities the hardest, but people in other areas have not been experiencing it as directly, and some are not taking it seriously. It will get to the suburbs and rural parts of the country, and it would be unfortunate if direct exposure to new outbreaks is the only thing that will help everyone absorb the gravity of the situation.

Right now, New Mexico as a whole is flattening the curve better than neighboring states. Texas, Arizona and Colorado are all in the top four states with increasing infection rates, and Texas is at the highest risk for a surge in cases sometime in June. The existing military travel ban has been extended until at least June 30, and there are serious concerns about tourism spreading the disease to places like Ruidoso. Vacation rentals are still prohibited to non-New Mexicans, and masks are required in public places. The Mescalero Tribe has imposed more drastic shut-down measures within its reservation than the state of New Mexico as a whole. Recent research shows that masks make a difference. They won’t necessarily keep you from contracting the illness, but if you have it and are asymptomatic, they will reduce the chances that you will unknowingly infect someone else. Until recently it has been estimated that about 35% of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 have been asymptomatic, but two recent studies have identified cases where 42% and 80% of infected individuals have been asymptomatic. A high percentage of asymptomatic transmission is one of the variables that contributes to widespread, undetected transmission.

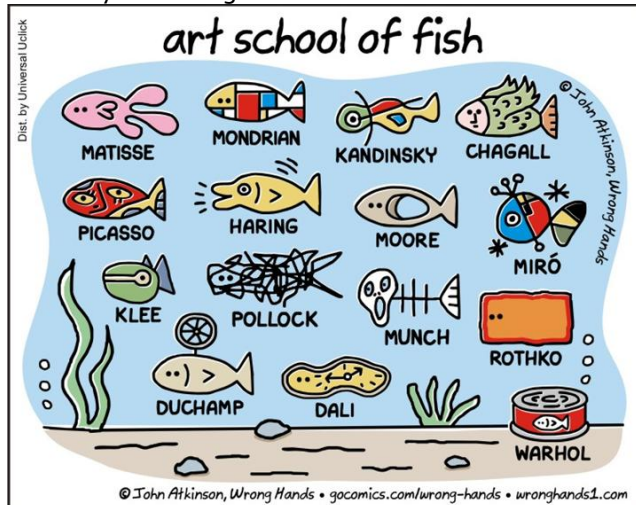
I can’t physically prevent anyone from fishing the lease, but I’m asking everyone to refrain from doing so until such time as travel restrictions are eased or removed. If you live near some fishable water, great. But driving long distances to fish exposes you, and those you may encounter at gas stations, truck stops, motels, campgrounds, etc., to new lines of transmission. There is a fairly extensive discussion of the issues surrounding fly fishing travel on the Trout Unlimited website right now, and I recommend this article by Kirk Deeter, Vice President of *TROUT* magazine (www.tu.org/blog/to-fish-or-not-to-fish-during-the-outbreak/). I hope you’ll read the entire piece, but here is some food for thought:

*Moreover, every single rural fly shop owner and guide I have spoken with (via email or over the phone) in the past few days is in agreement that they **do not want** people from urban, heavily affected areas driving up and fishing in and around small communities with little or no healthcare infrastructure (Kirk Deeter 4/14/2020, emphasis in original)*

My wife Miriam is a Registered Nurse and president of a state level nurses association; she and her colleagues thank you for not contributing to COVID-19 spikes that would overwhelm local medical infrastructure. If you are still determined to visit from out of state, please check online for the most current state guidance regarding travel, masks and social distancing, as requirements and recommendations are subject to change on short notice.

Diversions, the Good Kind

In case you've forgotten what a school of fish even



looks like, here's an artist's rendition; actually, John Atkinson's rendition *a la* several other artists' perspectives. Pretty clever, I think.

If you want to enjoy fishing vicariously by watching someone else having fun, you can access various episodes of The New Fly Fisher television show online at www.thenewflyfisher.com. I especially enjoyed the two episodes about fishing for trophy brook trout on the Nipigon River about 60 miles east of Thunder Bay, Ontario. The Nipigon flows into flows into Lake Superior, and

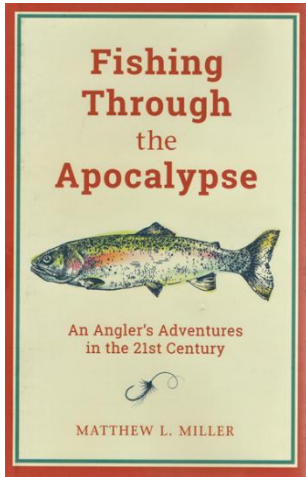


the brookies are quite large, often measured in pounds instead of inches (4-6 lbs. or 20 in. fish are common).

Last week I had the pleasure of joining about 300 other attendees in a Zoom meeting with Molly Semenik in which she presented the four basic principles of casting accuracy. The program was one of a series of weekly Zoom sessions organized by Fly Fishers International. As they say, "if you can't be fishing, join us online," at <https://flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Online>. Each week brings a different expert discussing and/or demonstrating a different aspect of casting or fishing. And if you scroll down to the bottom of the weekly Zooms schedule, there is a link that will allow you to access recorded versions of the Zooms that you missed.

Despite having grown up in the Midwest with more ready access to bluegills and bass instead of trout, I must admit that I'm very much partial to cold water fisheries and the salmonids that inhabit them. Perhaps you share my concern as climate change marches on, warming our waters and reducing the areas in which cold water fisheries are in good health. I sometimes even wonder whether starting a part-time "retirement" business building custom fly rods is a good idea; at the very least, it would seem my timing is questionable. Oh, but there are bass rods and carp rods to be made! I've started reading a book that is really making me think about the future of our sport. Between climate change, pollution, channelization, erosion, reduced snowpack, and other indignities, what waters will still be available to fish, and will we even want to fish them? These are the questions addressed in a book I've started reading, called *Fishing Through the Apocalypse: An Angler's Adventures in the 21st Century*, by Matthew Miller. One of the chapters is about trout that have been raised to feed on corn; another is about trying to save Gila trout. Much of the book is a documentation of the author's quest to fish in all sorts of modern, apocalyptic waters, including polluted, garbage clogged industrial drainage ditches. I can't say I'm drawn to that en-

deavor, but I'm glad someone made the effort, if only so the rest of us will appreciate the waters we have,



and make our best effort to save them from a similar fate. The book is a good read, and if you're looking for something interesting and a little different to pass the time over the summer, you won't be disappointed. Enjoy the journey, and stay safe along the way.



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited



Jeff Arterburn, President

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. 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 May and, so, no minutes. The Board will not meet until July 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.

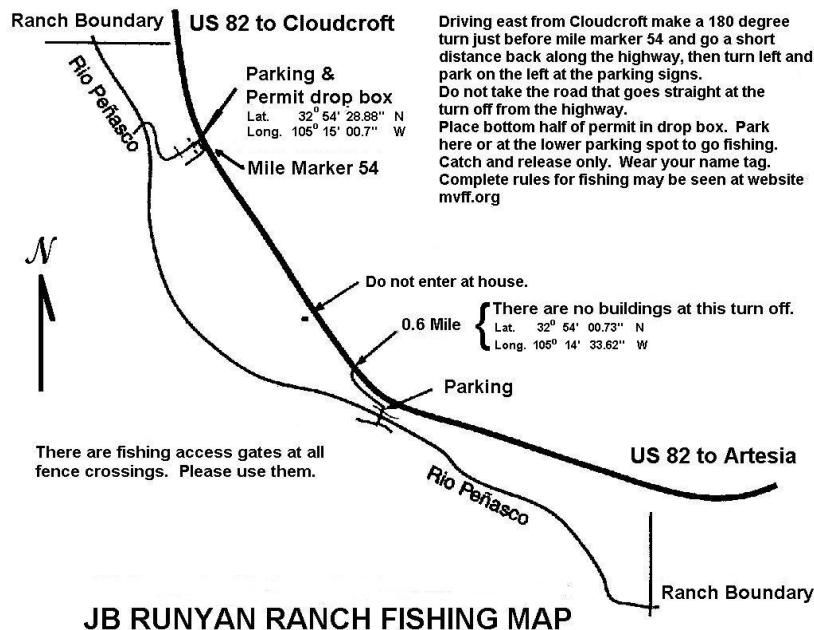
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

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