



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222
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www.MVFF.org

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

Meetings

Editor:—Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club will hold no meetings until later in the year.



Liars and Tyers

Chuck Mueller is preparing a 4-part video series on tying midge patterns from the larva stage to the adult stage. Part two mentioned in last month's edition of *Tale Waters* gave instructions on tying a basic midge pupa and a midge emerger that works on the San Juan.

This month Chuck ties a basic midge, Griffin's Gnat along with a Hi-Vis version, that also works well on the San Juan. Griffin's Gnat is an easy dry fly pattern for beginners and novices. Part three has been finished and is available now. To view the videos just go to the MVFF web page, click on the link tab and select Like Us on Face Book. Next month, part four will cover how to tie an umbrella post for emerger patterns.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

Happy New Year



I'd like to thank all those club members have contributed to the Sidney Ellett fund, and thanks to Chuck Mueller, Jim Hulsey, and Bob Silver for getting the donation

system set up on our webpage, and for getting the word out to club members. So far, the club has raised over \$600 for Sidney's family expenses. We will keep the donation link in place on the Special Functions tab on our website, and we will hopefully receive enough donations to continue sending the Elletts a check each month until Sidney gets a new kidney. The challenges she faces in her first year of life reminds us all that no matter how uncomfortable, depressing, or disappointing the past year may have been, there are always others who are facing more daunting challenges than we. It is encouraging to see so many club members come together to help our friends and partners who make it possible to have a lease on the Rio Peñasco. Let's keep up the good work, and donate what you can, when you can. Thanks for all you do!

Board of Directors

As noted on the club website, the purpose of the Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers is to provide ways in which club members can enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded fly fishers while pursuing the goals of conservation, restoration and education through fly fishing. These goals are elaborated in Article 3 of the club's Articles of Incorporation. The primary functions of the club are to preserve, protect and rehabilitate quality trout fisheries in the State of New Mexico, promote general interest

in the conservation of trout fisheries in the state, and to promote general interest in fly fishing as a vehicle for fisheries conservation. Although it has been a while since most club functions have been scheduled, we can reasonably expect that at some point in the upcoming year a variety of activities will resume, including monthly meetings, monthly speakers, fly tying classes, casting classes, lease stocking, charitable donations, and the annual banquet to name a few. The following club members have agreed to help organize and implement the various activities that fulfill the club missions by serving on the Board of Directors for 2021:

- Robert Ardivino
- Jeff Arterburn
- David Carmichael
- Chuck Mueller
- George Sanders
- Helen Zagona
- Jim Hulsey

If there are any other club members who would like to nominate themselves for consideration, please contact me by email. If I don't receive any additional nominations, this slate of directors will be accepted and will vote on club officer assignments in the next month.

Environmental News

There are several recent pieces of environmental news that should be of interest to anglers. The first involves another proposed gold mine, this time in Montana. A couple of years ago, the Canadian company Lucky Minerals proposed to develop the Emigrant Mine in the Paradise Valley area just outside the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park. On December 9, 2020, the Montana Supreme Court ruled against the proposed mine. Specifically, the court ruled that the state's permitting of the mine was illegal for three main reasons. 1) Mine

proponents did not adequately consider the harm that would be caused to wildlife, and the attendant economic impacts, including damage to fishing related tourism. 2) They also neglected to provide a plan to prevent groundwater pollution. The proposed mine development would have involved the dumping of 100,000 tons of arsenic-bearing waste rock near the headwaters of several tributaries of the Yellowstone River. The mines themselves would have likely caused acid runoff to flow into the tributaries and the Yellowstone River. 3) Nor did the proposal consider the cumulative impacts of foreseeable, large-scale mine expansion that would occur after the initial construction of mine-related infrastructure.

If these shortcomings sound familiar, it may be because many recent mining proposals have contained the same failures. The changes made by the current administration to the rules implementing environmental laws such as NEPA seem specifically designed to streamline the approval of mining activities, but at least some of the time, the courts have intervened. The court also weighed in on the state's efforts to water down the Montana equivalent of NEPA, the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

The court ruled that a provision intended to remove citizens' abilities to stop unlawful projects is unconstitutional. So, it would appear that the extraordinary fishing that many of us have enjoyed in the Yellowstone watershed is safe from mining pollution. Check out this link to Earthjustice story for details.

[Montana Supreme Court Deals Final Blow to Mining Plan Near Yellowstone | Earthjustice](#)



Winter quietude along The Pecos River

On December 10, the U. S. House of Representatives passed the bipartisan Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous voice vote last July, so after the passage in the house, it was sent to the White House for the president's signature. The bill calls for the phasing out of large-scale driftnet fishing in federal waters. The nets in current use are often a mile long, and have large mesh; both their length and mesh size make the nets indiscriminate with regard to species harvested. The unintentional bycatch of such nets includes marine mammals, sea turtles, and many fish species important to recreational anglers. The net modernization bill has long been supported by the American Sportfishing Association, by the charter fishing community, and the Center for Sportfishing Policy. The bill also authorizes a market-based procedure for the transfer of Alaskan halibut quota shares from the commercial fishing sector to the charter fishing sector, a provision that enjoys broad support within Alaska's fishing community. To the



Winter in the Sacramento Mountains, near the Bonito Creek headwaters

chagrin of the bill's sponsors and supporters, it was vetoed by the president on January 1, 2021. There is not enough time left in the current legislative session to overturn the veto, so the modernization effort that was initiated in 2016 will need to be reintroduced in the spring. [Trump vetoes bipartisan driftnet fishing bill | TheHill](#)

Diversions, the Good Kind

You may recall that two dams were recently removed from the Elwah River on the north side of

the Olympic Peninsula in northwestern Washington. The Elwah Dam, constructed in 1913, was situated 4.9 miles upstream from the estuary where the river enters the Strait of San Juan de Fuca. The Glines Canyon Dam, built in 1912, was located 7 miles further upstream. Between them, they prevented 10 stocks of anadromous fish (including pink, sockeye and chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout and cutthroats) from entering their historic spawning habitat, and effectively terminating those runs.

Since the time of the initial dam construction, local Native Americans, especially the James Bay S'Klallam Tribe, have protested the dams, and their negative impact on the riverine resources

upon which they depend.

In 1979 the famous Boldt Decision affirmed the aboriginal fishing rights of Washington tribal groups, adding further impetus to the efforts to restore the productivity of the Elwha River. So, in response to increasing public support

for salmonid habitat restoration, the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act was passed in 1992. The final Environmental Impact Statement was filed in 1996. The Elwha Dam was breached in 2011, and the Glines Canyon Dam was removed in 2014, providing renewed access to more than 70 miles of spawning habitat. Some predictions were that it would take anywhere from 100–300 years for the fisheries to recover, but over the past 6 years the river has seen

remarkable recovery, and a return of significant numbers of steelhead trout. The Elwha steelhead population is already the largest in any of the rivers that drain into Puget Sound. I've attached a link to this short film by Trout Unlimited on the efforts and early results. [What Dam Removals Can Do for a River | Outside Online](#)

This National Park Service page contains links to studies involving various aspects of environmental research in Olympic National Park, including the ongoing monitoring of fisheries restoration efforts. [Restoration and Current Research – Olympic National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)



A different winter, a different year; pike on streamers in the Rio Grande near Pilar

Finally, as we start thinking about making plans for fishing related travel later in this new year, it may be a good time to think about all the small things about fly fishing that add up to more than how many fish we harvest, or even how many we catch and release. We may think about what it means to respect other anglers, the fish, and the other natural resources, recalling the lessons of stream etiquette, safe handling and release after

the catch, and caring for habitat quality. We may also remember that fly fishing should be fun, even if we fall in the mud, lose flies in the trees and bushes, and even if we don't catch a fish on a given day. Indeed, accomplished angler Landon Mayer has noted that he has fishless days, but all days on the river are successful if we learn from them. Fly fishing is also a great teacher of patience. Patience, and perhaps even delayed gratification; in the learning of the craft, the successful enticement of trout, in teaching our children and grandchildren how to do fly fishing, and how to enjoy all aspects of the sport. And patience in our interactions with others with whom we share the waters, and with whom we must work to maintain the quality of, and access to our cold-water fisheries. Flymen Fishing has compiled a nice, concise article to suggest how we might represent our sport to others. [Beyond the Gear: 3 Important Things to Teach Your Kids On Their First – Flymen Fishing Company.](#)

Until next time, stay safe, stay healthy and stay interested.



Sidney Ellett Fund

Bob Silver



All I can say is THANK YOU for responding to my message of help for Sidney Ellett. She is the infant daughter of Andy and Hayley Ellett, who are Jim and Earlene Ellett's son and daughter-in-law. The Elletts own the ranch through which flows the Rio Peñasco, our Club fishing lease, and are long-time friends of the Club.

In case you missed my message, Sidney was born June 2020 and developed a kidney infection. She needs a kidney replacement. She is currently at University Hospital in Albuquerque undergoing daily dialysis until she weighs 25 pounds, and a kidney becomes available. Her mom, Hayley is a teacher, so she works from Albuquerque. Her dad, Andy, travels to and from Artesia on weekends to see his wife and daughter.

The Board voted to extend everyone's membership by one year to make up for the lackluster year of fishing. In my message, I asked if you would consider donating the \$20 that you saved from not paying membership dues to help out Andy and Hayley.

As of December 2020, we received over \$600 that we forwarded to the Elletts to help Andy and Haley with expenses. There is now a special link setup on the Club's website if you wish to help. Go to Club's website (www.mvff.org). Click on ENTER. Then look on the bottom left of the page for Special Functions. Click on that and follow the instructions.

I will let you know how the fund continues to do in the next newsletter. Thanks to everyone, this is becoming a better year for the Elletts.

Best regards, Bob Silver



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.

Our beautiful T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo in colors: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on-black are sold as part of our fund-raising for trout restoration and conservation efforts. 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: <mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com>.



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black



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 December and, so, no minutes. The Board will not meet in the near future but may arrange a ZOOM meeting. Discussions are ongoing.



For Sale — Fly Tying Materials

With my eyesight getting worse, I am going to get rid of my tying stuff, and most of my flies. Also have several rods and reels, and have a "Fly Tiers Benchside Reference" and other books, regal medallion vise, a dubbing twister, line winder, hackles, elk and deer hair, dubbing, hooks, beads, thread, yarn and lots of miscellaneous items. I'll get it together in the garage so we won't be cooped up in the house, and we can look it over.

Call me at (575) 644-1427 — Karen Erickson



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

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.

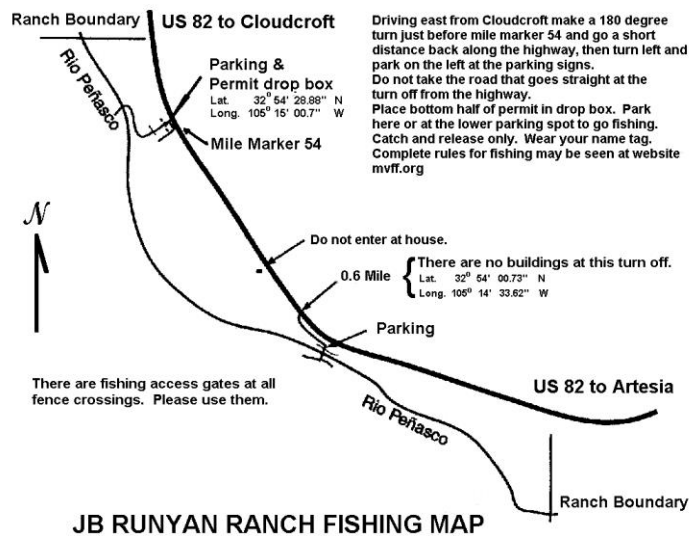
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.