



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of  
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

[www.MVFF.org](http://www.MVFF.org)

April

2021

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Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — <a href="mailto:newsletter@mvff.org">newsletter@mvff.org</a>	

## Meetings

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

## Liars and Tyers



The fly for April is the Rio Grande King Trude. Chuck Mueller has prepared a video demonstrating the tying of this fly and has placed it on the MVFF Face Book page. To view the video just go to the MVFF web page, click on the link tab and select Like Us on Face Book.

A picture and recipe for this fly can be seen [here](#).

## President's Corner

David Carmichael



First, I'd like to pass along some good news. A couple of days ago, Chuck Mueller received a text from Andy Ellett about his daughter Sidney. Sidney is doing much better, and the family thanks the club for all of the prayers and financial support. We will continue to accept donations for Sidney's care

through the PayPal section on the club website. It is heartwarming to see so many club members pitch in during this especially challenging time. Thank you all.



The Gila/Rio Grande chapter of Trout Unlimited will host a volunteer work event at the end of this month to conduct stream habitat assessment on Willow Creek in the Gila National Forest. For details, check out the information provided by TU Chapter President Jeff Arterburn elsewhere in this newsletter. And don't forget to renew your New Mexico license so you can fish afterwards.

The selection process for the Mabie Legacy Scholarship is underway, and the award will be made soon, probably later this month. The scholarship is awarded each year to a student majoring in fisheries science at NMSU. The selection is made by faculty members in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology, and an announcement about the winner will be included in the next newsletter. If you would like to contribute to the Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund, you may do so on the club website.

Spring has sprung, or perhaps it might be more accurate to say it has roared in like a lion. I led some UTEP anthropology students on a field trip

to the southern Organ Mountains last week, and we experienced 65 mph winds! And while it's a good idea to practice casting in the wind from time to time, I never even considered taking a rod out of the tube for much of that week. It's so dry in Las Cruces that the Rio Grande is a sandbox. In fact, when I drove to the grocery store today, I saw two beach volleyball courts set up in the riverbed by folks who were picnicking on the shoreline. Unfortunately, this may be a harbinger of the future for the Rio Grande. The current drought is more severe than anything we've experienced since the 1970s. There is no snowpack this year, and hydrologists with the Interstate Stream Commission have taken the unusual step of asking hobbyist farmers and ranchers to cut back on their planting this year. Here is an interesting article on the challenges of future water management in our state ([Megadrought: New Mexico farms face uncertain future — High Country News - Know the West \(hcn.org\)](https://www.hcn.org/stories/2020/07/20/megadrought-new-mexico-farms-face-uncertain-future-high-country-news-know-the-west/)). As far as angling is concerned, even the upper Rio Grande and Chama drainages will be adversely affected, as well as Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs which are already quite low.

#### Yellowstone Cutthroat Restoration Update

Those of you who may be planning a fishing trip to the Greater Yellowstone country this summer should be aware that Yellowstone National Park has increased its fees for fishing licenses and boating permits. A three-day fishing license will now cost \$40, and a 7-day permit will be \$50. Fees for non-motorized boats will be \$20 for 5 days, and permits for motorized boats are now \$30 for 7 days. In addition, boaters will need to obtain an in-person Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspection which costs \$10. This is the first increase since 2012, and the rates are comparable to surrounding states and parks.

The primary use of the fishing license fees collected by the park is in support of Yellowstone cutthroat trout restoration activities, which cost almost \$3 million per year. These activities include the ongoing suppression of lake trout that were introduced illegally into Yellowstone Lake, and the removal of other non-native species in

drainages throughout the park. Lake trout suppression continued in Yellowstone Lake throughout the pandemic, with a fleet of five boats using gill nets to remove more than 90,000 lake trout last summer. Though these numbers are still higher than resource managers would like to see, the numbers of netted fish continue to decline, a trend that has been documented over the past several years. Netting is now being supplemented by a new technique that is being used to kill the eggs at lake trout spawning areas. Small pellets of soy and gluten are deposited in the spawning areas where they remove the dissolved oxygen from the spawning site, killing the eggs in the process. Last year, all the lake trout eggs in 14 known spawning sites were killed in this fashion.



*Yellowstone cutthroat trout, Lamar River, YNP*

The other cutthroat restoration project that will be supported by increased fees is the effort to remove the non-native rainbow trout from Slough Creek and its tributaries. In 1935, rainbows were stocked in Hidden Lake, in what is now the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness area. The descendants of those fish moved downstream into Buffalo Creek, which is a tributary of Slough Creek, which, in turn, flows into the Lamar River. Slough Creek is a famous fishery, where many fly anglers visit with the hope of catching a trophy Yellowstone cutthroat. However, there is an increasing

problem with hybridization with rainbows at the confluence of Buffalo and Slough Creeks; Buffalo Creek is also the main source of rainbow trout that end up in the Lamar River, and a few miles downstream, the Yellowstone itself. The Park Service has had catch and keep regulations in place for non-native trout for some years, and they are effective; rainbow trout have been reduced from 14% of the fish in the Lamar, down to about 4%. The new project is intended to complete the removal by targeting the ultimate source of the rainbows in Buffalo Creek outside, but adjacent to the national park.

### Environmental Policy News

The New Mexico Environmental Data Base Act (HB 51) has passed and been sent to the Governor's office for her signature. The act will create a centralized website where environmental and public health data from all the state agencies can be accessed by managers, decision-makers and the public. Data of interest to anglers will include water quality and fisheries information, including consumption advisories. More details and the full text of the act can be accessed through the most recent Audubon New Mexico newsletter ([The Environmental Database Act Has Passed! | Audubon New Mexico](#)).

The Gila River Diversion Bill was also passed this session, clearing the New Mexico House on February 25, and the Senate on March 18. This bill prohibits the use of monies from the NM Unit Fund for any major diversion projects on the Gila. Instead, the remaining \$80 million will be used for priority water projects in Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna counties. See this press release from NM Wild for details.

[Community Leaders, Good Governance Advocates, Conservationists Celebrate Senate Passage of NM Unit Fund Legislation – New Mexico Wilderness Alliance \(nmwild.org\)](#)

In this year's biannual report on salmonid fisheries health, the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office concludes that salmon and steelhead populations have reached a crisis point, and that the continuation of current practices will result in the continued decline and eventual demise of the fisheries. Of 14 species of salmon and steelhead that are classified as endangered, 10 are not meeting recovery goals, and 5 are in severe crisis. Salmon support 138 other animal species, and generate 16,000 jobs in commercial fishing. However, the current return is only 2% of



*Commercial fishermen in Bristol Bay (Chris Miller for Alaska Magazine, Sept., 2020)*

the historic numbers which are estimated to have been between 10–16 million fish per year. The decline is believed to be attributable to habitat loss (from shoreline construction), pollution, climate change, and the impacts of 20,000 barriers to migration, in the form of dams, roads

and impoundments.

[\(Northwest's Salmon Population May Be Running Out of Time – The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)\)](#)

The decline of anadromous salmonid populations along the Northwest Coast of the U.S. should serve as reminder of how precious Alaska's Bristol Bay fishery really is. Although Bristol Bay dodged a procedural bullet late last year, Pebble Mine is still pursuing the permitting process, and Bristol Bay is not yet safe from mine development and the massive pollution that would result. Trout Unlimited is still heavily involved in the efforts to protect the Bristol Bay region fisheries, and the next step would be to convince the EPA to block

the proposed mine permanently, because it would violate the Clean Water Act. Check out the TU website for details.

There are a couple of sources of information that I hadn't seen before, but which play a role in the discussion of the future of Bristol Bay. The first is a study on the economic impacts of the Bristol Bay fishery that was completed by the McKinley Research Group in February, 2021. It is interesting that in recent years, extraction industry supporters have often complained that environmental regulatory decisions do not give sufficient weight to economic factors. Indeed, some of the rule changes made in the last administration were expressly intended to require the consideration of economics in the context of environmental reviews. It seems ironic (or worse) that when those economic factors favor sustainable harvest, rather than destructive extraction, that mining industry apologists don't really seem to be interested in the economics. As it turns out, Bristol Bay fisheries have an enormous economic benefit to Alaska and the nation. The commercial salmon fishery is a \$2 billion per year industry that provides 15,000 jobs, and generates \$11.1 million in tax revenues at the state and local levels. The sport fishing industry serves 20,000 anglers per year, and generates another \$77 million in revenue annually, much of it going to 90 fishing lodges and camps in the region. The full report can be accessed here:

[Final-Economic-Benefit-of-Bristol-Bay-Salmon-3\\_17\\_21.pdf \(stoppebbleminenow.org\).](#)

The other interesting piece of information comes from the Alaska State Constitution. Section 8.4, entitled Sustained Yield, requires that the fish resources, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State must be maintained according to the sustained yield principle. I had never heard of this clause being discussed in the context of protecting the Bristol Bay fishery, but it would seem to preclude the granting of mining permits that would pollute such an important natural resource. Just sayin'.

### Goldfish on the Fly

I've fished for quite a few different species, but never goldfish. Yes, goldfish; the kind some of us used to have in a fish bowl as children. Ours were always pretty short-lived, and when they needed to be disposed of, they ended up as compost in the garden. But in upstate New York, when some people get tired of maintaining an aquarium, they think it's a good idea to dump the contents into a local lake. As a result, goldfish are a rare but consistently encountered fish in several New York lakes. While fishing in Onondaga Lake near Syracuse, NY, Joe Selover caught and released (!) an amazingly chunky, 14 ½ inch goldfish on a fly rod, using a black wooly bugger. Here's the photo; check out this link for the story.

[Angler's tale: 'I caught a 14 1/2-inch goldfish in Onondaga Lake with my fly rod' - syracuse.com](#)



## Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



### GRG-TU for MVFF April 2021

We are organizing our first event of the year with a Volunteer Stream Habitat Survey at Willow Creek the weekend of April 30 – May 2, 2021. It will be a reduced scale event with every effort made to keep participants safe. If you're interested in participating, please contact me for details. We are hoping that there will be opportunities for

additional volunteer projects happening in the Gila and Lincoln National Forests this year so keep posted and let us know if you can join in.

At this time the Aldo Leopold Kid's Fishing Clinic at Lake Roberts may be held in September, but arrangements are not finalized, and details will follow. The 17th annual Gila River Festival is scheduled for the weekend of September 17 – 19, 2021 and another great mix of presentations, and special daytrips should be on the agenda this year. We are very pleased that the NM State Legislature passed House Bill 200 prohibiting any more money from the NM Unit Fund being used to evaluate, plan or construct a Gila River diversion, and now designates the state Water Trust Board (WTB) to advise the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) on how to spend the remaining ~\$80 million for priority water projects in southwest New Mexico. With the ISC voting last June to effectively end efforts for a diversion project on the Gila River, a process that wasted >\$15 million these past 16 years, these steps will help keep the Gila River flowing in NM with long-term water security and jobs in Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties. The legislation was awaiting the governor's signature to become law at the time this was written.

There are some promising new initiatives included in the nascent Trout Unlimited National Strategic Plan, including a new agenda focusing conservation efforts on prioritized waters. We will be advocating for our Gila trout and Rio Grande Cutthroat trout waters to prioritize these for expanded restoration and conservation. There is an exciting new TU Service Partnership Program that has been expanded to include military and first responders and their families, including medical, law enforcement, fire and other critical service members in our communities. TU is offering free annual memberships, and you can read more about the program at this link: <https://www.tu.org/conservation/outreach-education/trout-unlimited-service-partnership/>

If you would like to be involved in initiating and leading a program for southern NM through our chapter, or just want to participate please come

forward and get involved. The Western Regional Trout Unlimited Meeting will be rescheduled for 2022 in Taos.

### **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

If you are a current or former TU member looking to renew your membership please use the standard renewal form on the TU website: <https://www.tu.org/trout-unlimited-3/> or call 1-800-834-2419.



## **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](mailto:mpdankel@msn.com).

A list of the books can be found in the November 2019 issue of *Tale Waters*.



## **For Sale — Fly Fishing Rods & Reels**

With my eyesight getting worse, I am getting rid of all my fly fishing paraphernalia. I have sold all the fly tying materials but, still have an

assortment of 5 rods and 7 reels. If you have a need for such give me a call and we can discuss your requirements. I'll get them together in the garage so we won't be cooped up in the house, and you can look them over.

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



### Board of Directors Meeting

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



### Rio Peñasco Fishing Report

Kathy Brunner

Wanted to let you know I fished last Friday (3/26/21). Took a bit of getting used to since we do not have many creeks like the Rio Peñasco in Colorado. We fished the stretch below the house first. Ended up using a bubble, a weight and a small fly like a brassie and a half-back. Fish were only in the deep runs and we caught several in the 14- to 16-inch range. Except for some minnows, they were all rainbows and looked in great shape. We tried the other part in the afternoon and it was murky and only caught minnows. We went back to the upper and picked up a few more good size ones. All in all, it was a fun day. Nice to get back out and do some fishing.



### Rio Grande King Trude

The Trude goes back to the early 1900s and was created by a guest at A.S. Trude Ranch. From the original version came several other versions like the Royal Trude, Lime Trude, Adam Trude, Humpy Trude and the Rio Grande King Trude. So, I picked the Rio Grande King Trude as the fly of the month and added a black Holo tinsel rib to the body for a little more flash. I have posted the video on our Face Book page.



- **Hook:** Standard nymph hook, sizes 12–16.
- **Thread:** Uni 8/0 or Ultra 70.
- **Tail:** Golden pheasant tippet barbs.
- **Tag:** Gold tinsel
- **Body:** Superfine water proof black dubbing.
- **Rib:** Holo black tinsel, size SM.
- **Wing:** White calf tail.
- **Hackle:** Brown or Ginger Grizzly.



**Quick Look Contact Information**

2021 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>V-Pres.:</b>	Unfilled
• <b>Secretary:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• <b>Treasurer:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
<b>Board Members</b>	
• <b>Position 1:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>Position 2:</b>	Helen Zagona (575) 532-5668
• <b>Position 3:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• <b>Position 4:</b>	Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
• <b>Position 5:</b>	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• <b>Position 6:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• <b>Position 7:</b>	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
• <b>Position 8:</b>	Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640
<b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b>	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	<a href="mailto:newsletter@mvff.org">newsletter@mvff.org</a>
<b>Membership Committee Chairman</b>	
• Bob Silver (575) 642-5865	<a href="mailto:membership@mvff.org">membership@mvff.org</a>

**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](mailto: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.

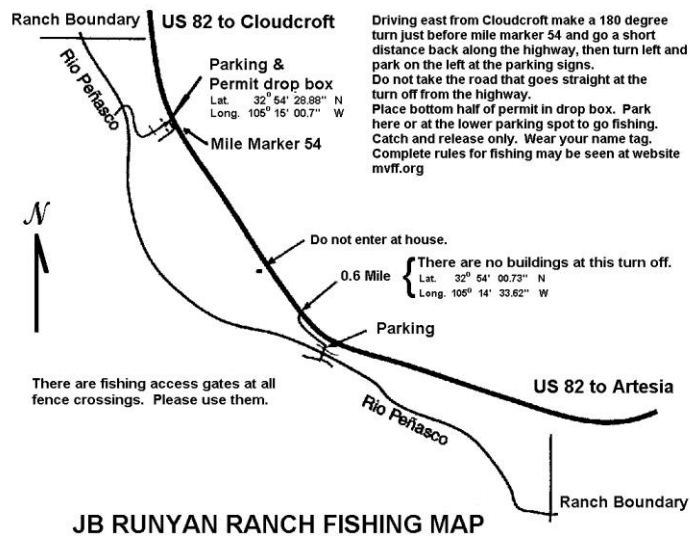
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### 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.