



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

www.MVFF.org

July

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

Meetings

The next meeting of the general membership will be on Monday, September 12. Jeff Arterburn has arranged for Craig Springer to be our guest speaker. Craig works for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Albuquerque, and he has written extensively about wild trout in New Mexico.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Well, summer is here in full force, and it seems as if most of our favorite fishing destinations are either on fire, flooding, or closed because of their proximity to fire or floods. Despite several at-

tempts to fish the portion of the Pecos River in the Pecos National Historical Park, we have yet to be there at a time when fishing is open and the park available. We were in Pecos a few weeks ago, to house sit for friends who needed to travel to Taos for a few days. Unfortunately, the Hermit's Peak fire is still burning, and the entire Pecos River valley was closed just upstream from the village of Pecos. The National Park was being used to house fire fighters, so that was off limits too. After that, I spent a few days attending a ceremonial at the Mescalero Reservation, where the wind blew 40 mph, non-stop for four days and nights. There

were no fires, but it was super dry, and parts of Ruidoso are still recovering from fires that occurred over the past two months. The south fork of the Rio Bonito remains closed.

The good news is that much of New Mexico has already begun to receive significant monsoon rainfall, and that has slowed the spread of many fires, and reduced the risks in areas that were dry but not burning. As a result, USFS officials have announced that as of 6/24, the most severe restrictions will be lifted in most areas of the Valles Caldera, and the Lincoln, Carson and Santa Fe National Forests, thus greatly increasing angling access in our region. Links to details for the various forest areas can be found in this news release from KRQE, Albuquerque.

<https://www.krqe.com/news/wildfires/new-mexicos-national-forests-lift-most-major-fire-restrictions/>. The Hermit's Creek/Calf Canyon fire is about 70% contained, and crews working along and within the fire margins have begun constructing water bars on steep slopes in an effort to minimize damage resulting from the runoff of monsoon rains.

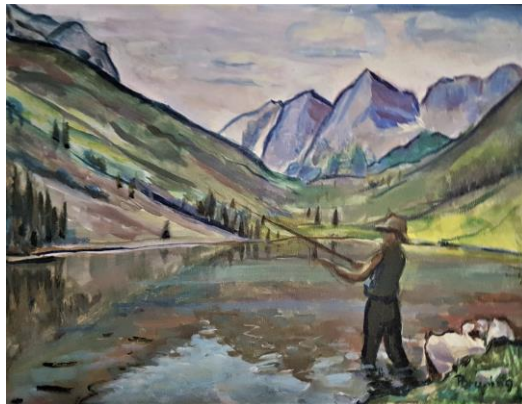
The bad news is that we are not alone; many areas in the West are currently experiencing extreme weather events and related disasters, a summary of which is provided here: <http://list.hcn.org/dm?id=E3854C2E47832A1E707C10ECD5861E174FE0885A385AD923>

Unseasonably warm weather, rapid snow melt, and massive rains have devastated several of my favorite fishing destinations in the Greater Yellowstone region, especially the northern part of the Yellowstone National Park, and the downstream portions of the Yellowstone River valley. The town of Gardiner, including our friends who own Parks Fly Shop, are completely cut off from

tourism and supply deliveries because of damage to the highways and destruction of bridges by heavy floodwaters. [Yellowstone officials assess damage after historic floods \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com). Although the southern portions of the park are likely to re-open soon, it appears that the northern areas, including such iconic fly fishing destinations as Soda Butte Creek, the Lamar River, the Gardner River and Slough Creek, will be closed indefinitely, and likely will not be accessible for the rest of this season.

As a result of all the forest closures, I've been spending time building a new fly rod. I know, not a typical summer activity, but I received an order from a customer to build a 5-wt. dry-fly rod as a Father's Day gift. I tried to purchase appropriate Winston, Sage and Thomas & Thomas blanks from suppliers all over the country, but they were still dealing with pandemic-related supply chain issues, and they couldn't provide a blank until a month or so after Father's Day. So, I called C.F. Burkheimer, and they were able to make me a 590-4 DAL blank in about a week. DAL stands for "deep action loading," meaning it has a moderate or medium action and the rod flexes well down towards the butt section; perfect for dry fly presentations. It is the second Burkie I've built, and I'm really impressed by their products. Great action and impeccable finishing on the blank. If you're considering a custom build, Burkheimer is definitely worth a look. Here's a photo of the completed rod; emerald green blank, with a Lemke reel seat and burl maple insert.

As I'm writing this, Miriam and I are in Indiana to celebrate Miriam's mother's 90th birthday. It is incredibly green here, with no forest fires, and



Miriam fishing at the outlet of Maroon Lake near Aspen, Colorado (painting by Peter Bruning)

water almost everywhere, albeit warm, muddy or algae- clouded water for the most part. Definitely not trout country. It is as if we're in another country that knows nothing about what the West is experiencing this summer. We are also here to make final preparations for the opening of an art show honoring the work of Miriam's father, Peter Bruning, who passed shortly before the onset of the pandemic.

Here are a couple of his paintings that feature Miriam fly fishing, in the Maroon Creek drainage

in Colorado, and in the headwaters of Whitewater Creek in the Gila National Forest. Both of those spots should be fishing well this month. I got word back from

the recipient of the new rod to the effect that fishing is good in Wolf Creek and elsewhere in southern Colorado, and the western portion of the Gila is open and without fire, at least for the time being. And, given all difficulties elsewhere, the Rio Peñasco is looking pretty good as a fishing destination for club members. Get there early, or stay late, in order to fish the cooler temperatures, and let me know how you do so we can include your report in the next newsletter

Environmental News

In recent years there has been some concern expressed about the possibility that radioactivity from the Fukushima disaster may have entered the aquatic food chain, especially in

anadromous fish species (such as salmon) consumed by humans. A new article by fisheries researchers in western Canada (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvrad.2022.106934>) has confirmed earlier findings by scientists in Washington that radioactivity from **Fukushima has not contaminated** fish or shellfish,

and consumers are not in danger from eating salmon, ground fish or shellfish from the Northwest coast. <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/radiation/fukushima-update/fish-and-shellfish-testing>

A significant conservation initiative for the Lahontan Cutthroat was launched recently on the shores of Lake Tahoe. On June 1, the first of 100,000 catchable Lahontan cutts were released, and subsequent stockings will occur throughout the summer when conditions permit.

The Lahontan Cutthroat is the only trout species native to the Tahoe Basin, and it is also the largest cutthroat species in the world. <http://westernnativetrout.org/lahontan-cutthroat-trout/> The species is listed as threatened, because of damage to spawning habitat by pollution, logging, water diversions, over fishing, and the introduction of non-native species. Its reintroduction is important to anglers, scientists, the Washoe Tribe of Native Americans, conservationists, and proponents of the outdoor recreation economy.



Lahontan Cutthroat trout at Summit Lake, on the reservation of the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe (Teresa Campbell, University of Nevada-Reno)

Partners working to restore Lahontan cutts to their native waters include the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Washoe Tribe, California Dept. of Fish

& Wildlife, Nevada Dept. of Wildlife, the USFS, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. In addition to stocking fishable sized trout, the initiative will also involve restoration of the tributary drainages



Miriam and Gromit fishing pocket water on upper Whitewater Creek, Gila Wilderness (painting by Peter Bruning)

that provide spawning habitat, with the hopes of reestablishing a sustainable population. It is very encouraging to see so many people and agencies working together to restore a wildlife resource that is central to the ecology of the region and to the cultural heritage of the indigenous

populations of the Tahoe Basin. It's an area that is on my fly fishing bucket list, and I wonder whether other club members share that interest. If you would be interested in having a fishing guide from that area visit the club as a guest speaker, please drop me an email. [[Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Reintroduced in Lake Tahoe | Field & Stream \(fieldandstream.com\)](#)]

Last, but not least, our government has once again requested citizen input on an environmental action that will have far-reaching effects on fisheries and fishing. On the June 23, the USFS filed a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 20-year withdrawal of lands (aka., a ban) where sulfide ore copper mining has been proposed within the Boundary Waters drainage. [www.savetheboundarywaters.org/long-awaited-us-forest-service-study-finds-major-risk-boundary-waters-sulfide-ore-copper-mining]

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is situated in northern Minnesota, contiguous with the Quetico Provincial Park in Canada. The BWCA is remote, rugged, and untamed; it is also the most-visited wilderness area in the U.S. The waters are still so pristine that one can drink directly from the lakes without the use of a purifier. The fishing is outstanding for a range of species: largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye,

northern pike, and lake trout. It is another destination that's on my fishing bucket list.

The ban on mining was initiated in 2016, but was cancelled by the Trump administration. The EA was then suppressed, and the scientific data on the damage that mining would inflict on the region was withheld from the public. Last October, the EA process was restarted, and the June 23 filing of the draft EA is the next step in protecting the Boundary Area waters. Comments on the EA may be submitted up until July 28, 2022. The following link provides access to the comment form as well as the text of the EA. [<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=60916>] It is unclear how long we will have the opportunity to weigh in on major government environmental actions, so it might be good to take advantage of our influence while we have it. Thanks for getting involved in fisheries management!



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited



Jeff Arterburn, President

GRG-TU for MVFF – July

Contact Jeff Arterburn for more info and to sign up for the next volunteer event or be

more involved in our conservation efforts: jeffgilatu@aol.com.

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



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black

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>.

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.

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



Quick Look Contact Information

2022 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Vacant
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Helen Zagona (575) 532-5668
• 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:	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
• Position 8:	Jeremiah Blount
• Position 9	Robert Koczzyk
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.

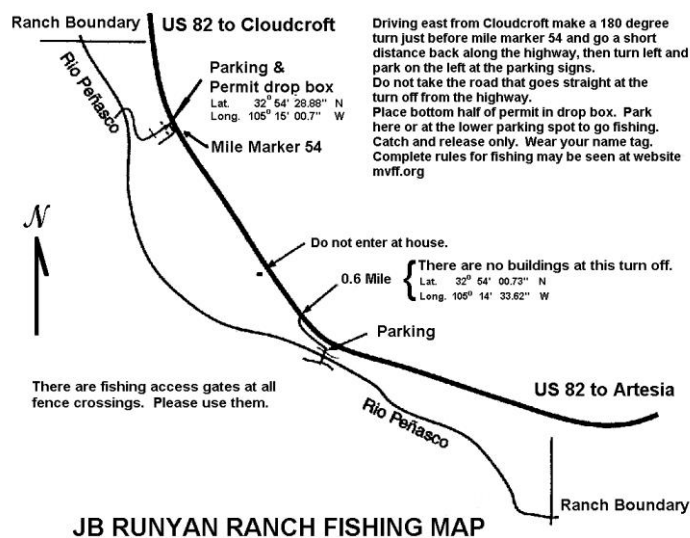
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.