



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

July

2019



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

Membership Meeting

There will be no MVFF general membership meeting in July. Many members will be fishing and the rest of them should be. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

Executive Board Meeting

There will be no MVFF Board meeting in July. The next meeting will be in August. See you then.

Liars and Tyers

Liars and Tyers will not meet in July. The next meeting will be in September. See you then.

Remember

The 3rd annual F3T film tour is coming in the fall on the 20th of October. Be sure and mark your calendar.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Miriam and I just returned from a two-week trip to Tacoma and Seattle, thereby going from 65 degrees with clouds and rain to 100+ degrees and searing dryness in a just a few hours. We didn't do any fishing this time, as the purpose of our trip was to stay with the grandkids while their parents visited Rome. Nevertheless, those of you who know us well would be surprised if we didn't do some sort of activity related to fishing, and so we did. I brought along a 6wt rod rigged with a competition shooting head line as my carry-on luggage. I took a day to drive up to Blaine, WA on the Canadian border to meet with Molly Semenik for a private fly-casting lesson. More precisely, Molly has taken me on as one of six students she is training to become certified casting instructors under the auspices of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF). This is just the second step in what will be a series of efforts over the next year or two, as we covered just six of the 22 required skills tests. The tests involve not only learning the mechanics of each casting skill, but also how to teach the skills and how to recognize and correct faulty mechanics in students' casting. This is a separate process from the exercise Molly introduced in the IFFF casting challenge during her visit to Las Cruces last January, and we can run the Bronze level skills challenge whenever a group of members is interested in doing so.

One afternoon last week, a neighbor took us out for a cruise on American Lake (near Tacoma) on an old pontoon boat he's reconditioning. The plan was to have lunch, drink a few beers, and visit the less developed shores of the lake that are part of Fort Lewis/Camp Murray. The heavily wooded shores and islands in the southern end of the lake support lots of wildlife, especially birds. We were fortunate to ob-

serve about 15–20 bald eagles, including several juveniles still hanging around near the nests close to



One of the anglers we encountered at American Lake near Tacoma, WA

their parents. Perhaps not surprisingly, we saw more eagles than humans catching fish. The few successful human anglers we saw were catching mostly small-mouth bass and bluegills, while the eagles were catching trout.

On the Importance of Salmon

It sometimes seems as if those of us who don't live in the Pacific Northwest take for granted the availability of seafood in our local grocery stores. Such does not seem to be the case in the Seattle area. I was pleasantly surprised to see that an awareness of the connections among personal choices, climate change, pollution, watersheds and healthy seafood pervades the lives of many members of the general population in that region. Respect and concern for fish and fisheries is infused in the fabric of everyday life in ways that we might not anticipate.

In the El Paso Airport, we have product placement exhibits featuring cowboy boots; in the Sea-Tac Airport, there are Native American art exhibits in which images of salmon, eagles and orcas are featured as sacred beings. One example is a painting by Aleut artist Thomas Stream in which a salmon is depicted as a hunter chief, denoted by the hunter's cap or helmet that is worn only by traditional hunt chiefs.

On my way up to Blaine to meet with Molly, I stopped at the Tulalip Reservation near Marysville to visit their

museum and cultural preservation staff. In one of my Native American classes, I teach a unit on the Coast Salish, and I wanted to visit the home of the author whose book I use for that unit. I was treated to a tour of their artifact storage facility loaded with hand-carved cedar canoes, hand woven cedar bark baskets and hand carved 40-foot cedar totem poles. The canoes and totem poles all featured paintings and/or carvings of salmon, orcas and eagles, the most important sacred animals that play prominent roles in



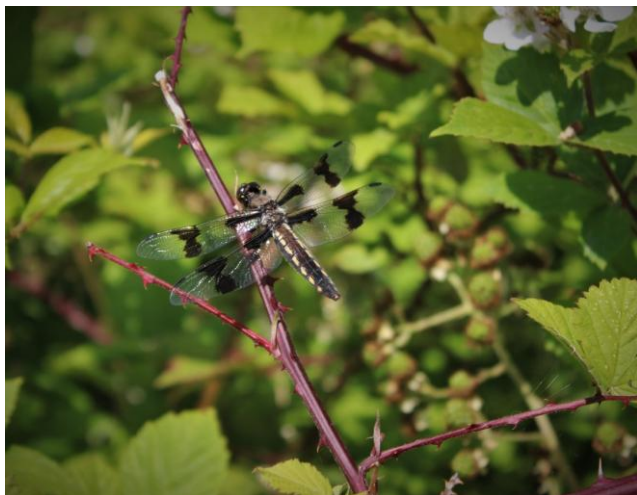
"Far Journey" by Aleut artist Thomas Stream with Salmon depicted as hunter chief

traditional as well as contemporary spiritual beliefs and ceremonies. All across the reservation, at each bridge crossing a stream, creek, slough or tidal basin, I saw stenciled signs reminding residents and visitors not to dump trash or waste where it could enter the waterway. Everything is connected, and spoiling the waters would be a sacrilege.

In a residential neighborhood in Puyallup, near Clark's Creek Park, we encountered a patch of woodlands and meadow with signage about a fisheries restoration project. When I went back to photograph the area, one of the homeowners stopped mowing his lawn and came over to tell me about the project. Four or five years ago, the Meeker ditch was just a drainage ditch. It had been dug many years earlier to channel runoff away from houses as the headwaters of the Puyallup River were being developed for residential subdivisions. But as a result of changes in Puyallup city government, several community meetings, a growing awareness of the importance of watersheds and the imperiled condition of salmon populations, the City and County committed to the restoration of the headwater tributaries such as Meeker Creek, shown in Figure 3. After only three years, residents are excited to see the return of the four Pacific salmon species (Pink, Coho, Chinook and Chum), as well as Steelhead and Sea-run Cutthroat Trout to the small tributary meandering through this meadow.



Meeker Creek wetlands and meadow restoration project in Puyallup, WA



Dragonfly on blackberry bush along the southern shore of Union Lake, Seattle, WA

At the Tacoma Zoo at Point Defiance, we visited the polar bear enclosure where the curator commented on several ways that individuals' actions affect water quality and climate change. The park visitors were encouraged to wash their cars (if at all) only on their

lawns, or by taking them to a commercial car wash, so the runoff won't contribute to "non-point source" pollution that ends up in our waterways. He also explained that no one who cares about the environment should use drive-through lanes, as the idling contributes unnecessarily to the accumulation of greenhouse gasses and global climate change. I wondered how much of an effect this really has, so I

read about a few research papers online, and the results are pretty surprising. In the U.S., idling consumes about 6 billion gallons of fuel every year. About half of that idling is not the result of traffic conditions; it is the result of activities such as waiting in drive-thru lines, school drop-off and pickup zones, and other circumstances when vehicles are parked but running. It is estimated that idling accounts for 3.4% of all fuel consumption in the U.S., leading to the emission of 6 million tons of CO₂ per year. In New York City alone, such choices cost individual drivers up to \$650 per year in fuel, and produce 130,000 tons of CO₂ emissions each year. One study found that if Canadian motorists avoided idling for just 3 minutes per day, CO₂ emissions would be reduced by 1.4 million tons per year, or the equivalent of taking 320,000 cars off the roads each year! Although the Pacific Northwest is wetter than the Southwest, its residents understand that global climate change is reducing the snowpack, reducing the river flows during critical salmon spawning times, and increasing the summer temperatures of the air and water. Even our shuttle bus driver at the Sea-Tac Airport was knowledgeable and conversant about the effects of CO₂ emissions on climate change; why is our leadership in Washington, D.C. still so challenged by this basic science?

During our visit, we had the pleasure of meeting up with my daughter Andi who recently moved to Seattle to take a job at the Theo Chocolate company. To celebrate her birthday, we took the family and friends out to Duke's Chowder House, the restaurant that has repeatedly won the award for Seattle's best seafood

chowder. The food at Duke's is really quite remarkable, and it's not limited to chowder. But I was even more impressed by the company's concern for the environment and wild seafood stocks. Owner Duke Moscrip is not just interested in making money serving seafood. He is committed to the sustainable harvest of nutritious and unadulterated wild sourced seafood that is healthy for the environment as well as his customers. He serves only wild-caught salmon and other seafood, and has even developed "DukeWorthy" standards for the harvesting and handling of wild Alaskan salmon and halibut that have changed the way commercial fishermen and processors operate (*As Wild as it Gets: Duke's Secret Sustainable Seafood Recipes*, pp. 50–54, Aviva Publishing, [2016]). The restaurants' standards result in an extraordinary dining experience, but they also promote the use of sustainable wild fish stocks rather than farmed salmon, resulting in a healthier product for consumers.

Medical research has shown that wild salmon contains 46% fewer calories, twice the Omega-3 fatty acids, and half the fat of farmed salmon. Farmed salmon also has 20% more saturated fat, is higher in sodium, and higher in persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The levels of PCB (a type of POP) are 5–10 times higher in farmed fish than in wild stocks, and POPs have been linked to increased risk of diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. Wild salmon develop their rich orange and red coloration through the consumption of krill and shrimp. The color of farmed salmon has been altered by the addition of synthetic astaxanthin to their diet of corn and soy pellets, and without the additive their flesh would be gray. It is also worth noting that farmed salmon often contains antibiotics, but wild salmon does not (<https://wildalaskancompany.com>). Contaminants in farmed fish are generally below FDA tolerance levels, but may exceed levels considered "safe for frequent consumption." So, if you eat salmon often, wild is safer. Pregnant women and women of child bearing age are advised to choose wild salmon over farmed (Sources: Cleveland Clinic, Medical News Today, Healthline, NOAA, and Stirling University).

While driving around the Seattle area, I saw stickers on vehicles wherever I went. From BMWs and Audis, to beat up old pickup trucks, from 10 lane



freeways to country backroads, it is very clear that all sorts of people all across the region are opposed to the proposed Pebble Mine. Speaking of that, there have been several recent developments in the efforts to save the Bristol Bay watershed and its commercial and sport fisheries.

In May, a new University of Washington study reported that the bone chemistry of salmonid otoliths (ear bones) have shown that young salmon in the Bristol Bay watershed use and live in various spots within the entire network of streams and lakes during the period of growth before they head out to sea. The young fish move through the headwaters searching for shelter, prey and safe feeding and holding areas, and the places where these requirements are met change depending on climate conditions and local landscape features. So, access to the entire watershed is necessary for favorable production and growth of young salmon before they go to sea. The study confirms what scientists have long suspected: that contamination in one portion of the watershed will have detrimental effects on the fisheries at large.

In response to complaints about the hurried review of the latest mine proposal, the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) extended the EIS comment period to June 29, 2019, but that change didn't address the shortcomings of the environmental impact analysis, or what is widely understood to be a flawed, biased and illegal environmental review process directed by the Trump administration. (See the newsletters of Jan. 2019 and Dec., Sept., and Feb. 2018 for details of the EIS/permit review process and the related Clean Water Rule changes.) On June 10th, Trout Unlimited issued a statement in support of the Huffman appropriations amendment on the proposed Pebble Mine permit which detailed the inadequacy of the permit review process. On June 19th the amendment was passed by the House of Representatives, temporarily halting funding for COE review of the Pebble Mine permit, and noting the "fundamentally flawed process" being used by Corps staffers. (Source: www.savebristolbay.org/)

Nevertheless, the EPA has taken the first step in its plan to remove the protections provided to Bristol Bay in the 2014 proposed determination that resulted from a decade-long, scientifically informed review of the effects of Pebble Mine. In other words, the cur-

rent EPA is planning to remove the protections proposed by the EPA under the previous administration. Here is the June 26 response from Trout Unlimited:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nelli Williams, Trout Unlimited (907) 230-7121, nwilliams@tu.org

Sportsmen criticize initial step by EPA to remove proposed Bristol Bay protections

ANCHORAGE, AK – Today, a [memo](#) was released by EPA General Counsel directing its Region 10 office to resume the withdrawal process for the 2014 [proposed determination](#), which added upfront protections for the rich natural resources of the Bristol Bay region from threatening mining proposals like the Pebble Mine.

In response to today's step by EPA, Trout Unlimited issued the following statement:

"The proposed determination was supported by thousands of Alaskans and millions of Americans because the Bristol Bay region is an extremely unique and valuable asset to Alaskans, as well as the rest of our country. If the EPA reverses this important document, they are not only failing their legal responsibility to protect human health and clean water, but they are failing the people of Alaska and sacrificing jobs, Alaskan way of life, and world-class hunting and fishing opportunity for a risky mine proposal," said Nelli Williams, Alaska director of Trout Unlimited.

"We need leadership, not politics. We need science, reason and a robust public process, not political favors that hurt Alaskans. The majority of Alaskans that consistently oppose Pebble mine are looking to our elected officials to fix this process that is failing us. We need safeguards for our fished-based economy, and we demand a rigorous, fair review in Bristol Bay, not the reckless one we've been given so far."

The bottom line is that the fight to protect the Bristol Bay watershed is not over. Moreover, if this watershed cannot be protected, then probably no natural resources areas are safe. This is about the fish and

habitat, but it is also about decision-making processes, resource management policies, and whether we can trust the government to do the will of the people. I invite everyone to keep a watchful eye on the EPA and COE, and to communicate with elected officials to keep them aware of the high level of support for the protection of the Bristol Bay fishery. [↑](#)

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.

Local Fishing Note: There has been a long, sustained run-off in the waters of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado this year and many of the streams and rivers there are just becoming fishable. In fact, Jim and I had a trip cancelled in mid-June because the streams we planned to fish were not safe due to high water. Local guides at Land of Enchantment guides and Taos Fly Shop say the water is dropping and beginning to clear so fishing conditions should improve. Given the late runoff and abundance of water this year, the guides expect good fishing to continue into the fall. [↑](#)

Fly Fishing Outreach

Ron Bellerose
Coordinator



Outreach has been suspended for the summer and has no activities to report.

I will be going to Arizona to work with the PHW in the Show Low area this month.

For more information about the MVFF Fly Fishing Outreach Program contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-

5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com), also if you wish to volunteer to help out. [↑](#)

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



We have some beautiful new fund-raising for trout restoration and conservation T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo in colors: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on-black (see photos). These are beautiful, well-made shirts for a great cause at only \$20 each. Please include \$5 for shipping if you want the shirt(s) mailed. These are great stocking stuffers and presents for the holidays! Contact Jeff Arterburn for more details and to sign up as a volunteer: 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.

There are no trips currently being planned.

After many years of organizing trips, Chuck Mueller is stepping aside, and we really need someone else to step up and take on this project. Chuck is willing to help someone get started and up to speed, but the Board members can only do so much; we need for other members to help out with planning and leading of some of the activities too. Please think about it and let David or Chuck know if you can help out.



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

The board did not meet in June. The next Board meeting will be in August. [↑](#)

Quick Look Contact Information

2019 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (612) 720-3456
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Tom Johnson (417) 684-7075
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 524-0773
• 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) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Jim Sorenson (575) 525-1050
• 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) 522-6325	membership@mvff.org
NMSU AF Student Representative	
• Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640	

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.

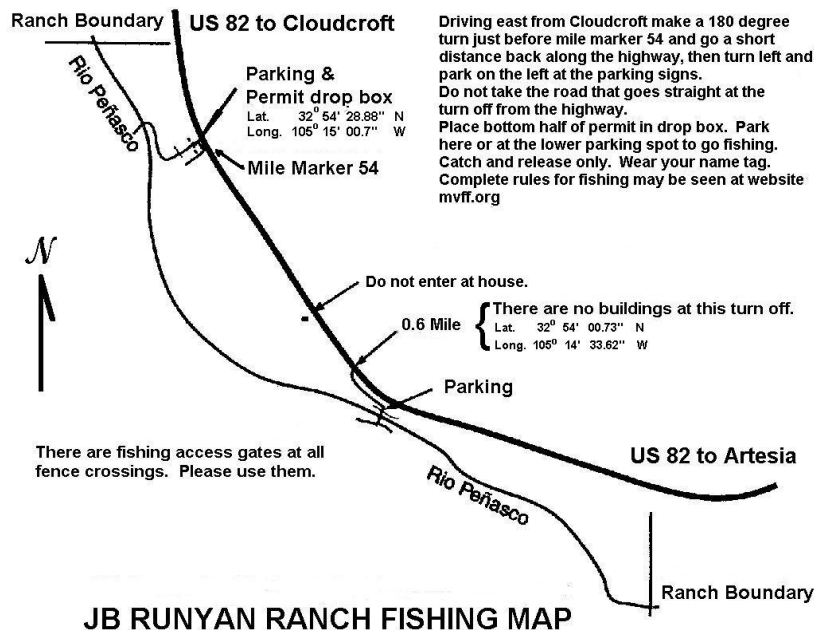
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.