



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

April

2020



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Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — [newsletter@mvff.org](mailto:newsletter@mvff.org)

## Meetings

Editor:—Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Club held no meetings in March and will do the same in April, following state-wide directives. We hope to be able to meet in May but even that is very problematic at this time.

Hope all of you are hunkered down and being safe. This would be a good time to refill your fly boxes, read all of those how-to flyfishing books and spend some quality family time. See the president's column for some good suggestions for various videos and activities. Stay safe.

## President's Corner

David Carmichael



Greetings everyone. Isn't this a fine kettle of fish in which we find ourselves? Seriously, I hope you are all doing everything you can to stay healthy, especially following medical professionals' instructions for hand washing, sanitizing and social distancing. We don't really know precisely how bad the pandemic will get, but it is predicted that we may experience the peak for new cases in the latter half of April or first part of May. We also don't know how long social distancing will be required, but based on what I've seen on medical websites, the current situation is seems likely to persist at least through the

month of May, and quite possibly a month or two longer. That means that all our club events for April will be cancelled, including our regular club meeting, board meeting, and Liars & Tiers. We'll wait to see what information comes from the Governor's office, but it seems likely we won't be meeting in May either. Now is the time to practice social distancing, ordering carry out from our favorite restaurants, and finding things to do around the house. Here are some suggestions.

**Exercise.** Although the UTEP campus is closed, all of our classes have been transferred over to online teaching. It has been made very clear that typing furiously at the keyboard, or scribbling red ink on student papers doesn't constitute actual exercise; they're not even close to being reasonable alternatives to walking across campus and up and down stairs a few times a day. However, social distancing guidelines still allow for us to walk around the neighborhood, or even out in the sticks as long as we avoid parks, trailhead facilities, gateway community services, etc. Although visiting the gym is out, starting a simple exercise routine at home is useful. The planks and pushups I've been doing don't hurt nearly as much as they did just a week or two ago.

**Casting Instruction and Practice.** If you want to keep your casting arm and shoulder in shape, how about doing some fly-casting practice at or near home? If you'd like to brush up on your technique with the help of some instructional videos, there are many options, but one of the best is Orvis, which has a collection of videos on how to get started in fly fishing, how to make different kinds of casts, etc. They may be accessed at <https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/video-lessons/13-fly-casting>. Casting instruction videos are also available on the Fly Fishers International website at <https://flyfishersinternational.org>. Just go the Learning Center and click on the Foundations of Casting tab to see videos available to the general public; you don't have to be a member. If you don't

have sufficient water or open grass near your residence where you can cast a regular rod, try using an indoor practice rod with yarn instead of fly line. If you don't have one of those, you could thread the two tip-most sections of your rod with yarn or smooth twine, and use that indoors. Practice is good; tangles are not.

**Fly Tying.** Another useful way to spend time at home is to fill up the fly boxes or learning to tie new patterns. It's simple; it's

easy. Just don't do any of these things in the accompanying diagram. There are many fine digital resources for fly tying instruction. One of my favorites is The Fly Tier's Benchside Reference, by Ted Leeson and Jim Schollmeyer,

available in print or DVD format from Amato Publications. If you prefer online help, many fly shops and online retailers, such as Gig Harbor Fly Shop (<https://gigharborflyshop.com>) and Leland Fly Fishing (<https://lelandfly.com>), provide a regular sampling of fly tying videos. But to access a real treasure trove

of fly tying demonstrations, check out Tim Cammisa's webpage at [www.troutandfeather.com](http://www.troutandfeather.com), where he has archived dozens of instructional videos, including many for patterns suitable for those just learning to tie their own flies.

**Fly Fishing Vicariously.** For those members who want to watch fly fishing whenever they can't be fly fishing, all the Fly Fishing Film Tour (f3t) videos from 2011 through 2018 are now available to download at no cost (<https://flyfilmtour.com/download-previous-f3t-films/>). Simms also has a series of films available

through their website, including "Alignment Through Fishing" about finding a peaceful setting to escape the chaos of everyday modern life ([www.simmsfishing.com/discover/stories/film-alignment](http://www.simmsfishing.com/discover/stories/film-alignment)). Another film worth watching, even if you've seen it before, is "Red Gold," a documentary

about the fight to save the salmon and trout fisheries of Bristol Bay, Alaska. There is a link provided on the Trout Unlimited website where you can

view and/or download the film for free ([www.tu.org/blog/twelve-years-later/](http://www.tu.org/blog/twelve-years-later/)).

#### Environmental News and Action Opportunities.

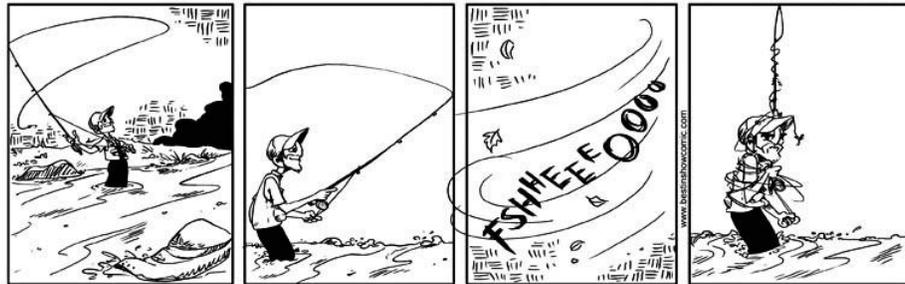
Speaking of Bristol Bay, despite the challenges the

country is facing in responding to the coronavirus pandemic, the federal government and the Army Corps of Engineers have quietly continued advancing what is widely regarded as a flawed permit application for the massive proposed Pebble Mine. Most environmental scientists, anglers and commercial fisher-

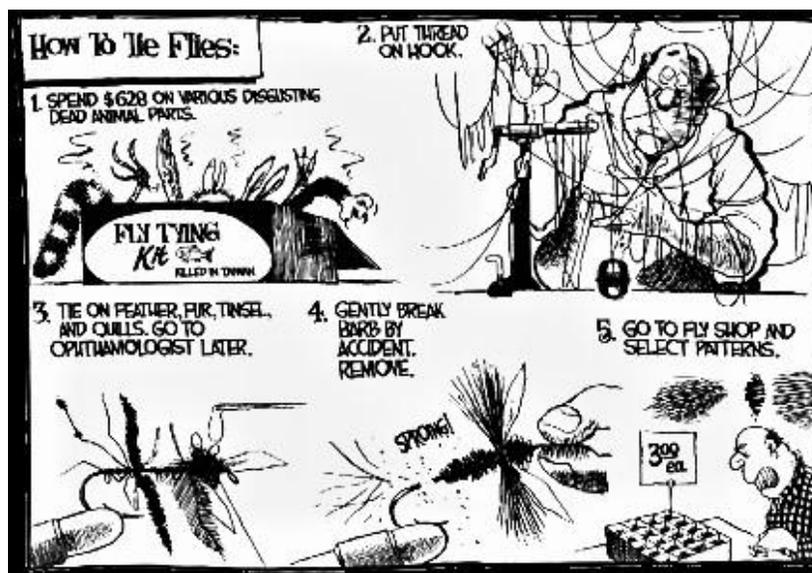
men agree that if the mine is built, it will destroy the world's most productive salmon fishery and devastate the livelihoods and lives of those who rely upon the Bristol Bay drainage and its natural resources.

*I am not a scientist, but I can tell you that the entire Bristol Bay system is connected and that water flows downhill. The water is the life-blood of this region. These flowing, moving waters allow life to exist in this region. These salmon runs feed the world. The proposed mine site is critical to salmon and other fresh-*

Best in Show Comic



by Phil Juliano

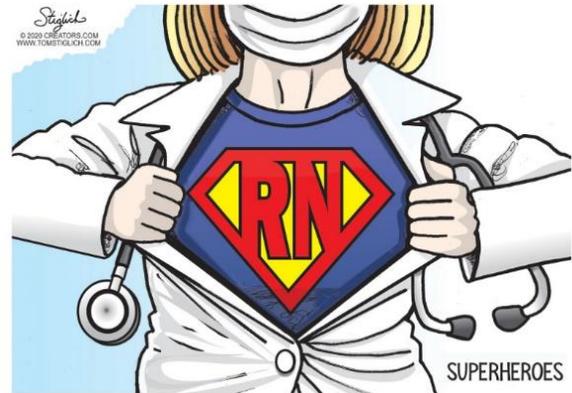


*water species and will be destroyed if this project is built. The Bristol Bay's world-famous fisheries, its unparalleled water, and the local economies and cultures they support can continue to thrive if we simply have the common sense to leave this place as it is. (Brian Kraft, owner of Alaska Sportsman's Lodge, for Orvis, Spring 2020)*

If you would like to take action to save Bristol Bay, go to the website [www.savebristolbay.org](http://www.savebristolbay.org), and click on the Take Action tab. The Army Corps is rushing the permitting process, and apparently using the pandemic as a diversion; it is likely that the agency will attempt to approve the mine before the end of summer, so now is the time to voice our opposition (again)!

The Gila National Forest Plan revision process is in the comment period for the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. All the documents related to the plan revision may be viewed at <http://go.usa.gov/h88k>. The plan revisions will put in place policies that govern how the forest is managed for the next decade. According to New Mexico Wild, the USFS's preferred alternative doesn't provide sufficient protection for the watersheds that so many of us enjoy fishing. More specifically, protections for McKnight, Gilita, Little Creek, Mogollon Creek, and Black Canyon drainages are not what they could and should be. Public comments are due by April 16, and you may express your concerns about the Draft EIS at <https://p2a.co/abxjeOB>. Why not send a comment, now that our tax filing deadline has been postponed?

Public comments *do* make a difference. As reported in the Earth Justice Newsletter of March 12, a federal judge has ruled that the administration's proposed logging of 1.8 million acres of old-growth rain forest in the Tongass National Forest is illegal because the approval process violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by ignoring public opinion. This is very likely why the administration has proposed rule changes to NEPA that would remove the requirement to take into account public comments. So, until that right is taken away from us, let's use it to make our conservation concerns heard.



**Be safe and stay healthy. Please listen to the scientists and public health professionals.**



## 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](mailto:westerngirlnm@gmail.com).

No trips are planned at this time.



## Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President

**GRG-TU for MVFF April 2020**

**Upcoming TU events: Cancellations**

In response to concerns for the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the associated restrictions that have been implemented, Trout Unlimited's National Office has issued instructions to cancel all TU-associated events in April. All of the TU regional rendezvous meetings in 2020 have also been canceled, the Western Regional Rendezvous in Taos will be rescheduled but at this time a new date has not yet been determined. Unfortunately, we will not be able



to hold the Willow Creek Volunteer Stream Survey that was scheduled for later this month. At this time the Aldo Leopold Kid's Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts is still scheduled for Saturday June 6, 2020, but there is a chance that this event will be canceled or rescheduled. The organizing committee will review the situation to decide in early May.

**GRG-TU and USFS Reserve Ranger District through the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership have submitted a project proposal to the National Fish Habitat Small Grants Program to support habitat restoration work on Willow Creek, Gila National Forest.**

This project seeks to utilize a combination of stream restoration management measures identified in the Watershed Based Plan that is nearing completion by Natural Channel Design, in order to provide canopy coverage to the stream, while also creating opportunities to develop geomorphic complexity through lateral movement of the stream channel and inducing meanders and pools to aid in returning the stream to the appropriate dimension, pattern and profile. Specific management measures include a combination of Native vegetative planting based on stream geomorphology, vegetative canopy coverage and site specific stream temperature, and increased food sources (riparian vegetation and log piles) to encourage Beaver activity and expansion within the drainage, and adding geomorphic complexity using in-stream structures. Implementation sites are identified in the WBP along with appropriate in-stream structures to restore channel morphology and to aid in returning the stream to the appropriate dimension, pattern and profile. Site-specific enhancements have been designed to be smaller hand-built structures, utilizing local on-site materials (rock and logs) and primitive tools, with the goal of creating minimal or no aesthetic impacts. These structures include: log/willow barbs, rock barbs, mini rock weirs, willow fascines, rock or log deflectors, log overhangs, boulder clusters, crossover logs, brush revetment and beaver dam analogues. With this funding (fingers crossed!) we'll be initiating volunteer restoration work in Fall 2020!

**Update: Gila Forest Plan Revision; Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement requested by April 16th.**

There is just more than a week left to comment on the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact State-

ment for the revision Gila National Forest Plan. The documents are posted on the plan revision webpage (<http://go.usa.gov/h88k>).

We are working with our NM-TU Staff Member Dan Roper and NM-TU Council Chair Harris Klein to issue an Action-Alert for comments on the Gila's forest plan that will be sent out in early April to all current TU members, and we'll also send an email out to MVFF so that everyone can use this to facilitate commenting. When finalized, this plan will impact everything from native trout reintroduction and recreational fishing to watershed-scale restoration, so please take a moment to send a message. The most impactful comments are ones that include your own thoughts, experiences, or suggestions. You will be able to send a comment letter that TU has prepared, or use these as a guide to write your own comment and personalize because the most impactful comments will include your personal experiences and stories about these public lands and waters for the greatest impact on Forest Service decision-making. These seven points are key considerations:

1. Improve habitat protections for native Gila trout.
2. Restore watersheds and improve water quality.
3. Limit the impacts of forest roads and motorized use
4. Reduce the impacts of grazing on riparian areas and stream habitat.
5. Enhance wildlife habitat and backcountry recreation
6. Recommend areas for wilderness in the final plan.
7. Protect the Gila's wild rivers.

Thanks for speaking up for native trout and public lands in the Gila!

Volunteers for all of these projects and activities are always needed! If you would like to serve on the GRG-TU Board of Directors or get involved in any of our activities **PLEASE** contact Jeff Arterburn by email to: [jeffgilatu@aol.com](mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com).

**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](mailto: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. David Lukcoski has volunteered to organize the Club trip to the San Juan in the spring of 2020. 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](mailto:mpdankel@msn.com).

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



### Parking at Alumni Pond, NMSU

Those fishing at Alumni Pond on the NMSU campus should be aware that parking on the campus is tightly regulated and strictly enforced with fines being administered. However, parking is generally free after 4:30pm on weekdays and all day on weekends. To obtain the various rules and regulations with info on how to get parking permits see the NMSU visitor webpage at <https://park.nmsu.edu/visitor/>.



### Board Meeting Minutes

There was no Board Meeting in March and, so, no minutes. The Board will not meet until May at the earliest.



**Quick Look Contact Information**

2020 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>V-Pres.:</b>	Jim Sorenson (505) 710-4264
• <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>	Ron Bellerose (575) 680-5516
• <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>	Bob Silver (575) 642-5865
• <b>Position 8:</b>	Jim Sorenson (505) 710-4264
• <b>Position 9:</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>
<b>Lady Anglers</b>	
• 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](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.

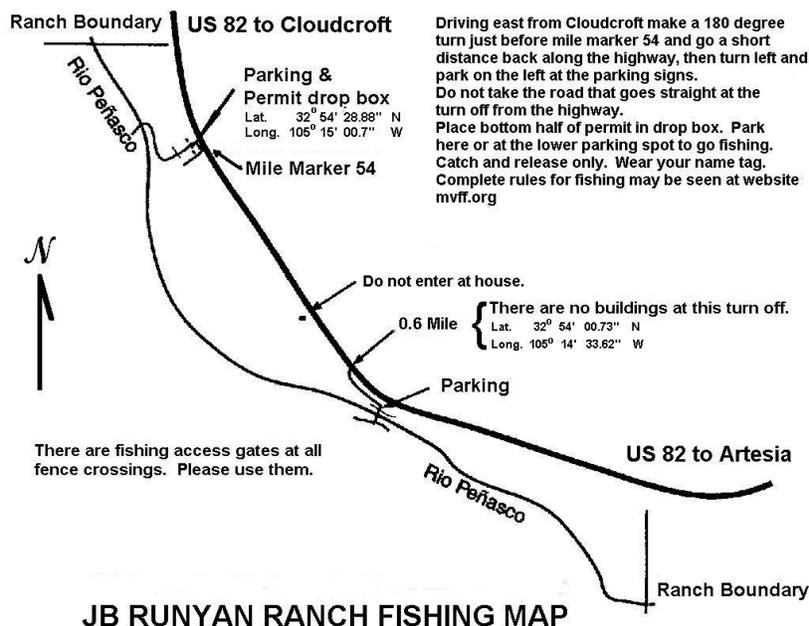
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### 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.