



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222
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www.MVFF.org

December

2020

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Meetings

Editor:—Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club will hold no meetings in the foreseeable future.

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 one mentioned in last month's edition of *Tale Waters* taught how to tie a basic red larva or annelid pattern that works on the San Juan.

This month Chuck ties a basic midge pupa and a midge emerger that also works well on the San Juan. Pupa patterns are just about as easy as the larva patterns for beginners and novices. Part two 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 three will cover midge dry fly patterns.



President's Corner

David Carmichael

Greetings everyone. This is the time of year when we typically choose a new slate of board members for the upcoming year, and when that

slate is voted upon by the club members who attend the December meeting of the general membership. Of course, this is not a typical year, and we won't be having a membership meeting at which the board membership can be discussed. Therefore, I'd like to mention a couple of upcoming board changes, and appeal for your help in assembling a new board next month which would be seated in February. Vice President Jim Sorenson will be leaving the board at the end of January, and I'll be stepping down as your President at that time too. So, there will be some shuffling of duties, and we'll have at least one vacancy on the board.

While this has been an unusually inactive year for the MVFF, I hope that with the widespread availability of one or more vaccines next year, and a loosening of meeting and travel restrictions, it will be possible to revive some club events in late spring or summer. Your board of directors will need your involvement and energy to successfully restart programs such as stocking the lease, fly tying classes, club fishing trips to the San Juan, casting classes, monthly speakers, and the annual banquet among others. Fort Bliss staff have also reached out to me about restarting a fly-fishing program for active-duty soldiers next spring or summer. If you are able and willing to help plan and implement these sorts of activities, please contact me or another board member and make your availability known. Most of the board members have served for many years, some for more than a decade, and it really is important for the club's long-term success to have some new people step into the board positions from time to time. Please consider "paying it forward" by serving your club as a board member.

Because the COVID pandemic has pre-empted most of our club functions for the past ten months, the board voted this week to carry over your 2020 membership dues into 2021. So, if you paid up for 2020, you are already paid up through 2021. We also voted to send a Christmas gift/club thank you gift to the Elletts, even though we will not be holding the annual banquet at which it would usually be presented.

Environmental News

There are several important pieces of environmental news that will affect waters and policies of interest to anglers. Perhaps the most notable of



these is the recent announcement that the Army Corps of Engineers has denied the Clean Water Act permit for the proposed Pebble Mine. The Army Corps has “determined that the applicant’s plan for the discharge of fill material does not comply with Clean Water Act guidelines and concluded that the proposed project is contrary to the public interest.” (see [Trump administration denies permit for Pebble mine in Southwest Alaska - Anchorage Daily News \(adn.com\)](https://www.adn.com/news/local/trump-administration-denies-permit-for-pebble-mine-in-southwest-alaska) for details). This is welcome news to the Alaskans, commercial fishermen, sport anglers, Native Americans, tourism interests and conservation groups who have been resisting the Northern Dynasty’s efforts to build Pebble Mine for the past fifteen years. Nevertheless, the door is not completely closed on Pebble Mine. The developers have indicated they will file an administrative appeal in the next 60 days. They also have the option to prepare a new mitigation plan, though observers note that it would be difficult to overcome the weaknesses of the current plan. Alaska’s U.S. senators both disapprove of the mine, and there is now some talk

about a land swap between the federal government and Alaska that would take the lands around Bristol Bay out of play for mining once and for all. The saga continues, but for now, the salmon have a reprieve.

There is other news regarding efforts to protect, or perhaps more accurately, resurrect the salmon populations of the Pacific Northwest coast. It has been known for some time that urban area streams, like those around Puget Sound, are annually polluted by stormwater during the winter rainy season. That is the same time of the year when many salmon populations return to spawn, because the wet season rains raise the water levels in local streams, allowing the salmon to access the spawning grounds in the headwaters. In recent years, in some drainages, 40–90% of returning Coho salmon have been dying before they can spawn, and in some streams the mortality is 100%. The phenomenon even has a name: urban runoff mortality syndrome. Researchers have now identified the toxic chemical they believe to be the cause. A chemical called 6PPD-quinone is added to automobile tires to help them resist wear. Apparently, 6PPD is deposited as residue on roadways, and then washed into stormwater drainages and creeks, where it is toxic to salmon. Perhaps now that the toxin and the means of its introduction into spawning streams have been identified, it may be possible to develop policies and procedures to reduce the exposure of the salmon to the toxin. (<https://science.sciencemag.org/lookup/doi/10.1126/science.abd6951>)

Salmon restoration efforts in Oregon and California are in the news as well. Back in 2016, the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement was negotiated by 23 consulting parties. The resulting river renewal plan calls for the removal of four hydroelectric dams, returning the Klamath to a free-flowing condition, and allowing salmon and steelhead renewed access to 400 miles of their former habitat. On November 17, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation announced the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the states of Oregon and California, PacifiCorp, and the Yurok and Karuk tribes. The MOA describes

how the parties will implement the Klamath River renewal plan, with one of the first steps being the transfer of the dam operating licenses from PacificCorp to Oregon and California. See www.klamathrenewal.org for more details.

New Mexico senator Martin Heinrich has introduced the Pecos Watershed Protection Act to prevent future mining accidents and spills of the sort that have resulted from mining practices that are allowed under the antiquated 1872 Mining Act. The law will help protect the economy and water supply of the watershed and its residents as the region transitions from an economy based on resource extraction to one focused on outdoor recreation, including fishing. The Pecos River is the second most popular fishery in the state, after the San Juan, and it has only recently recovered from a major mine-related spill in 1990. It would be a shame if its recovery were to be placed in jeopardy by the development of new mines, so Heinrich's bill would remove about 170,000 acres of USFS lands from future mining. This recent news report provides further details. (https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2020/11/19/sen-heinrich-wants-to-protect-the-pecos-watershed-from-future-mining/?mc_cid=ddac5a2db6&mc_eid=14a570f957)

Diversions, the Good Kind

In an ongoing effort to provide some entertaining information and resources that can be enjoyed while sheltering at home, I invite you to check out this short video on the Pecos River called "These Rivers Carry Our Stories."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahU-FrQPO7Q8&feature=youtu.be>

The people featured in the video discuss their involvement in traditional uses of the waters in the Pecos drainage, including fishing. They also talk about why the Pecos deserves to be designated as one of New Mexico's Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW), and how that designation would help maintain the water balance and water quality in the valley. There are also some pretty cool drone images of the river and its environs.

We are coming up on the Christmas holidays, and I imagine that many of us will purchase and/or receive gifts that are related to our passion for fly fishing. Various items of clothing, such as shirts, jackets and caps are common parts of our fishing gear. Some people wear their favorite colors on the river, or the colors of the manufacturers of their favorite gear. Others like to have their clothing and accessories match. Some try to blend in with the surroundings by wearing various kinds of camo gear. I know about the urge to coordinate and match one's fishing outfits, or to wear bright colors in order to be visible to our fishing companions. But trout can see some colors really well, and research suggests that anglers who try to blend in with the surroundings are less likely to spook the fish than those who opt for pops of color and other fashion statements. Here is a link to an article in *The Hatch* magazine that includes a fun field comparison of a red shirt with an ugly yellow plaid on the river. (<https://www.hatchmag.com/articles/dont-dress-stupid/7714813?emci=39129799-eb25-eb11-9fb4-00155d03affc&emdi=0cc7f37b-0126-eb11-9fb4-00155d03affc&ceid=1722130>)

If you are interested in reading more about some of the research on how trout see colors at different depths and at various levels of turbidity, you might want to check out this little paperback book by Colin J. Kageyama, O.D.: *What Fish See: Understanding Optics and Color Shifts for Designing Lures and Flies* (Amato Press). It's an interesting read, complete with many comparisons of how flies look in the fly shop bins vs. how they look underwater. It is pretty clear that trout see the colors red, orange, purple and black very well under all sorts of conditions, so avoiding those colors of clothing is probably a good idea.

Finally, Tanner Smith of Trouts Fly Fishing in Frisco, Colorado posts monthly videos under the heading of Trouts Journal. In the current video, Tanner and his dog Gus present tips for which flies to use in the winter on the Colorado and Arkansas Rivers. (<https://troutsflyfishing.com/a/info/blog/watch-five-flies-for->

[november-2020?utm_campaign=VIDEO%20SERIES%3A%20Trouts%20Tips%20%7C%20Starting%20Off%20in%20Fly%20Fishing%20%28UnZ-BgR%29&utm_medium=email&utm_so](https://www.tunm.org/november-2020?utm_campaign=VIDEO%20SERIES%3A%20Trouts%20Tips%20%7C%20Starting%20Off%20in%20Fly%20Fishing%20%28UnZ-BgR%29&utm_medium=email&utm_so)) If you look closely, you'll see several good examples of how to mend line on long drifts while nymphing. And, you gotta love those drone shots of hooking and landing trout! Almost makes me want to get a drone and learn that kind of photography, but then, that would leave less time for fishing. Most of these sorts of videos are shot by videographers who don't often seem to get to fish themselves. Anyway, check it out. And remember to contact us about joining the board next year.



Rio Peñasco sunset



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



New Trout Unlimited New Mexico Council Web Page = <https://tunm.org/>

It's now easier than ever before to find out what's happening with TU across

the state!

The National TU organization is undertaking a new strategic plan: "One TU", with the goal that by the next generation TU will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once

again thrive within their North American range so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home water. TU-NM is working to improve streams and rivers throughout New Mexico, to ensure that our native Gila Trout and Rio Grande Cutthroat thrive in their historical waters.

<https://tunm.org/>

While you are at the site, make sure to check out the **TU-NM Council's new promotional video** featuring TU projects, fishing in New Mexico, and the importance of Native Trout. This short film was produced with the help of Filmmaker Gregg Flores. At the end of the video is a link where an individual can **sign up for a free one year membership to Trout Unlimited**.

Free New Mexico Trout Unlimited Membership Offer

The direct link is: <https://gifts.tu.org/join-new-mexico>

(This offer is only available for new members and U.S. residents, so if you are a current member or have been a TU member before please forward this link to friends and family and encourage them to find out what TU is all about.) For the next year, you'll receive all the benefits for a paid membership plus opportunities to win great gear and trips, discounts on fly fishing equipment and more. You'll also be part of a growing community of individuals who enjoy angling and want to keep America's rivers cold, clean and fishable. Together, we can make our trout and salmon fisheries healthier, for us and the next generation. Please join us in this important work.

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

GRG-TU Seeking Board Members

We have almost made it through 2020, and have hopes that in 2021 we will be able to get back to important work in our southern NM fisheries. This is a great time for you to **get involved with your local Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of TU!** We are looking at both continuing and new projects that involve exciting opportunities for native trout

restoration, and new streams open to fishing for Gila trout. **We need your help as volunteers and leaders** as we develop a new strategic plan, and work to support conservation projects and educational outreach activities. Members wanting to get involved in Trout Unlimited and interested in helping out on projects are asked to contact Jeff Arterburn by email to: jeffgilatu@aol.com

Watch this NMDGF Short Film with an update on Gila trout Restoration in Whitewater Creek!

The work to remove non-native hybridized trout from Whitewater Creek in the Gila National Forest is now complete, after many years of advocacy, planning and work. The project has now accomplished the first stocking of Gila Trout in the upper watershed of Whitewater Creek. Check out the article and video from the New Mexico Wildlife Update from the NMDGF. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYY5CISd2qE&feature=emb_title

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



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.

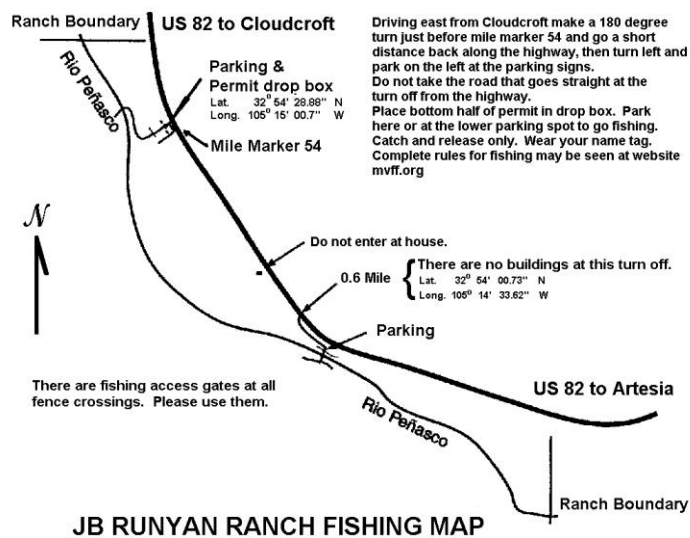
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.