



March

# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of  
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222  
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[www.MVFF.org](http://www.MVFF.org)

2021

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

## Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club will hold no in-person meetings until later in the year. There will be a Zoom meeting on March 15 at 7pm. Check the President's Corner for more details.



## Liars and Tyers

The fly for March is the jig Prince Nymph. 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  
**Announcements**



We had a pretty good turnout for last month's Zoom presentation by Jeff Arterburn on the status of native trout restoration in southern

New Mexico. To follow up on that success, I'm pleased to report that we have another fisheries presentation scheduled for this month. On March 15 at 7:00 pm, Ben Armstrong, one of Dr. Colleen Caldwell's graduate students at NMSU, will speak about his research on brook trout. Specifically, he will discuss the potential for the use of Trojan males (MYY) to shift the sex ratio in undesirable brookie populations to 100% males, leading to their eventual eradication. Look for an email from Bob Silver with the link to the Zoom meeting.



*An abundance of brookies in the Sacramento Mts; how many can you spot?*

Due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic, the Fly-Fishing Film Tour (f3T), which we have screened at Ardovalino's Desert Crossing for the past few years, is being delivered online, directly from the program producers. The cost is \$20, but the viewing won't include an Italian dinner at Ardovalino's; just whatever you decide to pull out of the refrigerator in your own home. Tickets are on sale now, and the films will be available for viewing anytime between March 10 and April 4, 2021. Here is the link for the trailers and to purchase tickets. [Annual Fly Fishing Film Tour goes digital March 10 | Trout Unlimited](#)

### Environmental News

The Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) act has been reintroduced in Congress this session. It passed the House of Representatives twice during the 116<sup>th</sup> legislative session with bipartisan support, but was never taken up by the Senate. A number of hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation groups are supporting the bill once again. The act is designed to provide protection to several areas of high importance to hunters and anglers, including parts of the San Juan Mountains in southwestern Colorado, and the Thompson Divide region southwest of Glenwood Springs. The bill will protect 2,416 miles of cold-water streams, including 100 miles of cutthroat streams, and 12 cutthroat lakes. For more information, check out this link: [Bill Would Open Fishing Access – Texas Fish & Game Magazine](#)

Dam removals, and potential removals, continue to make news in the western United States. If you follow the news about the effects of dams on anadromous

fish species, and the efforts to accommodate fish movement towards their spawning grounds, you have probably heard about the Lower Snake River and the struggles of its salmon and steelhead populations. Indeed, the Snake River has just experienced the lowest salmon and steelhead returns in more than 200 years. ([Lower Snake River | Trout Unlimited](#))

Perhaps even more surprising and concerning is that these poor results follow the expenditure of \$17 billion in fish recovery and management programs. In other words, all the efforts made so far simply are not working. While several factors



have contributed to the continued decline of salmon and steelhead populations, it has become clear that the primary barrier (so to speak) to recovery is the presence of the four dams on the Lower Snake River. In what is a pretty remarkable turn of events, U. S. Representative Mike Simpson (R-ID) has proposed removing the four dams within the next decade. He and his staff estimate the cost of removal at \$33 billion, including the replacement of current agriculture, power generation and river transportation infrastructure. It remains to be seen whether Simpson's proposal will gain political traction, but as he says, failure to make substantial changes will doom Idaho's salmon and steelhead runs to extinction. ([What if? | Simpson on Salmon Recovery – YouTube](#))

Although fly anglers typically practice catch and release these days, many of us also enjoy consuming fish now and then, perhaps most commonly marine fish species. Indeed, fish are considered healthy and environmentally friendly alternatives to beef and

pork. So, it may come as something of a surprise and a disappointment to learn that fish are increasingly consuming microplastics. It has been known for years that many (most?) plastic products are not recycled, and that they take many years to break down in nature. What is perhaps less well understood is the extent to which microplastics are reaching the rivers and oceans where they are ingested by fish. Recent research has found that 386 marine fish species contained plastic, including 210 that are commercially important. The percentage of fish that contain plastics has increased four-fold since 2016, and

among some species, as many as 33% of tested fish contain plastics. The species most affected are those near the top of the food chain, such as sharks, groupers and tuna. [Hundreds of fish species, including many that humans eat, are consuming plastic \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/hundreds-of-fish-species-including-many-that-humans-eat-are-consuming-plastic-137000)

#### Diversions, the Good Kind

It is probably the case that few of us in the MVFF need any convincing about the attractiveness of fly angling when compared to other forms of fishing. However, just in case you need to be reminded about why you stopped throwing lures with treble hooks, here is an article about the Emergency Room at the hospital in the town of Saranac Lake in upstate New York. The ER physician's assistant and his staff maintain a display case of many of the lures they have removed from various parts of anglers' bodies over the years. Some of the spoons, spinners, Lazy Ikes, Rattle Traps, etc. were affixed to very sensitive body parts, and just thinking about their extractions is enough to make one cringe. If you look closely at the photo, you may even see two or three flies nestled in between the crank baits, so be sure to wear your sunglasses on the water, and be careful of casting from the wrong side of your body in a stiff wind.

[www.newyorkupstate.com/adirondacks/2019/07/painfully-hooked-fishing-lure-display-at-adirondack-hospital-is-no-joke.html?](https://www.newyorkupstate.com/adirondacks/2019/07/painfully-hooked-fishing-lure-display-at-adirondack-hospital-is-no-joke.html?)

Club member Wayne Suggs has just had a new book of his photography published. Wayne's eye for composition and his photographic lighting techniques produce truly stunning images of the Las Cruces area, rock art sites, and a variety of breathtaking vistas from across the state of New Mexico and the Southwest. There are even some images of rivers to whet (or wet?) your appetite for fly fishing road trips later in the year. Here is a look at the cover design along with the link to Wayne's website where you can order a copy. Enjoy!

#### THE COLOR OF DREAMS



WAYNE SUGGS

[To order: www.waynesuggsphotography.com](http://www.waynesuggsphotography.com)

#### Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



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 Founding Member Dies

We have received word of the passing of one of the 'Founding Members' of Mesilla Valley Flyfishers. Ronald 'Ron' Smorynski passed away after suffering a stroke on 20 February 2021 in Lacey, WA where he resided with his wife Sharon. Ron was 78 years of age and had been in failing health for some time.

Ron was president of MVFF in 1991 when the club was incorporated and in that capacity his signature is the one on the Certificate of Incorporation.

Ron was an avid fisherman and with Rex Johnson Jr. of Silver City co-authored the book 'Fly-Fishing in Southern New Mexico, Univ. of NM Press, 1998.' While living in Lacey, Ron was quite active in Trout Unlimited and in the South Sound Fly Fishers club of Olympia, WA. He held offices in both organizations and edited their newsletters prior to his illness.



## 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 Tying Materials

With my eyesight getting worse, I am going to get rid of my tying stuff, and most of my flies. Also have several rods and reels, and have a "Fly Tiers Benchside Reference" and other books,

regal medallion vise, a dubbing twister, line winder, hackles, elk and deer hair, dubbing, hooks, beads, thread, yarn and lots of miscellaneous items. I'll get it together in the garage so we won't be cooped up in the house, and we can look it over.

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



## Jig Prince Nymph



- Hook- Size 10 Jig hook 60 degree – J20-B by Gamakatsu, 400 BL by Hanak or similar jig hook
- Head – Tungsten gold or rainbow, size 3.3mm to 3.5mm
- Thread – Blue 70 Denier or 6/0 Uni thread
- Tail – Amber Goose Biot
- Body – Peacock Herl
- Wire – Ultra wire, size BR in Blue
- Wing- White Goose Biot
- Thorax – Ice Dub in Peacock Black
- Casing – Blue Holo Tinsel, size large
- Legs – Hackle hen saddle, mottled brown or brown



## Board of Directors Meeting

There was no Board Meeting in February 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****2021 Officers of the Club****Officers**

- **President:** David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
- **V-Pres.:** Unfilled
- **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 Arordova (575) 589-0653
- **Position 6:** Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
- **Position 7:** George Sanders (575) 527-5536
- **Position 8:** Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640

**Newsletter & Web Page Editor**

- Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880 [newsletter@mvff.org](mailto:newsletter@mvff.org)

**Membership Committee Chairman**

- Bob Silver (575) 642-5865 [membership@mvff.org](mailto: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](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.

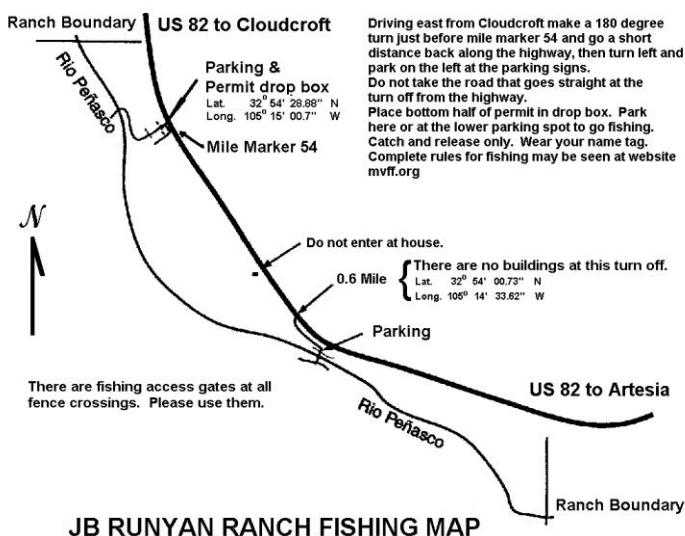
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

## 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](http://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.