



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 2222
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222
www.MVFF.org

February

2017



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Membership Meeting

Monday, 13 February

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 13 February at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. The guest speaker will be Club member Evan Claassen discussing "Autumn Adventure", his recent journeys fishing throughout the Western States. Should be great! Doors will open at 6:30pm and cookies and coffee will be served.

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 20 February

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 20 February at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 22 February

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 22 February at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *Hot Belly*

Pheasant Tail as tied by Tim Cammisa. The tying session will be led by professional tyer, Tim Mack. Don't miss out. Extra vises and supplies will be available for beginning tyers.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Well, we are into a new year, and into a new administration in Washington, D.C. During the recent Presidential campaign and elections, there was almost no discussion of topics related to the environment, climate change, outdoor recreation, or public lands, so it has been difficult to gauge what challenges lay ahead for anglers. Like many anglers, I would like to think that fly fishing, and support of the policies that maintain our ability to pursue our angling interests, represents one of the few areas in which people from different parts of the political spectrum may find some common ground. Some people have expressed hope that the new President might be a steward of public lands, perhaps because his oldest son is an avid hunter and angler and may have influenced his father. Indeed, the President has said that "clean water, crystal-clean water is vitally important." He has also questioned the wisdom of transferring public lands out of federal control. However, now that we are seeing the people being brought into the President's inner circle, it seems such hopes may have been overly optimistic; preservation of clean water and stewardship of public lands both appear to be under attack. As Chris Wood (CEO, Trout Unlimited) notes in the most recent issue of *Trout* magazine, our efforts to protect fisheries will likely now become more challenging.

In its rush to cut federal regulations, the incoming administration and the new Congress seem to be

waging a wholesale assault on the very mechanisms that protect the environment, manage public lands, and maintain our access to those lands and resources. For example, one of the new rule changes being developed would require that two existing regulations be revoked for every new regulation written. At first glance this may seem like a useful way to streamline the functioning of government, but in reality, it is a way to prevent government agencies from doing their jobs. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wanted to protect a species from poaching, it wouldn't be able to take steps to do so without first removing protections for two other animal species. The same would be true of rules protecting fisheries from pollution (*Commondreams.org*, 1/30/17).

As linguist George Lakoff notes, how a word, phrase or argument is framed can greatly affect perceptions of and attitudes about public policy:

*The term "regulation" is framed from the viewpoint of corporations and other businesses. From their viewpoint, "regulations" are limitations on their freedom to do whatever they want no matter who it harms. But from the public's viewpoint, a regulation is a **protection** against harm done by unscrupulous corporations seeking to maximize profit at the cost of harm to the public. (1/28/17, emphasis in original)*

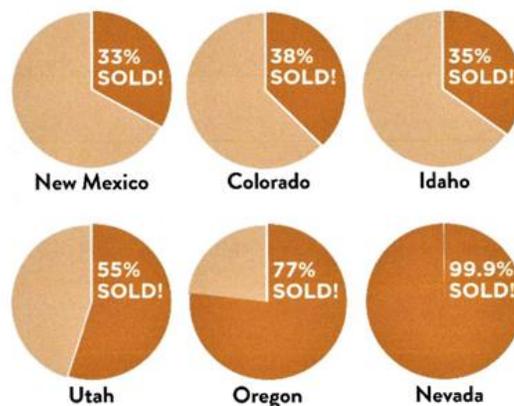
In our system of government, bills are passed by Congress and are signed into law by the President. After that, the relevant federal agencies are tasked with writing implementing regulations to put the law into effect. Congress has long recognized that many federal laws involve issues, resources and scientific information about which most members of Congress have little or no direct knowledge. So the experts in federal agencies are expected to write regulations to reflect the legislative intent of Congress. Regulations don't materialize out of the blue, and they are not foisted upon us by ca-

reer federal employees run amok. They are written, often over a period of several years, by relevant specialists such as fisheries biologists, soil scientists, geologists, foresters, archaeologists, etc., whose areas of expertise are most relevant to the resources being managed or activities being regulated.

A good example of the sort of regulation that should be of interest to all anglers is the Clean Water Act of 1972. The legislative intent of the law is to protect the "waters of the United States" by preventing pollution discharge into such waters. The implementing regulations interpreted the phrase "waters of the U.S." to include wetlands and headwater streams, because biologists, hydrologists, geologists (and fly anglers) understand the hydrological connection between wetlands, springs and headwaters and their downstream expression as streams and rivers. In 2002, during the second Bush administration, the legislative intent of the law was circumvented in favor of mining interests. Rather than trying to amend a popular law, the definition of "waters of the U.S." was changed to refer only to navigable waters (providing a channel wide and deep enough to permit transport of goods for commerce), thus removing most of the country's wetlands and streams from protection under the Clean Water Act. The change allowed private corporations to dispose of mining waste in formerly protected waters that did not qualify as navigable. In 2015, in response to years of research, the Obama administration restored the definition of "waters" back to the

original legislative intent, including wetlands and headwater streams. That original meaning of the law provided important justification for the efforts to protect Bristol Bay, as it was widely recognized that placing Pebble Mine in the headwaters (where spawning occurs) was a direct threat to the health of the downstream fisheries. Now, with the arrival of a new administration and Congress, there is a renewed push underway to undermine the

original legislative intent of the law and once again delete protection for non-navigable waters. A

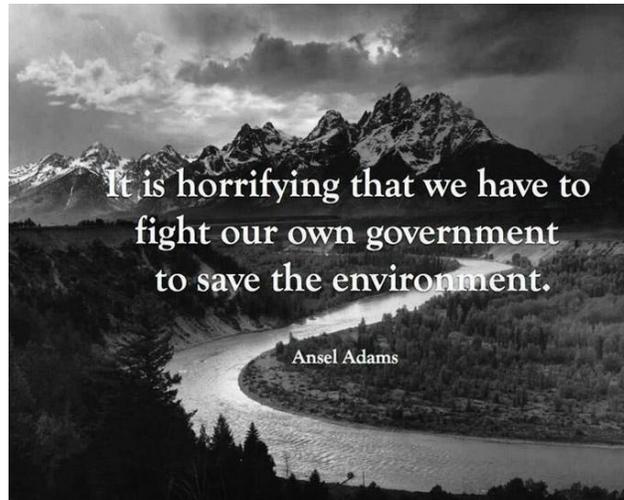


Percentage of state trust lands in selected western states that have been sold to private interests (Chris Wood, 9/23/16, for Medium.com and Trout Unlimited)

statement to the effect that “crystal clear water is vitally important” means little if the regulations that protect the sources of such waters are gutted.

The incoming Congress is also generating a renewed push to transfer federal public lands to states or private interests. Reference to the so-called “transfer” of federal lands to states is disingenuous; it is well known that such transfers often result in the sale of public lands, making them unavailable to the general public. State governments cannot afford to provide sufficient law enforcement, fight forest fires, protect archeological sites, or provide the other services needed to manage large areas of open lands. When those shortcomings become apparent, or when states feel a need to balance their budgets or bulk up their contingency funds, transferred lands are sold off to private interests. The accompanying figure shows how much of state trust lands have already been sold off in six western states, including 33% of New Mexico state lands.

Last month, Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) introduced legislation that would sell 3.3 million acres of “excess” federal lands in 10 states to private entities. Twenty-five percent of those lands, or 813,531 acres, are in New Mexico. If you are interested in seeing where those lands are distributed, they are listed by county in a report linked on Chaffetz’ web page. In a statement supporting the bill, Chaffetz claims that the federal lands serve “no purpose for taxpayers,” so the sale or transfer of lands is no longer considered economically significant (meaning there is no loss resulting from transfer), thereby making it easier to complete the transfer according to existing government procedures. Additionally, his bill would transfer law enforcement authority from the BLM and USFS to local sheriff departments, despite the fact that 75%+ of westerners approve of federal agency management of public lands. Just yesterday, and only after massive public outcry from around the country, Chaffetz announced he is withdrawing his bill. Nevertheless, it is likely that he and/or other anti-federal lands mem-



bers of Congress (including at least one member of the New Mexico delegation) will introduce similar bills in the near future.

As much as I enjoy simply getting out on a river and fishing, I know that we are entering a time when extra vigilance will be required to preserve the resources and rights we cherish as anglers. I hope you will join me in keeping a watchful eye on our officials, both elected and appointed, as the effects

of their agendas on the environment become apparent. We need to be prepared to speak up for our rights, or we will lose them.

On a more positive note, I hope you had a chance to attend the club’s annual banquet, or visit with our guest speaker Robert Younghanz during one of his field activities. Those of you who could not attend his presentation at the banquet missed an entertaining and informative discussion of how to identify the main groups of aquatic insects that are most important to fly anglers, and how proper identification can enhance one’s success on the river. Several club members introduced Robert to the club lease on the Rio Peñasco, where he spent an hour or so sampling various sections of the river for aquatic insects.



Club members with Robert Younghanz (aka, The Bug Guy, center) at the Rio Peñasco lease (Photo by Julie Mueller)

Of course, the Peñasco is a nice little spring creek, but Younghanz identified a few problems or challeng-

es that are likely affecting the availability of trout food on the lease. Stoneflies are one of the key types of bugs that are used to identify high quality trout waters, but we didn't encounter any stoneflies during our collecting. This is probably due to the fact that the substrate in that portion of the Peñasco consists mainly of well-cemented limestone conglomerate, mostly lacking in loose gravel and boulders that would provide good stonefly habitat. In addition, we collected quite a few black fly larvae which are often



Robert Younghanz collecting aquatic insects above the upper falls on the Rio Peñasco lease waters (Photo by Chuck Mueller)

indicative of compromised water quality. In this case, the issue is probably excessive nitrogen from agricultural runoff. Most of the bugs observed were PMD or BWO mayflies, and there were quite a few caddis larvae collected as well, along with some aquatic worms. The general overall paucity of aquatic insects compared to other streams of similar size suggests that the chubs we encounter so often are an important part of the food supply available to trout in that stretch of the river. Three of us fished the river for a few hours after the sampling, and did quite well using patterns matching the collected specimens: RS2, San Juan worm, and green caddis larva.

As always, the banquet was great, and the Bug Guy's presentation was fun and interesting. If you missed it, you might want to visit his website at www.the-bug-guy.com. Robert is a fly fishing guide in the South Park area of southern Colorado, and his entomology class content is available on DVD through the websites. He also sells the small insect sampling nets he showed us during his presentation.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the banquet a success... Jim and Earlene Ellett; St. Paul's Methodist

Church; Sparky's and Andale's catering; the MVFF prize committee (Bob, Jeff and George); Tom Wobbe



Robert Younghanz presenting Entomology for the Fly Fisher, January 28, 2017 (Photo by Julie Mueller)

and others who helped with the raffle; Ron Bellerose for his ongoing commitment to making our Project Healing Waters program a success; Ray Kirby for his donation of the American flag blanket; Colleen Caldwell who provided insect collecting equipment; everyone who helped with set-up and clean-up; and everyone who purchased raffle tickets. Check out the great prizes and the list of winners elsewhere in this newsletter.



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator

Project Healing Waters had a great January. To start with, the MVFF banquet proved to be the biggest fund raiser that we have had since I have been the program lead. MVFF members

bought many items donated by Sportsman Elite for \$450.00 and Masonic Eastern Star from Silver City gave PHW a donation of \$327.75. The auction for the American Flag, made and donated to PHW by Ray Kirby, brought in \$275.00 dollars. He also made a \$500 dollar donation to PHW. We also made \$375 on hat, shirt, and raffle sales. It was a great night for PHW.

We also had 4 fly tying events and 2 fishing events with the Vets. On February 6th we will be going to Silver Creek, AZ for some fishing for 18- to 26-inch

trout, so they say. The Tucson PHW has allowed me to have 2 Vets join them in their fishing events. This will be the 3rd event that we have been on with Tucson. It is greatly appreciated to have this chance to expand our fishing events. Tucson pays for the lodging and the food. This is a great asset for us.

We are also gaining participants in PHW. I will be attending a conference in Long Beach, CA on the 18th and 19th of February. I will have a chance to meet the new PHW CEO. Special thanks go out to my MVFF volunteers that make this all happen for our wounded warriors and Vets with service connected disabilities.

For more information about PHWFF see www.projecthealingwaters.org. Contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com if you wish to volunteer to help out.

LADY ANGLERS UPDATE



The Lady Anglers, a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have a good time doing it, will be taking their annual spring fishing trip to the Rio

Peñasco on April 27-30 this year. A fall trip will be organized soon. Information on the trips is made available to women on our e-mail list and through announcements in the Club newsletter and at monthly Club meetings. The only requirement for joining us is Club membership and beginners are welcome. To join our e-mail list, or for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at 505-710-5229 or Helen Zagona at 575-532-5668.

Longtime Club Member Passes



Major General Wade R. Hedgecoke, age 85, passed away on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was a longtime member of MVFF and was active in the Club until recently. Wade could always be counted on for his stock

response when someone told him about catching a fish — “What did you catch it on”?

One of his favorite stories was about the time he went on one of the Club trips to Kodiak Island. One day he

had fished a ways up the river and decided to head back to the car. The river made a bend and Wade decided to take a short cut along a trail through tall alders. After he had gone a short distance he realized his mistake and started thinking about all the big bears that he knew were around. Suddenly he saw a patch of brown fur through a small opening in the brush and figured he was a goner for sure. Luckily it turned out to belong to a buffalo which wandered away. Needless to say Wade stayed away from the alders after that.

He will be missed. His full obituary can be viewed at <http://www.getzcares.com>.

Winners for MVFF Raffles

Here's the list of raffle winners for this year's MVFF Banquet on January 28th.

Annual Attendance Prize:

A guided trip for two from Land of Enchantment Guides (Noah Parker). — Stephanie Kennedy

PHW:

American flag silent auction — Rita Romero

Fund Raiser Raffle:

Rods:

- Bob Widgren Custom Sage X, 9' 4 wt, 4pc Fly Rod — Bill True
- David Carmichael Custom Winston III LS, 4-wt, 8"6" Fly Rod — Michael Jarvis
- Sportsman's Elite Rod.— Gary Mann

Reels:

- Lamson LiteSpeed IV Reel — Gary Mann

Gear:

- Nomad Native Carbon Fiber Net — Jim Sorenson
- FC Double Premium Rod Case — Larry Garcia
- FishPond Cimarron Duffle Bag — Abel Saldana
- 2 - FishPond Wading Staffs — Frank Hoffman, Carl Lieberwirth
- Small C&F fly Box — Gail Silver
- 4 - C&F Chest Patch Fly Boxes — Duane Sorenson, Gary Mann, Robert Briscoe, Mark Beltran
- 2 - Mountain River Lanyards — George Sanders, Jason Haynes
- 2 - Simms Wet Wading Neoprene Socks — Gary Mann, Margaret Hopkins



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 9, 2016

Submitted by John Kennedy, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by President David Carmichael at 7:00pm. in the NMDG&F Conference room. Board members present were David Carmichael, Chuck Mueller, John Kennedy, Gary Mann, Bob Silver, Dennis Lanpher and Jeff Arterburn. Non-Board members in attendance were Will Lubenau, Tom Wobbe, Jim Hulsey, Ron Bellerose, Rick Patton, Evan Claassen and Tom Johnson.

1. The minutes of the December 19, 2016 Board meeting were approved as published in the January, 2017 issue of the newsletter.
2. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$11,045. The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.
3. Tom Wobbe reported on membership, currently 365 members; 62 from El Paso, 121 Las Cruces, etc. For 2016, permit sales were 257. As of the meeting, advance sales for the scheduled Banquet Raffle were \$1350.
4. Ron Bellerose reported on Project Healing Waters. The Masonic Eastern Star from Silver City selected PHW for its next donation, with a check to be presented at the annual Banquet. Ron and his group of Veterans have been fly tying at *Counseling Las Cruces* 2 times per month. There will also be 2 sessions of fly tying at the VA on January 18 & 25. The Tucson branch of PHW has invited 2 of Ron's vets to fish in February at Silver Creek, Arizona. Ron will attend PHW's meeting in Long Beach, California on Feb. 18 & 19. PHW will also have a raffle at our annual Banquet on Jan. 28th.
5. Jeff Arterburn reported for the Gila/Rio Grande chapter of Trout Unlimited. The Club will have a table at the Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo, and Jeff and volunteers will distribute Club information. Jeff announced that Jason Avarro will be the speaker at the Club's May 8 general meeting. He

will discuss fly fishing for smallmouth bass in the Gila. The NM Wildlife Society will hold a Public Lands Rally at the State Capitol in Santa Fe at 11am. Wednesday, February 1st.

6. Will Lubenau for the American Fisheries Society mentioned that the society would like to set up a fishing date in the future for society members.
7. Our February general meeting speaker will be Evan Claassen discussing his recent journeys fishing throughout the Western States. Our March speaker will be Taylor Streit. We need an April speaker.
8. We discussed the upcoming annual Banquet and Raffle.
 - Our guest speaker will be Robert Younghanz, aka The Bug Guy. He will visit and sample the lease on Friday, Jan. 27th, and sample Alumni Pond on Jan. 28th.
 - The prize committee has completed its work, including a Land of Enchantment Guides certificate for 2, to be given for the membership participation drawing.
 - An appreciation gift for Jim and Earlene Ellett was discussed. We also discussed the banquet meal and catering.
9. The Club will do a rod building class for a limited number, for 3 sessions February 11, 25, and March 11.
10. The Election of Officers for 2017, went as follows:

President	David Carmichael
Vice-President	Tom Johnson
Secretary	Jeff Arterburn
Treasurer	Gary Mann

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, February 20, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Quick Look Contact Information

2017 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:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
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:	Evan Claassen (402) 239-1289
• Position 5:	Will Lubenau (575) 442-1912
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• Position 9:	Dennis Lanpher (575) 649-2946
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	membership@mvff.org

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund Market Value as of 30 June 2014	\$11,487
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Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund

The Norm Mabie Memorial 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 recipient of each scholarship is determined each April by the MVFF Board with the award being made for the fall semester.

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 "Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship Fund for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give consideration and help honor Norm.

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 LI-
CENSES 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, purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco, and participate in other Club activities such as a summer picnic, 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.

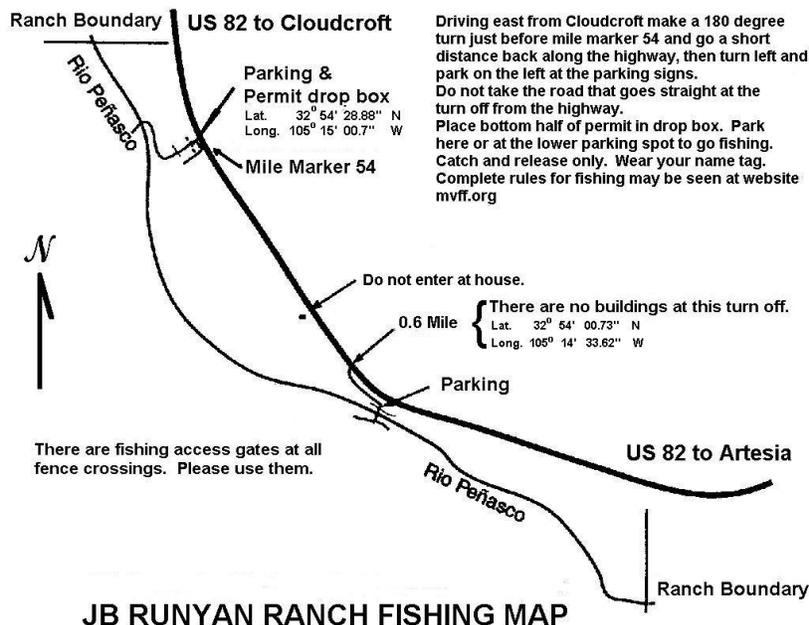
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880), Tom Wobbe (575-522-5437) and Donna Mabie (575-522-3810) 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. 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 Jim Hulsey. In addition, members can purchase a one-day, one-time permit for guests.

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.