

# TALE WATERS

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222 Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org





**April** 

# **Membership Meeting**

Monday, 9 April

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 9 April at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. The program will feature Laurence D'Allesandro from NMDGF with a presentation on the new "special water" fishing regulations. Please join us for an interesting and informative presentation!

Doors will open at 6:30pm and cookies and coffee will be served.

## **Executive Board Meeting**

Monday, 16 April

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 16 April at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

## **Liars and Tyers**

Wednesday, 25 April

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 25 April at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *Green Goblin Bunny Leech*. 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

In several past newsletters I have commented on the range of activities supported by the MVFF club. One of the most important and rewarding of these activities is our club's participation in Project Healing Waters. PHW is a unique na-

tional program built upon community based non-profit volunteerism dedicated to the physical and psychological rehabilitation of active duty military personnel and veterans. Participants are introduced to the therapeutic benefits of fly tying, casting, rod building and fly fishing. The two MVFF programs (Las Cruces and El Paso) are among the nearly 200 such programs around the country; there are only three in New Mexico and six in Texas. The activities emphasized in our PHW programs are not only central to the club's stated mission, but they are a meaningful way to give back to service men and women who have given so much to our country.



Project Healing Waters is enormously successful, as indicated by the responses of many of the partici-

pants. One statement included in the PHW media materials includes the following statement:

Being outdoors with nature and with PHW volunteers somehow eased the physical pain and brought peace to my mental being. For the first time, my days were not dark, somehow there was a light at the end of the tunnel. [SFC, USA]

The responses to our own local program, such as the fly fishing trips to the club lease on the Rio Peñasco have been enthusiastic as well, as indicated by comments received on a hand painted, hand lettered thank you card from 2016:

I have a great new hobby because of you guys.
Thank you!

We really appreciate you! Thanks for helping heal our soldiers!

Thank you so much for your generosity, hospitality and friendliness during our trip. The food was phenomenal! Had a blast fishing.
[Warrior Resilience Center group]



If you haven't already done so, I invite you to visit the national PHW website to learn more about the program, and especially to view the videos that provide compelling evidence of the positive impact of Project Healing Waters on the lives of real people (www.projecthealingwaters.org/video-gallery/).

As with all MVFF club activities, our ability to participate in PHW is built around the efforts of a handful of key volunteers who have made the commitment to organize, document and participate in the various educational activities and outings associated with the program. Ron Bellerose has been a real champion as Project Lead for 2 PHW programs, through the Las Cruces Vet Center, and William Beaumont AMC in El Paso. The Las Cruces program is one of only three in New Mexico, the others being located in Taos and Albuquerque. There are only 6 programs in all of

Texas, and the next closest one is in Amarillo, 440 miles away. So, for southern New Mexico and most of far west Texas, the MVFF programs are the only opportunities our soldiers and vets have to participate in PHW.

Serving as Project Lead is been a labor of love for Ron, and although he has received a lot of help from other volunteers in the context of fishing trips and fly tying classes, the job of coordinating all the activities has grown over the years, and he could really use some help. Although some of the board members have been asking around for the past couple of months for someone to help out, I'm now reaching out with an appeal to the entire membership. Please give some thought to helping Ron as an Assistant Project Lead so the club can keep our Project Healing Waters program vital and effective. Contact Ron, me, or one of the board members if you're willing to take your involvement to the next level. Thanks everyone.



The charms of angling; Gentle breezes.

Last month we hosted a visit from Bob Widgren who drove down from Albuquerque to teach a couple of fly casting classes at the Alumni Pond at NMSU. As luck would have it, the weather was chilly and blustery,



making it pretty challenging for accurate casting. Fortunately, Bob took the opportunity to teach various tricks for making serviceable casts in windy conditions, and as it turns out, that information has been

very timely for anyone fishing the lease waters in recent weeks. The club lease is fishing well, but it has been windy, and without the recent instruction from Bob, I'm sure members would be making even more fly offerings to the streamside vegetation. The crossbody cast has served me well on the Peñasco recently, especially in the wind. Thanks to Bob and Lee for making the trip, and thanks to all the club members who set up equipment, attended the casting classes, and hosted our guests at mealtime.

I hope you will be able to attend the next meeting of the general membership on April 9th. Our guest speaker will be Laurence D'Alessandro, a Coldwater Fisheries Biologist with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Born and raised in Santa Fe, Laurence is a 2012 graduate of NMSU with a double major in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. He is an avid outdoorsman who grew up hunting and fishing in the areas where his outdoor "office" is now located. His specialties include high mountain lake repatriation and sportfish biology in cold water stream systems. Rio Grande Cutthroats and Brown trout are his priority species. He will be speaking to us about the new Special Trout water designations and regulations for the State of New Mexico. If you can make it to the meeting a little early, come see if the new coffee system authorized at the last board meeting is up and running.



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Ron Bellerose`
PHW Coordinator

Project Healing Waters had a successful trip to Silver Creek in Show Low, AZ the end of March. Not a single fish was netted by the participants, but once they figured out how

to handle 6- and 8-pound trout they could get them in closer to the net. The weather could have been better with some snow on the second day and the temps were only in the 50's for highs and high 20's for the lows. All had a great time.

We will be fly tying in the afternoon on the  $10^{th}$  and then on the  $25^{th}$  of April in the afternoon and in the evening with the club.

I am looking at a possible San Juan trip in the late summer or early fall, and I am also planning some local trips to Grindstone and the Lease.

I will be attending a PHW weekend meeting in Long Beach CA on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April. We are supposed to talk about funding.

I am still looking for a volunteer to act as the alternate program lead for PHW. This would involve setting up some fishing trips, casting and fly tying classes.

For more information about PHWFF see <a href="https://www.projecthealingwaters.org">www.projecthealingwaters.org</a>. Contact Ron Bellerose (575–680–5516), <a href="mailto:flyfishnh@hotmail.com">flyfishnh@hotmail.com</a>) if you wish to volunteer to help out. <a href="mailto:flyfishnh@hotmail.com">flyfishnh@hotmail.com</a>)

# Annual Kids' Fishing Clinic



Tom Johnson Vice President

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual MVFF Kids Fishing Clinic was a success! We had great weather, good fishing and a good turnout. 105 kids signed up and went fishing. About 24 MVFF volunteers, 4 NMSU American

Fisheries students, and 4 NM Game and Fish Officers made this event a fun and positive day for the kids and their families. There is not much better in life than showing kids how to cast, tie a pink tailed wooly bugger, tie an improved clinch knot, put a worm on their hook, and then see them catch a trout! Thanks to everyone that showed up to make another great way for us to give back to our community, family, and friends. I want to especially thank the NMSU American Fisheries Society of NMSU. The students did a great job and the kids loved the interactive booth. It's

all the volunteers that made this so fun to be involved





Thanks again everyone! 1

# Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



By Jeff Arterburn, President Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

The Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host a "Meet and Greet" social on Thursday

April 26th, from 5:30 –7:30 pm, at The Game Sports Bar & Grill, 2605 S. Espina St., Las Cruces, NM 88001. Join your fellow TU members for an evening discussion of current and planned activities, and we will buy your first beverage! Please R.S.V.P. by email to: jeffgilatu@aol.com so we can plan accordingly.

We have scheduled the Willow Creek Volunteer Stream Project for the weekend of May 11-13th. This is a fun

opportunity to get involved doing important work on one of our most accessible Gila trout streams that will contribute towards future restoration work on this watershed.

We will also be announcing the 1st Southern NM Fish-n-Photo challenge. The purpose of this catch & release fishing event is to encourage members to get out and fish, using photography to document the variety of fish and the beautiful locations in our region. This is not a typical type of competition where the size and/or numbers of fish caught matter. Instead, each participant can submit one photo for judging, including the date the fish was caught and released, along with a description of the angling method used, and the watershed where the fish was caught (following all applicable NMDGF fishing regulations:

http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/game-fish/)

Anglers can select any of the open waters on public land in New Mexico south of I-40. An independent panel of judges will select the prize winners from the entries received. The photo should be visually appealing, giving a clear picture of the fish that enables identification of species, and should be taken with appropriate care for handling and release. All cold or warm water species caught using legal angling methods are eligible. We have an assortment of prizes to award, and there are no entry fees! Submitted photographs will be displayed publicly. The time frame for the challenge is: May 1 – Sept 30, 2018.

Please join us for the **"Meet and Greet" social on Thursday April 26th** to talk about this and other fun

Trout Unlimited events. Îr

# **Membership News**



Bob Silver Membership

Just a reminder that your 2017 New Mexico Fishing License expired on March 31, 2018. Don't forget to get a new 2018 license before you

go fishing. In addition, almost everyone's MVFF membership also expired on March 31, 2018 unless you have a multiple year membership or you joined since October 2017. Don't forget to renew so that you can participate in the scholarship rod raffle drawing, Club trips and other activities. This year we cre-

ated an online account with PayPal for memberships and fishing permits. Jim Hulsey redid the Club website too. Please go to the Club Homepage www.MVFF.org click ENTER. On the next page look in CONTENTS along the left side of the page. Click on MEMBERSHIP to renew your membership. Or you can mail a check to Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, P.O. Box 2222, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004–2222. Also look for FISHING PERMITS in the left column of the page to buy permits.

We are also raising \$1,000 for the Norm and Donna Mabie Memorial Scholarship by selling chances for a custom Sage MOD 9ft 5-weight fly rod custom made by Bob and Lee Widgren. We made a board like this with 100 squares. Each square is \$10. You can buy as many squares as you wish. I will bring the Scholarship Board to the next Club meeting on Monday April 8th. I understand that this is not as easy for out-of-town members, but you can buy a square by check or by PayPal. You can tell me which square you want or I will pick one for you at random. The board is now about half full and once the board is full we will raffle the rod. I would like to be able to fill-up the board with names by the May meeting so that we can give the rod to the winner before we recess for the summer months. Call or send me an email (<u>rsilver@nmsu.edu</u>) if you have any questions.

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### **CONEJOS CAMPING TRIP**

The Conejos River is located in southern Colorado between the towns of Antonito, CO and Chama, NM. The Conejos flows from Platoro Reservoir and has about 45 miles of fishing water. Plus there are other

tributaries and streams nearby. From Las Cruces the Mogote campground is about a 6-hour drive through Santa Fe, to Hwy 285 in Espanola and then to Ojo Caliente and Antonito. Do any members have an interest in organizing a camping trip to fish the Conejos and surrounding area in late June or early July? Typically, the trip is over a long weekend for members who are fairly self-sufficient at fly fishing and just need some guidance to get to know new water. In the past we have camped together at the Mogote Campground and the Club organized a dinner for one of the nights. There are cabins available nearby the campground as well. If you are interested or have questions, please send an email to <a href="mailto:rsilver@nmsu.edu">rsilver@nmsu.edu</a>.

## **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.

Current trips planned are:

- May 18-19 Lady Anglers will be fishing the Lease.
- Sept. 20 24 Lady Anglers will be fishing with Wolf Creek Anglers in CO.

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## **Rod for Sale**

Ray Rodriguez has a Redington crosswater fly rod for sale. It's a 9ft. 2pc, 8wt. Plus a Cabela's hard case for it. Asking \$75 for both. Contact phone (575) 520-5768. <u>1</u>

# **Fishing Reports**

Recent reports for the Rio Penasco

Tom Johnson – Saturday, March 31, 2018 — I had a great time at the lease catching fish and enjoying the partly-sunny day! I arrived about 9:30am and left about 2:30pm. I fished from the lower waterfall to the middle waterfall. I started catching chubs and rainbow trout on a two fly rig, #20 cdc trico emerger and #16 pheasant tail. However, I switched to a #18 parachute blue wing olive when I saw fish surface feeding on the trico and blue wing olive mayflies hatching. I caught my share of chubs, but in most pools, tailouts, and along the seams, I got rainbows consistently. Most of the places you thought there

should be fish, had some. I caught about 15 rain-bows, most on parachute BWO or adams and cdc trico emerger. Since the dry fly fishing was good enough, I barely fished nymphs or the deep holes. That's my fish story and I'm sticking to it! Photos follow.





Jim Vandagrift - March 10, 2018 — We started at the upper fence line, crossed the river and fished down to the lower arroyo. From around 10:30am to almost 5pm I spent the majority of the time helping my friend and his son with tying on flies, untangling line and general fishing techniques. (Their first time fly fishing). They caught about 5 or 6 chubs and had a great time.



In between all that, I managed to fish a bit and caught a couple of chubs and four of these decent sized trout just below the upper washed-out bridge, in those narrow deep sections. Fishing a double nymph rig, point fly being a size 12 (custom see image) and a smaller tag fly size 16 Frenchy and/or ShopVac. They seemed to be taking that larger fly, the water wasn't super clear. Tight quarters in there for sure.







# **Green Goblin Bunny Leech**



Thread: black Uni 8/0 or Ultra Thread 70

**Hook**: TMC 300, #4 to #8 **Eyes**: I-Balz, 5/32" nickel

Tail: black zonker strip with lime green Flashabou

Legs: Flexi Floss, lime green or chartreuse

Collar: cross strip rabbit, black

Head: Ice Dub, chartreuse or lime green



## **MVFF Board Meeting Minutes**

Monday, March 19, 2018 Submitted by Jeff Arterburn, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:05pm in the NMDG&F Conference room. Board members present were: Robert Ardovino, Jeff Arterburn (Secretary), David Carmichael (President), Jim Hulsey, Tom Johnson (Vice President), Dillen Martinez, Bob Silver (Membership) and Chuck Mueller (Treasurer). Board Members absent: Jim Sorenson. Non-Board members in attendance: Ron Bellerose, Zach Speir (VP NMSU American Fisheries Society) and Esteban Quirante.

- 1. **Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from the February 19, 2018 Board meeting were approved as published in the March 2018 issue of the newsletter.
- Treasurer's Report. Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report with current account balance statement of \$10,302.97, incorporating a correction of \$300 that had not been recorded, and the report was accepted by the Board.
- 3. Membership Report. Bob Silver reported 214 active members, with 8 new members joining since the last report. He is planning to send renewal notices via email. The membership renewal function through PayPal is now operational. Jim Hulsey has set up the new website so that the PayPal transaction fees are applied to the purchase price.

- 4. **Project Healing Waters**. Ron Bellerose reported that he is canceling the March 28<sup>th</sup> fly tying session. He will be taking 6 veterans to Silver Creek, AZ March 25–28<sup>th</sup>. He will also be halting PHW activities during the period June August.
- 5. Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Jeff Arterburn reported that the dates of May 11-13th are scheduled for the Willow Creek Volunteer project. The GRG-TU has budgeted \$510 for the NMSU student travel costs. A request for MVFF matching funds (\$510) was presented and approved by the board. Jeff provided a draft version of the information sign that is being developed for Willow Creek and he will request comments and suggestions. The GRG-TU is planning to submit a Trout Unlimited Embrace a Stream (EAS) grant proposal to fund the citizen science project on Willow Creek, and coordinated participation in the funded watershed assessment project managed by Natural Channel Design. The GRG-TU will hold a social event for TU members in April, and is initiating a "Southern NM Fish-n-Photo challenge" this summer with prizes to be awarded. The GRG-TU Board Members meet regularly on the 3rd Mondays of the month from 5:30-6:30pm at the Game II, 4131 Northrise Drive, and anyone interested is welcome to attend.

- 6. NMSU American Fisheries Students. Dillen reported the students really enjoyed the fly tying session and fishing trip to the Rio Penasco. Several are interested in doing more of these activities. This time only a couple of MVFF volunteers were able to participate, and hopefully next time the scheduling will be better. He has confirmed three volunteers who will help with the Kids Fishing clinic, and will continue recruiting. The department awards banquet date will be set for the 3rd week in April. Dillen will check in with Dr. Caldwell to confirm those details. The MVFF board agreed to donate a membership, permit and hat for the awards banquet.
- 7. **Presentations and Events**. The April 9th meeting will feature Laurence D'Allesandro from NMDGF with a presentation on the new "special water" fishing regulations. David Carmichael will host the May 14th meeting, with a presentation on "Why bother keeping a fly fishing journal?" Due to continuing problems with the NMDGF projections system, Chuck will bring the MVFF club projector for the meetings.

The MVFF Lady Anglers have scheduled May 18–19 for their spring trip to the Rio Penasco. Their fall trip is planned with the Wolf Creek Anglers for Sept 20–24, with interests raised during the presentation by Brad Shellenberger to the club at the March meeting,

The club is planning to host the Fly Fishing Film Tour 2018. Likely dates were discussed and the preferred options of Sunday Oct 14, 21, or Nov 11. 18 were identified.

- Rio Peñasco Lease. David Carmichael met with Jim Ellett and discussed the reports of poaching. A motion was made requesting allocation of funds for stocking 500 fish. The motion was approved and stocking will be scheduled for mid-April.
- 9. **Kids' Fishing Clinic**. Tom Johnson provided an update on the Kids' Clinic scheduled for March 24th 2018. All arrangements are in place, and he has updated the flyers, advertising is getting word out, he has arranged for pizzas and will pick up drinks, tables etc. Sportsmans's Warehouse has donated prizes, and the club appreciates Nicholas' support with this. Volunteers are reminded to bring their own folding chairs.
- 10. Other discussion items: The NMSU Scholarship application submission window closed March 1<sup>st</sup>, and the selection committee should be making recommendations for the Norm Mabie Scholarship award soon.

Chuck presented the need for MVFF to purchase a new coffee maker and thermal containers. Options for different commercial products were discussed and the board approved a motion for funding up to \$350.

The Gila National Forest Plan Meeting will be held at the Las Cruces Convention Center Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. 9–11am. Chuck will plan to attend.

11. The next MVFF Board Meeting is scheduled for April 16th. Chuck will pick up the key.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm. 1



#### **Quick Look Contact Information**

#### 2018 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 ()

# 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 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.

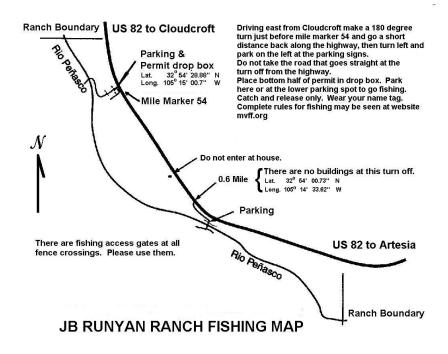
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

## 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. 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 F	Phone:	email:					
Are you a current member? _	Yes	No						
Do you need a name badge?	Yes	No						
New Membership	or renewa	al?						
Membership Categories:	Individual	Family	Circle the one desired.					
1 Yea	r \$20	\$25						
3 Year	s \$50	\$60						
Lif	e \$400	\$500						
For family membership: Na	me of spouse _		No. of children					
Note: All memberships expir 1 January will expire on 31 M			ips received on or after					
Membership fee it	applicable	\$						
Adult Permits @ \$	25 per permit	= \$						
		Total =\$						

Send remittance with this form to the address shown at top of page.