



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

May

2019



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Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — newsletter@mvff.org

Membership Meeting Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 13 May

The MVFF general membership meeting will be held on Monday 13 May at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. Our guest speaker will be NMSU fisheries student Tyler Wallin who will give a presentation on Gila Trout restoration, stream temperature monitoring and trout population estimates for the Rio Peñasco lease.

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

The MVFF Executive Board will meet following the membership meeting. All members are welcome to stay and participate.

Liars and Tyers

Liars and Tyers will not meet in May as many of the usual attendees will not be available. See you in September.

Remember

The 3rd annual F3T film tour is coming in the fall, tentatively on 29 October.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Summer is already upon us, for better or for worse. Temperatures have already made it into the 90's, at least in El Paso, and we've even started having thunderstorms such as those that in the past didn't arrive until July. On the up side, the

summer season for fishing vacations is here, and water conditions around New Mexico are better than they were last year.

In case you haven't seen it, the latest issue of Southwest Fly Fishing (Vol. 20, No. 3, May/June) contains two articles about Gila trout, including one written by our own Jeff Arterburn: "A New Angle on Gila Trout in Whitewater Creek, NM." Jeff discusses the stocking event at the Catwalk last winter, and plans for stocking the upper portions of the drainage. The other article discusses the access and fishing for Gila trout in Mogollon Creek in the western portion of the Gila wilderness. Southwest Fly Fishing is really a well-produced and useful magazine. If you are interested in getting a subscription or purchasing a single issue, check out their web page at <https://matchthehatch.com>.

Mabie Legacy Scholarship

It is my pleasure to announce that the winner of the Mabie Legacy Scholarship for 2019 is Danica Cooke. Danica earned an Associates of Science degree from Scottsdale Community College in 2017 and is currently a junior at NMSU majoring in Wildlife Science. She maintains a 4.0 GPA, is on the Dean's list, has been named as an NMSU Crimson Scholar, and is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is also a member of the NMSU chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Danica has conducted stream surveys for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, has worked

as a Fisheries Biologist Intern for the BLM, and is a registered volunteer with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Danica will receive the scholarship award at the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Ecology awards banquet on Friday, May 3 at the New Mexico Home Builders Association Banquet Hall, 2825 N. Main Street, Las Cruces.



In addition to the scholarship, the club is donating a 1 year membership, lease permit and MVFF fishing cap to the raffle that is held at the banquet as a fundraiser for the student organizations involved. I am also donating a custom built, NMSU edition Sage VXP 479-4 fly rod for the raffle on behalf of the club.



Want to build your own rod? C'mon, it's fun!

Other Club News

Our last club meeting of the spring season will be on Monday, May 13 at 7pm at the offices of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Our guest speaker will be NMSU fisheries student Tyler Wallin who will give a presentation on Gila Trout restoration, stream temperature monitoring and trout population

estimates for the Rio Penasco lease. I hope you will be able join us for his talk. And if you're interested in what the club Board does, stick around and sit in our last board meeting of the spring immediately after Tyler's presentation.

At our last meeting, the Board members voted to contribute \$400 to the Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited to help pay for the cost of T-shirts for the participants in the upcoming Leopold Fishing derby at Lake Roberts on June 1st. We also voted (in response to a suggestion from Helen Zagona) to donate \$250 to the New Mexico chapter of Casting for Recovery, the group that made a presentation at our March meeting about breast cancer recovery through fly fishing.

Trout Unlimited will be hosting a volunteer work project on Willow Creek over Friday and Saturday, May 10-11, during which volunteers will be doing citizen science by helping with a stream survey. See details elsewhere in the newsletter, or contact Jeff Arterburn if you're interested in volunteering.

On May 15-16, Jim Sorenson and George Sanders will be representing the club at a fly tying and fishing event with the VFW Warrior in Transition Program from Fort Bliss. If you are interested in helping as an additional volunteer, please contact Jim for details.



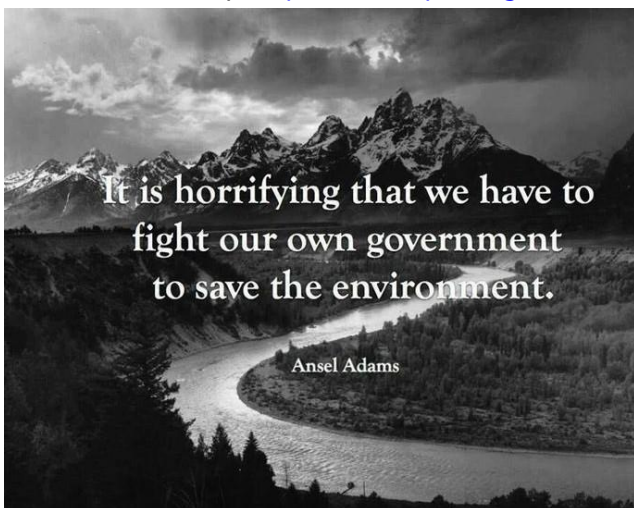
Spring colors

If you have enjoyed the annual club trips to the San Juan, please give some thought to volunteering to organize the next trip in the fall. After many years of organizing that trip, Chuck Mueller is stepping aside,

and we really need someone else to step up and take on that project. Chuck is willing to help someone get started and up to speed, but the Board members can only do so much; we need for other members to help out with planning and leading of some of the activities too. Please think about it and let me or Chuck know if you can help out.

Conservation Call to Action

The Bristol Bay fishery is still under threat from the proposed construction of a huge open pit mine in the headwaters spawning area of the most productive sockeye salmon run in the world. It is shameful that the current administration is prioritizing the profits of a foreign-owned company over the long-term productivity and stability of Bristol Bay fishery, and the wellbeing of those citizens who rely on it, but that is indeed what is happening. Most people don't want the mine, the major buyers of gold have already pledged not to purchase any from this mine, and almost everyone believes building the mine would be disastrous for the environment. Trout Unlimited has been a leader in promoting scientific studies of the region, the environmental impacts of the proposed mine, and the socio-economic impacts on Alaskans and others who rely on the Bristol Bay fishery for their jobs and/or subsistence. May 30 is the deadline for public comments on the effects of the proposed mine. I urge everyone to access the Trout Unlimited action page and send a comment to help preserve this fantastic fishery (<https://standup.tu.org/>).



The Pocket Water section of the current issue of *Trout* magazine (pp.26-27) has information on another way you can help support fishermen in the Bristol Bay watershed in their fight to keep mining out of their wa-

ters. The companies Pride of Bristol Bay, and Wild for Salmon will ship fresh Bristol Bay salmon directly to purchasers at a 10% discount, and a portion of all sales will go to the Save Bristol Bay campaign. If you like sockeye, then vote with your fork for a clean, sustainable fishery. Thanks for caring. 📌

Fly Fishing Outreach

Ron Bellerose
Coordinator



Outreach has a few steady members attending the fly tying on the second Tuesday of each month. We will also assist the Cloudcroft VFW on the 15th and 16th of May working with the Warrior Transition group from Ft. Bliss. Thanks to all the volunteers that will make this possible. May will be the last fly tying session until next September. Many are out of town and volunteers are also gone for the summer. Hope to get new Vets when the sessions start up in September.

For more information about the MVFF Fly Fishing Outreach Program contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com), also if you wish to volunteer to help out. 📌

Lady Anglers Update

Mary Hoffman



The Lady Anglers is a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have fun doing it. Information on our fishing trips is made available to women on our Lady Anglers e-mail list and through announcements in the MVFF newsletter and at club meetings. Beginners are welcome and the only requirement for joining us is MVFF membership. To join our e-mail list, or for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at 505-710-5229 or westerngirlnm@gmail.com.

The Lady Anglers spring trip will take place in early May. The group will be fishing the Rio Peñasco with one day on the MVFF lease and one day on the Mulcock Ranch. Thanks to Miriam Carmichael for organizing this trip and to all of the participants.

Get out there and fish this summer! 📌

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



2019 Upcoming Activities: Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

May 10–12 Volunteer Angler Science Stream Survey at Willow Creek, Gila

National Forest

We will be organizing volunteer stream survey work crews on Friday and Saturday. The NMDGF Cabin will serve as an organizational focal point for activities, with plans to be drinking coffee and getting started organizing each morning around 8:30am and on the stream by 9:00am. Camping is available in the large area adjacent to the corrals with access to the vault toilet, and there are also sites available just up the road at the Ben Lilley Campground. No potable water is available here, so plan to bring water or purify stream water for use. We'll be in the water so bring waders and sun protection. Suggested driving directions are given below. Please contact Jeff Arterburn (by email: jeffgilatu@aol.com) if you would like to participate or for more information.

Saturday June 1st Aldo Leopold Kids Fishing Derby at Lake Roberts

Please help us host this years Aldo Leopold Kid's Fishing day at Lake Roberts on Saturday June 1st. We will be expecting from 100–200 kids and it will be a lot of fun! The lake will be stocked with brood fish from Mora National Hatchery and it's likely that a new world record Gila trout will be swimming the depths. We need a big group of volunteers to help host the booth and help introduce kids to fishing with flies, it's a tough lake for regular fly casting but a fly-and-bubble spinning rig works great and wouldn't you like to see a kid bring in that new world record on a fly pattern you provided? This coincides with the NMDGF free fishing day and the U.S.F.S. will be providing special camping arrangements for "vendors" so this will be a fun weekend. We are also raising funds to purchase derby-themed T-shirts for all the kids so please consider donating even if you aren't able to attend. Please contact Jeff Arterburn (jeffgilatu@aol.com) to sign up or for more information.

Directions to Willow Creek from Reserve, NM

Currently the most reliable route from Southern NM & AZ. Willow Creek Campground is located 55 miles SE of Reserve via FR141, SR 28. The following directions were provided by the Public Affairs Officer for the Gila National Forest: Starting at the ranger station in Reserve (5 Smokey Bear Circle), go towards town about 1/2 mile, turn right on 435, and this becomes Forest Road 141 southbound, and it's about 55 miles. Turn R on SR 28 and there will be signs that say Willow Creek (right) or Snow Lake (left.). For additional questions you can call the Reserve Ranger District office at (575) 533–6232.

Note: The Bursum Road NM 159 is currently reported to have "extremely difficult driving conditions from milepost 12 (just past the town of Mogollon to mile marker 17. High clearance, 4wheel Drive vehicles are strongly recommended."

Directions to Willow Creek from Horse Springs, NM

Best for those coming from Santa Fe or Albq. The Horse Springs route begins on the road between Datil and Reserve (NM #12). Drive on NM #12 approximately 6 miles west of Horse Springs and turn south on the dirt road noting the sign board for Willow Creek = 54 miles. Traveling on this good dirt road you will bear left at 10 miles noting the sign board [Willow Creek = 47 mi] and a road sign designated Catron County B019. At mile 15 you will bear to the right, noting another sign board [Willow Creek = 41 mi]. You will cross the Continental Divide noted by a sign marker at 27 miles. Then turn left at 29 miles noting a sign board [Snow Lake]. At mile 31 turn right noting the sign board [Willow Creek = 27 mi]. Turn left at mile 40, this is intersection with the road to Reserve. You will note a sign for the Negrito Fire Base at mile 141 as you continue on this road and continue on to reach Willow Creek at mile 54. The NMDGF Cabin is located in the large open area to the right (west) with stock corrals and a vault toilet.

GRG-TU Logo T-shirts to support local trout restoration and conservation efforts.

We have some beautiful new fund-raising for trout restoration and conservation T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo in colors: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on-black (see photos). These are beautiful, well-made shirts for a great cause at only \$20 each. Please include \$5 for shipping if you want the shirt(s) mailed. These are great stocking stuffers and pre-

sents for the holidays! Contact Jeff Arterburn for more details and to sign up as a volunteer: jeffgilatu@aol.com.



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black



Club Outings Planned

The board is now discussing possible future outings and would welcome suggestions from members. Where do you want to go? Let them know. If you have comments or suggestions for additional trips pass them to any of the Board members.

Trips being currently planned are:

- May 2 - 5 — Lady Anglers trip to the Lease and Mulcock's ranch



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2019

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by David Carmichael (President) at 7:08pm in the NMDG&F Conference room. Board members present were: Jeff Arterburn (Secretary), Chuck Mueller (Treasurer), Jim Hulse, Ron Bellerose, David Carmichael (President), Dillen Martinez and Bob Silver (Membership). Board Members absent were: Jim Sorenson (acting VP), Robert Ardovino and Tom Johnson (Vice President, is on a temporary leave of absence). No non-Board members were in attendance.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the March 18, 2019 Board Meeting were approved as published in the April 2019 issue of the newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report and reviewed the banquet expenditures. The available current account balance is \$10,275.71. The treasurer's report was accepted by the Board.
3. **Membership Report:** Bob Silver reported 247 members, but noted that many individuals have not yet renewed for the current 2019-20 year.
4. **Fly Fishing Outreach:** Ron Bellerose reported that the fly tying sessions have been well attended, and he used the club camera and projector for demonstrating tying a zebra midge. Chuck has helped with these sessions. The plan is to continue the fly tying in May, and then halt for the summer. Jim Sorenson and George Sanders have volunteered to help run the VFW Warriors in tran-

sition event at Cloudcroft, May 15-16. Ron has communicated with Ft. Bliss noting the challenges of our hosting summer events due to travel. For more information and volunteers interested in helping out with the MVFF Fly Fishing Outreach Program contact Ron Bellerose (575-680-5516), flyfishnh@hotmail.com).

5. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited:** Jeff Arterburn reported that the Willow Creek stream survey volunteer project will be held the weekend of May 10-11-12. The Aldo Leopold Kids Fishing Clinic at Lake Roberts will be held on Saturday June 1st, expecting that between 100-200 kids will attend. The TU Chapter will contribute funds and is seeking matching funds and additional private donations to support the purchase of T-shirts and prizes for the kids participating. We are expecting that a Kids' Fishing Day will also be held at Grindstone Reservoir on June 1st, and Ron Bellerose is interested in helping with that. Jeff will contact U.S.F.S. Larry Cordova to ask about the plans. Jeff reported that an article he wrote about the Whitewater Creek Gila trout restoration project was published in the Conservation section of the May/June edition of Southwest Flyfishing. Volunteers for all of these projects and activities are always needed, and 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

- 6. **NMSU American Fisheries Students:** The elections are scheduled for the next Wednesday. Many of the current officers are graduating. The banquet is on Friday May 3rd at the NM Homebuilders Banquet Hall, 2825 N. Main. The MVFF will donate items for the fundraising raffle, including 4 Garcia baitcasting reels from the storage unit, and an MVFF membership package including a permit, license plate and hat.
- 7. **Presentations and Events:** The May 13th presentation will feature NMSU Graduate Student Tyler Wallin, who will be discussing Gila trout restoration, stream temperature monitoring, and he will report on the trout population estimates on the Rio Peñasco lease using the results from the electroshocking survey carried out earlier this year.
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- 8. **Rio Peñasco Lease.** Jim Ellet has been selling quite a few permits at the ranch house, and Jim Hulseley mailed a new book of permits to him. No additional information on the septic company and schedule for cleaning was available. The club's fish stocking placed 500 fish; participants noted that the stream looked good, most of the weed growth was gone, the water was clear and fairly low due to upstream irrigation take-outs.
- 9. **Other discussion items:**
 - The board discussed and approved a matching MVFF donation of \$400 for the Aldo Leopold Kid's Fishing Derby T-shirts.
 - David sent notes thanking the donors who helped support the recent Kids' Clinic held at NMSU, including Josh Lopez, Chad Bosley and Jessica Vizarraga.
 - NMSU student Danica Cooke was selected to be the recipient of the 2019 Mabie Legacy Scholarship. Danica is active in fisheries research and volunteers for a variety of events.

MVFF will contribute additional funds as needed in combination with the annual endowment earnings so that the award will total \$750.

- Helen Zagona submitted a request for the MVFF to donate \$250 for the Casting for Recovery program. The board discussed and supported this suggestion, and David will clarify preferred routing with the regional coordinator Leslie Manfield.
- Merriam Carmichael participated in the previous "Ladies Night" event at Sportsman's Warehouse. One recommendation for the next time is to request a more prominent position towards the front of the store.
- A NMSU student will be doing a fly tying demo at Sportsman's Warehouse this Saturday from 1-2pm, and Ron will help out.
- There will also be a fly casting demonstration taking place on May 11th. If anyone is interested in helping they are asked to contact Ron for details.
- The board discussed the general issue facing the club that involves the need for new board members, and the challenges that we have had recruiting new board members. There is concern that several key positions don't have backups, and there is significant risk of losing specific knowledge if a current board member is incapacitated. Backup for the PayPal system is important to have in place. The board members were requested to make a list of all responsibilities.

The next **MVFF Board Meeting** is scheduled for May 13, 2019 following the General meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm. [↑](#)



Quick Look Contact Information

2019 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 (505) 401-3640	

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 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, 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.

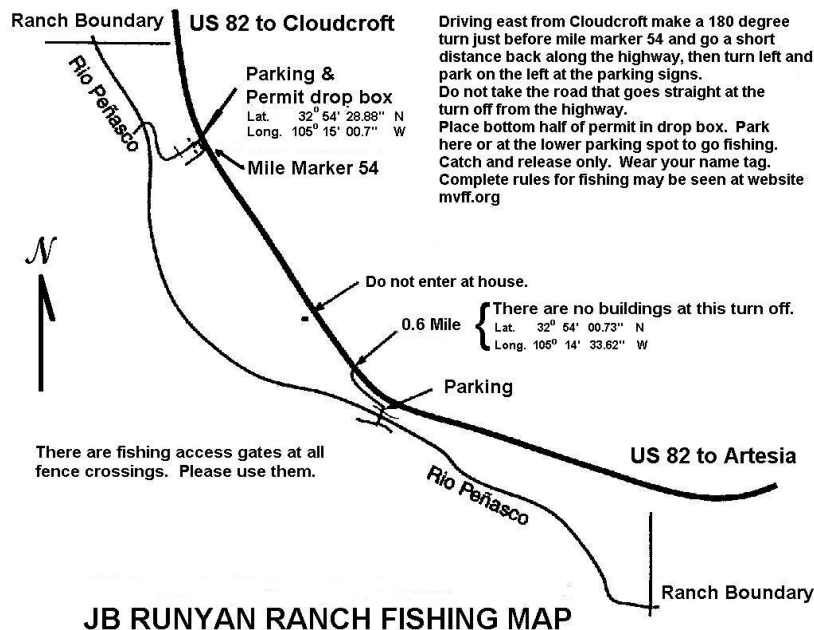
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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.