



# TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of  
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

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

[www.MVFF.org](http://www.MVFF.org)

December

2022

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

members who would like to catch a few trout, it's likely that the fish have spread out to some extent by now, but you might want to explore the middle section of the lease, as stocking occurred between the middle waterfall and the area below Cave Hole. Good luck, and let us know about your day(s) on the water.

## Meetings

The next meeting of the general membership will be December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm at the NMDGF conference room on Northrise. Our speaker will be club member Mary Hoffman, and she will be discussing the recent NM Supreme Court decision in *Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico, et al., v. New Mexico Game Commission, et al.* See the President's Corner for additional info.

The next meeting of the MVFF Board of Directors will be on December 19, at 7pm, via Zoom.

## President's Corner

David Carmichael

### Club News



The club lease on the Rio Peñasco was stocked on November 11<sup>th</sup> with about 150 trout in the 11-14-inch range. Thanks to those members who braved the bitter

early morning temperatures to get the job done: Bob Silver, Dave Lucoski, George Sanders, and Chuck Mueller. These sorts of behind-the-scenes tasks are what keep the club functioning for everyone, and there is an open invitation for members to step up and help with such activities whenever you can. Thanks guys! For club



*Bob Silver, David Lucoski and George Sanders stocking trout in the Rio Peñasco (Chuck Mueller photo)*

The next meeting of the general membership will be on December 12, 7pm at the NMDGF conference room at 2715 E. Northrise Drive. Our speaker will be club member Mary Hoffman, and she will be discussing the recent NM Supreme Court decision in *Adobe Whitewater Club of New*

*Mexico, et al., v. New Mexico Game Commission, et al.* Mary is a retired lawyer who has been following this case for some time, and now that the court has issued its written opinion, she will explain what it says and what it means for New Mexico anglers. It should be an interesting and informative presentation, and I hope many of you will be able to attend the meeting.

For those who cannot attend in person, this month we will be experimenting with a new approach to club meetings. Board member Jeremiah Blount will be testing an audio/video setup that will allow us to livestream the meeting via Zoom. It is our hope that such an arrangement, whatever form it eventually takes, will allow more members to participate in the regular monthly meetings. Check your email for the link to the meeting.

**Board elections.** As required by Article IV, Section 4.02 of the MVFF Bylaws, the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors for the upcoming year is presented at the regular December meeting of the general membership. Also, according to the Bylaws, the Board may have between 3 and 9 members. Members in attendance at the December meeting vote to approve the proposed slate, or they can nominate other members, or vote for write-in candidates at the meeting. The current slate of nominees for next year's board is as follows:

Robert Ardovino	Robert Kopczyk
Jeff Arterburn	Chuck Mueller
Jeremiah Blount	George Sanders
Dave Brown	Helen Zagona
Jim Hulsey	

I have asked Jeremiah to see what arrangements might be made to allow members participating via Zoom to vote in real time during the meeting, so keep an eye on your email for information about that as well.

### Hidden Waters Notebook

The South Fork Bonito Creek was one of my favorite fisheries. After hiking a mile or two into the White Mountain Wilderness, Miriam and I almost always had the creek to ourselves, and we often caught dozens of beautiful wild rainbows and

brookies while fishing our way through a seemingly endless maze of pocket water. Then came the Little Bear fire in 2012 which was not little at all. The fire took out much of the forest downstream and east as far as Bonito Estates, and it burned all the way upriver to the top of the drainage divide adjacent to the Three Rivers drainage. In all, about 16 miles of river were affected, with the worst damage occurring southwest and upstream of the South Bonito Campground in the most scenic and productive portions of the fishery. And then came the floods. This past October, a decade after the fire, I finally made a quick visit to see how the South Fork is recovering. It's not a very pretty sight, though there are signs of hope and reasons for optimism (and patience).

The overall impression of the formerly heavily forested slopes is one of a war zone, with almost no stands of pine left untouched. Those that do remain are mostly charred trunks, some still vertical, and some strewn about like so many wooden



*South Fork Bonito Creek just upstream from trailhead on Bonito Rd (107C)*

matchsticks. I did not see any evergreen seedlings in the area we visited, but there has been

significant reestablishment of shrubby understory species, such as oak, wild rose, and wild current.

There are a few pockets of small aspens in evidence, especially in side canyons, and grasses and forbs have been reestablished on the floodplain.

Perhaps the best news is in regards to the stream flow itself.

When we have fished the South Fork in years past, we often had to hike well into the wilderness area before there was sufficient flow for the stream to be fishable. On this visit, the flow was substantial all the way down to the campground, in a two-mile stretch that in the past was often just a trickle. And this was in October, which often

sees the lowest flows of the season. I suspect that the loss of so much timber has resulted in greater stream flow, and as the forest continues to recover, perhaps flows will be higher than in the

recent past, despite the persistent drought conditions across the Southwest.

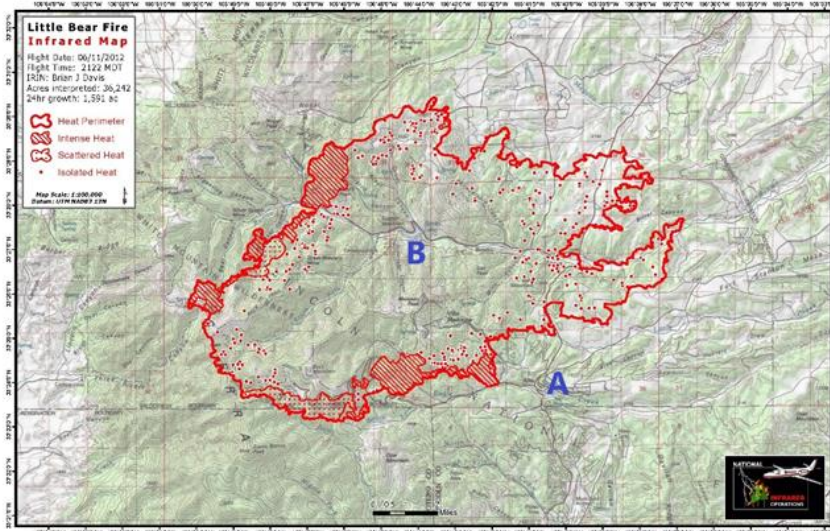
As noted on the accompanying signage, the Riparian Restoration Project is underway, and we observed a variety of species taking hold on the floodplain, including Apache Plume, cottonwood, willow, and a variety of grasses. However, only about 1,000 feet of

the floodplain is involved in the replanting project, so it will be many years, perhaps even more than another decade, before we're likely to see similar results in the upstream portions of the watershed.

**Fisheries Conservation News**

The last time I fished the Valles Caldera (see September

2022 newsletter), I encountered quite a few cattle and a lot of manure in the meadows along San Antonio Creek near the western boundary of the park. Apparently, I'm not alone. It seems that there are at least 100 cattle illegally grazing in the



*Extent of the 2012 Little Bear fire. B marks the location of Bonito Lake. A marks the village of Alto.*

*Signage for the South Fork Bonito restoration project just upstream of the South Fork Campground*

riparian areas along the lower reaches of San Antonio Creek. There is good evidence that they are gaining access to the NPS lands via gaps in the boundary fence that have resulted from vandalism on the part of a permittee who has a grazing permit for adjacent USFS lands. After all the tax dollars and years of work that have been invested to restore the Valles Caldera, its wildlife and its fisheries, it is unfortunate that the Western Watersheds Program is having to sue the National Park Service to compel enforcement of the laws against the permittee who is trespassing on and vandalizing public lands.

[Groups pressure federal agencies to address illegal grazing in Valles Caldera | The NM Political Report](#)

The removal of dams on the Klamath River has been a topic of discussion and debate for a long time. In recent years, politicians from both parties, biologists and Native American stakeholders, have been more openly discussing what seems to be an inevitability: dams on the Klamath River must be removed if there is any hope of restoring and preserving the salmon and steelhead runs on the Klamath. I knew there was a sense of urgency on the part of tribes and conservationists, but I was a bit surprised to see that a consensus has been reached that includes the dams' owners and the relevant public utilities. Last month, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) voted unanimously to decommission and remove the lower 4 dams on the Klamath, the locations of which are marked on the accompanying map. The smallest of the four, Copco #1, could come down as early as next summer, and the rest should be removed by the end of 2024. This action will return the lower half of the Klamath to free-flowing

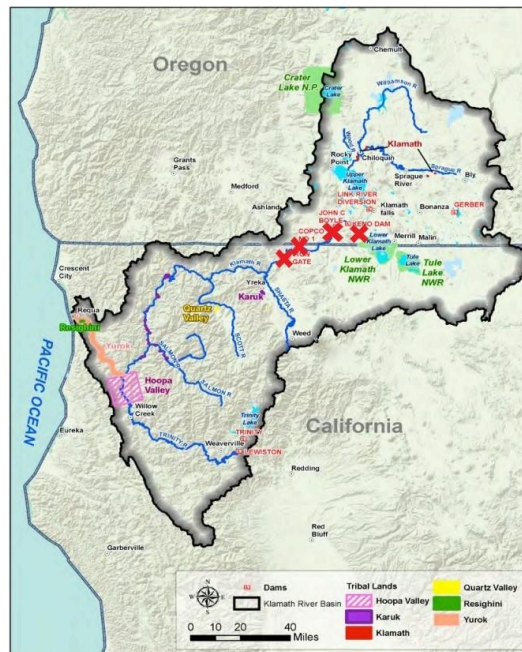
status for the first time in more than a century. This, in turn, will reconnect 400 miles of salmon habitat, in an effort to assist in the recovery of the struggling Klamath salmonid populations. Species that will benefit include the fall and winter run Chinook salmon, summer and winter Steelhead runs, and fall run Coho salmon populations. Check out this article by California Trout for more details.

[Last Major Hurdle Cleared for Klamath Dams Removal | California Trout \(caltrout.org\)](#)

Over the past few years, I've mentioned salmon in a number of newsletters, even though they don't occur in our home waters. The specifics of those discussions have involved such issues as habitat restoration, preservation of the Bristol Bay watershed, the pros and cons of relying on hatchery fish to bolster wild stocks, rapid biological evolution of salmonids, and the implications all these issues have for human salmon consumption. We know that Alaskan salmon runs have a huge economic impact today, both in

Alaska, and world-wide. What we might not think about very much is how far back in time this importance might have existed. Anthropologists often point to the indigenous populations of the Pacific Northwest as being unique in the world. Cultures such as the Tlingit, Kwakiutl, Quinault, etc. are the only hunter-gatherers to have developed complex social systems without relying on agriculture or animal husbandry. This was made possible because of the ready access of reliable runs of a variety of species of anadromous fish [salmon, Steelhead, coastal Cutthroat, Dolly Varden, and Eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*)].

We have known for some time that Coast Salish populations inhabited the Puget Sound region for



Locations of Klamath River dams scheduled for removal are marked with a red X

at least 5,000 years. Now, a recent discovery has more than doubled the age of evidence for pre-historic salmon fishing in the Pacific Northwest. Underwater exploration off the west coast of Prince of Wales Island in SE Alaska has yielded evidence of a prehistoric fish weir at a depth of 170 ft. below the surface. Clearly, a weir couldn't have been constructed at that depth, nor would it have been effective. But, 11,100 years ago, when the global sea level was much lower (because of water being locked up in continental glaciers), the weir would have been in shallow waters near shore. This new find extends the evidence for earliest human occupation of that locale by 1,000 years, and documents the deep antiquity of salmon fishing along the Pacific Northwest coast. To me, it also reinforces the responsibility we have as current stewards of our planet, our ecosystems and our fisheries, to work to maintain the productivity that has persisted for, now, at least 11,100 years. [Ancient Fish Weir Identified Off Coast of Alaska - Archaeology Magazine](#)



## Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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



**For MVFF - December**  
**Find out about Trout Unlimited Events happening in our area and around the country**

**using the online TU Events Calendar:**  
<https://www.tu.org/events/>

*Contact Jeff Arterburn for more info and to sign up for the next volunteer event or be more involved in our conservation efforts: [jeffgilatu@aol.com](mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com).*

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



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black

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>.

**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://gifts.tu.org/member/renew> or call 1-800-834-2419.**



## 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*.



## MVFF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2022

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn (Secretary)

The MVFF was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:10 pm, via Zoom. Board members present were Jeff Arterburn, Jeremiah Blount, David Carmichael, Jim Hulsey, Chuck Mueller and Helen Zagona. Not present: Robert Ardovino, Robert Kopczyk and George Sanders.

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the Board meeting held October 24, 2022, were approved as published in the November newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report. The current available balance of club accounts is \$13,686.42. The report was accepted as presented.
3. **Membership.** No report.
4. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.**
  - Jeff Arterburn reported on a new TU initiative for Chapters participating in **Water Quality monitoring**. The topic was discussed during the NM-TU State Council in October where it was pointed out that intervals up to 10 years can occur between water quality sampling in some streams, and the TU Chapters involvement can provide useful data from more frequent sampling as well as providing another mechanism for volunteer citizen science participation. Numerous potential sites in southern NM where fire impacts are involved are under consideration.
  - Jeff recently met with USFS Smoky Bear Ranger District Staff Larry Cordova, Brad Allen, Taylor Joray, NMDGF staff George Farmer and TU-Bosque member Bob Bowman in Ruidoso to visit the **stream restoration site on Big Bear Creek in the Rio Bonito watershed** where they have been constructing beaver dam analogs (BDA's) and are using an innovative monitoring unit developed by Dr. Bowman. There will be opportunities for members to participate and the long-term goals pursue Rio Grande Cutthroat trout restoration.
- Another group of Ruidoso residents and businesses are beginning to organize an effort for **habitat restoration on the Ruidoso River** to improve the habitat for brown trout that was damaged by post fire flooding and stream channelization.
- A new film titled **"No Fools Gold" focused on residents concerned with increased mining impacts by Canadian company Summa Silver Mining** is premiering December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Silver City with additional showings planned around the state.
- The agenda is being developed for the **TU Western Regional Meeting that is scheduled for May 19–21, 2023 in Taos**. Details on these and other events can be found on the Trout Unlimited Events Calendar: <https://www.tu.org/events/go> to <https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/New-Mexico-Council-Retreat-67234>
5. **Old Business:** The Rio Peñasco Runyan Ranch lease was stocked with ~150 rainbow trout (11–12") by MVFF volunteers on Saturday November 19, 2022. Jeremiah gave an update on options for virtual streaming and storing videos of MVFF meetings and following board discussion a plan for using an iPad and zoom will be initiated at the December 12<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting. David will set up the zoom meeting and the link will be distributed to members by email (Bob Silver).
6. **New Business.**
  - Upcoming Speakers and Events: The **December 12<sup>th</sup> MVFF General Membership meeting will feature Mary Hoffman** providing an analysis and interpretation

- of the recent **NM State Supreme Court legal decision on stream access.**
- The board discussed other possible speakers for March–May 2023 and will invite NMSU Fisheries Faculty member Zach Klein to present current research.
  - David has confirmed **noted author, fly–designer and fly–shop owner Pat Dorsey as a banquet speaker for February 11, 2023** to be held at St. Paul’s Methodist Church. A fly–tying demonstration will be held that day, and members interested in attending are encouraged to contact David to help keep track of attendees.
  - Helen contacted Sparky’s and they are available to cater the event. She discussed food options and prices, and options for adding enchiladas and desserts to the menu were considered by the board, as well as prior attendance records provided by Chuck.
  - The Board allocated an additional \$2K for the Prize Committee (Jeff, George, Bob, Brad) to make purchases for the banquet raffle, and expressed desire to have guided trips included in the prize list.
- David will work on the design of new raffle tickets that include the new MVFF logo and will not list the individual raffle prizes. There was interest in making PayPal available as an option for raffle ticket purchases.
  - The board discussed organizing **fly–fishing workshops for the NMSU students** who are interested in learning, and the inclusion of various components for multi–day presentation including tackle/knots, casting, fly tying, and going fishing was considered until concluding that follow–up conversations with the students will be needed to best prioritize their interests.
  - The nomination of 9 potential MVFF Board Members was discussed along with opportunities for self–nomination of members and a list will be presented at the December meeting.
7. The date of the next Board meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2022.  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.



Quick Look Contact Information

2022 Officers of the Club	
<b>Officers</b>	
• <b>President:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>V-Pres.:</b>	Vacant
• <b>Secretary:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• <b>Treasurer:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
<b>Board Members</b>	
• <b>Position 1:</b>	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• <b>Position 2:</b>	Helen Zagona (575) 532-5668
• <b>Position 3:</b>	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• <b>Position 4:</b>	Jim Hulsey (575) 635-5381
• <b>Position 5:</b>	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• <b>Position 6:</b>	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• <b>Position 7:</b>	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
• <b>Position 8:</b>	Jeremiah Blount
• <b>Position 9</b>	Robert Kopczyk
<b>Newsletter &amp; Web Page Editor</b>	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 635-5381	<a href="mailto:newsletter@mvff.org">newsletter@mvff.org</a>
<b>Membership Committee Chairman</b>	
• Bob Silver (575) 642-5865	<a href="mailto:membership@mvff.org">membership@mvff.org</a>

### 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 donated 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.

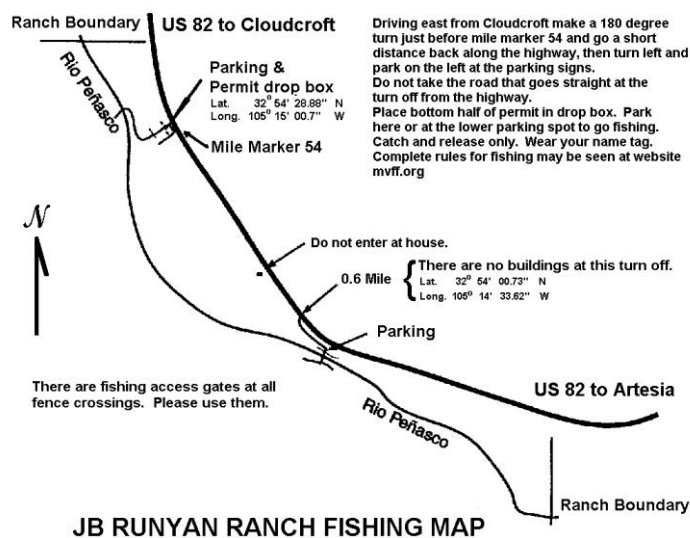
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

### Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-635-5381) 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.