



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of

Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

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2018



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

Membership Meeting

Monday, 14 May

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 14 May at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. David Carmichael will give a presentation on "Why bother keeping a fly fishing journal?" 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, 21 May

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 21 May at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 23 May

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 23 May at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *Copper John Jig Fly*. 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



On April 19th, I represented the MVFF club at the annual NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology Awards banquet at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. Also representing the club were Ron Bellerose and the Muellers (both of whom won some nifty raffle prizes). It was a pleasure to award the Norm Mabie Scholarship to this year's recipient, Dillen Martinez. As of last year, the amount of the award was increased to \$750, and we hope to keep adding to the scholarship account so we can continue to support talented and hardworking fisheries students well into the future.



2018 Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship winner Dillen Martinez

Speaking of building the scholarship account, the raffle chances for the Mabie Legacy fly rod built and donated by Bob and Lee Widgren have all been sold, and the rod will be raffled at the upcoming membership meeting on May 14. The \$1,000 raised by the raffle will be added to the Norm Mabie Memorial Scholarship fund. Someone's going to win a great rod, so if you bought a chance, I hope you'll be able to attend the meeting and claim your prize.

Last year's scholarship winner, Aliah Guerrero will be attending the May 14 meeting to give us a progress report on her research about environmental factors and the timing of hatching among largemouth bass at Elephant Butte reservoir.

Hidden Waters Notebook: Three Rivers Creek

Last weekend I took a group of anthropology students on a camping and field trip to the White Mountain Wilderness and Three Rivers Petroglyph site. While hiking along Three Rivers Creek, I wet a hook and made some observations to update my impressions of the creek at the time of my last visit (MVFF Newsletter, April 2016). As was the case during my previous visit, there is good news and bad news. If you have been following any of the reports regarding precipitation trends of the past year, you will have heard that much of New Mexico is predicted to have a low water year this fishing season. This prediction is already being confirmed by the water conditions at Three Rivers. The water is clear and clean and fairly cold, in



Shallow pool where there was once a deep pool, upper Three Rivers Creek

the low to mid 60s, but the flow is diminished by at least 30% over recent years. There was very little snow in the Sacramento Mountains this winter, and unlike many other years, there is no snow remaining on even the highest north-facing mountain peaks. It is likely that by the end of summer the streamflow will be reduced to a trickle, and the water tempera-

tures will not be very favorable to trout, at least in the low stretches where the creek is not well shaded.

You may recall that the Three Rivers Creek drainage was hit by a massive wind storm in December of 2015, and many tall pine trees were snapped off and thrown into and around the creek. The trails that were blocked two years ago have been mostly cleared; the main trail following the creek has been cleared at least 3 ½ miles upstream from the wilderness boundary, and travel on that section is quite easy. Near the creek's headwaters one still encounters some windfall on the trail, making it a bit frustrating if your goal is to hike to the top of the drainage divide above the South Fork of Bonito Creek. In the middle and upper portions of the creek there are perhaps a dozen fairly sizeable pools like the one in this photo that contained healthy brook trout ranging in size from 4-12 inches. However, the downed timber made it very difficult to approach and cast into the pools, and the lowered water level made the fish so skittish that it was almost impossible to get a fly to them without spooking the whole pool. I caught a few fish, but not enough to make it worth the effort in such low water conditions. In the lower elevations, where the stream gradient is lower, many pools are choked with weed growth and do not appear to be well oxygenated. It is still early in the season, but the Lincoln National Forest and the White Mountain Wilderness are posting extreme fire danger conditions, and the forest is already under Level 1 fire restrictions.



Lower Three Rivers Creek showing snapped pine trees and largely unshaded streambed

On the upside, the aquatic insect fauna and flora continue to be healthy. I saw adult dark brown caddis

flies at several places along the stream, and many cased caddis larvae were visible on the streambed. Wild flowers were in bloom at every elevation, including Fendlerbush, False Solomon's Seal, Apache Plume, globe mallow, wild strawberry, wild grape, barberry and Great Plains paintbrush. So the forest along Three Rivers Creek is beautiful but dry, and it won't be very attractive for fly angling until the water situation improves.



False Solomon's Seal (Smilacina racemosa) alongside upper Three Rivers Creek

Fly Fishing Journal

The Gila/Rio Grande chapter of Trout Unlimited is running a summer photography contest that encourages us to record catches made this summer in New Mexico south of I-40. There are additional opportunities to help with TU restoration efforts in the Gila National Forest (see details elsewhere in the newsletter). Such activities are among those that are sometimes called citizen science because our observations can be of use to researchers studying the wildlife and landscape within the regions we visit. The May club meeting will be our last meeting of the general membership before our summer hiatus, and I'll be giving a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Keeping a Fly Fish-

ing Journal: Why Bother?, and Ways to Do It." I hope it will inspire others to keep a record of some of your summer fishing adventures so you can tell the rest of the club about them next fall. Details of what worked and what didn't will be much appreciated if we try to follow in your footsteps, and some of the details might be of use to scientists and land managers as well. I'll have some examples of the sorts of journals available, and suggestions about how to record observations that will improve fishing success and provide a fun record of fishing trips with family and friends. Hope to see you there.

Project Healing Waters News

As discussed in the last newsletter, the club Board members have been trying to recruit a new Project Lead for our Project Healing Waters program. Ron Bellerose has worked hard to make the program successful, but it is time to bring someone else in to step up and help Ron and eventually take over the lead responsibilities. So far, we haven't had any takers, so I'm making one last appeal for someone to help us continue this important project. If we can't get a commitment from someone by next September, Ron will begin cycling down the program and it will be shut down altogether by the end of the year. Please take some time over the summer to consider whether you are able to help maintain Project Healing Waters in southern New Mexico and west Texas.



Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is still on the move. We will have a new location for fly tying on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. New location will be Pure Clarity Counseling, 1990 Lohman Ave., Ste #103. We will meet at 10am until 12pm in May and after that we will meet from 9am until 11am. Crystal Tapia will be available to work with the Vets during this time. Crystal is a great supporter of PHWFF and a counselor for the Vets.

We will be back to the Las Cruces VA Clinic's new building the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1pm

until 3pm. The new building has a great conference room for fly tying and other events that we will be doing (knots).

We will work with the Cloudcroft VFW on the 16th and 17th of May with fly tying on the 16th and fishing on the 17th. This is an annual event that the VFW puts on for the wounded warriors. I will be looking for some assistance for some of these events. Watch your e-mails for more info.

We no longer will be working with the El Paso locations. Headquarters has determined that we should only be in one area. This is not a problem because we have not been doing much with El Paso.

We had a couple of fishing events in April and hope to have a couple in May, with a San Juan trip in the fall. Thank you for all your support.

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 are a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have fun doing it. The Lady Angler fishing trips for 2018 are already planned and fully booked. This spring, we will be fishing the Rio Peñasco on the Mulcock Ranch and the Club lease from May 17 to 20. In the fall, we will be fishing the Upper Rio Grande area in Colorado from September 20 to 24. Our guides for the Colorado trip will be from Wolf Creek Anglers, the fly shop headed up by Brad Shallenberger who spoke at the club meeting on February 12th. We will be wading on the spring trip and floating and wading on the fall trip.



Information on Lady Angler events and fishing trips is made available to all women on our e-mail list and

through announcements in the Club newsletter and at monthly Club meetings. Beginners are welcome and the only requirement for joining us is MVFF membership. To add your name to the e-mail list, or for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at 505-710-5229. [↑](#)

Lease Stocked

On Saturday, April 28, the club stocked the Lease with 250 rainbow trout from 8 to 10 inches in length. About 9 club members assisted in carrying the fish from Bill Parker's truck to the river. Fish were stocked where the upper bridge was and in the middle section above and below the lower bridge.



[↑](#)

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

By Jeff Arterburn, President



Willow Creek Volunteer stream monitoring/restoration project is happening the weekend of **May 11-13th**. This citizen science project on Willow Creek will continue previous data collection,

and is coordinating participation in the funded watershed assessment project managed by Natural Channel Design.

Kids' Fishing events at Lake Roberts and Grindstone Reservoir will be held on the free-fishing day: **Saturday June 2nd**. Members interested in helping out are encouraged to contact Jeff by email (jeffgilatu@aol.com).



These large Gila Trout brood stock from Mora National Fish Hatchery are heading for Lake Roberts and the Aldo Leopold Kids' Fishing Derby Saturday June 2, 2018.

Southern NM Fish-n-Photo challenge: May 1-September 30, 2018. The GRG-TU is sponsoring this catch & release fishing event 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 fish photo's for judging with prizes to be awarded. **See the entry form in this Newsletter (pages 8-9).** [↑](#)

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.

[↑](#)

Rod for Sale

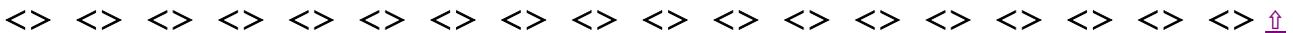
Ray Rodriguez has a Redington Crosswater fly rod for sale. It's a 9ft. 2pc, 8wt. Plus a Cabela's hard case for it. Asking \$75 for both. Contact phone (575) 520-5768. [↑](#)



Copper John Jig Fly



- Hook:** 60 or 90 degree jig fly hook, #14 to #18
- Thread:** Black Uni 8/0 or Ultra 70 denier
- Bead:** Slotted cooper bead, 1/8" or 3/32"
- Tail:** Brown goose biots
- Body:** Copper Ultra wire, Brassie size
- Wing case:** Pearl mylar tinsel large over Black mylar tinsel large, coated with UV Knot Sense
- Thorax:** Peacock Herl or Peacock Ice dub
- Legs:** Partridge feather



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 16, 2018

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn, Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:02pm in the NMDG&F Conference room. Board members present were: Jeff Arterburn (Secretary), David Carmichael (President), Tom Johnson (Vice President), Dillen Martinez, Chuck Mueller (Treasurer), Bob Silver (Membership) and Jim Sorenson; Board Members absent: Robert Ardovino and Jim Hulsey; Non-Board members in attendance were: Ron Bellerose.

1. **Meeting Minutes.** The minutes from the March 19, 2018 Board Meeting were approved as published in the April 2018 issue of the newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report with available current account balance statement of \$10,493.28. The report was accepted by the Board.
3. **Membership Report.** Bob Silver reported 196 currently active members, with 10 new members joining since the last report. He sent renewal notices via email to 55 members with lapsed dues. Several membership renewals and permit purchases have been processed through PayPal and the system appears to be working well.
4. **Project Healing Waters.** Ron Bellerose attended the PHWFF meeting in Long Beach CA, and reported that many changes are taking place in the program, some will make processes and reporting easier, others are responding to insurance issues. The programs are not allowed to "sell" PHWFF merchandise, but can accept donations. The PHWFF is requiring the official use of the name must specifically include "PHW-Fly Fishing", and he will be working with Jim on the new PHWFF section of the MVFF website where it will also be necessary to remove the official logo. All volunteers and participants need to register using the on-line system, which takes ~20 minutes, and Ron will work with Jim to try to provide a link on the website (www.tfaforms.com/4653178). The system requires a series of confirmation email responses. The El Paso participants will be included in the Las Cruces registration. The program lead and assistant lead also are required to undergo a police records check. These changes should be helpful for the next program lead. It is critical for our program to have someone in place by September. Bob will send a request to membership. Ron is setting up a water safety training program that will address the use of waders, and life preservers. There will be limited PHWFF activities during the period June - August.
5. **Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited.** Jeff Arterburn reported that the GRG-TU Chapter will host a "Meet and Greet" social on April 26th. The dates of May 11-13th are scheduled for the Willow Creek Volunteer project. This citizen science project on Willow Creek will continue previous data collection, and is coordinating participation in the funded watershed assessment project managed by Natural Channel Design. Jeff showed the final version of the information sign that will be displayed at Willow Creek, and he is obtaining quotes for printing the large metal 3' x 5' from commercial printers in the region. The GRG-TU is sponsoring a "Southern NM Fish-n-Photo challenge" this summer with prizes to be awarded (see entry form in the May MVFF Newsletter). Upcoming Kids' Fishing events at Lake Roberts and Grindstone Reservoir will be held on the free-fishing day: Saturday June 2nd. Members interested in helping out are encouraged to contact Jeff by email (jeffgilatu@aol.com).
6. **NMSU American Fisheries Students.** The next AFS meeting will be held on April 17th. The department banquet is scheduled for April 19th with doors opening at 5pm at the Farm & Ranch museum, providing time for socializing and bidding on the silent auction items, and the dinner starts at 6pm with awards presented afterwards. The new AFS President will be Zach Speir, and Dillen will continue to represent the group at the MVFF Board meetings.
7. **Presentations and Events.** The next general meeting May 14th will feature a brief presentation from NMSU student Aliah Guerrero talking about the recruitment of bass in elephant butte. David

Southern New Mexico Fish-n-Photo Challenge 2018

This catch & release fishing event encourages members to get out and fish, using photography to document the variety of fish and the beautiful locations in our region! Anglers can select any of the open waters on public land in New Mexico south of I-40. Photo's 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. close-ups (either underwater or "in hand" as part of a catch-and-release image) are also appropriate. All cold or warm water species caught using legal angling methods are eligible . NMDGF Fishing Regulations are available on line at:

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

Prizes winners will be selected from the entries received by an independent panel of judges. Anglers can submit multiple entries, but only one prize/person will be awarded.



1. Descriptive title of photo submitted for judging: _____

2. Date the fish was caught & released (May 1st - Sept 30, 2018): ____ / ____ / _____

3. Description of the angling method used: _____

4. Name & general location of watershed where the fish was caught (must be south of I-40): _____

5. **Initials** to verify that angler was appropriately licensed and followed all applicable NMDGF fishing regulations: _____

6. **Initials** to verify that by submitting an image, you are certifying that it was taken by you and you are granting Trout Unlimited a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free license to publish it in editorial, educational, promotional and other uses. You also grant TU permission to use your name in connection with the photograph and you certify that all persons appearing in the image grant Trout Unlimited permission to publish the photo. Any published photo will be credited with the caption "© Photographer's Name." (Permission to publish images of children must be obtained from a parent or legal guardian.): _____

7. **Initials** to verify that you have complete the Photo Waiver form: _____

Email photo entries using Subject: Entry So-NM Fish-n-Photo Challenge 2018

To: jeffgilatu@aol.com

Photo Waiver Form

I hereby give [Trout Unlimited Chapter Gila/Rio Grande (780) he right to use photographs taken of me this date for publishing, illustration, advertising, trade and promotion, or any other use in any medium for any purpose.

I release Trout Unlimited from any claims and demands arising out of the use of the photographs. This release also covers legal representatives and any licensees of these photographs. I understand that photographs will be copyrighted in the name of Trout Unlimited and may be used in conjunction with other photographs, as part of a composite, or in any form whatsoever.

I am 18 years old or older. ___ Yes ___ No

Model name (please print): _____

Signature of Model: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Witness (please print): _____

Signature of Witness: _____

Date: _____

If the model is under 18 years of age, consent should be given by parent or guardian as follows:

I hereby certify that I am the parent or guardian of (please print model name)_____.

For the model named above, and for value received, I do give my consent without reservations to the foregoing on behalf of him or her or them.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Witness (please print): _____

Signature of Witness: _____

Please return this completed form by email to: jeffgilatu@aol.com

Or by mail to:

2018 Southern New Mexico Fish-n-Photo Challenge
Trout Unlimited, Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780)
105 Pecan Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88001

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 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.

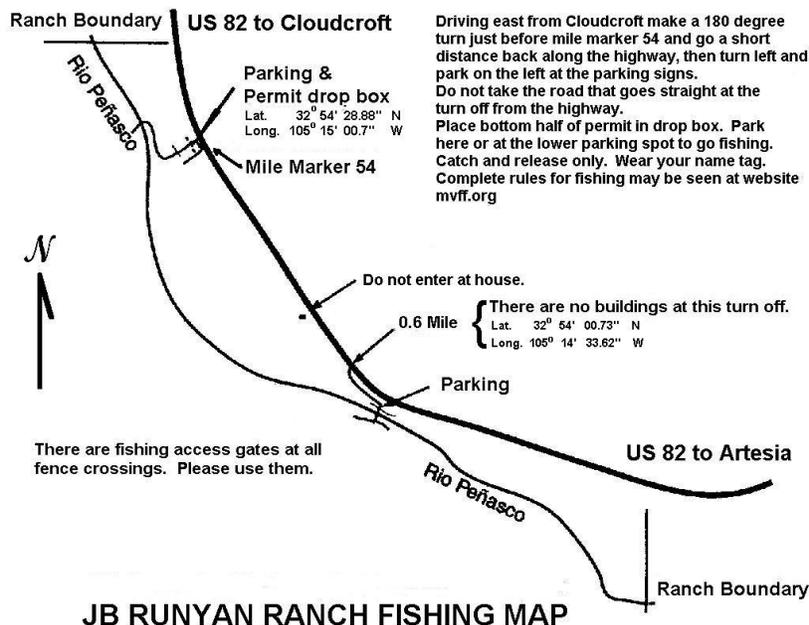
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulseley (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 Hulseley. 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.