



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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2022

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

Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club will hold no in-person meetings until later in 2022.

President's Corner

David Carmichael



Club News

The past year has been tough on many club members, many of our neighbors, students, parents, and local businesses, schools, clinics and hospitals. I have lost several colleagues and friends during the pandemic, and I'm sure many of us are more than ready to turn the page on 2021. Before doing so however, it is my sad duty to inform you of the recent loss of a stalwart member of the MVFF family.

In case you hadn't heard, Gary Mann passed away on December 17, 2021, at the age of 84, after a long battle with cancer. Gary was born in El Paso, and spent most of his life in the El Paso-Las Cruces area. He was a long-time member of the MVFF, and he served as club treasurer for 11 years, from 2007-2017. In 2018 the club presented Gary with a special award, a framed original fly-fishing art print by Carol Ann Morris, in

appreciation for his many years of service as treasurer and as a member of the Board of Directors. Gary was a generous supporter of the club's annual raffles, and a consistent advocate for stream improvements and policies intended to enhance the experiences of members fishing the club lease on the Rio Penasco. At our most recent meeting, the Board of Directors voted to make a \$150 donation in Gary's memory to Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces. The official obituary from the Las Cruces Sun-News is reprinted in this newsletter below.

At our December 23 Zoom board meeting, the board membership and officers were adopted for the upcoming year. We have had two recent resignations from the board, so there are now seven board members. No changes were made to the officer positions. Your 2022 Board of Directors is as follows: Robert Ardivino, Jeff Arterburn (Secretary), David Carmichael (President), Jim Hulsey, Chuck Mueller (Treasurer), George Sanders, and Helen Zagona. Any club members who are interested in joining the board in the upcoming year should contact one of us so we can gradually introduce you to the internal workings of the board and the various board roles and procedures.

Club and Board of Directors member Jeff Arterburn has been named to the Citizen Advisory Committee for the NMDGF Habitat Stamp program. When you purchase a New Mexico fishing or hunting license, you will notice there is a fee for the Habitat Stamp. Funds collected from Habitat Stamp sales are used to pay for conservation and restoration projects that are intended to enhance fish and wildlife habitat on public lands in New Mexico. Jeff was appointed to the position because of his demonstrated history of

involvement in wildlife and habitat protection issues, most notably in relation to Gila Trout habitat restoration and other wild trout initiatives. He will be part of the group of citizen advisors who make recommendations to the NMDGF about future conservation project priorities. Congratulations Jeff!

Later this month, we will be restocking the club lease. The board voted to purchase approximately 175–200 trout, most in the 8–10” range, with some in the 10–12” range. Because of the recent changes in the river conditions due to flooding, stocking will be limited to the upper half of the lease waters, where there are several nice holes and other good holding water. As an example, the accompanying photo shows how the second hole downstream from the upper lease boundary has grown in extent from its previous size. Also, note how the floods have removed much of the undergrowth, and even some large trees that used to make for difficult casting. Access to the fishable sections of the river should be easier than in years past.



Upper portion of MVFF lease, showing upper waterfall (arrow), twin boulder pool (X), and recent downstream extension (Y).

If you are interested in helping with the stocking, watch for an email from Bob Silver with details, once the date and times are set. Members who help with stocking are entitled to fish the rest of the day for free, and they will know precisely where the fish were released. Plans are to photograph the stocking, and the changed conditions of the river, and the images will be used for a PowerPoint presentation in a Zoom meeting for

the general membership. We'll let you know when that will happen, probably in early February.

During the pandemic, we have also made progress with the production of club merchandise with the new MVFF club logo. Chuck Mueller has had some license plates printed with the Organ Mountains silhouette and Gila Trout imagery, and they can be ordered via PayPal from the club website. We also have a few of the old design available in white. Get 'em while they last!



Design of the new MVFF license plates



A few plates with this design are also available

Also available with yellow background.

The Environment: Plastic Soup

As we begin the new year, the City of Las Cruces is taking steps to reduce the amount of plastic that enters the environment by implementing a ban on single use plastic bags at retailers such as grocery stores. Some may say that the new regulation is one more example of governmental overreach, but notably, this is a local municipal action, not something decided in Washington or Santa Fe. Moreover, this City action addresses a very real environmental problem that affects not only aesthetics, but the health of our waters, wildlife, and even humans.

Recent studies indicate that 8.8 metric tons of plastic are introduced into our rivers and the ocean every year. This plastic pollution results in

billions of dollars of economic losses, due mainly to the costs of cleanup (as in harbors and ports), and losses in commercial fishing productivity, aquaculture and tourism. Eighty percent of all the trash in the ocean is plastic, and 44% is in the form of plastic bags, bottles, food containers, and wrappers. ([These Four Plastic Items Make Up Almost Half Of All Ocean Trash \(forbes.com\)](#)) Fishing related items, such as nets, ropes, buoys, etc. are next on the list.



Grouper navigating through plastic bags and wrappers

Last year, the Sea Education Association released the results of its 22-year study of plastic pollution in the North Atlantic, and the results are shocking. They documented high concentrations of pieces of high-density polyethylene (HDPE), low-density polyethylene (LDPE), and polypropylene in the upper water column. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polystyrene were found down to depths of 100 meters. In some regions, there are as many pieces of plastic in the water as there are plankton. ([Our Oceans: A Plastic Soup \(columbia.edu\)](#)) We (scientists and consumers) have long known about the harmful effects of plastic bags, nets, six-pack rings, etc. on wildlife that get entangled in them. What is less well-known is information about the long-term effects of the chemicals contained in plastics.

When plastic is discarded into our waterways, the items eventually break down, but their constituents aren't removed from the environment. Instead, as the plastic is processed by sunlight, water, erosion, etc., it gets reduced into smaller and smaller pieces, eventually adding to the number

of items described as microplastics: bits of plastic that are invisible to the human eye. Microplastics occur across all ecosystems, and are ubiquitous in the environment. They occur in our water, the air, the soil, in our food, and in our drinks. There are even some pieces of plastic that are small enough to enter human tissue. It is estimated that the average person swallows about 50,000 pieces of microplastic each year, and those who drink mainly bottled water are ingesting another 90,000 pieces a year. This wouldn't necessarily be a problem, were it not for the fact that plastics contain a variety of "forever chemicals," such as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) which are known to cause harm to marine life. Not only do these chemicals slow growth rates, and lower reproduction rates, but they become concentrated in the seafood at the top of the food chain, the very species often consumed by humans. Recent studies identified PFAs in the bloodstreams of 98% of the U.S. population, including those of infants and young children. PFAs are endocrine-disrupting chemicals, exposures to which are associated with liver damage, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, obesity, cancer, and decreased fertility in humans.

Perhaps the most unexpected effect of PFAs in the food chain is the impact of these chemicals on human fertility. ([Microplastics: A Threat for Male Fertility \(nih.gov\)](#)) Shanna Swan, professor of environmental science at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, studies the effects of phthalates on human hormone production. Swan's research indicates that PFAs disrupt testosterone production, resulting in reduced sperm production, reduced penis size, and smaller testes volume in men. Sperm counts have dropped almost 60% since 1973, and the average man now has half the sperm count his grandfather did. In women, disruption of estrogen production means that in some parts of the world, women in their 20s are less fertile now than their grandmothers were at age 35. PFAs also contribute to increased risk of early female puberty, premature ovarian failure, miscarriage and premature birth. If the current trajectory persists, human sperm counts

could reach zero by 2045, meaning that most couples may have to use assisted reproduction. [Shanna Swan: 'Most couples may have to use assisted reproduction by 2045' | Fertility problems | The Guardian.](#)

It often seems that environmental problems situated in, or most readily observed in the context of, fish, fisheries, and water quality are treated as niche issues; of interest mainly to anglers and fisheries managers. Perhaps the dawning awareness of the pervasive impacts of PFAs in our waters, food chains, and our own bodies will result in a wider acceptance of the need to change how we produce, use, and dispose of plastics. Cleaning up the plastics already in the waterways and the ocean is necessary but not sufficient. Reducing the quantity of new plastics discarded into the environment is important too. The City of Las Cruces is taking a good first step.

"No fish monger on Earth can sell you a certified organic wild-caught fish"

(Charles Moore, founder, Algalita Marine Research Foundation)

Leaders & Tippetts (Fly Anglers' Version of Nuts & Bolts)

First, remember to bring home and recycle broken or spent leaders, tippetts and any other monofilament line you encounter on our lakes and streams. We don't want them ending up in the water and aquatic food chains. We might also consider learning how to fish effectively without using strike indicators. Doing so would reduce the potential loss of Thingamabobbers and other plastic devices, but there are other, more fishing-related reasons to acquire nymphing skills that don't rely on an indicator. Here's a link to an introduction to the topic: [4 Reasons to Ditch The Indicator | Avidmax Fly Outpost \(fliesforsale.com\).](#)

In my role as club president, and as an occasional fishing guide, I sometimes receive requests from club members or potential clients about my "secrets" for fishing success. Some want me to take them to my "secret spots" on the Rio Penasco, and they promise not to reveal the secrets to anyone else. Others want to know which fly patterns or

leader set-ups are "the ones" that ensure success. Sometimes someone recalls an epic day on the water they had in the past, but they complain that what worked on that day has not worked on subsequent trips. In all honesty, there is no magic bullet or magic fly pattern; there isn't even a completely reliable secret spot. All anglers struggle on some days, even the pros. The key is to be attentive and learn whenever one is on the water. As Landon Mayer notes in some of his articles, there will be up and down days in terms of productivity, but learning from each day and the associated conditions is a useful measure of success. That said, here are three tips (not secrets) for how to make the most of your time on the water: [3 Secrets Guides Use to Catch More Fish | Avidmax Fly Outpost \(fliesforsale.com\).](#)



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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



GRG-TU for MVFF January 2022

2022 Happy New Year from GRG-TU

Thankfully the new year has begun with at least a little precipitation for us here in southern NM, and while we hope for more to come there are exciting developments in the works that will significantly expand habitat restoration efforts in 2022!

I was recently appointed to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Habitat Stamp Program of the NM Department of Game and Fish. The CAC evaluates and recommends funding for proposals for habitat improvement projects across NM, and some recent changes that will be implemented in 2022 include increased revenues from the now \$10.00 habitat stamp fee you pay when you purchase your annual fishing/hunting licenses, and a legislative change that now requires allocation of 50% of the funds to fisheries projects. With additional State and Federal funds coming together

this all represents a tremendous increase in funding for projects to benefit fish and fishing! During the recent CAC meeting we considered a variety of plans for large-scale fisheries projects, including a major habitat restoration project for Willow Creek, and other important projects across the state. Additional plans in development could include possible habitat work on the lower Catwalk section of Whitewater Creek.

In other ongoing activities GRG-TU is in the final steps of setting up a contract for the habitat restoration project on the Little Turkey Creek tributary of Willow Creek with >\$100K funding from the NM Environment Department River Stewards program. This will be an opportunity for volunteers to help with efforts to restore critical habitat for Gila trout. The NM-TU State Council has assembled a steering committee to advance the TU National Strategic Plan for Watershed Prioritization, and I and Brad Shuster are involved. To date the committee has voiced unanimous support for listing the Gila River Headwaters as a NM priority! There's no doubt that the TU-NM Council retreat we hosted in Glenwood last November played a role in showing council members from across the state what an incredible place this is and demonstrating the urgent need to protect this resource and restore Gila trout across the historic range!



Lunch at the Cuban Cafe

I was able to close out 2021 with a much-needed fishing trip to the San Juan with Bob and Brad, where we found the waters low and clear, with few other anglers and heavy midge hatches that brought fish up top and helped to wrap up a year that has been so difficult and full of loss for so many of us. I am looking forward to the coming year and hope to see you at one of our volunteer projects or elsewhere on the water!



Low and clear in Lunker Alley

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.



Midges and rising trout in December

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

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>.



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black

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://www.tu.org/trout-unlimited-3/> 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.

A list of the books can be found in the November 2019 issue of *Tale Waters*.



Gary Ian Mann

July 15, 1937 -- December 17, 2021



Gary Ian Mann died on December 17, 2021, in Las Cruces, NM. Born in El Paso, Texas, on July 15, 1937, Gary was the eldest child of Charlotte and Harold Mann, and the brother of Judith, Terri and Janice. A graduate of El Paso

High School and Stanford University, Gary served two years in the Navy as an Intelligence Officer in Los Angeles, where he met his first wife, Sandra Schwartz. They married in El Paso, where Gary joined the family business, Mann Manufacturing, eventually becoming its CEO and taking it public on the NY Stock Exchange. His latest career was in commercial real estate in Texas, New Mexico and Mexico.

Gary was known to immerse himself in any of the many activities he enjoyed. He would find an expert teacher and learn the skills needed to accomplish the tasks he set for himself. He ran marathons, biked, golfed, fly-fished, played bridge, created beautiful stained glass and was a weaver of exceptional pieces. Through a mutual friend, Gary met his second wife, Alison, and on their first

date, Gary debuted his dancing prowess, another talent he enjoyed. As good a student as he was, Gary was also a good teacher and he and Alison shared many interests because of his willingness to help her learn. They traveled and entertained, as both liked to cook, learned about wine, made bread and bagels, and hosted gatherings of friends and family.

A man of ethical and generous standards, Gary was always concerned that his family, including his sisters, would be able to manage without financial duress, and he worked to that end. He had strong opinions on several topics, including politics, loved Mexican food and country music, and after classes, appreciated classical music. He asked a lot of questions, and was truly interested in others, their experiences and their thoughts.

Gary and Sandy raised four children in El Paso: Marcia, Jeffrey (Marie), Gregory (Julia), and David (Anne). He also had two step-children, Jeffrey (Stephanie) and Aaron (Kathryn). His life was enriched by these children and twelve grandchildren, and he was proud of their accomplishments.



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Submitted by Jeff Arterburn

The MVFF was called to order by David Carmichael at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Board members present were: Jeff Arterburn, David Carmichael, Chuck

Mueller, Jim Hulse, George Sanders and Helen Zagana. Not present: Robert Ardovino.

1. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the most recent Board meeting, October 27, 2021, as published in the November 2021 newsletter, were approved. There was no Board meeting held in November 2021.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Chuck Mueller presented the Treasurer's report. Current balance of club accounts is \$ 13,474.67.
3. **Membership.** No report.
4. **Trout Unlimited.** Jeff Arterburn was appointed to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Habitat Stamp Program for the NM Department of Game and Fish that evaluates and recommends funding for proposals for habitat improvement projects across NM. Recent increases in the habitat stamp fee and additional funds combined with a legislative change that requires allocation of 50% of the funds to fisheries projects represents a significant increase in funding for projects benefiting fish and fishing. Jeff gave a brief overview of the recent CAC meeting and will provide more information as developments advance. Jeff also reported that the final steps in setting up a contract are underway for habitat restoration on the Little Turkey Creek tributary of Willow Creek with >\$100K funding to GRG-TU from the NM Environment Department River Stewards program. This will be an opportunity for volunteers to help restore critical habitat for Gila trout. Jeff reported that the NM-TU State Council has identified a steering committee, on which both he and Brad Shuster are serving, to advance the TU National Strategic Plan for Watershed Prioritization. The recent TU-NM Council retreat that the GRG-TU Chapter hosted in Glenwood was informative and impactful and no doubt contributed to the council unanimously supporting the inclusion of the Upper Gila Watershed as a NM priority.
5. **New Business.**
 - Chuck discussed issues concerning the club storage unit located at Telshor Storage. The 10' x 10' space currently houses a variety of items for club use including kids fishing rods and supplies, donated equipment, fly tying kits for instructional sessions, canopies and tables. The relatively large space is considered underutilized and expensive (~\$100 per month) and Chuck raised the possibility of downsizing to a 5' x 10' unit that would save at least ~\$25 per month. Chuck and David will organize an inspection to assess the inventory and evaluate the new smaller space and make a recommendation.
 - The Board discussed stocking the lease. The impacts of recent major flooding have greatly impacted trout populations and while some sections are now too shallow, others have new pools and runs and in some places access to the water has become easier with loss of streamside vegetation. The recommendation for stocking ~200 trout upstream of the cave hole was made, and David will coordinate the order with Bob Silver with possible stocking on Saturday January 8th or 15th. Additional stocking in April will be considered.
 - Jim Hulsey made a motion for a donation from the club to Temple Beth El in memory of former member and Treasurer Gary Mann's long involvement and service to the MVFF. The motion was passed unanimously.
6. **Upcoming Speakers and Events.** The current circumstances prevent plans for in-person meetings but looking forward the Board discussed the desirability of planning a Spring trip to the San Juan. David will send a questionnaire to the membership asking about

interest in activities for 2022. In the meantime the use of zoom for club meetings was encouraged, with the possibility of the next club meeting featuring photos/video taken during the January fish stocking event, which would be informative and encourage members to fish the lease.

7. **Old Business.** The current Board Members agreed to continue in their respective roles for the upcoming year. We do not currently have a NMSU student participating on the board. Helen withdrew her intention to take

on the treasurer position due to conflicting plans and schedule. Interest in joining the Board from across the club membership is strongly encouraged and additional attempts to contact and recruit new participants will be made in coming months. Anyone interested in participating should contact a board member; you do not have to be on the board to serve on a committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.



Quick Look Contact Information

2022 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Helen Zagona (575) 532-5668
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Position 4:	Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
• Position 5:	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
• Position 8:	
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Bob Silver (575) 642-5865	membership@mvff.org

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
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.

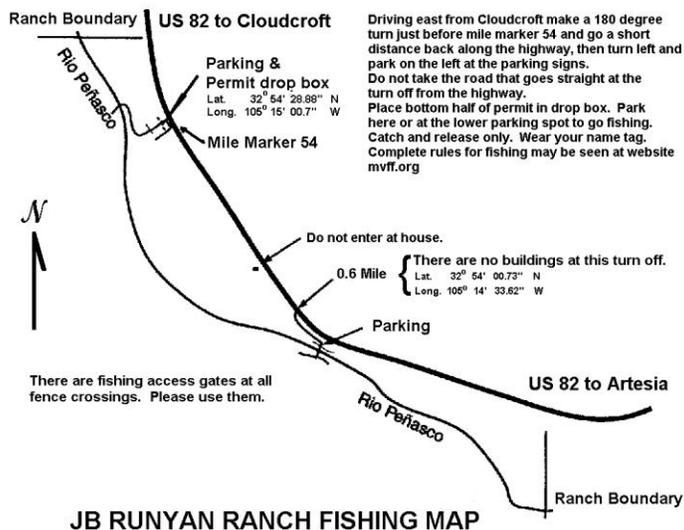
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

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 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.