



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 2222
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222
www.MVFF.org

April

2017



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Membership Meeting

Monday, 10 April

The MVFF general membership meeting will meet on Monday 10 April at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. The meeting will feature an open format discussion of proposed angling regulation changes that the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will be considering for next year's rulebook. The conversation will be facilitated by Laurence D'Allesandro, who is a Coldwater Fisheries Biologist with the Department. His primary assignment is the waters covering the eastern half of the state. Laurence will present a list of categorized waters and maps and initiate discussion on proposed changes to the rules. He will have handouts and other information for us, and will be eager to hear your ideas and opinions and hopes to generate interest amongst our group that can be formally expressed later this summer when the open public comment period begins, which will lead to the final recommendations that are presented before the State Game Commission.

Laurence was born and raised in Santa Fe New Mexico, and he is a 2012 graduate of New Mexico State University in Fisheries Science. He has worked for both the US Forest Service and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. He is an avid outdoorsman and grew up hunting and fishing in some of the same areas that he now gets to work!

Please join us for an interesting conversation and opportunity to both learn about and contribute towards the development of proposed new fishing regulations.

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

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 17 April

The MVFF Executive Board will meet on Monday 17 April at 7:00pm in the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

Liars and Tyers

Wednesday, 26 April

Liars and Tyers will meet on Wednesday 26 April at the New Mexico Game and Fish conference room starting at 7:00pm. The fly to be tied is the *Lefty's Deceiver Minnow*. 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



Some years ago I was approached by a student who had just listened to one of my lectures on human evolution. I suppose the student had been surprised by how mechanical and non-progressive evolution really is.

She was certainly surprised that most evolutionary

scientists understand that the appearance of humans was not inevitable, and that our future long-term survival is not assured. So, the student asked me what I believe to be the meaning of life. In other words, if there is no grand design being played out which leads to humans as the ultimate species or goal, then what is the purpose of, or role for sentient beings such as us? As luck would have it, I had been thinking about precisely this question for a while, so I had a ready answer. I suggested that the purpose of life is to have meaningful relationships with others, and to be good stewards of the earth. I find that this sentiment is regularly exemplified in, and reinforced by my involvement in fly fishing.

While some anglers seek out solitude, we are, after all, social beings who are most often defined by our relationships. Even fly fishing is often a “people thing.” It is about the journeys we share with others, the comradery we experience on the river, the actions we take together to conserve our fisheries, and in the telling of our adventures. “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

One of my meaningful relationships has been my friendship with long-time MVFF member Sam Moore, and I am sorry to report that he passed away last month, on March 14. Sam was a gentleman, a philosopher, and avid fly fisherman. He immersed himself in the intellectual waters of our sport, and was always ready to share readings from *The Compleat Angler*, or *A River Runs Through It*, or any number of other fly fishing books from his extensive library. He was generous with his insights, humble about his knowledge, and his quiet enthusiasm for fly fishing was an inspiration. I will miss him, and I know many other club members will too. For your consideration, here are a couple of his favorite quotations:



Sam Moore
(7/8/1930-3/14/2017)

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Picador non solum picatur (There is more to fishing than catching fish)

Until a man is redeemed he will always take a fly rod too far back – (Norman Maclean, *A River Runs Through It*)

I've also been thinking a lot lately about our role as stewards of the earth, especially in light of the changes occurring in government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency. It seems as if every few days one reads another complaint or criticism about the EPA, or another story about how the agency will be cut. Indeed, prior to his being named the new director, Scott Pruitt sued the agency no fewer than 14 times, and he appears to care very little about fulfilling the agency's mission of “protecting human health and the environment.” Recent reports (*Outside* magazine, March 24, 2017) indicate that the administration intends to cut the EPA budget by 31% and eliminate 3,000 jobs (25% of the staff). It is not yet clear how the cuts will be distributed, but a number of important and popular programs are sure to be affected. The EPA budget cuts are the largest proposed for any federal agency, and as many as 50 programs may be eliminated, including activities such as Superfund cleanup, waterway pollution cleanup, enforcement of anti-pollution regulations, and responses to climate change. The proposed budget also cuts environmental health and science research funding. All of these areas and programs impact the quality of our waterways and the health of our fisheries.

One might not know it from listening to some of the media, but the EPA is an agency that has been very successful in fulfilling its mission. Consider the track record of one EPA program, implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA is the strongest law passed by any country for the protection of biodiversity. It is intended to prevent the extinction of our most threatened plants and animals, help the species recover, and eventually remove (delist) them from the endangered species list. Since its passage in 1973, the ESA has prevented the extinction of 99% of the species under its protection. Only ten protected species have been declared extinct, eight of which were probably already gone before they were listed. A 2012 study by the Center for Biological Diversity (www.biologicaldiversity.org) documented 110 species that have recovered while being managed under ESA recovery plans, including 14 species of fish. Among the recovered fish species are the Apache trout, Gila trout, and Big Bend gambusia from our

own region. Some of the other animals in the Southwest that have been delisted include the Whooping crane, Peregrine falcon and Bald eagle. Scientists estimate that at least 227 species would have likely gone extinct if not for the protections provided by the ESA.

Moreover, the habitat work embodied in the species recovery plans often improve the overall health of the local ecosystem, sometimes even directly addressing human needs as well. An article in the March, 2017 issue of High Country News reports on reclamation efforts on the upper Santa Cruz River in southern Arizona. Most of the water in the Santa Cruz comes from binational effluent (treated sewage) from the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant. After recording nearly 20 years of high levels of pollution in the waters, the EPA in 2009 funded a complete renovation of the treatment plant, and in 2015 researchers with the Arizona Department of Game and Fish found that the endangered Gila topminnow had returned to the river. In following years, another native species, the longfin dace, has reappeared as well. As remarkable as this recovery is, it is perhaps even more important that government agencies, researchers and environmentalists have learned that it is possible to solve multiple problems and serve multiple functions with restored waterways. The upper Santa Cruz, long seen merely as a sewage system, now provides habitat for the restoration of endan-

gered fish species as well as clean drinking water for many people in the San Raphael Valley. In other words, helping endangered species helped people too. When one hears about such cases, perhaps it should not come as much of a surprise that the ESA is popular with the public. When we look past the political rhetoric and finger pointing looking for easy-to-cut budgetary targets, recent studies show that 90% of the people

polled support a strong Endangered Species Act (Center for Biological Diversity, *ESA: A Wild Success*). So, let's keep an eye on our representatives, speak out against actions that actually threaten the waters and resources we care about, and in the meantime, let's have as many meaningful journeys with others as we can while we are still able.

Thanks to Tom Wobbe and all the volunteers who helped make the recent Kid's Fishing Clinic another resounding success. See details elsewhere in the newsletter.



J. Sam Moore on his beloved Fish Creek near Jackson Hole (Eldridge Hardie oil on canvas)



Miriam with 21" brown, fishing with friends and family at the MVFF lease

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Ron Bellerose
PHW Coordinator



Project Healing Waters is going strong thanks to the MVFF and donations. Ray Kirby will be doing the newsletter next month and will take over as the Program Lead by the end of the 2nd quarter. Num-

bers for the 1st quarter are as follows: new /vets in the program 6, new Volunteers 1, total Vets participating 1st quarter 82, total Vet hours 304, total volunteers 1st quarter 23, volunteer hours 145. We had

10 fly tying events, 3 casting events, and 5 fishing events. Expect to have a great 2nd quarter.

Check out the donated items that the MVFF is auctioning off until the May general meeting, proceeds to go to Project Healing Waters. Without the MVFF we would not be able to have Project Healing Waters.

Thank you.

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, a group of women MVFF members who love to fly fish and have a good time doing it, will be taking their annual spring fishing trip to the Rio Peñasco on April 27-30 this year. The group will fish the MVFF lease and the Mulcock Ranch. The fall trip, a return to Almont, Colorado, and the Gunnison area, will be on October 1-5. Information on the Lady Angler trips is made available to women on our e-mail list and through announcements in the Club newsletter and at monthly Club meetings. The only requirement for joining us is Club membership and beginners are welcome. To join our e-mail list, or for more information, contact Mary Hoffman at 505-710-5229 or Helen Zagona at 575-532-5668.



FWCE Annual Awards Banquet

Thursday, 20 April

The Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology Annual Awards Banquet will be held at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces, on Thursday, April 20, 2017. There will be a cash bar and silent auction from 5:00-6:00pm with dinner at 6:00. Tickets will cost \$20 for non students. For additional information contact William Lubenau at (575) 442-1912 or wlubenau@nmsu.edu.

Fishing Gear Donated to PHW

To be Auctioned

Long time Club members (since 1995), James and Lou Ann Bradley recently donated all of their flyfishing gear to Project Healing Waters. This gear is being auctioned off to raise funds for the various PHW/Las Cruces Chapter activities. Bids will close at the end of the May general meeting, which will give members two opportunities to view the items. At that time the items can be paid for and picked up.

Members wishing to bid on the items should contact Tom Wobbe at wobbe@mvff.org or (575) 522-5437. Tom is planning to send an email each Friday giving the bid status of the items.

#	Item	Cost New	Min. Bid
1.	Winston Boron II x 9' 4 wt, 4 pc fly rod	\$750	\$300
2.	Los Pinos custom Rod-7 ½' 3 wt 3pc	\$650	\$300
3.	TFO TiCrX 9' 5 wt 4pc	\$250	\$100
4.	2-Redington Red Start 9' 5/6 wt 2pc	\$150 ea	\$50 ea
5.	TFO REEL 5 WT	\$120	\$60
6.	2-Ross Cimarron Reels-C-2	\$140-145	\$75 ea
7.	Pflueger Reel-1492 AK5/6 Medalist	\$120	\$50
8.	2-Martin #61 Reels	\$25-35	\$10 ea
9.	2 Hodgman Neoprene Waders- lg stout	\$100 ea	\$20 ea
10.	2 Hodgman Boot--sz 8 & sz 12	\$59 ea	\$10 ea
11.	2 Rio Bravo Vests--sz XL	\$25 ea	\$10 ea
12.	Fly Tying Table Top w/ storage bin, vise, magnifier	\$60	\$25
13.	Small Tackle Box	\$10	\$3
14.	Dip Net	\$5	\$1
15.	Misc books	\$75	\$25

Volunteer Project: Willow Creek April 18–23, 2017

Please plan to join in for a fun-filled conservation work project on Willow Creek, which has potential for developing into a destination site Gila Trout fishery.

For Information and to R.S.V.P contact Jeff Arterburn by email: jeffgilatu@aol.com ; or by phone: (575) 649-9729

The work will involve teams surveying 100-meter stream sections. We have a total of eight sections, with six starting from the fish barrier up to the north and south forks, and two on the Turkey Creek tributary. Each team will have volunteers making in-stream width, depth and flow measurements, recording data, under the direction of project leaders. There will also likely be some opportunities for volunteers to plant willows and participate in fish surveys. You'll get to work with dedicated agency staff members (USFS, NMDGF, USFWS, Trout Unlimited, etc) and have a chance to learn a lot while helping complete this important assessment that will provide the framework for future stream habitat improvements. There's even a good chance for some interested volunteers to make some backcountry excursions on mule-back, and YES you can (and should) bring your fishing gear!

The project leaders will begin work early in the week, starting from Tuesday April 18th, and continuing through the weekend of **April 22–23**. We are expecting that the weekend dates will be most popular, but won't know for sure until the RSVP's are in. **All volunteers are welcome, whether you can spend 1 day or multiple, either during the week or on the weekend or can stay for the entire time, there's a lot of work to be done and we can really use your help!** With support from a Wilderness Performance Partnership grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and matching funds from the Gila/Rio Grande Chapter and New Mexico State Council of Trout Unlimited, we have budgeted funds to help support volunteer mileage and meal costs!

The group will be camping around the NMDGF Cabin adjacent to the Willow Creek campground. **Please R.S.V.P. to be included on the email discussion list.** Jeff Arterburn will also present the most current information, travel recommendation and other details at the next MVFF General Meeting April 10th at the Las Cruces NMDGF Conference Room, 7:00–9pm. Information will also be posted on the Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited's FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wildnativetrout>

Conejos Fishing & Camping Trip

30 June – 2 July

The Conejos is a wonderful river with so much habitat diversity for fishing and great scenery for the fisherman. There are numerous camp grounds along the river both public and private. They can accept RVs down to tents. We'll begin organizing the trip soon but for now save the dates June 30 to July 2 and come join us on the Conejos. Contact Bob Silver (rsilver@nmsu.edu) if you're interested or have questions.

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 now in the planning stages are:

- April 27–30—Lady Anglers trip to the Rio Peñasco.
- June 30 – July 2—Club trip to Conejos
- October 1–5—Lady Anglers trip to the Gunnison area of Colorado.
- Autumn—Club trip to the San Juan.
- Autumn—Club trip to Kodiak, AK.

Welcome New Members

Jeff & Tia Combs

Las Cruces, NM

James Dumont

Tularosa, NM



Lefty's Deceiver Minnow

I will tie in size 1/0 for bass and saltwater with mylar eyes. Good general bait fish pattern. - Tim



- Hook:** saltwater - 3/0 to 1 Mustad 34007 stainless steel, freshwater - 1/0 to 8 TMC 300 streamer hook or equivalent
- Thread:** black UNI 3/0 for larger, black UNI 6/0 for smaller
- Body:** saddle hackle white
- Lateral line:** Krystal Flash pearl
- Top:** peacock over blue bucktail
- Bottom:** white bucktail
- Gills:** red Krystal Flash
- Eyes:** painted white with black or mylar eyes silver/black or chartreuse/black
- Coat Head with *Hard as Nails* or *UV Knot Sense*



A Good Day on the River

Mary and I had a pretty good day fishing today (3/25/17) on the Matura River--15 fish between us but Mary gets the prize for the biggest--23".



Mary Hoffman



Jim Sorenson



Kids' Fishing Clinic



More Kids' Fishing Clinic



MVFF Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 20, 2017

Submitted by Chuck Mueller, Acting-Secretary

The MVFF Board meeting was called to order by President David Carmichael at 7:00pm. in the NMDG&F Conference room. Board members present were David Carmichael, Gary Mann, Tom Johnson, Dennis Lanpher, Will Lubenau and Chuck Mueller. Non-Board Members in attendance were Ron Bellerose, Tom Wobbe and Jim Hulsey.

1. Minutes of the February 20, 2017 Board Meeting were approved as published in the March 2017 newsletter.
2. Treasurer's report was submitted by Gary Mann showing a balance of \$11,769. The Treasurer's report was approved.
3. Membership - Tom Wobbe reported that he did a major clean up of the membership list bringing the total number of members to 217. We have 83 members in Las Cruces, 31 members in El Paso, 10 in Alamogordo and 15 in Lubbock. Tom mentioned possible stocking of the lease either this spring or early fall. So far this year we have sold 52 permits for the lease. On April 15, 2017 we will have a beginner's fly fishing class for our members. Everything is set for the Kids' Clinic on March 25, 2017 and assignments for the volunteers have been made. Public announcements for the Kids' Clinic were sent to the Newspapers and Radio Stations by Chuck Mueller.
4. Project Healing Water. - Ron Bellerose is in the process of turning over the Program Lead to Ray Kirby by the end of this year. Ron will then serve as an alternate. PHW received the Club's donation of \$450 February 3, 2017. About 6 to 8 vets have been attending each of the fly tying sessions which are held 4 times a month, one at the VA, 2 at the Clinic and 1 at Liars and Tyers. Sportsman's Warehouse will have a Flytying 101 on April 15, 2017. From April 28, 2017 through April 30, 2017, Ron will be camping and fishing with some of our vets up in the Gila. On March 4th, club member Jim Bradley donated his entire collection of fly fishing equipment with an estimated value of \$1,029 to PHW. The items will be listed in the April newsletter so members can make offers on them. Other options for Bradley's equipment are to have a silent action or raffle.
5. Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited report. - Willow Creek work dates, April 22nd & 23rd. TU/Albuquerque has requested two permits for their fundraising. The Club is donating two hats and two permits.
6. American Fisheries Society report. - Their annual banquet will be held on April 20th. Location and cost are still to be determined. The Club will donate a membership, hat and permits for their silent auction.
7. Speakers for upcoming meetings. - April: Lawrence D'Alessandro, special trout waters regulations and May: Jason Amaro, smallmouth fishing in the Gila.
8. Miscellaneous. - Long time member Sam Moore's Obituary to be posted in the April newsletter. Fly Fishing Film Tour was discussed as a potential event with Gila/Rio Grande TU chapter for 2018. Ardovino's Desert Crossing will donate a banquet room.
9. Annual banquet - St. Paul's church has informed us that any person working in the kitchen must have a food handling certification. This may affect pot luck style dinners and everything may have to be catered.

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Quick Look Contact Information

2017 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:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
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:	Evan Claassen (402) 239-1289
• Position 5:	Will Lubenau (575) 442-1912
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	Bob Silver (575) 522-6325
• Position 8:	Gary Mann (575) 521-7793
• Position 9:	Dennis Lanpher (575) 649-2946
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Tom Wobbe (575) 522-5437	membership@mvff.org

Norm Mabie Scholarship Fund Market Value as of 30 June 2014	\$11,487
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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, purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco, and participate in other Club activities such as a summer picnic, 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.

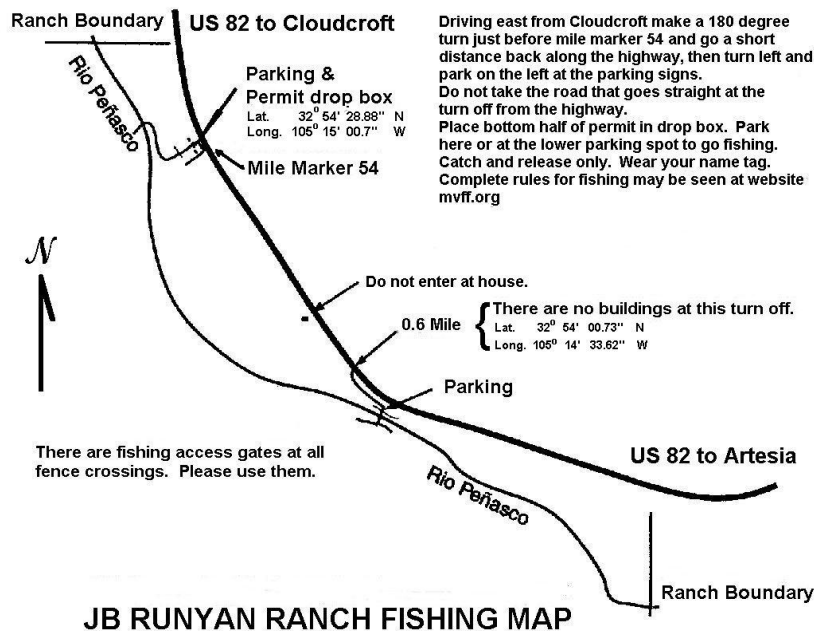
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880), Tom Wobbe (575-522-5437) and Donna Mabie (575-522-3810) in Las Cruces. Permits can be obtained from the land owner, but you should phone (575-687-3362) the night before to ensure someone will be there to sell them to you. Permits can be ordered through the club web page (mvff.org) by filling out the form and mailing as directed. Cost is \$25.00 per day. Kids under 18 fish free but must be accompanied by an adult club member with a permit. You must be a current member (current dues have been paid) of MVFF to fish the lease. Please wear your MVFF identification badge while on the property. New or replacement badges can be obtained by contacting Jim Hulsey. In addition, members can purchase a one-day, one-time permit for guests.

Directions to the Lease:

Follow NM 82 east from Cloudcroft, NM or west from Artesia, NM. The turn off to the lease is located on the right side of the road about 100 yards before mile marker 54 coming from Cloudcroft or 100 yards on the left past mile marker 54 coming from Artesia.



MESILLA VALLEY FLYFISHERS, INC.

PO Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

Membership and/or Permit Application

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____ Home 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.