



NEW MEXICO TROUT

Newsletter

Sept 2010

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Greetings E-Members of New Mexico Trout,

Well, it's come to be that time of year again when the summer heat has finally left the upper reaches of our favorite streams in New Mexico. Last weekend I was on the Valles Caldera working with Youth on their fly fishing skills when I did actually notice the chill in the air and it felt good, really good.

So I'll ask, how was your summer? Did you get into any big fish on maybe the San Juan, or did you spend a weekend doing conservation work with Ron Loehman? I am interested in what you have done these past three months and would like to write about it in one of my upcoming letters. Email me at riosrje@gmail.com.

As we move into the fall and winter, I challenge you to think about how New Mexico Trout should change the paradigm of how we look at projects and conservation on our fresh water streams. Our contributions in the past have been significant, but I wonder if we need to think more in the context of not only "to address the particular symptom, but to address the root of the disease"? Just asking here and I really do want to know the answer. Come to the monthly meetings and let's discuss, debate, argue - whatever feeds your attitude!

Lastly, I have told the board that I will stay on for another year as President, but we do have elections this fall. Please consider if you would like to be a candidate for the open seats, or if you would like to volunteer to serve in the currently vacant position of Vice President.

Hope to see you at the First Monthly Meeting on October 12 at Sandia Prep in the Commons.

Rudy Rios
President
New Mexico Trout
email: riosrje@gmail.com

NMT Outreach

by Milt McConnell
PR and Publicity Chairman

New Mexico Trout volunteers recently completed four weekends of educational outreach in association with the Valles Caldera. President Rudy Rios, Francis Peters, Eric Collins, Brian Lyon, Milt McConnell, Deward Yocum, and Mike Kelly were among those who taught both youth and adults the basics of "why fly fishing", with classroom instruction, bug identification, and field "testing" on the East Fork. Additionally, NMT hosted a group of Los Alamos Big Brothers/Big Sisters in late July on the San Antonio before the regularly scheduled weekend clinics.



NMT Volunteers at Valles Caldera

Also, check out the coverage of NMT outreach and volunteer activities in the New Mexico Wildlife Federation newsletter at http://www.nmwildlife.org/images/uploads/Summer_2010.pdf. This has NM Trout's "Healing Waters" featured on front page and President Rudy Rios quoted on Page 17 which mentions our work on the Valles Caldera youth program and at Tingley Beach.

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Fly of the Month - Pumpkin Bugger

by Patrick Welch

During the cold dark winter of 2002 in Valdez, Alaska, I was looking for a pattern to fish the interior lakes near Chitina. When the ice goes out in May, the rainbows in these lakes can be very aggressive. If you haven't had something to eat for six months, you would be hungry too. After some experimentation, I ended up with an attractor pattern that seemed to be very effective in these lakes. After three years of experimentation, I completed what I call the Pumpkin Bugger, basically a wooly bugger with a bead head.



I have had lots of success trolling this fly off the back of my pontoon boat. A five weight rod loaded with a sink tip line and about six feet of 4x leader worked pretty well. Sometimes, I just secure the oars to the pontoon boat and cast the sink tip line out and use a slow retrieve with occasional stops.

Last year in October, I was fishing close to the tail out of the Kidde Pool in the San Juan River. I decided to tie on a Pumpkin Bugger and swing it through the tail out. I felt a large jolt, and the struggle was on. After about a ten minute battle, I finally put a 21" rainbow in the net. Where was my camera when I needed it?

List of Materials: Be flexible. If you don't have exactly what the list of materials calls for, substitute something else.

Hook: Tiemco 200R # 10 or 12

Thread: Black Ultra Thread 70

Head: Bright bead 1/8, copper or gold.

Weight: Optional

Tail: Black and Orange Rabbit Fur or Marabou about half as long as the body. A few strands of copper Krystal Flash.

Body: Chenille - New Age Chenille Dark Chocolate # 2, or New Age Chenille # 2 in a brown variegated pattern, or Copper, Gold, Black # 29 Chenille.

Hackle: Black (Optional), the fish don't care.

Slide a bead down the shank of the hook and let it stop at the eye. Attach the thread directly behind the bead head, make several wraps to secure it, and wrap the thread to the bend of the hook. If you are going to weight this fly, now would be a good time to add that material, just bring the thread to the back of the hook above the barb. Take a piece of black rabbit fur or marabou and lay that on top of the shank of the hook right above the barb. Now, place a piece of orange rabbit fur or marabou on top of the black and tie them down with several wraps of thread. Add a few strands of copper Krystal Flash. Doesn't hurt to put a very small drop of glue on top of the thread wraps. Strip about 1/8th inch of material from the end of the piece of chenille and attach it to the wraps of fur/marabou. If you want to use hackle on this fly, tie it on top of the little strand of chenille. Wrap the chenille forward up to the bead and tie it off. Wind the hackle around the body of the fly and wrap it forward to just behind the bead. Take a few wraps of thread around the hackle and chenille in back of the bead to make sure it is secure. Whip finish and apply some cement to those wraps in back of the bead.

More NM Trout patterns at <http://newmexicotrout.org/patterns.html>

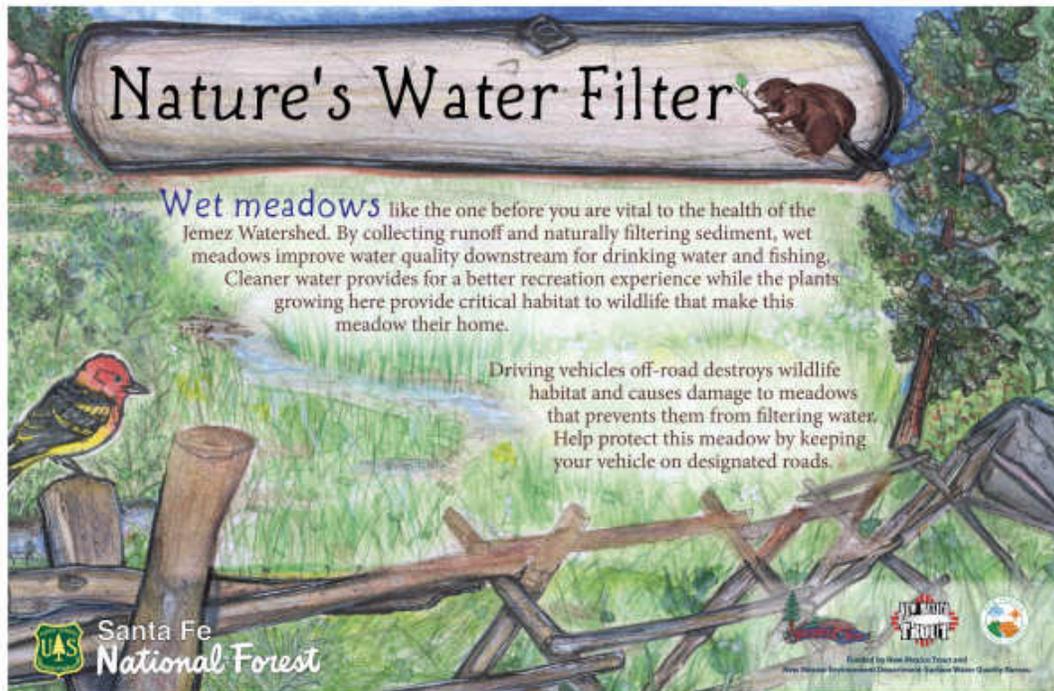
Conservation

by Ron Loehman

New Mexico Trout Conservation Chairman

The part of our conservation program that involves hands-on restoration work by Club members is winding down for the year. We have had a successful season and accomplished a lot to protect and to improve the condition of some of our favorite streams. In April, Club volunteers picked up more than seven pickup loads of trash from along the Rio Guadalupe, New Mexico Trout's homewater. In May, we installed bollards along three stretches of the upper Guadalupe to block illegal vehicle access and to allow degraded areas a chance to recover. Members volunteered on other restoration projects this summer on the East Fork of the Jemez, the Rio de las Vacas (two projects), and Comanche Creek in the Valle Vidal. We participated in fish surveys on the Rio San Antonio and the East Fork of the Jemez in the Valles Caldera.

The two other parts of our conservation program, advocacy and education, will continue all year. One notable accomplishment is the installation of educational kiosks along the Rio Cebolla and the Rio Guadalupe that were funded by a New Mexico Trout donation to the Forest Service. Those kiosks contain panels that explain to visitors the importance of conserving and protecting riparian habitat and clean waters and we hope those kiosks will promote greater appreciation of the great resource we have in our cold water streams.



The major advocacy effort so far this year is the Club's participation in a petition to the State Water Quality Control Commission to grant Outstanding National Resource Water protection to streams, lakes and other bodies of water in New Mexico's wilderness and roadless areas. The details of the hearing, and the issues involved were discussed in the last issue of our newsletter. Rudy Rios and Ron Loehman, who are parties to the proceeding, are scheduled to present testimony at the hearings, which will be from 9:00 to 5:00 in room 307 of the State Capitol building, September 14-17, 2010. Rudy's and Ron's written statements are part of the public record(ftp://ftp.nmenv.state.nm.us/www/HearingOfficer/ONRW/16_RiverGroupsNOI08-13-10.pdf on pages 11-20), and will be posted soon on the NMT Trout website. Public statements from general attendees will be taken by the Commission each day at 1:00 and 4:00 pm. We encourage members to attend and participate and to provide support for the petition, which is being vigorously opposed by grazing interests, among others.

Contact: ronloehman@gmail.com

More about NMT Conservation at: <http://newmexicotrout.org/conservation.html>

Volunteer Opportunities

Fenton Lake with NMDGF

Volunteers needed to help youth learn to tie a fly or cast a fly rod at the New Mexico State Parks - National Hunting and Fishing Day co-sponsored by the Department of Game and Fish - Project Wild/Aquatic Education Team and New Mexico Trout. New Mexico Trout is providing the equipment and fly tying kits we just need you to help our future learn about the Art of Fly Fishing at Fenton lake south beach. Please confirm if you can help either or both days with Rudy Rios, riosrje@gmail.com.

9 am-2 pm on Friday, Sept 24 school kids and youth groups are invited;

9 am-4 pm on Saturday, Sept 25 general public

Valles Caldera Fish Monitoring

We will be monitoring on Thursday, October 7th and Friday, October 8th. We will have two crews working on Thursday and one on Friday. We would like to have about 6 volunteers on each crew. Volunteers will help with carrying equipment, netting, weighing, measuring, and identifying fish, and recording data. If interested, contact Sarah Kindschuh at skindschuh@vallescaldera.gov or (505) 428-7736.

7-8 October

Meet the Board

Milt McConnell

When Milt is not doing Public Relations and Publicity for NM Trout (a new position after his recent three year stint as the NMT newsletter editor), he is the VP/General Manager of Citadel Broadcasting's seven radio stations (770 KKOB, 610 KNML, 1050 KTBL, 92.3 KRST, 93.3 KKOB FM, 99.5 KMGA, 103.3 KDRF) and traffic network in Albuquerque. Milt also enjoys securing prizes for the annual NM Trout Conclave. His favorite fishing spot is Comanche Creek in the Valle Vidal and he has not missed an opening date there in 15 years. He recommends a #16 yellow Stimulator to hook up those beautiful native Rio Grande Cutthroats.



More about Board Members at <http://www.newmexicotrout.org/directors.html>

The Last Six Inches

By Steven Paul

Ten years have passed since I started up to the Valle Vidal for my first conservation effort in the Carson National Forest. I had never seen the Vidal's green valleys or its high ominous peaks, and I had only dreams of what lay ahead on my journey. New Mexico Trout had joined up with several state, federal and local organizations to repair enclosures on a small section of Comanche Creek, which holds the state's most valuable fish, "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout."

In the morning all the volunteers and leaders met for the big strategy and safety meeting. We broke up into three groups of ten to fifteen volunteers each. The air was full of excitement as we reached the first enclosures. My job was to remove an eight inch diameter corner post that was twelve feet long. The spring runoff had brought debris that pulled the pig wire and the corner post down. Digging and resetting took two hours, and after the first one I believed that I had worked hard enough to satisfy even the highest expectations. I looked at my watch and it was ten forty-five. "Let's move to the next one, good job." When lunch was called, I grabbed some beef jerky and



my fly rod, ran to the stream, and tried to catch the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. That seemed to be a strange thing at the time, working to save a fish and then ten minutes later trying to catch one. Well, I got over it, and when I pulled the first four inch lunker out, I heard cheers from volunteers with waving arms and baloney sandwiches falling from their mouths. I popped the fly out and tossed him back. An even a greater cheer came from the onlookers. "Let's move to the next one, good job." And back to work.



The corner post must be set deep enough so that flooding can't pull it down. Three feet is the magical depth. To get to three feet you must go through river rock, sand, gravel and water. You use a shovel, fence post digger and a really big iron bar that I called "BIG BERTHA". The hardest part is the last six inches. Three feet is a deep hole. You throw Big Bertha and break up the dirt. Shovel it out and call for a measurement. What's it say? "Two foot six". Get the post

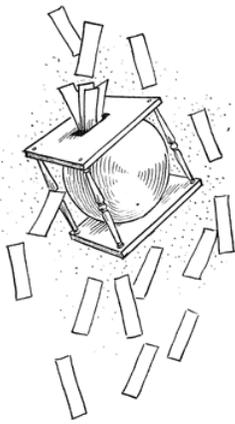
digger and more Big Bertha. What's it say? "Two foot six". Now you would think that was impossible, but that went on all day. I think I dug more dirt out in that last six inches than the full amount that entire day. "Two foot six". "Two foot six".

Saturday night was the big feast; burgers and steaks, and salads full of fresh vegetables. Everyone was happy and overwhelmingly excited about the work that had been completed that weekend. I packed up to go the next day, said goodbye to my new friends and drove down along Comanche Creek. I looked at the stream and the work we had all completed with a smile on my face, and why shouldn't there be; we had in one weekend saved the lives of thousands of rare fish.

Board of Directors Elections

by Pat Milesosky
Secretary

Per the New Mexico Trout bylaws, elections of the principal officers of the Board of Directors are to be held in November of each year. The principal officers of the club consist of the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The elections are staggered with the election of one half of the officers elected in even years and the



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balance in the odd years.

This year the offices of the president and secretary are up for election. Nominations for the two positions will be called for in the month of October during which the nominees will be asked if they will accept the nomination. If the nominee accepts, his/her name will appear on the ballot. The elections will be held in November with all ballots to be returned by December 1st. Ballots will then be counted and the elected officers announced in the December New Mexico Trout newsletter. All nominations are to be emailed to the club secretary, Pat Milesosky (pmiles@swcp.com) who will reply to the sender that the nomination has been received.

Calendar

WQCC hearings - Santa Fe
Room 307 of the State Capitol Building, 490
Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM

14-17 September

Contact: ronloehman@gmail.com

Fenton Lake Outreach with NMDGF

24-25 September

Contact: riosrje@gmail.com

Valles Caldera Public Board Meeting

90 Villa Louis Martin Dr. Jemez Springs, NM 87025 (505) 661-3333

29 September

Valles Caldera Fish Monitoring

7-8 October

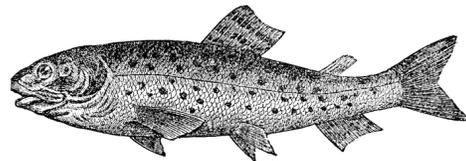
Contact: skindschuh@vallescaldera.gov or (505) 428-7736

New Mexico Trout General Meeting

12 October, 7:30pm

Sandia Prep School Commons Building

<http://newmexicotrout.org/meetings.html>



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NMTrout Business Sponsors

Yearly business membership entails the sponsor to a link on the NMT Newsletter. Contact the membership chair for more information if you or a business owner you know would like to become a sponsor.

- Alpha Home Improvements
- [Custom Fly Rod Crafters](#)
- [Jicarilla Game and Fish](#)
- [Land of Enchantment Guides](#)
- [Los Pinos Fly Shop](#)
- Norman & Angela Drury
- Bruce Taylor Studio
- [James E. Lucero Ins. Agency](#)
- [Jiffy Lube](#)
- [MW Bar Ranch](#)
- Mountain Hideaway
- Robert H. Bean

- Royal Gorge Anglers
- Saltry Lake Lodge/Kodiak Alaska
- Soaring Eagle Outfitters
- Tom Sawyer Enterprises
- Sandstone Anglers
- Valles Caldera/NM
- Solitary Angler

About Us

New Mexico Trout is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of trout fishing in New Mexico's waters through restoration of riparian habitats and through education of the public about trout fishing and the value of trout habitats. New Mexico Trout is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, and we welcome your tax deductible contributions.



Comments/Suggestions

If you have comments or suggestions about the Newsletter, or an article you would like to submit, please email to newmexicotrout@gmail.com. Articles will be considered based on suitability, general interest and succinctness (please limit content to approximately 500 words).

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