



Newsletter

Nov 2011

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A Simple Question

I'm stumped. A couple of times each day the same question rolls to the front of my mind. I spend a few minutes every time it appears wondering why the answer to this question goes unanswered either by myself or any of the folks I pose it to. The only reason I can think of is that I have asked the question of the wrong people. Given that I will ask the membership this simple question: Why won't one person in this club step forward to take the position of club secretary? Anybody?

Speaking of help, take a second and read the following request for nominations for club vice president and treasurer. Want to help YOUR club... call me and we'll talk.

CYa,
Pat Mileschosky

New Mexico Trout Board of Directors Elections

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 balance in the odd years. This year the offices of the vice president and treasurer are up for election. Nominations for the two positions were called for in the month

of October and are still open. All nominations are to be emailed to the club president, Pat Milesosky (pmiles@swcp.com) who will reply to the sender that the nomination has been received. 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. In addition, we are also looking for a volunteer for club secretary, a position that was vacated this year. If you are interested, please send an email to Pat, or contact him at our next general meeting.

Watch Where You Walk in the River

by Noah Parker

[Land of Enchantment Guides](#)

The Fall is when the brown trout spawn. If you keep your eyes out in shallower water which has gravel bottom, some current and oxygenation, you often can see pairs or groups of fish spawning. During this time of year we try and be more careful of where we walk, especially in areas that look as though there could be spawning beds or gravels. When the female trout gets ready to lay her eggs, she will



scout out a shallow, oxygen-rich piece of sandy gravel river bed to deposit her eggs into. She will then carve out a small trench called a "redd" by scooping out the gravel and sand with her tail. Once the redd is complete, the female will deposit her eggs and wait for a male to fertilize them with his sperm. Upon completion of spawning, the female will cover the redd with loose gravel and sand as it swims away, providing the future hatchlings with shelter. Redds look like areas where the river bottom has been swept or cleaned and often the gravel in the redd is a slightly different color and finer than the surrounding bottom. Typically they will be from one to three feet long and often have a slight depression to them, though this is not always the case.

The picture to the right/above is of a redd on the upper Chama. It was taken about

two weeks ago.

As you are wading in the rivers this Fall, watch out for redds and try to avoid walking through them. Disrupting them will harm the trout's eggs and hurt the future of the bio-mass. A good rule of thumb while wading is to try to avoid walking through spots in a river that might make good spawning beds (i.e. smaller, sandy gravel bottom; shallow, oxygenated; riffing water; the tail ends of large flat pools; etc.) or any area where you see small pieces of the bottom that look as though they may have been disturbed. If you don't fish directly for spawning fish and avoid disturbing redds, you will be helping to protect the future of the fishery for everyone.

Interpretive Panels Installed on Guadalupe

by Amanda Webb

US Forest Service, Jemez District

I am really excited to share with you that we now have a collection of three new interpretive panels along FR 376 just north of the Gilman Tunnels along the Rio Guadalupe. The panels were installed in October with the volunteer labor of New Mexico Trout and are situated on the west side of the road in the large pullout just before the gate.



This "Respect the Rio" project has been a partnership between the Jemez District and New Mexico Trout, who purchased all the frames for the panels. These three interpretive panels are the fourth installation in a series that we have placed in the Jemez Watershed. (The other three singular panels are along the Rio Cebolla). This collection of three panels focuses on healthy watersheds, with a theme of "We All Live in a Watershed". The center panel is a beautiful map of the Jemez Watershed and the third panel highlights being a "River Friendly Visitor".

Please take a look next time you are driving by. Many thanks to New Mexico Trout for their continued support of this project and the Jemez District.

Fly of the Month - Joint'd Sculpin

Pattern and Notes by Jeff Henkemeyer

Photograph by Hans Weilenmann

Used by permission

Hook: TMC 5263

Thread: Olive (color to match natural)

Eyes: Yellow Dumbbell (Large)

Rear body (Tail): Olive Rabbit

Flash: Olive Holographic Flashabou

Main body: Olive Rabbit

Body hackle: Black Chickabou

Body: Black Crystal Chenille

Legs: BLK/Silver Flake Sililegs

Collar: Black Polar Chenille



Begin by tying the rear body section and tie it like a normal rabbit leech. When fished cut the hook point off with wire cutter (Optional). For the JOINT tie in heavy mono then slip it through the rear body section like you are tying a knot. Make a loop and reconnect the mono. Secure with ZAP-A-Gap and finish.

One alteration on the tie is to keep the hook on the tail section intact and cut the hook off on the body. This works well if fish are doing short strikes. I find that large predator fish generally strike towards the eyes and that why i tie it with hook intact on the body. Tie a few in both styles to determine what works best on the conditions at hand.

Also, colors like black, mottled brown and other natural earth tones also work well.

Winter fishing with streamers can be effective, both in big waters and small. Try this sculpin pattern on the San Juan lower sections or pools on the Pecos. The fly can be fished a number of ways depending on the mood of the fish. Generally I strip it fast. However, down and across works well also. Another effective way is to cast upstream in slow deep water, allow it to sink for few moments and then with slow and short strips bring the fly back this will concentrate the fly deeper in the

water column. This fly has lots of life which never stops moving because of the articulation and rabbit!

More flies by Jeff are at <http://www.danica.com/flytier/jhenkemeyer/jhenkemeyer.htm>

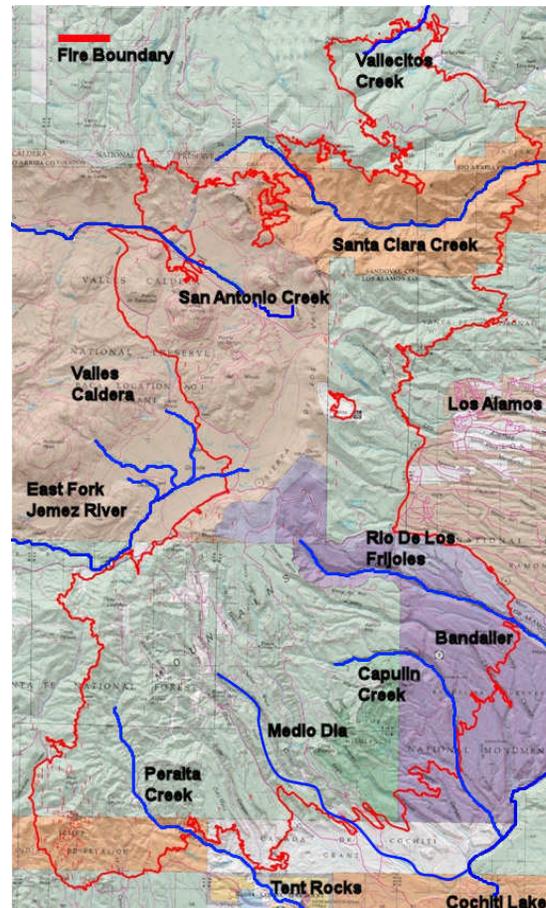
More NM Trout patterns at <http://newmexicotrout.org/archives/category/fly-patterns>

Status of Jemez Streams After Las Conchas Fire

by Ron Loehman, Conservation Chair

At a recent meeting at the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) office in Santa Fe, fisheries biologist Chantel Cook gave a status report on the currently known effects of the Las Conchas fire on native Rio Grande cutthroat populations in the affected area. The fire burned more than 150,000 acres on the north and east sides of the Jemez plateau. Burned-over watersheds lost their much of their vegetative cover, which allowed large amounts of ash and silt to wash into streams after late summer rains. Parts of five streams that contained either core populations (genetically pure) or conservation populations (nearly pure RGCT) are in the burned area:

Polvadera, Medio Dia, Peralta, Capulin, and Rio del Oso. Other streams without native RGCT populations also are in the burned area. At present we do not know how severely aquatic life in any of those streams has been affected. However, the aftermath of the 1996 Dome Fire can give us an idea of what might be happening now. After the Dome Fire, Capulin Creek lost all of its fish and





insect populations and it took until 2008 before the stream was healthy enough to stock it with Rio Grande cutthroat. Those trout were reproducing at a very healthy rate until the Las Conchas fire struck.

USFS personnel will be monitoring the streams in the burned area through the Fall, weather permitting. Those results will be used to come up with a recovery plan. Based on the severity and large area of the Las Conchas fire, I expect that recovery of those streams will take years and that our volunteer conservation work there will be challenging.

The Las Conchas fire and the earlier Wallow fire in Arizona show the precarious state of our southwest cold-water streams. Remaining RGCT populations in the Jemez are primarily in the San Pedro Parks drainages and in Canones creek on the north side of the SFNF. Another severe fire season in the Jemez could devastate those streams as well. I urge all our members to support activities proposed by fire experts, such as thinning, controlled burns, and strategic closures, that have some prospect of reducing fire severity. I will keep the membership informed about the status of these streams and plans for recovery as I learn of them.

On a positive note, I assisted in a fish survey on 19 October 2011 on the bottom section of the San Antonio in the Valles Caldera, with preserve scientist, Bob Parmenter, NM State fisheries biologist, Colleen Caldwell, and Preserve manager, Dennis Trujillo. The three passes of the 100m stretch produced the following numbers of fish:



- Browns 57
- Long nose dace 73
- sucker 1

By contrast, the 10/3/10 survey on the same stretch of the San Antonio gave the following results

- Browns 30 (average length 8 in)
- Long nose dace 137 (average length 3 in)
- sucker 1

From these samples, it appears that the Las Conchas fire has not adversely

affected the fish populations in that lower part of the Rio San Antonio in the Valles Caldera.

San Juan News

by Milt McConnell

There are now close to 6,000 new Rainbow Trout cruising the waters of the San Juan. On September 28th, New Mexico Game & Fish along with some key guides helped distribute the fish. Several trout were moved from the Texas Hole down to Three Island Run, Lower Flats and Lunker Alley. The remaining balance were released in the Texas Hole. Anglers should thank Abe's who supplied Al Denada, Jerry Richards and his friend, Ms. Cheng. Soaring Eagle Lodge, Larry Johnson and Andy Greenberg. Last but not least, the infamous, TJ Jimmerson.

The Associated Press is reporting that the New Mexico Fish and Game Department will be closing part of the San Juan for all of November and part of early December. Known as the "Braids", this section will see \$300,000 worth of work. Holes will be dug in the sandstone riverbed to create deeper pools for trout. Other structures like tree trunks and rocks will be added to direct the river toward these new pools. One other improvement is a silt control project from an arroyo flowing into a popular fishing section known as the "Kiddle Hole" which will remain open during this project.

Calendar

NMT General Meeting

8 Nov 2011, 7:30pm

Sandia Prep - Commons Room

Bob Gerding talking about fishing the "Clear Ditches" around the Albuquerque Area <http://newmexicotrout.org/get-involved/meetings>

Fly Tyer's Roundtable

Every Monday, 7:00pm excluding holidays

Sandia Prep Lab classroom

The Flytyer's Roundtable brings new and experienced tyers together to exchange ideas, techniques and materials.

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.

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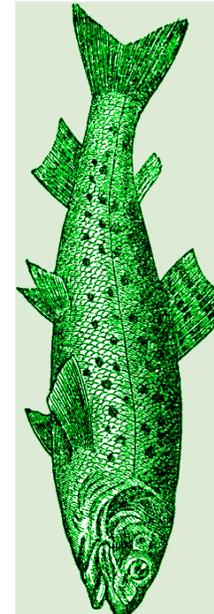
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Jim Young

[Orvis Company](#)

[Wild Earth Llama Adventures](#)



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). Deadline for the next issue is 30 Nov.

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New Mexico Trout | P.O. Box 3276 | Albuquerque | NM | 87190-3276

