



# NEW MEXICO TROUT

Newsletter

Aug-Sept 2012

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## Old Friends,

When we were young we were invincible. As we grew a little older we didn't have time to think about it. During our middle years it was a mix of not wanting to face it but we knew it was there and we kept telling ourselves that it's still far off into the future. Now I tell myself that it's that time of life.

Two weeks ago I lost another friend. Many of you read of the passing of Paul Zimmerman who died in a motorcycle accident on the road to Sandia Crest. Knowing Paul, he was probably dragging the pegs through the seemingly never ending twists and turns that make up NM 536. Many of you probably knew Paul when he worked at Los Pinos fly shop for Bob and Lee Widgren. Always wearing a grin, I often wondered what Paul was pondering and after a sometimes short and sometimes a long conversation he would tell you of his next adventure which almost always involved flyfishing. First it was New Mexico, then the western U.S., then Paul discovered the Gulf Coast. Big fish! Ever the tinkerer, Paul went through several modes of transportation for one person on the water. From wading to kayaks to personal watercraft. Each method being faster than the last. To Paul speed was of the essence. He had to get from point A to point B just a little quicker than last time. This was Paul whether on land or water.

Several years ago Paul discovered another passion that I had to believe confounded him... golf. Now how the devil do you play golf faster? Paul's answer was to just play it better. You play a par five hole but do it in four... that's faster isn't it?

Yes, this is a short tribute to Paul, but I want to share one very important aspect of Paul's life that should be important to all of us... he had interests. Interests that grew into what can only be described as passions.

Reasons for wanting to stay up until all hours of the night to work on a project, for wanting tomorrow to arrive, for wanting the weekend to get here. Yeah, it's that time of life, but just because it is that time doesn't mean that you can't have fun. Paul did. It makes his passing just a wee bit easier to accept.

C'Ya,  
Pat Mileschosky

## Brown Trout Rescue

by Ron Loehman, Conservation Chair

Earlier this month, about twenty New Mexico Trout volunteers traveled to the upper reaches of the Rio Cebolla in the Jemez Mountains to help with a brown trout removal project that was jointly conducted by the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) and the New Mexico Game and Fish Department (NMG&F). The NM Trout volunteers were there to rescue brown trout that would otherwise have been killed after removal. This was a very successful and rewarding project for New Mexico trout



members, proving that we can promote the survival of native Rio Grande Cutthroat trout while preventing the waste of trespass brown trout. From its headwaters down to a point about three miles above the Seven Springs Fish Hatchery, the Rio Cebolla is home to a so-called "core population" of native Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Rio Grande cutthroat are the trout that the first European explorers found in the coldwater streams and lakes in northern New Mexico. Over the years, habitat degradation and the introduction of non-native species such as brown and rainbow trout have reduced the population of Rio Grande Cutthroat to a small fraction of their original range, most notably a few isolated, high mountain headwater streams, such as the Cebolla. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering whether to protect Rio Grande cutthroat under the Endangered Species

Act, with a decision expected sometime next year. State and Federal fisheries specialists are particularly motivated to prevent the listing of the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout as either threatened or endangered by increasing their numbers wherever possible.

Anglers know brown trout as a wily adversary that fights hard once hooked. Their adaptability to a variety of habitats and aggressive feeding behavior give them a competitive advantage over Rio Grande Cutthroat where they occur together. Therefore, one key to protecting and restoring Rio Grande Cutthroat is eliminating brown trout from cutthroat habitat.



McKinney Pond forms the barrier on the Rio Cebolla that is intended to prevent brown trout from migrating upstream into the Rio Grande cutthroat habitat above the pond. Despite the barrier, brown trout manage to get into the reach above the pond, where they gradually displace the native Rio Grande cutthroat. The State and Federal agencies' response has been to periodically remove the brown trout using backpack electrical shocking devices that temporarily stun the fish and bring them to the surface long enough to be netted. The Rio Grande cutthroat are returned to the stream unharmed and, until now, the brown trout have been thrown on the bank to die.



This year, volunteers from New Mexico Trout worked with SFNF fisheries biologist Chantel Cook to rescue the trespass brown trout in a one-mile stretch of the stream so they could be restocked elsewhere. NM Trout volunteers helped net the brown trout and carried them in buckets to a NMG&F tank truck parked some distance from the creek. The operation was halted mid afternoon by a violent thunderstorm that included sleet and lightning strikes on the surrounding ridges.

About 130 brown trout were netted from the one-mile stretch and later put in Fenton Lake. The number of brown trout shocked and removed from that stretch of the Cebolla was significantly less than in previous years. Finding fewer brown trout implies that previous removals have been successful in reducing competition for Rio Grande cutthroat trout in that stretch of the Cebolla. The NM Trout effort demonstrates to the SFNF and NMG&F that partnering with volunteer organizations can save a valuable resource, in this case wild brown trout, from needless waste.

## Fly-Fishing Retreat for Men with Cancer

We are looking for volunteers for this retreat who are experienced fly fishermen to be fishing buddies on Sept 13 and 14th. These volunteers fish along side the men that have cancer and act as guides and just someone to talk to. Teaching these men how to fish and maybe do some catching makes all the difference in the world in their lives. It is rewarding for everyone involved.



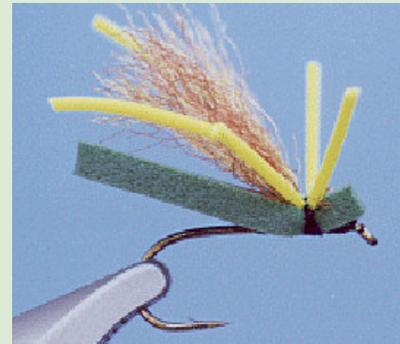
If you would like to join us at beautiful Cow Creek Ranch to be a fishing buddy, go to [www.reelrecovery.org](http://www.reelrecovery.org). and sign up. Just click on the "How to Help" icon for the application. We are planning on having 14 men at the retreat and need that many fishing buddies.

Lunch is provided both days for the volunteers along with Reel Recovery hats and a CD of pictures taken during the retreat. We would appreciate your help.

## Fly of the Month - CDC and Elk

by Mike Hogue, used by permission  
from <http://www.eflytyer.com/patterns/chaos.html>

I had been attending the FFF National Conclave and I was determined to see and fish a few of the really great spots. I went into Blue Ribbon flies and talked with Craig Mathews, one of the owners of Blue Ribbon. I asked Craig what flies he suggested and he said that the Chaos Hopper was one of the best flies he had been using all summer.



Some time later the Chaos Hopper appeared in the Flies of the West which is a book of patterns put together by Schollmeyer and Leeson. The author credits Roman Nyman as the inventor. I have no idea where or how this thing was invented but it is definitely interesting.

A couple of things strike me about this fly. You can make a ton of these with very little foam and they couldn't be easier to make. While they look a bit dorky, I can assure you that 'yes Toto these really do catch fish'. When I first started fishing the Chaos Hopper this year, I was at Fall Creek. I went down there unsure of what to fish. So I figured well, I'll try this as I think they will be able to see it. See it, they DEVoured IT! The first night that I fished this hopper, I caught 10-15 trout, and 4-5 really big smallmouth on my 3 weight. On another trip I went to a creek in a deep gorge and caught another 30 plus trout. On yet another trip I caught some more really big smallmouth. So while my Chaos Hopper is a bit different than Blue Ribbon's it is still pretty neat. As an added bonus this was a really big hit with the Catskill Fly Tyer's Guild. It is now part of the Mark Ramero collection of really interesting flies.

**Hook:** Kamasan B401, size 12

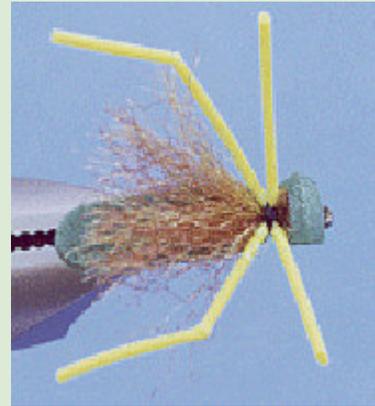
**Thread:** 6/0 Black ( or you may match the body color if you wish)

**Under Body:** If you wish dress the hook shank with twisted Crystal Flash or Pearly

**Body:** Pre-punched or hand cut hopper bodies out off thin sheet foam

**Wing:** Gold and Brown Antron

**Legs:** Knotted Round Rubber legs.



The splayed out legs give the fly its action and its motion in the water. I like to make these in green and cinnamon. You might try yellow, tan, brown and all black. You can mix or match the legs and wings as you see fit.

More flies by Mike are at [http://www.eflytyer.com/patterns/fly\\_patterns\\_page.html](http://www.eflytyer.com/patterns/fly_patterns_page.html)

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

## Meet the Board

Milt McConnell, Public Relations/Publicity

When Milt is not doing Public Relations and Publicity for NM Trout, he is the VP/General Manager of Cumulus Media'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 16 years. He recommends a #16 yellow Stimulator to hook up those beautiful native Rio Grande Cutthroats.



## Calendar

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.

Valles Caldera Fly Fishing Clinics

**22 Sept (Youth) and 23 Sept (Adult)**

More info at <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/calendar/ViewCal.html> or by contacting Francis Peters at [fepeter@comcast.net](mailto:fepeter@comcast.net) or 505-980-3444

Calendar also on NMT website at <http://newmexicotrout.org/calendar>



"I salute the gallantry and uncompromising standards of wild trout, and their tastes in landscapes."

~John Madson ~

## NMTrout Business Sponsors

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

[Land of Enchantment Guides](#)

[M & W Bar Ranch](#)

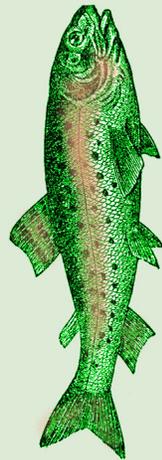
[Los Pinos Fly Shop](#)

[Rio Costilla Park](#)

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[Charlie's Sporting Goods](#)

[Cimarroncita Ranch Retreat](#)



## 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](mailto: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 1 Oct.