



NEW MEXICO TROUT

Newsletter

Mar 2012

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Wow!

Another Conclave goes into the history books and a fun time was had by all! The efforts of many people made this fabulous event happen, and I encourage you to read my article on this great fund raiser for our club.

Last month we also had a very successful fly tying symposium, also covered in this newsletter. This was held in conjunction with the Outdoor Hunting and Fishing Show, thanks to the generosity of Bob Gerding. Having such a large venue to showcase the talents of tiers who represented our club was an outstanding opportunity to show Albuquerque who we are and what we do with bits of fur, fin and feather.

Finally, I want to remind our members that our next general meeting will be in April, after a short hiatus due to the Conclave and Symposium.

CYa,
Pat Mileschosky

NMT Conclave 2012

by Pat Milesosky, NMT President

New Mexico Trout's Annual Conclave was held on 3 March and was a great success. Our two exceptional guests, Jack Dennis and Ken Hanley, provided entertaining and educational presentations about local and regional waters, fishing techniques, and fly patterns.

This was the third time Jack Dennis highlighted a New Mexico Trout Conclave. Does he ever slow down? Yeah, Jack had some hardware problems but the show went on. Illustrated with fantastic underwater video, Jack's talk provided an overview of trout feeding habits and methods of fly presentation that will imitate natural food and fool fish. Jack is an encyclopedia of fishing and provided numerous anecdotes, tips, and ideas for both common and tricky fishing situations that are sure to improve our ability to catch fish. More information is at his website <http://www.jackdennisflyfishing.com/>.



Ken Hanley did a tremendous job. What a nice guy! I had the chance to visit with him for a bit during lunch. He was wowed at the friendly folks at the Conclave. Don't be surprised if he is invited back again in the future. Ken's presentation was replete with stunning pictures of Canadian pike fishing and baby Tarpon fishing, and included excellent tips and techniques for fishing these unique species. Ken's enthusiastic and exciting descriptions of the unique behaviors and habitats of these fish will surely provide us an edge when choosing tackle, presenting flies and landing these fish on the fly. More information is at his website <http://http://pacificextremes.com/>.



As a complement to our featured presentations, William Frangos also gave an excellent hands-on tutorial on knot tying. His focus was on a set of simple, strong knots that can be tied quickly. Pete

Gordinier provided an entertaining and educational tutorial on fly tying, that provided excellent tips for the beginner and expert alike. Harry Lane and Peter Francis provided a hands-on casting clinic, including techniques to deal with wind (which was provided by nature), for both adults and youth.

This event has always been enjoyed by members as a chance to hear from renowned fly fishers, guides and



fly tyers. It is also a great time for meeting and greeting fellow members, sharing stories and adventures. In addition to educational displays on fishing techniques and insect specimens from local streams courtesy of Ti Piper (NMDGF). This year, lunch was catered by 'Meals on Wheels' and offered excellent vegetarian and non-vegetarian entrees, salads, vegetables, rolls and deserts. A highlight for many attendees was the raffle, a chance to win fabulous prizes for the cost of a single ticket! This year's donations from our sponsors and vendors were highly sought after, and included fly rods, reels, waders, boots, guided fishing trips, antique fishing equipment, and handmade quilts. If you get a chance, please thank our sponsors for their generous support. Without their generosity New Mexico Trout would surely not be able to put on the programs that it does year after year.

2012 CONCLAVE INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Bob & Lee Widgren	John Doggett	Tad Tucker
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2012 CONCLAVE BUSINESS DONORS

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Unfortunately as one would expect, the number of folks attending this year were down as were the donations for the raffles. One doesn't have to look far to see why. With the economy in such sad shape a lot of folks just don't have the extra cash to attend or if they did the extra bucks for raffle tickets was in

short supply. The same applied to donors. Business is down for both the large and small businesses in the fly fishing industry. What will next year's Conclave be like... only the shadow knows... and he's dead.

I want to thank some of the folks who put a lot of time and effort into making the 2012 Conclave a reality. At the very top of my list are **Bob and Lee Widgren**. Year after year after year Bob and Lee put in countless hours making the Conclave a success. These two folks have been the backbone and driving force behind NM Trout for as long as I can remember.

Thanks also to **Milt McConnell** for getting the word out to John Q. Public. Great job M2! **Bill Frangos, Harry Lane, Pete Gordinier and Francis Peter** put on helpful and informative clinics at the conclave. Thanks gents! The dynamic duo of **Mark Kalin and Joe Vargo** helped us start the morning with coffee and those magic "no calorie" donuts. **Bob Day** was strutting his stuff while manning the NM Trout apparel booth. **Richard Sommerville** who spent the day selling raffle tickets with me. **Brian Beaudoin** came back on Sunday to oversee the fly tying class which Jack Dennis held for a select few. A full weekend for Brian. I am sure that I am forgetting others who helped in one way or other and for that I am sorry. Needless to say my hat is off to those helpful folks also.

2012 Project Healing Waters Program Update

by Dave Patton, PHW Coordinator

The NMT Project Healing Waters program for 2012 kicked off with a bang at the Albuquerque Veteran's Administration Medical Center Recreation Hall on 8 Feb 12. We had 17 veterans, young and old and in between, in attendance. We matched that participation with 16 NMT volunteers resulting in just the right ratio of veterans to instructors. This made for a highly productive evening of fly tying where we introduced the veterans to fly tying and the wooly bugger from 6:00 to 8:00 in the evening. Amazingly, the fly tying effort got even bigger during the next two weeks. We had 23 veterans on 15 February and 25 veterans on 22 Feb and we don't know what to expect on the 29th. I do know that we have a lot of fun and the veterans really appreciate what we do for them. We will be meeting with veterans each Wednesday except the first Wednesday of each month from now until the end of May. All volunteers must belong to NMT due to insurance requirements. If you are interested in support the PHW program give Dave Patton a call at 681-0835 or e-mail him at pattondj1@hotmail.com

MT Fly Tying Symposium a Great Success

The annual NMT Fly Tying Symposium was held in conjunction with the 2012 Gerding Outdoor Adventure Show at the Manual Lujan Center in the NM Expo on 10-12 February. The symposium was held in conjunction with our regular booth showcasing the activities of NMT, and provided an excellent opportunity for visitors to watch and learn about fly tying from many superb tyers. Throughout the show we featured six fly tyers demonstrated their skill to a rapt audience, tying intricate and showy salt

water flies, tiny but effective midges and nymphs, and a stunning array of classic dry and wet flies. Many of the folks, both young and old, watched eagerly as a simple hook was soon transformed into a buggie looking morsel that any fish would not hesitate to dine on. Most of the flies that were tied were raffled off as part of the NMT Trout Fundraiser held at this event. In addition to the great opportunity to share our passion for fly tying and fly fishing in New Mexico, this event raised \$1600 for the club from sales of raffle tickets, conclave tickets, NMT memberships, and merchandise.



Many thanks to the fly tyers that participated in the symposium:

Mike Maurer	Ron Mang Jr.	Norm Maktima	John Johnson
Jerry Burton	Pete Gordinier	Jay Murakoshi	George Benavidez
Tad Tucker	Phil Gilbert	Spence Siem	Dave Schaffer
Jim Buckmelter	James Patton	Bob Pelzl	

Thanks also go to the volunteers who helped man the NMT booth: Joe Vargo, Ron Loehman, Mike Maes, Francis Peter, Pete Gordinier, Pat Mileschosky, Milt McConnell, Mike & Tina Stallard. Special thanks to Bob & Lee Widgren for organizing and coordinating the symposium.

Conservation Program - Recap of 2011 and Plans for 2012

by Ron Loehman, Conservation Chair

The mission statement of New Mexico Trout concisely captures the objectives of our conservation program, which is "dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of trout fishing in New Mexico's waters through restoration of riparian habitats and through the education of the public about trout fishing and the value of trout habitats." We focus on maintenance and restoration of natural riparian habitats by a variety



of means including volunteer work, financial contributions, advocacy, endangered species protection and restoration, and support of scientific studies. Our larger work efforts involve field work in collaboration with agencies such as the Department of Game and Fish and US Forest Service on streamside restoration. The Las Conchas fire of July 2011 curtailed some of our planned activities last year, but we were still able to accomplish a number of significant projects. These included:

- cleanup of several pickup truckloads of trash from the Rio Guadalupe along FR 376 above the Gilman tunnels
- installation of over 100 bollards to restrict vehicle access to overused areas along the Rio Cebolla
- participation in electro-shock fish surveys on the streams in the Valles Caldera
- repair and installation of fences to restrict trespass cattle on the upper Rio Cebolla
- installation of interpretive panels along the Rio Guadalupe above the Gilman tunnels.

Over sixty man-days of volunteer effort were contributed by members of NMT, and our work was critical to the outstanding success of these projects. In recognition of the volunteers who supported these projects, a random drawing of names from all participants in these workdays was held to select the prize winners for this year's volunteer award:

- Dennis Clarke
- Jim Rosel
- Brian Mulrey



Congratulations to these members who won the \$100 prize.

This year's projects are being planned in collaboration with state and federal authorities, but are still tenuous because of the effects of the Las Conchas fire, which has left some areas unsafe to enter. As of this writing, we have three events planned:

- June 2** Annual NMT conservation barbeque and extension of the Rio Cebolla vehicle exclusion work, and interpretive panel installation.
- July 14** Installation of cattle fencing on the upper Rio Cebolla
- Sept 8** Repair and build cattle enclosure on Rio San Antonio just downstream of the Valles Caldera west boundary

Additional projects are being negotiated for work on the Rio de los Indios in the Valles Caldera, Rio del Oso, Peralta, and Capulin creeks, and Rio Cebolla and San Antonio. Please visit www.newmexicotrout.org for updates on these projects and how you can get involved in the NMT conservation program.

New Mexico River Otters

In 2006, the New Mexico State Game Commission directed the Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) to re-introduce river otters into New Mexico. The populations of these once native mammals related to the weasel dwindled to zero due to trapping and other human pressures over sixty years ago. After several years of study, two suitable sites in the Rio Grande near Taos and the Gila River were identified for this re-introduction. NMDGF officials worked with Taos Pueblo, the Bureau of Land Management and conservation groups to reintroduce more than thirty otters to the Rio Pueblo and the Upper Rio Grande in 2008 and 2010.



Photo by Dmitry Azovtsev
<http://www.daphoto.info>

Last month, the New Mexico State Game Commission voted to delay the release of river otters into the Gila River. The vote disappointed otter advocates, who were told that the river otter release wasn't supported due to concerns from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Department of Game and Fish that the otters would prey on endangered fish.

The NMDGF have worked for years to restore the native Gila trout to the river. Game and Fish officials said they're worried otters would prey on too many of the fish they're working to protect. River Otter advocates argue that the otters eat crayfish as much as

fish, and would target slower invasive fish species such as bass and carp.

Fly of the Month - Watson's Fancy

Pattern, Photograph and Notes by Arthur Greenwood

[Editor's note: In honor of St Patrick's Day, we invited Irish tyer Arthur Greenwood to contribute this article]

This pattern originated in Scotland, first tied by one Donald Watson of Inverness. It is not known what Mr Watson was attempting to imitate but what we do know is that it works!

Like many successful flies, it migrated and was adopted by Irish fly-dressers in the late 19th century. The Irish school of fly-dressing, both then and now, prefers a rough bodied wet fly; one which, when held to the light, has a kind of 'halo' effect around it. Originally tied with a floss silk body, the Irish substituted seal's fur which when picked out or scrubbed produces the desired translucency. Seal's fur is still available and widely used in Ireland and the UK but modern US substitutes for seal's

fur are acceptable and don't lessen this pattern's effectiveness. Jungle cock is difficult to source but definitely adds to the catch rate.

The Irish recipe for the Watson's Fancy is:

Hook: size 8 - 14 Kamasan B170 or 175 (equivalents include Daiichi 1550, Mustad 3906, TMC: 3769)

Tying thread: black

Rib: fine oval silver tinsel

Tail: golden pheasant topping

Body: rear half, red seal's fur; front half, black seal's fur

Hackle: black cock

Wing: slips of crow primary (any black wing feather is OK)

Eyes: Jungle Cock (optional)



The pattern is not unknown in North America, and it appears as an immigrant in Ray Bergman's book 'Trout'. It's interesting to observe how the fly 'mutated' in two different directions, one in USA and the other in Ireland. Bergman's version has a smooth, floss body and a longer pheasant quill tail.

In Ireland, we are fortunate to have some large lakes (or loughs, as we call them) in the middle and on the western fringe of our country. These lie on a bedrock of limestone and thus are rich in feeding for our native brown trout. These lakes are connected to the Atlantic Ocean and some also receive runs of salmon and sea trout (sea-run browns). When fishing these lakes from a drifting boat, the Watson's Fancy is fished as one of a team of three on a leader of 15 feet. Two flies are attached by means of droppers of 4-6 inches and the tail fly (often the Watson's) tied directly to the end of the leader. Rods are usually 10 - 11 feet and 6/7 weight, lines are floating, often double-tapered. The flies are cast a short distance in front of the drifting boat and retrieved slowly, 'working' the top dropper in the surface film, which creates a lot of interest from the fish.

The Watson's also works well in our rivers, particularly for sea trout, which run up from the ocean towards evening when conditions are favourable. We fly fish for these shy creatures at night when they lose some of their caution and the technique is usually a single fly (the Watson's is my preferred choice, in a size 8) on a 9-foot leader, swung across and down the river pools. It is a very exciting method and the darkness adds to the excitement.

I know from my regular visits to Montana, Idaho and Wyoming that the Watson's Fancy catches fish in the USA. I had some nice rainbows from Georgetown Lake on this pattern and my guess is that they took it as some kind of small baitfish. I've also caught cutthroats on this fly from small creeks in Alberta and once I had a bull trout up there attack it! I hope you'll have a try at tying it and that it works as well for you as it does for me.

More flies by Arthur are at

<http://www.danica.com/flytier/agreenwood/agreenwood.htm>

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

Meet the Board

Dave Patton, Project Healing Waters Coordinator

Dave has been a member of New Mexico Trout (NMT) since 1993 and during that time he has served as Conservation Chairman twice for over 6 years and as vice-president. Most recently, since 2009, he has been the program lead for NMT's collaborative effort with the Albuquerque Veterans Administration to support a local chapter of Project Healing Waters (PHW). Dave appreciates the support that NMT provides to the PHW program, without which it could not exist. He deeply appreciates the NMT volunteers that donate their time for fly tying, casting, and fishing with veterans from February through December of each year.



He has worked part time since 2009, which gave him time to organize the PHW effort with the VA and find the volunteers necessary to keep the PHW program going. When not volunteering or working Dave fishes for trout all over southern Colorado and in Idaho and Montana and occasionally for bonefish in Mexico.

Calendar

Fly Fishing Film Tour - Albuquerque

9 March 2012

Doors Open 5pm (Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres) Show at 7pm, \$10
Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, 800 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

Fly Fishing Film Tour - Farmington

16 March 2012

Doors Open 5pm (Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres) Show at 7pm
Marriott Courtyard Hotel, 560 Scott Ave, Farmington

NMT General Meeting

10 April 2012, 7:30pm

Sandia Prep Commons Room

Steve Sweitzer will be talking about his new book on Fly Fishing the Rocky Mountain National Parks.

<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.

Annual NMT Barbeque and Workday

2 June 2012

Installation of additional bollards and an interpretive panel along the Rio Cebolla, and a gathering of NMT members in an annual outdoor barbeque. Additional details will be published in upcoming newsletters.

New Mexico Trout Fashions

Don't miss your chance to own a comfortable and fashionable item of clothing, which will not only serve you well but will distinguish you as a member and supporter of NMT. For those that have already outfitted themselves with the fine selection of jackets, shirts and hats that are offered, check out the new windbreaker and T-shirts that will complement your collection.

Hats, one size fits all - \$15
Colors Dark Olive, Black, Tan

Fleece jackets with windproof lining - \$50
Colors Olive, Black

Shirts, cotton with mesh vents - \$35
Colors Dark Olive, Light Olive, Tan



NEW Wind breaker - \$20

NEW Short sleeve T-shirt, Dark Green - \$10

NEW Short sleeve T-shirt with a pocket, White - \$10

NMT embroidered badges - \$5

All items are available at regular NMT meetings. You can also place an order by calling Bob Day at 881-2738, or sending and email to abgbob410@msn.com You can pick up your order at Los Pinos Fly Shop.



"Unless one can enjoy himself fishing with the fly, even when his efforts are unrewarded, he loses much real pleasure. More than half the intense enjoyment of fly-fishing is derived from the beautiful surroundings, the satisfaction felt from being in the open air, the new lease of life secured thereby, and the many, many pleasant recollections of all one has seen, heard and done."

~by Charles F. Orvis, 1883~

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.

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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 31 March.