



NEW MEXICO TROUT

November/December 2007

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fly of the month



jj special

Fly tied and photograph by Jeremy Barela

Hook:	Daiichi 2220 #8
Thread:	Brown 6/0
Cone:	Copper cone, size to fit hook
Tail:	Brown and yellow marabou, Optional to tie in copper or root beer crystal flash and run along side body
Legs:	Yellow rubber legs, two pair on each side
Body:	Brown chenille
Hackle:	Grizzly saddle hackle

Our good friend Bob Widgren loves this fly for many types of fishing. Whether it's on a river stripping through deep runs for the big trout or out in a lake going after small mouth bass, you'll definitely have fun fishing this fly!

new mexico trout conclave - Jan. 26, 2008

by: Don Hurst, Program Chair

The 2007 Conclave was a big hit with about 300 people in attendance. It is possible that for this coming year we will meet or surpass this record attendance. New Mexico Trout's Conclaves are likely the largest public sporting event in New Mexico dedicated to fly fishing. All aspects of fly fishing will be discussed. Fly fishing equipment, fishing destinations, techniques for catching large trout and other species, reading the water, fly tying and many more subjects will be covered.

Joe Humphreys and Landon Mayer will be our two featured speakers. Both men have extensive experience and knowledge of our pastime and will present fascinating discussions on all aspects of fly fishing.

Joe Humphreys comes from Boalsburg, Pennsylvania. He is a nationally known fly fisherman, conservationist, author and educator. Some of his students include former President Jimmy Carter, Vice President Richard Cheney and basketball legend Bobby Knight.

general meeting schedule

general meeting summary

General Meeting, October 9, 2007

Well, most of you missed a great photography presentation by Bill Frangos.

Bill presented a thorough discussion of many techniques in taking pictures especially pictures of fishing experiences. He talked about digital cameras and the various features we can find on them. Bill focused (no pun intended) on things we can do to improve our picture taking techniques even without using sophisticated equipment. Some examples included getting CLOSE to our subject, taking multiple shots of the same subject from different positions, offsetting our subject in the frame, experimenting with flash, and many others. He illustrated his discussion points with photographs he has taken mostly of fish and fishing scenes. We could see some examples of what makes a photograph superior and what makes for a poor photograph. Some photos were the desired shots while others were examples of the same subject using different techniques. Bill had many recommendations for us amateurs that we can easily put into practice. Digital photography has opened many new picture-taking, enlarging, cropping, and storing horizons compared to the old plain 35 mm cameras.

Bill has graciously offered to make this presentation again at our Conclave which will be held on January 26, 2008. Don't miss this opportunity again to learn many new photography skills.

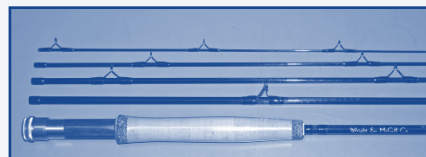
Thanks Bill for such an enjoyable and educational meeting!

Don Hurst, Program Chair, New Mexico Trout

DECEMBER 11: Kirk Patten, NMGF: Gila Trout and RGCT Trout in NM

We have a VERY SPECIAL NEW MEXICO TROUT MEETING Tuesday December 11th. We will have Kirk Patten, New Mexico Game & Fish, and RGCT Trout in New Mexico. AND, Jerry Burton will tell you how to, when to, and where to fish Vallecitos Creek.

You will have an opportunity to win the Wright McGill 5pc Boron 5Xe: 7'6" 2wt. Retail value: \$279.95.



JANUARY 26: CONCLAVE: Joe Humphreys & Landon Mayer

MARCH 11: US Forest Service and NM Game & Fish: Status of Habitat & Resources

APRIL 8: Ron Loehman, Conservation Director: Conservation Programs

MAY 17: Outdoor Work Project & Picnic: Jemez Mountains

letter from the president

Mike Maurer, NMT President

I hope all of you have gotten out to fish a little and to view the gorgeous fall color, I believe the mountains are even more beautiful this year. It seems to me I've said that every year, but I've earned the right, what hair I have is very grey.

We had a very interesting and well done meeting for October; Bill Frangos did a terrific job, with excellent video and information. I had no idea there was so much great stuff to know about outdoor photography. If you missed this one, you missed a really good meeting.

Next month our meeting will be on Saturday, November 10, it will be our annual Fly Tying Symposium. Deward Yocum is hoping to attract more top notch tiers from around and out of state this time of year. It seems that many of the tiers are really busy in spring, and our thoughts are starting to turn to tying in the winter.

There will be tiers who tie the beautiful presentation Atlantic salmon flies, tiers who tie bugs that you will swear are alive, and those who tie the greatest fish catchers ever, flies you need to know about.

We are hoping to attract many youngsters at this symposium, we'll have our beginning and just barely starting table again this fall, so come and bring your family and friends, anyone who has any interest in flies.

November is the traditional date of club elections, many of us have been in office for several years and it is always good for a healthy organization to have new officers and new ideas always flowing. Please consider joining the board, and or holding an office. We presently have a great board but there is always a need for new members. The more we have the less each of us needs to do. Won't you join us; your ideas can't be acted on until you come forward?

Although we are starting to think about our winter fly tying, I for one am not going to put away the rod, at least not just yet. If you can believe the weather service (now there is a stretch) we are going to have a warmer, dry winter. I hope to be able to fulfill my new year's resolution, which is to fish at least once every month. So far, I'm doing great, just got November and December to go. I hope to see you on the stream and at the meetings!

For more information: www.newmexicotrout.org

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2007-2008

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**Volunteers NEEDED for
Webmaster, FFF Liaison**

the fine points of tipping

(reprinted with permission from *Wild On The Fly*)

By Kirk Deeter

Yeah, we all know the joke about the tightwad who had to be reminded that “Tipping” is not a city in China.

But for many anglers - and fishing guides - the gratuity issue is no laughing matter. It can be downright confusing, awkward, and often even uncomfortable.

For the traveler paying healthily for luxury lodge accommodations and/or guide services, tipping can fall into a nebulous gray area. To some, it’s an unwelcome hidden cost that can leave a sour aftertaste. You know, like the resentful feeling you get when you rent a car for a quoted price of \$59 a day, and then are handed the little scroll receipt (usually when you are dashing for a plane and too hassled to argue) that itemizes gas, city taxes, airport fees, etc., and shows your credit card has really been charged \$129.

On the flip side, tips are really important to most fishing guides. Often, the bills you hand a guide at the end of the day are the bottom-line difference between a fair or good trip, and a bad one.

I know, because I’ve been on both sides of the transaction many times. As a hirer of guides, I’ve kept mental tabs of what I thought I owed, and, perhaps more importantly, I learned to set criteria for things that dictate tips. As a guide, I’ve found myself giddy with a crisp Ben Franklin in my shirt pocket, and have also felt crestfallen when a 50-fish, 12-hour day earned me nothing more than a cold handshake. I prefer to chalk that one up to ignorance. Not mine.

It gets really confusing when we start crossing borders, and intermingling customs. The travel book tells you that the in-country norm is ten percent, but all the guides at the lodge are American. Whose system are we using then? What currency do you use? Or try this one... deep sea fishing with a captain and two mates. Who gets what? And how? Is it your job to split it up? And who can you ask for guidance?

Okay, before we over-complicate things, let’s start with some basics, and evolve from there.

Guiding is a Service Business

Equate being a guide with being a waiter or waitress at a restaurant. While the “classier” operations will salary their wait staffs (at least to a minimal level), everyone knows that tips are how these folks really get paid. It’s inevitably the same with

fishing guide operations. Guides make hay on tips.

That’s a good thing, if only because it creates an inherent performance-based, sliding pay scale that the consumer can influence. The more a guide hustles, the more he or she enhances the experience, the more they stand to gain.

When you go on a guided trip, do so figuring the adventure is likely going to cost you at least 15% or 20% more than the advertised price. If you acknowledge that in advance, you won’t find yourself surprised or resentful at the conclusion of your trip, or worse, short of cash and having to borrow money from your companions or trying to cash a check with the lodge. Having accepted the potential expense of a tip as part of the final cost of a trip leaves you relaxed, and can actually make the tipping process a gratifying experience - particularly if you get a good guide.

So how do we differentiate a good guide from the also-rans? In my opinion, a guide owes you three things: 1) A safe day, 2) An honest effort to optimize the experience, and 3) Teachings that improve your angling abilities.

The biggest misconception in the fly fishing world is to equate a guide’s talent with the number of fish you landed during a trip. Think about the following two situations. In situation A, there’s a blanket caddis hatch, and every fish in the river is eating dry flies. Helen Keller could catch 50 fish today. Your guide and you work two runs in eight hours. He smokes a pack of Camels as he watches you tie your flies on, apparently thinking that his job is limited to scooping fish with the net, and interjecting half-hearted ego strokes like, “nice fish, dude,” every ten minutes or so.

In situation B, the wind is blowing 30 miles an hour, and the river is running dirty. This guide tries ten different spots, teaches you how to cast in the howling wind, shows you a dozen different rigs to use in cloudy water, and shares stories and insights that will no doubt help you down the road. But you only catch two fish all day long. For me, guide B deserves a more generous gratuity than guide A.

The Basic Parameters

Let’s use a round number of \$300 for a one-day guide trip to do some basic math. Generally, a fair starting point should be the same 15-20 percent you use when you calculate res-

restaurant tips. For the sake of discussion, we'll say \$40-60 is a good, fair base tip for an all-around adequate \$300 guide trip, \$60-\$80 is a fair base for a \$400 guide day, and so on.

However, a blanket policy of tipping a certain amount a day, regardless of the experience, is bad form. There are reasons to tip less than 15 percent, and, conversely, there are reasons to justify handing a guide a \$100 bill at the end of the day. Most guides know the ground rules. Do you?

Again, having been on both sides of the equation, I've formed some pretty strong opinions on the issue. What are guide no-nos? Laziness. Being late. Being drunk. Fishing your rod, as if to show you it really works (demonstrating techniques is okay, but only when asked to do so). Using foul language, especially in mixed company (a good guide at least owes you the courtesy of dictating the color of the dialogue). One of my personal pet-peeves is a guide discussing what other people have or have not tipped him, as if to drop a guilt trip on you.

Automatic 20 percent deduction: Taboo number one is calling it a day when the bite is on. Green Drakes are falling from the sky, trout are jumping all over the river, and at 4:30 p.m. sharp, he says, "Wrap it up, my wife has dinner on the table."

At least, a 20 percent deduction: You don't need to know about the hardships like sick kids, the truck in the shop, or his no-good, cheating old lady. This is your day. Guides know that. At least the good ones do.

You Get What You Pay For...Pay For What You Get

It shouldn't come as a surprise that the best guides work for the best lodges and outfitters who are willing to reward talent and performance. There are \$200-a-day guide trips, and \$500-a-day guide trips for a reason. The best guides get the best gigs, and percentage-based tips are part of the same picture.

That said, you should adhere to your own standards, and be willing to reward talent and effort, wherever you find it. For example, say you start at 8 a.m., and by 7 p.m., the hatch is on and your guide is still going strong. Guides call this "going off the clock," and they'll only do this if they like you. Remember, he's going to make the same base pay for the day, anywhere from \$125-250, whether he stops at 4:30 or not. If he's going to give you another few hours - and you want them - pay for them. If you want to quit, say so. But if you want him to keep rolling, you should add to your tip.

There are intangibles that transcend the clock. For example, if you realize you are incompetent, and your guide has untied 75 knots and blown through 50 flies, but is still cordial and helpful throughout the day... make it right. If your guide

is smart enough to understand that all you want to do is fish, and he spends the day babysitting your novice fishing partner so you can have some quality solitude, reward intuition. If you watch him rip his waders, and stand in icy water for the next six hours without uttering a complaint, show some financial compassion. Most importantly, if you learn things you didn't expect, or catch fish in ways you hadn't imagined, be willing to show gratitude through gratuity. For a day that clearly transcends expectations, \$100 is the guides' slam dunk figure.

Remember, guides have long memories, and they talk to each other. Is it always about money? No. I can tell you I'll sooner jump at a trip with a good person who appreciates the experience and I enjoy being around 20 times faster than I will accept a return engagement with a jerk who happens to be a big tipper. But stiff a guide once, and consider that the end. If you feel inclined to hold back on a tip, it should be because you didn't fully enjoy the day. Odds are the feeling will be mutual.

When in Doubt, Ask the Boss

In truth, every situation is different. At some lodges, the staff will pool tips. You might lump a 15 percent gratuity in one envelope, which ultimately gets split by wait staff, house-keeping, guides, pilots, and others (they have their own formula). On a \$5,000 Alaska lodge week, \$750 is a bargain to cover all the people working for you. Independent operators, like guides in the Florida Keys, work for themselves, and don't have to share with anyone. In some countries, 10 percent is considered a fair and customary tip. Some offshore boats pay the captain from the charter fee, and only expect tips for mates. It's no cop-out to say I simply cannot set out blanket guidelines to cover every situation. They don't exist. What I do know is that it is the responsibility of the booking agent, lodge owner, or outfitter to offer candid guidelines.

After all, your only obligation is to be fair. And in that regard, I always revert to the starting point of \$50 as a base daily tip for a decent guide day, and usually build, but sometimes subtract, from there. (In the case of two of you sharing a guide, like on a flats boat or a float trip, you can split the tip but I like a little bonus of \$30 per person as the base. If it's just you in the boat start with that \$50. Either way the guide gets his due.)

Two more points. First, if you're traveling in groups, make sure you go over tipping guidelines with your companions. Frankly, it's not right for one person to be handing out big bills and leaving the others feeling like cheapskates. Present a unified front, and make clear, when tipping, "This is from all of us." If you or a member of your group had an exemplary experience with a particular guide, deal with them directly and in

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second annual fly fishing literary contest

See your name in print! Share your artistic talent with the public. Instead of tying countless flies make more creative use of your time while you're fighting "cabin fever". Fiction or Nonfiction submissions are welcome; one submission per contestant. Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries, as judged by professional editors.

Criteria:

1. All entries must be original, unpublished material
2. Authors must identify their work as fiction or nonfiction
3. Entries must address themes related to trout, fly fishing or conservation/environment
4. The maximum length of entries can be no more than 2000 words
5. All entries must be mailed to NM Trout prior to March 1, 2008

Prizes:

Grand Prize: \$250 gift certificate to Los Pinos Fly Shop

Runner up: \$150 gift certificate to Los Pinos Fly Shop

Honorable Mention: \$100 gift certificate to Los Pinos Fly Shop

All entrants will receive one dozen flies.

All contestants understand and agree that their entries, or parts of their entries may be used by NM Trout, at its discretion, for publication in the organization's newsletters, web site, brochures or other promotional material.

Mail your submission to:

NM Trout

Literary Contest

PO Box 3276

Albuquerque NM 87190-3276

continued from page 1 "NM Trout Conclave"

Joe has authored numerous books and articles on fly fishing including: Trout Tactics; Trout Tactics Revised and On the Trout Stream. He is a regular contributor to regional and national journals and periodicals such as "Fly Fisherman", "Outdoor Life", "Pennsylvania Angler" and "Flyrod and Reel". In addition, Mr. Humphreys is well known as an educator. He hosted or was the featured instructor in various fly fishing videos. He holds numerous awards and acknowledgments for his work as a fish fishing instructor.

Landon Mayer is a fly fishing guide from Colorado Springs. He has been guiding on Colorado waters for the past nine years and is a certified casting instructor with the Federation of Fly Fishers. He holds the current IGFA Colorado record for brown trout on 4 pound test, measuring 30 inches long and weighing 11 pounds. Through trial and error and perseverance, he has developed innovative techniques for hooking and landing selective trout.

Landon specializes in the pursuit of trophy trout and loves sharing his knowledge with others. He has just completed work on his first book, How to Catch the Biggest Trout of Your Life. He is a feature writer for High Country Angler magazine and has been published in Fly Fisherman and American Angler.

Put January 26 (Saturday), 2008 on your calendar. It will be one of the most stimulating fly fishing programs available in New Mexico. There will be a large selection of fishing gear, artwork other fly fishing materials available by raffle and drawing. As usual, it will be held at Sandia Preparatory School campus all day beginning at 8:30 a.m.

an 11 year old boy

By Jerry Burton

My wife was not too happy about the guide trip. The Reel Life had booked me to guide an 11-year boy for a full day of fly-fishing on public water. The thing she was concerned about was the neither parent was going to be with us. Just me, a 66 year-old fly fishing guide, and a total stranger's 11-year son.

The boy's mother had booked the trip and so I called her to setup a meeting time and place. She sounded very nice and did not express any concerns over the outing. They lived in Corrales and we planned to meet at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of the trip at the Weck's restaurant in Rio Rancho. On the morning of the trip I met the boy, his father and younger brother for breakfast. The boy had never fly fished but had read about it and had watched a video about it. All during breakfast he was asking me questions about where we were going to fish, what species of trout we might catch, what flies would we use, and what kind of rod and line weight. It was obvious that this boy was enthused about fly-fishing and had done his homework. I found out that the reason he could be fishing on a school day was that he was home schooled and would have to do a report on his fly fishing adventure.

Since he had never fly-fished, our first stop was at Zia Pueblo where there is a pond that is open to public fishing for a fee. The pond is an excellent place to teach fly-casting and catching fish with a fly rod. The small bass and bluegill are eager to grab a nymph and give the beginner lots of opportunity to catch. After a few casting lessons the boy was casting 20 to 30 feet and putting the fly where he wanted it to go. He then caught about a dozen fish and mastered the pinch & pull landing technique. I decided he was ready for trout.

We drove to the Seven Springs hatchery and I rigged the fly rod for trout. On the way he constantly asked me questions

about trout and fly-fishing. He was especially interested in fishing a stream like the Jemez or San Antonio Creek. I told him if he did well fishing for trout in the kiddie pond at the hatchery then we would consider some stream fishing on our way home. Well, after he had caught about a dozen trout it was time for lunch. We had lunch at the picnic tables upstream of the hatchery along Cebolla Creek. The creek in this area is small and brushy but he had a chance to see brown trout in a very tight small stream. He tried to fish them and I told him that not even the best of fly fishers would attempt to fish such a small tight stream. It started to rain so I decided that we would start for home and if we got out of the rain we would try some stream fishing.

By the time we got to Battleship Rock the rain had not stopped but had letup enough so that I told him we would give San Antonio Creek a try. Up to this point he had not had to worry about getting the fly caught in streamside brush or place it in tight places. We put on hip boots and headed to the stream. I showed him how to flip-roll and slap cast and pointed out the type of water he should fish. It was a little frustrating for him at the start but after catching two browns it was time to head home. On the way home we reviewed the day as he made his notes for his report.

As I thought about the day on the way home, I thought about all the kids who don't have the opportunity to learn how to fly fish. I suspect many of them have the same desire to learn how to do it as the boy I had just taught. I also thought about many of the adult beginners I have had over the years that have nowhere near the enthusiasm or desire for fly-fishing as the 11 year-old. I probably hooked him for life.

continued from page 5 "The Fine Points of Tipping"

that instance make it clear that, "This is a little something extra from me for that amazing job of chasing those permit you did on Wednesday."

Lastly, wherever you go, and whoever you fish with, remember that all guides prefer cash, and very few will argue against the value of the American dollar. There are situations where local currency is preferred (again, your agent or local contacts will tell you when), but, by and large, guides are guns

for hires mercenaries who ride under the flag of the greenback. If you have a plan and some fair guidelines going in, you'll have an army willing to help you on your next great fishing campaign.

Here is how you can obtain a subscription to Wild On The Fly: <http://www.wildonthefly.com/subscribe.html>



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quote of the month

“Many men go fishing all of their lives
without knowing that it is not the fish
they are after”

– *Henry David Thoreau*

editor's note

When submitting articles for the newsletter, please
remember to include a TITLE, YOUR NAME, and the DATE.
DEADLINE for next issue entry is DECEMBER 31, 2007

We prefer MSWord, but can read most any file format.
Email: miltmccconnell@yahoo.com

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 the edu-
cation of the public about trout fishing
and the value of trout habitats. New
Mexico Trout is a 501-c3 non-profit
organization, and we welcome your tax
deductible contributions.