



NEW MEXICO TROUT

September/October 2007

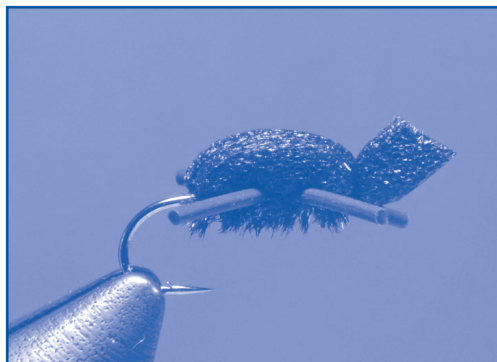
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fly of the month

black foam beetle

Fly tied and photograph by Jeremy Barela



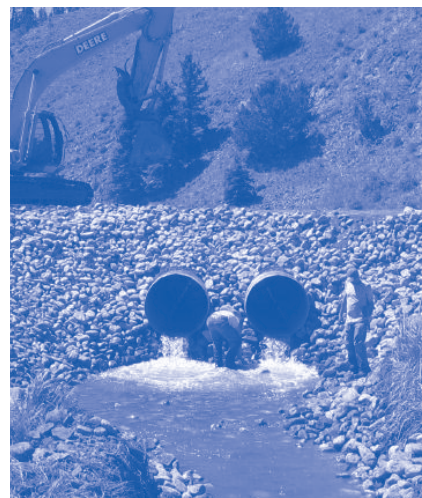
- Hook:** Daiichi 1180, size to match
- Thread:** Black 8/0
- Legs:** Black round rubber legs, can substitute with crazy legs for more realistic look
- Underbody:** Peacock Herl
- Body:** Black foam, tied in at end of hook, folded over to create body
- Head:** Black foam, trimmed above eye of hook

Such a simple pattern to tie, the beetle is a great pattern to fish in the late summer, early fall months. You can create numerous types of beetles with various colors of foam. Black and brown are my two most used colors. You can also substitute the regular foam with the type of foam that has an iridescent color on top.

fish barrier on comanche creek

We have a fish passage barrier on Comanche Creek! For 20 years or so, New Mexico Trout and Trout Unlimited have been trying to get a barrier to fish passage on lower Comanche Creek to prevent non-native rainbow trout from moving upstream from the Rio Costilla to Comanche Creek, where they interbreed with, and dilute the genetic integrity of, native Rio Grande cutthroat trout. In June, the barrier was finally installed. Having the barrier in place will allow

the Department of Game and Fish to remove non-native and hybrid trout from Comanche Creek, and to secure and supplement the creek's population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. This is a major achievement in our efforts to secure populations of New Mexico's state fish. The barrier was funded through a grant obtained from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and administered by Trout Unlimited.



general meeting schedule

OCTOBER 9: *Bill Frangos: Fishing Photography*

NOVEMBER 10: *Fly Tying Symposium - Deward Yocum: Many Tiers*

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

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*

fly tying symposium

By Bob Day

It's that time of the year again! Time for the 4th annual Fly Tying Symposium. We are looking forward to a great year of fly tying instruction from some of the Southwest's best tiers. The past two years have shown promise and we hope that this year will be even better. For any of you who tied last year, we will be sending you an invitation to join us again. We hope that most of you will be able to participate in our annual fly tying event.

The show will be held at Sandia Preparatory School on Saturday November 10th, 2007. The show will have a beginner's section for those of you who are new to fly tying. The beginner's section will be headed up by Rudy Rios who is New Mexico Trout's Youth Director. Rudy has been doing a great job with the kids and adults alike, introducing them to fly tying. For those of you who are ready to take your tying skills to a higher level there will be tiers with a variety of expertise

to answer your questions and to demonstrate today's newest patterns. There will be door prizes and giveaways. This event is for the whole family as there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

The show will run from 9am to 1pm. It has been organized into two tying sessions. The first session is from 9am to 11am. The second session is from 11am to 1pm. This is not a fundraising event, but rather a full day of learning, sharing and camaraderie.

Children under 15 are free. New Mexico Trout members pay \$5.00 and non-members pay \$7.00. We hope that everyone will be able to attend the event in support of New Mexico Trout. For the latest news and directions please visit:

www.newmexicotrout.org

or contact Deward Yocum at 505-866-0790

letter from the president

Mike Maurer, NMT President

The 2007 fishing season has turned out to be a study in contrasts. Some areas are in terrible drought, while others are having too much rain. I spent some time in Montana and had a terrific day on the Big Hole – and then could not fish any other stream north of it. Yellowstone Park waters are also all restricted. But when I traveled over to Idaho, the North Fork of the Clearwater and the St. Joe were in excellent shape and the fishing was outstanding. Here at home, some of our streams are too low and warm, but Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado, especially the Arkansas drainage, have too much rainfall; that is, too much for dependable fishing. I don't think we ever get too much rainfall in the Southwest.

I regret having to report that after having one of the best fishery programs in the Forest Service, the Santa Fe Forest has lost both Sean Ferrell and his assistant, Chuck Dentino. Sean transferred to Bend, Oregon mainly to take advantage of Oregon's programs for special needs children. Chuck resigned from the service and took a position with the state Environment department. They will both be greatly missed. Among many of their projects, we have them both to thank for the barrier fencing along the Cebolla and Rio Guadalupe to keep vehicles out of the riparian areas. It has also cut down on the amount of trash that is left along the Guadalupe. Chuck was heading up the lower Rio De Las Vacas rehab project when he left. New Mexico Trout has written a letter to the Forest Service urging them to fill Sean's position as soon as possible.

Adding to this, Jon Peterson, the Jemez district ranger, was transferred and his position was vacant for the last 10 months. I have been notified that a new District ranger has been appointed to fill that vacancy, and she is expected to be here by the first part of September. Her name is Linda Riddle and she comes from the San Bernardino Forest in California, where

continued on next page

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**Volunteers NEEDED for
Webmaster, FFF Liaison**

trucha tips

Many of you may remember William Tapply's delightful column, Tap's Tips, in Field and Stream magazine. It is now called Jerry's Tips. Each month, three or four, short, one paragraph tips on hunting, fishing, or camping, often submitted by subscribers, would be printed. They covered topics like hunting or fishing techniques or strategy, field repairs of tackle, fly tying tips, camping tips, emergency procedures - each item would usually elicit the response "Hey, that's a neat idea!"

The NM Trout Newsletter would like to initiate a similar column entitled Trucha Tips. We know that many of our members have lots of clever ideas and tips that make flyfishing, fly tying, or the outdoor experience more enjoyable, and contribute to our knowledge and efficiency. Trucha Tips will provide a way to share these ideas and tips with all our membership, and the contributors selected will be acknowledged and receive a small gift of tackle in appreciation.

Submission

A tip should be described by a short paragraph and a drawing or photograph can be included. It should relate to flyfishing technique or tackle, fly tying, or conservation. It should describe "a good idea" that our members could benefit from. Include your name and address and send it to:

Trucha Tips

P.O. Box 3276

Albuquerque NM 87190-3276

If your tip is selected you will receive an acknowledgement and your tip will be published in a future Newsletter. NM Trout only publishes five newsletters a year so be patient!

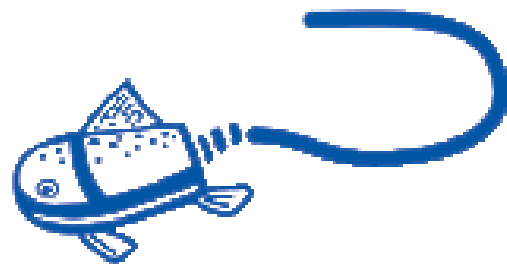
letter from the president

she was the district ranger. I have asked to be able to meet with her at the soonest possible time.

Ron Loehman and I attended a meeting of the Jemez Valley Water Association in July. Ron made a very good presentation of the Rio Guadalupe ONRW proposal to mixed reactions. One expected attendee was a very noisy opponent, who was against everything government, and there was also one very dubious cattle grazer in attendance. The rest of the group was either for it or cautious about it. Mr. Pino, the governor of Zia Pueblo, spoke not against it, but urged us to put it off or go slowly. If we hope to succeed, it is obvious we will have get a lot of supporters to sign on to the project to overcome the noisy "anti-everything" people, and the few cattle grazers in the area. If you have membership in any other group, please urge them to study our proposal and if possible, sign on, or even co-sponsor.

Ron's presentation explains who we are and what the proposal is, and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with any group to make this presentation and answer any questions. Please call or email Ron or me.

Our first meeting of the new fall season is Tuesday the 8th of October, and don't forget: the November meeting will be the Fly Tying Symposium, more information is elsewhere in this issue. I hope to see you there.



visit our website:
www.newmxicotrout.org

comanche creek revisited

By Dave Patton

The Comanche Creek restoration project began with New Mexico Trout, Sangre de Cristo Flyfishers, the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, and the US Forest Service around 1997. New Mexico Trout provided the impetus to get this project moving and we had a number of questions about “choosing a project so far away.” At the time, gas wasn’t so expensive, and the main idea was to restore an entire watershed and stabilize the existing Rio Grande Cut-throat population.

Personally, I hadn’t been back to Comanche Creek for two summers and when Norm Segel asked me to go with him on July 28th, I decided it was time to go back and check things out. I was looking forward to seeing Comanche Creek and the impact the project was having. Although this is a long term project with much more to be done, the results of the past 10 years of work simply cannot be denied. The creek is making a comeback, the native streamside vegetation is beginning to really thrive, the channel is deeper, and there is less erosion.

When things started, we had 10-15 people for the workdays and we went up three times a summer, working both Saturday and Sunday. The real fun part was fishing the local streams and Shuree Ponds in the evening, and on Sunday after we finished working about 1:00 in the afternoon.

Things have really changed. This weekend, we had about 60 people from NMT, Quivira Coalition (QC), Trout Unlimited, Sierra Club Service Group, the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau, and the Boy Scouts to name the groups I actually worked with.

The workdays for us are normally just Saturday now; however, the group set an amazing number of vanes (as they call them) to slow the creek down during high water and reduce erosion of the banks. The vanes (see the picture) call for driving about 20 salt cedar posts a foot apart into the stream bed, packing rocks behind the posts, moving and planting streamside grasses behind the posts, and planting willows, as well stabilizing the entire area.

It sounds like a lot of work, and it is, but the scenery is stunning as many of you already know, and the people are just a lot of fun to work with and be around. Part of the



beauty of this deal is camping at Shuree Lodge, which naturally means you can fish too. They have portable toilets and showers, and all you have to do is bring your food, water, tent, sleeping bag, something to cook on, and a pair of gloves (and they have those too). In fact, if you don’t bring food, you can bum some, as a couple of guys did.

NMT is no longer the lead, having given it up to the Quivira Coalition that has a larger staff and does a great job of seeking out and finding grant money to support a number of workshops during the summer. In fact, QC has just learned that their River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative Grant, to continue our work on Comanche Creek, has been approved for future projects. So, the project is much more vibrant and self-sustaining than when we began, but the camaraderie is still there and it is a lot of fun to make a contribution with an impact you can see. The drive is only four hours (which isn’t that bad given that the San Juan is three hours), and there is fishing there on at least two streams and the Shuree Ponds. It certainly would be worth everyone’s time to go at least once, and I wholeheartedly recommend it for fresh fish and people that will make your day.

more fishing etiquette

(Please don't ask how many fish I caught)

By Bob Day

Man has fished since the beginning of time; and for all that period, probably the first question asked when he returned was, "How many did you catch?" For the first several thousand years, that question was really necessary because the answer to it meant whether or not they were going to eat that day. Today, that would not be the situation and so, along with all the other refinements to fishing, I believe that Fishing Etiquette needs updating to reflect modern day techniques.

Fishing and Catching are two entirely different endeavors, but the average person on the street wouldn't understand that. The fly fisher is a breed with differing motives for pursuing fish that other people usually don't understand. Why do they spend time with hairy, fuzzy imitations of the fish's natural food when they could hang a worm on a hook and probably catch more fish quicker? Well, that is the reason Fishing and Catching are different. That is also why there needs to be a system to show the success rate of the Fishing effort.

A lot of time has been given to come up with a system that adequately converts Fishing into a numeric answer to the age-old question for a fisher: "What kind of day did you have today?" How can you convey to those people the joy of just being on the water, the poetry of placing your fly just where you believe wily trout will see it, the thrill of having it strike your offering and the feel of its initial surge to freedom from the tug of the line? Well, here is the equation to give them their numeric answer, with proper etiquette.

- Just being there to fish – 5 points
- A fly cast to a fish that induces a strike on the fly is worth 3 points. If the fly is one you tied yourself... add 1 more point.
- If the fish is hooked momentarily so that you feel its tug... add 1 point.
- If the fish is hooked securely enough so that you are able to play it for a time but not net it... add 2 points.
- If the fish is hooked so that you are able to bring it to net... add 3 points.
- If you are able, after netting the fish, to remove the fly, and return it to the water without killing it... add 2 points (practice correct Catch & Release).
- If you keep the fish or kill it by overplaying it then you lose all your points accumulated so far, you start over again with a minus 5 points and must go to the bank and sit there for 30 minutes pondering why you would deny a brother fisher the joy of catching that fish some other day.

As you can see from the above you can answer any question, whether proper or not, with an answer that satisfies the questioner, i.e. Question: How many fish did you catch today? Answer: 5 (a lousy day fishing, but to the uninitiated, a decent catch day.) Answer: 13 (caught, landed and released one fish, but to the etiquette-impooverished, it says a good day.) Now you should nod your head goodbye and hustle on past to avoid in-depth questioning.

To the etiquette-knowledgeable person the answer to question one above says – "I had a great day fishing but the catching was bad." Question two above could have several answers, ranging from catching one fish; fooling several fish, but they were not hitting hard, or I had a couple on but didn't land them; and so on and so forth. In any event you can give an answer that allows you to smile, answer and walk on by. The alternative is – well, I think we all have experienced that, and so here is a good way to end a day fishing on the same high note that it began.

team usa-making the cut **USA**

By John Gordon (Colorado Springs, CO)

It all began at the Fly Fishing Show in Denver January 2007..... I was walking past a booth for the National Fly Fishing Championships when I heard a voice call out "Would you like to volunteer?" For a moment I flashed back to my Navy days....Never Again Volunteer Yourself. Actually, my nature is to be a helpful person. So, I had to inquire "Volunteer for what?" I asked. "Help with the National Fly Fishing Championships. It's the Olympics' of fly fishing. The members for the 2008 Fly Fishing Team USA will be chosen from this event and we need numerous volunteers to help make it a success," he said. This piqued my interest. "Well, I have volunteered for several fly fishing related events in the past. To be honest with you I would rather try out for the team and fish. How do you become a member of Fly Fishing TEAM USA?"

That's how it all started. The process went like this. I filled out an application on the National Fly Fishing Championship website. www.nationalflyfishingchampionship.com They are holding 4 regional competitions across the United States: Western, Rocky Mountain, Mid-West and South/Eastern. They select 40 anglers from each region for a total of 160 anglers from across America. I signed up for the Rocky Mountain Regional Trials held in Cody, WY. Only the top ten from each regional make it and move on to the National Finals.

The competitions are fished using international rules. The rule book is fourteen pages long, but a few of the basics are: no indicators, no split shot, but weighted flies are accepted, and no dropping flies on the bend of the hook. This is a little different than the way most Americans are used to fly fishing. The scoring system is rather elaborate to explain here but basically competitors get points for each fish caught as well as points for the size of the fish.

During the competition in Cody, we fished two river sessions and two lake sessions. The sessions are 3 hours each. Fishing conditions were very tough. The weather had warmed to record highs and the snow pack in Yellowstone Park cut loose. The river was blown out and visibility was 2 inches. The water looked like chocolate milk. The lake

fishing was also a tough venue and many anglers did not catch any fish. (They "blanked" as it's called. The worst

thing that can happen from a scoring stand point is to get "blanked"). However, the lake fishing went well for me. The fly that produced was the "Green Woolly". It's a variation on the famous woolly bugger pattern with a few great modifications. It's the creation of Mr. Ed Elkins, a long standing member of the Pikes Peak Fly Fishers. Ed has been an avid lake fly fisherman for over forty years. His all time number one producing lake fly is the "Green Woolly". It's also now my favorite and for good reason. Like I said previously, fishing was extremely tough and although I started out fishing the Green Woolly followed by several other flies, nothing was working. During the last hour and half of the session, I went back to the Green Woolly. I fished it like a street walker trying to drum up business! My strategy worked and I started catching fish. Because of the Green Woolly, I ended up finishing 3rd in that session. In the overall competition I placed sixth earning a spot to the National Fly Fishing Championships!

The National Fly Fishing Championships will be based out of Boulder, Colorado October 1-7. The top 10 anglers from each region along with the current 15 members of Fly Fishing Team USA will compete for the available 15 spots on the 2008 Fly Fishing Team USA.

Typically there are around 27 countries that compete in the World Championships. TEAM USA has usually placed in the bottom half until recently. The National Fly Fishing Championship is in its second year and with the skill level of the anglers and the knowledge gained from previous competitions, the USA is closing the gap between it and its strong European competitors.

There is no money or prizes involved, just a love for fly fishing and a chance to represent my country. The 2008 World Fly Fishing Championships will be held in New Zealand.





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quote of the month

“The gods do not deduct from man’s allotted span the hours spent in fishing”

– *Babylonian Proverb*

editor’s note

When submitting articles for the newsletter, please remember to include a TITLE, YOUR NAME, and the DATE.

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



New Mexico Trout is a non-profit organization, a member of the Federation of Fly Fishers and affiliated with Trout Unlimited.
