



# NEW MEXICO TROUT

January/February 2008

## inside this issue

New Mexico Trout Conclave..... Cover	Raffle Offerings Description..... 4
Fly of the Month..... Cover	Membership Renewal Form..... 5
Letter from the President..... 3	Truchas Chapter Takes on Fund Raising..... 6

# New Mexico Trout Conclave january 26, 2008

*by: Don Hurst, Program Chair*

### Don't miss New Mexico Trout's Conclave for 2008!

This is possibly 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 casting, photography 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 many aspects of fly fishing. Some of the

presentation topics include "Romancing the Trout", "Opportunities for Trophy Trout", "Brook Trout Large & Small", "The Art of Sighting Trout", "Nymphing Tactics X 2", and "Sneak Previews of Weapons of Bass Production".

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.

Joe has authored numerous books and articles on fly fishing including: Trout Tactics; Trout Tactics Revised and On the

*continued on page 4*

## fly of the month - barr's slumpbuster



- Hook:** Daiichi 2220 #8
- Thread:** Olive 6/0
- Cone:** Copper, sized to hook
- Rib:** Brassie Copper Ultra Wire (also use color of your choice)
- Body:** Gold Tinsel underbody, Dark Olive Mink Zonker strip (also use Pine Squirrel Zonker strip in a natural color)
- Collar:** Dark Olive Mink Zonker strip

*Tied by Jeremy Barela, photographed by Jeremy Barela*

A great streamer pattern to use all year long, the cone gives this fly amazing action as you strip it back to you. Try letting it swing across a run or dead drift it – either way you are in for some fun fishing! Use heavier tippet to avoid breaking off because with this fly, you're asking for it if you don't!

# general meeting schedule

## january/february 2008

If you were at the December meeting, you know what a great meeting it was. We had really good attendance despite the weather and Fred Miller walked away with one of the prettiest small stream rods (7'6"- 2wt. 4 piece) I've ever seen. As a matter of fact I liked it so much I bought one for my son's birthday. If you weren't there, you missed a good one. Yvette Paroz, New Mexico Game and Fish biologist, gave us a good rundown on what was happening in the Gila. She had the latest information on where we can fish for the Gila Trout and brought us up to date on the West Fork restoration.

Kirk Patten, also from New Mexico Game and Fish, brought us up to date on the restoration efforts on the Valle Vidal. The barrier is in place, and Comanche Creek has its fish removed in preparation for restocking native Rio Grande Cutthroats. It was amazing to me the many thousands of White Suckers they removed from the creek. I couldn't believe a small creek like that could hold that many fish as well as the Rainbows and Cutt-bows that were there too!

After we raffled the neat rod, Jerry Burton gave a great talk on the Vallecitos creek and all the fishing opportunities it offers. I have long wanted to fish the Vallecitos, and with what I learned from Jerry, I will definitely be going this year! Jerry guides for the Reel Life and feels the Vallecitos is one of the best creeks in the state ... he should know.

Because the New Mexico stream segment and the rod raffle were so well received in the December meeting, we will do it again for the February meeting. We'll feature one of the streams of the Jemez each meeting in the future; just which one we'll do in February, I'm not sure yet. It will probably be the East Fork or our home stream, the Rio Guadalupe. I plan to have pictures, maps, and a presentation from those of us who fish it often. We'll talk about access, equipment, times of year, time of day, technique, rigging and presentation. All of these things are important to small stream fish in the Jemez or any small stream. Plus we'll raffle off another one of those really neat 2wt. rods. You better not miss this one!

January 26th is our conclave, and it will be better than ever. We have a really great line-up of presentations and speakers. Don Hurst has all the latest information on speakers and programs in this newsletter. Eric Collins has been doing a superb job collecting "stuff" we can't live without. I know he has some neat trips, rods, reels, flies, clothing, you name it he's got it! We'll have a good sit down lunch, and plenty of opportunity to catch up with friends we haven't seen for awhile.

The conclave is our one fundraiser; it finances all our conservation and educational projects for the year. Our dues only cover the cost of the newsletter and a place to meet, all the rest of what we do depends on the conclave. Please come, have a good time, meet new and old friends, learn something new, and support our club through the raffle.

We have been able to accomplish some really good things, thanks to your support! I'll bring you up to date on our efforts at the conclave ... see you there.

# letter from the president

Mike Maurer, NMT President

## February Meeting, 2/12/08



Fred admires his new 2 wt rod he won at the February meeting.

To follow up on our terrific meeting last December, Jerry Burton and Mike will present another outstanding New Mexico trout stream. This time, we will feature our home stream, the Rio Guadalupe.

For those who are new to the area, or to fly fishing, we'll have how to get there, where to go, what's there, how to approach it, how to rig, when to fish it,

what time of day can mean, and various and sundry other things as we think of them.

We'll have some great pictures by Bill Frangos and Jerry, maps and other descriptive items to help learn more about the Guadalupe. Plus, we'll have a good question/answer session at the end of the program. There are many New Mexico Trout members who have fished the Guadalupe for many years and I'll call on them to help field questions. We should have a great round table type discussion about methods and tactics. So even if you have fished the Guadalupe for many years, come and join in the discussion and perhaps help a newer fly fisher.

We can talk about other areas in the Jemez as time allows, but I think we'll feature the East Fork and the Rio San Antonio in following meetings.

We will also raffle off another one of those beautiful 2wt rods like we did in December! Fred Miller walked out with a huge smile on his face after the December meeting with one of the prettiest graphite rods I've ever seen. The way that little rod is put together and is finished is just awesome. You won't want to miss the February meeting. Be sure and mark February 12th on your calendar.

For more information: [www.newmexicotrout.org](http://www.newmexicotrout.org)

President: Mike Maurer, at 505-892-4092

Conservation: Ron Loehman, at 505-265-3179

## 2007-2008

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**Volunteers NEEDED for  
Webmaster, FFF Liaison**

# 2008 Conclave Highlights:

**Joe Humphreys** - Romancing the Trout  
Brook Trout Large & Small  
Nymphing Tactics X2  
Fly Casting

**Landon Mayer** - Opportunities for Trophy Trout  
Art of Sighting Trout  
Sneak Preview "Weapons of Bass Production"  
Short Line Fishing Tactics

**Bill Frangos** - Photographic Techniques

**Rudy Rios** - Youth Fly Casting

**Ron Loehman** - 2008 Conservation Projects

*continued from page 1 "NM Trout Conclave"*

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 fly 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*.

As a bonus this year, Bill Frangos and Rudy Rios will provide very instructive sessions on photography and youth fly casting. Bill presented such a wonderful photographic skills program at our October meeting, that we decided many more people should see this program.

## New Mexico Trout 2008 Conclave

# Raffle Offerings Description

In last year's raffle we saw a custom built bamboo fly rod, a unique trout carving, a handmade trout quilt, and a whole slew of fishing related gear and accessories from float tubes to complete fly fishing rigs and guided trips. The 2008 Conclave raffle is shaping up to offer much the same.

This year's offerings will include rods, reels, lines, guided trips, overnight accommodations, fly boxes filled with flies, fishing books, fishing paintings, fishing sculptures, and more. The theme of this year's raffle entries is "anything that has to do with the fishing" and the donations are living up to it. Be sure you don't miss the 2008 Conclave Raffle. Where else can you invest a few bucks and potentially walk away with hundreds of dollars worth of great stuff? And with all the proceeds going towards benefiting New Mexico fisheries and those who use them, it is a win for everyone.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2008 Conclave.

Eric Collins  
Conclave Raffle Coordinator

Rudy has a very helpful and instructive program for young people in the art of fly casting. Young people will find the total day's program to be exciting and educational.

In addition, the Conclave will have a large selection of fly fishing rods, reels, flies, artwork, and other fly fishing materials available by raffle and drawing. As usual, it will be held at Sandia Preparatory School campus all day beginning at 8:00 a.m.

# NMT 2008 Membership Renewal

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP, Please check one box. 

IS THIS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS? YES\_\_ NO\_\_

New Mexico Trout is a 501©3 non-profit organization. Dues are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

MAIL THIS RENEWAL FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP & CONCLAVE TICKETS TO:  
NEW MEXICO TROUT, P.O. BOX 3276, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87190-3276  
OR FAX TO: (505) 837-9369

FOR INFORMATION E-MAIL NMT at [newmexicotrout@yahoo.com](mailto:newmexicotrout@yahoo.com)

\*Your e-mail is used only by NM Trout to notify members of critical issues and upcoming events.

## LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP IN NEW MEXICO TROUT:

- |                          |                    |       |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LIFETIME           | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | REGULAR            | \$30  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FAMILY             | \$35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | JUNIOR             | \$15  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BUSINESS SPONSOR   | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR | \$60  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CORPORATE SPONSOR  | \$250 |

CHARGE TO MY VISA/MASTERCARD:

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED TO MY CREDIT CARD: MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Your new membership card & your conclave tickets will be mailed to you. CONCLAVE TICKETS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

## NMT CONCLAVE 2008

JANUARY 26th, 2008  
8:00AM TO 5:00PM  
SANDIA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

THE DEADLINE  
FOR CONCLAVE  
TICKETS JAN. 18<sup>TH</sup>

TICKET PRICES: NEW MEXICO TROUT MEMBER:  
\$35.00ea.

NON-MEMBER: \$45.00ea.

SIGN-UP AS A MEMBER AND SAVE \$10.00 per ticket!

**\*\*INCLUDES A CATERED LUNCH\*\***

HOW MANY TICKETS? \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

***KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 15 ARE ADMITTED FREE BUT  
MUST RSVP FOR A CONCLAVE/LUNCH TICKET.***

YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD AND YOUR CONCLAVE TICKETS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU

# Truchas Chapter Takes on Fund-Raising Effort For Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout

*By: Kevin Reilly, Advocacy Chair, Truchas Chapter*

The Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited has made a major commitment to raise funds for the conservation and restoration of Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGCT), the trout native to the Rio Grande, Pecos and Canadian drainages of New Mexico. The Forest Service and the Department of Game and Fish have a backlog of RGCT projects but don't have the money to fund them.

This problem was brought home to us when Kirk Patten of Game and Fish called to our attention the situation of RGCT in Alamitos Creek. Alamitos Creek rises in the northeastern corner of the Pecos Wilderness in the Carson National Forest (the Carson) and flows northeast until it connects with the Rio Pueblo, a tributary of the Rio Grande. A population of approximately 4,500 genetically pure RGCT inhabits 7.1 miles of Alamitos Creek and its unnamed tributary.

This population of RGCT has until now been protected from non-native trout by an irrigation diversion and by the periodic dewatering of Alamitos Creek below the diversion. That diversion and periodic dewatering, however, are not adequate to protect the population from encroachment by non-native trout, and it is not known why non-native trout have not moved above the diversion.

If the population can be protected now before introgression from rainbow trout or depredation from brown trout occurs, the population can be saved without the necessity of using piscicides (fish poisons) to remove non-native fish. All that is required to protect the population is the construction of a permanent fish-passage barrier upstream of the current diversion.

The New Mexico committee of agency and non-governmental-organization representatives who reviewed proposals to submit to the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) this fall ranked the Alamitos barrier project as its second highest RGCT priority, ranking the project just behind the on-going project to restore RGCT to the Rio Costilla drainage of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. WNTI is a federally funded project to support conservation and restoration projects for native trout in the west.

Before the barrier on the Alamitos can be built, however, the Carson will have to do an analysis of the environmental

impacts of the project. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that every federal agency prepare an in-depth study of the impacts of "major federal actions having a significant effect on the environment" and alternatives to those actions. It also requires that each federal agency make that information an integral part of its decisions. The fisheries biologist for the Carson has estimated that the NEPA analysis for the Alamitos barrier would cost around \$10,000, but it could cost more. The Carson, which has suffered serious funding cuts, does not have the funds available to conduct this NEPA analysis.

Ironically, federal and state agencies and groups like TU can frequently find funding for the construction of barriers and other habitat work to protect native trout, but it is very difficult for the agencies or TU to find funding for NEPA analyses. WNTI, for example, has provided partial funding for projects like the Alamitos barrier, but it has not funded NEPA analyses for those projects. In fact, WNTI gives funding priority to projects for which the NEPA analysis is already done. Similarly, TU national was able to obtain a large grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Rio Costilla RGCT project, but the NEPA analysis had previously been done.

To help remedy this problem, the Truchas Chapter is setting up a RGCT Restoration Fund to raise money to help the state and federal agencies do the NEPA analyses for RGCT conservation projects. We have initially committed to raise, through the fund, the cost of doing the NEPA analysis for the Alamitos project. We have applied for a \$3,000 grant from the Guadalupe River Chapter of TU, and we are hopeful of getting that money.

We need the support of New Mexico Trout and its members to get this done. Contributions can be sent to the Truchas Chapter, P.O. Box 31671, Santa Fe, NM 87594-1671. Please indicate that the donation is for the RGCT Restoration Fund. For more information, contact Arnold Atkins at [oldrzif@yahoo.com](mailto:oldrzif@yahoo.com), Ed Schulz at [sfeschulz@yahoo.com](mailto:sfesschulz@yahoo.com), Bob O'Connor at [roboconnor@aol.com](mailto:roboconnor@aol.com), or me at [reilly.kevin.v@gmail.com](mailto:reilly.kevin.v@gmail.com).

# Care & Feeding of Rods

By. Bob Widgren, Los Pinos Rods

It's that time of year to get your tackle into working condition and by following these few simple rules and taking a little time, you can keep your rods in beautiful condition for many years. Tackle that is taken care of will perform for its owner when asked to do so. Abused equipment will turn on you when you least expect it or when you have that trophy fish on the other end.

**Rule 1.** Remember to disassemble and keep rods in their bags & tubes whenever you can. An unattended rod being swooned over to an open door or trunk lid has caused many broken rods. Take the time to protect your investment!

**Rule 2.** Be sure to store your rods in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight for extended periods of time. Always keep your rods clean and dry when in storage. They can be washed with mild soap & water after a hard day of angling and then polished and dried with a clean soft cloth. Getting the algae and scum from underneath the guide feet can be easily be reached with a toothbrush. The cork grip can be cleaned by using your hands and warm water together with a mild cleanser but be careful not to remove the fish luck on your grip! Before putting away your rod, dry it thoroughly and check to make sure that your protective rod tube has a vent hole in the top so the rod can breathe and what little moisture is left can evaporate.

**Rule 3.** Inspect all of your rods occasionally to make sure that surface fibers are not damaged, particularly in the tip section. It is easy to strike a tip with a hook, rock or tree and nick the surface coating. Cover these nicks with some rod varnish and that will prevent future problems. If you happen to damage the actual fibers of the rod, all is not lost. Cover the damaged area with rod thread and then coat the over wrap with rod varnish. For cracking guide wraps, you can overcoat the wraps or rewrap the guides.

**Rule 4.** The ferrule (the joint) on any rod is the heart and the appropriate care is mandatory. The ferrules should fit snugly but don't try to force them together. Fishing rods with the internal spigot ferrules are designed to have about a 1/4" gap between the male & female parts to allow for future wear. The sleeve over type ferrule (tip over butt) eliminate the need for wear gaps. Both graphite & glass rods should not be left assembled for long periods of time as they will become almost fused together and it will require too much force to disassemble the sections. Lubrication of both graphite & glass rods should be kept to a minimum; cleanliness is the key to happy ferrules. But if you find that you need to lubricate graphite ferrules use only parafin, beeswax only on glass rods. Under no circumstances should you ever use nose, face or hair oil as a lubricant. The acids in body oils will destroy your ferrules beyond repair. Keep your ferrules clean and free of dirt and scum, and they will work properly for many years.

**Rule 5.** When and if your favorite rod needs refinishing or repair and the problem seems more than you can handle, take your rod to a reputable shop. Many repairs can be resolved quickly whereas major refinishing can take several weeks to several months, so try to schedule it during the winter when it doesn't interfere with your fishing.



## Fly Fishing Schools

### Fly Tying with A. K. Best

Tie flies in the morning and fish them in the afternoon on New Mexico's Rio Grande with Taylor and his guides.

**April 18, 19, 20**

### Rod Building with master rod maker Bob Widgren

(or) **Fly Casting with Taylor and Nick Streit.** (Both classes followed by guided p.m. fishing.) **April 25, 26, 27**

**Guides School:** based on his book *Instinctive Fly Fishing*, Hall of Fame guide Taylor Streit teaches you how to guide fly fisherman; casting, on-the-water instruction, guides charm school, job placement—only **\$495! May 15-18**

For more info—[www.streitflyfishing.com](http://www.streitflyfishing.com)  
Taos Fly Shop 575-751-1312

## COMING UP... FEB. 2008

Don't miss the 10th Annual Bob Gerding's Outdoor Adventures Hunting & Fishing Show at Expo New Mexico (NM State fair grounds) Manual Lujan complex.

Ticket \$7.00 for Adults • Children under 12 free  
Hours: Friday • Noon to 7:00pm  
Saturday • 9:00am to 6:00 pm  
Sunday • 9:00am to 5:00pm



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## quote of the month

“The fishing was good;  
it was the catching that was bad.”

– A.K. Best

### 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 FEBRUARY 29, 2008

We prefer MSWord, but can read most any file format.  
Email: [miltmccconnell@yahoo.com](mailto: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 education 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.