



NEW MEXICO TROUT

July/August 2008

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18th Annual Kids Fishing Day saturday, july 26, 2008 • 9am – 1pm

18th Annual Fishing Day for youths ages 4-11 years old. There will be fishing and interactive educational booths. Join us for exciting hands-on activities to learn about our state fish, fly tying, casting, fishing and creative fish art. The first 250 participants who attend the required number of booths will receive a prize. **This event is FREE to the public.**

Please - no pets, no alcohol. Bring sack lunches and fishing gear. Free drinks - lemonade, water, kool-aid.

Where: Seven Springs Fish Hatchery.

Directions: From Highway 4 north of Jemez Springs, turn west onto State Road 126 past Fenton Lake to approximately mile marker 26. Turn right onto Forest Road 314 into Seven Springs State Fish Hatchery. (From Cuba, take State Road 126 east. Turn left onto Forest Road 314 into Seven Springs State Fish Hatchery.) Follow the signs.

How: Registration will take place on the day of the event at the Hatchery. There is no need to pre-register your children for the event.

Who: Hosted by New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, Santa Fe National Forest, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, New Mexico Trout, Jemez Valley businesses, and others.

Why: Our purpose is to provide youths with a fishing experience to aid in the development of their appreciation of nature, outdoor recreation, and the conservation and management of ecological resources.

For more information, contact Kimberly DeVal or Jo Wargo at the Jemez Ranger District (575-829-3535.)



Fly and photograph by Jeremy Barela

fly of the month goddard caddis

Hook: Standard dry fly #12-18

Thread: Brown 3/0 to spin deer/elk hair, Rust 8/0 to finish fly

Body: Deer/Elk hair, spun and trimmed to shape

Legs: Brown hackle

Antennae: hackle stem (optional)

new mexico trout volunteer projects 2008

June 21-22nd, 2008

Mushroom Basin Fencing Project;
Contact: Derek Padilla (USFS)

July 12-13th, 2008

Rio de las Vacas stream restoration and
exclosure project
Contact: Julie Walker, NMENV (505-476-3069)

July 26th, 2008

18th Annual Kids Fishing Day at the Seven
Springs Fish Hatchery
Contact: Kimberly DeVall (USFS)

August 2-3rd, 2008

Rio de las Vacas stream restoration
and exclosure project
Contact: Julie Walker, NMENV (505-476-3069)

September 27th, 2008

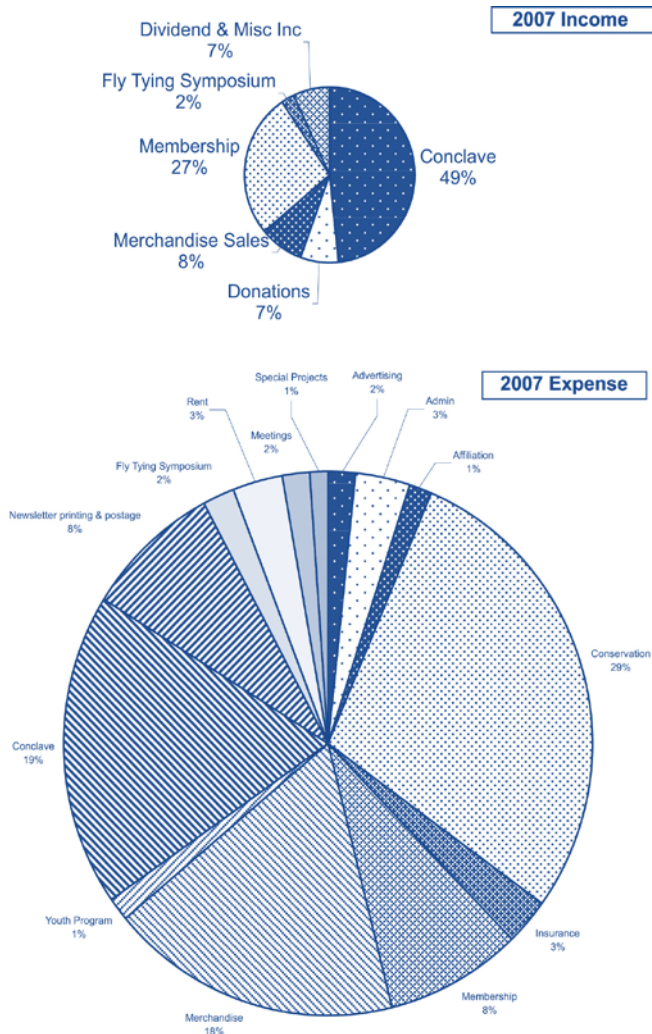
Oat Canyon Erosion Control and Stabilization;
Contact: Jo Wargo (USFS)

Contacts

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(505) 829-3535 (Jemez District)

NMT web site: www.newmexicotrout.org



time to step aside:

By Don Hurst

After more than five years as your Vice President and Program Chair, I believe it is time for me to step aside and let someone else put their ideas to work. For several years before becoming Vice President, I served on the Board of Directors in an at-large capacity. Before that, I was Treasurer for several years. I am a life-member of New Mexico Trout and will remain active in the organization.

New Mexico Trout has matured and grown into a productive group of sincere volunteers.

We have a very active program committee that meets regularly and recommends speakers for our Conclaves and general meetings. I am very confident that your next Vice President will be energetic and full of new ideas. Thank you all for letting me serve as your Vice President.

letter from the president

Mike Maurer, NMT President

Our first two conservation projects of 2008 have really gone well, and I'm happy to report that our Bar-B-Que project day was a resounding success. We had 40 eager beavers including Forest Service personnel ready to conquer the task and eat great Bar-B-Que.

Some of us erected the Kiosk, commemorating the restoration of the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout to the upper Rio Cebolla, a project spanning about 8 years from 1988 to 1995 that New Mexico Trout was a partner with the Forest Service and Game and Fish. (And to which we are duly proud). The rest of us joined Matt and James Gauchipin of the Forest Service and Mariano Lucero the permittee, fixing and raising the fence that keeps trespass cattle out of the meadow. Other Forest Service personnel joining us were: Amanda Webb and Kim Duvall, biologists working on Protect the Rio projects; Carol Van Dorn, Forest Hydrologist; Linda Riddel, Jemez District Ranger; Sharon Wallace, Cuba District Ranger. Chantel Cook, the new fisheries biologist replacing Sean Ferrell, was there too, meeting and greeting everyone. It was a relief to find out the Forest was filling Sean's vacancy and filling it with as nice a person as Chantel - one who's willing to come out on their own time to get to know New Mexico Trout and meet all the N.M.T. volunteers.



Gang of 40 pose after kiosk installation and Rio Cebolla fence repair.

Many of us got some good fishing in, Steve Weiss, Ron Kubica and I went to the upper Rio San Antonio and did well. Several fished right there on the Rio Cebolla. I was amazed at the number of new beaver dams on the Cebolla. there must be a dozen between the hatchery and the gate. There is a big one about a ¼ mile above the gate, which is where we located the Kiosk. This little stream has always been a good little trout stream; I believe it is going to be a "great little trout stream".

Bob Widgren has sent out the "refrigerator" card listing our upcoming projects for this summer. Do stick it up on your refrigerator or somewhere you won't forget it, and plan to join us for another great project. We won't have another meeting until the second Tuesday of October, the rest of the summer we'll spend on conservation projects and fishing, I hope a lot of fishing.

I have received great reports from our first project, cleaning up campsites and removing fire rings and all traces of camping along our home water the Rio De Guadalupe. I was out of state and unable to be there but we had a good turnout and did a super job on about 2 miles of stream bottom.

It is gratifying to see the streams in good shape, clearing and beginning to fish well. We should have a good stonefly hatch, and I can hardly wait. I hope to see you there.

For more information: www.newmexicotrout.org

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Valles Caldera Trust public meeting

By Ron Loehman

The Board of Directors of the Valles Caldera Trust held their quarterly public meeting in Albuquerque on March 14, 2008. The Board and Valles Caldera staff presented a lot of information on programs and budgets. Four items should be of particular interest to NM Trout members.

Grazing Program: Preserve manager Dennis Trujillo reported that because of increased rainfall over the past two growing seasons there has been a large increase in grass stocks over the preserve. They estimated the available forage and, based on utilization level of 40%, the VC managers will allow grazing of 2210 steers on the preserve for 4 summer months. The VC board earlier put out a request for proposals for this grazing and Trujillo announced that Mr. and Mrs. Gary Morton of Las Vegas, NM won the grazing contract. Several in the audience asked how the VC riparian areas would be protected with this level of grazing. VC Board member James Range stated that the VC staff and the Mortons are committed to preventing harm to the riparian areas. He specifically stated that the Mortons will provide range riders to keep the cows out of the streams.

East Fork Fishing: VC Preserve Scientist Dr. Bob Parmenter described the planned fishing program on the East Fork of the Jemez and Jaramillo Creek that will be implemented this summer. Surveys have shown high densities of trout on the upper two thirds of the East Fork within the preserve, reaching levels

of 1 fish/linear meter of stream. The plan is to allow 10 anglers/day on these creeks, but with no assigned beats. They plan for one or two central parking areas and people will space themselves along the streams according to how far they are willing to hike. Anglers will be able to reserve a specific day by phone, on-line, or by walk-in, as available. The fee will be \$50/angler per day. Two of the slots each day will be reserved for professional guides, who will pay a higher fee and who will have to be certified by the VC. There a lot of details to work out and reservations are not being taken yet. Dennis Trujillo said to keep checking on the Valles Caldera web site for notification of the program's start.

Wetlands Restoration Program: The VC staff are starting a restoration effort along the Rio San Antonio to realign the roads, improve drainage (specifically along Pipeline Road), and to improve culverts to reduce runoff and sediment loads in the creek.

Rio Grande Cutthroat Reintroduction: I spoke with Dennis Trujillo after the meeting about NM Trout's interest in helping them with riparian restoration, fish habitat improvements, and RG cutthroat restoration in the preserve. We specifically talked about reintroducing RG cutthroats in the Rio de los Indios, which is a feeder creek to the Rio San Antonio at about beat 2 or 3. I think the Preserve staff are very interested in such a project, but they will have to complete a lot of studies before actually doing anything. This will be a great opportunity for future volunteer work for NM Trout.

Jude Duran Defense Fund

As you may be aware a good friend of ours and Guide on the San Juan River, Jude Duran is in trouble. He is accused of robbing a bank in Montrose, Colorado. For those of you who do not know Jude, he is not a violent person, does not drink, smoke do drugs or even speed in his vehicle. He is respectful of the law and of people's feelings; he would NORMALLY not do anything to hurt anyone. ATF Fly shop in El Paso, TX has set up an account to help out his family.

Make all donations out to:

Donna Duran
Bank of America (NM Account)
Acct# 439001781902

or if you do not have a Bank of America in your area you can send

Donations to:

Donna Duran
PO BOX 422, Flora Vista, NM 87415

For more information: <http://atfflyshop.com/>

Literary Contest Winner

fishing with my grandfather

By Steven Paul

I started fly fishing with my grandfather about five years ago. It wouldn't be that interesting except that he had been dead for twenty years or so. So why did I start so late? As a boy I loved my grandfather. As I got older, time pulled us apart and the memories of him faded. By the time I was holding my first fly rod he had passed away. Now when I go fishing, I am surrounded by others that are similar to me. At different levels of experience and skill, but with all the same excitement of fishing and telling the bigger fish story. The similarities I found with my grandfather started in the most unlikely a spot; my dad. My Dad is no longer the great fisherman I remember as a fry. He has hit this time in his life called "minimalization." Minimalization to me is caching the smallest fish. To my Dad, it is the point in his life where he gives all the junk he has saved in his life to the ones that are dumb enough to take it. With that catch and release attitude, my Dad gave me the first time I went fishing with my grandfather. Fisherman have a bond, a link to fishing that tells others how good we are, whether we are spinner or fly fisherman. Our tackle or what's in our tackle box, tells who we are. This is the gift that my Dad's minimalization had turned junk, to hidden treasure. In the past twenty years I have heard stories of my grandfather's fishing adventures. It seems that tall tales run in my family genes. I could not believe my dad considered my Grandfather's tackle junk.

I was so excited about holding my grandfather's tackle box. As my dad handed it to me he didn't even think to see the excitement and fear such a gift had on me. This was the Tackle box. My grandfather's Tackle box. I placed it in the truck and pretended that it was no big deal. Gave my dad a hug goodbye. And faster than an eighteen inch brown sucks a dry fly up in the fall, I was out of there. The box had not been opened in twenty years. A time capsule of truth. What kind of fisherman was my grandfather? The box was heavy. A slight rattling sound came from within. I knew it was full. Not empty.

I am always bringing junk home. My wife thinks that I am crazy, but even this time I think she felt the excitement. My first fishing trip with my grandfather. Where was it going to be? The rivers of Colorado? The backwaters of Elephant butte? Or was I about to find the comedic side of the family tree and open a box with a mummified twenty year old fish inside? It did smell like fish.

I opened the box like a six year old at Christmas. The first thing I saw was two fly reels. A box of flies, slip shots of all sizes. It was the holy grail. I started at the big items and moved

to the smaller things. Each item telling a bit more about my grandfather and each thing telling a little more about what he was like. The flies were barb-less. The reels had floating line. There was a deck of cards just like the deck that I have in my tackle box. Matter a fact every thing he had, I did to. It was like he and I had been fishing together for our whole lives. And then it came to me. He had been fishing with me. Through every fish I caught, every fly I tied this might be the first time we had ever fished together but it was a lifetime of a little boy and his grandfather that I was seeing.

My Dad called me a few weeks later. I didn't tell him about the fishing trip with grandpa. I wanted it to remain special. He told me he had some more things that I might want. Of course, I said. It was like he had set the hook. I was off running. What was it this time? I didn't expect what my dad handed me next.

My Dad was in the garage when I pulled up. A friend of his was there and they were talking about motorcycles. It could have been about rocket ships as far as I was concerned for I had visions of my grandfather and fishing on my mind. Finally my dad pointed over to the bench and at that time I think he finally saw in my face the excitement that I was trying to hold back. My grandfather's fly vest and creel. My grandfather might have been a great fisherman but a snappy dresser he was not. His vest was a world war two fighter pilot's vest. With gun holster and all. He must have had a snub nose 38 with him when that big one took one too many runs back up stream. But the creel was a prize. Like something from the antique road show. What patina! I would never use it. It was too beautiful. With pride I thanked him and started out and that's when my dad stopped me. There's one more thing. You could have knocked me over with a number 22 Elk Hair caddis. There it was. I wondered where it was. I had everything else. I assumed, but no, there it was. A four and a half foot Aluminum rod case. I have seen them in garage sales and fly shops. My heart stopped. My Grandfather's rod. In the back of my mind I was hoping for a 1910 two piece number 4 bamboo rod. Not to be specific, but I couldn't seem to close my mouth so I had to see. My Grandfather died in the mid eighties. That's about the same time I started to fly-fish. He had always had great taste, except in fly vests, so when I opened the case I was not too surprised to see a top-of-the-line fly rod. I was shocked to see that it still had the plastic over the corker handle. He had never used it. I had a hard time with this one. Weeks went by. I had never had a

continued on next page

finer rod. I researched the serial number and found that it was made about the same time of his death. Even today I can't tell you how it made me feel. Like the time I saw my son born. Moments in time that stop your heart. It wasn't the rod, it was my grandfather.

The next time I went fishing I went out to honor my grandfather. The stream had to be special. The fall leaves were just turning and the smell of winter was in the air. I picked this

place that was rare to see. Native trout, winding streams, just me and my grandfather. We fished all day. I even put one of the flies from the tackle box on and sure enough caught a few. I had never seen my grandfather fish, but I know he would be proud. It was an incredible day. He was an incredible man.

This is dedicated to my Grandfather

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES

New Mexico's state fish, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, once filled the rivers and streams of the Rio Grande, Pecos, and Canadian drainages. When fish stocking began in New Mexico waters in the early 1900s, the negative effects of non-native fish on our native fish were not known, such as hybridization and competition for food and habitat. Other culprits in the decline of our native fish include overfishing and impacts to watershed health, such as logging, mining, and overgrazing. Today, Rio Grande cutthroat trout are mostly found in the headwater streams, often above a barrier that blocks access from downstream non-natives.

The Santa Fe National Forest has a native fish assemblage comprised of four species:

Rio Grande cutthroat trout, Rio Grande sucker, Rio Grande chub, and longnose dace. All, except the dace, are experiencing a decline in population.

Beginning in the 1980's and continuing to today, a partnership was formed by the Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico Trout and New Mexico Department of Game & Fish to bring back the native fish to the upper Rio Cebolla. The partnership resulted in five miles of stream rehabilitation: correcting stream erosion and wash out problems, creating pools, stabilizing banks, and creating McKinney Pond as a stream barrier to non-native trout 1.5 miles upstream from where this sign sits. After removing non-native trout above the McKinney Pond barrier, Rio Grande cutthroat trout were collected from a neighboring stream west of here and released into the Rio Cebolla.

Since then, the partnership has planted willows and installed fencing to improve streamside habitat. Stream habitat improvements continue. As you hike or fish along this stream, please respect restoration projects in progress. You can avoid accidental introduction of non-native fish by releasing fish back at their point of capture.

RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT TROUT HABITATION RANGE
(Only biologists believe Rio Grande cutthroat trout occupy only 10% of their historical range.)

Colorado
New Mexico

current habitation range
historical habitation range

Rio Grande cutthroat trout

Rio Grande sucker

Rio Grande chub

longnose dace

Not all numbers are used with permission of Joseph R. Tomblin.

Funded in part by New Mexico Trout, Environmental Protection Agency, and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Santa Fe National Forest

Kiosk artwork installed on the Upper Cebolla

Fly Reel Winner



Walt Ratcliff received the "Evolution" Fly Reel



Limits to Fly Fishers Only, ...again

At the February Game Commission meeting, we were asked to testify about a proposed fly fishing only rule that would limit all fly fishers to two flies on any water in the state. This would affect fly fishing only, no other type of fishing was being targeted.

It was apparent this was a wish of some guides on the San Juan that were unhappy with other guides using the European method of nymph fishing. The rule was being proposed without any study, data or thought. No determination had been made by Game & Fish if there really was a problem, and if so, would this rule change correct it.

We testified, along with T.U. and other fly fishing advocates, that before such a rule be implemented, these studies be undertaken. The Game Commission agreed and disallowed the change until those studies were done.

Well reason, study, thought, data collection, etc. have no place in politics, and politics doesn't take no for an answer. So Michael Sloan, Game and Fish, is back again. At the next Game Commission meeting in July he is going to again try to get the change with some new limits.

The following is the letter I wrote in reply to his inquiry to us, trying again to limit fly fishers only to two flies. Be advised that an indicator fly with two droppers which many of us use, would be outlawed.

If you would like to testify or write a letter, pro or con please do so. If you need help with where to send it please contact me and I will get you all the information.

A Letter to Game and Fish april 29, 2008

Mr. Sloan,

On behalf of New Mexico Trout I would like to you to consider the following comments to your proposal emailed to me on April 25 regarding the two fly rule change.

The last time you made this proposal in February, we urged you to table this action until the extent of the problem could be studied and good data generated showing if there really is a problem and to what extent.

It seems that despite being the chief of a department that insists it makes decisions based on good science, data, and study, you are intent on making a rule change based on political considerations only.

Your scenario #1 makes absolutely no sense at all because the majority of river it applies to is open to all forms of fishing, including bait, without any limit on types and numbers of hooks or methods.

Scenario #2 would be acceptable if it limited flies to three rather than two. This then would not make outlaws of most fly fishers who like to use an indicator fly and two droppers.

We could very reluctantly support a two fly rule in the special regulation water on the San Juan if it would be for a specific time, say for one year, then renewed only after a thorough study to see if the rule change had a positive effect. Comparing it to other factors such as; handling stress, deep hooking, old age, disease, and egg retention.

There are many published studies (one by Trout Unlimited national and one by Prof. Robert Behnke Phd., to cite a couple) that show that number and type of hooks have little effect on trout mortality. Rather, under what conditions trout were fought, handled and released, played the most important role in trout survival.

Thank you.

Mike Maurer
President
New Mexico Trout



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quote of the month

“Calling fishing a hobby is like
calling brain surgery a job.”

- Paul Schullery

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 AUGUST 31, 2008

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 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.