



NEW MEXICO TROUT

September / October 2008

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Fly Tied By Madyson Barela



Fly of The Month Hot-Pink Wooly Bugger

Hook: 3x long streamer hook

Thread: Pink 8/0

Tail: Hot-pink marabou

Body: Hot-pink chenille

Hackle: gray saddle hackle

Bead: Gold bead to size

The First Fly *by Jeremy Barela*

I received my email from Milt earlier this week asking for the next fly for the newsletter and after flipping through my fly boxes and photos, I came across a few pictures of my daughter's first tied fly.

This wasn't just any run of the mill fly. This fly had pizzazz, caught your eye and looked like it just flat out worked!

I remember when this fly was tied. It was a little over a year ago that we got out the vise and materials to tie this particular fly. We placed the chenille, marabou and hackle on the table, placed a bead on the hook and put the hook in the jaws. We loaded up the vibrant colored thread that matched perfectly with the other material into the bobbin and

started it on the hook.

A couple of wraps here, a couple there and finally back to the hook point. The time came to tie in the marabou, hot-pink marabou that is. Next up was the hot-pink chenille and finally the hackle.

The thread made it back up to the bead, with some help, followed by the wraps of hot-pink chenille. Tied off the chenille, found some scissors and trimmed the rest away. Now time to wrap the hackle, and after a few tries of wrapping and unwrapping, it also was tied off and trimmed.

So, a hot-pink wooly bugger almost complete. The only thing left was to whip finish so we could put it in the fly box and go

fishing. And after 10 minutes, the whip finish was finally complete as well!

Her first hot-pink wooly bugger was a master piece. Better than any other fly I had ever seen and I just knew it would catch a big one!

And a big one it did catch. About 73" long, 195lbs with the name of "Daddy."

The first fly my daughter Madyson ever tied caught the biggest sucker she'll ever catch. And how appropriate she chose hot-pink to match her princess outfit she wore the night she tied it.

I hope you enjoy this month's fly as much as I have enjoyed telling the story about it.



New Mexico Trout Important Dates

- New Mexico Trout Regular Meetings
- Tuesday October 14th 7PM Sandia Prep
- Tuesday November 11th, 7PM Sandia Prep



Letter From The President

Mike Maurer, NMT President

October starts our new fall season and we have some really interesting meetings and events planned. Our first meeting is the second Tuesday, October 14th and we have Dr. Bob Parmenter and Michael Cieslak as our guests.

Dr. Parmenter is the resident scientist at the Valles Caldera Preserve and will have a presentation covering ongoing studies of the flora and fauna of the preserve, the natural resources and of course the fishery. I'm sure he will bring us up to date on the status of the fishery, and riparian issues. I am sure he will also talk about a proposal to reintroduce Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout to the Rio de Los Indios, a small tributary of the Rio San Antonio.

This will be a great opportunity to raise issues with Dr. Parmenter surrounding the increased presence of cattle in, on and around the streams. I have been aware that the fishing experience has been less than optimum due to cows and cow pies in and on the stream, and no herders in site all day to move them out.

In addition we will have a presentation by Michael Cieslak on a fly fishing trip to Canada that evidentially went very well. This should be really fun and enjoyable.

I am very excited about this year's Fly Tying Symposium coming up December 6th and 7th. We are going to bring in some world class, top notch tiers such as Marvin Nolte, Rick Takahashi, and Larry Kingrey, to name a few. These names may not mean a lot to you and me, but among top fly tiers, these tiers are recognized the world over! Plus we will have tiers from the southwest including New Mexico. Marvin Nolte, Rick Takahashi and Larry Kingrey (and maybe others) are expecting to have small group classes on Sunday the 7th. Call Lee Widgren at Los Pinos if you are interested in learning from and tying with these world class tiers. This is a way for the tiers to offset the high cost of gas, travel and lodging. Please support this effort, it is not a fund raiser, all monies will go directly to the tier.

I have been in contact with Kirk Patten, New Mexico Game and Fish Wild trout Biologist, and he has brought me up to date on some of the RGCT programs. The RGCT spawn, collection at the new collection site (Santa Fe's McClure Reservoir) went very well with a good harvest of eggs and spawn and a good number of trout had survived and matured.

He also reported that the 2nd treatment of Comanche Creek to remove the remaining White Suckers and non native fish is scheduled for late August. If all goes as planned, Rio Grande Cutthroat will be reintroduced next spring.

See you at the October meeting!

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Game and Fish Letter

Mike,

I got your letter, as I have received the same or similar letter from a number of other individuals during the past 10 days. The Game Commission will be made aware at the meeting on Wednesday this week.

I understand and concur with the concerns expressed. And, I understand what it is that is being asked to be done.

However, it is not clear to me what the authors of the letter, including you, believe NMGF and I can do that has not already been set in motion or attempted on several occasions.

Please consider sending me a brief e-mail response that articulates 2 or 3 specific things that you believe NMGF and I have substantive responsibility or authority to accomplish. I want to ensure that we are communicating about realistic prospects, as water releases and sediment deposition are challenges that NMGF has been examining in context with the entire system and the interagency authorities.

Thanks for whatever specifics you can provide.

Bruce Thompson, PhD

1. NMGF should request that the BOR place a moratorium on reducing flows below 500 cfs until the following actions can be accomplished.

A. NMGF should request funding for the comprehensive multi-year assessment of the fishery that is critically needed. This investigation should be performed by independent, recognized tailwater-fishery experts.

B. NMGF should request that the BOR not relax the moratorium on low flows until an integrated approach to the problems of low flows, silting, and degradation of water quality can be used to determine appropriate mitigations and satisfactory mitigation progress can be demonstrated.

2. NMGF should request funding for a water quality, ecology and riparian study to sustain a healthy fishery. There are several areas above Texas Hole which no longer sustain large populations of fish.

3. NMGF should request funding for a study in finding ways to minimize the heavy dumping of silt/sand from the major washes into the river.

- The Rex Smith Wash at Kiddie Hole
- The Simon Wash at Simon Canyon
- The Munoz Wash at the end of Luncker Alley

The NMT San Juan River Ecology and Riparian Committee requests that the studies be made public and identify solutions associated with cost in the following categories in order to provide the opportunity for private funding (NMT, TU, Local, Fly Shops, etc.):

- A. Short Term Solution
 - Effective solution
 - Best solution
- B. Long Term Solution
 - Effective solution
 - Best solution

Also, private funding (NMT, TU, Local, Fly Shops, etc.) can be obtained for these studies in case the NMGF has budget issues.

This committee believes that these actions are NOT outside of the authority or responsibility of the NMGF. This committee believes that NMGF is charged with the public trust of this tremendous resource, and would ideally be a protagonist in championing the trout fishery in the Quality Waters of the San Juan River with other agencies involved, both state and federal, to maintain the health of the river and the fishery. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Vincent J. Villavicencio

New Mexico Trout (NMT) San Juan River Ecology and Riparian Committee Chairman

Response

NMT San Juan River Ecology and Riparian Committee (July 22, 2008)

It has been stated that the conditions being seen on the San Juan River are due to the natural evolution of a tailwater fishery. However, there are great examples of other tailwaters that have been around far longer than the San Juan and are to this date still world class. If the rate of damage over the past 10 years is a natural evolution of a tailwater fishery, the San Juan River should have seen this damage in the early 1980's.

It is now clear that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) new low flow plan was fatally flawed with respect to the potential damage to the trout fishery and the river ecosystem. A comprehensive fishery analysis including the combined effects of year-round minimum flows, silting, critical water quality parameters, etc. was not performed. As a result the fishery damage predictions published to support the low flows were inaccurate. Further, a number of agencies, concerned about the possible damage, identified and requested various mitigation measures in the EIS.

To date, we still haven't seen a comprehensive fishery investigation and there is confusion as to the nature and extent of the problems and what can be done. Further, no funding has been provided for meaningful mitigation. As a result:

Valles Caldera

I've decided to do some venting about my recent trip of 10 July on the Valles Caldera.

Sharing The Ranch With Cattle

While my fishing partner and I managed to catch a few fish, the experience was very disappointing. That we caught any fish at all was remarkable because we shared our beat (#4) with several hundred head of cattle that were in the stream bed, that either spooked or spoiled the water as we progressed upstream. I have fished the Valles almost every year since it was opened to the public, so I am aware of what it was compared to the disaster it is now. I am also aware that it is mandated to remain a working cattle ranch, but the extent to which that requirement has been taken (now estimated at 2000 head) has made the resource incompatible with a fly fishing venue. I have been informed that the cowboys who work the ranch are supposed to keep the cattle away from the river; I did not see a cowboy for the 5 hours that I was in the preserve. As for my experience on the stream - in addition to the distraction of the cattle in the stream bed, it was almost impossible not to step in, kneel on, or sit in, a "cow patty " on a frequent basis during the course of the day; it was solid sh__ everywhere. This is especially disgusting when you decide to sit down to take a break to re-rig or have a snack. I would not choose to do so in a feedlot and this is what it felt like. It takes real "stones" to charge the public for the privilege of that experience; in my case it was \$60 mis-spent. Also, I learned in the parking lot at the end of the day that my views are shared by other fly fishers who were on the preserve that evening. Finally, it is my view that a National Preserve should benefit the public, all of the public, and not just a few cattle ranchers. When considering the number of people who visit the Valles, the public at large would outnumber the cattle interests by thousands. How about considering that fact when you decide which emphasis is placed on the usage of the resource.

Evening Fly Fishing

This is a bad idea!! I was forced to choose this date because of my schedule/availability and would not do it again for a number of reasons. During monsoon season you can expect an afternoon thunderstorm almost every day on the Valles Caldera, and I'm informed that it is one the most lightning struck locations in the US. You are just asking for problems by putting folks out there holding a lightning rod in their

hands when they are most vulnerable. As it happened, we lucked out and the lightning that occurred during our stay was distant. My guess is that more than 75% of evening fish dates are washed out. Also, by the time our group left the preserve, all of the local restaurants (Jemez, La Cueva, etc.) had closed their kitchens, making for a long drive to ABQ on an empty stomach.... arriving home at 1100 PM, a very long and disappointing day.

On A More Positive Note

You have an outstanding staff on the Valles - courteous, friendly and informative. Special thanks to Nancy and Mr. Sellers for their help.

As you can see, I've taken some time to respond to your "Multiple Use and Sustained Yield of Forage" questionnaire. I am also copying Mr. Mike Mauer, President of New Mexico Trout, and Mr. Bob Widgren, Los Pinos Fly Shop, so that the membership of NM Trout can be informed of recent changes at the Valles Caldera National Preserve. The courtesy of a response to my comments would be appreciated.

Respectfully,
Fred Corbalis, Col. USAF Ret.
Member NM Trout



Successful kids fishing day at the seven springs hatchery

A Walk Along a River

Our Second Place Literary
Contest Winner

By Ray Shewnack

People ask, "Why do you fly fish?"

I answer, "Have you ever walked along a river?"

"Yes," they say.

"It's a little like that." I say.

When I walk along a river, there are multiple stimuli to my senses.

Bright green tufts of grass grow down to the river's edge. Each blade of grass is laden with drips of morning dew. As I step, the grass crinkles and waves of fresh vegetation scent permeates the air. When it reaches my nostrils, I inhale and it makes me smile.

A breeze rustles through the tree tops. The leaves brush against one another and a relaxing whisper like waves gently caressing a sandy shore fills the air. The zephyr ruffles the hair on my head and it feels good. It makes me smile.

Warm sunshine, filtered by the swaying branches, creates moving patterns on the ground. When it shines on streamside stones, the moist coating shimmers on the rough surface. The glare from the water makes me squint. I shield my eyes with my hand and warm rays penetrate my back and shoulders, and it makes me smile.

I look up along the river's edge. A slate American Dipper sits perched on a streamside rock. He dives into the flow and disappears for a few moments. When he emerges, he has a wiggling aquatic nymph in his beak. I catch movement out over the water. A Rufus hummingbird hovers like a miniature helicopter and flits away. High above the tree line that defines the streams course, a Red Tail soars in his search for a meal. I hear the song of a yellow warbler somewhere in the willows and it makes me smile.

The movement of the water is mesmerizing. The flow is ever-constant, but never the same. Sunlight makes the surface of the stream shimmer with hundreds of points of light. It glistens like a liquid diamond. The river sings to me too. It carries a tune that derives its notes depending on the volume of water that rushes between rocks and then crashes down into the pool below. The glimmer, shine and symphony of sound make me smile.

I dip my fingers into the flow of water. I am always somewhat surprised at how cold it is. If I leave my fingers in the current too long, I can feel the chill creep up into my hand. My skin tightens and blood moves slower. The sensation tickles the tips of my fingers and it makes me smile.

Fly fishing is like a walk along a river, but there's more.

A fly caster is a graceful angler. My movements are slow and controlled. The fly cast itself is a picture of elegance. I sway the rod forward and back and when the fly is delivered to exactly the right spot, it floats down to the surface like a weightless snowflake. That makes me smile.

But there's more.

The fly floats on the surface, held up by the tail and hackle tips. It dances as the current brings my imitation of a natural insect back towards me. The choice of dry fly was not a matter of chance. I did not spin the wheel to determine my fly of choice. As a fly fisher, I am privy to the underwater world. I know the difference between mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies and midges. I know what they look like and how they behave. I imagine the insect that I think the fish will be keying on in their pursuit of nutrition. I watch my dry fly drift into the fish's feeding lane and I smile.

But there's more.

A wild rainbow trout tips its nose up above the surface of the stream and inhales my offering. A brief tug of war ensues. I feel the power of a strong fish against the shock-absorbing properties of the rod tip. The fish surges upstream and then down. In short order, the trout slides gently into the net. The struggle was lively and it makes me smile.

But there's more.

The fish lies on its side in the shallow water. Its gills pulsate to get oxygen. The iridescent colors are vibrant in the sunlight. I unhook the trout and gingerly release it back into the current to resume its normal life. As it swishes its tail in a powerful stroke, it makes me smile.

But there's more.

I am concerned about the environment. I fight the good fight to keep the rivers running cold and clean so that they can continue to harbor fish. I fight to keep the riparian areas natural so that the ecosystem remains healthy. I fight to preserve natural wonder of the fish. I win some of those fights and it makes me smile.

But there's more.

The fly angler shares all of these elements, experiences and thoughts with their friends. I talk about my victories and I talk about my failures. During the conversation I smile.

People ask, "Why do you fly fish?"

I answer, "It's like a walk along a river and a whole lot more. It makes me smile."



2008 Philmont Fly Fishing & Hiking Fellowship

The 2008 Philmont Fly Fishing and Hiking Fellowship in Cimarron, New Mexico is for a select group of community leaders and supporters to get together for fly fishing in the exclusive streams and hiking the exclusive trails of the Philmont Scout Ranch. By special arrangement, you will experience Philmont's high country, which is normally restricted to Scouts on 12-day backpacking trips. This year's event will be held on October 10-12, 2008.



Guests will arrive at the Philmont Scout Ranch on Friday afternoon, October 10, 2008 for a reception held at the Casa del Gavi-lan Historic Inn. Fly-fishing and hiking will begin early Saturday morning and then again early Sunday morning. For only \$350/ person, all meals, lodging and backcountry transportation to the fishing sites will be provided. For an additional \$100, guests may arrive Thursday the 9th and have Friday to fish or hike. All proceeds will go to support the Boy Scouts of America by providing:

- Character education, leadership training and outdoor program opportunities for more than 10,000 youth in northern New Mexico, southern Colorado, and the Navajo nation in Arizona and Utah.
- 201 Eagle Scout rank advancements, contributing more than 20,000 hours of community service.
- Lifetime memories for more than 2,000 youth who attend summer camp programs.
- More than 25,000 pounds of food collected by local Scouts to benefit local food banks.
- Financial assistance to help more than 152 low-income youth participating in our Scoutreach program.
- More than 220,000 hours of community service projects conducted by local Scouts to benefit churches, schools and local parks throughout Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado.
- Direct service, training and support to nearly 5,000 adult volunteer leaders.



**Join the
Great Southwest Council,
Boy Scouts of America
for the
2008 Annual
Philmont Fly-Fishing
& Hiking Fellowship
October 10-12, 2008**



**Great Southwest Council,
BSA
2008 Philmont Fly-Fishing
& Hiking Fellowship
Reservation Form**

Dates: Thursday, October 9 (optional)
Friday, October 10 through
Sunday, October 12, 2008.
Program concludes with a box lunch
on Sunday.

Fee: \$350 per person Friday through Sunday
\$450 per person Thurs. through Sunday

Name: _____
 First MI Last

Address: _____

Phone: Office _____

Home/Cell _____

E-Mail: _____

Enclosed:

_____ \$100 Non-Refundable Deposit

_____ \$350 Friday through Sunday

_____ \$450 Thursday through Sunday

Participant Signature

Even Code: 026



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Quote of The Month

“Fly fishing has as much to do with ragged purple mountain tops, water cascading over rounded boulders in steep-walled canyons of pink granite, and sunlight streaming through Douglas Firs as it does with fish. In pursuit of trout, anglers find themselves in some of the world’s loveliest places and perhaps, either knowingly or subconsciously, derive as much satisfaction from simply entering the trout’s environment as they do from catching their quarry. Angling carries no guarantee of success, and more often than not a cast to a stream or lake results in failure. Yet anglers continue to head for the water because the places trout live are as important to them as are the speckled fish.”

*- Craig Martin, from “Fly Fishing Southern Colorado”,
with Tom Knopick and John Flick.*

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 **OCTOBER 31, 2008**

We prefer MSWord, but can read most any file format.
Email: miltmconnell@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.

