

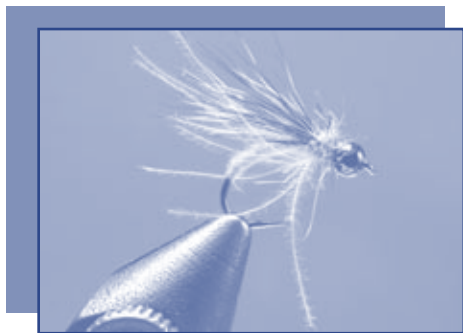


NEW MEXICO TROUT

March/April 2009

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*Fly tied and photographed by Jeremy Barela
Originated by Hans Weilenmann*

Fly of The Month CDC Diving Caddis

Hook: Scud hook, size #14-18

Thread: Dunn 8/0

Head: Black bead

Body: Dunn CDC feather, about 1 ½”- 2” in length – tied in by tips at tie in point on end of shank, then wrap forward, stroking CDC fibers backwards

Wing: Elk hair

Thorax: Caddis Green hares dub

This is a great pattern to fish on many of the watersheds in New Mexico. The pattern poses as a diving caddis laying eggs, making it an easy and enticing meal. It is best fished dead-drifted in a high-sticking fashion. It can also be fished behind an adult caddis or as the lead fly with a caddis nymph below.

Rock SNOT

Department of Fish and Game Urging Anglers

The Department of Game and Fish is urging anglers and others who visit the Pecos River Canyon to take measures to prevent the spread of an invasive species of algae that could present many problems for the Pecos River and other state waters.

The New Mexico Environment Department confirmed a bloom of *Didymosphenia geminata* in the Pecos River near Cowles in August. Commonly called “didymo,” the single-celled alga’s large, ugly growths on stream gravels have earned it the descriptive name, “rock snot.” It is an aquatic nuisance species known to be transferred around the world on boats, fishing equipment and footwear.

Didymo can undergo explosive growth, creating massive algal blooms in the form of dense mats that can impact native algae and invertebrates -- the food base for native and sport fish. The alga can change water chemistry and hydrology and reduce hydroelectric power production. Its presence also can hurt tourist economies in infected areas.

Native to northern Europe and Vancouver Island, Canada, didymo has spread to all but three U.S. states, Arizona, Nevada and Oregon. It appears to prefer habits low in nutrients and organic productivity, but can be found in freshwater streams, rivers and lakes.

The apparent increase in invasiveness of didymo may be related to factors including inter-basin transfer by humans, climatic changes, altered grazing, and genetic changes.

This is the second aquatic invasive species known to exist in the Pecos River. Whirling disease, a protozoan parasite that attacks the spinal columns of trout, is found in the river’s headwaters. Whirling disease also is known to “hitchhike” on unwashed fishing tackle and waders.

To help prevent the spread of didymo, anglers and others are urged to:

www.newmexicotrout.org
or contact Lee Widgren at 340-3481
bobwidgren@msn.com

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Letter From The President

Rudy Rios, NMT President

This year New Mexico Trout started the year off with a big bang having a terrific Conclave with Jeff and Barry. I was able to spend an evening with them at dinner talking about the finer points of Pike fishing with another guest Norm Makitma. Barry had some interesting tales of fishing in the jungles of South America and Jeff's tales of adventure were also hard to top. Jeff and Barry sure did a great job and I hope that all you enjoyed the shows they put on. We will have a link on the website to their sites if you want to find out more about their tales of adventure or just say thanks for a great show.

We have some new board members coming in and I would like to welcome Deward Yocum – VP. He has taken the reins from Don Hurst and will be in charge of the monthly meetings and helping the conclave committee put on another great show in 2010. I don't want to spill the beans but we have a very important name on the short list. Keep your ears open and you might get word who is being invited but more on that later in the year. Pat Mileskosky has moved up to take the Secretary's seat replacing Trish Breslin. Trish we'll miss the cakes and cookies you used to bring but if you're in the mood maybe you can give Pat some cooking tips, wait a minute, I understand that Pat is a pretty good cook so I'll just have to see. Andy Perez has stepped into the batter box and is warming up to do PR work. If you know anyone in the media shoot Andy an email and I'm sure he will give them an earful of info on NMT and we hope he'll be hitting some out of the park.

If you get a chance, go to the webpage and look for the information updated by our new webmaster, Brian Green. Brian is working on developing a HOT website where you can pay your membership, buy one of the many merchandising ideas of Bob Day, look at some updated photos I know you're just dying to show off, or just see what's coming up on Ron Loehman's conservation workbook! You can even sign up to get your boots dusty.

Last thing I want to mention, May 2/3 is the BIG BBQ on Per alta Canyon and now is the time to call me or Ron and let us know that you're coming up to eat some great Brisket or Ribs, talk about your latest record trout while you stuff yourself with potato salad and Cole slaw, oh yea and do some very critical work on the most wonderful stream in the whole of New Mexico. Mike Maurer called it "the Pacific northwest right here in New Mexico" and it really is just the most beautiful place to catch some wily Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. Can you please put this on your calendar? Call me at 730-1719 to let me know you're coming, so I order enough food, since this year the caterer Fat Boy BBQ run by Grill Master Charles Montoya has promised to bring up a hot lunch wagon to serve a

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BBQ RSVP:

Rudy Rios - President: 730-1719, riosrje@gmail.com

Ron Loehman - Conservation: 265-3179,
ronloehman@gmail.com

2008-2009 NM TROUT DIRECTORS

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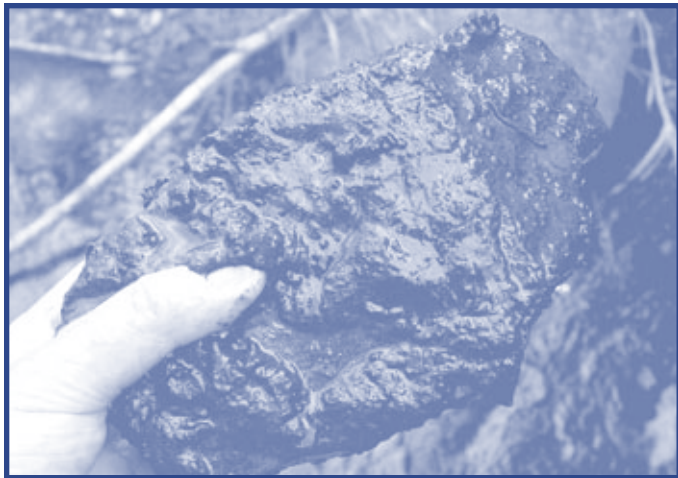
Brian Mileskosky bpmiles@gmail.com

Rock SNOT

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Check: Before leaving the river, remove all obvious clumps of algae and look for hidden clumps. Leave them at the site. If you find clumps later, don't wash them down the drain; treat them with approved methods below, dry them and put them in a rubbish bin.

Clean: Soak and scrub anything that may have contacted algae for at least one minute in either hot (140 ° F) water, a 2 percent solution of household bleach, or a 5 percent solution of salt, antiseptic hand cleaner or dishwashing detergent.



Dry: If cleaning is not practical (pets, livestock), wait until it is completely dry, and then wait at least 48 hours before contact or use in any waterway.

This discovery comes just as the Department of Game and Fish is leading a statewide effort to adopt a New Mexico Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan. Strategies include creation of a New Mexico Invasive Species Council; laws against importing aquatic invasive species to the state; funding to combat the spread of invasive organisms; and monitoring known invasive species in the state.

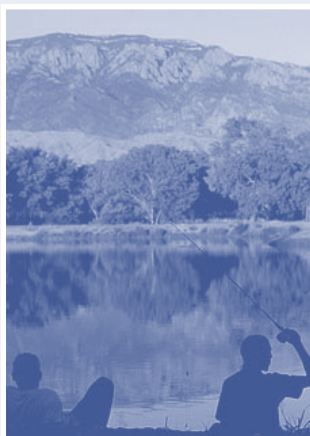
Nationwide, aquatic invasive species cost \$137 billion a year to offset their impacts and educate people about preventing their spread. The 100 or so aquatic invasive species posing threats to New Mexico water resources include quagga and zebra mussels and the New Zealand mudsnail. These species can grow unchecked in waters that contain no natural predators or diseases, while clogging pipes and damaging ecosystems.

For more information about invasive aquatic species, contact Brian Lang, (505) 476-8108 or brian.lang@state.nm.us. To review the New Mexico Invasive Species Plan, please visit the Department of Game and Fish Web site, www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

President's Letter, continued

hot meal. This will definitely be a treat. Put down May 2/3, bring your favorite RGTC small stream rod, get a little dusty and have a great meal in our little slice of heaven.

Final thought: as I am writing this I wonder what Mike Maurer is doing right now. I know he's probably thinking about the greenhorns running the show now. I wonder if we can be as good as the team that just got the best seats in the house. Mike said it can be whatever "you make it" and I think he meant whatever "you" the members of NMT make it. Let's make this the best year ever, do some neat projects, catch some of the most beautiful trout in the world on the best water in the US.



The New Sandia Lakes

Construction is now complete (March 14th) at the New Sandia Lakes for those of you who haven't been down in a while. The operation has three huge ponds and one has been devoted exclusively to fly fishing enthusiasts. Accepting the invitation of Ben Martinez, I went down to get a feel for this new Stillwater fly fishing experience. Ok, I was there for two hours and WOW eight hook ups. These were some very nice rainbows full of life and willing to put up a hard fight. Ten minutes north of the city and you're into fish. Try it out!

The Opportunity of a Lifetime: Protecting the Right to Clean Water and Native Trout

By Rebecca Sobel and Bryan Bird, WildEarth Guardians

Every single New Mexican has a right to clean water and sportsmen certainly understand this need better than most. Standing at a stream bank and watching the pools and eddies for shadows, listening for the gulping of the water, anglers are intimately in touch with the health of our streams and rivers. As a result of this intimate relationship you understand the outstanding nature and value of our precious lands in New Mexico. Through the pursuit of pristine stretches of fish, you more than anyone know these exceptional qualities of our roadless areas.

In securing a water future for our arid state, Governor Richardson made a plan for safeguarding New Mexico's headwaters and in turn its native fish. By protecting the source of our waters – our headwater systems in roadless and wilderness areas - we will secure a clean water future for our children and aquatic life.

A report authored by UNM economics professors found that roadless, wild forests in New Mexico are worth tens of millions of dollars alone for the 530,000 acre feet of pure water they generate each year.

But we don't need facts and figures to demonstrate the value of our roadless areas. We just need to ask you! Roadless areas on public lands represent most of the best coldwater fish habitat left in the West. Undamaged by roads and other development, the headwater streams and rivers that flow through roadless areas offer some of the last refuges for many native trout. In fact, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout and the Gila trout, all eight western, native cutthroat have their strongest populations in pristine, roadless forests. But, according to the Western Native Trout Campaign, healthy trout populations are only found in tiny portions of their former ranges - averaging less than 5%. As a result, western native trout species are highly imperiled, and complete protection of roadless areas and their priceless water is essential to their survival.

But you already know the infinite value of our forests and the waters that flow from them, and we who share this intimate connection with the wild have seen these waters changing, for the worse, especially in recent decades. We are right to be concerned over our water future. With short-sighted land management practices and mounting climate changes, New Mexico's waterways are increasingly at risk of further impairment. Right now, more than half of our state's rivers— over 3,000 miles –are too polluted to meet designated uses.

The solution to our water future lies in our headwaters, mostly on federal, public lands. New Mexico, like so many dry, western states, relies almost entirely on the forests that cloak our peaks to capture, store, filter, and slowly release

water. Headwater systems within wilderness and roadless areas on National Forest lands teem with life, and it is these waters that are the lifeblood of human and wildlife populations throughout the state. These waterways filter sediment and other pollutants from reaching larger downstream waters; they prevent flooding by slowing down storm water, and gradually release stored water during low flow and drought periods.

Right now, Governor Richardson is pursuing an effort to protect our headwaters and maintain their high water quality forever, assuring the prosperity of our communities, wildlife, and livelihoods. By protecting our headwaters as "Outstanding National Resource Waters" (Outstanding Waters), a designation under the federal Clean Water Act, the quality of these waters is guaranteed along with their infinite contributions to New Mexico.

Outstanding Water designations, which are approved by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC), are meant to ensure clean water in rivers and streams in perpetuity by legally guaranteeing those streams are not degraded below evaluated baselines. This level of protection is meant for the highest quality waters in the state and serves as a mechanism for states to reclaim their rights to water protection. Waters may become "Outstanding" through nomination by an individual or an organization and when the WQCC determines that that it is beneficial to the state and that: (1) the waters are a significant attribute of a state gold medal trout fishery, a designated wilderness area, or a portion of the waters under nomination are a part of a designated wild and scenic river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; or (2) the waters have exceptional recreational and ecological significance; or (3) the existing quality of the waters is equal or better than the numeric criteria for protection of aquatic life uses, recreational uses and human health uses, and the water has not been significantly modified by human activities in a manner that substantially detracts from its value as a natural resource.

Ongoing activities on the Forest Service lands are not restricted by the classification unless some change would result in degradation of the water. Under the state's water quality standards, short-term degradation for restoration might occur for periods up to one-year in length, decided on a case-by-case basis by the WQCC. This level of protection does not close the door on land uses in the National Forest, it just assures that the waters in these areas will always be of the highest quality in support of municipalities, irrigation, fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

In New Mexico, the waters of the Valle Vidal and the Rio Santa Barbara in the Pecos Wilderness are already protected with Outstanding status, and neighboring Western states have used this mechanism to secure clean water in

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The Opportunity of a Lifetime: Protecting the Right to Clean Water and Native Trout

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their national forests, parks and wildlife refuges. Now, Governor Richardson has provided the opportunity to broaden this protection in New Mexico and ensure the right to clean water – forever.

The Outstanding Water nomination, which will be heard in front of the Water Quality Control Commission this spring, proposes permanent protection for more than 5,000 perennial and intermittent river miles in more than 1.6 million acres of roadless lands on New Mexico’s federal forests. These streams are still relatively pure and continue to support populations of native trout and other fish because they’re located in our roadless and wilderness national forests.

We can provide a future for our children where they fish the same rivers we grew up on or came to love later in life, but only if we preserve the quality of their waters. By proposing to protect our cleanest waters as Outstanding, Governor Richardson has provided us an opportunity to protect the very best waters in roadless and wilderness forests forever. We will still live, work and recreate intimately with our lands, but we must also make sure that we are protecting our lifeblood, our water, for future generations.

But the state can’t do it alone. Protecting public spaces requires public participation, and now we have the opportunity to invest in our wild rivers and wild places and work together to protect the right to clean water. Only with your help can we secure the protection of our cleanest waters. Please contact us to engage in the WQCC hearing, submit letters of support, and become a part of this groundbreaking effort.

Contact: Rebecca Sobel, Conservation Organizer, rsobel@wildearthguardians.org

Conejos Luncker

Our Literary Contest
Runner-up

By Canyon Young, Age 11, Sandia Park, NM

There I was, in the southern San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado. While I was wading in the water, I was still thinking about the canceled trip to Red River in my home state of New Mexico as I casted my fly into the Conejos River. I was surrounded by high-elevation spruce-fir forest and mountains, my favorite kind of range. Even though I would have rather gone to fish the Red River, I was still happy knowing that this was my first time fishing the Conejos and I didn’t know what it would have in store for me. Back at the Red, I would usually catch rainbow trout or sometimes a brown or two that would average about ten inches. Here, I was guessing that I would catch fairly large browns maybe fifteen inches or so and rainbows from ten to fifteen inches, but I didn’t know for sure. I like to catch any size of fish, and my favorite type of fly-fishing is catch and release. I grew up fishing on the headwaters of the Pecos River in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the Santa Fe National Forest and the Pecos Wilderness of New Mexico. The Conejos was about three times the width of the smaller streams I like fishing the best.

That was my first day there on the 30th of June, 2006. The next day I fished some more without luck but my dad caught a nice nine-inch rainbow and released it. We went kayaking, too. My mom dropped my brother Cody, my dad and I upriver and we kayaked all the way down to the campground. The next day, July 1st, was my big day, but didn’t know it. I fished hard for most

of the morning. At about 11 am, my dad and I went above the bridge that comes across from the highway into the campground. I waded into the shallow water on the edge and casted my fly out into a very small pocket on the other side of the river. My dry fly flew perfectly over the cold rushing water and settled gently onto the surface of the pocket. Bam! A trout almost immediately hit my stimulator and took it underwater. I set the hook. Suddenly my rod bent so much I thought it would break. My reel was screeching as I looked through the clear waters and saw the fish. It was absolutely huge. Then it took my line around in another series of fast, odd loops. I stopped my screeching reel and pulled on my rod as hard as I could and slowly brought the fish into the shallows. I grabbed it and looked at it. It was the biggest rainbow trout I’d ever seen. My dad had seen the whole thing and said, “It’s huge!”

I walked into the campground office to show it to the campground director. “Holy!” he shouted. Someone looking at fish bait turned. His eyes lit up like a light bulb. As I was walking back to the campsite, other men were staring at me like I was a caveman walking on the streets. How could a nine-year-old boy catch such a monster fish when they couldn’t? I got back to the campsite and got my picture taken with the luncker. That evening, we ate my fish.

That fish was the biggest trout I ever caught and still is. The picture of me and that trout sits in my bedroom. That is probably the only time I was glad I didn’t get to fish the Red.

Important Future Dates

The year has just begun and the 2009 New Mexico Trout Conclave has come and gone. What a great Show it was too! With over 240 show attendees! The show goers were able to attend presentations from Jeff Currier and Barry Reynolds. Jeff Currier's presentation was top notch. Jeff's presentation covered "Trout Bumping" on a low-budget across Wyoming's National parks while Barry Reynolds' presentation covered the upper Rio Grande where his production crew has recently completed shooting their next DVD titled "In Pursuit of the Water Wolf." Jeff and Barry are of the highest quality presenters and it was a pleasure to have them at this years conclave. Spring is now at hand and we still have a list of events lined up for this spring and summer. First on the agenda is a list of events hosted by Albuquerque's Tingley Beach.

Family Fishing Fiesta at Tingley Beach *Saturday March 28, 2009 7:00AM - 5:00PM*

A registration fee is required. For more information please visit: www.cabq.gov/biopark/common/marchevents.html#FishFiesta

New Mexico Trout monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30pm at Sandia Prep School Commons area. April's presenters are Ron Loehman and Michael Bishop.

Ron Loehman

New Mexico Trout's Conservationist Specialist and Board Member will be presenting on all New Mexico Trout's conservation projects.

Michael Bishop

Muskies Inc. President will be presenting on Who is Muskies Inc. and will Tiger Muskies pose a threat to other game fish populations?

New Mexico Trout's Annual Conservation Barbeque *May 2-3, 2009*

Last but not least is our Annual NMT Conservation Barbeque in Peralta Creek as we improve on ATV barriers, trail & stream crossings, install information kiosk, riparian exclosure and willow planting, as well as optional May 3 reserved overnight camping at Jemez Falls. Be sure to join us on this one as it will be fun for all. Please RSVP with Ron Loehman at loehman@unm.edu so we know how many people to accommodate.

New Mexico Trout and Jemez District Forest Service 2009 Project Plan

April 4

Willow planting on upper Cebolla above Seven Springs Camp-ground; may be postponed if road impassible.

Jo Wargo or Matthew Gachupin, Jemez Dist. (575) 829-3535

May 2 - 3

Annual NMT conservation barbeque, Peralta Creek (population of RG cutthroats); build ATV barriers, improve trail & stream crossings, install information kiosk, riparian exclosure, willow planting; optional May 3 with reserved overnight camping at Jemez Falls.

Phyllis Martinez or Jo Wargo, Jemez Dist. (575) 829-3535

May 30 -31

Install 3 information Kiosks along Rio Guadalupe on FR 376.

Amanda Webb, Jemez Dist. (575) 829-3535

July 18-19

Improve spur trail along East Fork of the Jemez near East Fork Trailhead on SR 4; reserved overnight camping at Jemez Falls

Phyllis Martinez, Jemez Dist. (575) 829-3535

July 17 -19

Comanche Creek restoration and workshop by Bill Zeedyk, Valle Vidal. A continuation of a multi-year project; group overnight camping available.

Art Vollmer, NMED (505) 476-6004

Late July, 4 days, 3 nights

Trout monitoring, San Pedro Parks streams. This is a 3-4 day backpack trip.

Chantel Cook, SFNF (505) 438-7879

May - Sept

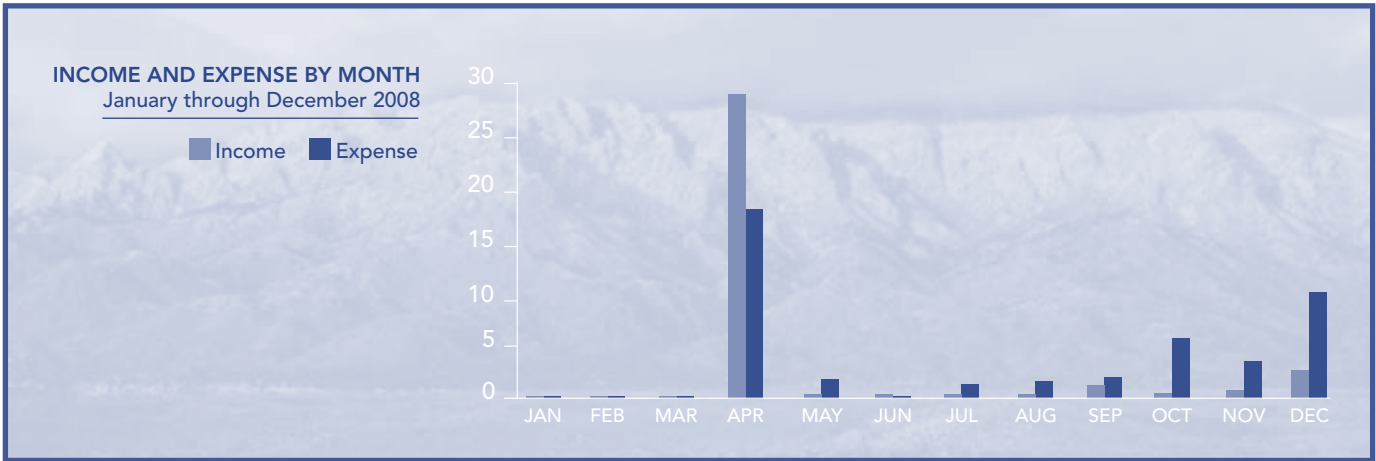
River to Riparian Volunteers Program; Rio Guadalupe, Cebolla, and lower de las Vacas; work in teams of two on weekends to contact & educate campers on proper use of dispersed, riparian campsites. One or two weekends per month/ volunteer. FS will reimburse volunteers \$0.50/mile.

Amanda Webb, Jemez Dist. (575) 829-3535

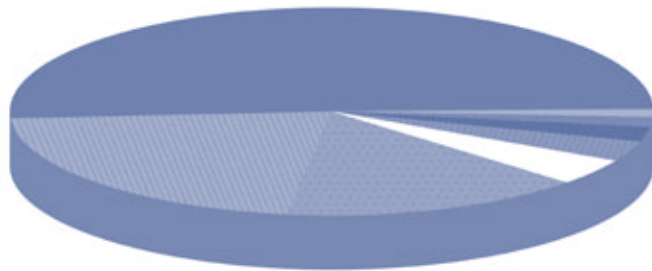
General Contact:

Ron Loehman, Conservation Chairman, New Mexico Trout
ronloehman@gmail.com. See www.newmexicotrout.org for latest updates

Income & Expense Report



INCOME SUMMARY
January through December 2008



Conclave Income	51.23%
Membership Income	21.53%
Merchandise Sales Income	15.64%
Symposium Income	4.13%
Interest Income	3.16%
Program Income	2.35%
Indirect Public Support	1.80%
Direct Public Support	0.16%
TOTAL	\$33,624.91

Volunteer Projects and How to Keep Informed About Updates

We have a very full and interesting volunteer schedule for this year. One of the highlights will be the annual conservation barbeque on Peralta Creek. Home to a Rio Grande Cutthroat trout population, Peralta Creek is a lovely little stream in a deep, heavily wooded canyon accessed by FR 280, south of SR 4. We will have plenty to do there, as described below, and participants will be treated excellent barbeque lunch, provided by the club. Other projects include making trail improvements on the East Fork, informational kiosk installation on the Guadalupe, a Comanche Creek workshop weekend with Bill Zeedyk, as well as several projects on the north side of the Jemez where we haven't worked before. Dates for those latter projects haven't been set by the SFNF personnel yet, but we will publish them on our website as soon as they are definite.

The latest version of our volunteer calendar for 2009, as of the publication deadline, is printed below. We may experience further revisions through the season if SFNF priorities change or if key Forest Service people are unavailable for a scheduled date. Thus, you should always check our website <www.newmexicotrout.org> for the most recent information. You can also be assured of the latest volunteer project infor-

mation if you provide an email address to our membership chairman, Bob Widgren at bobwidgren@msn.com.

In past seasons we haven't been able to match the project work to the participants because we never knew how many volunteers would show up. Thus, this year we will encourage prior notice by providing lunch for all volunteers who RSVP their attendance for a scheduled project no later than the Wednesday before the event. Don't respond earlier than about two weeks before the event so we don't have to juggle multiple lists or keep updating them as plans change. You can send the RSVP to the contacts listed below.

Please join as many of these projects as you can. These are probably the most fun work can get and you will be doing something worthwhile for riparian habitats and the health of New Mexico streams.

CONTACTS:

Conservation

Ron Loehman <ronloehman@gmail.com> or 265-3179

Membership and email updates

Bob Widgren <bobwidgren@msn.com> or 340-3481



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Quote of The Month

“ If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there’d be a shortage of fishing poles.”

- Doug Larson

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 APRIL 30, 2009.

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.

