



# NEW MEXICO TROUT

November / December 2009

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## Fly of The Month DOC RIVERS CADDIS FLY



**Hook:** Standard Heavy Wet Hook 16-12

**Thread:** Black Silk

**Back Abdomen:** Super fine pale morning dun dubbing

**Front Abdomen:** Super fine olive green dubbing

**Wing:** Coastal Deer Hair Short and Natural

**Thorax:** Natural Peacock

**Beadhead:** Green Glass Bead - Alternate: Brown/Tan/Red/Blue

### Tying Instructions:

Proportions are important to this fly, working properly and riding properly in the water.

Crimp barb allowing smallest green bead (proportionate to hook size) to slide up to head. Tie black silk to lock in bead and tie down to bend of hook. Dub thread with thin amount of dubbing for back and front of abdomen. Cut very small amount of Natural coastal deer hair and place on top of hook holding in place. Do not stack hair, leave as it comes from hide, tie down onto top of hook firmly. Trim deer hair in thorax area clean. Tie in three Peacock, evening up tips and tying from tips to form Thorax from

hair to bead. Whip finish behind bead. Go to [www.youtube.com/tworiverflyfisher](http://www.youtube.com/tworiverflyfisher) to see this fly tied.

### Fishing Instructions:

Use the Doc Rivers Caddis as a solitary fly on 4-6x tippet depending on water fished. In deeper waters, use one – two split shot as needed to get this fly down to feeding lanes. Bigger rivers like the Rio Grande and Pecos are better fished with size 12 or 10 hooks. The fly rides with the wing and hook up in the current and the fish generally take this fly with vigor. Tie it on a TMC 2488H for a point fly in a two fly rig.

## 2009 Annual Fly Tying Symposium

Saturday December 5th

Once again, we find ourselves fast approaching the 2009 New Mexico Trout Annual Fly Tying Symposium. This year's event is attracting some of the best tyers throughout the Southwest. This year, we will be adding four featured tyers to our show: Martin Nolte, Scott Stisser, Capt. Mark Boname and Larry Kingrey. They will be a part of our main fly-tying event, as well as providing four additional classes which will be held on Sunday, December 6. Each class will be limited to the first 10 participants.

Marvin Nolte, an accomplished tyer from Wyoming, is best known for his salmon fly tying and has many DVDs and instructional books. Marvin, a Whiting Pro Staff Member, began tying in 1974 when he decided to retire to a life of fishing, traveling and tying. Marvin's class will provide instruction in traditional salmon fly tying.

Scott Stisser, a long time friend of Marvin Nolte, is a master tyer in his own right. He lives in Colorado where he began

tying in 1972 alongside his good old friend and inspiration, Andre Puyans. Scott is known for his salmon fly tying, and has DVDs and magazine articles to his credit. Scott's class will be providing instruction in the no-hackle and traditional fly tying.

Larry Kingrey is a resident of Canon City, Colorado, where he is the manager of the guiding service for Royal Gorge Anglers. Larry, a Whiting Pro Staff Member, has been guiding and designing flies for over eighteen years. Larry's class will provide instruction in the Caddis life cycle patterns. Capt. Mark Boname, longtime owner and guide of Platte River Fly Shop in Casper, Wyoming, has been providing fly fishing and fly tying instruction since 1994. Mark has been featured on several fly fishing shows like ESPN2, PBS and other outdoor programs. Mark's class will provide instruction in a variety of trout flies and foam techniques.

Continued on page 2

# Our State Fish: A Trout in Peril

By Kevin Reilly

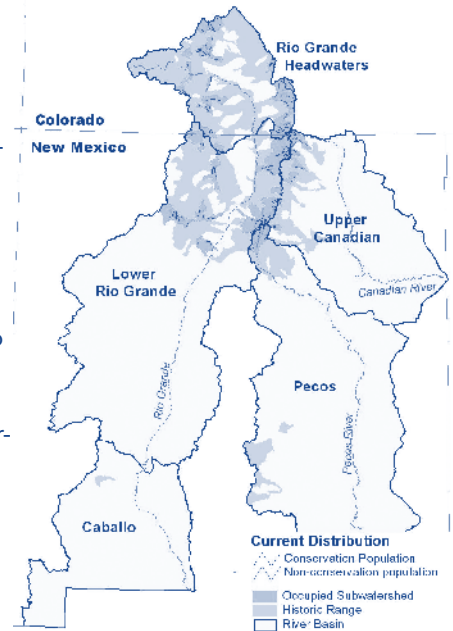
The Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGCT) is the only trout native to the Rio Grande, Pecos River, and Canadian River drainages. The trout was also native to some of the tributaries of the Pecos that drain the Guadalupe and Davis Mountains of west Texas, although they have been entirely extirpated from those streams.

In the past few years, several scientific reviews of the status of RGCT have been conducted, and they point out the precarious hold on life of our state fish. In 2007, the RGCT Conservation Team, lead by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, prepared a range-wide assessment of the trout. In 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prepared a status review of the trout and concluded that it should be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. In 2008, as well, Trout Unlimited prepared an analysis of the condition of the fish under its Conservation Success Index (CSI) project. The CSI analysis relied on the range-wide assessment and on other data, including data on the predicted effects of climate change. This article is based on the CSI analysis.

The range-wide assessment identified 120 conservation populations of RGCT. The assessment included as "conservation populations" those which are genetically unaltered and those which display unique life-history traits and ecological characteristics even if they have some level of genetic introgression. Based on that standard, RGCT occupy only 11% of their historical range in New Mexico and Colorado, and 90% of their populations are found in isolated stream segments, many of which are high-elevation streams vulnerable to drought in the summer and freezing in the winter.

The decline in the RGCT's range has been caused by competition and genetic introgression from non-native trout and by habitat degradation. In much of their historical range, RGCT have been replaced by non-native trout and, although many

of their remaining populations are isolated above barriers, the presence of non-native trout below the barriers increases the risk of future interactions and complicates efforts to expand their populations. Habitat degradation from high road densities on Forest Service land, livestock grazing, and mining has also adversely impacted RGCT by compromising water quality in currently occupied watersheds.



Climate change also poses a significant threat to RGCT. By mid-century, the western United States is predicted to experience a temperature increase of about 5.4 degrees F. If this occurs, 55% of the subwatersheds within the RGCT's historical range and 31% of the subwatersheds currently occupied by conservation populations will be at high risk for one or more of the predicted effects of climate change. Those effects include increased wildfires due to earlier snowmelt and longer fire seasons, increased winter flooding due to late winter rain-on-snow events, increased summer temperatures, and long-term persistent drought. These habitat alterations may render existing habitat unsuitable for RGCT, and single extreme temperature or drought events may cause extirpations of isolated populations.

In the next issue of the New Mexico Trout newsletter, I will describe some of the approaches biologists are recommending to protect and restore RGCT in the face of these threats.

## 2009 Annual Fly Tying Symposium

Continued from page 1

So, bring your youthful fly tying enthusiasts this year to the New Mexico Trout fly tying Symposium. A section will be set up for them to learn basic instruction of fly tying, fly rod casting and rigging their line. All tools, and necessary items for learning this fine and far art, will be provided by New Mexico Trout and instruction will be on-going during the show. For those of you who want to take your fly tying to the next level, there will be tyers with a variety of expertise to answer your questions and to demonstrate the latest patterns. There will be door prizes, giveaways and free T-shirts to children 15 and under. We hope that everyone will be able to attend the event in support of New Mexico Trout.

Children under 15 are free.  
New Mexico Trout members pay \$5.00  
non-members pay \$7.00.

The show will be held at  
**Sandia Preparatory School**  
located at 532 Osuna Rd. NE in Albuquerque  
**December 5, 2009**  
**9am to 3pm.**

# Peralta Creek Vehicle Barrier is Being Improved

**Ron Loehman, Conservation Chairman**

Many NMT members know Peralta Creek as a beautiful little mountain stream that flows through a lush canyon high up on the east side of the Jemez mountains. It also harbors a small population of Rio Grande Cutthroat trout whose habitat is threatened by cattle grazing in the riparian area and uncontrolled access by ATV and dirt bike riders who ride through and along the stream. We held our annual barbeque and volunteer project day at the creek this past May to build a large animal enclosure and to block off vehicle access to the stream with a line of large vertical posts or bollards set on about three foot centers. Imagine our chagrin when, as we were setting the posts in the ground, a group of about a dozen dirt bike riders came down the road, rode between the posts, and continued right on down through the creek.

To make the barrier effective against dirt bikes, we decided to add a large steel cable threaded through holes drilled in the tops of the posts and anchored in concrete at the ends of the barrier. Last month we went back and set a few more posts at the ends of the long row, anchored some large eye bolts in buried concrete footings, and drilled holes through the posts for the cable. Next spring or, weather permitting, sometime this fall, we will go back and install the cable.



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## Quivera Coalition Symposium Highlights

### Riparian Restoration

**Ron Loehman, Conservation Chairman**

On November 4, about 200 people from all over the U.S. gathered at the Embassy Suites hotel in Albuquerque for a day long symposium on stream restoration. The symposium was sponsored by the Quivera Coalition as part of a celebration of the centennial of the arrival in the southwest of the renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold. Leopold was an early, eloquent writer and advocate of conservation, watershed health, and wilderness protection, as evidenced by naming the first American wilderness to honor him (the Aldo Leopold Wilderness in the Gila).

Following an introduction on Aldo Leopold's legacy by conservationist Peter Warshall, the program comprised nine presentations by experts and practitioners on the results and status of stream restoration projects around the southwest. Locations discussed included the Hubble Trading Post, the Sapello watershed in Mora County, Comanche Creek in the Valle Vidal, The Rio de las Vacas, Las Huertas Creek, and the San Antonio in the

Valles Caldera. New Mexico Trout volunteers will recognize some of these projects as ones we have worked on.

The symposium also marked the publication of the book, "Let the Water Do The Work: an Evolving Method for Restoring Incised Channels" by Bill Zeedyk and Van Clothier. The book is a distillation of the knowledge and techniques for stream restoration developed over many years by Bill Zeedyk and the scores of associates and volunteers who have worked on his projects. I suspect the book will become a project manual for anyone planning or doing stream restoration work in the southwest. New Mexico Trout contributions helped finance the writing and publication of the book, which was acknowledged during the symposium. The authors donated a signed copy to the club in recognition of our support. Anyone wishing to purchase a personal copy (\$50.00) can contact the Quivera Coalition at (505) 820-2544 or at [www.quiveracoalition.org](http://www.quiveracoalition.org).

# Letter From The President

Today, I'm wondering if this is really the beginning of winter. As I look out the window of my Man Cave and watch the snow falling on the ski slopes of the Sandias, I look longingly at my favorite Sage XP sitting so lonely next to the bookshelf and my chest pack just calling me to pleeeeeease go to the river. Yet, I really wonder if my favorite spot in the Jemez is where I want to be today or even this week. Augh! Maybe next week, the on-line weather report calls for 68-72 degree days. There might even be a hatch going when I walk into the river! Maybe I'll call Doc Davis and see if he wants to go to the Rio Grande. Doc really likes the Rio and it can be finicky but we have some very special spots that are great fish holders. Hummmm where's his number.

Winter fishing can be tricky in New Mexico waters, especially if the days have been windy and cold. The weather isn't too bad on the fish. Personally, I think the fish relish it and look forward to the reprieve. However, the weather can play heck with bad knees, twisted backs, and creaky hips. I should have never got rid of those neoprene waders I had bought several years back from Jan Crawford in Santa Fe. I sure could use them today even if they were tummy huggers.

The Fly Tying Symposium is really gearing up and Deward has said that he has received some very good replies from tiers in and near Albuquerque, and even some out of town experts. I want to thank in ADVANCE the great people at Sandia Prep for allowing New Mexico Trout to have this event at their wonderful school. By the way, when you see someone from Sandia Prep, shake their hand and thank them for supporting New Mexico Trout all these years. Doesn't matter if it's a student, faculty, maintenance or administration. Get to the Fly Tying Symposium early and grab a cup of Soon to be Relatively Famous Coffee by Mark Kalin and helpers Jo Vargo and Mark's son. There might even be a donut or two if you're an early riser.

Bring your favorite youngster too as there will always be someone to help these young fly tyers learn the fine art of tying a wooley bugger. Most of the tyers at this year's symposium will be off setting their indulgences by selling their flies, so support this cottage industry and feel good too about your next trip to your favorite water. As in years past, there will always be demos, giveaways, and a good time for all. I do hope to see you there and let's visit about the neat things New Mexico Trout is going to be involved in during 2010.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for the New Mexico Trout monthly meetings the SECOND Tuesday of the Month at 7:30PM at Sandia Prep. Every month brings some new information to the table and we look forward to seeing you there. What a better way to spend an evening than with some old Fishing Friends listening to some new idea, or river or...maybe winning a very suave door prize.

Petri Heil!

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# 2010 New Mexico Trout Conclave

Join us as New Mexico Trout welcomes some very special Guests!

**New Mexico Trout's Annual Conclave always seems to provide some exceptional talent and experience for its members...** and this year is no exception. As always, there will be chances to win all sorts of fly fishing gear and goodies with this year's raffle. So come and join us in welcoming this year's featured speakers!

New Mexico Trout is pleased to welcome two exceptional pairs of speakers: Dave and Emily Whitlock will get the show started followed by Rick Takahashi and Jerry Hubka.

Dave and Emily Whitlock are true pioneers of fly fishing and their experiences have taught many fly fishers throughout the ages. Dave's experience and creative outlook on the whole spectrum of fly fishing have earned him the reputation of being one of the top professional fly fishers in the sport. Dave's art and writing appear regularly in many fly-fishing and sport publications such as Fly Fisherman Magazine, Fly Fishing and Tying Journal, Trout Magazine, In-Fisherman and Field & Stream. In 1996 he was inducted into the Arkansas Game & Fish Hall of Fame and was given the Lifetime Contribution Award in 1997 from the National American Fly Tackle Trade Association.

Emily is an accomplished fly-fishing instructor. She and Dave, as a team, teach fly fishing at their new Oklahoma setting and around the country. She's passionate about getting more women into fly fishing because she feels it's such a perfect sport for women. She also teaches women's casting at events throughout the year. Emily is an excellent lecturer whose programs include fly-fishing travels to New Zealand and other great destinations; getting started right in fly fishing; natural and imitation fish foods; and streamside wildflowers. As a photographer, her work has appeared in several national pub-

lications and on the cover of Fly Fisherman Magazine. Emily is also Dave's partner in all of his writing, art and video projects. Emily and Dave combined their talents in 1991, and have lectured, instructed and fished together around the U.S. and abroad. A unique fly-fishing team, they are devoted to the world of fly fishing and conservation, both professionally and personally. They live near Tahlequah in the lovely Ozark Mountains of northeastern Oklahoma. Dave and Emily will provide a unique experience and program.

Rick Takahashi and Jerry Hubka are well known veterans in the Southwest fly fishing scene. Rick Takahashi is a frequent contributor to Fly Fisherman magazine and designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants who lives in Fort Collins, Colorado. Jerry Hubka is a commercial artist and veteran fly fisher who also lives in Fort Collins, Colorado. Rick and Jerry have just released their new book "Modern Midges: Tying & Fishing the World's Most Effective Patterns".

Rick Takahashi and Jerry Hubka team up to provide showgoers with the most comprehensive midge pattern and fishing techniques resource to date. Stunning photos and detailed illustrations show the life cycle of the naturals, fishing and rigging techniques for a wide range of waters, and over 1,000 midge patterns. You're guaranteed to walk away with the best fly fishing instruction and techniques that these presenters have to offer.

**This year's Conclave will be held January 30, 2010  
Sandia Prep School, located on Osuna Blvd. West of I-25  
Starts at 8:00 AM sharp.**

**There will be signs posted at the school directing you to parking, sign-in, and event locations.**

## MEMBER WINS NEW ROD



Jim is the proud new owner of the hottest new rod, the Sage Vantage from Los Pinos Fly Shop. November's monthly meeting was focused on the San Juan River, and Jim was there to win this very sweet 3wt 7 foot "New Mexico Trout" Rod.

Don't miss out on February's surprise drawing. You have to be there to see it and win!

This was Jim's very first New Mexico Trout member meeting and he is new to Albuquerque. As a recent Chicago transplant, Jim is looking forward to getting on the rivers of New Mexico and maybe if you're willing to show him a spot or two, he might just let you try out this new Sage Vantage rod.

Congratulations Jim, NM Trout welcomes you!

# Fly Tying Classes Slated at Valles Caldera

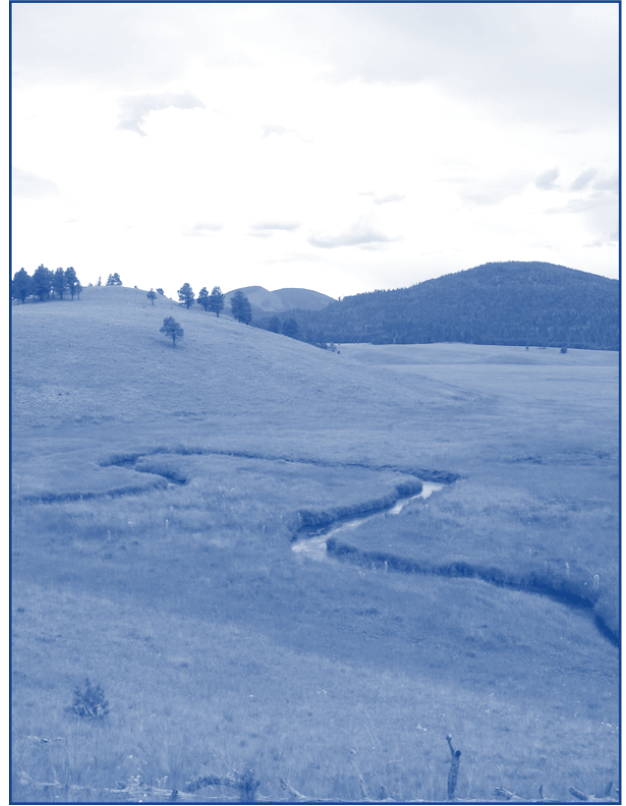
Rudy Rios

2010 promises to have some very cool events for New Mexico Trout members. One in particular is the New Fly tying clinic at the Valles Caldera. This clinic will be open to any adult or youth wanting to learn about tying flies, specifically for some very technical water.

First thing, the participants in the clinic will visit a stream on the Caldera, and after learning about the various micro-invertebrates inhabiting the waters of the Caldera, will collect samples of these bugs. Upon arriving back to the classroom, we will study the various MI's and then proceed to determine which is the best course of action to tie a fly to mimic or "match the hatch". New Mexico Trout will be providing all the necessary equipment, tools, books, etc., to help the participants tie their choice of fly. These students will also learn more about New Mexico's fish and their eating habits.

After Lunch, all participants will leave the classroom and head over to the Upper East Fork and try their luck using the flies they have made.

Are you ready to try this? Or, maybe you might like to help by becoming an instructor? Either way, please call me for more info at 505-730-1719 or email me at riosrje@gmail.com.



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## Wait Until Dark

by Jerry Burton

Every so often, I browse abstracts from various fisheries, journals, and symposiums to see if anything interesting concerning southwestern trout is being researched. Recently an abstract in the Desert Fishes Council call for papers caught my attention. The title of the paper to be presented at the Council's annual meeting was titled Wait Until Dark: Influence of Turbidity on the Foraging Ecology of Trout in the Colorado River, Grand Canyon.

The authors of the study implemented a large multi-year study to attempt to determine the impact rainbow trout and brown trout were having upon the native fishes in an 8.4 mile reach of the Colorado River near the confluence of the Little Colorado River. Of special concern was the potential impact the trout were having upon the endangered humpback chub. The researchers removed over 20,000 nonnative fish from the study area, of which 98% were trout. They found that 85.6%

of the rainbow trout diet consisted of aquatic invertebrates, 12.6% terrestrial invertebrates, and 1.8% vertebrates. Brown trout consumed 73% aquatic invertebrates, 8.7% terrestrial invertebrates, and 18.3% vertebrates. They estimated that during the two-years of study, trout in the study area consumed nearly 30,000 fish and that 85% were native fish even though native fish were 30% less abundant. Downstream of the Little Colorado River confluence, where the river is often very turbid, they found that the trout would shift their feeding behavior from aquatic invertebrates to actively foraging for native fish when the river became turbid.

The take home message for the San Juan and other tailwater flyfishers from this research is that: if it's running turbid, switch to the buggers, leaches, and streamers.



Truchas Chapter will welcome everyone who would enjoy an evening of fishing camaraderie to their annual Banquet in April 2010. The Banquet raffles and silent auction help support ongoing conservation and education projects, while the Banquet itself is a way to have some fun. Chapter members will receive invitations and more information by mail, but everyone may see more on the website at <http://truchas-tu.org>. For up-to-date information by email, you're encouraged to subscribe to the Chapter newsletter online.

Our speaker will be the dynamic and exciting Brian O'Keefe. If you've seen cover photos on Field & Stream; Outdoor Life; Fly Fisherman; Fly, Rod and Reel; Fly Fishing Salt Waters; Fly and Fish Magazine; Outside Magazine or Mens Journal, then you've probably seen some of Brian O'Keefe's work.

A fly fisher from a very early age, Brian has traveled the world in search of good fish and for the past twenty years, great photos. He is a master level certified fly casting instructor (FFF), dynamic speaker, and a tackle rep for Scientific Anglers in Washington, Oregon and Alaska. We are very pleased he will be visiting from his home territory in Oregon to be speaker at our annual Banquet.

We have already secured a number of excellent items for the silent auction and Grand Raffle, but we'd like your help in selecting a few more.

**If you know of items or services that we could feature, please contact Jeff Croy at [info@reellifesantafe.com](mailto:info@reellifesantafe.com) or (505) 820-2132. We hope to see you there!**

## The New Fall-Winter Apparel Line Is In!!

You have been asking for it, and you have been waiting for it.

***Now it's here!***

So don't ask about it again.

It will be available at the November meeting, and also the Fly Tying Symposium in December.

I would suggest you plan on your purchase at the November meeting. A celebrated fashion expert has opined that our line will be the model for the industry and will sell out fast. You could be faced with the prospect of having to wear last year's model while your friends parade around in the glory of this year's fashionable attire if you wait too long.





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## Quote of The Month

“Don’t knock the weather. If it didn’t change once in a while, nine out of ten people couldn’t start a conversation.” *-Kim Hubbard*

### 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 DECEMBER 31, 2009.

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

