



NEW MEXICO TROUT

January / February 2010

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Fly of The Month Power Ant



Hook: 12-12 light wire, dry fly
Thread: 6/8 0 Black
Tail: None
Abdomen: Black dubbing or razor foam
Wing: Calf tail or white antron tied trude style at the mid point.

Legs: White rubber tied each side at the mid point.
Hackle: Coachmen brown 6or 8 wraps at the thorax covering the wing and leg tie in point.
Head: Black dubbing ant style (smaller than the abdomen).

Tying Instructions:

While working on the Peralta creek project, New Mexico Trout member and volunteer extraordinaire Dennis Clarke showed the Power Ant, a fly he has been extremely successful with. One look and we could see the potential of this fly. It really looked buggy, and according to Dennis extremely durable. He recounted that he had been fishing with this fly most of the summer and fall

and had landed more than 100 trout on this very same fly. While not especially effective in the early spring and summer, it had been dynamite mid summer through fall. Dennis slipped down Peralta Creek after work was completed and landed several of the Rio Grande Cutthroat there.

New Mexico Trout Conclave 2010

Presidents letter By Rudy Rios

This is the event we have all been waiting for.

The New Mexico Trout conclave is fast approaching and this year some very special guests have been invited to share their experiences, knowledge, and skills with our fraternity of fellow fly fishers. This year we have a pair of super-duos Dave and Emily Whitlock along with Rick Takahashi and Jerry Hubka.

Dave and Emily Whitlock have decades of experience between them both, either teaching fly fishing, tying skills, fording rivers in Argentina, or having a great time at events like our conclave. Dave is world famous (and I do mean WORLD famous) for his fly tying and fly fishing books, has taught thousands of fly fishers how to tie flies based on foods fish eat, and how to become a Master of the dry fly or a perennial coach from LL Bean. Dave has revolutionized trout fishing by writing about new techniques in fly fishing magazines and sport publications. Dave also demonstrates his fly fishing and teaching skill in eight videos and through guest appearances on televised fly fishing programs. Dave's experience and great outlook on the whole spectrum of fly fishing have earned him the reputation of being one of the top, if not the top, professional fly fishers in the sport. Dave has received the Buz Buzeck Flytyers Award which is the highest honor in the fly tying world. This award was bestowed on Dave

for his innovation in fly tying patterns and his fly fishing/tying conservation activities.

I could go on for days about Dave but I mustn't forget about Emily. Emily Whitlock has degrees in botany and biology and is a conservationist in the true sense, willing to work for preservation of the natural world. Honored as Woman of the Year by the Federation of Fly Fishers Southern Council, she has also received conservation awards from the Sierra Club and Wildlife Federation.

Emily is passionate about getting more women into fly fishing because she feels it's such a perfect sport for women and teaches women's casting at events throughout the year. She's 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 stream-side wildflowers. As a photographer, her work has appeared in several national publications and on the cover of Fly Fisherman Magazine. Emily is also Dave's partner in all of his writing, art and video projects.

A unique fly-fishing team, Dave and Emily are devoted to the world of fly fishing and conservation, both professionally and personally.

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New Mexico Trout Conclave 2010

Continued from page 1

Duo two!

Rick Takahashi is a frequent contributor to Fly Fisherman magazine and designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. Rick lives in Fort Collins, Colorado. Jerry Hubka is a commercial artist and lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

This duo started fishing together on the South Platte River near Deckers, Colorado, never thought that the tiny but abundant midge was going to become such an important part of our fly-fishing lives. But as Rick and Jerry gained experience on the Frying Pan, San Juan, and other Rocky Mountain tailwaters, they became immersed in all aspects of midge fishing. Rick and Jerry dedicated more than 20 years, and many hours and days to learn as much as possible about the techniques, equipment, presentation strategies, and fly patterns of the diminutive world of midges and the trout that eat them.

The study of chironomid entomology led to years of experimentation at the vise, and together they developed more than 100 innovative patterns that represented the various stages of the midge life cycle. Rick and Jerry soon realized that many other midge anglers were on the same quest, and discussions with fellow midge fishers soon became one of the main avenues of discovering new patterns. Over the years, many friends have shared with them their most exciting cutting-edge larva, pupa, and adult midge imitations.

Years of parking-lot networking—with fly boxes flung open—were enjoyable but didn't seem the best way to share the combined knowledge of midge fishing. So, a few years ago they decided to write a book and began contacting like-minded friends, as well as fly tiers they met online, or have read or heard about. Fellow midge anglers gladly obliged, sharing samples and recipes of their favorite midge patterns. This duo soon amassed more than 1,000 fly patterns, along with detailed information on how to tie them, from some of the world's best tiers in Japan, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Croatia, Slovakia, England, the U.S., and elsewhere.

Don't miss out on this years Conclave raffle either. Eric Collins has done an awesome job of having some of the prizes vying for your attention. Reels, lines, flies, books, fly tying kits, rods, guided trips, clothes, youth only raffle, and many goodies for your fly fishing repertoire.

The conclave will be held at our perennial location at SANDIA PREP on Osuna Blvd. This year the event starts exactly at 8:00am and runs through the whole day. In this issue there is a calendar of events, so bring it along and figure out which is the best show to attend. Look for the signs for the NEW MEXICO TROUT CONCLAVE.

New Mexico Trout Conclave Schedule

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

New Mexico Trout's Annual Conclave is very welcomed to showcase some very exceptional fly fishing presenters...

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 and Emily Whitlock

Dave and Emily Whitlock truly need no introduction as they are widely known throughout the fly fishing world with their wide range of experience of fly fishing instruction and techniques and are among the top highly desired fly fishing presenters for local clubs and fly fishing shows alike. New Mexico Trout is pleased that they have accepted our invitation in being our 2010 Annual Conclave featured presenters.

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 publications 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

Rick loves to design and tie fly patterns for the waters he fishes. Rick Takahashi has been tying flies since the age of eight. "After taking apart my first fly (Royal Coachman) and seeing the hackle unwind, I knew that I wanted to learn how to tie flies," reports Takahashi. He didn't have the slightest idea what a fly was but knew it was for fishing because of the hook. A couple of years later, Rick's uncle bought him his first fly tying kit and he has been tying ever since.

"I remember seeing my first fly fisherman on the South Platte River near the town of Decker's Colorado. I followed him around for a couple of hours and eventually got up the nerves to ask him what he was doing...he told him he was fly fishing," says Takahashi. The fly he was using was a Gray hackle Yellow. This connected the flies he so admired with the actual act of fly fishing.

Rick has used his talents to bring others into the realm of fly tying. He is a demonstration fly tier and often displays his skills at local and regional venues such as the Denver Fly Show, West Denver Trout Unlimited Fly Tying Clinic, International Sportsmen Exhibition, Federation of Fly Fisherman Conclave and at various regional fly shops near Denver. He is an illustrator and contributor to Fly Fisherman Magazine and his art has been used for the Federation of Fly Fisherman Conclave. He is working on a presentation of Midge Fly

fishing for his local Trout Unlimited Chapter. Rick has written his first book "Modern Midges, Tying and Fishing the World's Most Effective Pattern" with his fly fishing partner and co-author Jerry Hubka. Rick is a fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants and has done some consulting for C & F Design Co.

Rick's goal is to share with others the various aspects of fly fishing and fly tying he's learned. "It's the teacher in me that wants to share knowledge about an activity that has meant so much to me," says Takahashi.

Rick is a retired art educator and former Art Department Chairman at Rocky Mountain High School. He teaches a fly tying course for Angler's Roost and makes his home in Fort Collins, Colorado with his wife Susan, daughter Haley and son Josh.



Jerry Hubka

Jerry Hubka began fly fishing on the Frying Pan River in 1966. He attended Colorado State University, majored in Art Education and earned a Masters Degree in Ceramic Chemistry from the University of Northern Colorado. His 32-year career as an Art Educator and Art Department Chairman at Poudre High School in Fort Collins, Colorado and his avocation as a studio potter only allowed for brief episodes of fly fishing on Colorado Rivers. When he met Rick Takahashi, he began tying, designing and fishing midges and traveling to tail waters all over the Rocky Mountain West. Jerry lives in Fort Collins, Colorado with his wife Joyce where he continues to work in the visual arts as a Logo designer and Commercial Artist through his company, Tailwater Media Productions. Since his retirement from Education, he also enjoys playing golf, pickleball, driving Porsches and traveling to US National Parks and to Italy with Joyce.

Jerry has written his first book "Modern Midges, Tying and Fishing the World's Most Effective Pattern" with his fly fishing partner and co-author Rick Takahashi. Jerry's goal when writing Modern Midges was to share his knowledge of midge fishing with other fly fishermen.

This year's presenters will offer you the very best fly fishing instruction and techniques they have to offer...



HEADWATER
BOOKS

Modern Midges

Tying & Fishing the World's Most Effective Patterns

Rick Takahashi and Jerry Hubka

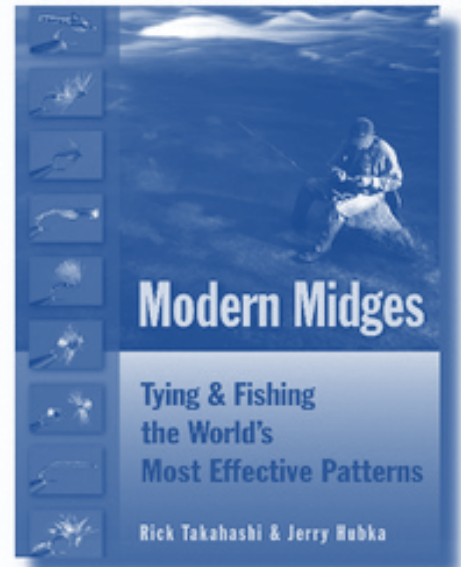
- First comprehensive book of contemporary midge patterns
- Over 1,000 midge patterns and recipes from around the world, including the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, and Canada
- Tying steps for 15 essential pattern styles
- Fishing techniques, tips, and tricks from experts on rivers and stillwaters

MIDGES MAY BE SMALL, BUT IN MANY STREAMS AND LAKES AROUND THE world they are the most important year-round food source for trout. Rick Takahashi and Jerry Hubka team up to provide readers 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. Whether you tie or buy your flies, this collection of cutting-edge advice from experts around the world will help you catch more fish.

Rick Takahashi is a frequent contributor to Fly Fisherman magazine and designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He lives in Fort Collins, Colorado. **Jerry Hubka** is a commercial artist, owns Tailwater Media and lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

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W W W . H E A D W A T E R B O O K S . C O M

Our State Fish: A Trout in Peril II

By Kevin Reilly

In the last issue of the New Mexico Trout newsletter, I described the precarious hold on life of our state fish, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGCT). Concerted efforts by management agencies and groups like New Mexico Trout (NMT) and Trout Unlimited (TU) can increase the likelihood of our trout's long-term survival.

The first step is to protect what remains. Where non-native trout threaten to invade waters holding conservation populations of RGCT, efforts should be made to stop the non-natives from entering those waters. A diverse group of partners (including the Truchas Chapter of TU and NMT) has banded together to do just that by building a combination fish-passage barrier and irrigation diversion on Alamitos Creek that will protect a large conservation population of RGCT from invading brown trout.

NMT and other groups can also help protect these remaining populations by restoring degraded RGCT habitat and by being actively involved with proposed governmental actions that will affect RGCT populations, such as the proposed renewal of grazing allotments and proposed energy development. Such a citizens' effort stopped the planned coal-bed methane development on the Valle Vidal that threatened populations of RGCT.

The second step is to restore conservation populations to a size that will increase the likelihood of their long-term viability. It is important for the long-term success of these trout that they be restored to large, watershed-wide, interconnected stream systems. Ninety percent of the existing populations of RGCT have been relegated to isolated headwaters. These isolated populations are subject to genetic weakening caused by inbreeding, and whole populations of such isolated trout can be eliminated by one chance event, such as a wildfire,

flood, or drought. If these isolated populations, instead, were able to move freely throughout a watershed, they could avoid these problems, recolonize stream segments which temporarily become uninhabitable, and thus increase their chances of survival.

Many partners are working on such a project in the Rio Costilla drainage, an ambitious effort to restore RGCT to over 120 miles of interconnected streams from the headwaters of the Costilla and its main tributary, Comanche Creek, to a point below the confluence of the Costilla and Comanche. A temporary barrier has been built on Comanche Creek, and that creek restored to pure RGCT. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and Vermejo Park Ranch are currently working on restoring the trout to the Rio Costilla drainage on Vermejo Park Ranch. This is a long-term project which was begun several years ago with habitat work on Comanche Creek on which many NMT volunteers have worked. Similarly, Santa Clara Pueblo is taking steps to restore RGCT to Santa Clara Creek.

Many other RGCT projects are waiting to be tackled. At its meeting in October, the RGCT Working Group, a group of governmental and non-governmental representatives including Rudy Rios from NMT, selected several other projects to work on, including rebuilding failing barriers on Rio Grande and Tanques Creeks west of San Antonio Mountain, repairing a headgate on McCrystal Creek in the Valle Vidal, restoring RGCT to the Rio Ruidoso, and improving the habitat on Polvadero Creek. All of these efforts will require the time, money, and energy of NMT, TU, and the federal and state agencies. If we continue to work together on these projects, I have no doubt that our efforts will secure a good future for our state fish.



New Mexico Trout is offering a beginning fly tying class starting in mid February.

The class will be for four (4) consecutive Monday nights, 7PM at Sandia Prep science classroom.

The class is open to a maximum of ten (10) participants.

Tying kits with all tools are available for use for anyone who does not have a vice or tools.

Basic methods, materials and patterns will be covered. This is a great way to learn about tying flies with very little expense.

If you want to learn about how flies are tied, or if fly tying is for you, this class is perfect.

Please call Steve Weiss @ 898-6891 or Mike @ 892-4092 to reserve your spot.

2010 Volunteer Opportunities on the Santa Fe National Forest

Date	Description	Contact
April 17	Guadalupe corridor clean-up/ trash pick-up	Amanda Webb or Phyllis Martinez, Jemez District (575) 829-3535
May 15 – 16	Annual NMT conservation barbeque, Llano Loco; replace buck & pole with bollards to keep vehicles out of sensitive areas, install information kiosk. Reserved overnight camping in the area.	Phyllis Martinez, Jemez District (575) 829-3535
TBD	Peralta Canyon – install cable through bollards when road is passable	Jo Wargo or Phyllis Martinez, Jemez District, (575) 829-3535
June 12 -13	Cebolla/Guadalupe dispersed campsite rehab; possible buck & pole replacement, campsite obliteration, campsite restoration, sign installation. Exact locations TBA	Phyllis Martinez, Jemez District (575) 829-3535
July 10 -11	Cebolla/Guadalupe dispersed campsite rehab; possible buck & pole replacement, campsite obliteration, campsite restoration, sign installation. Exact locations TBA	Phyllis Martinez, Jemez District (575) 829-3535
Late June, 4 days, 3 nights	Water quality, Arizona willow, & RG cutthroat trout monitoring, San Pedro Parks streams. This is a 3-4 day backpack trip	Chantel Cook, SFNF (505) 438-5441
August 21-22	Rio San Antonio – install 45’ pedestrian bridge to hot springs, work on parking/fence, signage	Jo Wargo or Phyllis Martinez, Jemez District, (575) 829-3535
Sept. 11-12	Rio San Antonio – install 45’ pedestrian bridge to hot springs, work on parking/fence, signage (continuation of project)	Jo Wargo or Phyllis Martinez, Jemez District, (575) 829-3535
Sept. 25-26	Cattle fencing on Peralta Creek – 3 to 4 miles of fence “up on top” to prevent cattle from coming down into canyon. Possible work on 2 nd enclosure along stream (cattle)	Jo Wargo, Jemez District, (575) 829-3535
TBD	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	Amanda Webb, Jemez Dist. (575) 829-3535
TBD	Polvadera Creek (Canones tributary on North Jemez, w/ RGC population); build ATV barriers, riparian restoration and habitat improvement. Work alongside YouthCorps.	Donald Serrano, Espanola Dist. (505) 753-7331
TBD	Seven Springs buck & pole – replacing worn-out sections	Jo Wargo, Jemez District, (575) 829-3535

Request for Award Nominations

Wild Trout X

Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone, MT
September 28-30, 2010
"Conserving Wild Trout"

www.wildtroutsymposium.com



The Wild Trout Symposium Organizing Committee is now accepting nominations for awards to be presented at its 10th Symposium, to be held in West Yellowstone, MT, September 28 - 30, 2010.

The Wild Trout Symposium brings together a broad and diverse audience of governmental entities, non-profit conservation groups, media representatives, educators, anglers, fishing guides, and business interests associated with trout fisheries to exchange technical information and viewpoints on wild trout management and related public policy. Held every 3 years, each symposium has led to innovative wild trout management approaches.

The following awards will be made at Wild Trout X:

- Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal - Professional
- Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal - Non-professional
- Marty Seldon Student Scholarship Awards (two will be awarded)
- Trout Unlimited-Federation of Fly Fishers Wild Trout Stewardship Award

Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal

The Wild Trout Symposium Organizing Committee established the Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal in 1984 as a continuing memorial to this distinguished naturalist, teacher, author, and an important participant in these symposia, who was the son of Aldo Leopold. Two Wild Trout medals are conferred, one to a professional and one to a nonprofessional individual, who in the eyes of their peers have made long-time and significant contributions to the enhancement, protection, and preservation of wild trout.

Marty Seldon Student Scholarship Award

In order to recognize outstanding students in the field of fisheries management and biology, and to encourage their participation in Wild Trout Symposia, two students will be awarded with Marty Seldon Student Scholarships at each symposium. Each award consists of a \$500 stipend to assist student travel or other costs incurred in their attendance. Awards are open to graduate students in Fisheries Management or related field. Applicants will be judged on a combination of current graduate GPA and an essay written by the applicant. An application form can be found at the conference web site.

The Trout Unlimited-Federation of Fly Fishers Wild Trout Stewardship Award

This award is conferred by the Wild Trout Symposium for the implementation of an outstanding fishery project or plan that makes a significant contribution to the conservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of a cold water fishery. This award is made to a club, group, or other organization. The Symposium Awards Committee reviews all nominations and selects appropriate recipients. The physical award consists of a certificate of achievement and an honorarium of \$1,000 underwritten equally by the Federation of Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited.

Please visit the **conference web site** for more information on these awards.

Nominations for the Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout awards are due by April 1, 2010.

Nominations for the Student Scholarship and Trout Stewardship awards are due by May 15, 2010.

Nominees must attend the symposium.

Please send nomination letters and a brief rationale, including complete recipient contact information to the Wild Trout X Awards Chairperson:

Jim Daley

Coldwater Fisheries Unit Leader

Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources

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Albany, NY 12233-4753

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Quote of The Month

“The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, A perpetual series of occasions for hope.” *-John Buchan*

Editor's Note

When submitting articles for the newsletter, please remember to include a TITLE, YOUR NAME, and the DATE. DEADLINE for next issue entry is FEBRUARY 28, 2010.

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.

