



NEW MEXICO TROUT

Newsletter

July / August 2010

In This Issue

[Invasive Aquatic Species](#)

[Fly of the Month](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Meet the Board](#)

[Baiting the San Juan](#)

[Calendar](#)

[About Us](#)

Quick Links

[NM Trout Website](#)
[Last Month's Newsletter](#)
[NMT on Facebook](#)

Greetings E-Members of New Mexico Trout,

This will be an exciting time for New Mexico Trout as we move into the 21st Century with the newsletter. By distributing this newsletter electronically, it will now allow information to be shared quickly and more economically. Several thousands of dollars are spent each year on printing and mailing a newsletter and with the current state of the economy, higher production costs related to the newsletter, and lower annual revenues, your board has voted to make this monumental change. For those who would be interested in obtaining a printed copy, this newsletter can be easily printed on any home printer, or contact me directly and I will personally make sure you get a printed copy.

If you have feedback on the newsletter or suggestions for content, please send your comments to newmexicotrout@gmail.com.

Rudy Rios
President
New Mexico Trout
email: riosrje@gmail.com

Invasive Aquatic Species

New Mexico is on the verge of an invasion of nonnative plant and animal species that threaten the health and quality of our waters. We are familiar with Rock Snot and Whirling Disease, but Zebra and Quagga Mussels have been found in lakes and streams of neighboring states. State officials have drafted a master plan to deal with these and other nuisances, but we all will need to play our part in helping to avoid their spread.

NMT has provided its members with suggestions for decontaminating waders, boots and other paraphernalia that may carry spores, parasites or other hidden species which may escape into or from the local watershed. From <http://newmexicotrout.org/documents/BleachvsClean-Dry.doc>

"Because aquatic nuisance species are generally microscopic in nature, it



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very difficult to 'see' whether you have properly cleaned your equipment (vectors) including fishing gear, boots, wader, float tubes, vest, sandals, socks, line, reel, boat, canoe, and even vehicles.... The EPA, and other environmental agencies which have had a bigger role in establishing the decontamination procedures for several states and federal agencies ARE RECOMMENDING THE USE OF BLEACH to decontaminate as well as Cleaning and Drying. Use a solution of Common household bleach (Clorox), and fresh water in a container of adequate size for this procedure. A 2% solution is adequate to disinfect gear of all pathogens of hard and soft sided objects. 13 oz of Bleach to 5 gallons of water or 2.5 oz to one gallon will make you a 2% solution. ... Hard items must soak for at least one minute, no less. Five is best. Soft items such as felt soles, clothing, sandals, or anything else that takes time to dry out should be left for thorough saturation. 15-30 minutes will suffice. ... Once items have been saturated and allowed to sit in the solution for the correct amount of time, it is time to rinse off. Take another bucket with fresh water and rinse the items until no smell of chlorine is present on the item when you use Bleach. Now allow the gear to completely dry."

For more information:

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/>

Fly of the Month - Miracle Midge

Tied by Jeremy Barela

Photo by Jeremy Barela

Hook: Daiichi 1110 #18-28

Thread: White 8/0

Rib: Small copper wire

Body: white thread

Thorax: Gray superfine dub



Start thread behind eye and wrap back to halfway point of hook. Tie in copper wire and wrap thread back to above the barb, covering the wire. Then wrap thread back to the starting point, creating a smooth tapered body. Wrap copper wire back towards eye, creating an evenly ribbed abdomen. Tie off copper wire and trim excess. Using adams gray superfine dub, create a thorax. Whip finish fly.

Midge patterns are effective in most New Mexico waters, although they seem to be favored trout food in slower and cooler waters, most notably the San Juan and high Alpine lakes. This pattern imitates the pupal stage of the midge fly (Diptera Order, Chironmidae family) and is most effectively fished at a dead drift at a depth where the fish are feeding, anywhere from near the bottom to near the surface.

More NM Trout patterns at <http://newmexicotrout.org/patterns.html>

Conservation

New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission to Decide on Additional Protections for State Wilderness Streams

by Ron Loehman

New Mexico Trout Conservation Chairman

On 22 April 2008, Governor Richardson proposed designating surface waters in NM wilderness areas and inventoried roadless areas as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs) under the Federal Clean Water Act. That designation would provide an additional layer of protection for the State's headwater streams, which, as NM Trout members know, are the locations of some of the best trout fishing available to us.

The Governor asked the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to conduct public hearings, write the proposal, and present the recommendation to the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC), which has the authority to approve the ONRW designation. That preliminary work has been done, and a hearing before the WQCC is scheduled for September 14 - 17, 2010 in Santa Fe.

ONRW status protects against water quality degradation of surface waters on public lands. Existing land use activities at the time of ONRW designation may continue as long as they follow best management practices and providing that they do not cause new or increased discharges of contaminants to the stream. New land uses are allowed if they do not degrade existing water quality. ONRW designation is fairly common across the U.S. For example, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana have protected large fractions of their public surface waters as ONRWs. In New Mexico, the Rio Santa Barbara and the streams in the Valle Vidal received ONRW designation in 2005 and 2006.

Hearings conducted by NMED around the State revealed strong opposition from cattle growers, who believed ONRW status would restrict their ability to graze cattle on public lands. In response, NMED removed all streams in inventoried roadless areas from their proposal, restricting it only to streams in Federal wilderness areas. This is a significant weakening of the proposal, in my opinion. For example, in the Santa Fe National Forest, Peralta Creek, Canones Creek, and the East



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Fork of the Jemez between SR 4 and the Valles Caldera boundary are designated roadless, but would not be included in the watered-down ONRW proposal. As many of you know, Peralta Creek has been a special project for NM Trout and it harbors a small population of native Rio Grande Cutthroat trout. Canones Creek, on the Cuba Ranger District, was the source of the Rio Grande Cutthroat trout that were used to restock Capulin Creek after the Dome fire.

New Mexico Trout has agreed to join with Amigos Bravos to intervene at the WQCC hearings in Santa Fe this September 14-17. We plan to support naming the headwater streams in wilderness areas ONRWs, but we will argue vigorously that the waters in roadless areas that were in the original proposal also be included as ONRWs. We will testify to the qualities that make these streams so special to fly anglers and for the importance preventing any loss of their water quality.

Opponents of any ONRW designations are expected to attend the hearings in force. The process is political so supporting organizations, including NM Trout, are asking their members to attend and to speak up in favor. Mark your calendars for September 14 - 17. We will send more information by email as the date approaches. We will try to coordinate carpooling or ride sharing if requested.

Contact: ronloehman@gmail.com

More about NMT Conservation at: <http://newmexicotrout.org/conservation.html>

Volunteer Opportunities

Rio San Antonio Conservation Project

Install 45 foot pedestrian bridge to hot springs, work on parking/fence, signage
21-22 August
Jo Wargo or Phyllis Martinez, Jemez Ranger District,
757-829-3535



Rio San Antonio Conservation Project

Continue installation of 45 foot pedestrian bridge to hot springs, work on parking/fence, signage
11-12 September
Jo Wargo or Phyllis Martinez, Jemez Ranger District, 757-829-3535

Meet the Board

Bob Widgren

A long time NMT Trout member, Bob has held many positions in the New Mexico Trout organization and is currently the Membership chairman. Bob owned the Los Pinos Fly Shop with his wife Lee (currently Treasurer of NMT) for many years, and currently teaches fly casting and builds custom rods. Bob has fished extensively throughout New Mexico and is an expert on its waters. Bob's favorite NM fishing destination is Rio de Los Pinos where he recommends the #16 tan foam caddis fly.



Bob Widgren

More about Board Members at <http://www.newmexicotrout.org/directors.html>

Baiting on the San Juan

A Fishing Story
by Tina Stallard

The setting for this story is a beautiful early day in May on the San Juan, with unseasonably low temperatures near 50 degrees and typical Spring line-tangling winds. I was on a guided float trip with my father, a novice fly fisherman who needed constant reminders from our guide to set the hook ("Bob - you have a fish, Bob - FISH"). We were on our last drift of the day down "the Chute", not known for large fish when Dad hooked up. As he reeled the fish in, we could see from it's exuberant leaping that it was a small 11" rainbow. As the fish was drawn closer to the boat, Dad complained that it was getting harder to pull in the fish. We were all surprised as the guide netted a large 21" Brown and the relieved small rainbow jumped from his mouth, still hooked on the fly. After this experience, we are now reconsidering our fly choices on this Gold Medal water - perhaps we should be throwing 5/0 streamers instead of our size 22 midge patterns.



Calendar

Youth Fly Fishing Clinic - Valles Caldera
Saturday **24 July 2010**, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
<http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/special/#yfc>

Adult Fly Fishing Clinic - Valles Caldera
Sunday **25 July 2010**, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
<http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/special/#ffc>

Stream Ecology Teacher Training
Monday **26 July @ 9am - Wednesday 29 July 5pm**
Course cost: \$300. (includes food and 2 nights lodging)
http://www.vallescaldera.gov/newsmedia/news/news_TeacherTraining042010.pdf

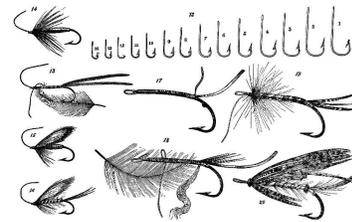
Rio San Antonio Conservation Project
21-22 August
Jo Wargo or Phyllis Martinez, Jemez Ranger District, 757-829-3535

Youth Fly Fishing Clinic - Valles Caldera
Saturday **28 August 2010**, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/special/#yfc>

Adult Fly Fishing Clinic - Valles Caldera
Sunday **29 August 2010**, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/special/#ffc>

Rio San Antonio Conservation Project
11-12 September
Jo Wargo or Phyllis Martinez, Jemez Ranger District, 757-829-3535

WQCC hearings - Santa Fe
14-17 September



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Contact: ronloehman@gmail.com

NMTrout Business Sponsors

Yearly business membership entails the sponsor to a link on the NMT Newsletter. Contact the membership chair for more information if you or a business owner you know would like to become a sponsor.

- Alpha Home Improvements
- Custom Fly Rod Crafters
- Jicarilla Game and Fish
- Land of Enchantment Guides
- Los Pinos Fly Shop
- Norman & Angela Drury
- Royal Gorge Anglers
- Saltry Lake Lodge/Kodiak Alaska
- Soaring Eagle Outfitters
- Tom Sawyer Enterprises
- Bruce Taylor Studio
- James E. Lucero Ins. Agency
- Jiffy Lube
- MW Bar Ranch
- Mountain Hideaway
- Robert H. Bean
- Sandstone Anglers
- Valles Caldera/NM
- Solitary Angler

About Us

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 education of the public about trout fishing and the value of trout habitats. New Mexico Trout is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, and we welcome your tax deductible contributions.



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