



NEW MEXICO TROUT

Newsletter

Oct 2010

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Greetings E-Members of New Mexico Trout,

Fall is in the air and NMT is transitioning into 'winter mode'. Our monthly meetings have begun and are held on the second Tuesday of each month. These meetings feature informative speakers, organization information, door prizes, and sometimes a raffled gift. Attendees at our recent October meeting were regaled by an entertaining talk on fly fishing for Tiger Muskies. These meetings will be announced in regular emails to the membership, we hope you can join us.

The board and volunteers are planning the Fly Tying Symposium and the popular Conclave. These events are a great opportunity to meet with other fly fishers, to learn about new techniques, materials and equipment, and to participate in a silent auction benefiting NMT. These events will be announced in upcoming newsletters and emails.

We hope you enjoy the last of the fall weather and get out fishing.

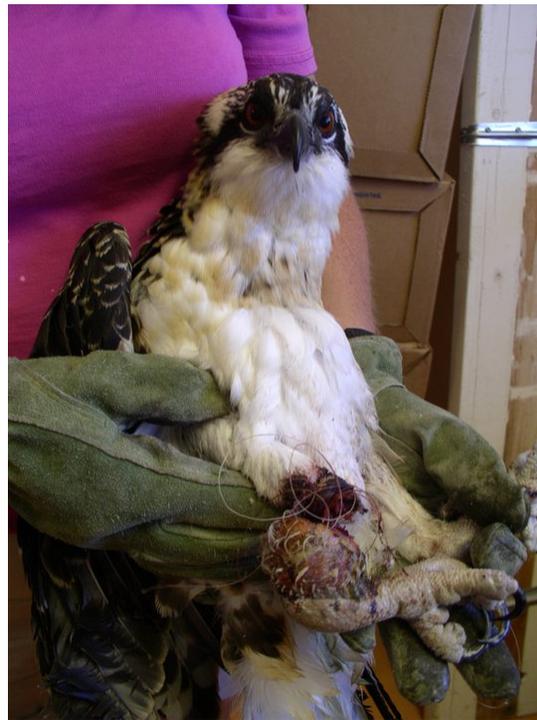
An Osprey's Story

by Kerrin Grant

from <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wildlife-Center/>

A juvenile osprey came into The Wildlife Center ICU this past August. He had been found at Fenton Lake hanging out of his nest. His leg was caught in something which prevented him from flying off. It was time for him to start fishing on his own and preparing for migration, but he was stuck. The obstacle standing between him and freedom was monofilament fishing line. Because it is a light, but strong substance many birds use it to line their nests. Many osprey use it, not knowing the danger associated with it. The fishing line was wrapped around this fledgling's leg and when he tried to fly from the nest there was enough "give" for him to barely leave the nest, but not enough to allow flight. He ended up hanging upside down from the nest and would eventually die. A park ranger at Fenton Lake saw the bird in distress. It is unclear as to whether the park ranger was able to cut the fishing line or if it gave way on its own, but the bird fell to the ground and was transported to The Wildlife Center.

At intake it was clear what the outcome for this bird would be. The fishing line had wrapped around the leg tight enough to cut almost all the way through the lower part of the leg. The only thing holding the leg onto the body was the fishing line and a couple of tendons and ligaments. There was no circulation in the foot. It was clear the foot and leg would have to be amputated up to the hip. The bird would never know freedom again. Additionally, raptors can not have a quality life in captivity with only one leg. There was no choice, no reasonable options to help this bird other than to end his suffering by euthanizing him. So that is what we did. No matter what our skill level is or what fancy equipment we have, there are times when the only way we can help wildlife is to end their pain by ending their lives on earth.



This story and this bird provide an important lesson we can all learn regarding how we conduct ourselves when out in nature and are guests in the homes (habitats) of wild animals. Pieces of monofilament filament fishing line get tossed away haphazardly on the ground near lakes and other fishing holes. It may seem harmless enough, and a trash can is not near by to dispose of it properly. No big deal --- right? Well, the osprey in this story died as a result of that harmless bit of fishing line left for his parents to use to make a strong, supportive nest. And he is not alone. Thousands of birds across the country die every year from all the leftover bits of fishing line left behind. So maybe the next time you spend the weekend on the lake or take a stroll along the river, think about this bird's story and the actions you might take to help wildlife get the chance to live out their lives, wild and free.

Fly of the Month - BWO Cripple

Tied by Jeremy Barela

Photo by Jeremy Barela

This is one of the greatest patterns to fish during a Blue Wing Olive (BWO) hatch. And with the fall months now in full swing, it's a grand time to fish this pattern. Because this fly imitates the cripple stage of the BWO, trout key in on this due to its vulnerability. Blue Wing Olives hatch on most streams and vary in size, so don't be afraid to tie these down to 18s or 20s.



Hook: Daiichi 1180, size to match the hatch

Thread: Benecchi's olive 12/0

Tail/Shuck: Rust colored antron trimmed length of body

Rib: Small copper wire

Abdomen: Pheasant Tail swords

Thorax: BWO superfine dub

Wing: Deer hair tied in tips towards the eye of the hook - Tie in the hair right before the Thorax so there is a wing pad above the thorax. You will cut the butt ends of the deer hair to create the wing pad.

Legs: Dun hackle tied in-between the wing pad and the tips of the deer hair.

There are a few materials on this fly that can be easily substituted, don't be afraid to try other materials and create your own pattern. You can also take this same pattern and tie a PMD cripple as well as a Green Drake Cripple if you are headed up to fish some of the great waters in Colorado.

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

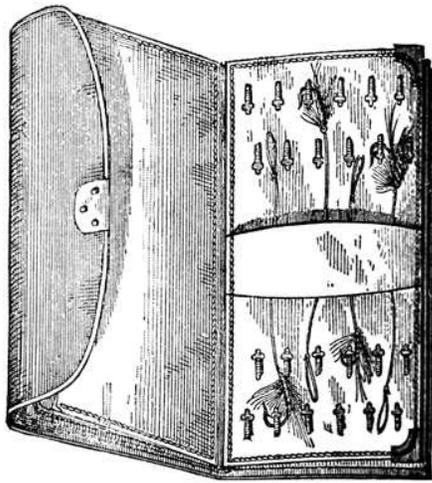
How We Choose Our Volunteer Projects

by Ron Loehman

New Mexico Trout Conservation Chairman

The slowdown in hands-on conservation work that comes with the approach of cooler weather provides the opportunity to discuss and explain how New Mexico Trout decides what projects we undertake each year. To date, all of our volunteer work has been on public lands, such as the US Forest Service, the BLM, and the Valles Caldera Trust. Of necessity then, we must partner with the agency that controls the area where the project is located, almost always by assisting on projects that are already in the agency's management plans for the coming year. Many public agency projects related to water quality and stream habitat restoration are funded by grants that require a financial match. The time we spend in the field and our travel time and mileage count as a substantial in-kind contribution toward that match for most projects where we volunteer. Thus, our participation is highly valued and our contributions go well beyond the actual work accomplished.

New Mexico Trout has had a close working relationship over the years with the Jemez District of the Santa Fe National Forest. Our home water, the Rio Guadalupe, is located in the Jemez District, as are the Rio Cebolla, the Rio San Antonio, the East Fork, Peralta Creek, Capulin Creek, and part of the Rio de las Vacas. These are the waters that most of us know best and that we fish most frequently.



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Each December, the club president and conservation chairman, joined by a half dozen or so members (not an exclusive group, anyone is welcome), go up to the District offices in Jemez Springs and spend a few hours discussing projects for the coming year. Among all the possibilities, we try to select ones that will appeal to our members and that will have the maximum impact for the effort we contribute.

In addition to the Jemez District projects, we have conservation opportunities with the Valles Caldera Trust (mostly trout monitoring), the Cuba District of the SFNF (streams in the northern Jemez), and the Carson National Forest (long-term continuing project on Comanche Creek). We generally learn about those projects throughout the winter and spring and, where

appropriate, they get inserted in the schedule.

Since I've been conservation chairman I've learned some of things that make some projects more appealing than others to our members.

- If Rudy Rios is providing a barbeque lunch, members will come
- Projects closer to Albuquerque are more popular than more distant ones
- Early season projects have higher participation than those later in the summer
- We like to get our feet wet, or at least be in sight of water where we work
- Sometimes members will volunteer to learn about an area that is unfamiliar so they can learn about new fishing spots

We will keep these preferences in mind when we set our conservation schedule early in 2011. I am always pleased to get feedback from members on what they like (or dislike) about our volunteer opportunities, as well as suggestions for particular streams or areas that may be of interest. (send comments and suggestions to ronloehman@gmail.com). I also welcome help from anyone who wants to be involved in planning next year's conservation program (same e-mail address as above).

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

Meet the Board

Pat Milesosky

Pat has been a member of New Mexico Trout for many years serving as President, Vice President and NM Trout Conclave Chairman in the '80's. He is currently serving as Secretary.

Now retired he has time to do all the fun things that he



enjoys. First on the list are his grandkids, Audrey (4) and Landon (2). A long time



USPSA shooter (we run with loaded guns!) he is also the Secretary of Rio Grande Practical Shooters which is the state's largest USPSA club. Other interests include the Boy Scouts with over 20 years service. Favorite fishing locations include the Jemez fisheries, the Pecos River and the Conejos River in southern Colorado where he enjoys his time on the water with his son Brian.

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

South Platte River

By Dennis Clarke

Last January, my wife Cassie and I attended the annual New Mexico Trout Conclave and the impressive lecture on "Sight Fishing for Trout" by Colorado guide and author Landon Mayer. Afterwards, Cassie decided that my birthday present this year would be a guided trip with Landon Mayer.

Summer was passing, and I fished my usual places in the Jemez Mountains, Valles Caldera, and the San Juan with respectable results. While not a novice anymore after being introduced to fly fishing three years ago by Cassie's Dad, I still have a lot to learn. Cassie reminded me again of my birthday present, and we set up a 2-day trip for late September on the South Platte with Landon Mayer.

Landon picked me up at my hotel in Woodland Park, CO, and we arrived at the South Platte around 9:30 am. The South Platte at this point is known as the "Dream Stream," a Gold Medal Fishery flowing through a high mountain meadow on public land between Spinney and 11-mile Reservoirs. The terrain is easy - relatively flat, and we walked only 200 yards or so to the river. Landon immediately employed his sight fishing techniques, teaching them to me as we worked the water. We started with "Fat



Albert" hoppers on the surface with 4X mono leader and 4X fluorocarbon tippet, and later tried some nymph rigs, with 9 ft 5X fluoro leader and 6X fluoro tippet. When nymphing on the South Platte, Landon says that it is important to use fluorocarbon leader as well as tippet, because the trout are very selective and will reject a mono leader rig. I landed only two the first day, a brown and a rainbow, about 16" to 18" each, but I lost quite a few. One of my bad habits that caused me to lose fish is that I was setting too hard, and often not setting in a downstream direction. Landon views the guide trip as a teaching and learning experience, as well as an opportunity to catch quality trout. We worked on this, and I gradually improved.

We started out the same time the next day, and I was doing better on my hook set (which Landon prefers to describe as a "lift" rather than a set). I was improving on my "sight fishing" of trout, but was still not seeing many of the trout and behavior signs that Landon could see. Another lesson learned was that long casts are not always necessary. In fact, most of the fish hooked and landed were within 10 feet

of me. I was surprised that with Landon on the bank directing my casts, I could cast to the same fish as many as 20 times without spooking it, before it finally accepted the fly. I hooked into a 24" brown that jumped vertically out of the water right in front of me. Unfortunately, though hooked fairly at first, he became foul-hooked while in the air, and Landon showed me how to break him off, retrieving the rig intact, and without injuring the fish. I was disappointed, but that experience helped me land the big one a bit later.



I landed several nice trout that day including an 18" brown, and a 20" rainbow. Then, late in the afternoon, Landon spotted a large brown holding in a deep run just 15 feet or so off the bank.

Again, with Landon on the bank directing my casts, I kept a low profile in the water near the bank, casting to the same spot just 10 feet in front of me maybe 20 times or so, letting the rig drift no more that 20 ft before re-casting with a short steeple cast each time. The big brown finally took a # 22 red Copper John, and shot vertically out of the water. This time I was ready, and lifted the rod up with him to keep tension on him as he was airborne, not letting him get slack and foul hook on the second fly. Keeping the rod low and bent slightly (another improvement I learned from Landon on the trip), I let him go through several head shakes. Then he took off. I played the big brown for over 7 minutes, running downstream with him for about 500 feet, guiding him around rocks and weeds, with Landon giving

instructions and often holding me by my shirt to keeping me from falling in. The 26", 8 lb. brown finally allowed us to net him, and take his picture. We made sure he was fully revived and released him for another fight, another day, with another angler. It was about 4:30 pm and the sun was getting low in the West. Landon said "Well, we're not going to top that one, let's end on a high note and call it a day". I agreed.

New Mexico Trout Board of Directors Elections

Per the New Mexico Trout bylaws, elections of the principal officers of the Board of Directors are to be held in November of each year. The principal officers of the club consist of the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The elections are staggered with the election of one half of the officers elected in even years and the balance in the odd years.

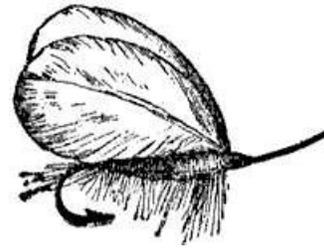
This year the offices of the president and secretary are up for election. Nominations for the two positions will be called for in the month of October during which the nominees will be asked if they will accept the nomination. If the nominee accepts, his/her name will appear on the ballot. The elections will be held in November with all ballots to be returned by December 1st. Ballots will then be counted and the elected officers announced in the December New Mexico Trout newsletter. All nominations are to be emailed to the club secretary, Pat Milesosky (pmilesh@swcp.com) who will reply to the sender that the nomination has been received.

Calendar

New Mexico Trout General Meeting
9 November, 7:30pm
Sandia Prep School Commons Building
<http://newmexicotrout.org/meetings.html>

Quivira Coalition's 9th Annual Conference
10-12 November

Pioneers around the country and the world are building soil, increasing local food production, improving the water cycle and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Hear and meet them in one place at The Carbon Ranch: Using Food and Stewardship to Build Soil and Fight Climate Change, the Quivira Coalition's 9th annual conference.
http://quiviracoalition.org/2010_Conference/index.html



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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.

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- Mountain Hideaway
- Robert H. Bean
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- [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.



Comments/Suggestions

If you have comments or suggestions about the Newsletter, or an article you would like to submit, please email to newmexicotrout@gmail.com. Articles will be considered based on suitability, general interest and succinctness (please limit content to approximately 500 words). Deadline for the next issue is 5 November.

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