



NEW MEXICO TROUT

Newsletter

June-July 2012

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Greetings

Welcome to summer 2012. The Fourth of July holiday just passed and I hope the hot weather we have been having has not stopped you from getting out and fishing the wonderful waters of New Mexico. The Jemez watershed has been fishing well and given the fact that it takes about an hour to drive there is even more reason to go... so GO!

Speaking of the Jemez, I would like to thank all of the good folks who turned out for the club work day/BBQ picnic. We "planted" quite a few bollards along FR 376 to limit access to well used and in some cases overused areas along the Guadalupe River. Congratulations to Dave Patton who was the winner of the Cimarroncita Ranch raffle. Dave's lucky ticket was drawn at the BBQ. Read more about this event in Ron Loehman's article in this newsletter. If you would like to help with future NM Trout conservation projects contact Ron by clicking on his name on the Board of Directors page within the NM Trout website.

The first youth/adult flyfishing clinic at the Valles Caldera was held on June 23-24. 13 youth and several adults attended the Saturday-Sunday classes. The beginner's classes provided insights into equipment, entomology, reading the water, casting and an afternoon on the headwaters of the East Fork of the Jemez River. My thanks to the NM Trout volunteers who helped Francis Peters put on this program. Want to be part of future Valles Calders clinics this summer? Contact Francis by clicking on his name on the Board of Directors page within the NM Trout website.

Project Healing Waters made it's first trip to the Brush Ranch in June. Several Veterans fished the beautiful Brush Ranch pond and the stretch of the Pecos River that flows through the ranch. With the help of the NM Trout volunteer instructors, the vets had their first

chance to put their newly acquired skills to use. The largest trout landed was a beautiful 23" Rainbow. Needless to say, smiles were the order of the day for the vets. Dave Patton runs the Project Healing Waters program. Want to give something back to our nation's veterans? Contact Dave through the Board of Directors page within the NM Trout website.

Needless to say, our club has been busy. My hat is off to the good folks from NM Trout who make the above programs not only possible but also great successes. If you want to be part of these successes contact the folks listed and get involved!

As always... go fishing,
Pat Mileschosky

Cebolla Project and BBQ Lead Off the 2012 Volunteer Season

by Ron Loehman, Conservation Chair

On June 2nd, more than thirty NM Trout members, friends, and Forest Service personnel converged on the Rio Cebolla above Porter's Landing for this season's first volunteer project. The project had two parts. The first was to extend the vehicle barrier we built last year on the Cebolla about a mile and a half above Porter's Landing. The old buck and pole fences have proved to be ineffective at keeping vehicles from driving right down to the stream bank, which has a lot of undesirable consequences.



Except for one or two designated places, no vehicles are allowed between FR 376 and the Cebolla or the Guadalupe. Vehicle traffic and the effects of motorized campers stomps down streamside vegetation, breaks down banks and deposits silt along particularly popular stretches of the creek. Last year we installed over a hundred bollards (ten inch diameter posts set in the ground on four foot centers) to block off a stretch of the Cebolla that the Forest Service deemed a high priority for protection. This year we extended the bollard fence several hundred feet upstream to close off a section where vehicles had still been getting through to the stream bank. The club rented a hydraulic post hole auger for the digging, which required both technique and muscle to drill the 2 ½ foot holes in ground that, typical of New Mexico, contained its share of subsurface rocks.

The second part of the project was to install a set of interpretive panels at a spot near where the Rio Cebolla flows under FR 376 across from the meadows on the lower Cebolla. These panels are the final ones of a group that were designed and constructed by the Forest Service using funds donated by New Mexico Trout. The panels are very impressive and together they explain to visitors the importance of healthy streams and riparian areas for fish, wildlife, recreation, and clean water.



By tradition, the club provides a BBQ lunch for volunteers at the first project of the season. This year the BBQ was from Rudy's in Albuquerque and judging from the lack of leftovers and the many satisfied comments from happy eaters, it met everyone's expectations.



This project supports the US Forest Service, the NM Environment Department, and the Respect the Rio Program that is funded by a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency. Our time and effort count toward the non-federal matching funding those agencies have to obtain. Their representatives have told me many times how much they value our help. All of you should feel good about what we accomplished on this and other volunteer projects.

Valles Caldera Fishing

There's fishing at the Valles Caldera National Preserve! Beginning Saturday, June 23rd and running through the end of the season anglers will be able to fish the waters of the Valles Caldera seven days a week. Last year's Las Conchas Fire devastated fish populations but numbers have improved to where the program can resume without affecting the recovery.

The San Antonio creek will be open to 14 anglers while the East Fork of the Jemez River will host as many as eight. Anglers will be able to drive to their assigned reaches of the San Antonio where "catch and release" rules will be effect. The East Fork will feature a two fish bag limit. Fishing times are from 8:00 am until 5:30 pm seven days a week.

If you are interested in honing your skills or introducing a youth member to our spot, you can participate in monthly fly fishing clinics for youth and adults on the Valles Caldera National Preserve. The day long events allow up to 20 participants to advance their fly fishing techniques and to fish these scenic and limited access rivers. Participants spend a half day learning about equipment, tackle, knots, stream insect sampling and identification. They will have time to practice their casting in the morning and then head for the fishing hole in the afternoon. Bring a lunch to enjoy along the stream and be prepared for weather. This activity is extremely popular, so sign up early.

For more information on reservations, fishing guidelines, youth/adult clinics and requirements call 866-382-5537 or go online to <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/fish/index.aspx>

Cimarroncita Fly Fishing Raffle Winner

NMT held a special raffle for a One Day, One Night, One Angler trip to the historic Cimarroncita Ranch. This private 'Tailwater' on Highway 64 enjoys pristine open water for easy casting with a huge population of healthy stream born brown trout.

The raffle drawing was held during the Annual Bar-B-Que picnic and work weekend on June 2-3, 2012. And the winner was:

DAVE PATTON of Albuquerque.

Thanks to all who participated in this special raffle. We really appreciate all the support for New Mexico Trout.



Quality Camping at 10,000ft

by Matt Stallard

excerpted from <http://mattsmontage.wordpress.com/> by permission

Well, more like 9,500 feet, but who's counting? Really, the saying is a spin off from the city of Leadville's slogan which is "Quality Living at 10,000 ft". Which brings me to the topic of this post! This memorial day weekend I spent with some great friends at Lake View campground near Twin Lakes (outside of Leadville, CO). We spent the weekend fishing, hiking, and enjoying each other's company.

We left a little later than we planned on Friday afternoon, and spent some time getting our final supplies (fishing gear, groceries, etc.) putting us a little bit behind for our drive out to the campground. We left the Denver area around 6pm and made our way up to Lake View campground. We arrived around 8pm and set up our camp. The temperature was not too low Friday and I slept comfortably all night.



We woke up the next morning and made a nice breakfast. It was slightly breezy, but much better than the forecast had predicted which was high speed winds all day. We decided to go check out the lakes. Upon arrival we found that the camp site was definitely protected from the winds. There were 2 foot swells on the end of the lake that we were on. We decided to take a hike around the lake and tried our luck at fishing, but were having a hard time casting into the wind. So we decided to check out the other lake (Mount Elbert Forebay). This lake was a bit more protected from the lake because of the man-made boulder shores. We tried some fishing here with more luck. Using a dry fly (parachute adams), I was able to hook a nice 12 inch rainbow. There is something satisfying about watching a trout come up and grab the fly from the surface. We returned to the lake at dusk to get the last bit of fishing in. We ended up catching a nice rainbow trout which we decided turn into a delicious meal.



Sunday morning we inflated our raft, and we floated around and fished for a while. I caught two more trout and also took some time to teach Natalie how to fly fish. She had a couple fish go for her fly, but wasn't quite fast enough to hook it. Still pretty good for a first time. We had a good time relaxing by the shore for a while, but decided to head back and get ready for dinner. When we returned, the wind picked up a little bit and snow began to fall. The weird part was that the sun was still out, but it made for a beautiful end to

the day. We all had an early dinner (really around 6pm, which was early for us) and sat around the fire for a while enjoying the warmth. Tonight was going to be a little bit cooler than the other nights. The wash rag we left out to dry had frozen before it got dark. We went to bed early and tried to stay warm. I woke up a few time during the night because my face was cold, but other than that stayed pretty warm.

The next morning we woke up and made some breakfast. After cleaning up the camp site, we got on the road back to Fort Collins. We stopped to play around in the Arkansas river on the way back through Leadville. We stopped and grabbed a coffee at a wonderful little coffee shop and roastery in Leadville. The owner was very friendly and even ended up giving us two free croissants. After we had some coffee, we got back on the highway and headed back to Fort Collins. The trip was a blast. A very good way to spend the memorial day weekend.

Fly of the Month - CDC and Elk

Pattern, Notes and Photograph by Hans Weilenmann
Used by permission

Hook: Tiemco 102Y #11 - #17 (or equivalent dry fly hook)

Thread: Brown 6/0

Body/hackle: CDC feather

Wing/head: Fine tipped deer hair

Every fly fisherman has to believe in something. For me enticing fish to take a fly hinges on the concept of "triggers." Offer a fish the appropriate positive triggers and it is more likely to think "food!"



Based on this philosophy, I designed the CDC & Elk, which has become my staple dry fly, in 1992. In this pattern, I combine the proven wing silhouette and buoyancy of Al Troth's Elk Hair Caddis and the dubbed body look and straggling filaments, which suggest a multitude of components from sprawling insect legs, trailing nymphal shuck, crippled wings, etc. achieved by wrapping a CDC feather around the hook shank. See detailed instructions at

<http://www.danica.com/flytier/steps/cdcelk/cdcelk.htm>

Over the past decade, the CDC & Elk has taken fish consistently across a multitude of waters and several continents. It is a pattern deceptive in its simplicity and versatility. From its beginning as a modified Elk-hair Caddis, it slipped into the slot as the go-to fly for a multitude of mayfly hatches, a general search pattern to cover hatchless periods, an emerger pattern, and a wet fly. Fish it as an emerger in the film. Or as a straight wet. It has proven to cover the full spectrum of dry, 'damp' and wet.

More flies by Hans are at <http://www.danica.com/flytier/hweilenmann>

Why Is Hans Weilenmann's CDC and Elk Pattern So Effective?

Notes and photograph by John Simonson
Used by permission

As much as I enjoy tying and seeing the old classic Catskill fly patterns I also enjoy the newer more contemporary fly patterns. I often try to look at patterns and understand why some patterns are more effective than others. With the help of today's digital photography we have the ability to capture the aquatic insects in various stages and then try to visualize a pattern that effectively imitates that insect at that stage of its life. Sometimes I do the reverse and try to find insect transitional stages to help explain why some patterns are so effective.



Hans Weilenmann's CDC and Elk is one of those patterns that is super effective during many caddis hatches. Many fly fishermen, including myself have found the CDC and Elk pattern to be deadly during caddisfly hatches. Once I saw an emerging caddisfly up close as it struggled to free itself from its pupa case I wondered if this be why the CDC and Elk pattern works so well. Yet, most caddis seem to emerge very quickly and escape their pupa shucks almost immediately when at the surface. Could it represent a caddis adult trapped in its pupa shuck? Or, does the CDC & Elk with long, undulating CDC fibers just look so appealing during times when trout are looking up for food? You can see in the photo that this caddisfly is almost twice its normal length because of the trailing pupa case.

More commentary by John Simonson are at <http://flypatternsfortrout.com/>

More NMT patterns at <http://newmexicotrout.org/archives/category/fly-patterns>

Meet the Board

Pat Mileschosky, President

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. Now retired, he has time to do all the fun things that he enjoys. First on the list are his grandkids, Audrey (5) and Landon (3). A long time USPSA shooter (we run with loaded guns!) he is also the Secretary of Rio Grande Practical Shooters which is the state 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.



Calendar

Fly Tyer's Roundtable

Every Monday, 7:00pm excluding holidays

Sandia Prep Lab classroom

The Flytyer's Roundtable brings new and experienced tyers together to exchange ideas, techniques and materials.

Valles Caldera Fly Fishing Clinics

21 July (Youth) and 22 July (Adult)

More info at <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/calendar/ViewCal.html> or by contacting Francis Peters at fepeter@comcast.net or 505-980-3444

Valles Caldera Fly Fishing Clinics

18 August (Youth) and 19 August (Adult)

More info at <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/calendar/ViewCal.html> or by contacting Francis Peters at fepeter@comcast.net or 505-980-3444

Calendar also on NMT website at <http://newmexicotrout.org/calendar>

" Men and fish are alike. They both get into trouble when they open their mouths."

photo by ANDREW PETHERICK
from
<http://www.flyfishersrepublic.com/tactics/the-mayfly-hatch/>



NMTrout Business Sponsors

Yearly business membership entails the sponsor to a link and an ad in 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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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 1 Sep.