



One More Cast

Newsletter for the Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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December Meeting, Speaker Ken Iwamasa

Arnold Atkins, Truchas Chapter President

As noted elsewhere in this issue, we have important business to conduct at the annual December membership meeting, and to make it at least as much play as work, we've added some new wrinkles to the agenda for the members. Noted fly tier and designer, author, and world traveling angler Ken Iwamasa has offered to spend the day with us and present two programs, with opportunity for member interaction in the first. We are moving back to a previous meeting place, now called Real Burger (formerly Pepper's and several other reincarnations) on Old Pecos Trail, and will start at 3:00 PM on **Saturday, December 6**. Ken will present a slide show on tying some of his innovative patterns, following which there will be time for individual assistance for those who choose to bring their vises, and general "hanging out" and visiting through "social hour". Buffet dinner will be served at 6:00 PM, with business meeting to follow. In addition to the usual election of board members, we will be voting on revision of our by-laws.

As promised earlier, we are raffling off two rods. The first is for participants in our Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Restoration Fund (RGCTRF) Raffle. The second award winner will be drawn from the members who have consented to have "electronic only" delivery of the newsletter. Both rods will be hand crafted and permanently labeled as to their source and award status. Winners need not be present to win, and there is time to buy raffle tickets and to provide us with your e-mail address.

Following the drawings, Ken will make a second presentation, this one on fly fishing in Colorado, and will include information on conservation issues as well as catching fish at various beautiful locations. This is not a fund raiser, but rather our way of thanking our members for their support. Cost will be about \$20 per person for dinner, somewhat dependent on anticipated attendance, and as usual drinks will be purchased by the individual. RSVP's are **STRONGLY** encouraged, as we have to know how much buffet food to order. So mark your calendars now and get your reservations (to Gary), donations (to Ed), and e- addresses (on the website) in, and help us get both the holiday season and the next year for Truchas Chapter off to a great start!



One More Cast
is published by the
Truchas Chapter
of Trout Unlimited.

**TU's Mission: To conserve, protect
and restore North America's
coldwater fisheries and their
watersheds.**

Truchas and UPWA Help Open Pecos National Historic Park

Bob O'Connor

Members of the Truchas Board, working closely with the Upper Pecos Watershed Association, Park Superintendent Kathy Billings and Chief of Cultural Resources Jeffrey Brown, worked hard over the past year to help shape an exciting new pilot Fishing Program that opens Pecos National Historical Park to fishing for the general public for the first time in more than 25 years.

Forked Lightning Ranch, owned by actress Greer Garson and E. E. "Buddy" Fogelson, was donated to the National Park Service in the late 1980's. And its inclusion became an important part of the Park's rich, multi-cultural history, serving as an important historical link to the trade routes, local commerce, Native American and Spanish settlement and conflict that have occurred throughout the upper Pecos valley over the past 1200 years. This pilot Fishing Program opens up three miles of untouched "virgin" water on the Pecos under "Quality Water" regulations. The river has been divided into three sections or beats. Two beats are available each day on a reservation system. One beat will be left available each day on a first-come, first-served basis. And all beats will be rotated daily to ensure a varied angler experience. Under the current program design, each angler is assigned approximately one mile of stream, to fish alone or with up to two additional angler/guests for the day. You can either make a reservation for the two beats available each day (six anglers total) or show up at the Visitor Center on the day you would like to fish and see if there is any space available. At the present time, advanced reservations can also be made by mail or fax, (no phone or email) starting July 1, 2008 until all slots are filled. The Park will then process applications in the order which they are received and staff will notify the applicants once each application is processed. The Park fax number is (505) 757-7207, the Park address is: Fishing Program, Pecos National Historical Park, PO Box 418, Pecos, NM 87552. A lot of people deserve good deal of credit for making this all come about. And it's exciting to see a whole new stretch of our home water open to the public under rules and regulations

that support conservation and seek to protect and preserve the asset. The PNHP pilot Fishing Season opens September 4th and runs through November 3rd 2008, Thursdays through Mondays, 8:30am-3pm. Go to the PNHP website www.nps.gov/peco/ for all the details. Make your plans now!

RGCT to Be Listed Under the ESA

Kevin Reilly, VP and Advocacy Chair

In May, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) decided that the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) should be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). It will be a couple of years before the FWS can determine whether to list the fish as "threatened" or as "endangered". That eventual listing could have serious adverse consequences for fishing, grazing, irrigation, and other water uses throughout the historical range of the fish in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado.

The FWS found that the trout has been reduced to about 10% of its historical range, that 80% of the remaining populations are isolated in stream fragments, that the trout faces serious threats from non-native trout, whirling disease and other invasive species, and that climate change will adversely affect the trout. Because so many of the remaining populations of the fish are confined to small, isolated, headwater streams, the trout is very susceptible to drought, wildfire, and post-fire ash flows that are predicted to increase in the Southwest as a result of climate change.

There is no doubt that the listing of the RGCT under the ESA is warranted. TU-National has done its separate analysis of the agency-gathered data on the trout, and that analysis supports the decision of the FWS to list the fish. TU's analysis, done as part of its Conservation Success Index project, can be found on TU's web-page (tu.org) by clicking on "Science" and then on "Conservation Success Index."

The need to list the fish represents a serious failure

of state policy in New Mexico and Colorado. Much more could have been done over the past 25 years to save this fish. We hope the FWS's decision will be a "wake up call" to our policymakers, and we hope that they will at last commit the resources necessary to assure that the New Mexico state fish will survive.

We have asked Governor Richardson and the Game Commission to increase annual funding by \$250,000 to allow the Department of Game and Fish to hire a second RGCT biologist and staff to begin another major restoration project in addition to the ongoing Rio Costilla project.

**Email Newsletter Is Coming—
1 More Print Issue Remaining
Subscribe for a chance to win!**

Each year, Truchas Chapter must raise nearly \$2000 to send newsletters by regular mail. We'd like better communication with members at a lesser cost—with savings going toward on-the-ground projects. Wouldn't you?

Please ensure that we may send you Chapter news by email. Log on to the Chapter website at truchas-tu.org. Follow the link for subscribing and fill out the form completely. We promise to NEVER sell or share your address with other organizations. You will later receive a confirmation by email. Not sure you're subscribed for the newsletter? Please use the website form to be certain.

As an incentive, members who are signed up to receive the newsletter by email before November 1st will be eligible to win a rod donated by Jim Benenson of Stonefly Rods, personalized for the lucky recipient. Winner will be drawn at the December 6th meeting.

New Truchas Chapter Merchandise
Bob O'Connor

Truchas Chapter, through the generous cooperation and support of The Reel Life and High Desert Angler, announces the launch of a new Truchas-branded line of merchandise. Items include top-of-the-line XP 40 fly fishing shirts, premium denim fishing shirts, long-billed and regular Truchas logo ball caps, T-shirts and enameled vest pins. All items handsomely display the Truchas Chapter Trout Unlimited logo and come in a variety of color combinations and designs. The proceeds, i.e. the difference between our wholesale price and the retail price paid at point of purchase, go to benefit our recently established Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Restoration Fund (RGCTRF).

The May edition of *One Last Cast* explained the purpose and the vision behind the Fund. All money raised will be used to assist local, state and federal agencies, as well as other non-profit conservation organizations like Truchas to carry out specific RGCT restoration projects. To date, through the generous contributions of our members, our Board members, a matching contribution from the Chapter itself, a grant from the Guadalupe Chapter of TU and a grant from the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI), our available funds are now more than \$58,000. This is an extraordinary measure of success by any standard. And we thank everyone who contributed for their support.

All RGCTRF merchandise items are on display and available at both High Desert Angler and The Reel Life. If items are not available or are out-of-stock, custom orders can be placed through both fly shops directly. Besides our logo, each item is embroidered to identify the purchaser as a "Donor" to the RGCTRF. This recognizes each purchaser's support for the Restoration Fund and the effort to restore the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout to its original historic range. Supporting literature about the listing status of the RGCT and our other restoration efforts are also available at both fly shop locations.

Rio Costilla Project

Kevin Reilly, VP and Advocacy Chair

Our work to restore RGCT to the Rio Costilla continues. We supported the NMDGF in obtaining Game Commission approval to complete the piscicide treatment of Comanche Creek this year. The Commission unanimously approved that request, and that treatment will take place in August.

We've also been working with the NMDGF, Carson National Forest, and TU National on improvements to the fish-passage barrier installed last year on Comanche Creek. Arnold Atkins and I attended a meeting in July, and the work has now been done.

We had a large turnout of volunteers for our work day on Comanche Creek in July. This project, co-sponsored in part by the Quivera Coalition, New Mexico Trout, and the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, has been ongoing for several years. It involves creating exclosures to keep elk and cattle away from the creek and installing structures to create a natural stream meander. These improvements deepen the stream bed, create pools for fish, allow willows to grow along the creek, and will lower the water temperature of the creek. Already, tests taken by the Carson National Forest show that the areas of the creek on which these improvements have been made are cooler than those which have not yet been improved. **A BIG THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS WORKDAY!**

These efforts on Comanche Creek are part of a much larger project to improve habitat and restore RGCT to 120 miles of interconnected stream on the Rio Costilla and its tributaries. The project is expected to take 10 years to complete. The size of the project and the fact that all of the miles of stream will be interconnected is significant for the future of this trout. Interconnected streams allow the trout to move to other parts of the system when one part is subject to a catastrophic event and also assure genetic diversity. As the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said in its decision that the RGCT should be listed under the ESA, fragmentation accelerates extinction.

Alamitos Barrier Project

Dave Gratson, Conservation Chair

We made progress on our goal to install a fish barrier on Alamitos Creek. **We have been awarded a \$52,500 grant from the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) for this project and also a \$3,000 grant from the Guadalupe Chapter of TU (central Texas).** We are very grateful for both!!

Alamitos Creek flows northeast from the Pecos Wilderness in the Carson Nation Forest where some of the flow is diverted by an acequia association. The upper 7.1 miles of the stream contains a population of pure RGCT. In May, we met with representatives of the acequia, Peter Wilkinson from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, Juan Martinez (fisheries) and Herb Vigil (engineer) both with the Carson NF. The acequia association currently has a diversion and we met as a means of explaining our interest in a fish barrier and to understand if our project can be done in conjunction with their goal of upgrading their diversion to a concrete structure. In July, Arnold Atkins met with Juan Martinez and John Miera, Carson NS Camino Real District Ranger, to review our ideas. Both of these meetings have been a success. The acequia association was supportive of our effort and there is potential for synergy between our two projects though separate construction projects are likely.

The WNTI money we received will go toward the construction of the barrier. This money will be managed by TU National. Hillary Coley, TU's CFO, and Joe McGurrin graciously agreed to have TU manage the grant for a small fraction of TU's usual overhead charge, and WNTI increased the original grant of \$50,000 to cover the \$2,500 overhead charge. Our Chapter RGCTRF has raised circa \$7,000 bringing money available for this project over \$60,000 so we are approaching our lower end estimated cost of \$70,000 (\$70-100K estimated) for the NEPA assessment and barrier construction.

Pictures of Alamitos Creek and the acequia diversion are available on our truchas-tu.org website under the Conservation link.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Schulz, Chapter Treasurer

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Restoration Fund

All of us thank you for the donations made to the RGCTRF since our March 1st Banquet. We made the fund very liquid in preparation for the expense of the Alamitos NEPA work. Your Board purchased the wholesale merchandise from the Fund out of our Truchas general funds, and Truchas will continue marketing the Truchas merchandise.

The RGCTRF balance is \$8,093 without CD interest due on September 17 and November 14; this also includes the Guadalupe Chapter TU donation of \$3,000. The NEPA cost for the Alamitos barrier is projected to be \$10,000 or less; therefore, we have enough in the Truchas balance to handle the difference but will continue fund raising. We must thank our local fly shops: The Reel Life has a RGCTRF jar on the counter for depositing change and has given us checks the last two months. High Desert Angler is following suit and we should see continued monthly deposits to the RGCTRF in the future.

Truchas Chapter Treasury

Our balance is \$16,850 (\$7,000 CD and \$9,850 cash). The reasons for the large non-interest earning position are the potential NEPA expense shortfall in the RGCT Fund and the upcoming purchase of Truchas merchandise to market to members and customers of both fly shops. Bob O'Connor has an article to further explain the marketing of Truchas merchandise. It has been a huge plus that Arnold Atkins has encouraged Toner Mitchell of The Reel Life and Jarrett Sasser of High Desert Angler to be more active with your Board; we encourage you to support their shops and thank them for the Truchas commitment.



Special Thanks to GRTU!

Elsewhere in this newsletter, we have an update on our efforts to protect a large population of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout by helping to get a fish-passage barrier built on Alamitos Creek in the Carson National Forest. We've committed to raise the money for the analysis of the barrier's environmental impact. The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited (GRTU), which is based in Texas, has helped us tremendously by giving our chapter a grant of \$3,000 for that analysis from its Coldwater Outreach Project. GRTU has set up the Coldwater Outreach Project to help other TU chapters with their conservation efforts. We greatly appreciate GRTU's help, and GRTU is now our partner in this project. If you know anyone who is a member of GRTU, please be sure to thank them.

VOTE ON OUR PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES!

Our Chapter by-laws are terribly outdated, and the Chapter board has unanimously approved a new set of by-laws called "Restated Truchas Chapter By-Laws." Changes in the Chapter's by-laws must be approved by our members and not just by our Board. So, we need your help! **We need to have at least 10% of our members vote** on the proposed by-law changes, and at least two-thirds of those voting must approve the changes for them to go into effect. The existing and the proposed by-laws are posted on our web-page together with a memo explaining the major changes. To review these documents, go to truchas-tu.org and follow the links.

You may vote on the proposed by-laws by **e-mailing** your position either for or against the restated by-laws to our vice president, Kevin Reilly, at reilly.kevin.v@gmail.com, or by filling out and **mailing** the form below, or by coming to our December meeting and **voting in person**. If you vote by e-mail, be sure to include your full name. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin at reilly.kevin.v@gmail.com or 505-466-3786.

Truchas Chapter Goes Locals Care

Toner Mitchell

Those of you familiar with the Locals Care program know that it was conceived to encourage Santa Feans to patronize locally-owned businesses in order to keep Santa Fe dollars in Santa Fe. You know that local charities receive a portion of every dollar Locals Care cardholders spend at participating merchants, and that another portion of the same dollar goes back to the cardholders' cards to be redeemed at any Locals Care merchant. Since its inception, Locals Care has been a home run for charities, shoppers, and local merchants. In fact, the program has generated \$ for participating charities so far, has yielded the same amount in cardholder rewards, and has kept roughly \$ in the community that might have gone to an out of state corporation.

We are elated to announce that Trout Unlimited is now a Locals Care charity. This means that if TU members enroll in Locals Care and choose TU as their charity, we can earn funds for the Chapter by doing nothing more than buying what we normally buy at places where we probably already shop. Do any of us trout advocates ever need fishing equipment? Well, both Santa Fe fly shops are Locals Care merchants. Say you buy a new \$600 fly rod. At the cash register, you enroll in Locals Care and designate TU as your charity (#0137 on the Locals Care enrollment form). With that simple act, up to \$24 from your rod purchase goes to the Truchas Chapter, and up to \$24 will go back on your Locals Care card for future use, BY YOU!

Some frequently asked questions:

Who are Locals Care charities? www.locals-care.com lists all the charities doing important work for children, the disadvantaged, the arts, animals, and now trout.

Who are Locals Care merchants? The website provides a complete list of merchants, which includes hardware stores, popular restaurants,

clothing and outdoor retailers, a dentist, an attorney, a tire store, and the fly shops.

Does Locals Care cost me anything? No. The money to charities and shoppers comes from Locals Care merchants.

Do I have to add my Locals Care card to my already bulging wallet? No. Your purchases can be recorded with your phone number of record.

If I'm already in the program, can I change my Locals Care charity to TU? Yes, on the website.

Let's face it. Our busy lives often make it difficult to contribute more to TU than our annual renewal dues. Joining Locals Care is a simple way to generate funds for the protection of our beloved fish and their habitat. If 100 TU members enroll in Locals Care with TU as their charity, and each spends \$200 (they will probably spend more, since there are so many merchants) at participating merchants, up to \$800 will be generated for TU. Eight hundred dollars means a lot more when you consider that many of the grants we apply for match funds the Chapter already has. That's a lot of trout.

Donate and Win in our Restoration Fund Raffle!

Yet another way to do good and perhaps get a nice reward yourself: enter the Restoration Fund Raffle for a premium, custom-made fly rod with the Truchas Chapter logo recognizing you as a RGCT Restoration Fund Donor.

Tickets are \$5 each and all proceeds from the RGCT Restoration Fund Raffle go to benefit the RGCT Restoration Fund. All donations are tax deductible.

Drawing will be made at the December 6th Chapter meeting. Need not be present to win!

**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Restoration Fund
2008 Restoration Fund Raffle**

YES! I want to help Truchas Chapter bring back Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout and other native fish to the watersheds of New Mexico through the RGCT Restoration Fund. Please also enter me in the Restoration Fund Raffle for a premium, custom-made fly rod at \$5/ ticket. Drawing will be made at the December 6th Chapter meeting. Need not be present to win!

Make check payable to Truchas Chapter. All contributions to the RGCT Restoration Fund are earmarked for restoration projects and are tax deductible.

Mail to: Truchas Chapter TU, P.O. 31671, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87594-1671

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

#tickets @ \$5 each _____ Total \$ _____

By-Law Changes Proxy Voting Form

Please see article on page 5.

Mail to: Truchas Chapter TU, P.O. 31671, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87594-1671

I, _____, a member of the Truchas Chapter of
[Please Print Legibly]

Trout Unlimited, vote as follows on the proposed "Restated Chapter By-Laws"
for the Truchas Chapter:

_____ I approve the Restated Chapter By-Laws

_____ I disapprove the Restated Chapter By-Laws

Signature



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Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout will be featured at the new Santa Fe Community Convention Center. Artist Colette Hosmer, a 30-year resident of Santa Fe, said of RGCT recently in an interview with *Albuquerque Journal North*, “ They’re a great indicator for a well-balanced ecology. They’re the first thing to go when the water gets dirty or the ecology gets unbalanced.” Twenty-seven of the 2½- by 3½-foot black granite sculptures will leap from the gravel of the Convention Center’s plaza.

Whirling Disease is known in the following New Mexico streams: San Juan River, Pecos, Cebolla, Cimarron, Red River, Canones Creek, North Bonita Creek, Brazos, Los Pinos and Jack’s Creek (Dept. Of Interior Report, May 2008). Please treat your boots and waders appropriately when you have fished in these or others waters with invasive species to help prevent their spread. See more at www.whirling-disease.org