



One More Cast

Newsletter for the Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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Annual Banquet Saturday, March 21st

Bob O'Connor, Banquet Committee Chairman

Dave Whitlock, world-renowned author, teacher, illustrator and fly tyer extraordinaire, is the keynote guest speaker for the 2009 Annual Banquet on Saturday, March 21st.

Dave Whitlock, as most of you know, is an expert on trout and the aquatic foods that make up their diet. As one of the sport's leading fly tyers, Dave is also expert at creating innovative new fly patterns and casting presentations to imitate the naturals that are the key to success on any water.

Dave's program this year is EL SALTAMONTES: A CHILEAN HOPPER PARADISE as he takes us on an entertaining slide tour of Chile. It's a visual feast that includes the dramatic flight over the Andes, a stop at Puerto Montt, views of the mountains, the ranch, the alpaca, the local gauchos and the ox-drawn carts as well as some of the most exciting and explosive hopper fishing you can imagine.

Please take note. Unlike years past, the Banquet will be held at the **Inn and Spa at Loretto** (not at the Santa Fe Hilton). Cocktails will start with an open cash bar at 6:00 pm. Dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 pm with Dave Whitlock beginning his talk and slide show presentation around 8:00 pm as dessert is being served.

The Banquet is our primary annual fund-raising event to support projects throughout the year. As always, there will be plenty of silent auction items including exclusive guided fishing trips, artwork, jewelry, custom-made fly rods and other fishing equipment. We will also have the ever-popular Checkerboard Auction as a separate bid item. And for the first time, we will hold a live-auction at the Banquet to allow this year's guests to bid on the spot for a very unique fly fishing excursion.

Tickets are \$50.00 per person. Reservations are recommended and Chapter members will receive a special invitation by mail. Everyone is welcome; contact Bob O'Connor for reservation information.[con't]



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.

[**Banquet**, con't.] The Inn and Spa at Loretto is also offering Truchas Chapter members a preferred room rate. Rooms that normally book for \$299/night are available for Truchas members and guests for \$199/night if you reserve the room on or before February 14th. Truchas is also guaranteed that rate as long as space is available so make your plans as soon as possible.

Parking is available for \$4.00/car the night of the event. Just mention the Truchas Chapter Banquet to receive our special discounted rate.

The Inn and Spa at Loretto is located at 211 Old Santa Fe Trail on the corner of Alameda and Old Santa Fe Trail, 505-988-5531. Contact Banquet Chairman Bob O'Connor at 505-603-0797 or Roboconnor@aol.com for all the details.

Rio Grande Gorge Stocking

March 4th, 2009

As in years past, our friend Eric Frey at New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is asking for volunteers to help with transplanting trout into the Rio Grande Gorge. New this year is that they will be transplanting 3-4-inch Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout rather than Brown Trout fry.

From Eric: For those of you that have volunteered in the past it all will be the same. We will pack the fish in plastic containers or bags onto frame backpacks and hike them into the Wild and Scenic portion of the Rio Grande. The hike (down, stocking, and back up) normally takes about 3 to 4 hours. Volunteers should plan to bring warm clothes, good hiking boots, and water. I will have plenty of frame packs, fish, and water containers. We will plan to meet at the La Junta trailhead at 10 AM on March 4. To get to the trailhead from Questa: go north about 3 miles on NM522, then turn west (left) onto NM378 through Cerro. Follow 378 into the BLM Wild and Scenic Area and follow the road to the La Junta trailhead.

For questions or more information, contact Eric at eric.frey@state.nm.us.

2009 Grand Raffle

Even if you can't attend Banquet, you can participate in our Grand Raffle. Our Grand Raffle drawing will include chances to win two days of self-guided fishing with two nights lodging and all meals included at Ted Turner's exclusive Vermejo Park Ranch. Second Prize is a two day, one night fishing trip hosted at the newly built Alaya Lodge on the San Juan River. And Third Prize is a top-of-the-line Super Fat Cat float tube. Tickets are available for \$5.00 per ticket or a book of 6 is available for \$25.00. Chapter members should expect to receive tickets by mail, or visit our new website at truchas-tu.org for a request by mail. Drawing will be made on Banquet night.

2008 Christmas Party

Karen Denison

For those who braved the cold, the December Christmas Party was a fun chance to visit with other Chapter members. The afternoon fly tying and evening programs provided by Colorado's Ken Iwamasa were both entertaining and well-received—thanks Ken! Chapter business included election of this year's Executive Board and adoption of revised Chapter by-laws. The Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Restoration Fund raffle ended with the drawing of the winning ticket. Congratulations to winner Ken North and great thanks to donor / rod builder Rudy Rios for the beautiful bamboo rod. A drawing was also held for a rod crafted by Jim Benenson that promoted registration of Chapter members for receiving the newsletter by email. Congratulations to David Sanchez for being that lucky winner. Thank you to all who participated. Hope to see you next year if not sooner!

Whitlock Luncheon March 21st

Bob O'Connor

A SPECIAL TRUCHAS CHAPTER MEMBERS-ONLY LUNCHEON AT LAS CAMPANAS

Dave Whitlock will be available for an intimate "meet-and-greet" book signing and detailed live-video fly tying demonstration during a special luncheon sponsored by Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited at the Club House at Las Campanas. starting at 11:30 am on Saturday, March 21st.

Get a chance to hear Dave Whitlock recount stories of his many adventures as he shows you how he comes up with the marvelous flies that he is known for the world over. Dave will also give a limited casting presentation as well and demonstrate some of the more unique fly presentations you might want to add to your arsenal.

Seating is limited so make your reservations now. The catered luncheon and a chance to meet and talk with Dave and Emily Whitlock personally are available to all TU Chapter members for \$30.00 per person.

Contact Bob O'Connor at 505-603-0797 or Roboconnor@aol.com for reservations and all the details.

Newsletter and Website

Karen Denison

Truchas Chapter has a new, (and hopefully improved) website at its same, established address truchas-tu.org. Current and previous newsletters, breaking news, and Chapter contact information are all available there. **Since this will be the last regular paper newsletter**, we encourage everyone who has not already done so to subscribe to receive the newsletter by email. Go to the new website and sign up on the "newsletter" page. If you have any difficulties, contact me 983-5231 or ksdenison@attglobal.net.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Schulz

Truchas Main Account

2008 was the most successful fund-raising year in the history of Truchas Chapter. Our 2008 numbers include both the main account and RGCT Restoration Fund with all reporting completed properly. We appreciate your continued support and thank you in advance for attending our fund-raising Banquet on March 21 with Dave Whitlock. We currently have \$11,250 in the main account, with \$7,100 in a CD maturing on March 18. As mentioned previously, we keep our costs low as Board members rarely turn in expenses. As you read this newsletter, Karen is lowering our newsletter costs by going to email. John Wright, a newer board member, is developing a much-needed emphasis on youth programs which may need additional funding after grants. Both fly shops have helped tremendously with donations and merchandise sales, and the Locals Care program provides donations with no cost to members.

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Restoration Fund

The initial nine-month fund raising effort for restoration of Rio Grande Cutthroats has exceeded our expectations. We currently have a balance of \$12,840 with \$737 due from merchandise and New Mexico Trout pledging another \$2500 sometime in 2009. This will give us over \$16,000.

We gratefully received financial aid from two clubs last year who deserve recognition: Texas' Guadalupe Chapter TU sent us \$3000, and New Mexico Trout donated \$2500.

At the Christmas Party, a bamboo rod made by Board member Rudy Rios was raffled to benefit the Fund and brought in \$1240. It was won by Ken North of Rio Rancho. We thank everyone for their participation and Rudy for the donation. Most of the current Fund balance will be expended for the Alamitos barrier project as you will read in Dave Gratson's article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Rio Alamos Barrier Project

Dave Gratson

Since our last newsletter several important steps have been accomplished on the Alamos barrier project. On January 8th, a meeting was held at Carson National Forest (CNF) headquarters in Taos. Kendall Clark, CNF Forest Supervisor, attended the meeting along with Juan Martinez and Herb Vigil of CNF. Also in attendance were Kirk Patten (NMDGF), Ivan Roper (Acequia del Encinal), Flavio Romero (Acequia del Cañoncito), along with Arnold Atkins, Kevin Reilly, Ed Schulz and David Gratson of Truchas TU.

At that meeting Herb Vigil, CNF Engineer, provided details on the proposed barrier structure and location. We spent considerable time discussing the logistics and cost of barrier construction as well as the long-term maintenance of the structure.

The barrier includes a vertical drop of five feet and includes the ability to limit the volume of water to both the acequias and the overflow. All parties were generally satisfied with the design. At the meeting we also developed a time line for the remaining project steps. Since then we have learned that on January 22, 2009 at a joint meeting of Las Acequias del Cañoncito y del Encinal both commissions unanimously voted to proceed with the Alamos joint venture. However, due to budget cuts that the State will be implementing, the commissions decided to delay any formal agreements until they are assured that State funding for this project will not be cut. Otherwise, we continue to proceed and now have a Draft agreement with CNF to proceed with the NEPA process, including scoping and assessment. Once that agreement is finalized, which we hope to do within a week (late January), CNF can proceed with the NEPA analysis using funds from Truchas TU.

The plan is to start the scoping in early February and ideally to have a completed NEPA analysis and a decision from the District Ranger by mid-March. If the District Ranger's decision is favorable, the

contract for the construction of the barrier can go out for bid with construction slated for this coming fall. We still have several hurdles to overcome, including the cost-sharing arrangement between TU and the Acequias, but progress continues on this important Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout project.

RGCT Restoration Fund Merchandise

Bob O'Connor

After barely a year, the Chapter's Rio Grande Cutthroat Restoration Fund (RGCTRF) has been a resounding success. And our new RGCTRF merchandise line has helped the Chapter brand our native trout restoration efforts and provide a much broader exposure of the fund to the general public thanks to the close cooperation we have received from Santa Fe's two premier fly shops, High Desert Angler and The Reel Life of Santa Fe.

Through their efforts, the RGCTRF received \$1,306.41 and \$906.00 in gross revenue sales by year's end from High Desert Angler and The Reel Life respectively. We also generated an additional \$2,700.75 in gross revenue from direct merchandise sales by the Chapter.

Three different models of hats in a variety of colors embroidered with the Truchas Chapter logo, three colors of Clearwater 40+ UPF Fishing Shirts (aqua blue, avocado green, stone grey), a washed denim fishing shirt with the color Truchas logo and an enameled logo vest pin proved to be the most popular items. All clothing items are also embroidered with the moniker "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Restoration Fund Donor" to recognize each purchaser as a significant contributor to our efforts.

We have plenty of inventory on hand. And all items are available for sale through the fly shops. Merchandise will also be available at the Banquet on March 21 for direct purchase, as well. Contact Bob O'Connor at 505-603-0797 or Roboconnor@aol.com for more details.

Fly Fishing Competition

Norm Maktima

"So how many did you catch today?" someone asks, and you reply, "a few". Knowing you caught ten fish all in the 12 to 15 inch range. After just a couple hours of fishing you feel pretty accomplished. Did you know such accomplishments could actually take you places? It has for me.

In 1997, the U.S. hosted a World Fly Fishing Championship in Jackson, Wyoming. With the home turf advantage we still managed to get beat and I won't say by how much, but it was ugly! Since then it has been the goal of Fly Fishing Team USA and its members to try and regain some dignity in the global fly fishing eye.

In 2005, Fly Fishing Team USA began instituting trials to select its members. Previously, to be on the team you had to be invited, so the team had no real competitive background. However, we have been at a disadvantage from the beginning. The World Championships began in Europe, as they have always had local clubs that inherently want to challenge each other to a little friendly competition. Thus the World Fly Fishing Championships came to be. North American fly fishers have never been so organized, so we were left in the dust in the development of our competitive fly fishing skills. With competition trials as the basis to selecting members of Team USA, the team has become a threat to claiming the title of World Fly Fishing Champions.

Before you start forming your opinions on competitive fly fishing, let me give you a little background as to what happens at one of these events. Now, if you can imagine a large group of fly fishing buddies hanging out for a weekend, then you pretty much have the gist of it. Unlike our warm water cousins who fish for money, in these competitions all you win is the honor of being top rod or top team of that competition. There are strict rigging regulations that you must follow such as no strike indicators, no external weight (i.e. split shot, putty, etc.), and up to three flies. All the while catch and release is practiced with the utmost care for the fish. Fly fishers from all over the country or from

other countries come to these events and share their techniques and ideas. Yes, I said share, obviously after the last competition session has ended, but this has allowed fly fishing to grow throughout the world. Along with being a true fishing competition, no casting qualifier and having to fish beats that have already been fished by other competitors, you have to have your game face on!!

In 2009, the 29th World Fly Fishing Championships will be held in Scotland. The 2009 U.S. World Team has already been chosen for this year, but there is still a chance for you. In April of 2009, Santa Fe, New Mexico will host a Southwest Fly Fishing Qualifier. This competition is open to 24 competitors. In turn if you finish in the top ten during the qualifier you will move on to compete in the 2009 National Championship. If you finish well enough in the Nationals then you have an opportunity to become a member of Fly Fishing Team USA, and a chance to compete in the World Fly Fishing Championships and other international fly fishing competitions.

My name is Norman Maktima and in 1998 I was a member of the U.S. Youth Team and that year I was fortunate enough to win the Top Rod honors at the 1st World Youth Fly Fishing Championship. Then in 2001, I became a member of Team USA. Since becoming involved with the U.S. Fly Fishing Team I have competed in World Fly Fishing Championships held in Wales, Sweden, and Slovakia. I have also competed throughout the country in regional qualifiers, National Championships, as well as in the Canadian National Championships. If you want an opportunity to compete in the Southwest Regional Qualifier feel free to contact me. This presents a great opportunity to learn more about your passion, meet others who enjoy fly fishing as much as you do, and maybe travel the world to fish. I have learned and come to appreciate more than ever the finer points of this sport. If you are interested in becoming involved, but maybe not as a competitor, we will need as many volunteers as we can get. The best way to contact me is through my email at nativenorm@hotmail.com. I hope you take an opportunity to come and learn more about these fly fishing competitions.

Presidential Perspective: Competition Volunteers Needed

Arnold Atkins

In April, Norm Maktima is hosting the Southwest Regional Fly Fishing Competition which leads up to possible participation with Team USA, and needs volunteers to help with this event. While Trout Unlimited is a conservation organization, not a fishing club, it is appropriate to remember that it is interest in fishing, and often fly fishing, that leads to concern for conserving, protecting, and restoring our cold water resources. The Board of Truchas Chapter agrees that events like this increase interest in and knowledge of our catch and release fishing, and we would like to support Norm with this event. The competition is scheduled for **April 4th and 5th** (spectators are welcome and even encouraged as long as they don't disturb the fish or the contestants), and 24 volunteer "Controllers" are needed to act as tournament officials. Each angler will fish one day on the Rio Grande and one day on Santa Cruz Lake, and a controller is needed for each river angler, and ideally for each lake angler as well. The controller verifies number and size of fish caught, as well as adherence to rules of technique and fish handling. It is preferable to have each controller available for both days. The top 10 contestants in this event go on to the national championship, and about 12 of those contestants go on to join Team USA, which has 15 members.

In addition to the competition, there will be a European Nymphing Clinic (time not determined yet) organized by Norman Maktima and conducted by Team USA members on April 1. Contestants will be able to practice on water on April 2 and 3. A mandatory Controller Meeting is at 6:30 PM on April 3. At 7:30 AM on April 4 and April 5, all leave Santa Fe for fishing venues, two sessions each day, with the second session ending at 4:30 PM. Anyone interested in being a controller should contact Norm at nativenorm@hotmail.com for more information. We'll have more information on being a spectator and on the nymphing clinic available as the event nears, and please note that The Reel Life is hosting a fly fishing film festival the same week, so this should be a week not to be missed or forgotten!

Fly Fishing Film Tour

Jeff Croy

Santa Fe is a fly fishing hub for anglers in the American Southwest. It is only fitting, therefore, for our city to be chosen as one of the host cities for the **2009 Fly Fishing Film Tour**.

AEG Media, the producer of the tour, will screen in over 70 cities with an all new lineup of films. AEG Media is the producer of "The Trout Bum" series, but the Fly Fishing Film Tour features work by a host of cutting edge filmmakers. Last year the Fly Fishing Film Tour traveled to over 45 movie theaters across the country highlighting some of the best fly fishing films from independent film makers such as Felt Soul Media, Beattie Outdoor Productions, Roll Cast Productions, Castaway Films, World Anglers, AEG Media and more.

On April 2-3, The Reel Life will be hosting the Fly Fishing Film Tour at the New Mexico Film Museum (formerly the Jean Cocteau Cinema). Come see the most exciting and current fly fishing video content on the big screen. Ten percent of the profits of this event will be donated to Trout Unlimited's Youth Program. Additionally, there will be a raffle with proceeds going directly to Trout Unlimited.

The show is a collection of highlights and short films that will take audiences on a hard core hour and a half journey of pure fly fishing adventure. The Tour is one of the most exciting fly fishing events of the year. This year's show will feature a whole new lineup of films.

"Our goal is to entertain, inspire, generate new interest in fly fishing, and to help local and national conservation organizations share their message." says tour manager Thad Robison of AEG Media. The 2009 Fly Fishing Film Tour promises to deliver on all of that, so be sure to pick up your tickets at The Reel Life next to Borders in Sanbusco. Or they can be purchased online at <http://www.aegmedia.com>. The venue is intimate and seating is limited so advance ticket purchases are recommended (they are available right now!). Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door.

Youth Education Program

Toner Mitchell

With the goal of providing uninterrupted, year-round educational opportunities for New Mexico youngsters, Truchas Chapter's youth committee has slated the following objectives for 2009:

- In partnership with the Santa Fe National Forest, to develop a uniform classroom curriculum for immediate use at a school in Pecos, Eldorado, and Albuquerque.
- To participate in the New Mexico Wildlife Center's first summer science youth camp.
- To conduct at least one kids' conservation camp at an area ranch.
- To continue to refine our Kid's Blog.
- To initiate Trout In The Classroom projects in three area schools by fall of 2009; one school has signed up for the program and two have expressed strong interest.
- To continue our support for fish and fishing-related Merit Badge programs in conjunction with Boy Scouts of America.

It is critical that TCYEP is a success. Our fisheries grow more crowded and tired every year, and resource managers sometimes don't recognize the full value of our water resources. Given the challenges our natural resources will face, we need to show our young people the strong connection that exists between what they do and where they live.

The short view on this is that our New Mexico wildlands will be the better for the work of our children. The long view will be seen in the lives of the children themselves, and in the children they eventually bring into the world. By encouraging them to be stewards of their homeland, we teach them responsibility for their actions, to learn for themselves the values of focus, family, and community. They will study, volunteer, believe in things, and participate. They will vote, take a stand.

Our most needed resource will always be manpower. We will need chaperones, fly tiers, casting teachers, biologists, BSA troop leaders or merit badge counselors, and teachers for all of our projects. Sign up on the TCYEP call list, either at one of the fly shops or by email. We need you.

TU Regional Meeting in Santa Fe

Kevin Reilly

TU's New Mexico and Arizona Councils are co-hosting a regional meeting for TU grassroots leaders and senior staff in Santa Fe on **May 8 and 9, 2009**. The meeting will take place at Hotel Santa Fe, and representatives from the 10 states in the Southwest and Rocky Mountain region will participate. The agenda for the meeting is still being prepared, but we expect the meeting to address TU's new strategic plan, oil and gas development in the region, and TU's Conservation Success Index project. The agenda will include reports from each state and presentations by representatives of state and federal wildlife and land agencies. We expect that at least 30 people will participate.

Similar regional meetings have held over the past few years, and they have become an increasingly important venue for grassroots leaders to discuss the serious threats to our coldwater fisheries that affect the region. The regional meetings are also a great opportunity for grassroots leaders to discuss issues with senior TU staff and board members.

Any member of TU is welcome to attend the meeting. There will be a registration fee, which has not yet been set.

In addition to the meetings, the New Mexico Council is planning a barbeque, a dinner, and fishing options for the participants. We will need volunteer help from Chapter members with the meeting and the other activities. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please let me know at reilly.kevin.v@gmail.com.

Comanche Creek Workdays

Art Vollmer

The weekend of **July 17-19** has been selected for a free hands-on restoration workshop in the Valle Vidal this summer. The primary focus of the workshop will be placing in-stream structures along the upper reach of Comanche Creek to protect severely eroded banks. If time and number of volunteers permit, we may also work [con't]

Don't forget to use your Locals Care card to benefit the Youth Education Program!

[COMANCHE, con't.] on maintaining grazing exclosures to protect woody vegetation and planting willow cuttings.

We are hoping for a large volunteer turnout this year. Volunteer help is especially important this year given an announcement last year by the US Fish & Wildlife Service that the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) be formally proposed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. The EPA grants that have helped fund this project in recent years have ended. However, Truchas Chapter has applied for a TU Embrace-A-Stream grant to help fund this year's work to restore RGCT habitat. ***This grant will require our matching the funds received with volunteer in-kind labor.*** So this year more than ever we need you to volunteer to help continue TU's efforts with this multi-year project.

This is a great opportunity to learn first-hand about

stream restoration from professionals. You can also view the fish barrier TU helped fund a couple of years ago. (NM Game & Fish hopes to be able to reintroduce pure RGCT to Comanche Creek above the barrier this summer.) After working on the creek, you can take the opportunity to fish for rainbows, cutthroats, and cutbows in the Rio Costilla or for 20" rainbows in Shuree Ponds. Please consider staying for the weekend and enjoying the beautiful Valle Vidal while helping to restore RGCT habitat. As in the past, the USFS will allow us to camp for free near the lodge at Shuree Ponds Friday and Saturday nights.

If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Art Vollmer by phone at 505-476-6004 (days) or 505-474-1495 (evenings) or by e-mail at flyfishn@peoplepc.com.