



# One More Cast

Newsletter for the Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 31671  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87594-1671

Visit our website at:  
<http://truchas-tu.org/>

## **Board Officers and Committees:**

### ***Toner Mitchell, President***

tonermitchell@msn.com 992-2933

### ***Dave Gratson, VP / Conservation***

gratz11@gmail.com 471-5625

### ***Ed Schulz, Treasurer***

sfeschulz@yahoo.com 995-1963

### ***Roger Prucino, Secretary***

rlprucino@gmail.com 471-7800

### ***Arnold Atkins, Past President***

oldrzif@yahoo.com 466-4375

### ***Robert O'Connor, Membership***

robert.w.oconnor@mac.com 983-6121

### ***John Wright, Youth***

twe@grappawireless.com 603-7952

### ***Karen Denison, Newsletter***

ksdenison@attglobal.net 983-5231

## 2009 Banquet is a Success

Bob O'Connor, Banquet Committee Chairman

In a challenging year that saw the collapse of the real estate market, the U.S. economy reeling under a record number of home foreclosures, the international credit markets frozen and the world economy facing a near-record decline, the 2009 Banquet night turned out to be a surprising success.

110 Chapter members and guests attended this year's event. And from the comments the Banquet committee received throughout the evening, a change in venue from the Santa Fe Hilton to the Inn and Spa at the Loretto seemed to be just what the doctor ordered.

The evening started out with our usual cocktail hour to allow those who attended to catch up with old friends and peruse a wide array of guided fishing trips, custom-made fly rods, artwork, the RGCT Checkerboard Auction and other items generously donated by members and friends of TU to help support the work of Truchas Chapter throughout the year.

A wonderful dinner was then followed by guest speakers Dave and Emily Whitlock who gave a lively, amusing and well-rehearsed talk about their unique hopper fishing experience at El Saltamontes Lodge in the remote back country of Chile. This was followed by a first: Truchas Chapter's first live auction hosted (by the seat of his pants) by Banquet Chairman and first-time auctioneer Bob O'Connor to kick off the Chapter's latest initiative, the Truchas Chapter Youth Education Program (TCYEP).

After several rounds of furious bidding, the winning bid came from avid sportsman Fred Klinghoffer and set an all-time Banquet record for a single item. The prize – 3 days fishing, 2 nights accommodations with full guide service and meals included at the Brazos River Ranch – was donated by owner and outfitter Bo Prieskorn. The proceeds from the live auction became the first seed capital to fund the Chapter's efforts in youth education for 2009-2010 (see related article).



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

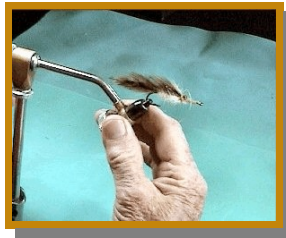
**TU's Mission: To conserve, protect  
and restore North America's cold-  
water fisheries and their watersheds.**

[Banquet, con't.]

In a year that saw the Chapter significantly expand its conservation and restoration mission, we know we could not even begin to do what we do without your continued and generous support. Thank you!

**Whitlock Luncheon**  
**Fly Tying with the Master**  
Mimi Kingsbury

OK. So maybe I just wanted to go to the TU luncheon, March 21, so that I could say, "I've tied flies with Dave Whitlock." Or maybe it was the tasty luncheon to be served at Las Campanas. But whatever the reason, I went and I thoroughly enjoyed watching the master tie flies – on a big screen no less! I dutifully wrote down each step of the very complicated fly – that is for about the first 6 steps – and then I put my pen down and realized that I would never be able to duplicate this fly. But to watch him work and listen to him explain why he did what he did so carefully and artfully was a joy. And then after a short break he came back and demonstrated the Red Fox Squirrel Nymph. And that is something I have been able to tie! Now to get to the stream and show it to the fish.



Thanks TU – it was a wonderful experience.

[Ed. Note: Dave and Emily Whitlock graciously entertained at a 3-hour luncheon hosted at Las Campanas open to Chapter members the same day of the Banquet. About twenty members took advantage and were rewarded with watching one of the country's fly tying innovators recreate two of his signature flies.]

**Grand Raffle Winners**

Congratulations to Bob King for winning the Super Fat Cat float tube, Mike Rueckhaus for winning the outing to Tres Lagunas, and John Clark for walking away with the first prize of a trip to Vermejo Park Ranch.

**Rio Grande Gorge Stocking**  
Arnold Atkins

While there was a stocking of some adult Rio Grande Cutthroat in the Pilar area of the Rio Grande in October of 2008 (for the very laudable purpose of exposing the public to their state fish), March 4, 2009 marks the first time I know of in my lifetime (and over 50 years of fishing "The Box") that the fish has returned to the waters of the upper gorge of its namesake river. This came about as the fortuitous result of unavailability of the Wyoming hatchery brown trout fry which are usually stocked in the gorge every spring at the very time that the NMDGF had an excess of wild source RGCT yearlings on hand.

This opportunity was well publicized, and drew about 40 volunteers, including a good group from Truchas Chapter. We gathered at the La Junta trailhead and received our instructions and packframes from DGF team leader Eric Frye. The packframes were then loaded with plastic Jerry cans filled with fish, and we headed for the river. While most were taken down the La Junta trail, several loads were taken elsewhere. I believe that the three cans taken to Bear Crossing by Jeff Croy, myself, and Taos area game warden Scott Draney made it the farthest upstream.

Several thousand fish were distributed over several miles of stream. We are hoping they are old and large enough to avoid serious impact by whirling disease, and there are other threats such as pike and brown trout to be avoided, but they sure looked happy and

healthy as they swam away. This was obviously a symbolic rather than a serious restoration stocking, but I think it's fantastic that we've reached a point where we have our state fish available for placement where they can be seen and appreciated as a bonus for the adventurous Box angler. To paraphrase Eric Frye, "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout in the Rio Grande Gorge: what a concept!" I'll be eagerly watching for them to appear for a brief photo-op with one of their erstwhile handlers in a year or two.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ed Schulz

Your board thanks everyone that made our Banquet weekend a huge success; both financially and with enjoyment of the program at a new venue. We grossed \$20,000 and will net nearly \$8,500, I do not yet have all the final numbers.

Nineteen fly tyers spent three hours with Dave Whitlock over lunch, and most reviews of the evening Banquet have been positive. We appreciate your support in this fragile economy, and you provided instant results for programs. I do not want to steal John Wright's TCYEP article, but we started the youth program with \$3,250 from the Banquet. The board bought the first chiller unit(\$784) out of general funds so that TCYEP can proceed on this needed cause with the total \$3250 raised.

We just made the first payment to USDA for NEPA work on the Alamitos for \$1398 out of the \$10,000 we promised the Forest Service. We also just received a \$9480 Embrace-a-Stream check for work on Comanche Creek this year, and New Mexico Trout added \$500 for this project. They also donated \$250 to the TCYEP; we thank them for helping our causes as well as the issues they support.

Again, thank you for supporting us! As you read this newsletter, you will see the results.

## **THANK YOU!**

We are indebted to our generous donors, all of whom contributed to the success of our Banquet. Please offer them *your* thanks, too, when you see them!

Vermejo Park Ranch

Ayala's Lodge on the San Juan

Rudy Rios

High Desert Angler

The Reel Life of Santa Fe

Bo Prieskorn & Brazos River Ranch

Tom Melk & Corkins Lodge

Minnette Burges & Cimarroncita Ranch

Valles Caldera National Preserve

Pecos National Historical Park

Jan Crawford and Jim Loud

Arnold Atkins

Dale Heinemann &  
New Mexico Outdoors Real Estate

Donn & Pam Duncan

Toner Mitchell

Jim Benenson & Stonefly Rods

Ten Thousand Waves

Ed Schulz

Everett Groseclose

Frank Weissbarth

Doug McKnight

William Bill Shay

Robert Shay

Seth Davis

Matt Clifton & the Octagon Inn

Frank Adelo

Greg McReynolds

Century Bank

Taos Ski Valley, Inc.

Ken North

Gary Moran & Pacific Designs

Norman Maktima



As a special thank you to our Banquet guest speakers, Chapter member Donn Duncan (center) hosted a short fishing expedition at his home on the Pecos in Tres Lagunas. Thank you Donn!



## Film Tour

Jeff Croy

The 2009 Drake Fly Fishing Film Tour this month was by all measures a great success. The Tour, hosted by The Reel Life, brought together on the big screen the best in fly fishing cinematography from film makers around the world. Cutting edge work by Felt Soul Media, AEG Media, Burl Productions and others was presented in a fast-paced, energetic hour and a half production. Amazing footage of trout, redfish, steelhead, and permit was featured. The New Mexico Film Museum, formerly the Jean Cocteau Cinema, was the ideal venue offering both intimacy and top notch viewing technology.

In 2010, The Reel Life hopes to add a third viewing time to fill a growing demand. Truchas Chapter should benefit further through more fund raising and membership awareness as viewership increases.

The 2009 Tour was viewed by 165 people and raised \$167.50 for the Truchas Chapter. Perhaps as importantly, 40 Locals Care cards were distributed with the Chapter as beneficiary.

## Presidential Profile

Toner Mitchell

[Ed. Note: New board members were elected in December, and new officers take their positions this month. Chapter President Toner Mitchell, VP Dave Gratson, Secretary Roger Prucino and Treasurer Ed Schulz will all be working hard this year.]

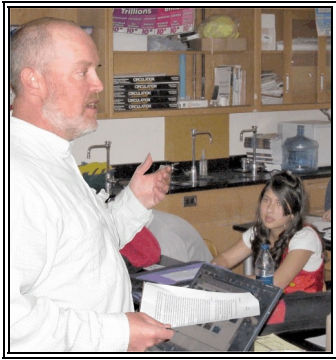
My name is Toner Mitchell, and for the next year I'll be trying to fill the big shoes of our Chapter's previous president, Arnold Atkins.

I was born in Santa Fe, tied my first fly (a Renegade) at the age of eight, and learned to fly fish on the creeks near my grandparents' house in Ranchos de Taos. Through high school, I learned to love the Pecos River, its proximity allowing me to mow lawns by day and be transformed by an evening sky full of mayflies. I also saw – in beaten down stream banks, excessive fish harvests, the ubiquitous litter – how easily a resource could be injured by those who claim to love it the most.

In college I majored in biology, after which I went to Washington, D.C. to work for Senator Jeff Bingaman on environmental, energy, and agricultural issues. I then moved to San Francisco, where I worked as an environmental consultant on EPA Superfund sites throughout the west. After some years in the Bay Area, I moved to Alaska, continued working on hazardous waste sites, and then finally gave in to my desire to be a fly fishing guide.

My first guiding job was in Alaska's Lake Iliamna region. Since then I've worked in New Mexico, Montana, Utah, even Ohio. I eventually made it back to California, where I guided, taught fly fishing classes, and climbed trees to get myself through grad school. In 2003, I made it back home and began working at The Reel Life Fly Shop, where I am now

manager and guide. Otherwise, I'm still an arborist, a freelance writer, husband, father, and aspiring coldwater conservationist.



I'm extremely excited about the year before us; the near wrap up of the Alamitos project, the launching of our successful youth program last year, and Bob O'Connor's home run of a Banquet have

us poised to accomplish great things throughout the remainder of 2009.

That great achievements will come to pass is not in doubt; my brief tenure on this board has shown me that Santa Fe's best and most experienced trout advocates are currently on the job. How great our achievements will be, however, will depend on the number of volunteer hours we can apply to our projects. As far as our existing project load is concerned, we've got it covered. But we're maxed out. If our load is to expand as expected in the year ahead, Truchas Chapter will simply need more hands on deck. So I urge you to give your time, no matter how little. Please join us.

**Welcome also to new volunteer Jim Salas** who will be assuming the duties of Chapter webmaster.

Jim is a professional webmaster and programmer who is also an avid skier, mountain biker and shade tree mechanic. Oddly enough, Jim is not a fisherman, but he likes to volunteer his time and skills to local organizations including a few of the local shelters. He lives in Santa Fe with his wife, three kids, and grandson.

Look for good things to come on the website!

## TU Regional Meeting

Kevin Reilly

The New Mexico Council of TU is hosting a Southwest-Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting on May 8 and 9 at Hotel Santa Fe in Santa Fe. TU volunteer leaders from eight states will attend two days of presentations and discussions on the future of TU, the relationship between TU national and TU chapters, how to improve TU's youth programs, and how to make TU's science research usable by TU chapters.

Several senior TU national staff members will attend the meeting, including the Vice President for Western Conservation, the Vice President for Volunteer Operations, and TU's Senior Scientist. Altogether, we expect about 30 to 35 people at the meeting.

All TU members are welcome to attend the meeting. There is a registration fee of \$150 per person. For more information, contact Kevin Reilly at [reilly.kevin.v@gmail.com](mailto:reilly.kevin.v@gmail.com) or Bill Schudlich at [highmesa@gmail.com](mailto:highmesa@gmail.com).

## Alamitos Update

Arnold Atkins

It has been quite a ride since the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Working Group identified Alamitos Creek as a place where relatively simple barrier construction could protect a large genetically-pure population of our state fish. Truchas Chapter representatives met with Game and Fish Dept. and Carson National Forest biologists on the banks of the stream for the first time two years ago, and now it appears that the barrier will be in place this Fall. Thanks to funding of the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) evaluation by Truchas Chapter (made possible by your contributions to our

Rio Grande Cutthroat Restoration Fund, and the help of our friends at New Mexico Trout and the Guadalupe River Chapter TU), the scoping letter for the project has gone out for public comment, and we anticipate the scoping process will be complete by the time you read this. The remainder of the biological assessment has been drafted and will follow shortly, and the project can then be approved by Carson National Forest and put up for contract bidding. If these bids are reasonably close to the estimate of costs by the designing engineer, we appear to have adequate funding, and construction is planned for September, when water levels are low and stream access by construction equipment is easier. Stay tuned.

extremely supportive with their donations (see list under banquet article). TCYEP also benefited from The Reel Life's flyfishing film festival, from which a portion of the proceeds went to support our activities.

In the upcoming months, we're looking forward to several events involving young people in our community. On April 21 & 28, TCYEP volunteers will be teaching a flycasting and flytying workshop at the New Mexico School for the Deaf. In May, our young friends in Scott Larson's Eldorado Elementary School classes will be releasing the fry from their enormously successful TIC project. The Upper Pecos Watershed Association's River Cleanup will be on May 30, and we'll kick June off by supporting the Santa Fe Watershed Festival on the 6th. We strongly encourage kids, their parents, grandparents and friends to participate in all of these events. Believe it or not, cleaning up a stream can be a ton of fun. More important, the sense of community spirit derived from our cleanup days is an important aspect of ensuring that New Mexico's wild country endures in its unique and spectacular state. Please join us.

**Youth Education Program**  
John Wright



Did you see the Channel 4 News report of Alane Robinson's 2nd grade class (Georgia O'Keefe elementary) on

March 18th? Ms. Robinson's class released over 100 fry that they raised from embryos in their Trout in the Classroom (TIC) project into Albuquerque's Tingley Pond. If you didn't see the news footage, check out these photos of the event and several others that are posted on our youth blog, [tcyep.blogspot.com](http://tcyep.blogspot.com).



Another success was the great support our youth program received at the Truchas Chapter's annual Banquet on March 21. Our members and donors were

DON'T FORGET, to use your Locals Care Card ([www.locals-care.com/lcindex.php](http://www.locals-care.com/lcindex.php)) whenever you make that purchase at either of Santa Fe's local fly shops or at any other Locals Care merchant. In addition to earning reward dollars for yourself, a portion of every purchase will go directly to TCYEP (if you have designated TCYEP as your charity of choice). If you already have a Locals Care card and would like to change your charity designation, get on the Locals Care website and designate charity #0137. And thanks for the support at the film festival, where over 40 people signed up for a new TCYEP Locals Care card.



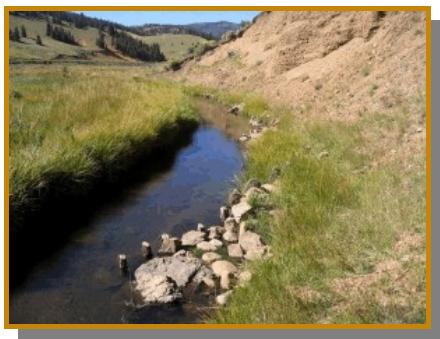
## Comanche Creek Volunteer Weekend

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 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 the US Fish & Wildlife Service announced 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, the Truchas Chapter has received 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 multiyear 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](mailto:flyfishn@peoplepc.com).

## RGCT Restoration Fund Merchandise on Sale Again

Bob O'Conner

Local Santa Fe fly shops High Desert Angler and The Reel Life have agreed to continue to carry Truchas Chapter's line of merchandise that benefits our Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) Restoration Fund.



Available for sale will be regular and long-bill ball caps with the full color Truchas logo, denim shirts and UHF 40+ Clearwater Fishing Shirts with the full color Truchas logo. Ball caps are \$19.95 for the regular model and \$29.95 for the long-bill model. Denim shirts are \$50.00 each. Clearwater Fishing Shirts in Olive, Aqua Blue and Stone are priced at \$65.00 each. All items are embroidered to recognize the purchaser as a DONOR to the RGCT Restoration Fund. Call High Desert Angler (505) 988-7688, The Reel Life (505) 995-8114 or Bob O'Connor (505) 603-0797 for details.

## Event Calendar for Truchas Chapter, Friends and Partners

Date	Event	Group	Contact / Information
May 8 - 9	Regional TU meeting, Santa Fe	TU	Kevin Reilly, 505-466-3786
May 8	Fund-Raising Banquet, Taos	EC-TU	Bill Owen, Banquet Coordinator bkowen@newmex.com or 575-776-2122
May 30	Pecos Spring Clean-up	UPWA	Lexy St. James, 757-3600
May 30 - 31	Annual NMT Conservation Barbeque, Peralta Cr.	NMT	Jo Wargo, Jemez RD 575-829-3535 <a href="http://newmexicotrout.org/cons_2009.html">http://newmexicotrout.org/cons_2009.html</a>
June 6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Santa Fe River Festival, Alto Park, Santa Fe	SFWA	<a href="http://www.santafewatershed.org">http://www.santafewatershed.org</a> 505-820-1696
June 19 - 21	Habitat improvement, Rio de las Vacas	NMT	Ron Loehman 505-265-3179 <a href="http://newmexicotrout.org/cons_2009.html">http://newmexicotrout.org/cons_2009.html</a>
July 17 -19	Comanche Cr. Workshop, Valle Vidal	TC-TU, NMT	Art Vollmer 505-476-6004
July 18 - 19	Trailwork, East Fork Jemez	NMT	Phyllis Martinez, Jemez RD 575-829-3535 <a href="http://newmexicotrout.org/cons_2009.html">http://newmexicotrout.org/cons_2009.html</a>
late July, 4 days backpack	Trout monitoring, San Pedro Parks	SFNF	Chantel Cook, 505-438-7879

TC-TU = Truchas Chapter EC - TU = Enchanted Circle Chapter NMT = New Mexico Trout UPWA = Upper Pecos Watershed Association  
SFNF = Santa Fe National Forest SFWA = Santa Fe Watershed Association

### UPWA Annual Spring Pecos River Cleanup, Saturday, May 30

Meet at UPWA office Pecos at 9am, divide into teams, clean up, gather at 11:30am for picnic at Jamie Koch Pavilion at Willow Creek area. There will be prizes, information on Pecos Canyon State Park, and lots of other good stuff. Check with UPWA office Lexy St. James (757-3600 [upwa@cybermesa.com](mailto:upwa@cybermesa.com)) for flyer and more info.

### Call for Articles

Now that we're unburdened by paper page charges, we'll have more room for lighter fare like fishing stories, member profiles and other entertaining items. If you have an article or idea for one, please contact newsletter editor Karen Denison.