

No. 75 April 2004

Publication Data on Pg. 17

**GRTU
General Meeting
Saturday, April 24**

**Canyon Lake Recreation
Center
8 AM - 12 Noon**

**"Fly Fishing Strategies"
Presentation**

**Perception Kayak Raffle
and Swap Meet**

**Lease Orientation
Classes at 9 and 12**

\$7 Bar-B-Q at 12

**Guadalupe River
Impresses Author of
TU's Top 100**

John Ross, author of *Trout Unlimited's Guide to America's 100 Best Trout Streams* paid a four-day visit to GRTU and the Guadalupe River March 25-29th. John was researching for a chapter in the revised edition of his book (hint, hint) and will also be writing a feature story on the river and our chapter for the Fall, 2004 issue of Trout magazine.

John had opportunities to float, wade, and fish the river, visit most

of the leases, and take lots of pictures along the way. He was hosted, at various points, by David Schroeder, Steve Stilp, Lefty Ray Chapa, Jimbo Roberts, Bob Newman, James Pelland, Ron McAlpin, and Alan Bray. Both Jeff Schmitt and Bill Higdon provided boats and their services as expert guides and oarsmen to help us conquer the high flows over the weekend. Steve Magnelia, TPWD's district supervisor, also graciously met us on the river for a lengthy interview.

John came away from his visit truly impressed by the river, its fishery, and the work of our chapter. Thanks to all who made it such a success.

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Front Row: (L to R) Mick McCorcle, John Ross, Bob Newman
Second Row: David Schroeder, Jimbo Roberts, Lefty Ray Chapa

It's April and That Means SWAP MEET

from Karen Gebhardt

Do your honey a favor and clean out all that unused tackle. Get rid of those old rods, reels, waders, boots, etc. For those first-timers and those of us who need a little help with the memory, April is our month to have some fun. We set up tables, have silent auction items, and we sell our over stock of fishing items - big or small.

This year we will have a "Kids Table". Bring some small donated items that we can let the kids have in a grab bag. We will have a "Collectors Table". Bring in any old (antique) rods, reels, flies (lures too), etc. We will also have a Fly Shop area to purchase items from local shops. All of this is in addition to the regular tables for your clearance items.

So let's get busy: clean out your stock, contact your favorite Fly Shop to see if they are interested in coming to our Swap Meet, and then contact me [see board of directors for contact information] to let me know what you need to set up your merchandise.

I am also open to any suggestions. The "Women on the River" will be handling all of the swap meet details. Help us make this the best ever swap meet.



Fly Fishing Strategies Will Be the Focus of Our April Meeting

If you are a parent you know that you can't use the same parenting approach for each of your children or even each child at a different age. So why, as a fly fisher, do you use the same techniques all year round and on every stream? Different children, different strategies - different fishing trips, different strategies. Norm Crisp and Georgiana Baer of Stream Side Adventures, our April speakers, will tell us how to develop and execute the appropriate fly-fishing strategy at our chapter meeting on April 24th. The meeting will be held at our new meeting location, the Canyon Lake Recreation Center, next to the spillway overflow near the base of Canyon Dam. The presentation will follow a general business meeting at 10:00 AM. Lease access orientation classes will be held promptly at 9:00 AM and 12:00 Noon. There will also be a raffle and swap meet. Don't forget, the Perception Illusion kayak, donated by John Van Ness of Austin Outdoor Gear and Guidance will be raffled off. After the presentation, a delicious barbecue brisket lunch will be available for \$7.00.

According to Norm and Georgii, the dictionary defines strategy as: 1) the art of conducting military operations; and 2) skillful management in getting the better of an adversary. Fly fishing may not be war, but we do face a worthy adversary. Many things go

into a successful fly fishing strategy, but there are a couple of very basic considerations. The understanding and application of these factors will greatly improve your chances of success.

Their presentation explains how streams flow characteristics, differences in feeding behavior, the habitat needs of various species, and the time of the year are factors that need to be included in your formula for success. The presentation will conclude with examples of how to couple these factors with the "fluid dynamics" of the stream to make each cast the most effective in your fly fishing wars.

Norm Crisp of Prairie Village, Kansas is an internationally known fly fisherman, author, teacher/lecturer and water resources scientist. Norm began fly fishing over thirty years ago as a boy growing up in New Hampshire. Since leaving there he has continued fly fishing throughout North America and many parts of the world including Russia, Nepal, Scotland, England, Spain, Italy, New Zealand, the former Yugoslavia and even the Atlas Mountains of Morocco in North Africa. Norm has received advanced degrees in both fisheries biology and water resources engineering. These areas of study and his passion for fly fishing give him a unique knowledge and understanding of trout and their needs. Norm has used this rare combination of experiences as the basis for several articles about fly fishing for trout and his travels in search of trout.

Georgiana Baer, lives in a log home in rural Olathe, Kansas, where she works as a behavioral assistant in a residential treatment facility for emotionally and behaviorally

disordered adolescents, and has been instrumental in creating a library at the school. Her broad range of interests includes photography, sculpture, watercolor, and Native American folklore. Georgii is a fowl and big game hunter who has hunted in British Columbia and Wyoming and a fly fishing guide who has fished and guided in Colorado, Wyoming, Florida, and the Great Lakes. As an outdoor entrepreneur, Georgii has focused particularly on encouraging women to develop skills in fly fishing while furthering their appreciation of the outdoors.

courses as the focus for business meetings, team building, and client development. They also specialize in guided fly fishing trips to the trout streams of the Ozarks and the North Platte River Valley of Wyoming. For more information, go to www.streamsideadventures.com. Norm and Georgii also team-teach continuing education classes at Johnson County Community College on topics including Introductory Fly Fishing and Catch and Release techniques. Come join us to develop and hone the strategic side of your trout fishing.

dam and across the spillway. The Recreation Center will be on your left. You cannot go much further as the road is closed because the bridge below the spillway has not been repaired.

>From the WEST: From US 281, turn EAST on FM 306, which is between Twin Sisters and Spring Branch. Drive about 16 miles to the blinking caution light (just before you enter the area called Canyon City). Turn Right on South Access and follow the directions above to the Recreation Center, which will be on your left.

>From the EAST: From I-10, take SH 46 to I-35. Go North on I-35 to Exit 191 (Canyon Lake Exit), which is FM-306. Go west, (Left), on FM306, and follow the directions for North and South above.

Of course there are other routes, just check your Texas map for other ways that might be better for your travel, or check our link to an online map at www.grtu.org.



Norm and Georgii met when she was one of his students in a continuing education course he taught at Johnson County (Kansas) Community College. They struck up a friendship and began fishing together. Eventually, they became partners in Stream Side Adventures, a business devoted to fly fishing instruction and guiding. They teach on stream strategy on the rivers of Missouri on Basic Fly Fishing, Nymphing and Line Control, Streamer Fishing, Terrestrials, Women's Fly Fishing, and Fishing Dry Flies and Seeing Fish. They encourage clients to use these

Directions to the Canyon Lake Recreation Center

>From NORTH or SOUTH: Just North of New Braunfels on I-35 take Exit 191, (Canyon Lake Exit), which is FM 306 and go WEST, about 14 miles to Sattler (Canyon Lake area). Go past the traffic light at FM 2673 in Sattler for about 2 miles, (through Canyon City) and turn Left at the blinking caution light and small road sign marking the South Access Rd. Follow the South Access Road for about two miles, passing below the



A Final Word from Our Departing President

Years ago, a lawyer told me never to start a letter with an apology. I am breaking that rule right now. I apologize to each of you who renewed your membership with national Trout Unlimited through our chapter and have not received your membership cards or continue to be dunned for payment of dues. I want to assure you that the fault does not lie with the incredible volunteers of our organization. It seems that national TU decided to change "cashiering" procedures and that switch has resulted in an unconscionable delay in processing the information we send to them about our members and their renewal. I can only apologize for the system and tell you we are doing what we can to expedite the membership renewal process.

On to bigger and better things. Through the efforts of our website administrator, David Schroeder, we conducted an on-line survey of many aspects of our chapter and its service

and programs for members. Thanks to all who responded. As a result of that survey, the board of directors determined to implement some changes that we believe will have a positive impact on the quality of programs, enhance programs you like and develop new programs and ideas suggested by members. We have already made some great improvements in the meeting facility and catered lunches, a sore point with many of you. The new location at the Canyon Lake Rec Center is terrific and got great kudos at the January meeting. BBQ was the overwhelming choice for lunch, so we are working with caterers with that in mind. We are also working hard to acquire year-round leases at more locations and extending the lease period for other leases by a month or sometimes two.

An overwhelming majority of responding members indicated they would be willing to accept an increase in lease membership dues. As a board, we determined that if we increased lease access fees it would 1) increase the ability to stock more fish; 2) give us the ability to extend the lease periods; and 3) give us the ability to acquire more lease sites. Therefore, effective November

1, 2004, the lease access fee will be increased from \$85 per year to \$95 per year. Many responses indicated a willingness to increase the fee to \$100. We determined, however, that a \$10 increase was sufficient for our goals. We also determined to increase the auxiliary fee to \$45. It is still one heckuva deal for the access to great fishing that you get for the price.

Along with the decision to increase the lease access fee, we determined to change two other aspects of the lease access program. In order to encourage more youth participation in the program, we have decided to eliminate the fee for junior members. We will still require that you obtain a pass and advise of your junior member, but there will be no fee associated with that permit. And last, but not least, we decided to increase the number of guest passes available from four to six annually. There has been an overwhelming cry for more guest passes. We aim to please. And for each guest pass, the guest will be entitled to \$10 off a new membership provided they 1) return their used guest pass with their lease application; and 2) renew in the next subsequent lease year.

I am extending a call to all our members in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Some of you indicated an interest in starting a satellite chapter of Trout Unlimited in your area which would further our goals for better national recognition as a council at the Trout Unlimited level. Please contact [Mick McCorcle] so that our chapter can help you get established and work out logistics to best serve the interests of all of our Texas Trout Unlimited members.

Finally, please extend a welcome to Mick McCorcle, who will be



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assuming the duties as vice-president of Chapter Affairs. Mick is a former member of GRTU and returns to us from Chicago, where they had nine meetings a year and not a single trout stream in the state! Mick welcomes your ideas for speakers and programs and has started off with a bang for meetings scheduled into 2005.

Shelley Marmon resigned her position as president of GRTU effective February 26, 2004. She wrote the preceding before her resignation. Since this letter was written, Mick McCorcle has succeeded Shelley as President. The Board and Officers solicit volunteers who may want to take on the VP Chapter Affairs role.

A Word from Our New President

from
Mick McCorcle

This is a time of endings and beginnings. We have completed our trout stocking for the year and several of our leases are drawing to a close. It has been a successful season. There are hundreds of healthy brown and rainbow trout in the river thanks to the diligent effort of many of our chapter members who showed up early on Saturday mornings to stock fish. Thanks to all of you who participated.

It has been a good year for the river. Periodic moderate rains have kept Canyon Lake full and afforded our members a season free of floodwaters or meager flows. And the lake reached a level that signaled a guaranteed minimum flow level through the summer that should

support many of the trout we stocked. Be sure to read David Schroeder's Flow Committee report for a more detailed description of the flow issues.

It has also been a good year for our chapter. With the rebound in the fishery and the advent of on-line membership applications, our total membership has exceeded 4000 and our lease access membership has exceeded 600. We had more than three times as many new members as any other TU chapter in the country. We welcome those of you who are new and encourage you to make yourselves known to us and let us know how you would like to become more involved in the chapter.

Also recently ending was Shelley Marmon's tenure as President of our chapter. I'd like to thank Shelley for her service on the Board and her leadership as President. She has been a popular President and has somehow managed to maintain a thriving law practice and raise a wonderful family (who were often helping behind the tables at chapter meetings) in addition to leading the chapter. We wish her well as she is now able to spend more time with her family and catch more trout on the river.

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Upon Shelley's resignation, I assumed the presidency of the chapter, as stated in the by-laws. (That's one thing they didn't tell me about when I volunteered earlier this year to fill in as Vice President of Chapter Affairs.) Fortunately, I had spent some time on the Board a few years ago and had recently been president of another TU chapter. Even more fortunate for me is that we have a strong and experienced Board and a cadre of past presidents who have all been wonderfully supportive and helpful as I have taken the reins. I will continue to rely on them and the rest of you in the chapter to carry out our mission.

Since this is my first letter to the entire membership, I would like to take the opportunity to let you know a bit about what I'd like to see us accomplish as we lead our chapter forward.

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Inclusion

One of GRTU's continuing challenges is to present a positive face to the community and to combat the image of being an exclusive, elitist fishing club. My wife once asked me if being a curmudgeon was a prerequisite to joining a TU chapter. While I haven't seen it written in the by-laws, I sometimes wonder. We need to find ways to broaden our appeal and include more families, wives, children, non-flyfishers, and the local citizenry. We need to ensure that non-leaseholders and those members of our chapter who live far from the river feel included in our activities and deliberations. We need to support programs like Troutfest, Kidfish, First Cast, and Casting for Recovery. In short, we need to cast our net broadly for recruits to our chapter and its mission of coldwater conservation.

Collaboration

In a related vein, we also need to build bridges to other groups with

similar missions and common goals. Working together with like-minded organizations, we can multiply our efforts and be a more effective catalyst for change. I have found that we have overlapping memberships and objectives with the Federation of Fly Fishers and Coastal Conservation Association. When TU was founded, it was based on the already successful model of Ducks Unlimited, with whom we also share many values. Other organizations like the Nature Conservancy and River Alliance can be effective partners. Locally, we need closer ties to Texas Parks and Wildlife, GBRA, and WORD. I have already begun contacting leaders in these organizations, suggesting joint work projects or outings so we can get to know each other better and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Conservation

I would also like to see us become more than a fish stocking operation. On the one hand, our lease access and trout stocking program is unique

among TU chapters. It's our claim to fame. To my knowledge, no other TU organization comes close to our investment in leases and fish and the volunteer member hours required to carry out the stocking. But we need to more broadly promote and protect our coldwater fishery. We can't just stop working on perpetuating the health of the Guadalupe when the last stocking tank is empty. I'd like to see us form a Conservation Committee, appoint a Conservation Chair (a role most TU chapters have), and develop a comprehensive conservation strategy and a list of work projects to bring that strategy to life.

Finally, let me say that I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as president of this wonderful organization in support of this beautiful river and its coldwater fishery. In the few short weeks I have been in this role, I have become increasingly aware of the decades of vision, persistence, and hard work that have produced the quality of water, fish, and fishing that we now enjoy. I encourage us all to learn



Officers, Directors Et Al

Guadalupe River Chapter / Trout Unlimited

2004-05



President: Mick McCorcle	1810 Cordillera Tr.	Boerne TX 78006	830-230-5506
VP Chapter Affairs:			
VP Fisheries: Mark Marmon	4441 Verone St.	Bellaire TX 77401	713-666-8868
VP Membership: Scott Thompson	11922 Branding Pt.	Helotes TX 78023	210-372-9700
Secretary:			
Treasurer: James Pelland	1824 Montana Sky Dr	Austin TX 78727	512 990-8654
Ex-Officio: Ray Chapa, Jr.	8927 Rustling Branches	San Antonio TX 78250	210-680-0912
Carl Bohn	718 Sweetbrush	San Antonio TX 78258	210-481-2504
Oscar Dupré	2254 Johnson Rd.	Canyon Lake TX 78133	830-964-2200
Karen Gebhardt	12 Encinosa	San Antonio TX 78261	830-980-7580
Scott Graham	635 E Summit	Wimberley TX 78676	512-947-7145
Dave Gutweiler	10507 Pariva Trl.	Austin TX 78726	512-331-7782
Hylmar Karbach, Jr.	15 Trailview	New Braunfels TX 78130	830-606-0737
Doug Kierklewski	13100 Tamayo Dr.	Austin, TX 78729	512-250-0840
Ron McAlpin	30629 Buck Ln.	Bulverde TX 78163	830-980-8043
Jim Roberts	126 Verdant St.	San Antonio TX 78209	210-826-2766
Web & Database David Schroeder	11505 Charred Oak Dr.	Austin TX 78759	512-996-8283
Steve Stilp	8406 Emerald Hill Dr.	Austin TX 78759	512-784-6013
Newsletter: Patrick Amick	4428 Jim West St.	Bellaire TX 77401	713-667-1643
TU Liaison /Mailings: Bob Tuttle	207 Finn St.	Lakeway TX 78734	512-261-4409
Message Board: Mick McCorcle	1810 Cordillera Trc	Boerne TX 78006	830-230-5506
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more about the Guadalupe legacy and how we can perpetuate it. I look forward to hearing from, meeting, and working with all of you in making and maintaining the Guadalupe tailwater one of the best trout streams in the country.

GRTU Contributes to Success of Trout Fest

from Hylmar Karbach

Each year for the last 17 years, the New Braunfels Parks and Recreation Department has held an event called "Trout Fest". The spring-fed swimming pool in Landa Park is stocked with trout and catfish, and for 10 days they allow fishermen to fish for them for a small fee, and take up to 5 fish per day home. For the sixth year, GRTU has offered a fly-fishing seminar free of charge on the two Saturdays of Trout Fest from 8-11 AM. On each of these days we have presented an entry-level fly rod outfit to one of the participants as a door prize.

Boys and Girls age 10-17 were invited and many took advantage of the opportunity. Many of our members of GRTU gave up their



Troy Miller teaches casting at Troutfest

Saturday morning to assist these youngsters in starting a life-long love of fly-fishing. On the last two Saturday mornings in January of this year, seven young boys and girls took part. This is one of the many contributions that this chapter makes toward the future of our sport and of stream enhancement. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make this possible.

Troy Miller, the head instructor the first Saturday, was ably assisted by Andy Miland, Bill

Collins, Raleigh Eggers, Lee Harbin, Joe Mitchell, Karen Gebhardt, Doug Kierklewski, Mick McCorcle, Tiffany Fluit, Karen Crane and TP Burton. Pictured are the winners, and some of the kids getting instructions.



GRTU Thanks WORD

Our chapter wants to express deep gratitude to the Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD) for the continued support of our efforts to stock and maintain the lower Guadalupe as a premier trout fishery. WORD was formed to cleanup the Guadalupe River on a regular basis. We appreciate our continued partnership for the development and preservation of our river.

The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Honors Our Century Club Members

The following have contributed \$100 or more for GRTU programs, including the Guadalupe River Legal Defense Fund, in addition to their supporting membership donations and lease access fees for the 2003-2004 season. Please note: This list is only current as of press time; we apologize to members added after that date.

Ronald Allen
Chuck A Banks
Leslie A Barkis
Erik L Bataille
Sue S. Bornstein
Duane V Brandt
Alan V Bray
John M Burke
Walter R Carver
Mark Cavender
Russ Coleman
Michael W. Collins
Allen D. David
David L Davidson
Phillip Dopson
Frank M Estes
Sam Fasom
Walter J Groman
James P Halbert

Bill Higdon
William J Hills
Randolph A Hoover
Stephen J Hudak, Jr
D. Michael Hunter
Mike Ireland
Ralph T Jenkins
James D Johnson
Hylmar E Karbach, Jr
Robert R Lende
Thomas I Lowry
Michael Makowski
Shelley Marmon
Robert Martin
Mark A. McCollum
James B McIver
Richard P. Messina
Palmer Moe
Dennis M Naidus

Craig A Norton
Loddie F. Roeder, Jr.
Daniel L Roth
Michael Rotman
Kerry E Russell
Pete Schenkkan
Jeff G Schmitt
Randall P. Singleton
Kermit V Speeg
William C Spencer
Steve Stilp
Thomas E Vice
Douglas R. Wage
Greg Walla
Jeffrey J Wooley

Flow Committee Report

from David Schroeder

Flow Agreement Is Triggered

The GRTU-GBRA Flow Agreement has been triggered for a 2nd year in a row. Canyon Lake has exceeded 909.0 level (the trigger), which will double the minimum flow during the May thru September period. Great trout fishing can be expected this summer!

Brown Trout Stocked in the Guadalupe

For the first time in many years, Brown Trout have been stocked through the donations of GRTU Lease Members. This is a new dimension for outstanding trout fishing on the Guadalupe.

Join / Renew Your Membership Online

Go to [Join GRTU!](http://www.grtu.org) at www.grtu.org for an easy way to become a member or to renew your membership in GRTU. Follow the directions and fill-out

the form. All first-time Lease Members must attend a Lease Orientation Class. Two classes will be held at the April meeting. See the class schedule on the GRTU website for other locations and times.

Lease Access Membership Survey Part 1

This membership survey was conducted on the GRTU Lease Members Forum in December and January. Approximately 96% of the Lease Members have access to the forum. The purpose was to identify functions of the organization that the membership thought we did best,

and areas that needed improvement. Basically, the same question was asked twice, first it was formed in a question about what the members liked the best, and second, what the members thought needed improving the most. There was only one choice for each question. There were predictable responses and there were responses that were surprising. The first question concerned GRTU as an organization: What do you like best about GRTU, and what needs the most improvement?

Without question, the Lease Access Program was the thing liked best by 74% of the respondents, and it was listed as needing the most improvement by 23% of the respondents. So overwhelming was the Lease Access Program, only the



Paul Byrne caught this brown in the Guadalupe

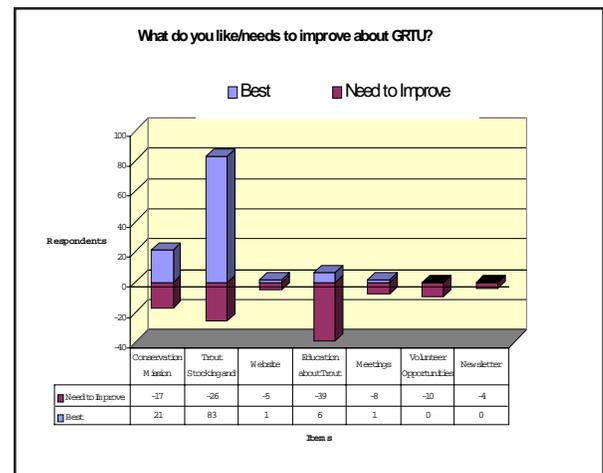
“Conservation Mission” had any significant votes at 18% in the liked best category. The surprise was “Education about Trout Fishing” which came in first in the category ‘needed to improve’ with 35% of the respondents. It is becoming clear that GRTU has a lot of inexperienced trout fishers who would like to learn more, so GRTU should consider providing more trout fishing education to its membership.

The second question concerned GRTU Meetings. The ‘best liked’ part of the meetings was the Guest Speaker, according to 55% of the respondents. “Clinics” were the 2nd best liked at 32%,

but Clinics need the most improvement according to 24%. So Clinics are great, but more of them are needed. In the negative category, “Sound and Display” had the most votes for ‘needing improvement’ at

31% while the “Catered Lunch” was listed 2nd at 23%. Those two items had few positive votes, so new sound and slide projectors should be considered a priority for improving the meetings as well as improved lunches.

Question three considered the Lease Access Program. The ‘best liked’ part of the program was the “Number of Leases” at 39% and the “Size of Trout” at 41% of all the



respondents. The “Quantity of Trout” had almost equal positive and negative responses. The overwhelming majority of the responses (60%) said the “Length of Time of the Leases” needed improving the most. This identifies a specific area in the Lease Access Program that GRTU should consider trying to remedy by keeping leases open longer.

Questions four and five were “Yes” or “No” questions asking about the satisfaction with the “Membership Process” and “Would You Consider Doing Volunteer Work?” A very surprising result for the “Membership Process” that it was unanimous our members were satisfied with the process. Also 95% say they would do volunteer work, another big surprise. This shows there is an untapped resource of volunteers, but what do they want to volunteer for?

The question: “Would you favor a fee increase to improve the Lease Access Program?” was posed to the members. 43% favored a \$15 increase, and 34% favored a \$10 increase. In total, 77% favored a fee increase of \$10 or more. Only 10% did not want an increase.

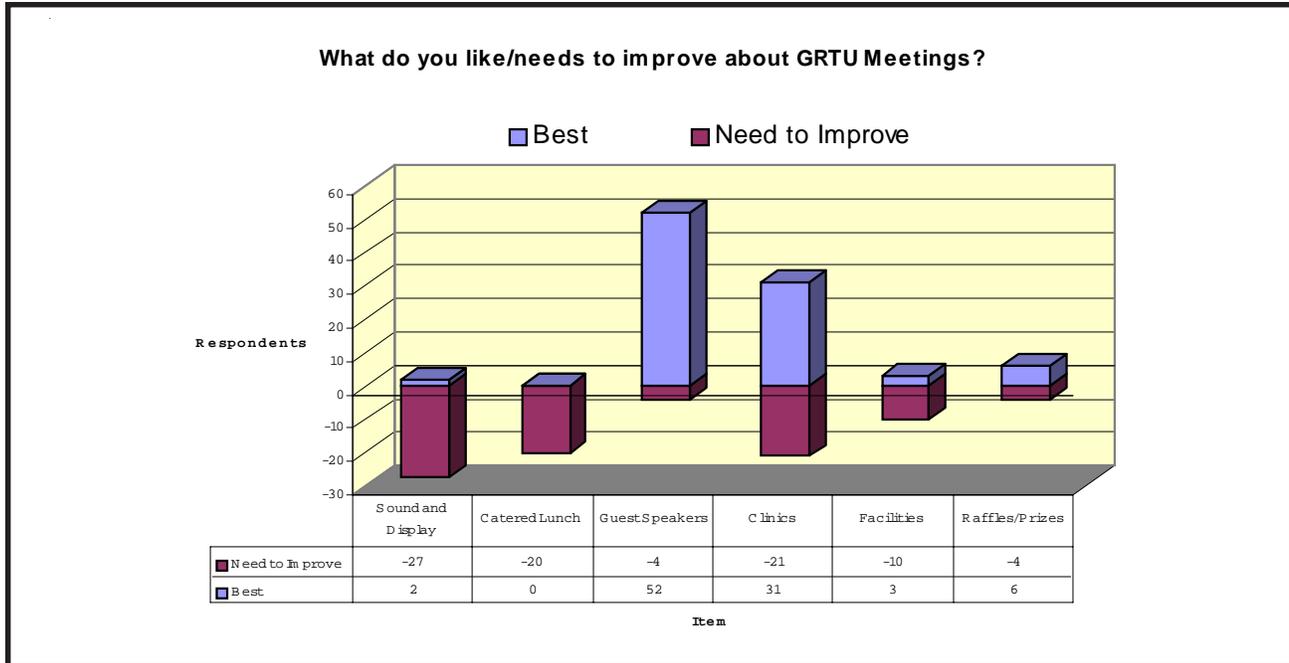
Conclusions: This poll requires a follow-on survey to ascertain the details and specifics

about how the chapter can improve. The members want to improve the Lease Access Program and are willing to have a fee increase to do so.

Lease Access Membership Survey Part 2

the Lease Access Program fees to improve the program. Because Part 1 of the Survey showed that the biggest improvement needed for the Lease Access Program is longer terms of the leases, two questions were asked: “What is the longest period any lease should remain open?” and, “How long should the average lease remain open?” The

fish the most?” Other than “The Entire Year” which was the response of 51%, the January and February period was the most popular with 28% followed by March and April by 18%. November and December was one of the lowest periods for people planning to fish the most. After the 1st of the year is when we can expect more people to fish. It



This membership survey was conducted on the GRTU Lease Members Forum in January as a follow up to the Part 1 Survey. Over 95% of Lease Members have email and internet access. Those that have emails have been pre-registered for the GRTU Message Board. Everyone was urged to participate in two e-mailings to the Lease Members Announcements List. The purpose is to find out members’ expectations in more detail based on the responses in the Part 1 Survey.

The Lease Access Program’s great importance requires that this program is functioning satisfactorily. In Part 1 of the Survey, 77% favored an increase in

responses indicate that 52% favor a few leases remaining open all year. 57% also favored the average lease remaining open at least 4 months after the last stocking.

Another question asked: “How often should trout be stocked assuming 5 stockings and a stocking period of November through April.” 40% favored once a month stockings from November through March, followed by a compressed scenario favored by 37% starting with two stockings in November, then once a month through February. 63% favor some kind of extended stocking program.

A question was asked, “What time period do you intend to

appear the once a month stocking scenario seems to fit the greatest needs for balancing when people intend to fish the most and extending the terms of the leases.

How trout are to be distributed among the leases would be another concern among the members. 50% say that “Exclusive Leases” should be given preference to numbers of trout. Having the trout distributed in greater numbers among the leases above the 3rd Crossing was listed second with 27%. 51% of the members want to limit GRTU stockings of those leases that TPWD also stocks to one time a season.

In conclusion, our members are paying for the fish, and they want the exclusive leases stocked with larger shares of trout. They are willing to preserve trout by obligating one stocking to leases in the zone protected by the minimum flow agreement. They are also very interested in protecting the trout as much as possible by “Catch and Release.”

Trout Fishing Education got the biggest response in Part 1 of the Survey in the area where GRTU needed to improve the most. To gauge the trout fishing experience of our members, a question was asked about how many trout they have caught from the Guadalupe. People who have caught a hundred or more trout probably need little trout fishing education. This was the largest single category with 31%. However, the 2nd highest response, 29%, caught less than 10 trout from the river. This indicates a high level of inexperience among our members. And the votes were spread out among all the remaining categories indicating a high level of inexperience.

The type of trout fishing education needed was asked. The two most popular responses were “Fly Fishing Techniques for the Guadalupe” with 49% and “Stream Side Entomology” with 32%. 65% would be agreeable to paying \$25 to attend a clinic.

When it comes to Chapter projects, 53% of our members believe that GRTU should be pushing for a change in TPWD’s regulations protecting the uppermost trout fishery by a “Catch and Release” regulation in the first 5 miles of river. 33% felt that Habitat and Lease improvement should be a chapter project.

When it comes to Volunteering, two areas received the

same number of votes: “Trout Stream/Lease Improvement,” and “Trout Studies/Tagging Program” with 32% of the vote each.

There have been issues with some members not knowing the Lease Regulations. A poll question: “Would you favor “Positive Response” in the Application Process?” got strong support among our members with 89% favoring. “Positive Response” is simply asking questions about the Lease Regulations before the applicant is allowed to fill out the application.

The question about our members wanting to stock brown trout in place of rainbows for one stocking each year had the highest number of votes and the greatest percentage in favor 91%. The survey shows 71% favoring a single stocking only for 3rd Crossing and above leases for one of the stockings. The poll indicates 76% believe trout should never be stocked in a “Kill Zone” unless the public does not have easy access to the Lease, and only 60% favored stocking the lease.

The final set of questions has to do with catering the meetings and what our members would pay for a catered meal. Most would pay up to \$10 for each meal, and the large majority prefers barbeque.

Conclusions: Our members have participated in a survey that reveals their preferences and expectations. They are consistent with developing an outstanding trout fishery on the Guadalupe. Our officers and directors should try to use these as guidelines for operating and planning chapter functions.

Fishing Friendly: GRTU Members as Ambassadors on the River

An Open Letter from Mick
McCorcle, GRTU President

As members of the Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited we enjoy a unique privilege of access to one of the finest, most beautiful tailwater trout streams in the country. We are also the beneficiaries of a thirty year legacy of vision, persistence, and hard work by local conservationists, landowners, national, state and local organizations, and prior members and officers of our chapter. We live out our commitment to coldwater fisheries conservation through contributing our time and resources to the River Defense Fund, Flow Committee, stocking program, and other activities.

In some ways, it’s just fishing, yet it is also a complex situation. We have TU, the lease members, other chapter members, the landowners, the guides, the other local fishers, and the TPWD. All have different priorities and perspectives. Keeping them all happy and working well together is a constant juggling match. Sometimes that juggling gets out of balance and problems occur. When problems arise, people can have differing opinions about resolution and get crossways with each other. We just have to keep solving problems, resolving the conflicts, continuing the juggling, and moving forward toward our goals.

If we are going to continue to enjoy our unique access to the river, we need to ensure that our behavior

around and on the river meets the highest standards of personal decorum and on stream etiquette. So, mindful of that responsibility and in response to recent rumors and reports of insensitive, boorish, or legally questionable behavior on the part of our membership, I have worked with members of our Board and chapter to prepare the following guidelines. I trust that you will take the time to read them, respond if you think they should be revised, and incorporate them into your approach to fishing and preserving the Guadalupe fishery.

First, let's address some of our rights and responsibilities as lease access members. Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited's Lease Access Program has always been described as: "A Path to the River, Nothing More." Those words are very true, but it leaves a lot of unanswered questions about: "What is a lease?" "What responsibilities do we have under the law?" "What code of conduct should GRTU members follow for 'fishing friendly' on the leases?" We'll attempt to give basic answers to these questions below.

What is a Lease? A lease is a contract GRTU has with a land owner bordering the river. The owner gives his permission for GRTU members to access the river from his property. All GRTU members are guests of the landowner. No one in GRTU has been authorized to act as an agent of the landowner in the management of his property, so no one in GRTU can tell anybody to leave the lease. It is very important to note: The landowner's property STOPS at the bank of the river! If you are standing

in the river, you are standing on a public right of way owned by the State of Texas. Just like a city street, or public sidewalk, every person has a legal right to be there. (Some states allow the landowner to own the riverbed- not so in the river below Canyon Dam!). Once you have set foot in the river, if you used your Lease Pass to gain access to the river, you are still obligated to follow the Lease Pass Regulations.

GRTU has 'exclusive' leases. What this means is that the property owner agrees not to SELL fishing rights to his lease property to anyone else but GRTU. He may invite other guests to his property to fish- i.e. friends, family and neighbors. He may also charge a fee for put-in and take-out



Ian Byrne, age 7, enjoys the river

to those floating the river. These other uses that the landowner may make of his property do not violate the exclusive agreement. If there is any concern about the exclusiveness of a lease, talk to the V.P. of Fisheries.

What responsibilities do we have under the law? The public's right to the stream is "confined to below an imaginary line in the streambed,

midway between the ordinary low water mark and the top of the cut bank." As you can imagine this definition is open to a lot of interpretation- and usually the landowner wins the argument. The rule of thumb is, "Your boot touching the water" and you should always be safe from trespassing. For the Guadalupe, the maximum flood control release from Canyon Dam was designed not to flood private property. Below the vague high-water mark that you see on the trees lining the bank about 18 inches above normal river level is what the Corps believes to be public property.

The State of Texas has a number of laws and regulations that govern conduct, fishing methods, and harvest of game fish. The "Sportsman's Rights Act" protects hunters, trappers and fisherman from being harassed. If you interfere, or harass, someone who is legally fishing, you could be charged with a Class B Misdemeanor. You may be violating the Act by telling someone: "You can't fish here, this is a GRTU lease," or, "You can't keep that trout, GRTU stocked it!" (Even though the fish was legally caught). GRTU recommends that you NEVER confront anyone in, or near, the river. If someone is breaking the TPWD regulations, report it to the game warden. Do not say anything to the violator.

What code of conduct should GRTU members follow for fishing friendly on the leases? GRTU teaches its members, to act in a way that is a level higher than what is required by law. We have the Lease Regulations and we also encourage good

The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Honorary Life Members

The following distinguished members of GRTU have been designated, some posthumously, as Honorary Life Members of the Chapter for their exceptional contributions to our work. This honor is reserved for commendatory recognition of individuals whose personal service contributions to the Chapter are deemed to have had outstanding impact in advancing Chapter and TU objectives.

Clement W Bird

Bill Cobb

Dick Finta

Howard Itten

William A. (Bill) Johnson

James W Keeton

Chad Oliver

William C. (Bill) Pabst

J. Bill Parvin

Basden L. (Bud) Priddy, MD

Glenn Richardson

Mrs. Hazel Schubauer

Lt. Col. Paul A. Schubauer (Ret.)

Marian Tilson

R.E. (Bob) Tuttle

Jim Vynalek

William G. (Bill) West

T.B. (Tom) Whitehouse

etiquette, as that will prevent sore feelings from leases that may be crowded. To get a GRTU Lease Pass, you agreed to follow faithfully the program requirements. You are participating in the GRTU Lease Members Program if you use your lease pass to gain access to the river. If you did NOT use your Lease Pass to access the river, you entered the river from a public spot or secured other private access, then your obligation to follow the lease regulations no longer apply to you. It is recommended that you remove your pass to not create confusion. If a lease member is breaking a lease regulation, try to get a lease pass number or license tag, but do NOT confront the individual yourself. State law supersedes any GRTU regulation, and it could be considered harassment. Record the date and time the incident happened. GRTU's V.P. of Fisheries and the Board will investigate any violation with the person by phone at his home.

So what does this mean at a more practical, personal level? Here are

some suggested stream etiquette guidelines developed by Bill Higdon and Scott Graham, TU members and Guadalupe River guides:

With the increased popularity of fly fishing, the rivers and streams of the Texas Hill Country are fast becoming the choice for many new anglers. With the increased popularity, stream etiquette is more important than ever. In the old days, it was not all that difficult to elude the one or two anglers, met in a day's outing. Today, eluding our fellow anglers is an ever-continuing and often insurmountable problem.

The prime rule is.....conduct yourself so as to disturb your fellow angler as little as the prevailing conditions allow. Here are a few additional recommendations from a number of different sources.

1. Respect other anglers' rights. Don't crowd another angler or make loud noises when another person is fishing. A good rule of thumb is, stay at least 100' from the nearest

angler. Let me repeat this one....100'. It's not that far.

2. Approach the water quietly and cautiously. If you come upon another angler on the stream, enter well upstream or downstream. A 100' comes to mind. Enter the water as quietly as possible. Avoid splashing and disrupting the water.

3. If you come upon another angler while wading in a river or stream leave the water and walk around them well away from the bank. Re-enter the water sufficiently far away from him. 100' might be good. If you are on a GRTU lease, pass an angler by giving them as much space as possible without endangering your safety or trespassing on private property. Wade quietly behind them when passing so as not to put the fish down. If at all in question about crowding another angler, just ask them if they feel you are fishing too close. If someone starts crowding you, tell them something like: "You're getting a little close to me. If you wait a few minutes, I'll be

finished here and you can have it to yourself.” Above all, avoid confrontation.

4. When floating, always float behind the wading angler if possible. Even then warn them you are behind them to avoid getting hit by the back cast. Sometimes in low water conditions you will have to float in front of the angler. If you find yourself in this position, stop and wait, give them a chance to motion you through. If the angler does not see you, let the angler know you are coming through and make sure he/she does not have a fish on. Only paddle when necessary and then don't splash or smack the paddles on the water. Short soft strokes. Stay as far as possible from the area being fished. Also, apologize, and let him know you had no other choice. Most anglers are very understanding.

On a more personal note, I first learned to fish for trout when my dad took my brother and me to a Missouri State Trout Park. On opening day and most weekend mornings, trout fishers were lined up shoulder to shoulder to catch the stocked rainbows. More recently, I've fished for steelhead in the rivers of the Olympic Peninsula. In that setting, getting within one hundred yards of another angler could be considered close quarters. As far as distance goes, use your best judgment. It is different in different rivers at different times. Some fishers prefer silence and solitude to concentrate on their fishing, while others are willing to converse with those around them. Again, use your judgment. But remember that we are allowed on the river because we have been granted access to it by others, and we are fishing for stocked trout because we are the beneficiaries of

a legacy that goes back 30 years. So when you have the opportunity, consider yourself an ambassador for GRTU. Make a friend, share a hot fly, and be as polite and cordial as possible. We would like to still be fishing for trout in the Guadalupe 30 years from now.

Tight Lines,

Mick McCorcle

Bits, Pieces & Loose Ends...

Our New Meeting Location...

The January meeting introduced everyone to our new meeting place, *The Canyon Lake Community Recreation Center*. What an improvement! There was even a separate room for the lease orientation classes, private, away from the noise of the meeting. The restrooms could please the most discriminating. Good lighting, an outside area suitable for casting demonstrations, plenty of parking plus a large amount of room inside for just about any chapter activity was evident. With numerous chairs, there is no need to bring your own, bring a soft seat cushion instead. Bleachers are there to take care of any overflow and are great for viewing the programs. Our new caterer produced some really outstanding barbecue along with good side orders, well worth the nominal charge. There were rave reviews on the food for a surprising and welcome change.

Game Warden Contact...

There is now a 24/7 cellular phone contact for the game wardens. Our lease members know about this but

all members should be aware of it to report poachers or any illegal activity observed on the river: **(210) 854-8272**. Their response time has been reported as excellent.

Supporting Members Needed...

For a paltry ten bucks you can become a GRTU supporting member. Not dues, just a voluntary donation to help out with the chapter's many expenses, including the newsletter & mailing. Supporting members are added to the GRTU database along with the lease access permit holders. Just contact any board member or one of our area representatives. 54 members elected to become Century Club members with a generous donation, which was greatly appreciated.

A Call for Officers...

Recent events have left two chapter offices vacant. The chapter is asking two volunteers to step up and serve as Vice President of Chapter Affairs or as Chapter Secretary. Anyone who is interested is asked to please contact your area representative or one of our officers or board members. We would like to thank those who previously served and wish them all the best in the future. We hope to see you on the river soon.

Email Addresses Wanted...

Chapter news and information is sent via Email to all chapter members from time to time. So if you have just obtained or changed your email address, please let us know the particulars so that our records can be updated. Just send the information to: **grtuchanges@grtu.org** and the deed will be done. Be sure to check out the chapter's improved website at **www.grtu.org**. You'll find some great fishing forums, plus up to date

fishing news. The current as well as older newsletters can also be found there.

How to Win Without Actually Cheating...

Want to win one of those fabulous door prizes? Be sure to sign in to get your name in the drawing. Besides, this gives us a more accurate head count. At the last meeting, only 137 signed in and there were far more people than that observed. Grab one of those sign in papers and either sign up for barbeque, the raffle or just deposit it in the drawing box. Don't forget to include your name and phone number on it. There are no charges for the meeting and program.

Call for Clipart...

To liven up the newsletter, **Pat Amick**, the editor, could use some appropriate clipart. If you have or know of some let him know as well as furnishing some of your article contributions for future newsletters.

Sattler Says...

No glass or Styrofoam on or around the river. Drive carefully and watch out for strolling guides, as there are many wandering around. Do not trespass on private property, but the riverbed is for everyone as long as water covers your boots or while floating. Be alert for the No Parking signs. By the way, the Comal County jails are not pleasant and the food is really bad.

Book Bargains...

I was in one of the *Half Price Book* stores recently and saw a number of fishing books. Fly casting, trout, and general fishing material. I found it a good place to browse as there were some really interesting ones, such as Tom Deck's *Fly Casting*. All stores do not carry the same titles

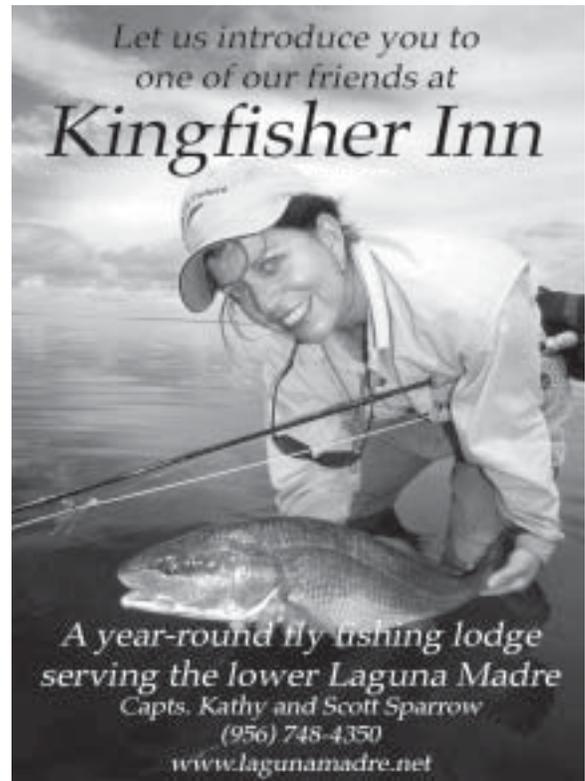
but they all have similar items, and it costs nothing to browse. Another excellent source for buying is *Hamiltonbooks.com* on the Internet. They have great selections and cheap prices.

Streamside Advice...

If you observe poaching or illegal activity by anyone, never confront him or her. Contact the game warden or the proper authority. This also holds true for just about any situation. If it concerns the landowner, let them take care of the problem. If you observe a lease violation, contact any board member but do not take any actions on your own. Common sense could save you some grief.

What's In Your Flybox For the Upper Guadalupe or other Hill Country Rivers For Early Season (April/May) Bass and Panfish?

Our inquiring reporter asked several chapter members and local experts what half dozen key flies they would have in their flyboxes for the Early Season (April/May) on the Upper Guadalupe or other Hill Country Rivers for Bass and Panfish. Their responses were as follows:



Ron McAlpin, Board Member:

Cat's whisker, olive, gray, or olive & gray (#8-10)
White slider (#8-10)
Muddler minnow (fished on top) (#8-10)
Olive or gray micro-jig (1/16-1/32oz)
Fiery brown beadhead woolly bugger (#8-10)
If these don't work, go smaller

Bruce Young, Tackle Box Outfitters:

Olive marabou minnow (#10)
Chartreuse body, yellow tail marabou minnow (#10)
Large floating ant (#14)
Tan woolly bugger (#10)
Beadhead prince nymph (#12-14)
Halfback or crackleback (#10)

Bob Turbeville & Steve Rawls, Hill Country Outfitters

Root beer rubber legged micro jig (#10)
White rubber legged micro jig (#10)
Tunghead Bitch Creek nymph (#10)
White Cypert mylar minnow (#8)

Chartreuse chain eye Clouser minnow (#8)
Mini deer hair frog (green/red eyes) (#8)

Bill Higdon, Lease Member, In the Hills Fishing Excursions

Chartreuse Wollybugger (#8-#12)
Purple Egg Sucking Leach (#8-#12)
Root Beer Crawfish (#6-#10)
Yellow Popping Bug (#8-#12)
Black Popping Bug (#8-#12)
Chartreuse Clouser Minnow (#8-#12)

Alvin Dedeaux, Austin Angler

Turck's Tarantula (#6)
Whitlock's Bass Hopper (#6)
Chartreuse Clouser minnow (#6)
Black or brown woolly bugger (#6)
Pencil popper (#6)
Hard body rubber leg popper (#6)

Special addendum from Billy Trimble, Past President:

"What's in my fly box?"

For bass fishing in the Hill Country there is only one fly in my box, that is the "Bob's Baby Doll" originated by Robert McCurdy. There is very little that is as exciting as a largemouth bass exploding a top water lure and I have found no fly that comes close to the "Baby Doll" in its effectiveness. The "Baby Doll" is a deer hair muddler styled fly with great big 'ole doll eyes glued to it. It makes a wonderful gurgle when retrieved that bass find irresistible. Tie one on, cast it against the bank as you drift downstream on your favorite Hill Country river or lake and as the old "Heddon Lure" instructions used to say, "hold on".

Instructions: Black over White Bob's Baby Doll

Hook; Mustad 3366 size 2-6 (there are some high quality Tiemco & G a m a k a t s u alternatives if you prefer a better hook)

Thread: Danville flymaster +
Tail: Black & white Puglisi ultimate fibers (original pattern called for marabou) (you may vary color but if you do change deer hair to match)
Flash: Pearl flashabou
Gill: Red saddle hackle (original pattern called for red dubbing)
Collar: Natural deer hair
Head: White deer hair (1/4" closed cell foam is an alternative)
Eyes: Doll eyes
Weed guard: 15# hard Mason's mono (30# if using foam for head)

1. Begin by tying thread in at the midpoint or just above the point of the hook and attach mono weed guard to from tie in point to 1/3 point in bend of the hook, bring the thread back up to the tie in point.
2. Tie in a small clump of white Puglisi fibers about the length of the hook shank.
3. Tie in a few strands of flashabou and match length.
4. Tie in a small clump of black Puglisi fibers to match length. Now you have created a nice mound of material on top of the hook shank that goes from the point of the hook to the bend of the hook.
5. On that material mound tie on 1 red saddle hackle whose fibers will cover the point of the hook when palmered.
6. Palmer saddle hackle forward to cover half of material mound.
7. Now cut a good size clump of natural deer hair and even tips for collar and work it around the remaining mound, tips towards the back of the fly, and flare (thread should wind up on bare hook shank in front of material mound).
8. Now you are ready to build the head. Spin white deer hair until you have filled the remaining hook shank and

throw three double half hitches behind eye to hold thread secure in case you accidentally cut it while trimming deer hair.

9. Take the fly from the vice and with a razor blade turn fly over (upside down) and trim the bottom flat as nearly as you can to the hook shank without cutting the thread.
10. Now trim the deer hair flat on each side with the razor blade leaving about a 3/8" wide profile.
11. Trim the top in a slightly curved pattern with scissors making sure to trim the collar butts but not the collar tips, put fly back in vice.
12. Now bring the mono forward insert through the eye of the hook and make a few loose wraps with the thread and adjust the mono loop to the desired weed guard position then fold mono back over the eye and tie off with several wraps of thread then whip finish.
13. Turn fly over and with a dubbing needle work a liberal amount of flexament into the deer hair along the bottom of the hook shank then rotate 90° and work a small amount of flexament into the deer hair on each side of the fly.
14. Now take Goop and with a dubbing needle work a small amount into deer hair on each side of the fly to hold the eyes on and a small amount on each eye then press an eye on each side of the fly. Be sure to put a small amount of flexament or head cement on whip finish knot.

Note:

I am now tying this fly with a foam head instead of a deer hair head and the fish seem not to mind. Tying instructions are exactly the same except leave off weed guard, it will be added to foam, and cover the front half

of the hook shank with thread after you get the tail tied in and whip finish. Now cut from a piece of ¼" wide foam a shape that is trapezoidal about the size of the Baby Doll head, force a dubbing needle through the foam along the bottom edge. Apply a small amount of Zap-a-Gap glue to the thread covered hook shank, remove needle from foam and immediately force onto hook shank. Attach baby doll eyes to foam head with Zap-a-Gap, flip fly over and punch a small hole in the foam behind the eye of the hook for the weed guard. Take a small piece of 30# hard Mason mono, rough up the end with sand paper, coat roughed up area with a small amount of Zap a Gap and insert into the hole then trim mono weed guard to desired length.

As anyone who has fished the fly will testify, it is worth the trouble to tie. If you use foam for the head instead of deer hair you can tie them very quickly. It is a lot simpler to tie than these long-winded instructions make it sound, so give it a try!

Billy Trimble

Sun, Shade and Silhouette

The following is an excerpt from Instinctive Fly Fishing by Taylor Streit, reprinted with the author's permission.

Experienced hunters instinctively use sun and shadow to their advantage. They naturally gravitate towards places where they have lighting advantage over their prey. We fly fishermen don't need to function on that level of awareness. We're not out to kill anybody, just on holiday to catch a fish and then toss it back. But casual as our sport is, if we used light and shade to our advantage we'd have more fishies to toss back.

First and foremost, try and have the sun behind you in all fishing situations. You will have a better view of the fish, your fly, and the bottom. Of even greater importance is that the

wary trout is less likely to see you when the sun is behind you. (Of course this is amplified when the sun is low, making it more intense and blinding.) Contrarily, when you are looking into the sun, the fish can see you but you can't see it.

Keep this in mind when approaching nervous fish, and angle around until you can head in from a favorable direction. Don't blind yourself by looking up to figure out where the yellow ball is, just glance at your shadow and aim it towards the fish. Forget the old wives' tale about your shadow falling on the fish. If your shadow were to actually be cast over the critter, it would spook. But this is only an issue when the sun is so low in the sky that your shadow is very long.

Fishing with the sun in your favor is such a big factor in certain waters (small streams with slow pools, especially) that I sometimes won't even bother fishing places where I am forced to fish with the sun in my eyes. Keep score of how you do with a low-slanting sun behind you and how you do with the sun in front of you. The results will prove the importance of keeping the light behind you whenever possible.

If you have the sun in your favor, you may be able to approach delicate water standing erect. If, however, the fish have a good chance of seeing you, get down. Trout can spook from a very long way off when you are highlighted against the sky so look behind you and see if you are silhouetted. If you are, get down or employ surrounding cover (sounds like warfare, doesn't it?). Although anglers used to fishing small streams are all too familiar with groveling on their knees to catch fish many come in erect and then get down. Start your approach with a sort of a walking crouch; gradually stooping lower and lower the closer you get to the water. That way your profile stays at the same height as you move into your final position.

On smaller streams, it is hard to catch more than one fish out of a tranquil pool under low-water

conditions. If, however, you stay low and don't stand up to land fish, the others might not spook and may be fooled as well.

Fly fishing predators that are in the shade are much less likely to be spotted than those in the sun. The ideal setup is for the fish to be in the sunlight while you are lurking in the shadows. When it is the other way around (the prey is in the shade and you are in the sun), it's- "Advantage-Fish".

So whenever possible, position yourself in the shadow of a tree, bush, or boulder. It is generally wise to stay close to such cover, because standing in front of or next to a bush - regardless of the shadow factor-- breaks up your silhouette.

If my clients are having poor luck fishing small mountain streams under favorable conditions, I always assume the trout are getting spooked, and resort to more stealth. A combination of planning the approach more carefully, keeping a lower profile, and staying farther back does the trick.

Taylor Streit runs a guiding business in Taos, New Mexico and Argentina. A signed copy of Instinctive Fly Fishing will be raffled off at the April meeting, along with some of his personally tied flies. It is also available at most local fly shops. He is also the author of Taylor Streit's No-Nonsense Guide to Fly Fishing in New Mexico. (A revised addition is pending.) He can be reached at (505) 751-1312 or through his web page at www.streitflyfishing.com



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**To Contact the National Offices of
Trout Unlimited**

with regard to your membership, change of address, not receiving *Trout* magazine, or other matters, write, phone, or E-mail:

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1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 310

Arlington, VA 22209-2310

Phone: (703) 522-0200

Fax: (703) 284-9400

E-mail: trout@tu.org

Worldwide Web: <http://www.tu.org/trout/>

Membership Phone: 1-800-834-2419

Membership E-mail: wreed@tu.org

12 noon - 5PM Eastern Time