



Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

# Newsletter



No. 76 October 2004

Publication Data on Pg. 16

## **GRTU General Meeting Saturday, October 23**

**Canyon Lake Recreation  
Center  
9 AM - Social Hour &  
Lease Orientation Class**

**10 AM - Business Meeting  
and Presentation**

**12 - BBQ Lunch**

**12:30 PM - Lease  
Orientation Class**

**1 PM - Kayak Clinic**

## **October Presentation to Feature Montana Trout Conservation and Fishing Opportunities**

Our next chapter meeting will be held at 10 AM on October 23rd at the Canyon Lake Community Recreation Center in Sattler. Our speaker for the meeting will be Dr. Jorge Simental, who will describe conservation efforts and fishing opportunities on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and in Glacier National Park in Montana.

Dr. Jorge Simental was born in Fargo, ND and grew up in Mexico and Southern Texas. He currently lives in Austin, TX and spends his summers in Montana. Professionally, he practices Emergency and Trauma

Medicine. He is an avid outdoorsman. Dr. Simental has, for example, joined multiple climbing expeditions with National Geographic, including Everest and Aconcagua. His true passion is fly-fishing. In 2002, after fly-fishing for over 14 years in the Montana waters close to Glacier National Park, he bought Summit Station Lodge, an Orvis-endorsed lodge on the Eastern side of Glacier National Park. Now, he is involved in conservation programs in the area and avidly promotes global education to stop over-use of natural resources. He

## **What's Inside**

October Raffle	2
Kayak Clinic	3
Directions to CLRC	3
President's Letter	4
On-line Membership	6
VP Membership Letter	7
Flow Comm. Report	7
Lease Class Schedule	8
Board Openings	8
Guadalupe Now	8
New Honorary Life Member	9
Bits and Pieces	15
Jeff Schmitt's Striper	10
What's in Your Flybox?	11
Bits and Pieces	13
Conservation Corner	13
Grumpy's Column	15



**Jeff Schmitt displays the fruits of an epic struggle. Read his story on page 10.**

has made Glacier his special fly-fishing niche.

One of Dr. Simental's special interests is the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The reservation covers approximately 2,400 square miles in Northwest Montana, bordering with British Columbia, Canada, and Glacier National Park. This majestic Indian Nation contains about 1,500 miles of rivers and more than 20 lakes where rainbow trout can be found. The area contains, by far, some of the best rainbow trophy lakes in the United States.

Monster rainbow trout are the norm in the Reservation lakes. Cutthroat trout and brown trout are also found in abundance. Some say that if you catch trout under 12 pounds, you may be in the wrong lake. It is common to catch numerous five to seven pound fish in a single day. While most of us would consider a six-pounder to be a trophy, the reservation anglers do not consider a fish as trophy class if it's under ten pounds.

fisheries. Detriments include the number of fisherman that do not practice catch and release and irrigation losses to local ranches. Natural water must be left in the lakes to protect the water habitats of these rainbows. These are important goals they are slowly implanting in the local people to preserve this national treasure.

## Sage/Lamson Fly Rod and Reel Combo Featured Raffle for October Meeting

by Ron McAlpin

Our featured raffle for the chapter meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> will be a Sage 690-4 XP (nine foot, four piece, six weight) rod with a Lamson Litespeed 2.0 disc drag reel, a Cortland 555 fly line, and backing. It will be

rigged and ready to fish for the lucky ticket holder. The rod has been donated by Bill Higdon of In The Hills Fishing Excursions, the reel by a board member, and the fly line and backing by Ray Box of Gruene Outfitters.

On display at the October meeting will be two other raffle packages. Featured for the January meeting will be a pair of Simms breathable waders, from Sportsmen's Finest in Austin, and a Duck Pond chest pack from Gruene Outfitters. A special year long raffle will be held for an Echo fly rod, donated by Kevin Stubbs of Expedition Outfitters. Anyone who signs up as a new member of Trout Unlimited, or who brings in a new member, is eligible for a raffle ticket for the Echo rod. If you bring in more than one new member, you can get more than one raffle ticket. We'll have a drawing at the April meeting to pick the winner.

# Montana's Premier Fly Fishing Adventure



**Summit Station Lodge** is an ORVIS endorsed lodge within the East side of Glacier National Park and the Lewis and Clark National Forest. We organize fly fishing trips within the Blackfeet Reservation, neighboring Canada, and streams west of the continental divide. Originally built in 1906 by the Great Northern Railway, **Summit Station Lodge** is a wonderful place to experience the incredible beauty of Mother Nature in Montana.



### Exquisite Dining

Dine in a spacious dining room with a breathtaking view of mother nature's abundance. It isn't an odd sight to see bear, elk, moose, deer, upland birds, and water fowl, all from the dining room window.



### Fly Fishing

Fish in some of the finest back-country in the world. In the company of master Blackfeet guides, you'll stalk the fabled big-trout waters in the area. Seldom-fished and remote, these lakes and rivers are surrounded by glacier-carved peaks.

### Horseback Riding



Head to the high country and experience Glacier Park and the incredible back-country wilderness of the Blackfeet Reservation. We have some of the most breathtaking trails in Montana.



### Reservations

The combination of remote beauty, deluxe accommodations and terrific fishing makes Summit Station Lodge

a relaxing getaway. For reservations or additional information, call (406) 226-4428 or email [summiffly@aol.com](mailto:summiffly@aol.com).

Highway 2, Marias Pass, Continental Divide P.O. Box 230 East Glacier Park, MT 59434  
 (406) 226-4428 [summiffly@aol.com](mailto:summiffly@aol.com) [www.summitstationlodge.com](http://www.summitstationlodge.com)

## Kayak Clinic at October Meeting

After lunch at the October meeting, John Van Ness of Austin Outdoor Gear & Guidance will be presenting an even quicker version of his Quickstart Kayaking class. John is a long-time supporter of GRTU and has donated many nice boats for our raffles. The class covers logistics, environment, preparation, getting started, equipment, safety, and maneuvering. (This is the same information from John's \$65 Quickstart class, but without the one-on-one time in the water.) John will also put a boat in the river to demonstrate the basic strokes and maneuvering. There is no charge for the clinic. A donation to our water temperature monitor fund is suggested, but not required. Please contact Ron McAlpin at [bulldog1935@satx.rr.com](mailto:bulldog1935@satx.rr.com) or 830-980-8043 if you plan to attend.

## 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 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](http://www.grtu.org).



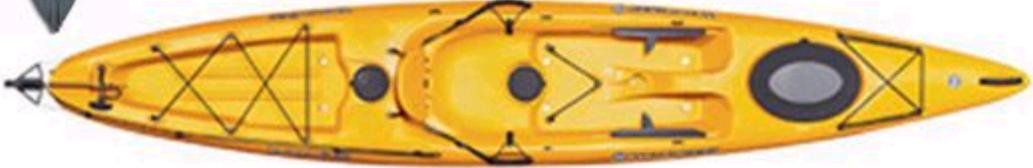


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## President's Letter

### October 2004

By Mick McCorcle

Greetings! I hope every one of you has had an enjoyable summer and has caught tons of fish in lots of beautiful places. If you're like me, though, you can't wait to get back on the Guadalupe and fish for trout. Unfortunately, Mother Nature has again conspired against us. After having our trout seasons affected by significant floods in 1998 and 2002 and a drought in 2000 that let only a trickle of water flow into Canyon Lake, we've had in 2004 a summer with just enough extra rainfall to keep the lake several feet above conservation pool and keep the Army Corps of Engineers busy releasing large amounts of water into the tailrace below the dam. Since releases come from the bottom of the lake, they have completely exhausted the cold water under the thermocline that we rely on to keep the river habitable for trout through the hot Hill Country summers. Instead of the normal summer releases of 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) at about 60 degrees, we've often had flows up to 5500 cfs, with current temperatures at the dam of about 77 degrees. As you probably know, that's too warm for trout. What that means for us is that we'll have to wait at least until the water temperature falls below 70 degrees before starting our fall stockings. That could be mid November. Watch for VP of Fisheries Mark Marmon's announcements via e-mail or on the website's Lease Access Member's Forum for the latest developments.

One of our frustrations this summer was not having up-to-date temperature and water quality readings from the river. Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) maintains four temperature monitors along the river, but they have only enough time and manpower to download data from their sensors about every two months. This summer, the flows were too high for them to gain access to their monitors, so we had no temperature data after

the first week of June. To help rectify that problem, the GRTU Board authorized David Schroeder, our Flow Committee and River Defense Fund Chair, to search for a monitor that would provide us with real time temperature and water quality data. David found one for less than \$2000 that would measure temperature and dissolved oxygen and relay frequent readings to our website via a phone line. Board Member Bill Higdon volunteered access through his property near Little Ponderosa Bridge as a site for the monitor. David also tells us that TPW District Supervisor Steve Magnelia believes we may be able to obtain significant matching funds from TPWD for the monitor. To get the process started, we're offering each of you an opportunity to contribute to the monitor project when you renew your chapter or lease membership.

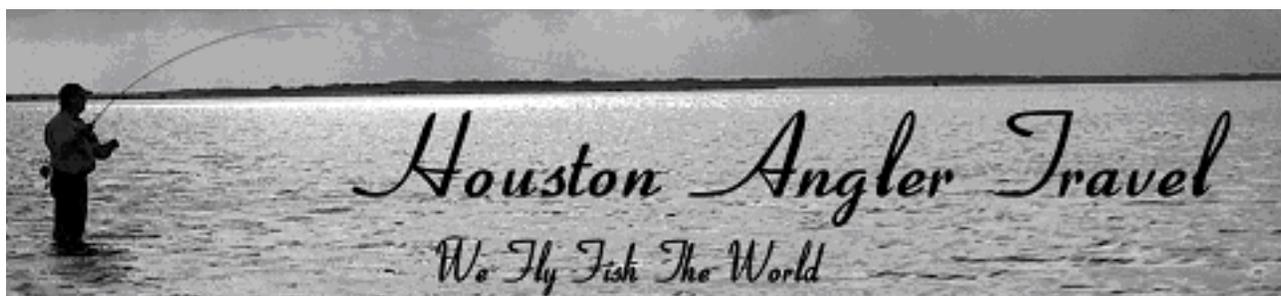
Another of our continuing frustrations has been our lack of chapter representation at the national level of Trout Unlimited. TU's by-laws say that a state must have at least two chapters to warrant forming a state council, but ours is the only chapter in the great state of Texas. In the past, only states with councils were represented on the National Leadership Council. So here we sat with the largest and arguably most active TU chapter in the nation and no national representation. Well, I've just returned from TU's Annual Meeting in Denver and am happy to report that the situation has changed. Thanks to the strong advocacy of Dave Armstrong, Legal Advisor to TU's Board of Trustees, the National Leadership Council unanimously accepted Texas into the council and authorized our appointment of an NLC representative. We'll keep you posted on that selection process as it proceeds. A story on the chapter and its work on the river will also be featured in the Winter 2004 issue of TU's national magazine, *Trout*.

At the chapter level, one of our challenges is how to include and involve as many of our chapter members as possible in the work and leadership of the chapter. As a chapter

that includes over 4000 members and covers a geographic area of more than a quarter million square miles, that's not an easy chore. It is also clear that the massive amount of memberships we process and large numbers of activities we sponsor and fish we stock can quickly lead to burnout if only a small number of chapter members must carry the burden. Therefore, at the August Board meeting we decided to move to a committee-based approach to leading the chapter. It will allow us to spread responsibility, more broadly involve the membership, increase the exposure of members to the work of the chapter, and help us identify and develop chapter leaders for the future. The committee structure is still in its infancy, but will probably include committees or task forces for Chapter Affairs (meetings), Conservation, Education, Fisheries, Membership, and Public Affairs. You will have an opportunity at the October meeting and via the website to join one of these committees and get more involved in chapter activities. I strongly encourage you to do so.

On the state level, I've had several of you call or e-mail with questions about the new Freshwater Stamp on the Texas fishing license which replaces the Trout Stamp. You wondered whether this signaled a shift in TPWD's priorities and whether it would affect the state's commitment to, and funding for, trout fishing. To check the facts, I contacted Alan Bray, one of GRTU's past presidents and a current member of TPWD's Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board. Alan told me that the change in stamps came from TPWD's need for funds to refurbish hatcheries for all species across the state, but does not mean funds will be shifted away from trout. In fact, the financial commitment to trout stocking has increased in this year's budget. In addition, the agenda for the next meeting of the Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board includes a negotiation to re-establish the program

**(Continued on page 6)**



**Fly fishing the flats for trout and redfish at Gruene Outfitters Lodge on the Arroyo** (shown above) Bring your friends, employees or spouse to this six-person retreat located on the lower Laguna Madre. The lodge offers a combination of home cooked meals with a Texas flair, comfortable accommodations and some of the best guides on the coast. Call for dates. 2 Days Fishing, 2 Night **\$795 PP** 3 Days Fishing **\$1095.00 PP**



### **Casa Blanca / Playa Blanca: Yucatan**

The area surrounding Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca is wild, virtually uninhabited and extraordinarily beautiful. The vast estuary / flats system and adjacent reef are the basis of Casa Blanca & Playa Blanca's bonefish, permit, tarpon and snook fishery. Both lodges offer well-appointed rooms with an ocean view. The chef's specialty is fresh seafood - simply, skillfully and artfully prepared. Leave the winter blues behind and join us for a week of tropical fishing. Reg price

2950.00 **Special Purchase \$2365.00 PP** 6 days fishing. Week's Available 1/ 8-15, 15-22, 22-29, 05

**Boca Paila** is one of the very best flat fisheries in the Atlantic or the Caribbean and is best known for superb bonefishing, unparalleled permit population and the bonus of: tarpon, snook, barracuda, jack crevalle and cubera snapper. Boca Paila Lodge offers outstanding tropical accommodations, fresh from the sea cuisine and white beaches. Rooms with A/C are available. Hosted 6 days fishing.

**Special purchase \$1675.00 PP** 2005 Weeks available 7/31-8/7, 9/25-10/2



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**Blue Mountain Lodges** in the heart of the best fishing the Alaska Peninsula has to offer. Fly out every day for rainbows, grayling, char and all five species of salmon (Coho in Aug). Also available starting August 10th is the opportunity to hunt Willow Ptarmigan, a grouse like upland bird. The lodge offers comfortable accommodations, home cooked meals and spectacular wildlife viewing. Hosted. Come join us for a cast and blast. 5 days fishing 8/27-9/1/05. Other weeks are available **\$2750.00 PP**

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**Houston Angler 9395 Pagewood Houston, Texas 77063 713-953-1079**

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[jacki@houstonangler.com](mailto:jacki@houstonangler.com)

at Possum Kingdom that hatches trout fry from eggs and raises them to fingerling size. Alan said: "We have a promise from Phil Durocher, Director of Inland Fisheries at TPWD, that they will do nothing to change the amount spent on trout in Texas, and they are an organization that lives up to their promises." Alan suggests that we continue to monitor that promise and that we consider nominating another GRTU representative for membership on the Advisory Board when his tenure expires.

I look forward to seeing you at our next chapter meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> or meeting on the river at a stocking or working project or while fishing one of the leases.

## On-Line Membership Application Begins October 1

by David Schroeder

The on-line membership application was inaugurated in 2003 and proved to be a great success. We brought in a near record numbers of lease members and we led National TU in the number of 'first time' members recruited.

There've been a few improvements and changes in the process. There's

also been some fee changes. In January, the board voted to increase Lease Member dues to \$95. This was done to try to expand the number and length of time leases are open. That was an issue with our members according to the survey done earlier this year. Also, the number of Guest Passes were increased to six. The big news for those with families, is that children under 18 are exempt from the Junior Lease Member Fee. You will still need to sign them up so they can be issued a Lease Pass. GRTU wants to encourage children to fish.

One of the big differences from years past is that a copy of the Lease Regulations will print along with your formatted application. You MUST sign and return a copy of the Lease Regulations. There was one change in the Regulation approved by the board in the August meeting, and that has to do with enforcement of Lease Regulations.

The system works best if you know your National TU identification number. It is 9 digits in length and found on your Trout magazine. For some reason, TU had converted the number from 8 digits to 9, but did not tell the Life Members about it. Call 703-522-0200 at National TU if you can't find your number. This year, you don't have to have your TU ID to complete the application for renewal.

Also, since GRTU has year-round leases, the TU membership must be valid to October of 2005. It is also better to renew your TU membership through GRTU. It takes TU up to 6 weeks to put your renewal in our records. For those who do not use email, the On-Line Application will allow people without email addresses to sign-up.

Unfortunately, we do not yet offer credit card and instant permits. Something we will continue to look at. So you still must mail in your application, signed copy of Lease Regs and check to your area rep. You will not receive your permit until November.

To join GRTU on-line: <http://www.grtu.org/grtujoin.html>



The "Bucket Brigade" helps stock the Guad last season.  
(photo Paul Byrne)



### Officers, Directors Et Al Guadalupe River Chapter / Trout Unlimited 2004-05



President: Mick McCordle  
VP Chapter Affairs: Ron McAlpin  
VP Fisheries: Mark Marmon  
VP Memberships: Scott Thompson  
Secretary: Phil Dopson  
Treasurer: James Pelland  
Ex-Officio: Ray Chapa, Jr.  
Carl Bohn  
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Karen Gebhardt  
Bill Higdon  
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Doug Kierklewski  
Jim Roberts  
Web & Database: David Schroeder  
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Steve Stip  
Newsletter: Patrick Amick  
TU Liaison/Mailings: Bob Tuttle

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30629 Buck Ln.  
4441 Verone St.  
11922 Branding Pt.  
PO Box 536  
1824 Montana Sky Dr  
8927 Rustling Branches  
718 Sweetbrush  
2254 Johnson Rd.  
12 Encinosa  
1854 Ponderosa Dr.  
15 Trailview  
13100 Tamayo Dr.  
126 Verdant St.  
11505 Charred Oak Dr.  
PO Box 700443  
8406 Emerald Hill Dr.  
4428 Jim West St.  
207 Finn St.

Boerne TX 78006  
Bulverde TX 78163  
Bellaire TX 77401  
Helotes TX 78023  
Austin TX 78767  
Austin TX 78727  
San Antonio TX 78250  
San Antonio TX 78258  
Canyon Lake TX 78133  
San Antonio TX 78261  
Canyon Lake TX 78132  
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210-372-8700  
512-708-1616  
512-990-8654  
210-690-0912  
210-481-2504  
830-964-2200  
830-990-7580  
830-964-5555  
830-606-0737  
512-250-0840  
210-826-2766  
512-996-8283  
210-496-8911  
512-784-8013  
713-667-1643  
512-261-4409

## A Letter from the Vice-President of Membership

Finally GRTU's fishing season is upon us. The last time I fished the lower 'Guad for trout was in April and I am having serious withdrawals! Hopefully this year will be as good as last year. Fat trout, cold water, and a lot of leases makes for a winning year for us...and I suppose for the trout.

Membership was great last year because of the ease of signing up online (thanks to Super Dave Schroeder), great weather, and advantageous flows for trout. This year is looking like it may start somewhat slow because of the water temperature coming out of the dam, but there is still a lot of time between now (Sept) and when we put fish in the river!

You will see a new look to our badges and permits this year. We are going to try something new and see if we can have permits that last more than a year. This year you will receive a plastic badge and parking permit for those of you who are part of the lease access program. Next year when you renew we will have a sticker or something that goes on the permit to show you renewed your Lease Access. We are still working on the details, but hopefully this will work out and provide a more durable and cost effective way to identify members over the years.

Finally, if you know ANYONE who has the trout bug like most of us do, please have them join GRTU. New members are the life-blood of our club and is one way we are able to keep adding new leases and put in more fish.

Should you have any questions on your membership, please call me at 210-342-5131!

Scott Thompson  
VP- Membership

## Flow Committee Report – October 2004

by David Schroeder

2003 - 2004 started out with a lot of great fishing opportunities and possibilities. Flows were below average for November through January, with little flood control releases to interfere with the fishing. But when Canyon exceeded capacity, came the certainty that the flow agreement was triggered for another year. There was the prospect for an outstanding summer of fishing. Then disaster struck.

Much higher than normal rainfall amounts swept the hill country from April through July. In fact, many localities had the 2nd wettest June on record. Although the rain didn't come all at once, so there were no mammoth floods, the accumulation of rainfall in the 4 months sent an enormous volume of water down the Guadalupe for that period of time. It was NOT a good thing. The lake gets its cold water from the winter climate, and the bottom release empties this cold, dense water, stored oversummer in the depths of the reservoir into the river to sustain the summertime trout fishery. As you can see, the volume of water entering the reservoir since April of 2004 was greater than the capacity of the reservoir itself. That means every bit of the winter chilled was flushed out before September.

Canyon Lake Storage Capacity:  
386,200 acre feet

Flows into Canyon:

April 1 to Sept 4 2004: 440,442 acre feet

April 1 to Sept 4 2003:  
113,683 acre feet

In comparison to 2003, which was a wetter than normal year, there was about 4 times the volume in 2004. I believe when all the tabulations are done, 2004 will go down in as one of the top 5, out of the 80 years of

record, for flow on the Guadalupe.

Excessive water flushes the cold water out of the reservoir, and leaves water temperatures too warm for trout. In most of the river, the temperatures were in the lethal range for July, August and September according to TPWD. I wish I had better news, but the trout fishery is a rebuild. There may be a few to survive close to the dam.

It only goes to show that overabundance, as well as drought, are harmful. Spring rains are not as detrimental to the water temperature as summer. There is an abundance of cold water in the lake in the spring. I believe that as long as the inflow remains below 200,000 acre feet after the 1st of April, the water temperatures will stay very cold all summer long.

The only possible silver lining is the loss of the stripers that populated the river from the overflow flood of 2002. We've been receiving reports of trout losses due to striper predation during the winter. This summer there were reported dead stripers. With nothing to feed on, these fish will have to leave the trout zone, or die. If that truly happens, then the flood would have a back-handed benefit.

It is going to take the re-appearance of colder weather this fall to cool the temperatures of the reservoir to safe levels to stock. That will likely happen about the middle of November, but it depends a lot on the weather. Let's hope for some cold, blustery days. The good news is that by next February, we will have a fully charged capacity of cold water as if 2004 never happened. Keep your fingers crossed for a normal 2005.

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## Lease Access Classes 2004-2005

### Gruene Outfitters – Gruene, TX

Presenter: Hylmar Karbach  
830-606-0737

Dates: 2004 - Nov. 10, Dec. 8  
2005 – Jan. 12, Feb 9, March 9  
All programs start at 6pm.

### Sportsman's Finest – Austin, TX

Presenter: Steve Stilp  
512-784-6013

Dates: 2004 – Oct. 16, Nov 13,  
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>  
2005 – Jan. 8  
All programs start at 10am.

### Austin Outfitters – Austin, TX

Presenter: Steve Stilp 512-784-6013

Dates: 2004 – Nov. 20, Dec. 18  
All programs start at 1:00pm

### Tackle Box – San Antonio, TX

Presenter: Scott Thompson  
210-342-5131

Dates: 2004 – Oct. 20, Nov. 17,  
Dec. 8  
2005 – Jan. 19, Feb. 16  
All programs start at 6pm.

### Angler's Edge – Houston, TX

Presenter: Ray Lindeen  
713-621-6486

Dates: 2004 - Oct 30, Dec. 4  
2005 - Jan. 8  
All programs start at 9am.

### Orvis – Houston, TX

Presenter: Ray Lindeen  
713-621-6486

Dates: 2004 - Nov. 13, Dec. 18  
2005 - Jan. 29  
All programs start at 9am.

*Lease Access Presentations  
at our General Meetings at  
9am and 12:30p  
4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of October,  
January, and April.*

*For more info please call  
Scott Thompson (210) 342-  
5131*

## Nominations for Board Openings Welcomed

We have two openings on the GRTU Board and welcome volunteers or nominations for those positions. Dave Gutweiler, a dedicated director since 1998, recently resigned due to a change in his job and work schedule. The second opening is for a junior member, which has been unfilled for several years.

In general, we are looking for conservation-minded individuals with a strong commitment to protecting and improving the Guadalupe River and its trout fishery. The ideal candidate would have experience working in volunteer organizations, especially environmental or sportsmen's groups, would understand and support the mission of Trout Unlimited, and should be willing to regularly attend and assist in leading the GRTU meetings and Board meetings, work projects, and other chapter activities. With the new chapter committee structure, the candidate should also expect to join or lead a chapter committee. Nominees for the Junior Director position must be a Junior Associate member of Trout Unlimited (age 10 to 17), with similar qualifications and duties as those of other directors.

The Director's term will be the remaining year and a half of Dave's term. The Junior Director would serve until the Annual Meeting in April 2005. If you would like to be considered for one of these positions or have a name to place in nomination, please contact Chapter President Mick McCorcle at [mickfly@gvtc.com](mailto:mickfly@gvtc.com) or 830-230-5506 or the Board Secretary, Phil Dopson, at [phil@beecreekrealty.com](mailto:phil@beecreekrealty.com) or 512-708-1616.

## Guadalupe Now: What is the State of Our River and Its Fishery?

By  
Mick McCorcle

Much has happened to the Guadalupe River in the last few years. We've had record droughts and 500 year floods, have seen a Special Regulations fishing section established and obtained a hard-won guarantee of minimum summer flows sufficient to support trout on a year-round basis. Each of these events, whether natural or manmade, has affected the flora, fauna, water, and structure of the river. While we've all made informal observations of the changes and have our own pet theories about the effect on the Guadalupe trout fishery, we have no strong empirical data on the current state of the river.

If we are going to be effective stewards and advocates for the Guadalupe River and its trout fishery, we need a clear strategy to guide our efforts. To help us become more effective stewards of the river and to provide clearer guidance for our chapter's future conservation and stocking efforts, members of the Board recently met with representatives from TPWD and the Aquatic Center at Texas State University, San Marcos. We have asked them to assist us in developing and conducting a priority list of study and work projects. The projects could range from studies of water temperature and quality to surveys of invertebrates to tracking studies of adult or fingerling trout.

There is a lot we don't know about the river, especially post floods, that we could learn from well-defined projects. They could also give us stream work objectives that we sorely need to energize the conservation agenda in the chapter. If we claim to be more than a fishing club, then a research and conservation agenda is crucial to our success, as is a long term strategy for advocacy of the fishery (which includes

diligence on stream flows, water temperature and quality, special regulations, etc.) If we claim to be stewards of the river, but are doing no more than stocking fish, we'll open ourselves to critiques from all sides.

In order to kick off the studies, which we've named Guadalupe Now, we have added a line for volunteer contributions on this year's membership applications. We plan to use those funds as seed money to get us started and help us find matching funds or grants from other sources. If you'd like to contribute or are interested in helping plan or provide volunteer labor from some of the projects, contact me at 830-230-5507 or via e-mail at mickfly@gvtc.com and I'll forward the information to our newly-formed Conservation Committee.



## **New GRTU Honorary Life Member Named by Board**

Irving O'Neal has been voted by the board to join the GRTU list of "Honorary Life Members." Irving formerly of San Antonio and now of Boerne has been a GRTU member for 17 years. Six of those early years he was the Program Chairman and board member. Up until recently Irving has attend all of the meetings throughout the years. We thank Irving for his years of help and support, and congratulate him on this honor.



**New Honorary Life Member  
Irving O'Neal**

## **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

## Jeff Schmitt Describes Fight with Giant Striper

It was the weekend before Memorial Day and our last weekend on the Guadalupe River for the season. We keep our trailer at Rio Raft at fourth crossing and fish the river most every weekend from January through mid-May.

I headed down to one of my favorite spots below 4th crossing on the Guad and started working a tandem rig with a San Juan worm and a prince nymph down into the deeper troughs. In spite of all of the tubers on the river, the water being a bit off color and the sunny conditions, it turned out that there were some trout that were ready to play. Over the next several hours, I was able to hook up and release about 10 nice fat rainbows, ranging from about 14" to 18". The 18" fish was really a nice fish and put up a strong fight, using the depth of the trough and the strong current to its full advantage. Just as I landed the rainbow a group of tubers came floating into the area I was fishing and I thought it would be a good idea to sit down and retie the flies I'd been using.

Soon the mob of tubers cleared the hole and stepped right back out to the edge of the trough I was fishing. I flipped my nymph right up along the trough edge and let it float well below me, trying to make sure my "bowling ball" sized split shot drug the flies along the bottom. At the end of the drift, the indicator jerked under and I raised the rod to set the hook.

I could tell right way this was going to be a good fish. I could feel power in the head shakes, although the fish really wasn't moving anywhere. Then, it realized that it was hooked and my flyline began to head downstream. My big fish instincts told me that what I needed to do was follow that fish as fast as I could and keep as much line on the reel as possible. So, I began to run downstream behind the fish. The initial run, when it came, was fast and long. I was quickly into my backing

and was pretty sure I was in big trouble. However, I kept plowing downstream and was able to get my flyline back on the reel and get back within about 20 feet of the fish.

Fortunately, the next few runs were not as long and I was able to keep up with the fish. However, one run after another kept leading me farther and farther downstream. I also began to collect quite an audience and obstacle course of tubers. At least half of the challenge was keeping the fish from wrapping up in the tubers that continued to stream down the river.

The run downstream continued for probably ½ mile, until the fish began to get near the big, deep hole at the S-turn. I knew if that fish got down into the bottom of that hole, there was not way I was going to be able to lift that fish out of there on 4X. So, I employed the tubers that were now spectator fishing. Several of them lined up across the shallow entry to the hole, spooking the fish and causing it to reverse directions and head upstream. It was in this shallow water near the S-turn, at the 30 minute point in the fish, that I first saw the fish. It was a striped bass and my guess was, from the quick look I got, that it had to be at least 15-20 pounds.

I knew that getting the fish to move upstream would work to my favor but that's where the work really began. Pushing upstream against the current was a lot of work. The troughs in this area a deep and the bottom is uneven. I fell several times. A couple times I stepped off of the edge and into water above my head and had to either float until I regained footing or have one of the tubers give me a hand to get back up on the edge. However, I



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*"Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after."*

Henry David Thoreau

managed to stay with the fish as it backtracked back up river.

I continued to chase the fish upstream, keeping to moving by trying to stay right behind it. Eventually, the fish got into a trough that was too deep for me to wade into and it began to just hang in place. I could tell it was at the bottom of the trough and resting, which was not good. I could not let the fish sit still. Again, I enlisted the help of a couple of tubers in the audience. I asked them to swim down into the bottom of the trough to continue to push the fish upstream into water that was shallow enough for me to wade. Two such efforts move the fish back up closer to where the battle had started.

Along the way, several of the tubers offered to "help" me land the fish. One girl wanted to try to sack the fish up into a mesh bag. Several people wanted to touch my line. I was pretty convinced that none of them would have even a chance of providing useful assistance. Finally, a young man named Ryan started wading along side of me. Ryan helped me get up from a couple of falls and then told me that he'd worked on saltwater fishing charters in the past.

At this point I was so tired that I needed somebody with me just to make sure I didn't fall down from exhaustion. The fight was nearing the 1 hour point and I began to talk with Ryan about how he could help me bring this to an end. We continued to "push" the fish upstream by blocking any downstream path through the trough. However, there was nothing I could do

to lift the fish over the rock edge of the trough. As soon as he saw that edge, he would immediately move back down into the trough.

Eventually, we pushed the fish upstream to the point that the troughs ended and the riverbed began to flatten out. The strategy then became to encourage the fish to move back downstream in a direction such that he would be up on the shelf, as opposed to down into the trough.

The fish was clearly getting tired. As opposed to pulling me downstream, he was now just moving downstream using the current and his weight to slide backwards. We finally got the fish into a good position to land but I just could not lift the fish up close enough to the surface with my 5 weight flyrod. It would just double over without significantly moving the fish.

At this point, I trusted Ryan to touch my line. He very gently lifted on the line just enough that the fish swam up shallow enough where we could see it. Then, he let it drift back and put his hands under the belly. When he lifted, I saw the fishes head and immediately dropped my rod, reached down with both hands and placed a liplock on the lower jaw of the fish.

We both lifted at once and a roar went up from the crowd of tubers that had gathered to watch this epic which had now gone on for just over an hour. I let out a loud whoop and immediately tripped and fell from exhaustion, but never loosening my grip on the fishes jaw. We moved the fish over into the shallows and we both collapsed into the water.

## What's In Your Flybox for Fall/Winter Trout on the Guadalupe Tailwater?

We asked several chapter members and friends of the chapter for their half dozen favorite flies for the Guadalupe River below Canyon Dam. Here's what they suggested:

### **Karen Gebhardt, Board Member, GRTU Women on the River**

Karen is an intrepid angler who probably logs more hours on the river than most of us, while maintaining a busy schedule as wife, mother, and church and civic

## 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 Fason  
 Walter J Groman  
 James P Halbert

Bill Higdon  
 William J Hills  
 Randolph A Hoover  
 Stephen J Hudak, Jr  
 D. Michael Hunter  
 Mike Ireland  
 Christopher S. Jackson  
 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  
 Mick McCorcle  
 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 Schenckan  
 Jeff G Schmitt  
 Terry R. Shields  
 Randall P. Singleton  
 Kermit V. Speeg  
 William "Kit" C. Spencer  
 Steve K. Stilp  
 Thomas E Vice  
 Douglas R. Wage  
 Greg Walla  
 Jeffrey J. Wooley

volunteer. She recommends the following:

- Light Cahills, size 16-22.
- Blue Winged Olives, size 16-22
- Pale Morning Duns, size 16-22
- Prince nymph, red wrap at eye
- Flashback Hare's Ear nymph, size 14
- Pheasant Tail nymph

The longer the season the smaller the fly.

**Kevin Stubbs, Expedition Outfitters,**  
[www.expedition-outfitters.net](http://www.expedition-outfitters.net)

Kevin manages the Canyon Lake Marina, is a sales rep for several outdoor manufacturers, guides on Hill Country rivers, and is a generous provider of raffle items for the chapter. He suggests these flies:

- Beadhead Prince nymph, size 16 or 18
- Beadhead Pheasant Tail, 16 or 18

- Beadhead Zug Bug, 16 or 18
- Stonefly nymph, 8 or 10
- Olive beadhead woolly bugger, 10 or 12
- Black beadhead woolly bugger, 10 or 12

Go smaller if the water is clear.

**Jimbo Roberts, Board Member**

Jimbo has fished the Guadalupe since before the dam was built and carries a 25 pound vest on the river, but would start with these flies:

- Woolly Bugger
- Prince nymph
- Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear nymph
- Midge
- Elk Hair Caddis
- Trico Spinner

**James Pelland, Chapter Treasurer,**  
[www.guadalupe trout.com](http://www.guadalupe trout.com)

James proved his mastery of the river while hosting author John Ross last spring and has just started his own guide service and fly fishing school. He would recommend the following flies, in no particular order:

- Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear - size 14
- Beadhead Prince - size 14
- Foam Wing Emerger - size 20
- Beadhead Zebra Midge - size 18
- Brassie - size 18
- Red Hot - size 18

**Mick McCorcle, Chapter President**

Mick is not a guide but a psychologist, so he can tell you how it feels when you don't catch fish. He says his Guadalupe flybox is different now than it was prior to the 2002 flood. What worked best for him last season were

double nymph rigs under a strike indicator, with the following flies:

Attractors:

- Chartreuse Eggo, size 10
- Copper John, Bronze or Lime, size 12 or 14
- Beadhead Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear, size 14

Droppers:

- Red Glass Bead Annelid, size 20 Gold hook
- Lime and Black Brassy Zebra, same hook
- RS-2 in olive or gray, size 18-22



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## Bits, Pieces & Loose Ends...

by Bob Tuttle

### Trout Stamp no more...

According to the latest fishing regulations, the Texas trout stamp has been eliminated. But a new freshwater stamp has been issued to replace it. If you fish in fresh water you must have one. Good idea to read the new license requirements as they have all been changed and the fees have increased. Still anyone under 17 and those born before September 1, 1930 are exempt. June 1st of every year is still for fishing without any fishing license.

Complete license info can be found at the following site: (in PDF format)

[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual/pdf/OutdoorAnnual2004\\_2005.pdf](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual/pdf/OutdoorAnnual2004_2005.pdf)

or go to any licensing station for a copy.

### Let it go-let it grow!

Most know these tips but they are reminders. You might even want to skip over this section if you do not need reminding.

A Few Helpful Hints on Releasing Fish

-Play a fish as rapidly as possible. Do not exhaust a fish by playing it too long.

-Keep a fish in the water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook

-Handle the fish gently. Don't squeeze a fish or put your fingers in its gills or eyes.

-Cut the line when a fish is deeply hooked, the hook will eventually dissolve. Barbless hooks are easier to remove.

-Revive a stressed fish by holding it upright in the water and moving it back and forth to force water past its gills.

### Another use...

For an old ski pole. Great for a wading staff, picking up trash, fending off dogs, pointing directions and many other functions. Can be usually found at garage sales or thrift shops. With

the recent fast flows on the Guadalupe, one would be most handy.

### Past April Swap Meet...

Was another successful annual chapter event. Not a large attendance but a great time was had by both buyers and sellers. Great selection of a variety of items. Some not even connected with outdoor sports but were interesting. Kind of a deluxe yard sale. Look for another one next year. Not to be missed.

The chapter received a bonanza at the April Meeting. Past President Jim Vynalek donated a large collection of choice vintage fly tying material that was formerly owned by the late Paul Schubauer one of the early founders of GRTU. Some were put up for auction and the others placed in the chapter's storage unit for future activities.

The Tex-Mex meal was an excellent replacement for our regular BBQ providers that were unable to participate. They plan to cater our future meetings. Many thanks to Scott Thompson for lining up these food servers.

At last we are getting some much better food at the meetings.

### Barbed or Barbless Hooks...

The debate rages on. Some of the benefits:

Safety, you can remove an embedded barbless hook from your person with ease.

Faster fish release without the need for any device.

It has been said (by some) that barbless catches more fish because the hook penetrates faster.

Note the number of guides and the more successful fishermen using barbless hooks.

This should never be a rule, only an intelligent personal choice.

### Guadalupe River News...

No glass or Styrofoam permitted on the river.

Not a bad idea to leave your cellular phone along with your worries elsewhere. The use of same while wading, fishing, or just looking for fish is very annoying to others. Enjoy

nature without distractions. In the far distant past, it was thought to be great just to be away from telephones.

The notable Kanz property is no longer available for lease. The property is being developed and cut up for lots. This was the keystone for our lease access program. There goes our planned project to repair the damaged dam. The Kanz area will be missed but there are still many other spots available. Former Bean's can still be accessed by wading but do not go on the property, you might be attacked by nervous cows or accosted by an irate property manager. Trespassing is a serious offense in Comal County.

### Old Info...

The venerable Austin Angler is no more. They closed down last July. Orvis Austin closed last year.

Joe Robinson, Ted Mendrek, as well as Stacy Trimble are now located at Sportsman's Finest in the growing Bee Cave community southwest and close to Austin.

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## Conservation Corner

by James Pelland

Welcome to the first installment of Conservation Corner. The goal of Conservation Corner is to inform GRTU members of the positive and negative ways water conservation is being impacted by national, state or local legislation, or through the efforts of groups and individuals like ourselves.

**New Bush Administration Policy threatens some of the best native trout habitat contained within 58 million acres of roadless areas in our national forests.**

In the summer issue of TU's Trout magazine, a short article with maps

showed the correlation between road building (and the resulting sedimentation) and the loss of native fish habitat in Idaho. I can tell you from personal experience that the maps are right on. The bottom line: fewer roads equals more native fish. On July 12<sup>th</sup> 2004, the Bush administration announced a plan to overturn the forest service's 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which protected 58 million acres of national forests across the country from new road building and most logging. The new law would instead force individual states to petition the forest service for protection. As a result, anti-conservation governors would be able to hand over the keys to national lands to the logging industry without national input, while pro-conservation governors would have to petition the feds for protection. And the feds can say "no". **What can you do? Write, fax, or email the USDA Forest Service by November 15, 2004. Visit <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/> for contact information. Also visit <http://www.coloradowild.org/roadless.html>.**

#### **Vote "NO" on Montana's Initiative 147 – Unless You Like Cyanide.**

If you're a Montana resident, that is. But please read on. I-147 is a ballot initiative which would repeal Montana's 1998 ban on open-pit, cyanide-leach mining, a law which has since been unsuccessfully appealed twice. The force behind the new initiative is Canyon Resources, a Colorado-based mining company aiming to mine the upper Blackfoot for gold. Although passage of the initiative would still leave the folks at Canyon with much work to do to get their hands on the ore-rich land, they would be one step closer to destroying the Blackfoot River. Cyanide-leach mines leak cyanide and other byproducts which pollute aquifers, headwater streams and rivers. There are indeed safer, albeit more expensive, methods for mining gold. But the industry, not surprisingly, does not want to pay to do it right.

**Even if you're not a Montana resident, you can make a difference. Make sure everyone you know living in Montana is aware of what's at stake with ballot measure 147. Then make sure everyone you know who fishes in Montana is aware of ballot measure 147 and tells their Montana friends, and so on. Send them to [http://www.mtvoters.org/i147\\_facts.html](http://www.mtvoters.org/i147_facts.html) or <http://www.nocyanide.org/> for more information.**

#### **Instream Use of Water Rights**

Instream use of water rights is a great water conservation tool. In Texas, however, instream use of water rights is not legally recognized as a "use" of a water right. To better explain what instream use of water rights means, we can look at the state of Montana. In 1995, the Montana legislature amended the state's water code to allow holders of water rights to lease some or all of their water rights for transfer to instream use. This was in addition to the existing ways water could be "used", which were traditionally out-of-stream uses like irrigation. The water code also allows water right holders who increase the efficiency of their water use to donate or lease part of the saved water for instream use. State Parks & Wildlife agencies, private non-profit water trusts, and other organizations facilitate the transfer of water rights. The essence of instream use is that a market-value based approach is utilized. This allows water to remain in rivers and streams for downstream use, benefiting fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation; outdoor recreation activities; navigation; hydropower generation; waste assimilation (water quality); and ecosystem maintenance which includes recruitment of fresh water to the estuaries, riparian vegetation, floodplain wetlands, and maintenance of channel geomorphology.

In 2003, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) denied several permit applications which would have granted water rights for

freshwater inflow to San Antonio, Matagorda and Galveston Bays. These applications were filed by the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF), the Matagorda Bay Foundation (MBF), and the Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association (GBCPA)/Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF). Although the TCEQ had previously passed regulations that identified freshwater inflows as a beneficial use for which water rights permits could be issued, the TCEQ denied the San Antonio Bay application saying there was no clear legal authority allowing passage of those rules in the first place. In essence, the TCEQ disregarded its own rules and denied these applications without a hearing on the merits. Why? Well, the TCEQ was under considerable pressure to deny these permits by the powerful Texas water lobby and some of our elected politicians.

The Study Commission on Environmental Flows was created during the 78th Legislative Session via SB 1374 (or 1639, depending on who you talk to), sponsored by State Sen. Ken Armbrister. Responding to the permit request from the San Marcos River Foundation, SB 1374 states the TCEQ does not have statutory authority to issue water permits expressly for environmental flows, and further directs the TCEQ to dismiss all similar pending applications. While state law authorizes the TCEQ to issue permits for "beneficial use — including domestic and municipal use, agriculture and industry, mining and recovery of minerals, hydroelectric power, navigation, and recreation and pleasure— it does not expressly state that the TCEQ can issue permits for the sole purpose of instream flows. Sen. Armbrister's bill also established a committee to study the issue of freshwater inflows. Sen. Armbrister's approach might have been acceptable if all water rights permit applications had been halted during this study. However, all other permit applications for water rights are still being processed. It is only those for bays, estuaries and in-stream river flows that are being held up. As a result, a

veritable gold rush of applications is tying up all the water rights before they can be used for conservation. The Commission is due to release its findings in January 2005.

Contact these folks and let them know how you feel about instream use of water rights...a market-based approach to conservation (NOTE: the House and Senate will be back in session in January):

Lt. Gov. Dewhurst - 512 463-0001

Sen. Kenneth L. Armbrister – committee co-chair: (512) 463-0118

Rep. Rep. Robert Puente – committee co-chair: (512) 463-0452

Sen. Todd Staples – committee member: (512) 463-0103

Sen. Jeff Wentworth – committee member: (512) 463-0125

Rep. Bill Callegari – committee member: (512) 463-0528

Rep. Charlie Geren – committee member: (512) 463-0610

Kathleen Hartnett White – committee member and chair of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality: (512) 239-5510

Rod Pittman, Chairman of the Texas Water Development Board: (512) 463-7847

Joseph B.C. Fitzsimons – committee member and Chairman, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission: 1920 Nacogdoches, Ste. 203, San Antonio, TX 78209 FAX - (210) 828-5091

Find e-mail forms and other information at: <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/Senate/Members.htm>

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/welcome.htm>

For more information, check out: [http://www.texaswatermatters.org/environment\\_commission.htm](http://www.texaswatermatters.org/environment_commission.htm)

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## Grumpy's Column

(Reprinted with permission of Kurt Haberl of the Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited.)

It's a terrible world we live in, my friends.

"Why don't you take me fishing?" Annie said over the top of

her gardening book. "You keep going with Ray."

"Schnoz," I corrected. "And I don't take you fishing because it's too aggravating."

"I do everything you tell me," she said behind her book.

"Didn't I tell you when we get to a pool that you don't go crashing in? You got to sneak up and study it for at least ten minutes and see if there's a hatch and look for seams and current tongues and ledges and things. But what do you do? You stare at it until you see fish and then you start giving them names. 'Hi, Pinky. I see you're with Phineas and Pookie today.' Trout are wild things and you can't go around giving them names like it was the Garden of Eden."

"But they're so--"

"And then, to make matters worse, you start talking to them. 'Now, Brighteyes, you don't need to pace back and forth. Come here and pucker up, Sweetlips, I got something good for you.' It's not like they're Huldy's pet goldfish. A trout is a creature whose life hangs in the balance between finding a bug he can eat and the amount of energy he has to expend to catch that bug."

"Hmph," she said.

"And then you start flailing away at the water like you're beating a rug. If I cast that way, every fish within miles either races for the headwaters or New Orleans. But no, when you do it, they come from every hole and run to see what's going on, and then they jump on your hook because they don't want to make the trip for nothing. It's aggravating. Every time I take you fishing, I get outfished."

"That's not true," she said, putting her book down.

"You catch more fish and bigger fish. In my book, that is the definition for getting outfished."

"Well, then put a hula popper on my flyrod and I won't try so hard this time."

"Hula popper? The last time we went, you put a four-inch *hexagenia gargantua* dry fly on your leader with no tippet at eleven o'clock in the

morning, and the trout came up off the bottom to take it like it was *filet mignon*."

She opened her book back up and buried her head in it. She couldn't fool me. She was trying to hide a smile. It didn't matter. For the first time I could remember, I felt like I had won an argument and nobody was going fishing THAT morning. She pretended to read her gardening book for a minute, then her eyes glanced at me over the top of her book and went down to her book again.

"I made meatloaf sandwiches with lots of mozzarella," she said.

"Don't start that," I said.

"On rye."

"If you're going to fight, Annie, the least you can do is fight fair."

"And German potato salad and deviled eggs with paprika."

I couldn't help it. I got up and started to pace. I hate it when they don't fight fair. I could feel the hackle rising on the back of my neck. I saw her pretty eyebrows arch a little over the top of her book, and then she said, "On the way home yesterday, I picked up a cheesecake."

"With chocolate swirls on top?" I said.

"Of course."

"Root beer?"

"Three bottles. It's all in the cooler, ready to go."

There I paced, my life in the balance, not wanting to give in and yet wanting to go fishing and wanting – but it was all no matter, I couldn't even think any more.

"Okay," I said. "Get your gear."

She put her book down and said, "Come here and pucker up, Sweetlips, I've got something good for you."

It's a terrible world, my friends, just terrible, when an argument is over and a man can't tell whether he won or lost.

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### **GRTU Newsletter**

Publication dates: January, April, and October to over 3,8000 Trout Unlimited members in Texas. CONTACTS: **Mick McCorcle**, President, 1810 Cordillera Trace, Boerne, TX 78006, (830) 230-5507, mickfly@gvtc.com; **Patrick Amick**, Editor, 4428 Jim West St. Bellaire, TX 77401, (713) 667-1643, patamick@hotmail.com; or **James A. Simpson**, Advertising Manager, 20634 View Mdw. San Antonio, TX 78258, (210) 394-4807, jsimpsonfnic@msn.com

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

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