



Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Newsletter



No. 93 April 2010

Publication Data on Pg. 16

GRTU Meeting Saturday, April 24th

Canyon Lake CRRC
South Access Road
Sattler, TX
Directions on page 4

9 AM - Lease Access
Orientation & Social Hour
10 AM - Business Mtg

11 AM - "Ultralight Spin
Fishing Tactics for Trout"
with Joe Robinson

12 - Raffle & Lunch
12:30 PM - Lease Access
Orientation
1 PM GRTU Board Meeting

Ultralight Spin Fisher Joe Robinson and TU Staffer Chris Hunt to Speak at April Meeting

After a cooler and wetter than average winter, Canyon Lake is full, flows are up, and the sustained flow agreement is now in effect, securing minimum flows of 140-240 cfs through our hot summer months. The potential of a strong class of holdover trout is higher this year than it has been for the last several years.

GRTU has been hard at work with recent stockings and river clean-up efforts. Our first conservation project, accomplished during the recent Trout Fest weekend, has begun the process of restoring beneficial in-stream vegetation into an area of the river that was scoured in the flood of 2002, improving habitat for insects and fish.

There is much to do for our river, and many opportunities for you to get involved. Please join in. If you want to help but don't know how or where, email me and I will help get you plugged in.

The next GRTU chapter meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th, at the Canyon

Lake Community Resource Recreation Center (CRRC) on South Access Road in Sattler. There will be a social hour and Lease Orientation Class beginning at 9AM, with the meeting beginning at 10. See the map on page 4 for directions to the CRRC.

This month, we are honored to have as our speaker the venerable Joe Robinson. Although currently semi-retired (a ward of the state, as Joe told me), Joe continues to teach others from his wealth of knowledge about fishing at Sportsman's Finest in Austin.

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April speaker Joe Robinson

A former head instructor for the L.L. Bean Fly Fishing schools, Joe has been instrumental in improving the fly-fishing skills of thousands throughout his career. This month, however, we take time to remember that Trout Unlimited is not a fly-fishing organization, but a conservation organization with many members who like to fly-fish. We also have members who, by choice or necessity, spin fish.

Spin fishing often is the vehicle used to introduce youngsters to trout fishing before their stature and motor skills have developed to allow them to be successful with a fly rod. It also can be used by those who have some physical difficulty that prevents them from comfortably using a fly rod. Others simply choose spin fishing because they like it.

Joe recently wrote a book entitled "*Piscatorial Absurdities; A Fly Fisherman's Guide to Radical Ultralight Spin Fishing*". In this book Joe outlines the opportunities and gear needed to spin fish using line in the 6X (3 pound test) range with flies in size ranges of 6-10.

Fly fishing luminaries such as Dave Whitlock and Lefty Kreh are enthusiastic spin fishermen, and in fact it was Whitlock who first introduced Joe to ultralight spin fishing.

Whether you are curious about Joe's method, or even if you are a die-hard fly fisher who would never consider spin fishing, you owe it to yourself to come and listen to Joe speak. He is just that much fun to be around, regardless of the topic.

Also joining us this month is Chris Hunt, who is the communications director of the Sportsman's Conservation Project for Trout Unlimited (SCP). The SCP, a cadre of anglers and hunters who work with their fellow sportsmen to protect irreplaceable habitat, has identified several threats that, if unchecked or unchallenged, could harm our sporting heritage.

Chris is an author and former newspaper editor and reporter who lives in Idaho Falls, Idaho, with his wife and two children. An avid fly fisher, Chris spends

his free time pursuing wild trout in small water throughout the West. Like most die-hard creek freaks, he almost always has his six-foot, 3-weight and a ragged Atlas and Gazetteer tucked behind the passenger seat of his truck. He has worked for TU since 2005, where he handles the media efforts for all Sportsmen's Conservation Project staffers.

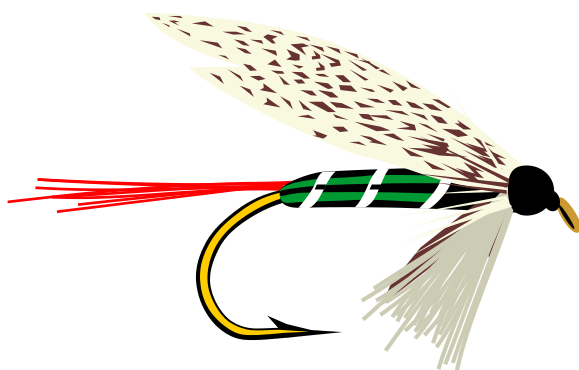
Chris will bring us up to date on his project, which in part is involved in protecting some of the fisheries we enjoy in Colorado from unethical oil and gas development.

-- Mark Dillow

2010 Raffles Include Kodiak Raft Package

We will have two chapter-sponsored raffles this season, one at the January meeting and one at the April meeting. Our January raffle will include an 8.5 ft 6wt fly rod and reel combo from LL Bean, an Umpqua fly tying kit, and a Redington 5/6 reel.

In April, we'll raffle off a Water Master Kodiak Raft Package with a retail price of \$1395. The package includes the boat, a pair of standard breakdown oars, soft seat, foot pump, patch kit, and the boat bag (a seven cubic foot dry bag backpack) it all fits into. For more information on the raft, go to shop.bigskyinflatables.com.



April President's Letter

I hope this message finds you and your families in good health.

We have a great meeting scheduled for April with speaker Joe Robinson, a local legend. Don't miss the April meeting.

GRTU has accomplished a lot since our last newsletter. We have added over 4000 lbs of huge rainbows to the fishery, completed the transplanting of watercress from Hueco Springs to several areas closer to the dam and gorge. We also had a very successful Trout Fest. Trout in the Classroom was very successful this year with schools in Houston and Round Rock participating. Our own Jimbo Roberts, Ted Mendrek, Rafael Torres and Karen Gebhardt placed the remaining "extra" eggs from Trout in the Classroom in the Whitlock-Vibert boxes and planted them in the river. Check

out the pictures of their adventures on the GRTU forums. Planning for next year's Trout Fest and additional restoration projects is already underway. We also have a Project Healing Water event coming up on March 31, 2010.

Our V.P. of Chapter Affairs, Mark Dillow, is revamping our process for volunteers, so we can make sure everyone who wants to volunteer has the opportunity. We have a huge number of members who have skills that would be a real asset to GRTU going forward. In the coming weeks we will be looking for volunteers for many upcoming projects. If you're interested please give Mark a call or go to our website, click on "Volunteer" and fill in the form.

Our water temperature gauge will be back up and running in the near future. We had real issues in getting parts for the old monitor, but we think we have a solution.

We should see it back online in the near future.

One final thing -- we would like to get suggestions on events, classes or any other ideas you may have for Trout Fest 2011. Please contact Phil Dopson, to share your thoughts and ideas.

I know this sounds like a broken record, but we are still looking for additional help with Trout in the Classroom. We need people to help talk with local school systems and parent teacher organizations in San Antonio and Austin to spread the word about this great project. Our goal is to have at least nine classrooms with tanks. We need your help!

See you on the river, and wade carefully.

Bill Higdon
GRTU Chapter President



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Directions to the Canyon Lake CRRC Recreation Center

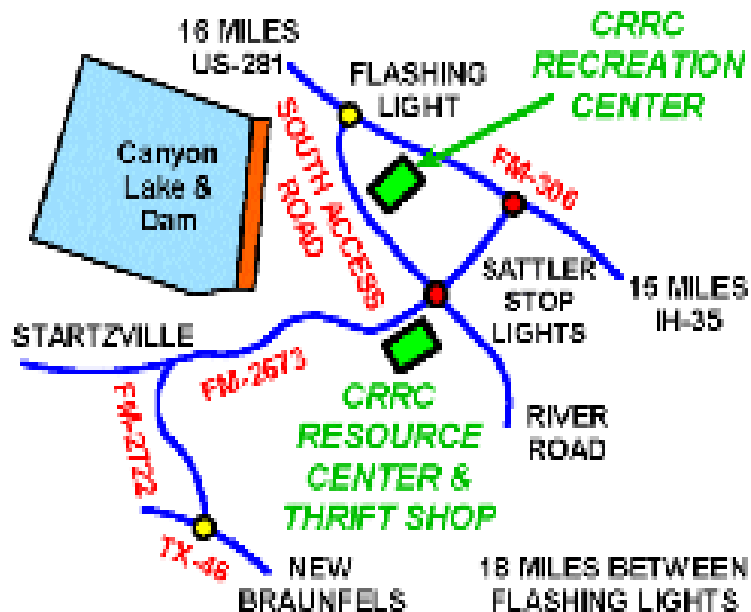
>From NORTH or SOUTH: Just North of New Braunfels on I-35 take Exit 191, (Canyon Lake Exit), which is FM 306 and go WEST, about 14 miles to Sattler (Canyon Lake area). Go past the traffic light at FM 2673 in Sattler for about 2 miles, (through Canyon City) and turn Left at the blinking caution light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

>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,

Map of GRTU Meeting Area





GRTU President Bill Higdon (left) presents Lower Mountain Fork River Foundation board member Roger Turner with a COCF Grant to assist with refurbishing the re-regulation dam on the SE Oklahoma trout fishery below Broken Bow Lake.

GRTU Coldwater Outreach Funds Assist SE OK Trout Stream

At the January GRTU meeting Bill Higdon presented Roger Turner of the Lower Mountain Fork River Foundation a GRTU Coldwater Outreach Conservation Grant to assist with funding of stream improvements to Mountain Fork River in southeastern Oklahoma. The Mountain Fork is a river frequented by many of our north Texas GRTU members, so this project was of particular interest to GRTU. The project presents opportunities for GRTU to help not only with funding, but to watch and observe how stream improvement work is done on rivers similar to the Guadalupe as well as the chance for GRTU members to be invited to assist with the actual physical work on the river.

This is the fifth Coldwater Outreach Grant provided by GRTU over the past five years. Our influence has been felt on Trout Run Creek in Minnesota, the South Platte River in Eleven Mile Canyon Colorado, Los Alamos Creek New Mexico, Stop Pebble Mine Alaska and now Broken Bow, Oklahoma. GRTU members should be proud of both their stewardship of the Guadalupe River and their support for coldwater conservation projects throughout the US.

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited holds its Annual Business Meeting on the fourth Saturday in April of each calendar year. Our business meeting this year is scheduled for 10 AM on April 24th at the Canyon Lake CRRC on South Access Road in Sattler.

On the agenda at this year's meeting will be the election of a slate of Directors (typically three or four) to serve one to three year terms on the Board. They will join the eight returning Directors elected in prior years and together will elect the chapter's six executive officers and the Texas NLC Rep at the subsequent board meeting that afternoon.

If you have an interest in serving in a GRTU leadership position at some point in the future, contact VP Mark Dillow, who is coordinating efforts to identify GRTU volunteers and connect them with the ongoing work of the chapter.

Luxury log cabin rental in SE Oklahoma: Discount to GRTU Members

30 minutes from Beavers Bend Resort Park and the **Lower Mountain Fork** trout fishery!

Treehouse Loft is a fully equipped luxury cabin, one of a small collection of luxury cabins in the Kiamichi Mountains of SE Oklahoma called **The Reserve on Eagle Creek**.

The cabin is for couples only, and is available for nightly rentals of two or more nights. Eagle Fork Creek runs right thru the property, and there is a small stocked lake onsite as well.

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Mention that you are a **GRTU** member when reserving **Treehouse Loft** (either via phone or in the comments section when booking online) and receive **20%** off your entire stay!

Project Healing Waters News

The past couple of months have been an exciting time for GRTU's Project Healing Waters program at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. On Feb 2nd we kicked off our weekly, on-base, fly tying and casting sessions at the Warrior and Family Support Center. We're holding classes every Tuesday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:00 PM and we need volunteers to help teach fly tying, fly casting and to provide general support for the program. We've set up a website at www.grtu-phw.org with links to information about the program and how to volunteer to help out.

As part of our program, we've set up a fly tying bench with a Project Healing Waters backdrop at the WFSC facility as the PWH "home base" in the crafts room. It's a fully stocked tying bench and a place where a soldier can sit down at any time and tie flies. We've also assembled eight individual vises and tying kits, as well as a full assortment of hooks and materials for tying most any standard fly pattern.

We've already got a couple of regular soldiers attending our classes and we're getting to know them. Project Healing Waters is about so much more than just taking a soldier fishing. It's both teaching them the skills associated with fly fishing and helping a small number of soldiers use fly fishing as a way to physically and emotionally rehabilitate from their injuries. The soldiers who come to the classes regularly become part of the GRTU PHW family.

And, by the time you get this newsletter, we'll have taken a number of the soldiers in our GRTU PHW family fishing on the Guadalupe. On Wednesday March 31, we'll hold our first PHW fishing event

for the season. If the weather and water flows will cooperate, the outing is stacking up to be a major event for us. We hope to host 5-10 wounded warriors, as well as staff members from BAMC and representatives from the National Project Healing Waters program that started this concept at Walter Reed.

I'd also like to mention that our PHW program got a major boost from a donation from the family of long time GRTU member Pete Suckley, who recently passed away. Pete had been one of my original PHW volunteers a couple of years ago when I first tried to get this program started and didn't have the critical mass of volunteers needed to get it off the ground. Unfortunately, Pete passed away before we could get the classes at BAMC started. His wife, Luann, contacted me and wanted to donate Pete's fly tying materials for the benefit of PHW. What was donated was one of the most extensive and well-organized collections of tying tools and materials I have ever seen. We have fully stocked our BAMC PHW program from the donation and still have lots of high quality fly tying material available for auction to raise funds for



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PHW. I'll have some of it available at the April meeting and would appreciate your purchases to help this cause.

I'd very much like to thank the PHW volunteers that have helped me get this off the ground, particularly:

- Ross Smith, Mark Duffy and Tim Abel, who have been teaching tying;
- Mark Graham and Bill Tench, who have been there regularly to help out;
- Lloyd Matthews, who has been helping me for two years get this going;
- Ron Skarbowski, who donated the bench;
- Jay Herbert, who sent me a Dyna King vise for the bench;

- Eric Weissgarber, who made a cash donation to GRTU-PHW that pretty much financed this year's program.

I'll thank all of the guides and volunteers who are going to help me with the outing in the next newsletter and I'm sure I forgot somebody who has been helping me in that list...I'm sorry if I did.

What the GRTU PHW program needs more than anything are volunteers and donations, in that order. You can volunteers on the GRTU PHW website and you can donate through the GRTU donations link on the Membership page.

Jeff Schmitt
GRTU PHW Coordinator

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Watercress Transplanting Successful By Gary Burns

On a dreary Friday in mid-February, fresh from transporting buckets of big trout from a stocking truck to the river, eighteen volunteers showed up to transplant watercress from a spring near Gruene to various spots along the upper tailwater section of the Guadalupe. Although coordinated by GRTU, we had participation from members of WORD, Alamo Fly Fishers, Texas Fly Fishers of Houston, and the Lower Mountain Fork River Foundation, all working together to better the health of the Guadalupe River and its fishery. Nearly 70 giant trash bags full of watercress were moved to prime

spots upstream, where the plants will provide habitat for aquatic insects and other food organisms for trout.

Many thanks to volunteers Gary Cobb, Larry Hill, Kohle Herrmann, David Ayer, Rafael Torres, John Schlobohm, Mark Dillow, Bill Poskey, Phil Dopson, Ed Niehaus, Ted Mendrek, Bill Besich, Bruce Lippenholz, Clint Jackson, Jay Forrest, Jimbo Roberts, Bill Higdon and Gary Burns.

We are fortunate to have expert and dedicated members who can design, plan, and execute restoration projects, particularly our Restoration Sub-committee Chairman, Gary Cobb. Given the recently increased flows, it's a good thing we anchored the watercress roots with stones.

We'll need to monitor the watercress after flows stabilize (and repeat if necessary.)

For our next restoration project, we will plant black willow and other trees in April to prevent bank erosion where the Gorge meets the Guad. We'll build on our experience from the Watercress Project to improve the willow planting and other future projects. More will be coming on this soon.

[Editor's note: Due to limited space in this edition, photos of the project are not included, but can be viewed at <http://www.grtu.org/forums/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=3052>.]

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
Alan Bray
Bill Cobb
Dick Finta
Rupert Gresham
Howard Itten
William A. (Bill) Johnson
James W Keeton
Bob Newman

Chad Oliver
Irving O'Neal
William C. (Bill) Pabst
J. Bill Parvin
Basden L. (Bud) Priddy, MD
Glenn Richardson
Jeff Schmitt
David Schroeder
Mrs. Hazel Schubauer

Lt. Col. Paul A. Schubauer (Ret.)
Betsy Story
Bob Story
Marian Tilson
Billy Trimble
R.E. (Bob) Tuttle
Jim Vynalek
William G. (Bill) West
T.B. (Tom) Whitehouse

Trout Fest Raises Conservation and Education Funds

GRTU's third annual Winter Trout Fest, held February 19-21st, raised over \$2000 for our chapter's conservation and youth education projects. It also drew high praise from the more than 70 participants as a great social and educational event for family members of all ages. Whether they were kids making fish magnets or teens learning to fly cast or grownups being schooled in the intricacies of aquatic entomology or nymph fishing or just those browsing and buying at the silent auction, everyone seemed to have a good time.

Trout Fest attendees included 14 Boy Scouts and their troop leaders from San Antonio that camped out in a nearby state park, eight Round Rock High School students in an aquatic science class who attended with their teacher, several families with small children and many new and not so new GRTU members wanting to learn more about the river and its fishery.

Thanks to all who made Trout Fest successful, including Corby Bittner, Phil Dopson, Ted Mendrek, Gary Lehman, Alex Argyros, Joe Filer, Clint Jackson, Mick McCorcle, Jim Bass, Gary Davison and many others.

[Editor's note: For pictures of Troutfest, go to the GRTU website at www.grtu.org, then click on Forum, Trout, and Troutfest.]

We are in our 10th year serving
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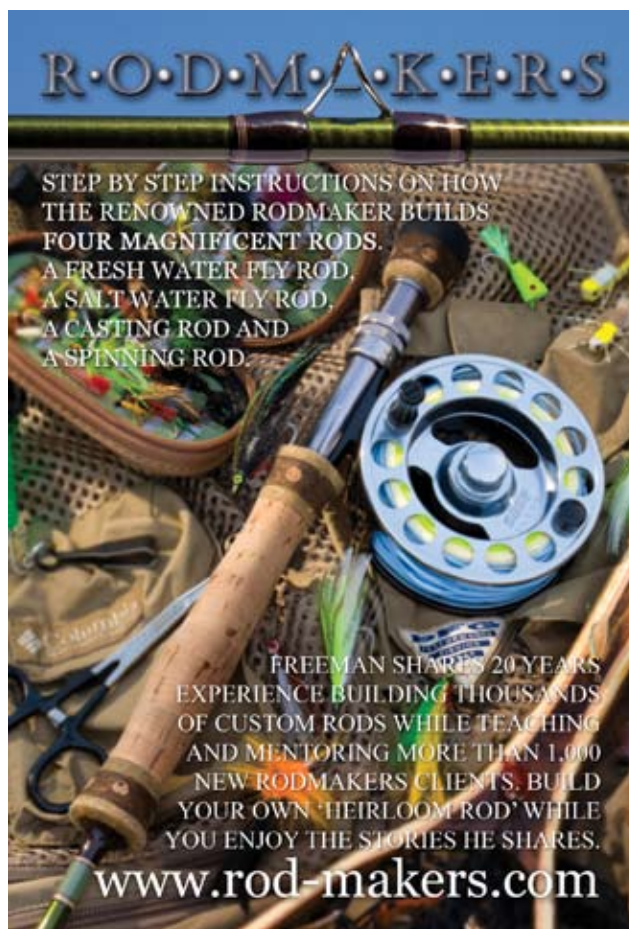
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Dennis will personally write a message and sign each book ordered through his website at

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rodmaker@rod-makers.com.

Rodmakers

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San Antonio, TX 78258
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210-426-2064 Cell
[Http://www.rod-makers.com](http://www.rod-makers.com)

TU Starts New Youth Programs

Trout Unlimited is forging a new approach to youth education and outreach, thanks to Franklin Tate, the recently hired Director of Youth Education Programs. No matter how good we are at protecting, restoring, and reconnecting coldwater streams and their fisheries, it will make no difference if those efforts are not sustained into the future, so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the benefits of all the work that has gone before.

“The future of Trout Unlimited depends on encouraging the

next generation to become conservationists,” wrote Tate in a recent “Action Alert” sent to TU members, enlisting their help in lobbying Congress to pass the “No Child Left Inside” legislation that would provide funding to train public school teachers to deliver high quality environmental education in the classroom and in the field.

In addition to his lobbying efforts, Tate is working to pull all of TU youth efforts under one umbrella. These include “Trout in the Classroom” (like those we are sponsoring this year in Round Rock and Houston), youth conservation camps and day

camps, First Cast (which teaches kids how to fly fish), and a new TU youth membership program called Stream Explorers for those under 18.

For more information about these programs, you can contact Tate at ftate@tu.org or visit the TU website at <http://www.tu.org/about-us/youth-education-and-outreach>. If you want to purchase a gift TU membership in Stream Explorers (just \$12) for your child or grandchild, go to <https://www.tumembership.org/youth>. To check out the Stream Explorers website, go to <http://www.streamexplorers.org/>.

The Guadalupe Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Honors Our

Century Club Members

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

Scott Anderson
David Baird
Erik Bataille
Denis Beaudoin
Bob Blair
Randy Bland
James Boehm
Andre Boutte
Alan Bray
Norman Carpenter
Walter Carver
Sam Castleberry
Shane Cavitt
Dennis Colvin
William Copeland
Mark Dillow
Phil Dopson
Leaford Downey
Andrew Doyle
Donald Dozier
Michael Ferrill
Joe Filer
Malcolm Freeman

Bruce Friedman
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Joel Garcia
Jerry Gatlin
Karen Gebhardt
Richard Grayson
Matthew Green
Ron Groves
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David Johnston
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Michael Krupa
Gary Lehman
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William Poskey
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Jeff Schmitt
Roy Schwitters
Fred Shannon
Jeff Sipes
Kim Stoddard
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Rafael Torres
Roger Turner
Henry Warren
Ken Wells
Marvin Williams
Jeff Wooley



GRTU Officers and Board of Directors

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New Braunfels	Judge Suhr	512-968-8123	SuhrJ@grtu.org
San Antonio/West Texas	Karen Gebhardt	830-980-7580	GebhardtK@grtu.org

Other Positions

Newsletter Editor	Mick McCorcle	972-569-9134	news@grtu.org
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NLC Representative	Jeff Schmitt	512-282-6016	SchmittJ@grtu.org
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GRTU Newsletter

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5565, President@grtu.org; Mick McCorcle, Newsletter
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for 2, \$375 for 3; Full page -- \$275 for one issue, \$450
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Ad Copy

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1 for October to news@grtu.org.

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E-mail: trout@tu.org

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

Membership phone: 1-800-834-2419

Membership e-mail: sdavison@tu.org

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