



Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

# Newsletter



No. 77 January 2005

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**GRTU  
General Meeting  
Saturday, January 22**

**CRRC Recreation Center  
below Canyon Dam**

**9 AM - Social Hour &  
Lease Orientation Class**

**10 AM - Business Meeting  
and Presentation**

**12 - BBQ Lunch**

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

**1 PM - Guadalupe River  
Fly-Fishing Clinic**

## January Presentation to Feature Texas Laguna Madre Fly-Fishing Guides and Lodge Owners

Our January chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> at the CRRC Recreation Center below Canyon Dam in Sattler. Our speakers will be Captains Kathy and Scott Sparrow. They own, manage, and guide for Kingfisher Inn in Arroyo City, Texas, a year-round, dedicated fly-fishing lodge on the spectacular Lower Laguna Madre. Between them, Kathy and Scott have published 13 articles in national fly fishing/fishing magazines in the last five years, and they will be featured in an upcoming book on Texas fly-fishing. Kathy has written *On the Mother Lagoon: Fly fishing and the*

*Spiritual Journey* (Wish Publishing, 2003), and Scott, who is a Trout Unlimited Life Member, has just completed a book on fly fishing for giant speckled trout in the Lower Laguna. In addition, Kathy is the author of many other publications, including a novel, and Scott is a psychotherapist and author of books such as *Andrew's Quest for the Perfect Gift*.

Their presentation will cover the unique sight casting opportunities on their home waters. The Lower Laguna Madre is a hyper-saline lagoon covering about 300 square

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**Kathy and Scott Sparrow will be the featured speakers at  
January's meeting.**

miles. It is the largest continuous shallow water flat in North America, with an average depth of 1 foot and a maximum depth of 3 feet. Grass-bottom lagoons characterize the west side of the bay, while the east side is vegetation free, with a vast white sand bottom resembling the Bahamas. Three of the current IGFA class tippet world records were caught on the Lower Laguna Madre.

Accomplished photographers, the Sparrows' slide presentation will show the year round beauty of that unique coastal region and will target techniques for fishing the different species — redfish, trout, ladyfish, drum, and sheephead.



Let us introduce you to one of our friends at  
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## **Fly Fishing the Guadalupe Clinic To Follow January Meeting**

Join Capt. Scott Graham on January 22nd after the meeting for a “Fly Fishing the Guadalupe” clinic. This clinic will be geared towards the novice to intermediate angler who would like to learn the basics of fly casting and fishing techniques to become more successful on the Guadalupe and other rivers as well. He will be covering all aspects from rigging your rod to playing, landing, and properly releasing fish.

For those of you that don’t know Scott, he has been a full time fly fishing guide for over ten years, is a past president of GRTU as well as long time Fisheries VP. Scott was also on our flow committee to

help achieve the summer minimums. Scott has been fly fishing for over thirty years and holds numerous fly rod records in saltwater as well as fresh (yes, rainbow trout, too). Not to mention the 200lb plus tarpon he landed and released in 2003 in Port O’Connor, Texas! For more information on Scott, check out his website: [www.flyfishingtexas.com](http://www.flyfishingtexas.com)

The clinic cost is \$40 per person and will last approximately 4 hours with proceeds benefiting the GRTU temperature gauge project. Be sure to bring a pen and lots of paper, you don’t want to miss this one! **Please contact Ron McAlpin at [bulldog1935@satx.rr.com](mailto:bulldog1935@satx.rr.com) or 830-980-8043 if you plan to attend.**



**Captain Scott Graham displays his Texas state record rainbow. At the January meeting, he’ll be conducting a clinic on fishing the Guadalupe River.**

## **Rods, Waders, and Chest Pack Among Raffle Prizes Offered at Coming Chapter Meetings**

On display at the January meeting will be four raffle items. First, we have a pair of Simms breathable waders, donated by Sportsmen’s Finest in Austin. Second, we have a Fish Pond chest pack from Gruene Outfitters in Gruene. Third, we have a Thomas and Thomas fly rod, engraved with “GRTU,” from Thomas and Thomas, with the assistance of Mark Marmon.

As you may remember from our fall meeting, a special year long raffle will be held for an Echo fly rod, donated by Kevin Stubbs of Expedition Outfitters. The rod, a 7.5 foot, four piece, three weight, is part of a new series of rods designed by master caster and rod designer Tim Rajeff. 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.

We’ve recently checked the guidelines from the Texas Attorney General’s office regarding raffles by non-profits, and have found that we are only allowed to run two raffles per year. So, we’ll be collecting tickets for these raffles at the January and April meetings and holding the drawings in April. We’d love to have a nice package to give away at each meeting, but feel it is prudent to stay well within the law.

## President's Letter January 2005

by Mick McCorcle

As I write these lines in early December, rain continues to pour from the sky and run into our already overfilled streams. Spring Creek, a tributary of the Guadalupe near my house, holds more water and more fish than at any time since I have lived here. It provides a great opportunity for exploring and fishing, but the downstream effects are not so promising. Rain, more than anything, has characterized our year on the Guadalupe. At first we rejoiced, since having Canyon Lake rise above conservation pool meant that our minimum flow agreement was triggered for the year, guaranteeing water releases through the summer to help sustain the river's trout population. What we

didn't know then was that the rain wouldn't stop. In fact, San Antonio has received 50% more than its normal rainfall this year, and many other parts of the Hill Country did as well.

Since the rain continued, it has had a double negative effect on the fishery. We first lost the cold understorey of water from the lake, resulting in high river temperatures over the summer that were inhospitable to trout. With the fresh rains of November, the lake rose almost 20 feet, to a point over halfway between conservation pool and the level that would send it over the emergency spillway. After downstream flooding subsided, flows have again been cranked up to a level that is dangerous to both hatchery trout and people trying to fish for them. It has delayed our first few stockings. So we are now

playing a waiting game, hoping for the rains to end, the lake level to recede, and the trout trucks to arrive. We appreciate your patience in waiting with us until it is safe for both trout and trout fishers.

Having time away from the river, we can turn our attention to other important activities. Our efforts continue to form and energize a set of committees to carry out the work of the chapter. We hope soon to identify committee chairs, develop agendas and priorities, and hold initial committee meetings. Please visit our chapter website at [www.grtu.org](http://www.grtu.org), find the tab for Volunteer, and choose a chapter

**(Continued on page 6)**





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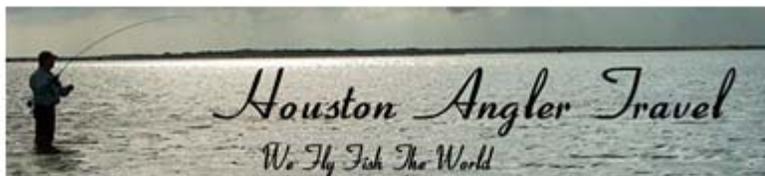
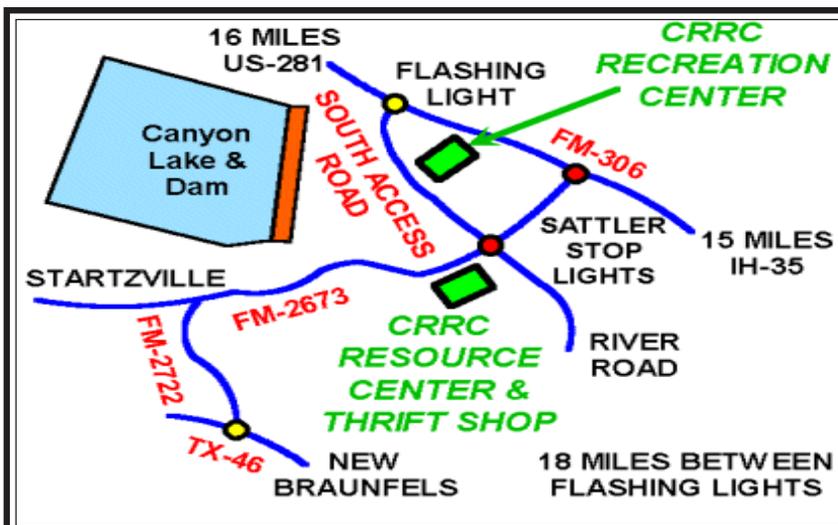
## Directions to the CRRC Recreation Center below Canyon Dam

>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).



**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

**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 Lodge** is 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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committee to become involved in. We value your assistance and think you will get more out of your chapter membership if you choose to participate.

We have had one early season activity cancelled and another started. This year, New Braunfels has decided not to hold its annual Trout Fest at Landa Park. In the past, a dedicated cadre of chapter members turned out in late January or early February to teach kids how to fly fish. It was a unique opportunity to spread the good news of fly fishing while freezing to the bone. In its place, we are pleased to announce that Casting For Recovery (CFR) will hold its first Texas retreat for breast cancer survivors in April at Joshua Creek Ranch, near Boerne. Several of the women of our chapter have volunteered as instructors and some of us codgers have applied to be "river helpers" for the retreat. Please look for the article on CFR elsewhere in the newsletter for more information about becoming involved in this worthwhile venture.

Our conservation efforts continue as well. Thanks to the generosity of our chapter members, we have the funds in hand to purchase, install, and maintain a water temperature and quality monitor near Little Ponderosa. We have also heard from both Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD) Board that they are interested in helping us fund this project. We'll keep you posted on our progress and on the other projects that may evolve from the Guadalupe Now conservation emphasis.

I trust that by the time you receive this letter, you have had a warm and blessed holiday season and are prepared for an exciting and enjoyable new year. I wish you and your families the best and hope with you for a clean river full of healthy trout that can't wait to gobble our flies.

## Flow Committee Report

by David Schroeder

Will it ever stop raining? That must be the question on everyone's minds as they wait for an opportunity to chase the elusive trout on the Guadalupe. 2004 will probably go down as one of the wettest ever. Over 52 inches of rain in Austin by the end of November- 20 inches above normal! And I am sure the Guadalupe watershed in the Hill Country has had similar. November was the wettest month on record and Canyon Lake reached a maximum of 18.5 feet into the flood pool on November 30<sup>th</sup>- the most water in the lake since the great flood of 2002.

Will the trout fishing season be a washout? I am optimistic that we're going to get a crack at the elusive trout. December and January are generally drier than normal months, and hey, the rains have got to stop sometime. Now seems like a good



### Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Officers, Directors, Et Al 2004-2005



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 713-667-1643  
 210-347-4732  
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time to me. And the good news is that high water in the Fall is just a nuisance that prevents us from fishing. The lake will continue to get colder as the winter progresses. And the weather forecaster is predicting a colder than normal winter. Bring it on! The colder the lake is, the greater the power to keep the river temperatures trout-cold during the summer. If this kind of flood happened in May, it could have been a trout killer, just as last summer's floods were. If Mother Nature can refrain from dumping any more water, the lake should recede at 6 inches to a foot a day. Hopefully, the lake will reach normal by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in December.

The good news in all of this is that our flow agreement for another summer of trout protective flows will surely be triggered on January 1<sup>st</sup>. With a normal weather pattern next summer, our trout will be protected. More leases are open later so the fishing opportunities will extend beyond what we consider our normal season, and hopefully all summer long. It is not unusual to have weeks and even months of high-water during the year. 2004 started out with a lot of fishing opportunities until April when it turned into a hard luck year. Let us hope that 2005 is much better. I am optimistic that by the time you read this you will have already had some successful fishing trips. Good luck!



### **GRTU Member Trey Webb Catches State Record Channel Catfish on a Fly Rod**

“Hunter Ford and I were catching the carp around the marinas and this giant ate my fly. It was caught 6-1-04 on Lake Travis. It was certified and weighed 16.12 lbs and measured 30.5 inches. The old record was 11.25 lbs. It was a freaky 30 minute battle. The fish was caught on an egg pattern with a 6 weight Sage SP. The fish was released after it was certified. What a crazy bite...”



## Lease Access Classes 2004-2005

**Gruene Outfitters – Gruene, TX**

Presenter: Hylmar Karbach  
330-606-0737

Dates: Jan. 12, Feb 9, March 9  
All programs start at 6pm.

**Sportsman's Finest – Austin, TX**

Presenter: Steve Stilp  
512-784-6013

Dates: Jan. 8  
All programs start at 10am.

**Tackle Box – San Antonio, TX**

Presenter: Scott Thompson  
210-342-5131

Dates: Jan. 19, Feb. 16  
All programs start at 6pm.

**Orvis – Houston, TX**

Presenter: Ray Lindeen  
713-621-6486

Dates: 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-  
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## GRTU Supports Casting for Recovery

By Susan Gaetz

Casting for Recovery (CFR) is a non-profit organization that provides weekend fly-fishing retreats free of charge to women who have experienced breast cancer. Since 1996, CFR has held 125 retreats, with more than 1,600 women, throughout the country. The first Texas retreat will be held April 15-17, 2005 at Joshua Creek Ranch near Boerne in the Texas hill country.

As the planning coordinator for the Texas retreat, I am very excited to bring this program to Texas. We will select 14 women at random. Any woman residing in Texas may apply and applicants can be any age and in any stage of their breast cancer treatment and recovery.

The idea is to bring women together who have gone through a similar medical journey. Our retreats incorporate the elements of fly-fishing because it is a sport that any woman can learn at any age. Also, the casting motion of fly-fishing is similar to the exercises that surgeons recommend for woman after surgery. Casting provides mild stretching exercise for the joints and soft tissue of the arm and shoulder, helping to reduce swelling or lymphedema.

We focus on wellness, learning and empowerment. It's a wonderful opportunity for women to learn a new sport, make new friends, and relax and experience the beauty of the great outdoors.

As a new GRTU member, I appreciate the chapter allowing me to present the program at the October meeting. I want to thank the Board for sponsoring a survivor for the retreat, as well as other members

who have offered to volunteer at the retreat. Your support is greatly appreciated.

For more information, to apply for the Texas retreat, or to make a donation, please contact me at 512/448-7714 (Austin) or [susan@susangaetz.com](mailto:susan@susangaetz.com). To learn more about CFR, please visit: [www.castingforrecovery.org](http://www.castingforrecovery.org)

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## What's In Your Flybox? Texas Gulf Coast/ Laguna Madre Early Season

**Carl Bohn, Board Member:**

My favorites are:

- Small spoon-fly, gold or copper with weed-guard, #2 or 4
- Butt-ugly, jointed fly invented by Herb Mossman at Rodmakers, #4 or 6 (it is ugly, but works great)
- Green/tan slider, #4
- Green or red/white gurgling popper, #4or 6

**Scott Graham, Former Chapter Officer, guide,**  
[www.flyfishingtexas.com](http://www.flyfishingtexas.com):

When fishing late winter/ early spring in the Coastal Bend, I'm usually dealing with a lower than normal tide, I'll be throwing unweighted or very lightly weighted flies for redfish on the flats.

- Seaducer, tied in a shrimp pink or salmon color. Although the fish are a little sluggish due to the cooler water temps, they will aggressively hit brighter colors, I like the pink color ranges as this time of year is also going

to be your best shot at a trophy speckled trout on the flats....and they love pink.

- “PLT” (“Pretty Lil’ Thang”): Ice Chenille body, collared hackle, and synthetic (slinky fibre) tail matching body color/ with a little angel hair for flash, shrimp/ salmon pink.
- Eel patterns. Through winter, I will be focusing on white sand and pot holes as the main diet will be sand eels until the shrimp migrate back into the flats and the crabs get active. Eel patterns will work very well this time of year as well, but tend to be a little tough to cast.
- I will also have a good selection of heavier weighted flies like Clousers or heavy bonefish flies for working under the birds for trout. Again, my color pick will be pink, or pink over white, followed by chartreuse over white.
- As the water warms up and I start seeing more fish over grass, I will be throwing soft body poppers in yellow or pink. In the winter I may down size as small

as a #6, but generally I’m tying on size #4 or #2 hooks.

**Jon King, Lease Member, Outings Chairman, Alamo Fly Fishers:**

- Copper Dupre Spoon with a small swivel between leader and bite tippet. Redfish will literally attack this fly.
- Red over white Clouser tied with Craft Fur, Size 2, pearl medium eyes, 2.5” long. Good in murky water for redfish and flounder. Bumps the bottom.
- Red/white or Red/Yellow Clouser of bucktail with black bead chain eyes, about 2” long.
- Seaducer, tied weedless, size 2, red/white or red/yellow, about 3” long. For shallow water over grass.
- Cypert pencil popper in gold foil finish. Great for speckled trout in clear or murky water.
- Kwan Crab Fly, size 2 or 4, made from Aunt Lydia’s Rug Yarn, color natural (0905). About the size of a nickel with black nylon eyes. Makes very little noise when it enters the

water; the fly of choice for tailing redfish.

**Ray Box, Gruene Outfitters and Arroyo Lodge, [www.grueneoutfitters.com](http://www.grueneoutfitters.com):**

I will start fishing regularly again in Mid February. Depending on the weather and tides, I will look for big trout and reds on gradual sloping flats near the InterCoastal Waterway. As it warms up, I will move in behind the dumps and also fish the trenches in the back bays.

For the trout:

- Bend-back deceiver, peacock/ black over white, size 2
- Extra long pencil poppers, black, bronze, or red, size 4
- Long seaducers, white or olive/ grizzly, size 4

For early redfish: I will start with baitfish patterns. As it warms a bit I will add shrimp to the mix.

- Deer hair slider, olive or gold, size 4
- Sparsely tied clouser, baby blue or grey over white, size 4

## 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

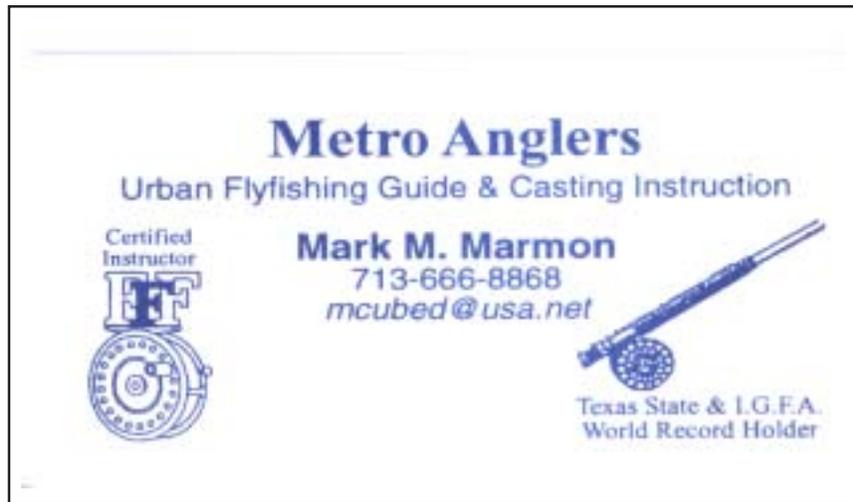
- Bendback similar to a snapping shrimp bonefish fly, tan, natural or light pink, size 6

**Ron McAlpin, VP, Chapter Affairs, Gonzo Flyfisher:**

- High-tie, chartreuse or pink, size 2 - 2/0, for speckled trout and mackerel.
- Chenille-bodied whistlers, chartreuse or pink, size 6 x-long, for specs and flounder.
- Cockroach tied with marabou hackle, in mixes of white, red, olive and blue, size 6 x-long, for specs and redfish.
- Ally's Shrimp tied with pheasant rump soft hackle, size 6, for specs, reds and sheepshead.
- Mylar/epoxy spoon size 2, for reds.
- Red popper, size 8, for reds.

**Eric Glass, Guide, South Padre Island, [www.captainericglass.com](http://www.captainericglass.com)**

- Merkin-style Crab, pale cream, #6 hook, NO LEGS. My guests caught around 1,840-something redfish this past season (my one year record, by far!), vast majority on this fly
- Shrimp, tan tail, rootbeer cactus chenille body, webby cree hackle palmered over chenille, eyes in front of different sizes for different sink rates, #6
- Clouser, chartreuse/white, tan/white, all white, #4 or #6. An excellent shrimp imitation, variety of weights ranging from small bead chain to small lead.
- Baitfish – Owner semi-circle hook, 2/0 or 3/0, soft white bucktail w/ pearl crystal flash mixed in, over which is a tan



(natural) bunny strip, silver flashabou on flanks. Collar palmered tan rabbit. Veil entire fly w/ pearl flashabou dubbing, top, bottom, and sides, extra large bead chain eyes, chartreuse head. This was our best tarpon fly this season, also has caught lots of snook; lots of jack crevalle, mangrove snappers up to 5#, king mackerel, etc.

- Small Poppers- Not the best all-around redfish fly, with one exception: sometimes they work better than anything else for tailing fish on very shallow, very grassy flats when they really have their heads buried in the vegetation.
- Parachute Royal Coachman - The best mullet fly ever invented! They don't catch mullet, but neither does anything else, and, by golly, you may as well look good.

## Grumpy's Column

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

A Flyfisher's Library – Because this is such a wonderful sport, there are hundreds of books in print these days telling you every contradictory piece of information, skill, where to go, how to get there, and what sort of cockamamie gadget you ought to have. In order to clear away all the nonsense, I've decided to give you an authoritative list of the classic books your shelves ought to contain. If you buy and read these books, you'll become the same kind of fisherman I am – guaranteed.

1. *Lee Wulff's Secret Fishing Spots* by Joan Wulff. Not many people know that Lee used to talk in his sleep.
2. *How to Earn a Million by Fishing* by Wade Crook. Wade takes on the most baffling thing in the world – fish.
3. *The Wind Knot and How to Tie It* by Righty Relch. I have seen him tie three wind knots at once, one on his back cast, one on his double haul, and one on his forward cast. It was truly amazing.

4. *A River Runs Through My Waders* by F. Rigid Neese
5. *I Wrote a Book on Fishing Before Any Man Did, So There* by Dame Juliana Berners
6. *Corrections to the First Book on Fishing* by Sir James Berners - So there.
7. *How Boiling Pepto Bismol Will Cure Acid Rain* by I. Gotta Reflux
8. *Entomology for Dummies: Brown Bugs, Green Bugs, and Black Bugs* by Barry Gorger. No one knows bugs and dummies like this biology student from The Ohio State University.
9. *10 Reasons Why Fly Fishing is Better Than a Root Canal* by Dennis Tree - There will be several sequels.
10. *Why Don't Trout Bite Like Mosquitoes Do?* by Ben Scratching
11. *The Perfect Fly for All Occasions – How to Tie a Parachute Clouser Wooly Bugger Tinsel Scud* by I.M.N. Trubble. This one is for experts only.
12. *How to Fish in Any State Named After an Indian Tribe* by G. Ron Imo (With a supplement on casinos)
13. *The Best Curse Words for Every Fishing Calamity* by Helen Dumas. Also is helpful for household repairs.
14. *If You Think the Last Cast Was Bad, Wait Till You See This Next One* by Don Knotts
15. *How to Turn a Small Fish Into a Large One* by Stretch M. Awle
16. *When It Rains, Fish Think You Are One of Them* by Ranier Bottoms
17. *How to Cook Carp so It Tastes Like Walleye* by Lotty Salton, Dinah Shore Lunch and Vince Marinaro Soss.
18. *How to Remove Hooks from Ears* by Barb Downs. It also comes in a laminated streamside edition.
19. *Trout Are Like Teen-agers* by I.M. Contrary and Lee Vemalone.
20. *Fish Can Read Brand Names* by Owen D. Best and Hy Cost.

## The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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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 2004-2005 season. Please note: This list is only current as of press time; we apologize to members added after that date.

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