



Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Newsletter



No. 89 January 2009

Publication Data on Pg. 16

GRTU Meeting

Saturday, January 24th
Canyon Lake CRR
Sattler, TX

Directions on pages 4-5

9 AM - Lease Access
Orientation & Social Hour
10 AM - Business Mtg
11 AM - "Guidance from the
Guides" with Banning
Collins, Alvin Dedeaux, &
Kevin Stubbs
12 - Raffle & Lunch
12:30 PM - Lease Access
Orientation

TU TV Comes to the Guadalupe

Despite blustery winds and near freezing temperatures, intrepid chapter leaders Ron McAlpin and Jimbo Roberts fished their way into fame and fortune last month as they hosted Frank Smethurst and the Trout Unlimited "On the Rise" film crew during the taping of an episode of Trout Unlimited's TV program. Well, maybe not fame and fortune, but they at least got rave reviews from Frank and the film crew and our beloved Guadalupe River trout

fishery did itself proud during the filming.

"On the Rise," currently in its second year of production, is Trout Unlimited's latest entry into television. The program, shown nationally on the Outdoor Channel, is a production of Barrett Productions, the company that brought you the Fly Fishing Masters, Fly Fish America, and other similar programs.

What's Inside

TU TV on the Guad	1
January Speakers	3
Raffle Prizes	4
Directions to Meeting	4
CRR Location Map	5
President's Message	6
Fisheries Report	6
Entomology Workshop	7
Summer Flows Report	9
Membership Report	11
Honorary Life Members	11
National Recognition	12
Winter Troutfest	12
Be Careful Wading	13
Troutfest Schedule	13
Board & Officers	14
April Meeting Speaker	14
Century Club Members	15
Publication Data	16



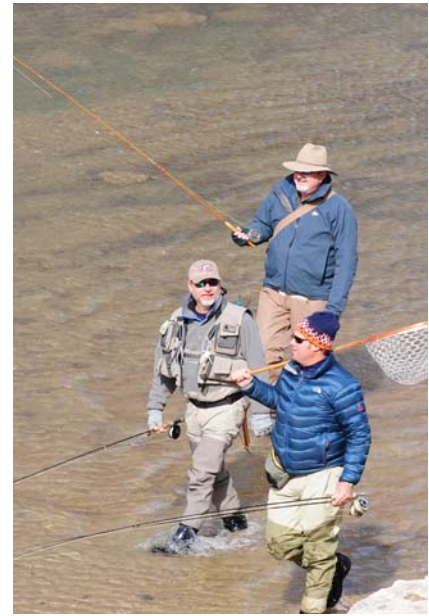
GRTU Directors Ron McAlpin and Jimbo Roberts flank Trout Unlimited TV host Frank Smethurst in front of the famous TU Airstream trailer following two successful days of fishing and filming an episode of "On the Rise."

Last year was the first in this new format, which is part fishing show, part conservation show, and part travelogue. The fifteen episodes traced Frank's travels around the country in his Ford pickup, pulling a TU-and-trout-logoed Airstream trailer, seeking out good trout fishing in fisheries where local Trout Unlimited chapters had played a role in their success.

Frank and his three crew members, Jake Hanson, Matt Young, and Dan Foy, spent three days on and around the Guadalupe, filming fishing, trout stocking, location shots of Canyon Dam, the lake, and the river, and what they called "transition pieces" that helped to tell the story. While fishing, Frank also conducted interviews with Ron and Jimbo, asking about the lease access program, the minimum flows agreement, and other topics. TPWD Fisheries Biologist Steve Magnelia and Texas NLC Rep Mick McCorcle were also interviewed.

The gist of the "story" they were trying to tell revolved around the hard work and cooperation of GRTU and TPWD that helped produce a wonderful trout fishery in a very unlikely place. The fishing sequences, which they called "the best fishing we've had this year," provided visible evidence of the success of the lease

program and minimum flow agreement, two of our chapters' greatest achievements. The fishing was so good, in fact, that Frank started calling the trout "South Texas Steelhead." Even the film crew got a chance to put down their cameras, pick up fly rods, and all catch fish. For one of them, it was his first fly-caught trout, and he was giddy with excitement.



Last year, "On the Rise" aired fifteen episodes between early April and early August, and a similar broadcast schedule is expected for this coming year. The crew said that DVDs of the episode will be available after it has aired on TV. Our chapter will check with Barrett Productions about obtaining multiple copies of the DVD for resale to our chapter members.



January 24th GRTU Chapter Meeting Focuses on Fishing for Trout on the Guadalupe

by
Andy Niland
VP of Chapter Affairs

The first trout stocking of this Guadalupe winter season occurred a few weeks ago and I have heard of some great fishing already. The river flow continues to be much below average, but the fish are definitely above average. Stories of three and four pound trout and four and five fish days are aplenty. Are you new to the Guadalupe trout fishery? Would you like to learn more about how to catch this beautiful, hard-fighting trout? Then we have a chapter meeting designed just for you. We are back at Canyon Lake's Community Resource Recreation Center on the South Access Road in Sattler for our January meeting, which begins at 10 AM. (See page one of the newsletter for the day's schedule and page four for directions to the CRRC.) Featured with what I am confident will be a great presentation are three of the most experienced guides on the Guadalupe River. Kevin Stubbs, Alvin Dedeaux, and Banning Collins will be sharing the stage and sharing their knowledge of the Guadalupe, with a presentation entitled: "Guidance from the Guides: Advice on Catching Trout in the Guadalupe by the Guides who Fish It."



A native Texan growing up in Houston, Alvin Dedeaux was fly fishing by the age of twelve, teaching himself how to cast and tie flies. When Alvin moved to

Austin in 1982 to attend UT, his first stop in town was the Austin Angler. He spent the mid '80s through the early '90s traveling the country singing in a band. He says that all of his off time was spent either fishing or hanging out at the Angler.

Alvin started fishing the Guadalupe as well as the San Marcos and the Llano during the mid '80s. Sometime in 1991 or 1992 Alvin got out of the music business



Guadalupe River guides Banning Collins, Alvin Dedeaux, and Kevin Stubbs headline our January 24th chapter meeting at the Canyon Lake CRRC in Sattler.

and became the manager of the Austin Angler. Shortly after starting at the Angler, he started guiding. Alvin guided throughout the Texas Hill Country and hosted trips to Belize and Chile. Some years later, the Angler closed and he decided to guide full time. Alvin has split his time between Austin and Vail for last five years: an endless summer of fly fishing.



Banning Collins is a native Coloradoan, but started his fly fishing career working at the Austin Angler in Austin, Texas during his schooling. He quickly took to all aspects of the sport and took every fishing opportunity. He has chased

Bonefish, Tarpon, Permit, and Snook throughout Florida; the famous Redfish to Bass around Texas; and Rocky Mountain trout from Northern New Mexico to southern British Columbia.

Banning's guiding career started on his home waters around Vail, Colorado including the Roaring Fork, Eagle, and Colorado rivers, targeting large browns on dries and streamers. He has now found the tributaries of the Flathead River around Glacier National Park to be fast, challenging, and full of Cutthroats in the summer. Banning returned to Texas a few years ago, becoming a manufacturer's representative for many top brands while continuing guiding the Hill Country waters.

Banning touts boating and fishing big water as his favorites: Hell's Canyon on the Snake, the Grand

Canyon on the Colorado, Roaring Fork, and Middle and South Fork of the Flathead. “Go big or go home!”



Kevin Stubb’s outdoor guiding experience goes back over 20 years, and he has worked in several outdoor fields. He ran guide boats in the Laguna Madre, Baffin Bay, and offshore of Port Aransas. He learned to guide fly fishing trips while working on a ranch that fronted the Roaring Fork River between Aspen and Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Kevin took a break from guiding and moved to Seattle a few years ago, where he was able to put his guiding experiences to use in the outdoor media and advertising business. He handled TV properties on ESPN 2, Outdoor Channel and OLN, including Orvis Sporting Lives, Fly Fish TV, Sportsman’s Travel Guide and others. After gaining experience with the outdoor media business, 3M Scientific Anglers hired him as a marketing guy. Kevin’s office handled the advertising and PR functions for the fly fishing brand.

Kevin left Scientific Anglers six years ago to escape the office and return to guiding. Today he is

currently working as a manufacturer’s rep for several fly fishing brands, and also guides in Montana, and the spring-fed rivers of Texas. The Texas Rivers he spends time on the most are: the upper and lower Guadalupe, San Marcos, Llano, Blanco, and the Devil’s River.



Jimbo Roberts nets a leaping trout for TU TV host Frank Smethurst

Raffle ... Raffle ... Raffle

Not one, not two, but three chances to win a great prize at the January meeting. You will have a chance to win a guided trip from each of our speakers. Three lucky ticket holders will have the opportunity to fish for a day with Kevin, Alvin, or Banning. Tickets are \$8 each or three for \$20.

Directions to the Canyon Lake CRRC Recreation Center

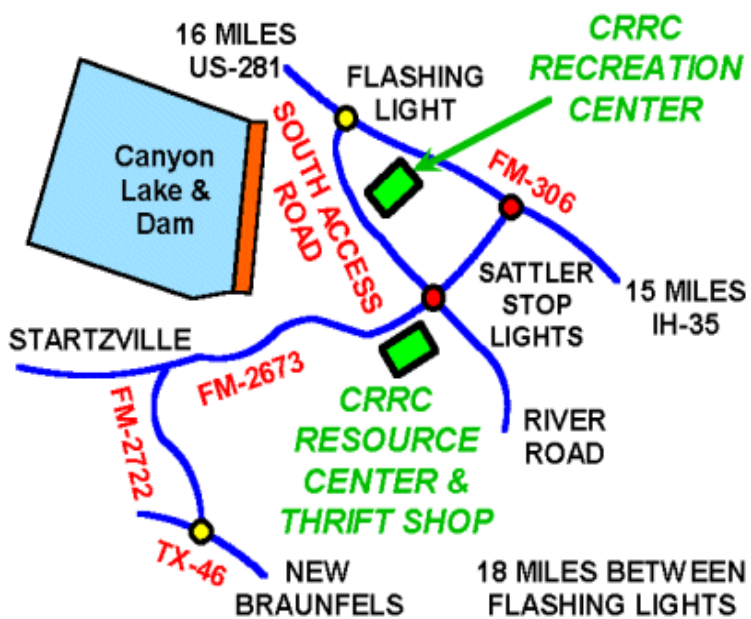
>From NORTH or SOUTH: Just North of New Braunfels on I-35 take Exit 191, (Canyon Lake Exit), which is FM 306 and go WEST, about 14 miles to Sattler (Canyon Lake area). Go past the traffic light at FM 2673 in Sattler for about 2 miles, (through Canyon City) and turn Left at the blinking caution light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

Map of GRTU Meeting Area



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President's message

I hope this message finds you and your families in good health. With the holiday season over and our lives back to their normal routines, we can now focus on the fishing season. We have a very exciting season ahead. By the time you receive this newsletter, we should have had one or more trout stockings. Unfortunately we still have not gotten sufficient rain in the watershed, so flows are very low. Please be thoughtful of other anglers on the river because the shallower water will limit the trout's ability to spread out in the river.

GRTU and the Guadalupe River have had an exciting fall. As you can see from the story on the front page of this newsletter, "On the Rise," the Trout Unlimited TV show, which has filmed rivers all over North America, decided to film an episode on the Guadalupe River. The episode will feature our efforts on obtaining minimum flows, our efforts on conservation as well as fishing on the southernmost trout fishery in the country. Several members of the chapter as well as Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist Steve Magnelia will be featured in the episode. I am not sure when this filming will be aired, so stay tuned to TU TV.

Once again this year we are going to hold TroutFest at Rio Raft RV Park. The event will held on the weekend of February 20, 21, and 22. The 2009 Troutfest event is going to be a great event. If you are planning on attending, you should make plans early. Cabins at Rio fill up quickly. The schedule this year will include a Friday night

mixer. Bring something to share. We will have silent auctions items available. We will have fly tying exhibits throughout the weekend, fly casting instruction, and "on water" clinics. We are looking to expand the kids' events with a fun bug class and some fishing-related craft activities. Check the website for an updated event schedule.

We have a great meeting scheduled for January. This meeting we are trying a different format for our featured speaker. We are going to have a panel of local guides to talk specifics about fishing and the Guadalupe river system. We will also have Steve Magnelia talk about the trout telemetry study. In October the board voted to conduct a study in conjunction with Texas Parks and wildlife. In laymen's terms, GRTU is purchasing transmitters which will be surgically implanted in a sample set of trout. The fish will be released into the river. At regular intervals, the fish will be tracked electronically. Movement patterns will help us understand the where the trout go after stocking, and throughout the season.

I know this sound 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 water,
Greg Neubauer



Ron McAlpin lands a nice trout for the cameras during the TU TV taping in mid December

Fisheries Report

By the time you read this, we will have begun stocking for our 2008-2009 trout season on GRTU lease sites. This is stacking up to be another great year for the fishery. The flows are low but perfect for wading, we have 15 great leases, and plenty of big fish in the river.

We have released several big trout to give anglers a shot at a real trophy in the trophy zone. These fish were stocked in December. Part of the fun of fishing for a trophy is the hunt, so you will have to figure out where they are.

The trout are really doing well as a result of the minimum flow agreement our chapter negotiated with the local water authority several years ago. With infusion of cool

water from May through September, reaching a high of 250 cubic feet per second in August, the temperature through most of the Special Regulations zone kept the temperature average less than 70 degrees during our hottest months of the summer

We are seeing large hatches of caddis, PMDs (pale morning duns) and BWOs (blue winged olives). The vegetation is also making a good comeback throughout the river.

We will be continuing with the river cleanup projects this year so we will be looking for volunteers in the near future to help with river cleanup.

I would like to thank all the people who participated in the stocking. We could not do it without you.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You
!!!!!!!

See you on the river.

Bill Higdon
VP of Fisheries



Students from Rob Woodruff's entomology class examine Guadalupe insects with the help of a seine. (Shannon Drawe photo)

Woodruff Holds Entomology Course on Guadalupe River Insects

by
Gary Burns

On November 1st and 2nd, over thirty eager students, most from GRTU, showed up at Jellystone Park in Sattler to get smarter about bugs. They learned the entomology of insects relevant to fly fishing, including those on the Guadalupe River, from Rob Woodruff of Woodruff Guide Service (WGSFlyfish@aol.com, 903-967-2665).

Rob holds a B.S. degree in Entomology from Texas A&M and is an Orvis-endorsed guide, working mostly on east Texas lakes, as well as Oklahoma's Mountain Fork River. The event was arranged by GRTU board members to provide more education on how to fish the Guad, which is the strongest and most consistent request from GRTU members.

Rob's class covered crustaceans, aquatic insects, and terrestrials. Fly selection, fly tying, and techniques for

fishing the Guadalupe were also discussed.

The content and presentation of the course were well received by GRTU members, as indicated by Larry Hill's comments: "Rob really knew his stuff, and presented it well - geared to fly fishing. The course went the full circle from learning about insects to actually collecting them on the river. Some of the samples were surprising. His discussion of fly selection and fishing techniques was very helpful." Similarly, Chris White noted: "I found the course to be very thorough and beneficial to identify the species and prevalence of insects found at different sites along the Guadalupe. I feel better equipped to make an informed decision on fly selection in slow waters vs. fast waters, cooler water temps and warmer water temps along the river. I also have retired my infamous Water Strider fly after learning the actual insect can repel fish from an area if present." A former attendee of Rob's Entomology Course, David Cole, said: "I took Rob's Bug Class on the Lower Mountain Fork. I still refer to the booklets he passed out in the course and have even seined for bugs a couple of times; and will probably try it on the Guadalupe this season. It was money well spent and time well invested."

On the first day, which was held in a classroom, Rob covered a broad range of information on insects and crustaceans important to North American fly fishing. He noted, for example, that in order to effectively tie and present artificial flies, it is important to have a basic understanding of the metamorphic life stages of aquatic insects. Depending on insect order, aquatic insects undergo either incomplete (egg, nymph, adult) or complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). In incomplete metamorphosis, the wings develop externally and the immature form looks much like the winged, sexually mature adult (the exception is the mayfly, which first transforms into a winged, sexually immature adult, called a dun, and shortly thereafter transforms into a sexually mature adult called a spinner.) In

complete metamorphosis, the wings develop internally and the immature form looks very different than the adult insect. Guidelines for presentation of flies according to metamorphic stage were reviewed (e.g., on the bottom, emerging in the water column, in the film, etc.) Flies were identified which are well suited to being fished below fast water as a dead drift nymph, as if swept off of upstream rocks.

A highlight for many was the second day of the course, in which insect samples were collected and evaluated at three points along the Guadalupe River, from the dam to the Second Crossing. Insects in riffles and deeper holes were different in species, color, size, etc. As expected, the number of species and average size of insects increased downstream.

Although some insect orders hatch all year round, while others hatch at fairly predictable times based on photoperiod, flooding, etc. (e.g., Mother's Day Caddis, etc.), it was noted that the Guad has a reputation as a "98 % nymphing river" with infrequent dry fly action. According to Rob Woodruff, stocked trout don't begin to recognize insects on the surface as a food source for six or more months after stocking. As more trout "carry over" to the next season, dry fly activity on the Guad may increase. Species found in the class' samplings include midges, crayfish, scuds, hellgrammites and several species of mayflies and caddis. The samplings showed the following frequency by species, color, and size for each location on the Guad: NO WAY! You'll have to take the course next year to find out.



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The Flow Agreement - Succeeding Beyond Expectations

by
David Schroeder
Flows Chairman

In 2008, the GRTU/GBRA Flow Agreement rules! On January 1, the Flow Agreement was triggered, not because of any rainfall in 2008, but from the stored water trapped in the great subterranean reservoir in the upper watershed from the extremely wet 2007. This reservoir fed springs flowing into the Guadalupe and Canyon Lake. As the weather became drier and drier, and the drought became more and more severe, the upper river ebbed to a trickle, enabling the declaration of a "FERC Drought." Ordinarily, this would have severely curtailed the 90 cubic foot per second (cfs) FERC-mandated environmental flows from the dam, and we would have lost most of our trout. But this year the Flow Agreement saved the trout fishery from that devastation.

The USGS Spring Branch Gauge, which measures inflow into Canyon Lake, showed that this year was the 29th driest out of 86 years of record; while 2007 was the 5th wettest year. The average annual flow was 183 cfs, mainly because the "Water Year" begins October 1, 2007 and ends September 30, 2008. The subterranean reservoir was still contributing heavy flows into the upper river in the fall and winter. In the scheme of things, 2008 is probably a 'normal' flow year in spite of a severe drought because it ranked only at the 34th percentile of flows measured at

Spring Branch; very dry but not in the bottom 25% of dry years.

How well did the Flow Agreement perform in protecting the trout? To know the result, two other questions need to be answered: 1). Was there fishing success during the period? 2). Was the water temperature low enough to enable trout to survive? Reports of angler success kept coming in all summer and fall all the way down to the 2nd Crossing. The trout seem to be in great condition. So, a YES to question #1. But there may be those who are not too impressed with fishing reports as a means to evaluating the success of the trout fishery. Well, let's have the objective data, based on scientific study, answer question #2.

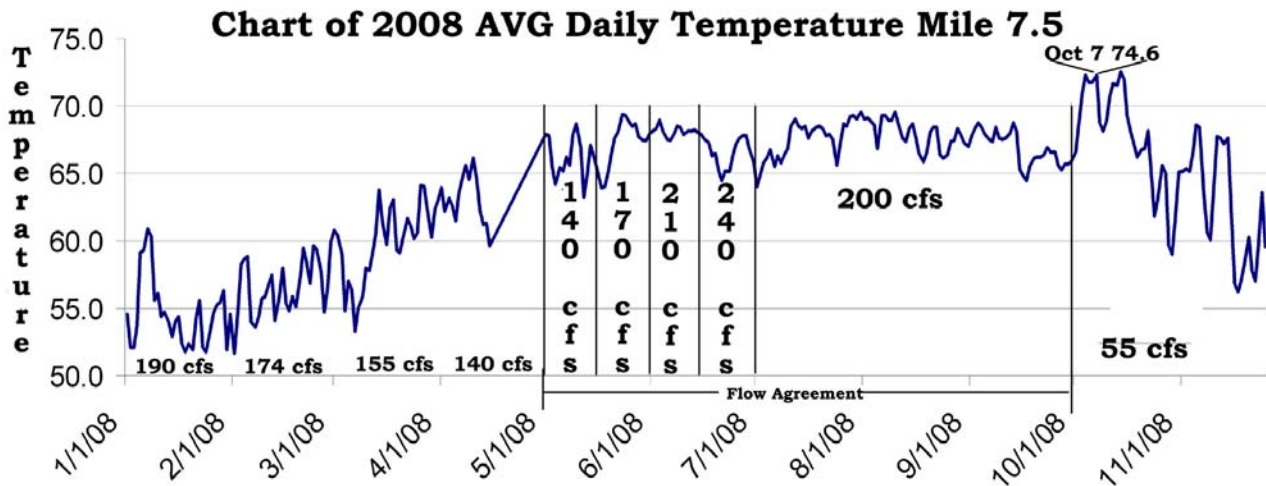
GRTU's water temperature monitoring station is situated on mile 7.5 below Canyon Dam. It measures water temperature twice an hour, 365 days a year. You can see the "real time" results of those measurements by checking the "Flows" page of our chapter website at www.grtu.org. We took these water temperature data and fed them into a computer program that is derived from a scientific study by the DNRs of Michigan and Wisconsin.

The Michigan/Wisconsin study determined the tolerance of trout to warm water temperature, using field based observations over a long period of time and across many streams. I presented the details of this study in the January 2007 GRTU Newsletter. But to summarize: thermal tolerances for trout are determined on a 'moving

daily average of water temperature'. Trout will tolerate high water temperatures for short periods of time, but the tolerance decreases as the length of time increases. The study derived a performance curve for tolerances to elevated average and maximum water temperatures over the short, intermediate and long term. So, in essence, they determined how warm a river trout can tolerate, and for how long.

Mother Nature did not help us in 2008. Rainfall and cloudy days were much less than normal, and June was the hottest on record. The river stays cooler if there are clouds to block the solar radiation off the water. There were no additional flows from flood releases to augment the Flow Agreement. On the plus side, all the cold, winter-chilled water remained in Canyon Lake and was not lost to heavy flood control releases as happened in 2007. The stage was now set to see how well the Flow Agreement would work at protecting the trout in a drought.

First, we built a graph of daily average water temperature at the GRTU Monitor for 2008. You can see where the Flow Agreement starts and stops and the flow rates during the period. You'll notice the natural warming of the river in the Spring, and the cooling in the Fall. The water temperature hit the highest levels for the entire year in the first two weeks of October after the Flow Agreement ended. This was the most critical period for the trout fishery as flows were curtailed to only 55 cfs on October 1 as



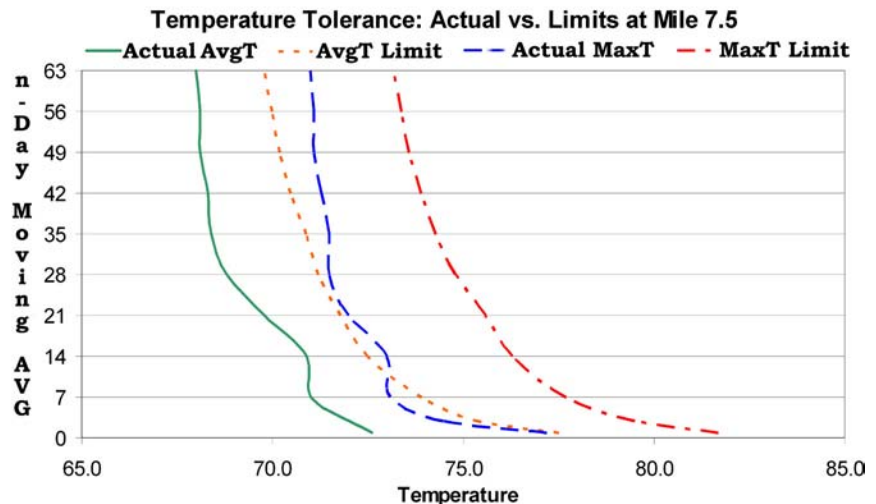
allowed by the FERC drought declaration. Could our trout survive beyond the period of protective flows?

Below, is a graph of the Trout Temperature Tolerance at Mile 7.5. According to the water temperature tolerances derived by the Michigan/Wisconsin study, we would expect at least a 95% probability of survival for water temperatures that don't exceed the average and maximum temperature limits. As you can see, the maximum temperature and the average temperature for the entire time were well within the limits set by the temperature study. It turns out that the most challenging temperature environment came in the first two weeks of October. The single day maximum, the 3-day maximum, the 7-day maximum, the 14-day maximum and the 21-day maximum were all measured in October, and they were well below the critical limit as set forth by the study. The longer term 56-day and 63-day moving average water temperature

were reached in early September. Already the shorter days and reduced heating were allowing the river to cool naturally. After the vernal equinox, solar radiation heating is minimal so there wasn't much warming of the water, even with low flows. The atmosphere acts like a blanket to prevent nighttime loss of heat in those warm October days. I had always wondered if the trout could survive a year like we've had this year after the flow agreement ended. So back to the original question: Was water

temperature low enough to enable trout to survive? The answer is YES!

In the next GRTU Newsletter, I will represent the TPWD water temperature data as part of the computer model. TPWD collects temperature data from 5 different stations- from the dam down to the 3rd crossing. This will give a complete profile of the Guadalupe and its capacity for a trout fishery.



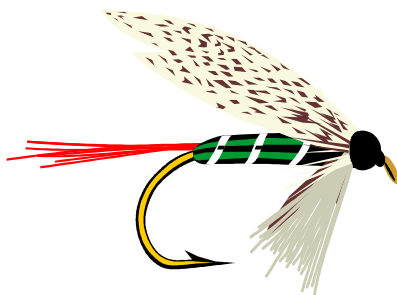
Membership Report

by
Steve Stilp
 VP of Membership

Our GRTU 2008-2009 **Lease Access Program** provides many access points on the river and is effective November 1st 2008 through October 31, 2009. Several of these access points are annual, meaning you have fishing access to the river year round.

Members can sign up their children (ages 10-17) at no additional cost. What a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your children (or grandchildren) on the river.

We have already stocked the river and will continue to do so several more times over the year. As a **Lease Access Member** you will be notified via e-mail when the stockings take place. Additionally,



you will have access to our private online **“Forum”** on the chapter’s website where you can ask questions and get answers.

Go to our web site: www.grtu.org and click on “Membership.” Our site is active for membership sign up and accepts credit cards. You should also renew your National TU Membership on our www.grtu.org website when you sign up for the lease access program. If you have questions click on “Contacts” and e-mail or call your Area Membership Representative.

Remember, when you join our Lease Access Program, you get:

- Our mission: Conserve, Protect, Reconnect and Restore coldwater fisheries
- 3 General Meetings per year
- Hands on trout stocking
- River conservation projects
- Community education programs that include women and children
- Work with local and state governments on environmental and conservation issues

If I can be of help please contact me: Steve.Stilp@grtu.org. We are looking forward to seeing you on the river.

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

GRTU Gains National Recognition for Stream Conservation Efforts

Our chapters' efforts on behalf of our river and other coldwater fisheries have received mention at both the national meeting of Trout Unlimited and in a new TU-sponsored book.

Three years ago, we established the Coldwater Outreach Conservation Fund (COCF) to assist other TU chapters through grants for stream restoration. We have helped sponsor three projects – Trout Run Creek in southeast Minnesota (Chippewa Chapter), the South Platte River through Camp Alexander in Colorado (Cheyenne Mountain Chapter), and Alamitos Creek in New Mexico (Truchas Chapter). Each of these successful projects has led to these chapters winning either the Gold Trout or Silver Trout Award, the highest award given by TU for chapter accomplishments. When these chapters accepted their awards, they each noted the vital role played by GRTU's COCF in completing their projects. In one case, a GRTU chapter representative was even called on stage to accept the award with that chapter. So the word is out that GRTU, in addition to having one of the best trout fisheries in the country, is also a champion of improving all coldwater fisheries, wherever they may be found.

To commemorate TU's 50th anniversary, a new book, *Rivers of Restoration: Trout Unlimited's First 50 Years of Conservation*, by John Ross, has just come off the press. This lavishly photographed and illustrated coffee-table-sized book devotes a chapter to each of 21 rivers or streams across the US that deserve special mention because of the efforts of Trout Unlimited's members to protect or restore them. The Guadalupe River and GRTU are featured in one of those chapters. The book, published by Skyhorse Publishing, is available thru TU or booksellers like Amazon.com.



Gary Cobb fortifies himself before doing battle with “The Beast,” a Texas-sized barbecue grill, at last year’s Winter Troutfest. Gary and Greg Neubauer will be there again this year, serving up some of their great breakfast tacos.

Second Annual GRTU Winter Troutfest Set for February 20-22

Following up on last year's rousing success, the GRTU Board has scheduled our chapter's second annual Winter Troutfest for February 20-22 at Rio Raft in Sattler. Like last year's event, it's a family-oriented weekend designed to give us all a chance to get to know each other better, share fishing time, and learn the skills needed to catch the beautiful rainbow trout we stock in the Guadalupe River.

What people seemed to like most, from last year's program, were the social events and the instructional activities, so we'll be repeating them in 2009. We'll have fly casting instruction from FFF certified casting instructors, on water clinics, and fly tying demonstrations. So if you're new to fly fishing or trout fishing or to the Guadalupe River, this is a great way to get started. Last year we found, for example, that many of the newcomers who attended the classes started catching more trout almost immediately thereafter.

We enjoyed having the chapter members bring their families last year, so we've revised our program to be even more family-oriented, so crusty curmudgeons beware! This year, we've added more “kid friendly” events, like a kids' bug class and kids' fishing-related craft events. You'll also find more than just fly tackle at our silent auctions and raffles.

A great side benefit of the first Winter Troutfest was that it raised nearly \$2000 for the chapter's conservation projects. So we hope to give you lots of opportunities to “invest” in GRTU, TU, and other gear, sold or raffled to benefit our chapter. If you have any new or next to new fly gear or art that you'd like to donate to the silent auctions or raffles, please let us know.

The headquarters for the Winter Troutfest will be the Rio Raft Conference Room at Fourth Crossing on the River Road in Sattler. Rio will offer discounted rooms for GRTU members who'd like to spend the night on Friday and Saturday, and there are a limited number of cabins, so get your reservations in early.



A pair of Guadalupe River trout prepare for spawning in an undisclosed location somewhere in the Special Regulations zone of the river. The female is the lighter trout on the left, the male the large, dark fish on the right.

Be Careful Where You Walk!!! by Ron McAlpin

The trout in the Guadalupe are spawning. I caught a wild-born trout in the river from last year's spawn the last weekend in November – before any winter stockings in the tailrace. It was 8” long, 3” tall, fat as the dickens, silvery bright, and with full wild finnage.

Trout spawn in nests called redds, shallow bowls of clean gravel, sculpted by the male trout. It will take six weeks

before live smolt swim out of the gravel beds, and our trout will still be spawning into January. So please, for the rest of this winter, watch where you walk. Look for redds. When walking up on a spot like this, take the dirtier path, and stay out of the clean gravel! Even after the trout have left their redds - all through this winter - please look for redds and try not to step in them.



Here the redd runs diagonally across the middle of the photo, showing a male and two females. If you encounter a redd, walk around it on the downstream (dirtier) side, even if no trout are there.

Winter Troutfest

Dates: February 20,
21, 22, 2009

Location: Rio Raft
Conference Room,
Sattler TX

Friday night:

Mixer, silent auctions, food,
registration

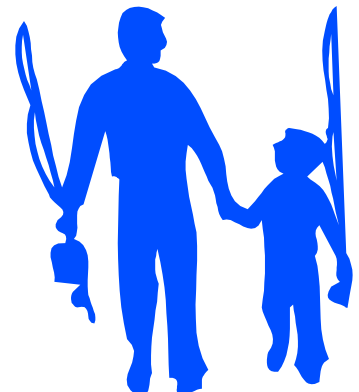
Saturday:

Breakfast tacos
Kids' bug class
Casting Instruction by FFF
Certified Casting instructors.
"On water" clinics.
Fly tying exhibits
Kids' fishing-related craft
events
BBQ Cookout, camp fire, and
silent auctions

Sunday:

Open day for fishing

Events are subject to change.





The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited 2008-2009



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GRTU Spring Meeting

April 25, 2009

Special Guest Speaker:

John "Duke" Welter

Chairman of Trout Unlimited's
National Leadership Council

"Organizing Conservation Projects
to Improve Trout Fisheries"

Stream Restoration Workshop to Follow

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

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GRTU Newsletter

Publication dates: January, April, and October to over 4,000 Trout Unlimited members in Texas.

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12 noon - 5PM Eastern Time