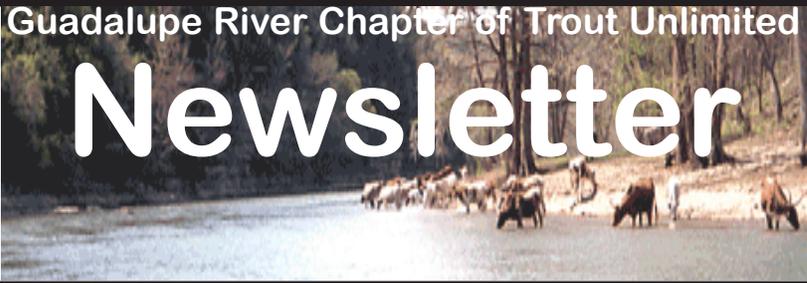




Trout Unlimited

Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Newsletter





GUADALUPE RIVER
TROUT UNLIMITED

No. 79 October 2005 Publication Data on Pg. 12

GRTU
General Meeting
Saturday, October 22

CRRC
Recreation Center
(Directions on page 3)

9 AM - Social Hour & Lease Access Orientation

10 AM - Business Meeting & Presentation

12 - Raffle & Lunch

12:30 - Lease Access Orientation

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Charlie Mulcock to Describe Southern New Mexico Trout Fishing and Conservation as Guest Speaker for October

By Scott Cash Thompson

Kicking off the new season, our October chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, October 22nd at the CRRC Recreation Center below Canyon Dam in Sattler. Our special guest speaker will be Charlie Mulcock, owner of the Mulcock Ranch and the Penasco Spring River Flyfishing Club. He will discuss the Mulcock Ranch and also the Penasco Spring River Flyfishing Club. This is an organization Charlie has started that encourages people to join so that the river will not be

over fished and ensures a quality cold water fishery year round.

Looking for a fly-fishing destination that combines precise spring creek presentations with deep-water streamer fishing? If so, look no further than southern New Mexico. That's right I said southern New Mexico. I know that sounds about as strange as trout fishing in south Texas, ala the "Guad", but it's true.

To meet Charley Mulcock, the owner of Mulcock Ranch, is like stumbling upon a long lost friend. I had the pleasure of meeting Charley



Bill Higdon, left, and David Schroeder, right, along with Mick McCorcle, addressed the TPWD Commissioners' annual meeting. See story on page 5.

last month while on a vacation to Ruidoso and had a great time visiting and fishing with him. Charley is a first class guy that runs a first class fishing club on his property. Having met him for the first time you would have thought we had known each other for years and his desire to have people enjoy the fishing on his property is uncanny. This working cattle ranch is located in Elk, NM (Yep...I had to look it up too!). It is about halfway between Cloudcroft and Artesia on highway 82. This part of New Mexico is in the higher elevation where the temperature in the summer is quite comfortable with not much humidity, especially for a south Texas boy who is used to those sweaty shirt-soaked summers. The river runs about 55-60 degrees in the summer and is loaded with rainbows and browns with some fantastic colors that can only be found in wild trout. The river offers something for anglers at all different skill levels.

The Rio Penasco averages between 15-20 feet wide as it meanders through Charlie's property and takes on many different aspects. Most of the upstream part of the river will look like a spring creek. This area is very reminiscent of Armstrong's or Depuy's spring creek in Montana where the water is gin clear and flows very well. Abundant hatches of mayflies and caddis are the

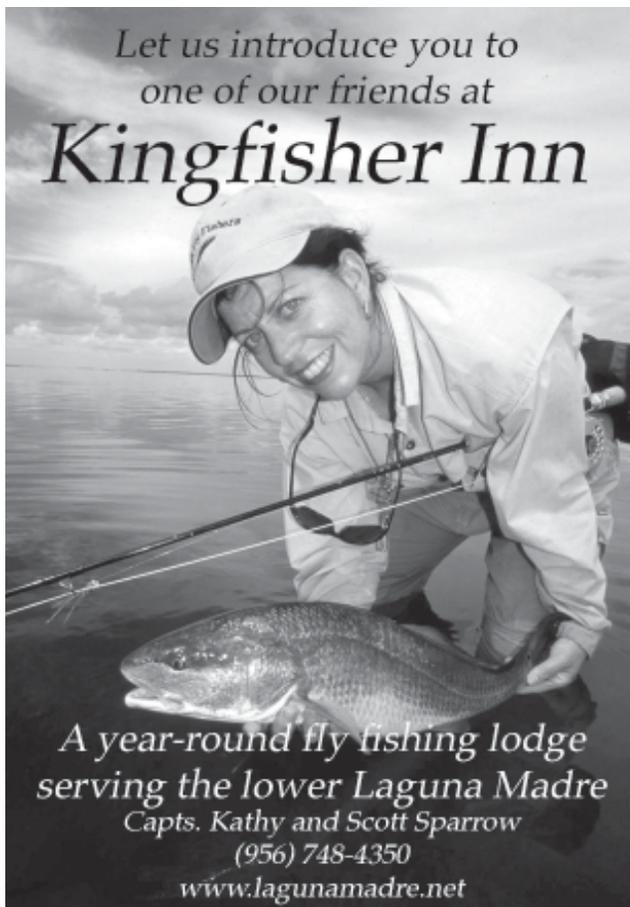
norm and "matching the hatch" helps out...typically a size 14-18. I found a good deal of success with a small midge dropper (#20-22) underneath a Parachute Adams (#16).

Precise presentations are the rule when fishing for these picky fellas. One unnatural twitch or mending at the wrong time will cost you the opportunity to catch some impressive rainbows. Similar to the spring creeks at those famous northern destinations you can be casting to a nice size rainbow and without notice there is another sipping the surface just a few feet away. In some instances, standing back and watching from a distance is a good idea to see where the big ones are feeding. There are also situations where a slow approach and getting on your knees to cast helps to outsmart these wily spring creek trout. Undercut banks also provide a great fishing experience on the Rio Penasco, holding some very nice browns. Finally, some of this water gets DEEP – don't let the width of the river fool you. I tried crossing in one place (the wrong place, apparently) and was almost up to my chest in water – and I am 6'3".

Later in the morning, Charlie moved us downriver where the river moves a little faster and there are more deep holes. This is where the really big boys hang out. Casting streamers into those deep pools often will prove very fruitful for larger trout. Trying to do something on my own and seeing that some terrestrials were out, I had two very nice strikes on a grasshopper pattern fished to the opposite end of the pool. Going down a little further we found a very nice hole with a small waterfall that held several 15+ inch trout that were "cruising" for a meal. Being able to roll cast is definitely a plus because of the vast amount of trees that line the river.

As we moved down from that hole the river changed and was again more like a spring creek. Forget about the last hour or so of pitching terrestrials and streams — we are back to using mayflies and midges again. Just like before, skillful casting and presentation is essential when trying to catch these trout.

Charlie and his family take conservation seriously. This pristine property has been in his family for 3 generations and it is clear from his stock tank for kids to the tanks for hatchlings that Charlie means business in taking care of this fishery. He is very proactive when it comes to dealing with the fishery and knows the river like the



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back of his hand. That is one reason he formed the Penasco Spring River Flyfishing Club. This club is by limited membership that allows its members to access areas on Charlie's property to fish.

I encourage you to attend our October meeting and see for yourself what a fine fishing experience can be found in southern New Mexico.

Raffle – Custom Sage TCR Rod and 2-Day Guided Trip

This season's raffle items include a custom-built Sage TCR 9' 5-weight fly rod. Well, not quite. What we do have is the rod blank, the flora-grade cork, reel seat, guides, stripper and tip-top. We acquired all the components for this great rod from Dennis Freeman at Rodmakers in San Antonio. If you win this raffle, Dennis has donated his effort to work with you one-on-one to complete this rod in his shop or, if you prefer, Dennis will finish out the rod to your specifications.

Our October speaker, Charlie Mulcock, has graciously donated a two-day guided fishing trip at Rio Penasco Flyfishing. Charlie said the fishing is great here right up to Christmas, then picks up again in the spring and summer. We will auction the guided trip at the October meeting.

Our thanks go out to both Charlie and Dennis for their support of GRTU.

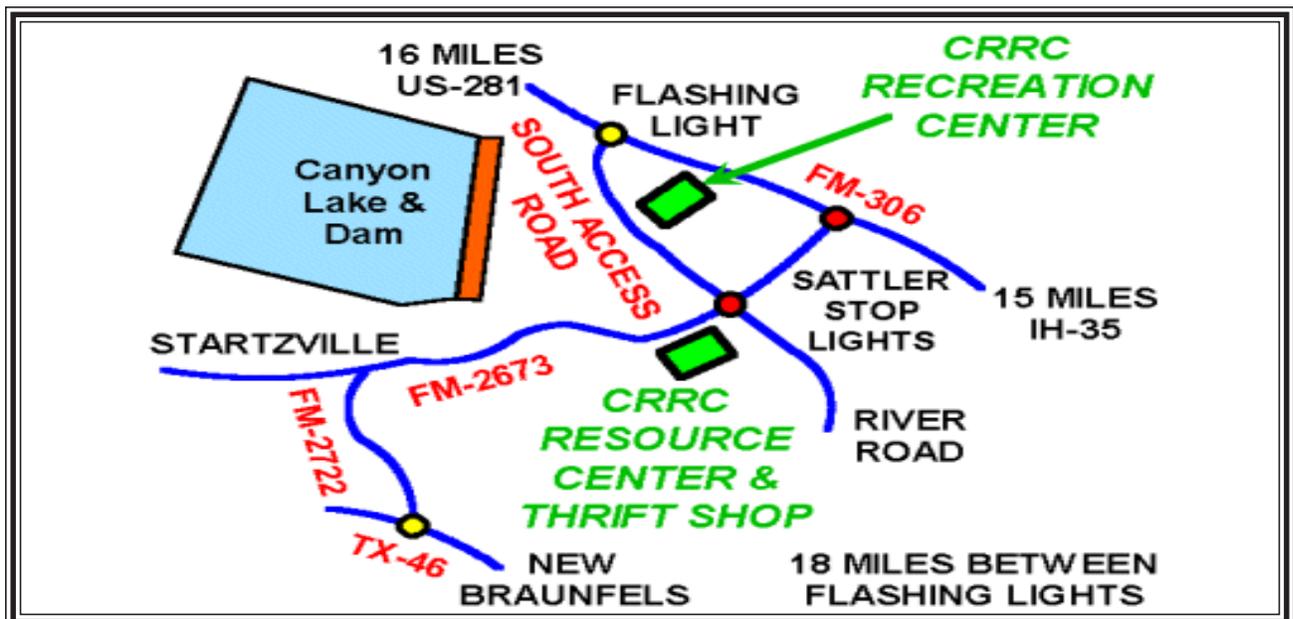
Directions to the Canyon Lake Recreation Center

>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.



GRTU Goes National

By Jeff Schmitt, TU NLC
Representative for Texas

Last year, due in no small part to the efforts of Chapter President Mick McCorcle to reach out and engage our parent organization, GRTU was given the opportunity to fully participate in the Trout Unlimited National organization through representation on the Trout Unlimited National Leadership Council (NLC). The NLC serves as an advisory board to the TU Board of Trustees, which sets the agenda for the Trout Unlimited Organization. Last spring, I was honored to be elected the first NLC Representative from Texas. In September, Mick and I headed to Denver to represent GRTU at the TU National Convention, to participate in discussions and decisions regarding the TU National

agenda and to report back to GRTU members on what's going on within TU at the National Level.

Many of us may lose sight of the fact that we joined an organization whose mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and that has a vision of restoring native coldwater species to their historic ranges by the next generation. While it was probably a desire to go fishing that may have first attracted us to first join Trout Unlimited, the goals of our parent organization are not oriented towards fishing (in Texas) as much as they are towards making sure that we and future generations have native and wild coldwater fishes to fish for. Therefore, many of the discussions at the National Convention were focused on developing and supporting the TU National Conservation Agenda,

which is the document that guides the activities of the TU organization.

TU programs for restoring and protecting native brook trout in the Eastern US, native cutthroat trout in the Western US and the Driftless Areas of the upper Midwest were reviewed and refined. A TU policy on the use of piscicides (fish toxicants) as a tool in removing non-native fishes and restoring native trout populations was developed.

In addition to its conservation agenda, TU National has been working on developing itself as an effective organization and on making sure its chapters are effective in supporting its mission. A Chapter Focus Initiative has resulted in development of a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of a Chapter in support of the overall TU mission in an objective manner.

GRTU participated in the process of developing the Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI) and conducted an initial CEI evaluation of GRTU against these criteria. Our initial score of 75 (out of 100) reflects the fact that GRTU is effective in many areas, including bringing new members to the organization and educating them on coldwater fishery related issues. It also left room for GRTU to improve in the area of conducting (or funding) conservation related activities that serve the core mission of Trout Unlimited. The rating system also showed that no "one size fits all" system can judge the true effectiveness of a TU Chapter, particularly one as unique as GRTU.

I expect several things to come from GRTU's participation in Trout Unlimited. First, TU

Conditions on the Guadalupe River a Focus for GRTU's Efforts this Fall

The current conditions of the Guadalupe River and its fishery will be the focus of a special segment in our chapter meeting in October. Texas Parks and Wildlife District Biologist Steve Magnelia will join us to provide an overview of the status of the river's fishery. Steve and his department have been active on the river over the spring and summer, stocking fingerlings, conducting electroshock surveys, and generally collecting as much data as they can to help them understand the health of the fishery and the factors that affect it. Steve has been the primary biologist assigned to the Guadalupe for the last 15 years and has played a major part in developing the river into a world class trout

fishery. And what he tells you about giant striped bass may astound you.

In recent visits to the river, our Board has also noticed that the Guad is especially full of trash (mostly beer cans) after what many say was the busiest summer tubing and rafting season ever. We have been in contact with the Water Oriented Recreation District (WORD) Board to see what can be done to clean up the river. We'll provide an update on those meetings in October and may also organize one or more chapter-wide cleanup efforts before our stocking season begins later this fall. Watch your e-mails for future developments.

National will become more aware of the activities of GRTU and the interest of our members. GRTU and its members will have a voice in the policies that TU develops for supporting North American coldwater fisheries. And GRTU will become more aware of how it can participate in and assist with the overall goals of the Trout Unlimited on a national scale.

TROUT ANGLERS ALERT



CONSIDER
PROPER
RELEASE

GRTU Board Members Address TPWD Commissioners at Annual Meeting

Texas Parks and Wildlife held its annual meeting during the week of August 22nd at its headquarters in Austin. GRTU Board Members Bill Higdon, David Schroeder, and Mick McCorcle attended the Public Hearing segment of that meeting on August 24th and presented the following statement to the TPWD Commissioners:

**Statement by The Guadalupe
River Chapter, Trout
Unlimited to the
Commissioners, Texas Parks
and Wildlife Department,
TPWD Annual Meeting August
24, 2005**

Good afternoon! I bring greetings from the 4500 members of the Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the largest TU chapter in the world. I am Mick McCorcle, the President of the Chapter, and I am joined today by Bill Higdon, our

Vice President of Fisheries, and David Schroeder, Board Member Extraordinaire, who has served as Conservation Chair, Flow Committee Chair, and is currently our Webmaster.

We would first like to thank Texas Parks and Wildlife for more than 35 years of cooperative efforts to establish and maintain a quality year round trout fishery on the Guadalupe River below Canyon Dam. TPWD biologists envisioned a trout fishery on the Guadalupe even before the dam was completed and TPWD has joined with our chapter to create that fishery since the chapter's inception in the late 1960s. Over that time, we have jointly or independently stocked more than 2 million trout in the river. The fishery has also benefited from Special Regulations for catch-and-release, artificials-only fishing on a portion of the tailwater and from agreements to establish minimum flow restrictions through the summer, ensuring sufficient cold water to support a year round trout fishery, the southern-most in the U.S. Since public access to fish the river is a challenge, our chapter also supports an extensive lease access and stocking program, with 500-700 chapter members contributing \$100 a year to support access through 15 or more lease sites and to invest \$40-50,000 a year to stock large trout into the public domain where everyone with the proper license can fish for them.

We are pleased that that work is bearing fruit, despite the best efforts of droughts, floods, and poachers to defeat us. The Guadalupe tail-water was recently named to the prestigious list of Trout Unlimited's Best 100 Trout Streams in America and that fact has been noted in a



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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

recent book [*Trout Unlimited's Best 100 Trout Streams in America*, by John Ross], articles in *Trout* magazine, and local Hill Country publications [*Hill Country View*]. We are already seeing the national exposure increase interest in fishing the Guadalupe tailwater and it should be an economic boon to the area, expanding the traditional summer recreation season into the fall and winter. The river has also become a magnet for attracting and training new generations of fishers and coldwater conservationists.

But the fishery is not without its problems, the greatest of which is poaching due to inadequate enforcement of the Special Regulations that have been established to protect this unique resource. TPWD wardens' presence on the river has declined markedly in recent years. Some

poachers are taking advantage of this lax enforcement by filling coolers with trout when they should be limited to one fish per day. It doesn't take many dedicated poachers to decimate such a fragile fishery. It is a unique year round trout fishery that deserves year round protection.

To continue to build on the success of this world class fishery we urge the Commission to consider three priorities:

1. Increasing enforcement on the Guadalupe tailwater throughout the year;
2. Protecting the fish in the river through such means as fire ant control; and
3. Undertaking studies to better understand the fishery and its economic impact on the region.

As TPWD carries out initiatives like these to further protect and enhance the Guadalupe trout fishery, we in GRTU will continue our partnership with TPWD and will support you with hard work and any other assistance required to accomplish these goals.



Officers, Directors Et Al

Guadalupe River Chapter / Trout Unlimited

2005-06



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VP Fisheries: Bill Higdon
VP Membership: Steve Stilp
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 11505 Charred Oak Dr.
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 4428 Jim West St.
 2512 Star Grass Cir.

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 Austin TX 78759
 Austin TX 78767
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 Canyon Lake TX 78133
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 210-826-2766
 830-537-5129
 512-996-8283
 210-347-4732
 713-667-1643
 512-282-6016

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Kills and Spills Team

By Stephen Tidwell, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The Kills and Spills Team (KAST) in the TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division has statewide responsibility for investigating fish and wildlife kills and water pollution incidents. The KAST works in a coordinated fashion with river authorities, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the General Land Office, and the Texas Railroad Commission to minimize environmental degradation and helps to explain relationships among water quality, habitat, and living organisms. In cases where responsible parties for kills and spills are identified, the KAST may seek to obtain compensation for repair and restoration for environmental damage.

The KAST consists of TPWD pollution biologists in five regions across the State. Stephen Twidwell has responsibility for investigating fish kills and pollution spills along much of the Guadalupe River. His office is in San Marcos at the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery and his regional boundaries and contact information are shown in the accompanying map. Stephen encourages all Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited members to contact him if they observe pollution incidents or fish kills.

The fish kills that the KAST investigates are divided by those caused by human activities and natural causes. Some of the human activities causing fish kills are releases of toxic chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, crude oil, used

oil, and sewage from line breaks, lift station overflows, and treatment plants experience upsets. Natural causes include extreme weather (hot in the case of Guadalupe River trout), toxins released by algae, bacterial and viral diseases, algal blooms, and even fire ant attacks!

Whenever a fish kill occurs, there is physical evidence of what caused the kill. Part of the duty in wildlife

investigations is to reduce or remove the problem causing the losses whenever possible. The sooner a kill is reported and investigated, the better the opportunity for KAST members to find the cause. For more information concerning the TPWD KAST please go to their website: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/enviroconcerns/kills_and_spills/

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



KILLS AND SPILLS TEAM

If you see dead or dying fish and wildlife or pollution threatening fish and wildlife, call one of the regional biologists or 24-hour Communication centers listed below immediately! Or contact your local Game warden.

Dave Buzan
Office: (512) 912-7013
Mobile: (512) 423-5627
Fax: (512) 707-1358
Pager: (800) 299-4099
PIN: 2366
Radio: 813

24 Hour Communications Centers

<p>(512) 389-4848 4200 Smith School Road Austin, Texas 78744</p>	<p>(281) 842-8100 117 East Avenue A La Porte, Texas 77751 (Houston Area)</p>
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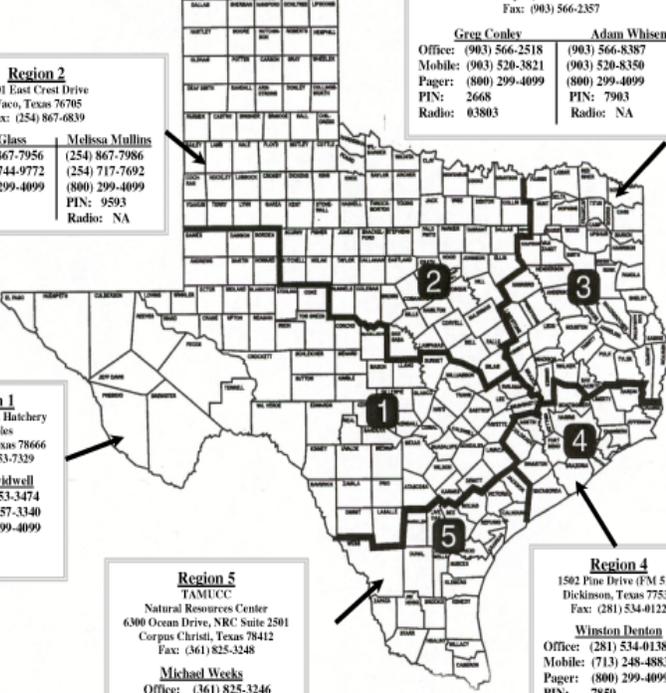
Jack Ralph
Office: (512) 912-7153
Mobile: (512) 422-8054
Fax: (512) 912-7160
Pager: (800) 299-4099
PIN: 2667
Radio: 812

Region 3
11942 FM 848
Tyler, Texas 75707
Fax: (903) 566-2357

<p>Greg Conley Office: (903) 566-2518 Mobile: (903) 520-3821 Pager: (800) 299-4099 PIN: 2668 Radio: 03803</p>	<p>Adam Whisenant (903) 566-8387 (903) 520-8350 (800) 299-4099 PIN: 7993 Radio: NA</p>
--	---

Region 2
1601 East Crest Drive
Waco, Texas 76705
Fax: (254) 867-6839

<p>Juan Glass Office: (254) 867-7956 Mobile: (254) 744-9772 Pager: (800) 299-4099 PIN: 2670 Radio: 03802</p>	<p>Melissa Mullins (254) 867-7986 (254) 717-7692 (800) 299-4099 PIN: 9593 Radio: NA</p>
---	--



Region 1
A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery
505 Staples
San Marcos, Texas 78666
Fax: (512) 353-7329

Stephen Tidwell
Office: (512) 353-3474
Mobile: (512) 757-3340
Pager: (800) 299-4099
PIN: 2669
Radio: 03801

Region 5
TAMUCC
Natural Resources Center
6300 Ocean Drive, NRC, Suite 2501
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412
Fax: (361) 825-3248

Michael Weeks
Office: (361) 825-3246
Mobile: (361) 658-3181
Pager: (800) 299-4099
PIN: 7858
Radio: NA

Region 4
1502 Pine Drive (FM 517)
Dickinson, Texas 77539
Fax: (281) 534-0122

Winston Denton
Office: (281) 534-0138
Mobile: (713) 248-4883
Pager: (800) 299-4099
PIN: 7859
Radio: 03804

June 2005 Website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/texaswater/kast/pages/homepage.html>

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President's Letter

By Mick McCorcle

Though it doesn't seem possible as I write this, another Guadalupe River Lease Access trout fishing season is almost upon us. We've had a challenging year in 2004-2005. First, the river was too hot to hold fish, so we delayed our stockings. Then we got too much rain, so we delayed them again. For most of our prime winter season, the flows were so high that only the most intrepid waders among us (or those with watercraft) were able to fish.

But we wouldn't be members of Trout Unlimited, especially GRTU, if we weren't optimists, and there are many bright spots to note as we head into the new season. One big advantage over last year is that the river appears to be full of big, healthy trout. Just last week I spoke with Steve Magnelia, TPWD's District Biologist. He told me they had been conducting shocking studies on the Guad to locate some trout fingerlings they had tagged and released earlier in the year. While they couldn't find the fingerlings, they shocked up several dozen 15-20" rainbows. So the fish are there, just waiting for us.

And, as you'll hear from VP of Fisheries Bill Higdon later on, we may have some exciting possibilities for new lease sites that will give our lease members and their guests access to parts of the river that we haven't seen or fished in awhile. Bill and the peerless David Schroeder have worked diligently through the summer to keep our real time water temperature monitor working, even when it required that David redesign and rebuild the computer to withstand this summer's unusually high temperatures. Next time you see them, shake their hands or give them a pat on the back. They both deserve it.

While shaking hands or patting backs, you should also seek out Phil Dopson. Phil was our Secretary until I twisted his arm into adding the Treasurer's duties to his portfolio. He has stepped in and done a fine job of bringing order and professionalism to our chapter's finances. That's an important task, since we may be under increasing scrutiny at the national level as legislative attention turns to cleaning up the financial dealings of nonprofits. Phil has begun building a solid relationship with TU National's financial leadership that will serve us well.

After six years of dedicated service as VP of Membership, Scott Cash Thompson has resigned his position to spend more time with his family (and we hope more time on the river). His great article on our October speaker elsewhere in this newsletter at least indicates he's been able to do a little more fishing this year. We thank Scott for the many hours he has given the chapter and its members and wish him well.

Replacing Scott as VP of Membership is Steve Stilp, who has been the Austin Area Rep since the days of Stephen F. Austin. Well, not quite, but Steve has served us well in our busiest region with unflagging energy and enthusiasm. We welcome him to his new role and encourage anyone who might want to fill Steve's shoes as Austin Area Rep (if that's even possible) to give him a call or drop him an e-mail. I can guarantee he'll get back to you quickly – he's the fastest e-mailer in the West.

Raymond Lindeen, our faithful Houston Area Rep, resigned last month in order to address important family and health issues. He did us the great service of recruiting his replacement, Greg Neubauer, who will also join the Board of Directors. Greg manages a software development and information technology department for an Oil Service Company in Houston, specializing in well bore surveying. He and his wife, Gretchen, can be found in the winter months fishing the Guadalupe River from their RV based at Rio Raft. In the summer they spend as much time as possible fishing the West Yellowstone, Montana area from their cabin on the Madison River. Committed to the preservation of cold water fisheries, Greg is an active member and contributor to The Yellowstone Park Foundation, Whirling Disease Foundation, and TU's Three Dollar Bridge project. He can be reached at gneubauer@mindspring.com.

If you've been watching the shelves of your local bookstore, you'll know that the revised edition of John Ross's book, *Trout Unlimited's Guide to the 100 Best Trout Streams in America*, has just been published. And, yes, we are in it! For the first time ever, the Guad has made this prestigious list. The listing has already begun to generate publicity for the river and the chapter and should give us some leverage

to maintain our stewardship of the river and make it even better in the future.

GRTU also opens a new chapter in its relationship with Trout Unlimited in September, when Jeff Schmitt journeys to Denver to represent Texas as its first ever National Leadership Council Representative. Jeff was selected by the GRTU Board to a one year, renewable term as NLC Rep and will represent us on the NLC at the Annual Meeting in Denver and on standing committees throughout the year. Jeff's a past president of our chapter and spends a lot of time fishing the Guadalupe, so he knows the river, the chapter, and the issues that need to be addressed. He has already provided significant input to revising the TU Chapter Effectiveness Index and has efforts in the works to return to Texas the "Council portion" of the annual membership rebate. We look forward to working with Jeff in his new position.

So it should be an exciting year. We have a strong, active, and experienced Board who are dedicated to making this an even better chapter and assisting it in being ever more watchful stewards of our home river. We hope to further elaborate and energize the chapter committee structure so that more and more of you can get involved in leading and assisting the chapter in its many endeavors. And we'll be making a special effort this year to involve more women and children in our chapter, with special activities for kids and families planned for each meeting.

We hope you'll get involved in making this a great season.

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

Irving O'Neal
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

Fisheries Report

By Bill Higdon

The start of the 2005-2006 GRTU Lease Program is just around the corner. I'm excited about the coming year. It looks as though we will have a good number of holdover trout if weather remains consistent, with no major changes in flows or temperatures.

Reports from anglers and feedback from TPWD indicate there are still plenty of healthy trout in the river. Anglers report catching trout as far down river as the 3rd crossing and TPWD did several shockings which produced many healthy fish throughout the fishery. It's a good thing there are still fish in the river, since trout will be more expensive this year. They are costing more to grow, and due to higher fuel costs, they are also going to be more costly to

ship. You will see a new sign on the River Road this year at one of our leases. Cliffview has been sold and is now Gardo's. To find out more about this facility and its new ownership, check their website at www.gardos.us.

One tool that can really help anglers determine when to fish without putting undue stress on trout is the new online water temperature gauge. By checking the range of temperatures online you can see what times are the least stressful on the fish. This alone can reduce possible mortality during the hot summer months.

If the temperatures and flows continue to be consistent, we are hopeful we can stock a little early this coming season. Based on historical temperature data, it may be possible to stock in late October or early November. We are dealing

with Mother Nature here, so nothing is in stone, but we are *hopeful* we will not have a repeat of the last few years. I'm looking forward to the coming season and seeing everyone at the first stocking.

Flow Report: GRTU Initiates Water Temperature Monitor

By David Schroeder

After nearly 8 months of fund raising, a lot of work building the computer, installing the monitoring equipment and configuring the software - and some unplanned starts and stops along the way - the GRTU real-time water temperature monitor finally got off the ground in late May! It is busily tabulating water temperatures, 3 times an hour, 24/7/365, at a location about 7.5 miles downstream of Canyon Dam. The readouts are transmitted every



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couple of hours to the GRTU website: <http://www.grtu.org/grtutemp.html> where they can be viewed on-line, and in (near) real-time.

Once you visit the website, you will notice that the graphs change color depending on how likely trout are to be stressed because of water temperature. Green is low stress, yellow is mild, orange is moderate and red is high. The pattern that emerges is everyday this summer has offered times when stress levels are low, and it would not be detrimental to the trout to catch it. In the afternoons, the peak water temperature usually occurs around 6:00 p.m. and then falls slowly until about 6:00 a.m. the next morning when it reaches the low point of the day. That is how long it takes for the fresh, cold water released from

the dam to travel to the temperature gage after the sun is off the water. For several hours until noon, the temperature stays in the low-stress range. Clearly this summer has offered plenty of fishing opportunities at times that protect the trout from the overstress of being played that could cause mortality in the fish.

The placement is almost ideal because it is more than halfway downstream in the special regulation zone and it offers the best perspective if you had to have a single point to measure the water temperature of the river. Thanks goes out to Bill Higdon who lets GRTU use his property to house the computer and monitoring equipment, as well as internet service. Texas Parks and Wildlife did an outstanding job of installing the water

temperature monitor. It couldn't have been installed any better by a professional. It is fortified to stay, and it should last a long time.

Besides being a tool to better protect the trout fishery by aiding in the scheduling of fishing trips in a trout-friendly manner, the Texas Parks and Wildlife is keeping close tabs on the trout population this summer and fall. They use the real-time temperature readings, and historical data to correlate with their electro-fishing and population studies. And as of this writing in late August there are still plenty of trout in the river. This Fall, GRTU and TPWD will closely monitor the readings to make a determination when it is best to begin the stockings. So, there is a lot of use that comes out of this box. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this project.

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 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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I'm looking forward to the coming season and seeing everyone at the first stocking.

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