



Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Newsletter



No. 85 October 2007

Publication Data on Pg. 16

GRTU Meeting
Saturday, October 27
 Jellystone RV Park
 (formerly Maricopa Ranch
 Resort)

Directions on page 3

**9 AM - Lease Access
 Orientation**
**10 AM - Business Mtg &
 Presentation**
12 - Raffle & Lunch
**12:30 PM - Lease Access
 Orientation**
**1 PM Nymphing Clinic -
 Gary Borger**

Fly Fishing Innovator, Biologist and Author Gary Borger Featured at our October 27th Chapter Meeting and Clinic

We are honored to kick off GRTU's 2007-2008 season of trout fishing and river conservation with noted fly fishing innovator, scientist, author and cinematographer Gary Borger. Dr. Borger, a Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin — Wausau, will speak on "Sight fishing with nymphs from top to bottom" at 10 AM on Saturday, October 27th and will conduct an onstream nymphing clinic after lunch. We have a new location for the chapter meeting, the Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Hill Country on FM 306 in Sattler. (See page 3 for directions to the meeting location.)

Gary Borger has combined his keen interest in fly fishing and his academic training to develop a very successful approach to nymph fishing. As he notes in one of his many publications:

"Nymphing has been called the most difficult method of fly fishing, probably because anglers have, by and large, failed to recognize that fish can be as selective to

nymphs as they are to dry flies. Failure to recognize selectivity results in confusion and indecision about which fly to use when, where, and with what techniques. Nymphing, for many anglers, is a matter of chuck-and-chance-it, and consequently their success is largely accidental and unpredictable. This lack of consistent success only leads to more confusion and more reluctance to use nymphs. But nymph fishing

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Special guest Gary Borger

can be a consistently productive way to take fish if the fly fisher is aware of the elements of selectivity and thoroughly understands how they relate to the biology of the various food organisms and to the feeding patterns of the fish.”

Gary holds a BS and an MS from Penn State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Wisconsin Campus in Wausau where he taught for 28 years. During his career he offered Botany, Zoology lab, Natural History Photography, Writing in the Sciences, Dendrology, Ecology, Taxonomy, and other topics. He was presented with the Teacher of the Year Award on two different occasions.

Borger has been a fly fisher since 1955, and since 1972 has taught classes and lectured internationally on all aspects of fly fishing for trout and salmon. A freelance writer and photographer and a former active member of the Outdoor Writer’s Association of America, Gary is also Midwest Field Editor for *Fly Fisherman* magazine, Editor at Large for The Virtual Fly Shop (fly fishing website), and Fly Fishing Columnist for *Midwest Fly Fishing*. He has written five best-selling books on fly fishing: *Nymphing*, *Naturals*, *The Borger Color System*, *Designing Trout Flies*, and *Presentation*.

Of particular interest to us fly tyers is Gary’s invention of the “Borger Color System” (BCS), a standardized method for assessing color in the natural world. The system consists of small book containing 147 water resistant color chips, measuring scales, and a small pad for capturing measurements and observations. Limnologists and aquatic biologists now use BCS charts in water quality studies. Entomologists use them to match and describe the colors of aquatic insects. Fly tyers use BCS to answer the “what color is that fly?” question. Gary’s system is also used to classify colors of Gudebrod threads, Scintilla dubbing, and many other fly fishing products.

Gary pioneered fly fishing video instruction with his release of “Nymphing” in 1982. Since then he has appeared in four videos for the 3M Company; and in cooperation with the Federation of Fly Fishers, produced the environmental video “Where The Trout Are.” His video production company has produced an additional 21 internationally acclaimed videos in the “Skills of Fly Fishing Series.” This production work has earned him a listing in “Who’s Who in Entertainment.” Gary was also a consultant on Robert Redford’s movie “A River Runs Through It” and his son, Jason, was the “shadowcaster” who did most of star Brad Pitt’s fly casting in the movie.

With his award-winning CD/cassette tape, “My Madison,” Gary pioneered fly fishing nature-music audios. In addition, Gary is the designer of the Weinbrenner Ultimate Wading Shoe, the Gary Borger Fly Vest, the Gary Borger Signature Fly Lines, and many other innovative angling products and unique fly designs.

Borger is a founding board member of the River Alliance of Wisconsin, a member of the Board of Governors of the Federation of Fly Fisher’s fly casting instructor certification program, a member of The Order of the Jungle Cock, Trout Unlimited, United Fly Tyers, the Federation of Fly Fishers, the American Museum of Fly Fishing, the Catskill Fly Fishing Center, and other conservation organizations. He is a recipient of the Ross Allen Merigold Complete Angler Memorial Award, the Charles K. Fox Rising Trout Award, the Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation award, The Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award, and is internationally recognized for his conservation efforts; in recognition of this work he received the first Lew Jewett Memorial Life Membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers in 1979. Gary is currently Executive Vice President of Targus Fly and Feather, Inc.

Directions to October Meeting Site

We will try a new venue for our next chapter meeting on October 27th. It will be the Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Hill Country on FM 306 in Canyon Lake. Some may know it by its old name, the Maricopa Ranch Resort. For those familiar with the river, it's between the two FM 306 bridges across the Guadalupe, on the south side of the road.

There are several ways to get exact directions. One is to visit the Park's website at www.jellystonehillcountry.com. Another is to use Mapquest or Google Earth or a similar website and type in the address, which is 12915 FM 306, Canyon Lake, TX 78133. The Park is 13 miles northwest of exit 191 off I-35 and 13 miles southeast of the Hwy 281-FM 306 intersection. For those who like to use their GPS, it's at 29° 51' 58.87" N and 98° 10' 27.35" W.

2007-08 Raffle Prizes Announced

Wilderness Systems Tarpon 140

We have two great raffle prizes available for you to win during our 2007-08 trout season. The first is a Wilderness Systems Tarpon 140 kayak. It's a great fishing platform, adaptable enough to be used in fresh or saltwater on rivers, lakes or saltwater tidal flats. For a full description see www.wildernesssystems.com/tarpon-140-angler. Thanks to Austin Canoe & Kayak for their support GRTU in providing this kayak. Raffle tickets will be on sale beginning in October with the raffle held at the January meeting.

Sage Z-Axis Fly Rod

Sage went back to the drawing board to create the incredible new Z-Axis Series Fast Action Rods. By improving the entire rod-building process, they created a rod that's significantly lighter, stronger and easier to cast for anglers of all skill levels. The Z-Axis offers an entirely new level of fishability with unprecedented line feel, response and performance. But don't take our word for it, win one in our raffle and find out for yourself! Dennis Freeman of RODMAKERS will take this fantastic rod blank and add his custom touches to

create for one lucky individual a rod for a lifetime of fishing. We're raffling a 4 weight Sage Z-Axis with a Struble Nickel Silver reel seat with exotic wood accents. Thanks to Dennis Freeman and RODMAKERS for his support of GRTU. Raffle tickets will be on sale beginning in October with the raffle held in April.

Door Prizes

Then, as always, there will be door prizes – just come through the door for a chance for some great additions to your fishing equipment and fly tying materials.

Borger Nymphing Clinic Scheduled to Follow October Chapter Meeting

Join Gary Borger after lunch on October 27th for a hands-on demonstration of the nymphing techniques he will discuss in the presentation *Sight Fishing with Nymphs from Top to Bottom*. It is one thing to listen to a presentation and see some slides telling us that "the most consistently successful artificials will be those which give the best impressions of their natural counterparts in terms of size, shape, color, and behavior"; it is another to get a hands on demonstration from our guest speaker. Spend some time with Gary to learn his approach to fishing the waters of the southernmost trout fishery in United States, our waters.

If you are interested in attending the clinic, please contact Andy Niland (jandrewn@texas.net) so he can get your name on the list. If water conditions are conducive the clinic will be on our waters, if not we will have the clinic at our meeting site. There will be a \$20 charge for the clinic, which will benefit the GRTU conservation fund, Guadalupe Now.

President's Letter

I would like to start my first address to the chapter by once again expressing my deep appreciation for the work that Mick McCorcle did as president. His efforts, along with those of other volunteers, have left the chapter in good financial footings, improved our accounting process, increased our image locally, nationally, and on the state level, and enhanced the Guadalupe River by increasing conservation and cleanup projects. In addition, this past year we were the top new member chapter in the country. Well done to all of you who participated in these projects.

As I look forward to this fall and winter fishing season, I ask myself what is my vision for our chapter for the next two years. There are three words which keep popping up: Conservation, Education, and Service. The image of conservation for me is to bring real river habitat restoration projects to improve the overall health and habitat of the Guadalupe. We have had some great success with the education programs over the last several years, and I would like to expand the conservation-related educational opportunities we provide. Finally service, service in my mind is helping people. The chapter has been involved in projects like Casting for Recovery for several years, but I would like to see another initiative started with Project Healing Waters. This effort helps our service men and women who have been wounded rehabilitate through fly fishing-related activities. See Jeff Schmitt's

article later in the newsletter for more information on this new project. I hope you will agree these are worthwhile pursuits for the chapter.

Fall is a busy time for our volunteers. Lease access sign-ups are starting to roll in. During the off season we have been working to try to improve the efficiencies with TU National in signing up members at the chapter level. This year we have a dedicated person processing and mailing out passes. We hope this will improve turnaround and speed up payments to National. Another piece of news on lease access fees: even though expenses for fish and some leases will increase, the board has decided to keep fees the same as in previous years. The fisheries committee will be watching temperatures very closely in order to try to gauge when we will be able to start stocking fish this fall. [See Bill Higdon's Fisheries Report for more insight on the fish stocking process.]

With the success and great acceptance by the kids of last year's 'Trout in the Classroom' program, we are expanding to a second classroom. The second classroom will also be in the Comal ISD at Arlon Seay Intermediate School on Hwy 46 in Spring Branch. Our Trout in the Classroom coordinator, Karen Gebhardt, will need additional volunteers to help maintain the equipment at this new school. If you are interested in helping, contact Karen at Karen.Gebhardt@grtu.org.

In addition, we are starting two new education-related programs this

year. The first is sponsoring two children to attend a summer TU kid's camp. These camps focus on conservation, ecology, and fly fishing. We will have more information on this program in the coming months. The second program is to provide river conservation information on a kiosk at the nature walk on the Raven Star campus below Canyon Dam.

Once again we are supporting Casting for Recovery, this time by sponsoring two women to the Texas retreat. In addition, we are adding a line to the membership sign up form for donations to be directed towards the continued support of this project. If you would like to find out more information or would like to donate directly please contact Susan Gaetz at susan@susangaetz.com

The Board of Directors has agreed to fund phase two of the macro invertebrate study being conducted by Dr. Archis Grubh at Texas State University - San Marcos. We have received a preliminary draft of the study findings for the six month of field data collected thus far and are looking forward to the completion of the field study and final results.

One other fun event this season will be a GRTU-sponsored outing. We are tentatively looking to have the event on February 23, 2008, so mark your calendars. We are planning to have a small mixer Friday night. Saturday we will have organized events, probably casting and fishing clinics. People can join the clinics or fish. Later in the evening, we will have dinner and

possibly a campfire. Watch for more information as we get closer to winter.

Finally, as all of you know, we are an all-volunteer organization, so we need your help to make these projects a success. In particular, we are looking for volunteers to help run the website and forums. If you have some technical ability and would like to help out please email me at grtu-president@grtu.org. The river cleanups and conservation projects are very labor intensive, so your help is crucial.

I look forward to my service to the chapter and I can always be reached at grtu-president@grtu.org

See you on the water,

Greg Neubauer
GRTU Chapter President



Ron McAlpin cleans the river last fall with daughters Erin and Taylor.

Keeping the Guad Clean

Last year was a great year for GRTU's efforts in keeping the Guadalupe River clean for all that enjoy it. We participated in the Friends for Rivers cleanup in the early fall, conducted cleanups at each of our three trout stocking events and post spring break cleanup in the spring. Our efforts have been recognized not only by

those who fish and float the river, but by the local community, businesses and press.

We plan to continue our stewardship of the Guadalupe River this season. Though the flows were too high for GRTU members and other volunteers to participate in the Friends for Rivers Cleanup in September, we'll plan on continuing our cleanup activities at each stocking, with all participants having an opportunity to "give something back to the Guad by taking something out of the Guad". And, we're planning our third annual Spring Break River Cleanup for the 4th Saturday in March.



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Fall Fisheries Report

It's been a very wet summer in the in the Texas Hill Country and it has certainly had an effect on the Fishery. The releases from Canyon Lake have been 2000 cfs – 5000 cfs for the most of the summer months. As a result the cold water under story has been depleted, but this is not the first time we have faced this challenge. The warmer water certainly stresses the trout and we will lose a few, but I am always amazed at how resilient the trout are. And how many make it through no matter what the conditions are.

I continue to get reports of small trout 10" or less being caught, below the 3rd crossing, as late as two weeks ago, which mean they are stream born trout.

The good news is we have over come these challenges in the past and we will do so again. With moisture on the decrease, this could turn into a really good season with the flow dropping to 200 cfs – 500 cfs and remaining there for most of the season. Great fishing conditions!

I always start getting lots of phone calls this time of year regarding the fishery, and what can be expected in the upcoming season. Below is the most common Questions and answers:

- Q. When are we going to stock?
(the most frequently asked)
- A. It all depends on the water temperature. When the temperature is consistently below 70 degrees, we will begin to look at stocking dates. This usually occurs in late October to late November.
- Q. What size trout will be stocked?
- A. We generally stock 1 to 1 ½ pounds with a few bigger and some a little smaller. Most are 14 to 18 inches.

- Q. Will we stock any Brown Trout?
- A. The Brown Trout are more expensive so we don't stock as many as the Rainbow, but we always have a few Browns in the mix.
- Q. How many leases will we have this season?
- A. The number of leases is usually between 15 and 18. We are still arranging the leases as of this newsletter but the majority will be the same.
- Q. Is the water too hot for the trout?
- A. As quoted on the GRTU website:
What are the best water temperatures for trout?
Ideally 57 - 62 degrees. Good temperatures are below 68 degrees. It is widely accepted by the biologists that temperatures for mortality are 74 to 82 degrees. It doesn't mean that trout will die in 74

degree water, but their condition could make them susceptible to disease and predators if the temperature remains high. And catching and playing a trout in this range could be fatal to the trout, even if it appears to swim away normally. The water temperature will fluctuate in a 24 hour cycle and usually the water temperature is highest in the late afternoon. The daily average water temperature is also important indicator of the conditions in the trout fishery. Trout biologists believe that the average temperature should be below 72 degrees.

As of this writing the temps are consistently above 75 and over 80 on some days (9/7/06).

I hope this helps answer a few of your questions.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting.

Bill Higdon
V.P. of Fisheries



Hardy chapter members stock brown trout in late December 2004.

Healing Waters Volunteers Needed

GRTU is working in cooperation with the Alamo Flyfishers to establish a Project Healing Waters program at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio. Project Healing Waters is a national program patterned after the highly successful Casting for Recovery Program that is designed to help provide physical and emotional rehabilitation to disabled active duty military personnel and veterans. The program is based around providing fly tying and casting instruction at the medical facilities, as well as occasional fishing outings for program participants. More information Project Healing Waters (PHW) can be found on their website at www.projecthealingwaters.org.

A Project Healing Waters Program is going to require a significant amount of volunteers from the GRTU ranks in order to be successful. A typical PHW program places a tying instructor and casting instructor at the medical facility one weekday afternoon every week. This is going to require us to identify a Tying Program Coordinator, a Casting Program Coordinator and a significant number of volunteers that can be called on to visit the facility on a regular basis.

At the present time GRTU and AFF are working with the national PHW organization to understand the program structure and to make contacts at BAMC. We are also gauging the level of volunteer support that can be counted on from GRTU and AFF members. This program requires a long term

commitment on the part of GRTU, AFF and its members if it is to be successful in providing the rehabilitation support needed by those who have been injured. If you would be interested in participating in this program, either as a Coordinator or as a teaching volunteer, please contact Jeff Schmitt at jeffs@grtu.org.

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140ft of Guadalupe River Frontage

Approximately .75 acres. Beautiful California style 3 bed, 3.5 bath home with large master suite that overlooks the river. Kitchen, dining, and horseshoe shaped bar also overlook the gorgeous Guadalupe. 2 car attached garage, 3 car detached garage with shop, insulated and plumbed for shower.



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GRTU Ex Officio Named to State Fisheries Board

In July, former GRTU President Mick McCorcle was named to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board, succeeding past president Alan Bray. Mick will serve a four year term on the state board, joining eleven other members from across Texas in providing TPWD with advice on policy, strategy, regulations, and other fisheries initiatives. The Board meets twice annually, in October and April.

Flow Report: Flows - In Their Proper Perspective

by
David Schroeder

What rotten luck! Quite literally, another washed-out year for the trout fishery! Either there is too much water, or not enough. GRTU's mission of turning the Guadalupe into a first class trout fishery: is it only a delusion shared by trout fishing fanatics? Well, stay tuned as I am about to present some very compelling evidence based on recorded data and scientific analysis that should give us great hope (for the future).

We already understand the basics: Winter-chilled water, stored in the depths of Canyon Lake, provides the needed cooling power for the trout fishery below the Dam; the GRTU-GBRA Flow Agreement provides a flow rate of 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) to protect the trout from May through September. The higher the summertime flow, the lower the water temperature and

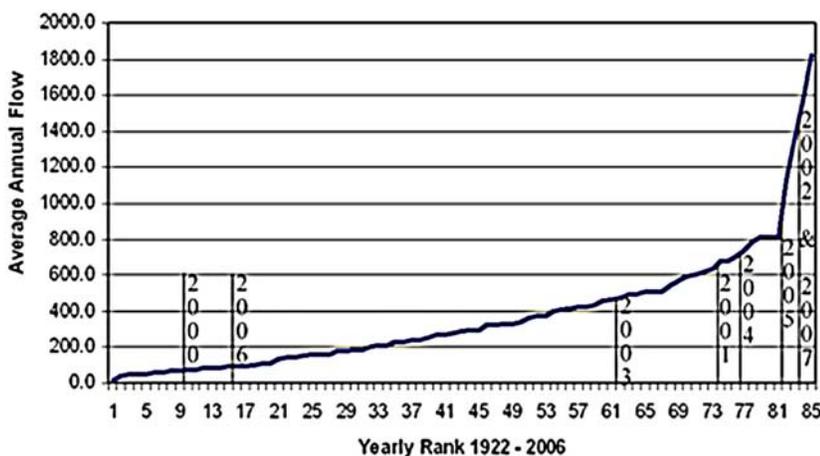
everything is OK, right? Well, there's more to it than that!

Why? The short answer is that the trout fishery has been the victim of some rather unusual weather: More specifically, for the last 10 years the Guadalupe has seen few normal flow years, (the amount of water averaged as a flow rate over an entire year), but mostly "wet" and "drought" extremes. Unfortunately, there are going to be those years that the lake will not fill to normal capacity to trigger the flow agreement. On the chart "Canyon Lake Inflow," the graph shows a progression of average annual flow rates from the lowest (1956) to the highest (1992) at the Spring Branch Gauge during 85 years of record keeping. Last year, 2006, was the 14th driest year on record, yet we came oh so close to pulling that trigger for the Flow Agreement. I am going to make a prediction, based on some of the historical data that I have examined, that about 20 to 25% of the driest years will be too dry to trigger the flow agreement.

This year we have had more water than we ever wanted, how does that effect water temperatures? 2007 has been one of extreme "wetness." I will make another prediction: 2007 will go down as the fourth, (or possibly the third), wettest year on record for inflows into Canyon Lake. Looking at the chart, for most of the last six years, we have suffered from way too much water at near record levels. This is highly unusual, especially coming in such a short timeframe. If Canyon Lake were empty, the year represented by number 69 on the chart would have enough inflow to fill the lake to capacity. Number 69 is wetter than 80% of the years: Does that mean that 20% of the years will have too much water? No, not at all!

For about six months a year – Fall and Winter – Canyon Lake is cooling down. Heavy inflows during this time have minimal impact on next summer's water temperatures. The Fall, Winter and early Spring is a timeframe when there is a lot of inflow. For the other six months – Spring and Summer – Canyon Lake is warming up. The sun and the stirring of waters near the surface will add a considerable amount of heat to the top layer of the lake. In the depths lies the cold, winter-chilled water, insulated from what's going on above. I suspect there is a potential of at least 150,000 acre feet, or about 35 to 40% of the lake's capacity, of cold water remaining in the reservoir by the end of summer. The only place that it can go is out into the river below. You can imagine two

Canyon Lake Inflow



ongoing races that are depleting the winter-chilled water: the sun and the outflow. Will there be enough cold water to keep the trout healthy by the end of the flow agreement period? During that time, about 60,000 acre feet will be needed for 200 cfs released from the dam. This leaves, at the very least, 90,000 acre feet of cold water in reserve. So the most important factor is *when* it rains, not how much. If floods occur in the Spring, when the lake is basically cold from top to bottom, the water that's being lost is essentially water that would warm up anyway. If the floods occur in Summer, the lake has already warmed considerably and the cold water pool is in danger of being lost. It's a good thing that summers are normally dry.

Looking at ten years of water temperature data collected by TPWD and GRTU, from five sampling stations, at various locations on the Guadalupe, representing tens of thousands of water temperature measurements, I can tell you that for 5% of the wettest years, all the cold water from Canyon Lake will be depleted and water temperatures in the river will rise precipitously. For the next wettest years – the top 15% — I will predict that perhaps a few of those years may be too warm because of summer inflow. The impact of wet years is not black and white (water and no water) like a drought would be, but shades of blue, green, yellow and red (representing gradually increasing water temperature). In 2005, the fifth wettest year on record, GRTU

recorded survivable water temperatures for trout at Ponderosa, because most of the inflows had largely subsided in May.

The perspective that I've been trying to reveal is that while we have had problems, don't assume that what's happened in the last few years is anything close to normal. Long-term conditions will be much improved compared to what we've seen lately. Even over the long-term, it's going to be normal to suffer a loss in the trout fishery about 25% of the time. Drought will continue to be a bigger enemy than flood. A sense of optimism is always required by us trout fishing fanatics as we look at the glass at being $\frac{3}{4}$ full rather than $\frac{1}{4}$ empty. But you just watch – normality will bring out the best in the Guadalupe and our trout fishery. I predict it!

[In the next newsletter I will discuss a water temperature study for warm water tolerances of trout by the Department of Natural Resources from the States of Michigan and Wisconsin and what that means for our own trout fishery on the Guadalupe.]



The National Debate over Access

by
Jeff Schmitt
TU NLC Rep Emeritus

As I leave my role as your TU National Leadership Council Representative, and Mick McCorcle begins to assume that role on your behalf, TU finds itself in the middle of a significant debate about its mission and the interests of its members. The debate is over the role TU should play in advocating for public access to our nations fisheries.

Some argue that TU is a conservation organization and that access is not part of the mission. Others recognize that it is the desire and ability to access streams and rivers that foster the conservation interests of our grass roots members.

This is not a simple issue for TU and it has caused much debate and discord amongst the leaders and members of TU. Board members have resigned, large donors have pulled their funding, chapters and even state councils have considered withdrawing from TU and many hours have been spent in teleconferences reviewing and commenting on draft policies.

Your voice in this debate is your National Leadership Council Representative. These 30+ representatives determine the conservation mission of Trout Unlimited. Over the past two years, I have represented Texas's interests and position in this debate. Now I pass the role onto Mick, who will help TU try to find the right middle ground on this issue.

Taming the Beasts!

Fly Tying Tips by Alan Kulcak

With the high and warm water flows we have been having all summer long, I would like to take this time to focus our attention on “trout eating machines”. As soon as we get some slower flows and clearing waters the stripers should be pretty hungry. With the beginning of the trout season right around the corner and fellow fly fishers eager to wet their lines, what better way to do it than by having a 30 pound striper buckle your rod over! Here are a few striper flies that have worked well in the past and a few tips on tying them better.

Flies that imitate rainbow trout are very good producers, and will help target those stripers that eat all our fish. I like to tie mine with synthetic fibers such as EP Fibers; they shed water well and produce a lot of bulk without the weight. Tying them as sparsely as possible will give the fly much more action and will also keep the fly light and easy to cast. There is no need to go out and buy dozens of different colors either. I use just white and chartreuse, and then I use permanent markers to make the fly look just like a trout. Run a pink and purple marker down the sides, then coloring the top with a dark olive, and following that up with some dots along the sides. I like to first tie in a mono loop at the bend of the hook to help keep the long tail fibers from fowling. I also use a 5–6” strip of lead wire in a size .025 or .030, wrapped around the hook shank to help keep the fly down in the strike zone in fast-moving water. [I will be posting a step-by-step tying pictorial on the GRTU website for further help on tying this fly.] Using long flash fibers such as Wing n’ Flash can also create a great looking trout imitation and will also stand out when the water is a little off-color. To keep the flash fibers from fowling, you can coat the first set of flash with a flex-coat or head cement to act as a hard inner base. This way the flash has less to tangle on and stays nice and neat. Flex-Coat-type glue is much easier to work with

and allows you to handle the fly as it dries to help keep everything straight. Other flashy baitfish-style attractors are also a good choice; there are many saltwater flies out there that fall into this category that work well.

As many of you might already know, last year one of our fellow members, John Erskine, caught a new state record striped bass by fishing the deep hole below the weir downstream from Fourth Crossing. The fish weighed in at a hefty 36.65 lbs, and was caught on a large black/yellow woolly bugger type fly similar to the fly in the upper right corner of the picture. This type of fly is a good choice if trout have yet to be stocked, and also offers an easy meal to a stuffed trout-eating striper. This style of fly is created with a strip of rabbit fur for the tail and some marabou around the collar. By cutting a small hole half way up the strip of rabbit fur and sliding it through the hook point, you can help keep the fur centered along the shank and create a more durable fly. When tying in the marabou for the collar, place a small dab of glue down and use only a few wraps. This will help keep you from tying big

bulky-looking head. Some lead eyes or lead wire can be added to help keep the fly down.

When using these flies to target stripers, fish the deep slower holes in the river where you would normally find trout and there should be a striper close by. Traditional spots that have produced in the past are in the deep pools at Rainbow camp, around the bend at Gardo’s, Lazy L&L, and below the weir downstream from Fourth Crossing. Use an intermediate or sink tip line to fish the fly deep and work it similar to how you would a streamer for trout. I tend to stay away from full sinking lines, there is really no need for it and it takes a lot more energy to recast. Stick with it and help all of us by keeping tabs on these big “trout eating machines”, there are lots of big ones still out there!!! Until next time, keep your lines tight and your vises clamped.



This assortment of striped bass flies could save the lives of a few trout and provide you and your family with a tasty meal!



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
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
David Schroeder
Mrs. Hazel Schubauer

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



Tree root balls like these were used to create trout cover in the Camp Alexander stream restoration project.

GRTU Contributes to Camp Alexander Stream Restoration

For the second year in a row, GRTU has extended its conservation reach beyond its home waters. Last year, GRTU's Coldwater Outreach Conservation (COC) Fund provided a grant to the Hiawatha Chapter of Trout Unlimited to assist them with the restoration of Trout Run Creek in Driftless Area of eastern Minnesota. That project garnered considerable publicity and goodwill for our chapter at the local and national level. The success of that project contributed significantly to the Hiawatha Chapter's choice as this year's Silver Trout Award winner, the second highest award

given to a TU chapter by the national organization.

This summer, the COC Fund provided a grant to Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of TU in Colorado Springs to restore a section of the South Platte River that runs through Eleven Mile Canyon. The Camp Alexander stretch of the South Platte is a Boy Scout camp that is frequented by many Texas Boy Scout Troops.

The "Trees for Trout" restoration project at Camp Alexander was focused on increasing stream depth and flow and providing overhead cover for holding larger trout. Trees for Trout uses the large root balls and trunks for trees burned in the Hayman fire several years ago. These trees are uprooted and relocated to the river bed, where

they are anchored into place in strategic locations to create better stream conditions. The project was completed in time to be enjoyed by the thousands of Scouts that visited the camp this summer. Signage is being placed on the property that recognizes GRTU's contribution to the project, allowing us to expose our name, and our mission, to the Texas scouts that visit the camp.

GRTU's Coldwater Outreach Conservation program has been recognized by the TU National Organization as an example that other TU chapters can contribute to the organization's mission outside of its local fishery. GRTU's name now lies on streams in Minnesota and Colorado, and people throughout the TU organization recognize Texas' interest in

protecting, conserving, and restoring coldwater fisheries so that our children will have clean, cold trout and salmon streams.

This year the COC Fund is expecting a grant application from New Mexico Trout Unlimited for restoration of native Rio Grande cutthroat streams in our neighboring state. This project will provide GRTU both an opportunity to assist with funding a restoration project in a state where many of our members fish. New Mexico has also expressed an interest in having GRTU volunteers make a road trip to New Mexico to assist with the stream restoration.

The COC Funding grants depend on the support and donations of GRTU membership. Your membership application has a place to allocate part of your annual donation to GRTU to our Coldwater Outreach Conservation Fund. I urge you to show your support for GRTU and coldwater fisheries throughout North America by donating to our COC project for 2007/08.

Wyoming's Cutt Slam

by
Corby Bittner

In 1997, the State of Wyoming implemented the Cutt Slam program for anglers who catch all four of Wyoming's cutthroat trout sub-species in their native range. This program encourages anglers to learn more about Wyoming's cutthroat sub-species and develop an appreciation and support of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's cutthroat sub-species management programs.

Al Langston, who oversees the cutthroat program in Wyoming, stated,

"Since 1997 approximately 400 anglers have completed the Cutt Slam." Mr. Langston himself completely the Cutt Slam in only two days. Of the four cutthroat sub-species, each lives in a different watershed. Three of the cutthroat can be found in the Bridger-Teton National Forest: The Colorado Cutthroat in North and South Cottonwood Creeks, Snake River Cutthroat in Greys River, and Bonneville Cutthroat in Salt River and Smiths Fork. The fourth, the Yellowstone Cutthroat, can be found in central and northeast Yellowstone National Park.

I first heard of this program on a Trout Unlimited TV episode in 2003. The following summer, a friend and I excitedly headed out to accomplish this task. Unfortunately, we were unable to catch the Colorado Cutthroat on that particular trip. Therefore, in July 2007, we headed back to Wyoming with an additional buddy and hired guide Mike Kaul from Two Rivers Emporium (www.2rivers.net) in Pinedale to ensure we caught our elusive fish. Mr. Kaul took us to Fish Creek located on a private ranch west of Big Piney. He told us: "The fish never know if they're looking at the first hopper or the last one for the season." Therefore, my fly of choice that day was the Schroeder's hopper. On my first cast, I caught a Colorado Cutthroat and completed my Cutt Slam certificate, thus allowing me to spend a leisurely day of fishing.

We completed our certificates in seven days spending the first four days catching our coveted cutthroat then using the next three days to catch several other species including the Arctic Grayling, the Brook Trout, and the Brown Trout. This also gave us the chance to fish in some different rivers and view the spectacular scenery that Wyoming has to offer. We began in Yellowstone National Park with a short 2.5-mile hike from the Canyon campsite area to Cascade Lake. This 37-acre Alpine lake contains Yellowstone Cutthroats and Arctic Grayling. The fishing was anything but difficult. We then headed over to the Buffalo Fork

River, Greys River, and the Salt River where we caught Snake River Cutthroats. Next we were off to Hobble Creek where the Bonneville Cutthroat could be found. Lastly, the Fish Creek west of Big Piney offered the final of our series of four fish, the Colorado Cutthroat.

Taking these trips has enabled me to have a better perspective of the Trout Unlimited Roadless Areas Initiative, focusing on areas such as the 700,000+ acres of Bridger-Teton National Forest. They have also provided me with the understanding of the drilling pressures that have been put on the Colorado Cutthroat that now, because of the changes the drilling and other factors have placed on the ecosystem, lives in only 1% of its native range. The Bonneville Cutthroat has also been affected by changes in its ecosystem and now occupies only 6% of its native range.

To participate in the Cutt Slam you must catch Wyoming's four cutthroat trout sub-species in their native ranges in the state of Wyoming. Send a clear photo with information including the date and location of each catch. When the Wyoming Game and Fish Department verify all four subspecies you will receive your full-color certificate. Once you complete the Cutt-slam program, you might find yourself taking more vacations in order to catch the other eight cutthroat subspecies found throughout the remaining western United States.

To begin planning for a trip like this, I would recommend reading the *Fly Fishing Guide to Wyoming*, visiting the Wyoming Game and Fish home page, and contacting a guide like Mike Kaul (1-800-329-4353) or someone who has completed this program.

Good luck and happy fishing!



The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited 2006-2007



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Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited (GRTU)

Special Guest Speaker Gary Borger - October 27, 2007
Yogi Bear's Jellystone Hill Country Park

Lease Access Orientation & Social Hour Begin at 9 AM
Business Meeting and Presentation Begin at 10 AM
Lunch and Raffle at Noon
Nymphing Clinic to Follow

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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