



Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

# Newsletter



No. 94 October 2010

Publication Data on Pg. 12

## GRTU Meeting

Saturday, October 23rd

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

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

11 AM - Kirk Deeter, "Trout  
Tips and Trips"

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

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## October Meeting Features Field & Stream Editor and Blogger Kirk Deeter

October is the kick off of what promises to be one of the best years for our fishery in recent memory. We have been blessed with a respite from recent droughts, and the flow agreement has given us a very healthy population of holdover trout in the river. Water temperatures have allowed prudent fishing even into the early days of August. The Conservation Committee has been hard at work installing additional temperature probes, increasing both our scientific data about the Guadalupe as well as our presence in the community as true stewards of this fantastic resource.

Our Troutfest committee has been working diligently to create an event to remember this winter. They will need many volunteers

for this to be a successful event. If you would be willing to help, please email me at [VP-affairs@GRTU.org](mailto:VP-affairs@GRTU.org).

Our October general meeting is scheduled for Saturday October 23rd at the Canyon Lake Community Resource Recreation Center (CRRC) on the South Access Road in Sattler. There will be a social hour and Lease Orientation class at 9 AM, with the general meeting beginning at 10. See the map for directions to CRRC.

This month I am very excited to present Kirk Deeter as our speaker. Many of you will recognize Kirk as an editor-at-large for *Field & Stream* magazine, and the publisher/



October speaker Kirk Deete

editor of *Angling Trade*, the magazine covering the fly fishing industry in North America. He is known for his gonzo story angles... fly fishing for mako sharks from kayaks... exploring the remote Bolivian jungle with natives in dugout canoes... scuba diving (a.k.a. “Going Deep”) with trout and bass... and teaching Eskimos how to fly fish in Alaska, etc.

Deeter has earned top “Excellence in Craft” honors for his fishing features in four of the past five years from the Outdoor Writers Association of America. He is the co-author of three fly fishing books, and in May 2010 released *The Little Red Book of Fly Fishing* (written with the late Charlie Meyers of *The Denver Post*).

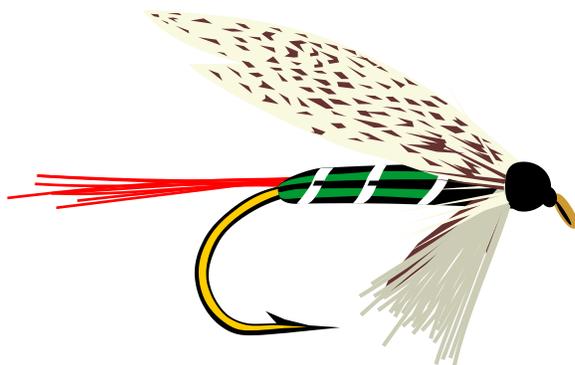
Deeter is also a host of the fly fishing weblog “Fly Talk” at [fieldandstream.com](http://fieldandstream.com). He has appeared on ESPN, ABC’s “Good Morning America,” and on numerous other television and radio programs. He lives in Colorado, and guides on the South Platte River... when he isn’t chasing fish (and stories) in some far-off locale. Kirk will

be sharing some of his tips and techniques with us, as well as some of his far-flung adventures. You do not want to miss this.

Kirk recently published a story in *Field and Stream* on “Best Wild Places - The Alpine Triangle”. You should read the story not only because it is of great interest to those interested in preserving wild places, but also because GRTU played a part in sponsoring Dylan Looze, a Trout Unlimited intern from Round Rock, who accompanied Kirk and Chris Hunt (communications director for Trout Unlimited’s Sportsman’s Conservation Project), who was a guest speaker in our April meeting.

Dylan is a former student of GRTU member Trey Nobles who led the “Trout in the Classroom” curriculum at Round Rock High School. This is a great example of how our efforts as a chapter can pay huge dividends in the lives of our young people and our streams. We hope to have Dylan join us at the October meeting to share some stories of his summer adventure with us.

- Mark Dillow



## 2010/2011 Raffles

Over the years, we have raffled off rods, reels, waders, kayaks, rafts, guided trips and just about anything else a flyfisher might desire. The purpose of these raffles is to raise funds to defray the cost of our chapter meetings — site rental, speaker fees and travel expenses, and related expenses.

According to the Texas Secretary of State, GRTU, as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, is allowed only two raffles a year. Since we held raffle drawings at our January and April meetings, we will not hold one at the October meeting, but we will be selling tickets for the raffle drawings in January and April of 2011. Since you don’t have to be present to win, get your tickets early for these valuable items.

Our January raffle will focus on fly tying, with a nice Oasis fly tying desk and a Renzetti Traveler vise. Thanks to Sportman’s Finest in Austin for providing this great combo. For those just getting into fly tying or someone wanting to upgrade his or her tying tools, this is a great place to start.

In our April meeting we will draw the winning ticket for a Temple Fork Outfitters fly rod, courtesy of Gruene Outfitters in Gruene. The rod is an Axiom 6 weight. The Axioms are TFO’s premium rods, designed to throw smooth, powerful casts that produce high line speed and tight loops. It may not turn you into a tournament caster, but it won’t hurt.

## Directions to the Canyon Lake CRRC Recreation Center

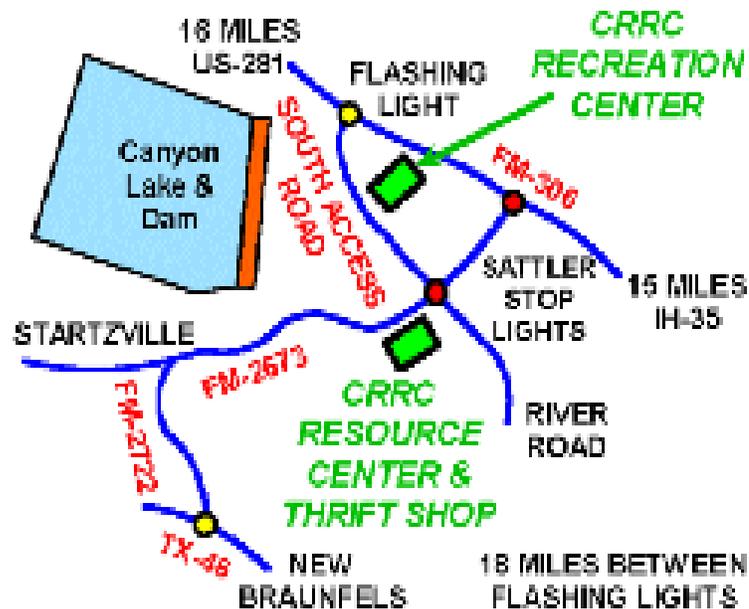
>From NORTH or SOUTH: Just North of New Braunfels on I-35 take Exit 191, (Canyon Lake Exit), which is FM 306 and go WEST, about 14 miles to Sattler (Canyon Lake area). Go past the traffic light at FM 2673 in Sattler for about 2 miles, (through Canyon City) and turn Left at the blinking caution light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

## Map of GRTU Meeting Area



## Troutfest

[www.grtutroutfest.org](http://www.grtutroutfest.org)

The website shown above says it all. Go there, check it out, buy a ticket and a hat pin and order a t-shirt. Get ready for the fun surely to be had the weekend of February 18, 19 & 20, 2011.

As long as I have been associated with GRTU, I've heard that we should have a banquet. About three years ago I became involved from the Treasurer's point of view with an event called Troutfest. Each year it was held at Rio Raft on the Guadalupe River and seemingly everyone that attended had a good time.

Last year when Corby Bittner was called away with family matters, several members stepped up and stepped in for Corby. Troutfest was held and generally a good time was had by all.

During that experience it was realized if ever GRTU was to have a Banquet it needed to coincide with Troutfest. In fact the whole event could be called Troutfest and it needed to raise money for the Guadalupe River and the many efforts the Chapter is involved with to Protect, Preserve and Restore the Guadalupe River.

Last year's event was held the third weekend in February and on March 10, 2010 (two–three weeks later) a committee was formed and I agreed to lead us to our first ever Banquet and Troutfest weekend. Mark Dillow, Ted Mendrek, Clint Jackson, Rafael Torres, Gary Lehman and Bill Higdon met and a presentation was given that was intended to be thought provoking and energizing to see if everyone would sign on to make February 18, 19 & 20, 2011 a Troutfest weekend. They agreed. We went to work. There were big ideas and big dreams of how this weekend should turn out.

Immediately folks went to work and a logo was created especially for Troutfest that can be used for years to come, a website was perfected, face book page obtained, hat pins with original artwork was created and t-shirts were planned for the upcoming

inaugural Banquet and Expo weekend. All of this can now be seen on the web at the address listed above and is totally interactive to assist all comers with information necessary to spend a weekend at the Guad and enjoy the fellowship of GRTU members from throughout the great state of TEXAS! It was decided a focus would be for YOUTH activities during the weekend and the EXPO would free to all who chose to enjoy the festivities.

The Friday night Banquet ticket is \$50, the hat pin is \$7.50, a hat is \$20 and a t-shirt is \$20. Additionally on Friday night there will be a live auction, silent auction and raffle buckets to generate the funds necessary to pay for this event and excess funds will be for the Chapter to put to good use on the Guadalupe River.

To make the event extra, extra, extra special, noting it is the inaugural event for a Banquet and with goals set very high for this Troutfest weekend, we have loaded the deck with noteworthy speakers and celebrity fly fishing personalities.

Executive Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife, Carter Smith will be our key note speaker during the Friday night banquet. Also in attendance not only Friday night, but the entire weekend will be 13 year old Tyler Befus, the young people's fly fishing leader, Mr. Ed Engle author and noted speaker of Tailwater books and both Emily and Dave Whitlock, famed artist, fly tier and worshiped fisherman with his lovely wife who makes all his work appear effortless and a great leader for the fly fishing ladies.

Frankly, these tickets should cost three times as much, but our intent is to enable everyone a great weekend shared with common interests in the spirit of Preservation, Protection and Restoration of our treasured Guadalupe River. There will be a golden opportunity to learn from the industries best and see exhibitors displaying the industries best equipment. Plus, we will have fly tiers exhibiting their craft throughout the Saturday, Sunday event. A kid-fish is planned plus Tyler will be hosting a schedule of



# TROUTFEST 2011

GUADALUPE RIVER TROUT UNLIMITED

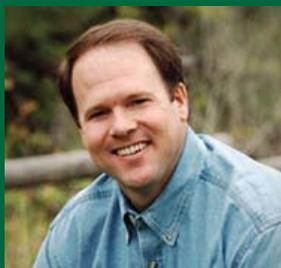


## FLY FISHING EXPO & BANQUET

Banquet Featured Guest Speaker

### BANQUET

Friday  
February  
18th



Get Your  
Banquet Tickets!  
[www.grtutroutfest.org](http://www.grtutroutfest.org)

**Carter Smith**  
Exec. Director of Texas Parks & Wildlife

### Expo Celebrity Guests



Tyler Befus



Dave & Emily Whitlock



Ed Engle

## JOIN US at the FREE Expo!!!

**Lots to enjoy!**

**EXPO Dates**  
Sat. Feb. 19th  
Sun. Feb. 20th

- Artists** - original pieces
  - Vendors** - food, crafts, clothing, wood works, metal sculpture and more!
  - Authors** - book signings
  - Exhibitors** - Simms, TFO, Sage, Kayak/Rafts
  - Lecturers** - Entomology, Fly Casting, reading the water, aquatic classes
  - Fly Tiers** - live demonstrations and tying instructors
- ...and much more!



Like us on facebook: [GRTU TROUTFEST 2011](https://www.facebook.com/GRTUTROUTFEST2011)



events for all ages.

All of the committee volunteers are working in earnest to pull this off. We need your help! It can be given with your purchase of a Banquet ticket, your attendance at the EXPO and volunteering to help us with the huge crowd expected to attend. Both the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce and the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce are promoting our event and offering to help us with managing the crowds. They are also helping us with promotions starting October 1, 2010.

Additionally, Texas Parks & Wildlife has agreed to be a Partner with GRTU in this event. Their promotion efforts will be invaluable for our chapter, the river and the patrons attending.

### DON'T WAIT TO GET YOUR TICKET!!!!

We are limited to the first 250 tickets sold for the Friday night Banquet. This event will be held in enclosed tents with nice tables, chairs complete with cloths for the tables and centerpiece to appeal to the ladies and gentleman and their family or friends. With this event being promoted aggressively to 5000 members of TU in Texas, and with the caliber of celebrity guest plus our keynote speaker on Friday night, tickets should sell out quickly. Fly fishing clubs (non-profit) from throughout the State of Texas are being invited and will be offered free exhibit

space at the EXPO, Saturday and Sunday. Book your rooms, plan your schedule for the weekend and include the entire family for a sure to be fun filled weekend – fly fishing!

In May of 2010 Gary Lehman and I went to the Smoky Mountains and attended the largest Troutfest known to man hosted by the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited. They draw from 6 states and have nearly 500 at their Banquet on Friday night and literally thousands in and out during their Expo on Saturday and Sunday. We are determined to emulate their success. Help us, Please! Hope to see you there!

Phil Dopson, 2011 Troutfest Chair



## Rob Woodruff Offers Entomology Class December 4th & 5th

Texas fishing guide and professional entomologist Rob Woodruff will offer another of his popular “Entomology for Fly Fishers” classes December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Rio Raft in Sattler.

The course will focus on the specific invertebrates, both aquatic and terrestrial, found in and around the Guadalupe River. Rob will include both warmwater and coldwater environments, so it will be useful to trout fishers and bass fisher alike.

Topics covered include sampling techniques, identification of both larval and adult stages and simple biology of the species. The ultimate goal of the class is for the angler to develop the ability to equate in-the-field observation to fly selection and construction in order to achieve success. Rob has added a new section-Phylum Annelida- Leeches and Segmented Worms.

The class consists of four hours of lecture and demonstration on Saturday as well as a half-day field trip on Sunday. While on the river, students will participate in the collection and evaluation of insect samples and receive instruction on fly selection. Class size is limited.

Rio Raft & Resort (Conference Room), Sattler TX, in conjunction with Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited (GRTU)  
Dec 4 & 5, 2010

Course fee is \$65.00.

To register, contact Rob Woodruff, either by Email at [wgsflyfish@aol.com](mailto:wgsflyfish@aol.com) or at (903) 967-2665. Rob will accept checks or money orders for payment.

## Project Healing Waters Needs Volunteers

GRTU's Project Healing Waters Program is entering its fourth season of helping wounded soldiers at the Brooke Army Medical Center by teaching them the skills associated with fly fishing. Last year our program held fly tying and fly casting classes on the base on a weekly basis and held a fishing event on the Guadalupe River for 10 wounded warriors, some of whom were able to catch fish on flies they had tied in our program.

As our program grows, we have a greater need for volunteers for various jobs. We are particularly looking for a San Antonio Base Coordinator to handle the interface with base personnel and scheduling

of sessions. This should be somebody who lives in San Antonio and has some time during the day to meeting with the base staff to promote our program, recruit potential participants and schedule sessions. This is a key organizational role for somebody who has a strong interest in participating in Project Healing Waters.

We also need fly tying instructors and assistants to staff our regular classes and form relationships with the soldiers. Most sessions take 2-4 instructors to assist the soldiers with the tying activity and 1-2 assistants to help with the materials. Participating in a Project Healing Waters fly tying class is a really great experience. You get to meet some amazing young hero's, many of whom are very badly injured but with amazingly positive attitude. And you can see

how learning to tie flies provides so many physical therapy benefits to their recovery. It's during these tying sessions that PHW volunteers build relationships with the soldiers and then carry those relationships out onto the water when we conduct our outings.

If you would be interested in being involved in PHW as the San Antonio Base Coordinator, or if you'd just like to come help us tie flies, please contact Jeff Schmitt at [schmittj@grtu.org](mailto:schmittj@grtu.org).

If you can't help with your time, but you'd still like to help GRTU's Project Healing Waters Program, please include a donation on your membership form this year. We have a category for supporting Project Healing Waters and your donations will be used to support our classes and our outings.

## 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

## President's Letter

I hope this newsletter is finding you doing well and in good health, looking forward to a fall/winter trout season on the Guadalupe. GRTU has some great projects in progress and some great events on the horizon for the chapter.

As you may already know, the Flows and Conservation Committees, with the approval of the Board of Directors, purchased and installed seven new water temperature monitors. GRTU is doing temperature and flow rate studies in conjunction with Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority. Flow rate tests were conducted on the following dates:

- 16 Aug - 21 Aug: 190 cfs;
- 23 Aug - 28 Aug: 180 cfs; and

- 30 Aug - 3 Sep 170 cfs.

The results will be published in the near future. See an article by Phil Dopson and David Schroeder in this newsletter for more details.

Another event this year is our *Troutfest 2011*. The event will be held the weekend of February 18 at Rio Raft in Sattler. See the newsletter article by Phil Dopson for a description of the event. This will be a much bigger event than in the past. It is fun for all ages and I hope to see all of you at this function.

The Conservation Committee also has many exciting projects underway. They are gathering proposals and conducting proof of concept on several new projects. See Gary Cobb's article for a more detailed description regarding the projects.

Project Healing Waters is planning

a couple of events this season. Contact Jeff Schmitt for volunteer opportunities.

Trout in the Classroom is gearing up for another school year, with the hope of adding additional Texas cities and classrooms throughout the state.

There will be several river clean-ups scheduled for this season, contact Corby Bittner for details.

We still need more volunteers for help with the Trout in the Classroom project, Project Healing Waters, Troutfest, trout stocking and river clean-ups. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in the chapter. If you are interested in helping with any of the mentioned areas, please contact myself or the project coordinators. We cannot do these projects without your help.

- Bill Higdon, Chapter President



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## GRTU Restoration Committee 2011 Initiatives

In 2010 GRTU initiated our first restoration project on the Guadalupe River with the transplanting of the watercress near Canyon Dam and the planting of trees along the river near the Gorge and at lease site 6A. Our plans to plant willows along the river bank at the Gorge was delayed and is pending further review and approval by the Canyon Lake office of the Corps of Engineers.

In June 2010 GRTU's Restoration Committee met with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to discuss potential restoration projects to undertake during the upcoming year. The projects we decided to implement include the following:

1. Habitat Characterization Study: The biggest and probably the most exciting project is a research study involving TPWD and Texas State University. Greg Cummings with TPWD is pursuing a Master's degree at TSU and his thesis will involve completing detailed characterization of the habitat at 3 to 5 preferential holding locations for the trout. The study will look at all aspects of the habitat (physical properties, water quality, macroinvertebrate population, etc.) and will try to draw correlations between habitat properties

and preferential use by the trout. Once we know what habitat conditions the trout are utilizing we can look to enhance those properties where they occur, stock locations with similar habitat properties, and create similar conditions at new locations. GRTU will assist by providing funding for the two-year study which will culminate with Greg's thesis.

2. Biosurvey Monitoring: We will soon be initiating a biosurvey monitoring program that will involve sampling and characterizing macroinvertebrate populations at four locations along the trophy zone. Information gained from this monitoring will be used to assess the overall health of the river and will provide a means to evaluate changes associated with our restoration projects.

3. Instream/Riparian Plantings: We plan to expand our efforts from 2010 for instream and riparian plantings by focusing on new areas and on developing a list of preferred plants. The 2010 efforts demonstrated that willows can be easily

used to stabilize and restore eroding or denuded banks. Additionally we will implement a study with TPWD to evaluate native plants for use in our restoration efforts. Lastly, we will work to gain Corp approval to complete the willow planting along the river banks at the Gorge area as originally planned.

4. Water Quality Monitoring: We will also be implementing a water quality monitoring program in 2011. The plan is being designed to provide general water quality information over the trophy zone. Our plan is not finalized but we anticipate completion in early 2011.

We will provide updates throughout the year as we make progress on our plans. If we are able to get these projects underway we will have the foundations of a comprehensive program in place. However, there will still be plenty of work to do. We will continue to rely on volunteers from the Chapter to make our program successful. If you are interested in helping with any of these upcoming efforts please contact me at [CobbG@grtu.org](mailto:CobbG@grtu.org).



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## Fisheries Report

The fishing last season was phenomenal. I received regular reports of 20"+ trout being caught. Just check out some of the posts and pictures on the GRTU website forums. If you haven't fished the river lately you truly missed an opportunity to catch a trophy trout right here in the Hill Country of Texas.

We have our flow agreement with GBRA in force this year. A minimum flow of 200cfs is guaranteed through the hot summer months. The holdover % is looking great. If the conditions continue to be favorable we will start the 2011 season with some really big fish. We also have a shot at stream-born trout as a result of Karen Gephardt and Jim Robert's effort getting leftover eggs in the river from the Trout in the Classroom program and the big brooders we have holding over..

There are more bugs hatching than I've seen since the mid 80's. We are seeing consistent hatches of Caddis, BWOs, PMDs, and Trico's just to name a few. With the older, bigger trout we are even having some dry fly catches.

All in all, the Guadalupe Trout Fishery is in **Great** shape. If current conditions continue as is, we will begin stocking in November.

I'm really looking forward to upcoming season. Becoming a member of our one of a kind lease program may be one of the best moves you can make if catching a 20"+ trout within a few hours from home is something you might like to do. Sign-up will begin in Oct. for the 2011 season.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the river.

Bill Higdon, VP of Fisheries

We are in our 10th year serving  
Hill Country fly tiers and fly fishermen

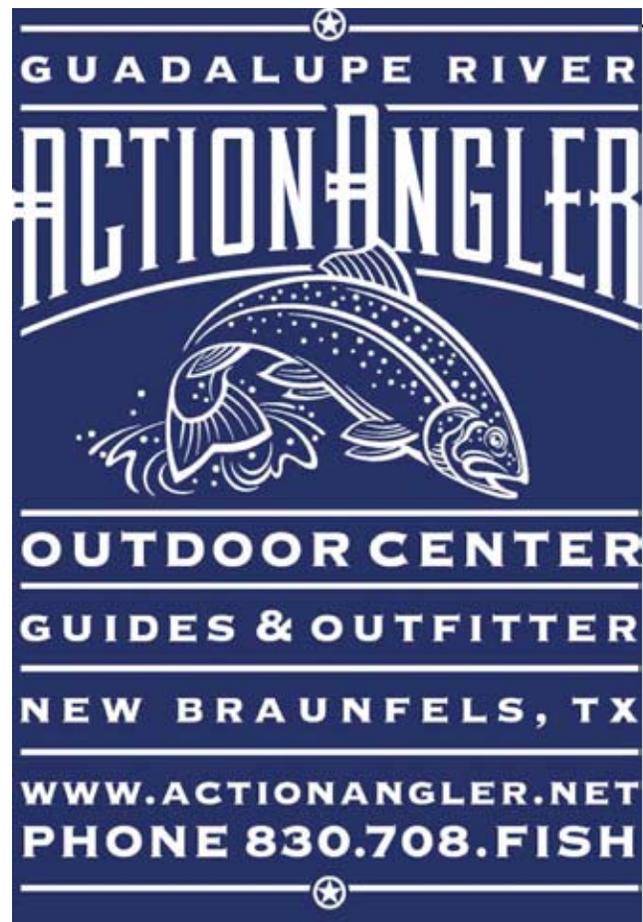
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## GRTU Membership Reminder

Our GRTU 2010-2011 Lease Access Program provides many access points on the river and is effective November 1st 2010 through October 31, 2011. 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. We stock the river in the fall with trout and continue to stock the river 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" where you can ask questions and get answers.

To join go to: [www.grtu.org](http://www.grtu.org) and click on Membership. All Lease Access Members are required to complete the online orientation covering do's and don'ts. Please also renew your

National TU Membership on our [www.grtu.org](http://www.grtu.org) website. Our site accepts credit cards. If you have questions click on CONTACTS and e-mail or call your Area Representative.

- Our mission: Conserve, Protect and Restore coldwater trout fisheries
- Three 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

Check out our website for further information: [www.grtu.org](http://www.grtu.org)



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[Clint@Livin2Fish.com](mailto:Clint@Livin2Fish.com)

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## **Flow Committee Formed to Ensure Perpetuation of Flow Agreement**

On 2/23/10 via an e-mail to the Board of Directors for GRTU, President Bill Higdon requested a Flow Committee be established and that it would be led by Phil Dopson. The newly formed Committee has a valued member David Schroeder having the experience as an integral figure that led us to the Flow Agreement now in place since 2003 and set to expire in 2018. Additionally this committee has the expertise of Gary Cobb, Mark Dillow and our President Bill Higdon.

The committee first met with Rick Lowerre the attorney chosen by the committee to lead us through whatever negotiations will be necessary to assure the Flow Agreement is extended before its programmed termination date in 2018. Mr. Lowerre presented a proposal to the Board of Directors meeting in April of 2010 and outlined steps we initiate to work toward an extension of the Agreement. His proposal was adopted by the full Board during that meeting. Following that April meeting, several initiatives have been undertaken. Two significant steps are the appointment of scientist, Joe Trungale as recommended by our lawyer Rick Lowerre to represent GRTU at both stakeholder and scientist meetings as scheduled by legislation contained in Senate

Bills 2 & 3. These meetings are ongoing monthly during the later half of 2010 and early 2011. The second important and possibly landmark decision of this committee and ratified by the entire Board of GRTU has been the purchase in July of 7 additional temperature monitors which have been strategically placed in cooperation with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department within the Trout Zone on the Guadalupe River. The TPWD personnel involved in the placement of the monitors along with our committee members were led by Steve Magnelia, Greg Cummings and Darin Gossett. Prior to and during the period of the placement of the monitors, Bill Higdon, David Schroeder, Phil Dopson and our attorney Rick Lowerre met in the offices of GBRA with its Executive Director Bill West, Tommy Hill and Bruce Wasserman (attorney for GBRA) and other of their delegates to discuss altering the flows during August from the benchmark 200cfs to monitor temperature changes. After several renditions an agreement was negotiated with GBRA, TPWD and GRTU to adjust the flows in the river by 10cfs over three consecutive weeks (Sunday night thru early Friday morning) to 190, 180 and 170cfs. This test has been completed and results of the lower flows can be found on the website. As well as, continuous temperature monitoring of now 8 sites in the trout zone.

One of the major challenges to

the Guadalupe Trout Fishery is to strike a balance in the investment of scarce water resources and the long-term viability of the trout fishery. The expiration date of the Flow Agreement is December 2018, and GRTU is working with GBRA and TPWD to see if there is a middle ground to extending that agreement.

In 1960, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service submitted plans for a trout fishery below Canyon: *“The Fish and Wildlife plans recommend for the Project includes features to provide maximum benefits to fish and mitigate wildlife loses as a result of the Project construction. Enhancement to the fishery can be attained by providing a constant minimum release into the stream, by stocking rainbow trout on a put-and-take basis in this reach.... “An exact amount of release can only be determined when the project is completed and put into operation, but a minimum release of 150 second feet is deemed necessary to maintain a satisfactory trout fishery.”* These were visionary words, but the plan was never implemented. If it had become reality, I wouldn't be writing this article today.

To *“maintain a satisfactory trout fishery”* can also describe one of GRTU's core missions . Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority applied for additional water rights to Canyon Lake in 1999. In 2001 GRTU and GBRA signed the Flow Agreement providing for 200 cfs flow for

five months a year when Canyon Lake reaches minimum elevation of 909 at any time on, or after, January 1st. GBRA felt that the additional water gained from the permit would be available (not contracted for) until 2018 and the extra storage would be used to sustain the Flow Agreement. When the Flow Agreement is triggered, those years would not be considered drought years. A calculation of 25 years of history tells me that the Flow Agreement requires an average of 7,200 acre feet of water from Canyon storage, (less than 1 foot of lake elevation), when inflows to Canyon are factored in- some years require more storage and others, less, depending on variability in rainfall. In 2008 the Flow Agreement was triggered on January 1- primarily from the residual inflow and high lake elevations from the extremely wet year of 2007- but rainfall had shut-off by August of 2007- it began to look like a drought by early 2008. About 39,000 acre feet was required for the Flow Agreement in 2008 because of very little inflow to Canyon. There was a possibility that the extreme drought of 2008-2009 could become a drought of record.

When the Flow Agreement was negotiated in 2001 there was not much data to suggest that 200 cfs releases could protect trout. Texas Parks and Wildlife only began collecting water temperature data in 1997. Most of the augmented flows at that time were around 300 cfs released from the "Recreational Pool". But there was just enough data to indicate that 200 cfs could protect the trout fishery for a distance about 10 miles. TPWD has continued to collect water temperature data from 6 monitoring stations. GRTU purchased the real-time water temperature monitor in 2005 and we began collecting water temperature data. In all, we've collected hundreds of thousands of data points of water temperature and flow rates over 13 years.

But, there were still holes in the data. All but one monitor were located above river mile 7.4 where water temperatures were within the scientifically accepted thermal tolerance limits for trout. Mile 10 (3rd Crossing) seems to be at the maximum tolerance for trout. We didn't have enough water temperature data in between for sufficient detail

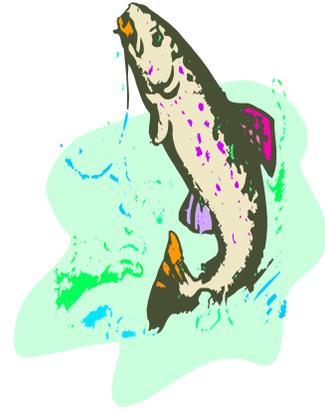
to describe what was happening. And there was very little water temperature data when flows were between 100 and 200 cfs. In July, seven new, real-time water temperature monitors were installed from river mile 5 down to 11. (Go to <http://www.grtu.org> and view the data). GRTU, GBRA and TPWD came together to test out new reduced flow scenarios starting in the middle of August. We wanted to spend the money on real-time water temperatures so that we could abort the tests should temperatures rise to cause mortality. TPWD is also sending out biologists to survey the river for trout populations and gauge any adverse effects of lower flows. The results are still early but it appears that some flow reductions can be achieved and still substantially protect the trout fishery. The amount of water from Canyon to support the Flow Agreement could be reduced, and perhaps be a basis for extending the agreement. We could also use the temperature monitors in a real-time way to reduce flows when the weather conditions (overcast, rainy, cool) cause the river to warm less.

The events of 2008 made us realize there would be no hope of extending the Flow Agreement in its present form because of the amount of water required. We may have to renegotiate the Flow Agreement; or completely sacrifice the trout fishery after 2018 if the contract cannot be extended. And that would be harmful, not only to trout, but to the multi-million dollar water recreational industry, hydropower, and to other fish and wildlife resources downstream all the way to the estuary that benefit from higher flows. GRTU is making a good-faith effort to arrive at a compromise. We are hoping that GBRA sees the benefit in the multi-use of the water resource, and could reserve some water for a Flow Agreement. There is a legal component that has to do with "firm yield" at Canyon that doesn't allow for a lot of wiggle room. GRTU is exploring possibilities with its legal advisors. In addition, the status of the "Seasonal Deviation" with the Corps of Engineers- we know it as the "Recreational Pool"- is always in jeopardy since it doesn't have the force of law behind it and it must be renewed every year. This Recreational Pool runs from April

15 to September 15 and it solves a lot of the problems with the firm yield of the lake. It would be of great importance to have that made permanent. What GRTU is undertaking is expensive, and will require a lot of effort and money. Please consider any donation to the Legal Defense/ Water Temperature Monitor/ Conservation Funds when you renew your membership.

The new water temperature monitors are HOBO U30 data recorders with attached temperature probe on a long wire. A combination of solar

cell and battery power the units and they are designed for long-term deployment. They have cellular connection for real-time uploading of data. Other water quality monitoring probes can be attached. We were extremely impressed with their ruggedness since the first one was submerged by at least 5 feet of water in the June flood- 3 days after it was installed! The new stations are much better than the one we purchased in 2005. Next newsletter, I would like to talk more about the results of the tests that are being conducted as I write.



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