



Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Newsletter



No. 87 April 2008
Publication Data on Pg. 16

GRTU Meeting
Saturday, April 26th
 Canyon Lake CRRC

Directions on page 3

9 AM - Lease Access
Orientation & Social Hour
10 AM - Business Mtg & Elections
11 AM - Presentation:
“Tango Trout”
Mark & Sharon Lance
12 - Raffle & Lunch
12:30 PM - Lease Access
Orientation

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Fly Fishing Adventure Photographer Mark Lance and TU Board of Trustee Member Sharon Lance our Featured Guests at April 26th Chapter Meeting

We will close out the 2007-2008 season with a presentation by a gifted photographer, Mark Lance, and his wife, Sharon Lance a member of the National TU Board of Trustees. Sharon and Mark will share their love of fly fishing, travel, photography, and conservation with GRTU on April 26th at the Canyon Lake Community Resource Recreation Center.

Mark Lance grew up chucking poppers and plastic worms to farm pond bass across Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. That all changed when the family moved to Colorado and he promptly talked his dad into buying him a fly rod and a “Thompson A” tying kit. Photography came next, spurred on by the Nikon his grandfather brought to him from overseas. He has been fly fishing now for nearly



Trout Unlimited Grassroots Trustee Sharon Lance demonstrates her passion for both trout fishing and coldwater conservation in this photo by her husband, fly fishing photographer Mark Lance.

40 years and the two passions have merged into River Light Images fly fishing photography.

Mark's stock photography business operates under the name River Light Images. He shoots for outdoor manufacturers and outfitters including Patagonia, Scott Fly Rods, Hyde Drift Boats, Hatch Reels, Brunton, ExOfficio, Rio Azul Lodge, The Best of Kamchatka, and Yellow Dog Outfitters. His fly fishing photography is frequently featured in *Southwest Fly Fishing*, *Grays Sporting Journal*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, *Trout Magazine*, *American Angler* and *Saltwater Fly Fisherman*. A sample of Mark's photography can be viewed on his website at www.riverlightimages.com.

Mark's presentation for the meeting is titled "Tango Trout," providing us with the visual temptations of fly fishing in Argentina. Through Mark's compelling photography you will experience the quest for rainbow and brown trout across sprawling estancias and wilderness waters in Argentina's Neuquen and Rio Negro provinces.

The rivers flowing from Argentina's Andean Cordillera offer a wide variety of fly fishing opportunities. Some liken the fly fishing experience to western Montana 50 years ago. The semi-arid landscape and brawling freestone rivers do remind one of the Rocky Mountain west. However, the passing shadow of the Caracara raptor and unfamiliar names like Rio Chimehuin, Rio Collon Cura, and Rio Limay take us to a fly fishing paradise at 40 degrees south latitude in a land of late night asados, deep red Malbec wines and the Tango.

Sharon will share with us her experiences and insight over fifteen years as a volunteer leader for Trout Unlimited at the chapter, state council level, and as a current member of the National TU Board of Trustees. Sharon is the former President of Colorado Trout Unlimited with approximately 10,000 members statewide.

She organized a large Trout Unlimited chapter project called the Cheesman Canyon Restoration Project which raised over \$400,000. This was a six year project done primarily by volunteers in the only roadless canyon in the state. Sharon was one of four

national finalists for the 2004 Budweiser Conservationist of the Year award, and she was chosen as Ford Motor Co. "RiverKeeper" in March, 2005 in *Fly Rod & Reel* magazine. In addition, she is featured in a book entitled, the *Colorado Outdoor Lover's Guide*, which has an article about women and fly fishing.

Sharon has also been a good friend and strong supporter of GRTU at the state, region, and national level. At her initiative, there has been ongoing sharing of ideas and resources between Colorado TU and Texas TU, including key methods for developing and using strategic planning to guide our chapter's efforts. As the most active and innovative of TU's current Grassroots Trustees, Sharon is raising the standard for trustee performance and bringing real business acumen and a passion for coldwater conservation to the Board's decision making.

Final 2008 Raffle Prize Offered

Sage Z-Axis Fly Rod

Sage went back to the drawing board to create the incredible new Z-Axis Series Fast Action Rods. 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 at the April meeting with the raffle held later that day.

[Editor's note: I have one of these rods, as well as several crafted by Dennis Freeman, and I can vouch for the fishability of the rod and the quality of Dennis's work. This will be a rod to cherish and use for a long time to come.]

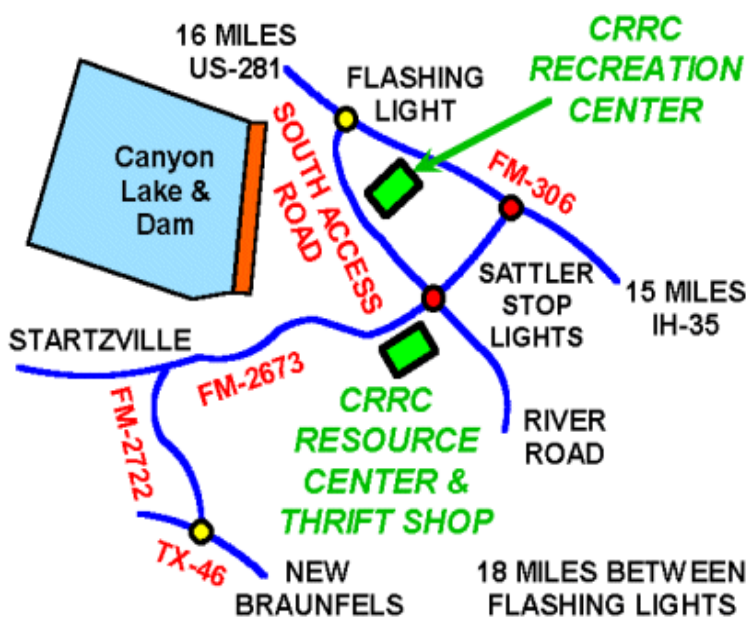
Directions to the Canyon Lake Community Resource Rec Center

>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.



Whitlocks Headline Fall Meeting to Celebrate GRTU's 40th

In 1968, shortly after Canyon Dam was constructed and Canyon Lake filled, a small group of dedicated trout fishers and coldwater conservationists, many of whom had been members of Trout Unlimited chapters in other states, thought the Guadalupe River should have its own TU chapter. So they organized themselves, laid the groundwork, and fulfilled TU's startup requirements, and were granted chapter charter number 066. Little did they realize that in four decades, GRTU would grow to become the largest TU chapter in the world, with well over 4000 members spread across the state of Texas.

Over the course of 2008, we will have a number of events to help us celebrate the chapter's 40th anniversary. One such event, our first annual Troutfest, happened just a few weeks ago. Our April meeting will feature TU Board of Trustee member Sharon Lance and her husband Mark, a noted adventure and fly fishing photographer.

In the fall, for our October chapter meeting, we'll have **famed fly fishing and conservation innovator Dave Whitlock and his wife Emily** as our special guests. They will speak at our chapter meeting and also conduct a clinic while they are here. More details will follow in the coming months.

In the meantime, we encourage you to join in our celebration by purchasing a GRTU 40th Anniversary cap or t-shirt or fishing shirt with our new 40th anniversary logo. They are great conversation starters and a neat way to commemorate all the dedication, hard work, and fun that have gone into making GRTU a great group to be a part of and a real force for coldwater conservation in Texas.

40th Anniversary logo items will be available at the chapter store at both the April and October meetings. So seek out Bob Runion or Doug Kierklewski or one of the others that helps at the store and get your own 40th anniversary GRTU merchandise.

President's Message

The 2007-08 winter trout season is winding down. We have had a great season with high quality trout, good flows and the cooperation of Mother Nature. I am very optimistic for the summer holdovers, especially since we are guaranteed minimum flows through the hotter months. This year has also brought the chapter some exciting new initiatives as well as new challenges. The chapter's first Troutfest was a huge success and we look forward to continuing this next year. There is a nice article about the event elsewhere in the newsletter.

Our conservation group is actively making recommendations to the Board to help enumerate and prioritize our conservation initiatives for the future. There are several looming issues we will have to address and as we formulate our chapter's conservation policy. In particular, there is a proposed New Braunfels outer loop that is projected to build an eight lane bridge across the river at the lower end of the Trophy Trout section. We have a guest-written article in this newsletter about that project.

Another plan is in the offing to rebuild the Ponderosa Bridge in the heart of the trophy section. Both of these issues will be discussed in detail at our April Board meeting. If you have comments or suggestions on these or other issues, please contact me or one of the Board members before that meeting.

We have two studies ongoing that should provide us with an interesting new view of the Guadalupe River and its aquatic life. Our conservation committee has been compiling and examining historical water quality data. Meanwhile, our two year study of the river's macro-invertebrates is coming to an end. We should have findings from both of these studies by the April chapter meeting.

The April meeting is our official annual chapter meeting which means we have chapter elections for the Board of Directors. Currently we have one open Board position. If you are interested in getting involved or volunteering, send me an e-mail at grtu-president@grtu.org.

We are still looking for additional help with Trout in the Classroom. We need people to talk with local school systems and parent teacher organizations in San Antonio and Austin to spread the word about this great project. Our goal is to have at least nine classrooms with fish tanks for the coming school year. We need your help to make that happen!

Finally, let's not forget that 2008 is the 40th anniversary for the chapter. We will be threading this theme into many of our events in 2008. Happy Anniversary GRTU!

See you on the water,

Greg Neubauer
GRTU Chapter President

Fisheries Report by Bill Higdon, VP of Fisheries

This year has been one of our best years in a long time for the fishery. The flows are perfect for wading; we have 16 great leases, and plenty of fish in the river.

The fishing this year has been phenomenal. I get 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 this year you are truly missing an opportunity to catch a trophy trout right here in the Hill Country of Texas.

We will have our flow agreement with GBRA in force this year, with a minimum flow of 200cfs through the hot summer months. The odds of a good holdover percentage is looking good. If the conditions continue to be favorable, we will start the 2009 season with some really big fish. We also have a shot at stream-born trout as a result of Karen Gephardt's & Jim Robert's efforts getting leftover eggs in the river from the Trout in the Classroom program.

There are more bugs than I've seen since the mid 90's. We are seeing consistent hatches of Caddis, Blue Winged Olives, Pale Morning Duns, and Tricos, just to name a few. With the older, bigger trout (who are more keyed to the bug life on the river), we are even having some dry fly catches.

All in all, the Guadalupe is truly a Trophy Trout Fishery.

I'm really looking forward to the 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.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the river.

Bill Higdon
VP of Fisheries



Troutfest One Fly winner Chris Lambert displays his lucky 13th trout to photographer Gretchen Neubauer before releasing it. Find out more about Troutfest in the article on page 7; more photos on pages 8 & 9.



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Coming to the Guadalupe – the New Braunfels Outer Loop

**by
April Hughes**

[Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by members of the Citizen's Alliance for Smart Expansion, a local group concerned about the proposed New Braunfels Outer Loop. While the GRTU Board has not yet taken a position on this issue, we felt it was important to present this information to the chapter. The Board will be discussing what position or actions to take at the April Board meeting. If you have opinions or suggestions to express on this issue, please contact a Board member prior to the Board meeting on April 26th.]

Thanks.]

I'm positive there is a "Born to Fish" gene, which makes it imperative to spend as much time as possible on the water catching fish, sharing fish stories and strategizing how to catch bigger fish in greater numbers. I know this because my husband has such a gene.

When we moved to New Braunfels from our "fishing paradise" in Washington State, my husband was very disheartened at the lack of public access to the Guadalupe River. After months of watching him suffer severe fishing withdrawals, I was saved from the need to stock

our pool with bass and steelhead by his discovery of GRTU. The Guadalupe has now become one of his favorite fishing spots in the U.S.

But all is not well! A major threat to our newly beloved Guadalupe has emerged! The culprit is a 40-mile band of major highway, planned to circle New Braunfels. It would take out homes and farms, slice through the very sensitive Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and the special trout regulation zone on the Guadalupe. How will a highway effect the Guadalupe? The three ingredients for development are power, transportation and water. The road will provide the transportation. This will enable urban sprawl. Developers could tap into the aquifer for water and deplete flows from Hueco Springs and the Comal River. Homes and businesses will become a source of pollution that would find its way back to the aquifer and the river. Can you imagine the Guadalupe as an urbanized stream, with little access, over-built and the water a peculiar color?

Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) came up with this plan, but failed to include impacts on the river or surrounding habitat critical for endangered birds and cave dwelling species. They saw no need for an Environmental Impact Study. Conservation groups such as the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance are in opposition. In the minds of some Texas State, New Braunfels, Comal and Guadalupe officials, this is already a done deal. The initial stated time for implementing this

project was 20 years. They are now planning to start some phases in as little as 3 years.

The question has to be asked: Is this any way to treat our river, or any river, that made its national prominence known in the *Trout Unlimited "America's 100 Best Trout Streams"*? So please take a few minutes and make a worthwhile investment of your time to help protect the Guadalupe. The fate of our river hangs in the balance.

Citizens' Alliance for Smart Expansion (CASE) is a group fighting to derail this flawed plan. To do this we need the help of everyone concerned about the project's impact. We need you to make your concerns known at the national, state and local levels. We need GRTU members to attend meetings and hearings as well as lend expert testimony regarding this issue. GRTU knows how to fight and win. The time to stop this is now. The time to protect this invaluable fishery is now.

Visit our website <www.nbcase.org> for political contact information. To participate contact April Hughes (830) 626-7272, e-mail hughes@az.com or Shirley Pfeiffer (830) 606-6978. We can also mail or e-mail you a user-friendly list of all political contacts.

CASE

To preserve what is unique to our area.
To protect our quality of life. To
encourage responsible growth.

Troutfest a Big Success

The sun peeked in an out from behind an occasional cloud, a light breeze rustled the branches of the big cypress and sycamore trees, and a few kids played in the grass or drove their toy trucks up and down a large pile of dirt. Moms watched kids or glanced down at the river, where recent graduates of a GRTU nymphing class were taking their post graduate exam waist deep in the Guadalupe, coaxing yet another trout to take one of their offerings. Those of us on the banks or on the deck behind the Rio Raft meeting building were in shorts and t-shirts, since the temps were pushing 80. Then someone would hook a trout and a spouse would jump into action, camera in hand, hoping to get a shot of the fish before it was released back into the river.

That scene typified the essence of the First Annual GRTU Troutfest, held February 29-March 2nd at Rio Raft, near Fourth Crossing, in Sattler. We gathered first on Friday evening for heavy appetizers and a silent auction. Corby Bittner then made up some rules for the One Fly contest to be held the next day. We were also given our first opportunity to ogle "The Beast," a Texas-sized rolling barbecue provided by Greg Neubauer's employer, Gyrodata. As you can see from the picture on page [], it looks like a cross between a steam locomotive and a Rube Goldberg machine on steroids.

Saturday morning, Greg and Gary Cobb treated early risers to breakfast tacos. Shortly thereafter, Kevin Hutchinson arrived to conduct the first of his two fly casting classes. He brought along a helper who proved being old and sly is not always better than being young and flexible. Some folks



went out to fish the One Fly Contest, others gathered in the meeting room to swap lies, tie flies, and enjoy the balmy weather. Around midday, Greg and Chris Baumbach taught their on-river nymphing classes, a popular choice among the more than 50 people who showed up for the event. The proof was in the pudding – nearly half of the nymphing class graduates caught trout shortly after they'd completed their classes.



Spouses, families, fly-fishers and assorted bystanders gathered Saturday evening for a big barbecue, more silent auctions, and lots of good natured ribbing and conversation. Chris Lambert was declared the winner of the One Fly Contest, having caught 13 trout on something

resembling the beads we used to string on lanyards at YMCA day camp. Gretchen Neubauer won the Family Division with five trout on a similar piece of hobby-craft. By the end of the evening, it was clear that we'd made about \$2000 for our chapter's conservation fund and that we all wanted to do this again.

Many thanks to those who helped to make this event a success, including, Greg, Corby, Gary, Chris B, Kevin, Chris L, Gretchen, Bob Runion, and all those who donated items to the auctions or stayed afterward to clean up and restore order. If you didn't go, you missed a great outing, but we'll give you a chance to rectify your error come next year.


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Troutfest 2008

(Thanks to photographers Gary Cobb, Chris Lambert, and Gretchen Neubauer)



< *"The Beast"*





GRTU Looks at Dissolved Gas Issue

by
**Gary Cobb, Conservation
Chair**

Recently, GRTU became aware of data indicating that the total dissolved gas (TDG) concentrations discharged to the river at Canyon Dam in 2007 exceeded the allowable limit of 110% established under the operating license for the dam issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Based on data collected and reported by the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA), TDG levels exceeded the FERC limit on numerous occasions between April and October 2007. A majority of the daily TDG levels reported for the dam during this period ranged from 110% to 115%.



Total dissolved gas levels is a concern to fisheries because elevated TDG levels have been shown to cause a condition known as gas bubble trauma or gas bubble disease in fish. Gas bubble trauma is a well-documented condition identified in many of the larger rivers of the western US where it frequently occurs downstream of dams. The 110% criteria established for TDG is generally considered a level above which chronic (long term) effects to fish can arise with continued exposure. According to reports, TDG levels above 125% are generally considered to be life threatening and fish can only survive for a 2-3 hours under such conditions if they cannot move to deeper water where dissolved gas levels are lower.



The elevated dissolved gas problem arises when water undergoes a high degree of aeration resulting in water that is supersaturated (saturation in

excess of 100%) with respect to air. This is a common problem with hydroelectric dams where water is aerated during discharge through a spillway. The elevated TDG levels can be reduced through in-stream mixing of the water within the receiving river if sufficient turbulence exists. In the absence of turbulence within the river, elevated TDG levels can extend for miles downstream of the dam. Also, within the receiving river the TDG levels are higher near the top of the water column and diminish with depth, therefore, fish can move to deeper water to avoid the elevated TDG levels if sufficient water column is present.

Based on a review of the 2007 data from Canyon Dam it appears that the elevated TDG levels occurred during periods of high discharge when water was being diverted through the spillway. Under normal operation of the dam, water flows through the hydroelectric plant to drive turbines and water is discharged downstream of the plant. During flood-stage discharges, water is diverted to the spillway when discharges exceed approximately 1,100 cfs.

GRTU's Water Quality Committee is currently conducting a detailed evaluation of the TDG concern at Canyon Dam. Based on a preliminary evaluation of the data the committee believes that the potential impacts caused by the elevated TDG levels were off-set by the deeper river depths and increased turbulence within the river and is not believed to have posed a significant threat to the trout in the river. The committee plans to issue an opinion paper summarizing the findings of their evaluation once the evaluation has been completed.

Where Habitat Enhancement Works: A Report on the Lower Mountain Fork River in Southeast Oklahoma

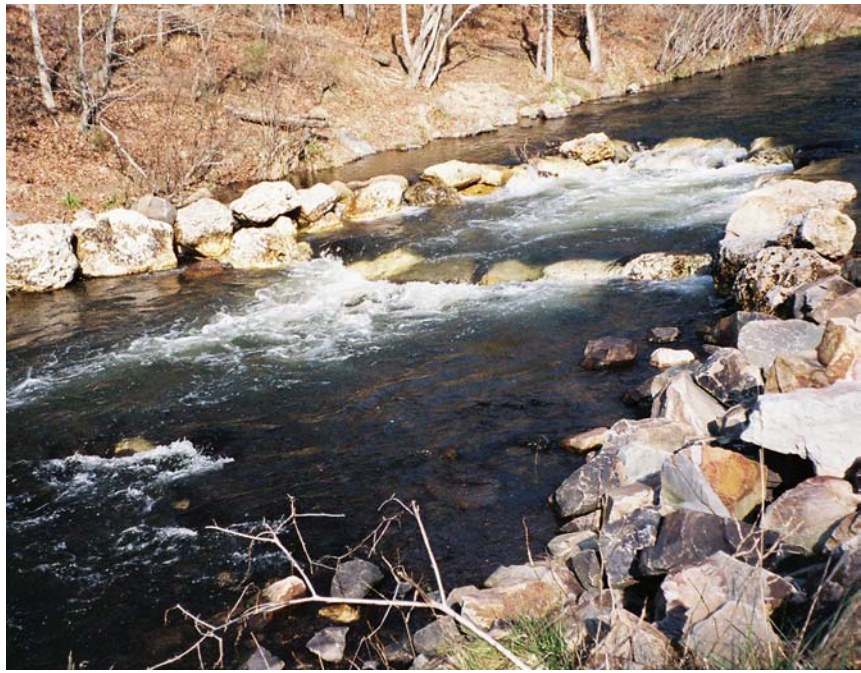
by
David Schroeder

[Editor's Note: GRTU's Conservation Committee is currently considering several work projects for the chapter, including one that would involve in-stream habitat restoration on the Guadalupe. This article introduces you to a similar project in a neighboring state.]

It was a cold January morning – even by southeast Oklahoma standards – on “Spillway Creek” on the lower Mountain Fork River, where my friend Main Hutcheson and I were beginning a much anticipated morning of trout fishing. On the very first cast Main had a nice rainbow on; and what a fight this spunky rainbow gave on a 3 weight rod! What really is so remarkable is how improbable a trout fishery this was to begin with: a living stream that used to be an ephemeral draw running down a hillside, now with pools and structure that are largely man-made, stocked with trout that are beginning to reproduce. But this trout stream did not have one artificial look about it – in fact it was more like the essence of the Carson River in the high Sierras. How can this be?

First, a little history: on January 1, 1989, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) created the Mountain Fork trout fishery as “a three year study to evaluate the feasibility of a year-round trout fishery below Broken Bow dam.”

I began my fishing tenure the very next day, and fished there most weeks until May of 1997 when I moved from the area. Lake Broken Bow was impounded in 1968 for purposes of flood control and peak hydropower generation. An



Cross vein structure built on the Lower Mountain Fork's Spillway Creek

outstanding smallmouth bass fishery once existed in the river before impoundment. However, “The Oklahoma Biological Survey reported that 48 percent of the 83 fish species historically recorded from this segment of the river have not been collected since impoundment.” Mitigation for the loss of the historical fishery was demanded and the rest is now history. The “Water Resources Development Act of 1996 set the stage for everything that followed: “*..to provide for the reallocation of a sufficient quantity of water supply storage space in Broken Bow Lake to support the Mountain Fork trout fishery. Releases of water from Broken Bow Lake for the Mountain Fork trout fishery are to serve as mitigation for the loss of fish and wildlife resources.*”

Over the years, the ODWC has made this a top priority project to enhance the quality of the trout fishery, turning it from a “put-and-take” model to one with restricted harvest, trophy size trout, and major projects to improve trout habitat.

Spillway Creek, though, was never envisioned to play a significant role in Mountain Fork trout fishery. The

emergency spillway about a mile from the dam is the source of Spillway Creek. Minimum flow from here was simply to provide minimum flow for the rest of the river where the real trout fishery existed. A valve at the base of the spillway governs the amount of water going down a natural wash which drops roughly 150 feet in a little more than a mile to the old river channel, also known as Beavers Bend. In the early days, it was a very fast run with few pools for good trout habitat. In the 1990s, an outfit wanted to start a wild rafting adventure amusement ride down Spillway Creek and began seeking a permit. The local population and fishing interests stopped it from happening. In 1998, the ODWC formed the Streams Management Program and that is where this story really begins.

Paul Balkenbush, Southeast Regional Supervisor for ODWC, says the habitat improvement began in 1999 on a modest scale. “Pocket water” was created simply by putting boulders or boulder clusters in the middle of the creek. Next, “overhead cover” was created by nailing two 6” x 6” cedar blocks at each end of a cedar plank and anchoring it to the bottom of the river to create a 6 inch gap between the plank and the

stream bed. Paul has underwater photographs showing trout using the structure for protection.

ODWC began training their biologists in the art of trout stream restoration by sending them to Colorado and other western states. A progression of improvements began as knowledge and experience were gained on how best to enhance the stream habitat of Spillway Creek. Rock veins and cross vein structures were installed to direct the current to the center of the stream and to protect the banks from erosion. Overhead clusters made of slate, a rock found in the area, were installed. Log check dams were laboriously constructed from downed trees and hand carried to the site and anchored to the stream bed. Fishing began to improve and now Spillway Creek has become a major draw.

With all of that success, more ambitious enhancements were yet to come. One major problem that was identified was with the "Evening Hole" where Spillway Creek joined the old river channel. This



was a flat wide area of the river that used to be dammed as a small lake in the river channel. The Evening Hole was also full of silt, and contained aquatic insects that were suited for mud bottoms, such as the Hexagenia mayfly, but few other trout food insects that commonly inhabit other parts of the river were found there. The site was surveyed, data was entered into a computer model to design the best remediation and work was begun. This required heavy earth-moving machines. The channel was narrowed and water ran swiftly. Gravel to build swift areas

was hauled in, and functioned as interstitial habitats for insects. According to Rob Woodruff, a fishing guide and trained entomologist, who has fished the river for nearly 20 years, the construction has led to an influx of March Brown mayflies, case maker caddis's, and sow bugs and a major increase in the amount of trout food.

But there was more to come from ODWC and the trout conservationists who supported them. A new channel between Evening Hole and Spillway Creek was created called "Lost Creek." The two areas became part of a restricted harvest regulation allowing the retaining of only one 20 inch trout. Following the enhancement an unexpected benefit was realized: There have been two documented rainbow trout spawns in Lost Creek and the Evening Hole. According to ODWC biologist Paul Balkenbush, "The creation of Lost Creek is really the crowning jewel of past habitat enhancement projects at the lower MFR. This new stream was created "whole cloth" in the heart of the MFR

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



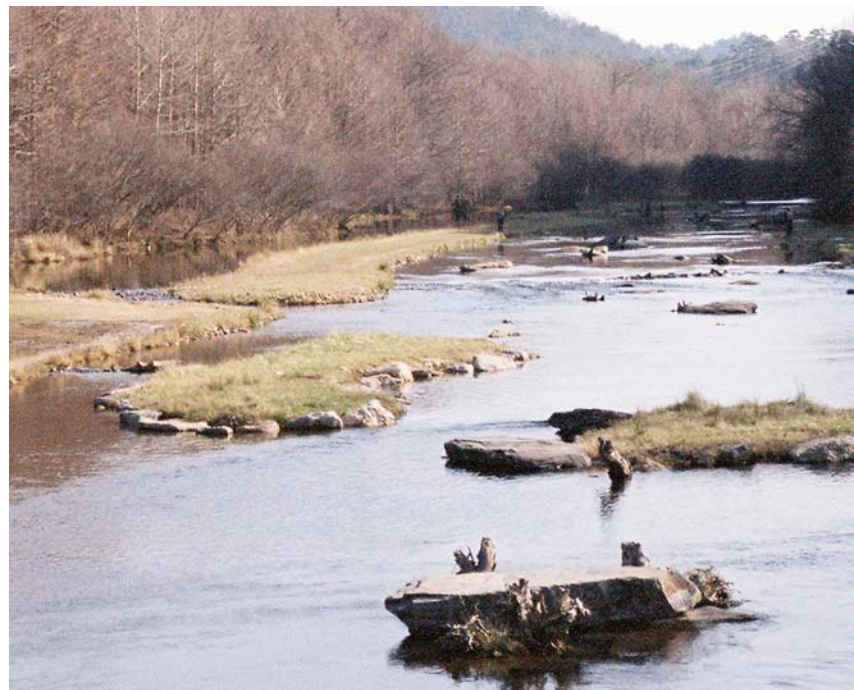
The Evening Hole before restoration.

trout fishery. This is a rare effort and, to our knowledge, has not been done in other tailrace trout areas. It is 1,200-foot long, falls eight feet from start to finish, and symbolizes the progress of tailwater management in Oklahoma.” It is possible that this part of the river could become a self-sustaining trout fishery.

The construction of trout habitat on Evening Hole was not without controversy. A group of anglers unsuccessfully lobbied against the project, as this was arguably one of the best places to fish in Beavers Bend. However, the Southeast Region Fisheries Supervisor Paul Balkenbush and biologist James Vincent representing the ODWC, won the American Fisheries Society’s prestigious “Outstanding Project of the Year” award in 2007 for their work on the Evening Hole. Balkenbush gives credit to the comments for those opposed to the reconstruction for making the project better. For the fishers who lost the old Evening Hole only time will be the judge if they can ever accept the changes. For ODWC, the original goal to attenuate the water temperature problem was largely successful. The project purchased 294

trees costing \$20,000 that were planted this winter in the reclaimed river channel and the water temperature increases will eventually be minimal as the river becomes shaded.

Perhaps the most significant story is how this all came about. With the help of conservation organizations such as Chapter 89er Trout Unlimited and the Lower Mountain Fork River Foundation, monies were raised and donated to ODWC. The State took advantage of the Sport Fish Restoration Act to turn every dollar that was contributed into four dollars: \$97,000 in donations became \$388,000 after matching funds were applied. This was the amount needed to enhance the habitat on Spillway Creek, Lost Creek, and the Evening Hole. And these groups are not about to stop there, momentum is only building. New projects are being spawned; more money is being raised; more grants from the Sport Fishing Restoration Act are being won. The “Temperature Improvement in the Lower Mountain Fork Trout Fishery” project is now in its second year. Consultants who are retired remediation experts from the Tennessee Valley Authority are working with the ODWC in an effort to lower water temperatures from the outflows of both the Power House and Spillway



The same stretch of the Evening Hole after habitat restoration. Several hundred trees are still to be planted along these banks to shade the river and lower the summer temperatures so trout can survive here year round.

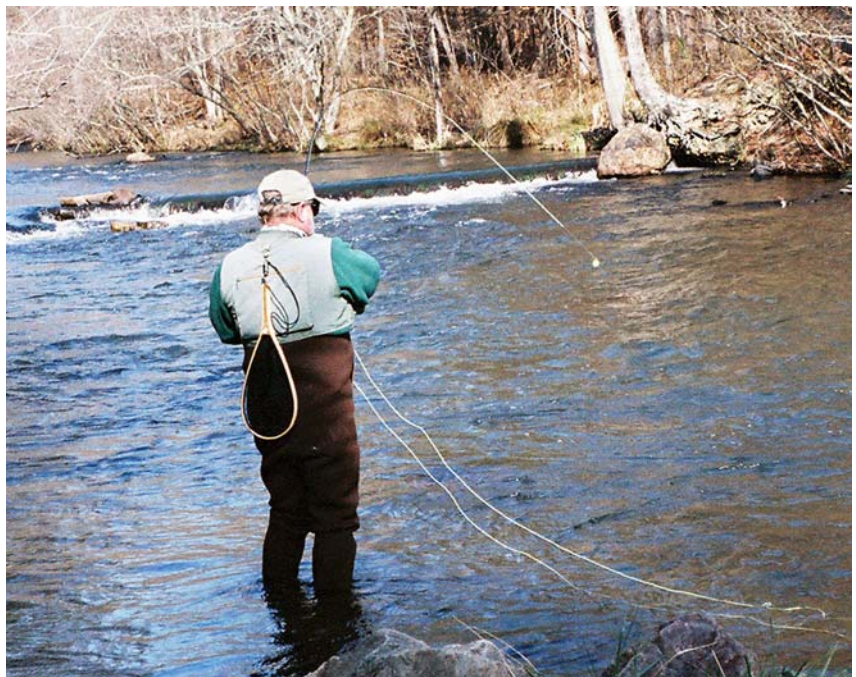


Main Hutcheson stands at the entrance to the Lost Creek Trophy Area at the base of Spillway Creek. It contains artificially constructed channels that have encouraged spawns of browns and rainbows. Regulation changes were necessary to make this restoration successful, but education of anglers is an ongoing challenge. (Yes, they have poachers there, too.)

Creek. A project to open up the bottom flow outlets of the Re-regulation Dam in the lower trout fishery will, again, enable one of the best habitats on the river to sustain trout through the summer. “Trout Pens,” below the spillway are growing trout to substantial size to be planted in Zone II of the trout fishery. Mr. Balkenbush would like to stress the “collaborative effort” that was formed between ODWC and trout conservationists. He wishes for all to recognize all the efforts that were made to make these habitat improvements a resounding success.

But don’t just take my word, go up and fish it for yourself! There are great accommodations in Beavers Bend State Park as well as private cabins nearby. This is a popular destination as tourist flock to Beavers Bend State Park during weekends, spring break and summer vacations. Better luck for accommodations can be had during the week and during the cool seasons. In winter the park is largely deserted. All the land bordering the trout fishery is

either owned by the State or Federal Government, so there are no private property issues – you can actually get out of the river, or walk the trails to your

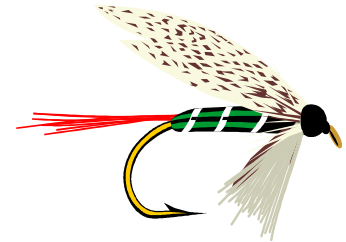


Angler plays a rainbow hooked below a log check dam on Spillway Creek

favorite hole. Beavers Bend State Park is about a 6 hour drive from Austin. There’s even a Choctaw Gambling Casino in the nearby town of Broken Bow for those who wish to try their luck in a different venue.

Can this work for the Guadalupe? You bet! It may start out small as it did in Oklahoma, but hopefully, GRTU will be able to partner with Texas Parks and Wildlife, and using the Oklahoma model to leverage our donations into significant habitat improvement.

[Significant recent milestones were reached on the Lower Mountain Fork when it was confirmed by fisheries biologists that natural reproduction of both brown trout and rainbow trout was occurring in the LMF.]





The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited 2006-2007



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GRTU 40th Anniversary Celebration

Special Guest Speakers Dave and Emily Whitlock

October 25, 2008

Lease Access Orientation & Social Hour Begin at 9 AM

Business Meeting and Presentation Begin at 10 AM

Lunch and Raffle at Noon

Whitlocks' Clinic to Follow

Stay tuned for more details

The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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The following have contributed \$100 or more for GRTU programs, including the Guadalupe River Legal Defense Fund, in addition to their supporting membership donations and lease access fees. Please note: This list is only current as of press time; we apologize to members added after that date.

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