



Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

# Newsletter



No. 88 October 2008

Publication Data on Pg. 16

## GRTU Meeting

**Saturday, October 25th**  
**Jellystone Park**  
**Sattler, TX**

**Directions on page 3**

**9 AM - Lease Access  
 Orientation & Social Hour**  
**10 AM - Business Mtg**  
**11 AM - Presentation:**  
**“Dave’s Nymphing System”**  
**Dave Whitlock**  
**12 - Raffle & Lunch**  
**12:30 PM - Lease Access  
 Orientation**  
**1 PM - Dave’s Nymphing  
 Clinic**

## GRTU Celebrates 40th Anniversary with Fly Fishing and Conservation Superstar Dave Whitlock at our October 25th Chapter Meeting

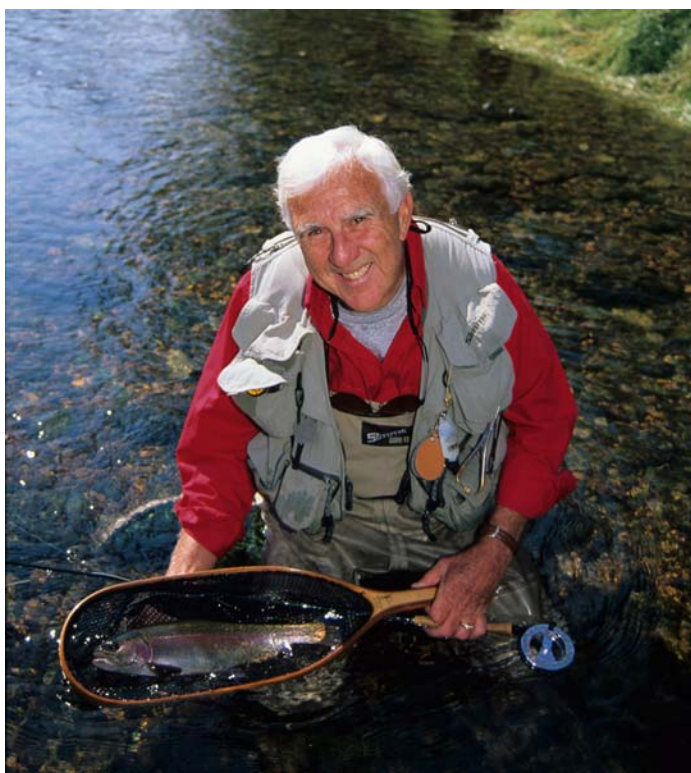
We conclude this year’s celebration of GRTU’s 40<sup>th</sup> year with our fall chapter meeting, featuring fly fishing and conservation Renaissance

man Dave Whitlock, on Saturday, October 25th.

The meeting gets underway at 10 AM, with a social hour and lease access orientation class starting at 9AM.

## What’s Inside

October Speaker	1
Directions to Meeting	3
Raffle Prize	3
President’s Letter	4
Fisheries Report	6
GRTU Helps CO Trout	7
Entomology Workshop	8
Project Healing Waters	9
Lease Access Program	10
New Mexico Outreach	11
Honorary Life Members	11
Flyfishing the Guad	12
Board and Officers	14
January Meeting	14
Century Club	15
Publication Data	16



**Dave Whitlock and his wife Emily will be our special guests at Jellystone Park Hill Country in Sattler as we conclude the celebration of GRTU’s 40 years as a chapter of Trout Unlimited.**

As always, the meeting is free and open to the public.

We journey back to Jellystone Park (directions on page 3) again this October. The blood should be getting thicker and the thrill of fishing for trout in our waters is not far off. The October meeting is a must for those that wish to again experience the joy of fly fishing in the southernmost trout waters in the continental United States.

In preparation for another winter of trout fishing, Dave Whitlock present a program on Dave's Nymphing System, showing his pioneering methods and flies. Come and learn from one of the true masters of our sport. After lunch, Dave will host a clinic to share all of his secrets (or at least some of them). In addition to expanding on the techniques shown in the presentation, Dave will be tying some of his favorite flies. The clinic is open to all for a \$10 fee.

Dave Whitlock is a man totally devoted to the world of flyfishing and conservation both professionally and personally. He is a native Oklahoman who, thirty-nine years ago resigned his position as a research chemist and pooled his talents in painting, illustrating, writing, photography, fly fishing and lecturing to embark on a new career as a full time professional in the arts of fly fishing. All his works, especially his art, reflect the realism of nature and related fly fishing subjects through the eyes of the sportsman. His diversity has always taken him into new and creative directions including, in recent years, trout stream design and restoration, with Johnny Morris's beautiful Dogwood Canyon being a great example.

Dave regularly contributes his fly fishing art, photography and writing to many publications such as *Flyfisherman Magazine*, *Fly Fishing & Tying Journal*, *Trout Magazine*, *In-Fisherman*, and

*Field and Stream*. He has written and illustrated four books: *Dave Whitlock's Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods*, *The L.L. Bean Flyfishing Handbook*, *The L.L. Bean Bass Fly Fishing Handbook*, and *Imitating and Fishing Natural Fish Foods* for Lefty's Little Library.

Dave has also co-authored or made contributions to many other books, including *The Flytyer's Almanac*, *Second Flytyer's Almanac*, Art Flick's *Master Flytying Guide*, A. J. McClane's *Fishing Encyclopedia*, Michael Migel's *Stream Conservation Handbook* and *Masters of the Nymph* and others. He has illustrated over 20 books including Steve Raymond's *Year of the Angler* and *Year of the Trout*, Swisher and Richard's new edition of *Selective Trout*, plus President Jimmy Carter's *Outdoor Journal*. Dave also demonstrates his flyfishing and teaching skills in seven videos and through guest appearances on televised flyfishing programs

One of Dave's most notable contributions to wild trout management and preservation is the Whitlock-Vibert Box System — a unique and efficient, in-stream salmonid egg incubator and nursery device. Dave spent seven years researching and developing this system and wrote and illustrated an instructional text, the *FFF Whitlock-Vibert Box Handbook*. Today, under the sponsorship of the Federation of Fly Fishers, this Whitlock-Vibert Box program is used throughout the world for introduction or enhancement of wild trout, char and salmon stocks. [*GRTU has used the Whitlock-Vibert Box through the years to hatch trout in the Guadalupe.*]

Dave's experience and his devoted and objective outlook on the whole spectrum of flyfishing has earned him consulting assignments from top companies such as 3/M Scientific Anglers Company, Bass Pro,

Sage Rods and Simms Fly Fishing Gear. He designed and directed the first ten years of the L.L. Bean Flyfishing Schools. Dave is in demand as a lecturer on flyfishing and conservation throughout the world and has produced many slideshows on the subject plus one movie. Dave also conducts flyfishing courses yearly throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Dave is a recipient of many awards including the Max Ander's *Wild Trout Award* in 1976 for his work on propagation of wild trout and the FFF's *Conservation Man of the Year Award* in 1981. Dave also received the *Buz Buzeck Flytyer's Award* which is the highest honor in the fly tying world. It recognized his innovativeness in new fly tying patterns and his national fly tying activities.

In 1987, Dave was inducted into the *National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame* and was presented the FFF *James E. Henshall Award* for his work in warm water fishing and conservation. He also received FFF's *Ambassador Award* for national and international promotion of flyfishing and conservation. In 1996, Dave was inducted into the *Arkansas Game & Fish Hall of Fame* and the next year was given the *Lifetime Contribution Award* from the National American Fly Tackle Trade Association.

Dave and his wife Emily, after living near the White River in Arkansas and conducting their flyfishing school there for several years, have just recently moved back to Oklahoma, in the Ozark Mountains near Tahlequah. There they continue to teach privately and pursue their writing, art and stream work projects.

## Directions to October Meeting Site

We will be back at our fall venue for our next chapter meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at 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 Jellystone Park Hill Country's website at [www.jellystonehillcountry.com](http://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.



## Grand Prize in the GRTU 2008-09 Raffle Is a Full Simms Fishing Outfit

Look like you know what you are doing! Get ready for the next fishing season with the best fishing outfit offered. Simms G3 Stocking Foot Waders, G3 Guide Felt Soled Wading Boots, and a G3 Guide Vest will have you outfitted for years of fishing.

Rick Laird of the Tackle Box Outfitters in San Antonio has generously donated only the best to the members of GRTU. Tickets are \$8 or three for \$20. All items will be fitted to the winner.

## President's Letter

The 2008/2009 season continues our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the chapter, and the prime season for the Guadalupe river tailrace is quickly coming upon us. This should be a banner year for the fishery. We have been receiving reports of trout being caught as far down as Little Ponderosa all summer as well as fingerlings being sighted. It is a testament to the hard work the chapter has done on the flow agreement. We have gained many strong supporters and allies for our cause, though there are critics and opponents as well. Our chapter will continue to work with these groups, both friend and foe, to help articulate our position and raise the awareness of the benefits of having adequate flows and clean water in the river and how it benefits the community as a whole. Now we need some rain to help the lake levels to activate the flow agreement for next year, so let's keep our fingers crossed.

Behind the scenes, we have been working very hard to solidify our scientific baselines for both water quality in the tailrace and naturalized flows above Canyon Lake. Since Trout Unlimited has a strong reputation for making sound decisions based on solid empirical evidence, we want to continue that tradition on the Guadalupe as we monitor the health of the river and prepare for stream restoration projects. This work has taken resources, both from volunteers as well as from our chapter's finances. Well done to all of you who are participating in these efforts,

especially the members of the Conservation Committee, ably led by Gary Cobb.

As I look forward to my remaining eight months of my term, I still see the issues facing the chapter in the same light I saw them when I first started my presidency. Obviously there are new challenges – who would have known that gas prices would be at the levels they are today. This affects the chapter as it does any other organization.

Last season was a very good season for the chapter. Through the hard work of Jeff Schmitt and others we laid the ground work for establishing a Project Healing Waters branch at Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio. We took one wounded warrior trout fishing for the first time, and were able to raise funds to send another to the PHW national retreat. The Trout in the Classroom program, now active in two area schools, raised and released healthy rainbow fry into the river. We had a great family weekend outing, our inaugural Troutfest event, last February. We continue to reap rewards from our Coldwater Outreach Conservation program, now entering its fourth year, with several local and national articles being published about the projects we help support.

The Lease Access Program has always been the life blood of our chapter, and we continue our efforts to make it more effective and efficient. We had an extremely successful Lease Access sign-up this past season, with an average of two

day turnarounds on badges. Thanks to our efficient process and some really big trout in the river, we exceeded the projected numbers of lease participants by over ten percent. Our team is already ramping up to continue the success from last year.

So where does this leave us for this season? I have been told that the cost for items such as lunches, rainbow trout for stockings, and lease costs are increasing. I will work with the Board to try to keep fees at their current levels, but remember, we will only increase fees if we are absolutely forced to do so. We have not had our annual planning and budget session as of the writing of this article so I cannot give you actual numbers.

The Fisheries Committee will be watching temperatures very closely in order to try to gauge when we will be able start stocking fish this fall. *[See Bill Higdon's Fisheries Report for more on that process.]* Since we have had guaranteed minimum flows throughout the summer, the river still has lots of healthy trout in it. If conditions allow, we hope we can get any early start on stockings.

I am still very interested in expanding the 'Trout in the Classroom' program into the San Antonio and Austin schools so if you are interested in helping expand this program, please contact our Education Committee chair and Trout in the Classroom coordinator Karen Gebhardt by e-mail at [Karen.Gebhardt@grtu.org](mailto:Karen.Gebhardt@grtu.org).

Once again we are supporting Casting for Recovery, by sponsoring women to the Texas retreat. This year, they hope to sponsor two retreats, so they'll need even more support than in the past. If you would like to find out more information or would like to donate directly please contact Susan Gaetz at [susan@susangaetz.com](mailto:susan@susangaetz.com)

We are planning to continue with Troutfest this year as well. We have tentatively scheduled it for the last weekend of February, 2009, so mark your calendars. This season's event we are planning to expand the activities including more events for the kids. Watch for more information as we get closer to winter. If you are interested in

helping to organize this event, please contact me.

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. If you have some technical ability and would like to help out please email me at [grtu-president@grtu.org](mailto:grtu-president@grtu.org). The river cleanups and conservation projects are very labor intensive, so your help is crucial.

See you on the water,

Greg Neubauer  
GRTU Chapter President  
[grtu-president@grtu.org](mailto:grtu-president@grtu.org)



FINE FIREARMS - NEW & USED, OPTICS, FLY FISHING EQUIPMENT,  
CLOTHING, EXPERTISE AND EXPEDITIONS  
12434 BEE CAVE RD (1/2-BLOCK FROM HWY. 71) • AUSTIN, TX 78738  
512.263.1888 • MON-SAT 10 am - 6 pm

## Fall Fisheries Report Oct 2008

I think, most would agree, last season was one of the best fishing seasons we've seen on the Guadalupe in quite awhile. Consistent flows, lots of huge trout, great leases, lots of bugs and hatches, crystal clear water, increased regulation enforcement. It was a season where everything just came together at the right time to produce, a season to remember.

This year is stacking up to be a carbon copy. With the minimum flow agreement in force this summer, the higher flows have kept the water temperatures down. The insects are abundant; the Trout are holding over in good numbers, more big trout are scheduled to be stocked, the aquatic plants are getting better every year, there was much less poaching, this summer by campers, all pointing to another great season.

We are finally getting some much needed rain and the forecast looks good for more, (Jimbo, keep beating those rain drums). Everything is coming together again for awesome season. Get your '08-'09 lease pass and get in on the action!

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 are 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, but sometimes as late as December.

**Q. What size trout will be stocked?**

A. We generally stock trout that range from 1 to 1 ½ pounds, with a few bigger and some a little smaller. The past couple of seasons, we have been requesting larger trout, 2 ½ lbs plus, we have found the larger trout are much more robust and hold-over better than the smaller trout. We will be stocking the larger trout this again season. Last season, we had some trout 5lbs+ off the truck.

**Q. Will we stock any brown trout?**

A. The short answer is no. We have found over the years that brown trout do not do well in the Guadalupe, so we no longer stock them, though sometimes a few will find their way into the stocking truck on occasion. They are also much more expensive than the rainbows.

**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 have been consistently below 70 most of the day only touching into the low 70's in the late afternoon (the activation on the flow agreement this year, has been instrumental in keeping the temperature down this year). The average daily temp as of this writing (8/08) is 68 degrees.

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

## Eleven Mile Canyon Sign Honors GRTU Conservation Efforts

For the past three years, GRTU's Coldwater Outreach Conservation (COC) grants have helped fund stream restoration projects throughout the US. In June, I attended the Cheyenne Mountain Trout Unlimited Chapter's event at Camp Alexander in Eleven Mile Canyon on the South Platte River in Colorado. The event was held to plant a sign recognizing the stream restoration project that had just been completed on this private stretch of water used to teach Boy Scouts from around the country, including many from Texas, the skills needed to earn their flyfishing merit badge. A GRTU COC grant helped fund about 10% of the project costs.

The project was designed to narrow, deepen and reroute a section of the South Platte that had experienced significant bank erosion, stream channel straightening and depth reduction. The project is known as a "Trees for Trout" (TFT) habitat improvement project and, as the chief river conservationist in charge of the project explained to me, this project was the first true TFT project. Previous TFT projects had anchored trees that had burned in the Hyman fire in the river in order to create channel diversions and holding water for trout. Previously, that had been the only economically feasible and regulatory permitted way to get the woody debris material needed for



**Greg Walck of Colorado's Cheyenne Mountain Chapter thanks GRTU's Jeff Schmitt for our chapter's Coldwater Outreach Conservation Fund grant that assisted their chapter with the "Trees for Trout" project at Camp Alexander.**

the effort. However, the Camp Alexander project received a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) permit to use trees removed from the Camp Alexander property to create fire breaks as the source material for the streambed improvements. Therefore, the project had two benefits. In addition to improving the streambed and trout habitat, it took a proactive measure to prevent another fire, like the Hyman fire, as a part of the process.

The Camp Alexander stretch of the South Platte is located in Eleven Mile Canyon near Lake George Colorado. While the Camp Alexander section is private water,

it is located between two nice stretches of public fishing water.

The sign recognizing GRTU's contribution to the project is placed prominently along the road between these two public stretches and will no doubt be viewed by the many people who visit the canyon each year. I've already had a couple GRTU members mention to me that they were in the canyon this summer and saw the sign. The Camp Alexander project is the second of three COC projects that GRTU has funded to date.

**Jeff Schmitt,  
GRTU Past President &  
NLC Representative**

## Rob Woodruff Offers Entomology for Fly Fishers Workshop for GRTU November 1-2

Woodruff Guide Service and the Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be offering an Entomology for Fly Fishers Course on November 1 and 2, 2008.

Entomology for Fly Fishers is a course designed for all fly fishermen. The course gives an overview of the arthropods, both aquatic and terrestrial, that are of importance to the fly angler. Warm-water and cold-water environments are included.

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 as a fly fisher.

The class consists of six hours of lecture and demonstration as well as a half-day field trip. The classroom portion will be November 1 at Jellystone Park Hill Country. The field trip will be November 2 on the Guadalupe River. While on the river, students will participate in the collection and evaluation of insect samples and receive instruction on fly selection.

**Advance registration for the workshop is required. The 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.**

### About the Instructor:

Rob Woodruff is an Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide. He has a degree in Entomology from Texas A&M University. Rob guides fly anglers for largemouth bass on lakes in East Texas, including world famous Lake Fork, and for trout and smallmouth bass on the Mountain Fork River system of Southeastern Oklahoma. Rob's techniques and flies have appeared in magazines such as *Fly Fishing and Tying Journal*, *Fly Fisher*, *Bassmaster*, *Fly Rod & Reel* and *Southwest Fly Fishing*. He has been featured on two episodes of ESPN's *Fly Fishing America*.



Outfitting sportsmen for over 50 years.

6330 N. New Braunfels • San Antonio, Texas 78209

Tel: (210) 821-5806

Fax: (210) 821-5807



**Rus Schwausch holds a nice trout for a “grip and grin” photo with veteran Matt Bovay, fly fishing for the first time as part of the local Project Healing Waters program, jointly sponsored by GRTU and Alamo Fly Fishers of San Antonio.**

**Project Healing  
Waters**  
by  
**Jeff Schmitt**  
GRTU Past President and  
NLC Rep

Last year, GRTU and Alamo Fly Fishers (AFF), began a joint effort to establish a Project Healing Waters (PHW) project at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. PHW is an organization dedicated the physical and emotional rehabilitation of our wounded warriors through fly tying, fly casting and fishing outings.

At last April’s GRTU meeting, many of you met Matt Bovay, a young man who had been badly burned in an explosion. After the meeting, Chris Baumbagh, Rus Schwausch and I took Matt fishing on the Guadalupe. Matt had been a spin fisherman in his home waters of New York before his injuries. Due to his burn injuries, Matt had been restricted from getting wet (showering, swimming, etc) for quite some time. I’ll never forget the look on his face and the things he said when we put him in wading boot and told him to wade right into the cool waters of the Guad in his jeans. ....or his surprise when a big trout first followed a spinner to his feet and the turned away. ....or the

success of having Rus get him his first trout on a fly.

Then, in June, many of you helped us raise the money to send David Palasky and his 16 year old son Anthony to a national PHW water event on the Smith River in Montana. GRTU raised the money for travel and expenses and the gear needed to send David and Anthony to Helena where Lewis and Clark Outfitters met them and took them on a three day float through one of the most remote and beautiful of the Wild and Scenic Rivers in the lower 48. We’re hoping David and Anthony will be at the October meeting with their picture and stories to tell.

Our PHW program is just in its beginning stages. While we managed to get two wounded warriors on the river this year, our on base tying and casting programs are just in their beginning stages. This year we hope to establish a regular on-base presence and to recruit 4-6 wounded warriors that we will teach the basics of flyfishing and will use the tying and casting activities as physical therapy for their rehabilitation. Our tentative plan is to have a GRTU PHW outing over the April meeting weekend, at which time we will bring our wounded hero's to the river for a chapter event.

We still need a couple of things to get the PHW program off the ground. Volunteers and money, probably in that order. We particularly are going to need the volunteers to be able to staff a regular (weekly or bi-weekly) presence for tying and casting classes at Brooke Army Medical Center. And, we're going to need money to be able to fund transportation and gear for our wounded warrior fishing programs. The call for donations I put out in June to fund the Smith River outing was very well answered by GRTU members, considering we were not in our main fishing season. We raised most of the money needed to fund David and Anthony's trip but could still use a few more member donations to get out PHW account in good shape for this season. Once we have a well established PHW program, including both the on-base and off-base activities, I intend to pursue

larger corporate donations to help us insure the long term continuity of the program. So, along with your membership dues this year, I'd like you to consider throwing in a few extra bucks and marking on your application, or your check, that these funds are designated for the GRTU Project Healing Waters Program.

If you have questions about PHW, you can direct them to Jeff Schmitt at GRTU or Lloyd Matthews, who is heading up the Alamo Fly Fishers PHW efforts.

**GRTU Lease Access  
Program Looks Forward to  
Another Great Trout  
Season  
by  
Steve Stilp  
VP of Membership**

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

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

We will be stocking the river later this fall and will continue to stock the river over the year. As a **Lease Access Member** you will be notified via e-mail when the

stockings and other activities take place. Additionally, you will have access to our private online **"Forum"** where you can ask questions and get answers.

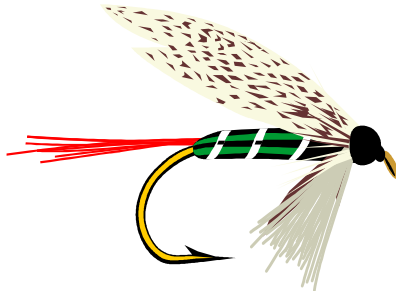
Go to our web site: WWW.GRTU.ORG and click on membership. Our site is active for membership sign up and accepts credit cards. You can also renew your National TU Membership on our website. If you have questions click on **CONTACTS** and e-mail your Area Rep or call.

- Our mission: Conserve, Protect and Restore cold water 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

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

## GRTU Outreach to New Mexico

Our 2008 Coldwater Outreach Conservation grant was awarded to the Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TCTU) in New Mexico for a project on Los Alamitos Creek. Los Alamitos Creek current is one of the few streams in New Mexico that retains a pure strain of Rio Grande cutthroat trout that have not yet been encroached on by non-native trout (rainbows and browns) due to an aging head gate on an irrigation gate on the creek. The TCTU project would replace that aging structure with a permanent barrier that would insure that these cutthroat trout remain protected from encroachment. Not only will the project protect a native cutthroat fishery on Los Alamitos creek, these trout are particularly important, as they may become the seed fish for



replanting other New Mexico streams that have already lost most of the native trout due to such encroachment. Once those streams are cleared of the non-native fishes, the cutthroats in Los Alamitos Creek can then be used for replanting of these other streams.

The COC grant GRTU provided to TCTU is a bit different than our previous two COC grants, where we providing funding to buy materials for the project. In this case, the COC monies will be used to fund the NEPA (National Environmental

Policy Act) study needed to get a permit to construct the barrier. While the environmental impact is expect to be minimal and positive, the project has to be permitted and the process is complex and expensive. And, while it is possible for TCTU to raise the funds needed to actually construct the barrier from a variety of sources, funds for the environmental impact study needed to improve the project are harder to come by. Therefore, GRTU's funding of the NEPA study was particularly appreciated by TCTU. It is hoped that the study can be completed in time to construct the barrier next summer. In fact, there may be an opportunity for GRTU members to actually help with the barrier construction, if any members are interested in a field trip to New Mexico.

## 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

## Fly Fishing the Guadalupe Tailrace

by  
Bill Higdon, GRTU VP of  
Fisheries

*[Editor's Note: Bill Higdon has lived on the Guadalupe River for nearly a decade, fished it for 15 years, and guided fly fishers on it on almost a daily basis for the last nine years. For this special 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of the GRTU newsletter, Bill has taken time from his busy schedule to capture and record a summary of the things he's learned from all those hours on the river. We now pass them along to you, our fellow members of GRTU.]*

Since I became the GRTU Vice President of Fisheries, I've had lots of our GRTU chapter and lease members contact me by phone or e-mail, asking my advice on what they can do to be more effective in catching trout on the river. So here, in capsule form, is a summary of my suggestions. I hope that you will find them helpful.

One of the best pieces of advice I can give you is to get a copy of *Fly Fishing the Tailwaters* by Ed Engle (Stackpole Books, 1991). It may be out of print now, but is available from used book sellers. Most of the comments made here are echoed in Ed's book. I sometimes refer to it as the instruction manual for the Guadalupe tailrace.

**Flows:** Rivers below dams are referred to as tailwaters or tailraces. The controlled release of water from a reservoir into the river below often moderates extreme flows from the upper river in times heavy rains, provides for increased water flow during dry periods, clears the water, and provides higher levels of nutrients. This makes for great trout habitat year round.

The exception on the Guadalupe River is that several diversion dams are scattered throughout the first 13 miles of the tailrace. In the summer months,



**One of Bill's happy teenage clients shows the results of fishing an egg pattern on a double nymph rig during the high Guadalupe flows of early 2005.**

when the air temperatures reach into the high 90's, what is normally a great holding spot for feeding trout becomes much less likely to hold trout. A diversion dam in the summer months has the warmest water flowing over the top of the dam which means the water below will have elevated temperatures. Trout will move further downstream to the cooler water.

**Wading** is a little more slippery in a tailwater, especially below water-storage reservoirs. The more uniform flow created by the water release encourages the growth of algae and other aquatic vegetation. The water is also clearer because of the regular flow and the added light that is available for photosynthesis. In addition, the water is drawn from the bottom layers of the reservoir, which tends to be rich with

nutrients from organic debris on the floor of the reservoir bottom. The Guadalupe has been flowing consistently around 200 cfs since June, so the consistent flows have made it unusually slippery.

Insects: Since the Guadalupe River's water and flows are similar to other tailwaters, you might guess that the insects that inhabit the river a similar as well, and that would be true. Insects in the Guadalupe tailrace that are common in other tailrace fisheries include Blue Winged Olives (BWOs), Pale Morning Duns (PMDs), Caddis, and Tricos.

Although many trout are taken on dry fly imitations of the insects mentioned above, trout spend anywhere from 80-90 percent of their time feeding below the surface on the immature forms of aquatic insects. The point here is: don't forget the nymph and midge box when you fish the Guadalupe tailrace!

Rigs and Technique: What I've found to be the most productive method for catching trout on the Guadalupe is nymphing. Since our trout seem to spend so much of their time on or near the bottom of the river, the key is to develop a setup that takes into account the depth at which you are fishing. I use a dropper setup with a strike indicator. It consists of a floating fly line with a seven to nine foot leader. The indicator is placed about 1 1/2 - 2 times the depth of the water I am fishing at the time. In other words, if you are fishing 3' depth of water, your indicator should be about 4 1/2' - 6' up the leader from the top fly. If you are using a split shot (which I usually place about 4-6" above the top fly), then the indicator should be that far about the split shot. The top fly is used as an attractor, something to get their attention. Normally I use a size #14-16 for the top fly. The dropper fly is much smaller, a size #18-22. This fly is what I call trout candy. You would be amazed at the number 18"- 26" trout that are caught on a #22 size fly.

That's the basic nymphing setup, but remember why I use it — it's to get the flies down to where the trout are. So if you're not getting hook-ups, go deeper. Add weight until you finally hit bottom, then back off a little. I think, one of the reasons trout eat sub-surface food 80-90% of the time is, they are more likely to take food below them than above. Change flies often. This may seem hard to do, especially on those cold, overcast February mornings when your fingers just don't want to work, but if the trout don't take your fly in ten casts, the odds are they won't ever.

Line control is a must. You will hear that you must have a dead-drift to be effective. You want a controlled drift, not always a dead drift. Sometimes you want to agitate your nymphs. If you're in a slow moving section of the river, giving the nymphs some action can help the fishing. If you think about it, lots of fish are caught on the swing, at the end of the drift when the fly begins to get down stream tension bringing the flies off the bottom, enticing a strike. It is the movement of the fly that entices the strike.

Holding Lies: Where do trout hold on the "Guad"? Trout hold and feed on the edges of horizontal columns of water. What I mean by this is, you may have as many as three columns of water moving at different velocities. The water may be moving at a higher velocity (moving faster) 4' from your position, a slower column 8' from your position, and then fast again 12' from your position. This can be caused by the depth of the water, a pocket of slow moving water behind a rock, or other factors that affect the current. There are many different things that can affect the flow of water but if you focus on the water you can see the different columns of velocity. Trout are lazy and big trout are lazier, so you will find them on the edge of a faster moving column laying in the slower moving column, where they can move out into a faster column, where the food will be drifting, and then back to the slower water, where they do not have to expend as much energy.

Watch for bubble lines, this is usually where the most food is in the drift.

Catch and Release: Land your fish as quickly as possible. If you must take a picture, wet your hands, handle gently, don't squeeze the fish. Take a deep breath, and hold it, if you have to exhale, you've had the fish out of the water too long. An option to photograph the fish is, move to the bank or very shallow water while landing the fish and then take your photo with the fish in the water next to your foot. I must warn you, you cannot exaggerate the size if it's next to your foot. You can also remove the fly without ever taking the fish out of the water.

One last thing, River Etiquette. It is just common sense. Never wade or float into another angler's vicinity, never crowd, even if he's catching one on every cast. Ask if you can float around or give him a wide berth when wading around. Move at least 100', let me repeat that 100', let me repeat that one more time 100', above or below him/her before fishing. It is not that far. Just ten basketball goals. If you are the angler catching the fish, net 4-5 fish and then move on and let someone else have a shot. Even if no other angler is waiting, or around, net a few fish and move on.

If you use the Tips & Tricks above, you'll hook up on more fish at different locations. The idea is to fish the whole stream not just one hole. You will learn much more by fishing lots of habitat.



## The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited 2008-2009



### GRTU Officers and Board of Directors

President	Greg Neubauer	281-856-0546	grtu-president@grtu.org
VP Chapter Affairs	Andy Niland	210-355-8088	chapteraffairs@grtu.org
VP Fisheries	Bill Higdon	830-964-5565	Bill.Higdon@grtu.org
VP Membership	Steve Stilp	512-784-6013	Steve.Stilp@grtu.org
Treasurer	Phil Dopson	512-708-1616	Phil.Dopson@grtu.org
Secretary	Joe Filer	210-654-6220	Joe.Filer@grtu.org
Ex Officio	Mick McCorcle	972-569-9134	Mick.McCorcle@grtu.org
Director	Gary Burns	713-249-7764	Gary.Burns@grtu.org
Director	Corby Bittner	512-914-8309	Corby.Bittner@grtu.org
Director	Gary Cobb	512-257-0397	Gary.Cobb@grtu.org
Director	Mark Hazelgrove	210-658-3999	Mark.Hazelgrove@grtu.org
Director	Gary Lehman	210-394-2833	Gary.Lehman@grtu.org
Director	Doug Kierklewski	512-250-0840	Doug.Kierklewski@grtu.org
Director	Ron McAlpin	830-980-8043	Ron.McAlpin@grtu.org
Director	Ted Mendrek	512-507-6626	Ted.Mendrek@grtu.org
Director	Jim Roberts	210-826-2766	Jim.Roberts@grtu.org
Director	Bob Runion	830-537-5129	Bob.Runion@grtu.org
Director	Dennis Sheppard	512-965-6394	Dennis.Sheppard@grtu.org

### Regional Representatives

VP Membership	Steve Stilp	512-784-6013	Steve.Stilp@grtu.org
Austin/Central Texas	Dennis Sheppard	512-965-6394	Dennis.Sheppard@grtu.org
Dallas/North Texas	Roger Turner	214-475-1551	Roger.Turner@grtu.org
Houston/East Texas	Gary Burns	713-249-7764	Gary.Burns@grtu.org
New Braunfels	Tiffany Fluitt	830-625-4440	Tiffany.Fluitt@grtu.org
San Antonio/West Texas	Karen Gebhardt	830-980-7580	Karen.Gebhardt@grtu.org

### Other Positions

Newsletter Editor	Mick McCorcle	972-569-9134	grtunews@grtu.org
TU Liaison	Corby Bittner	512-914-8309	Corby.Bittner@grtu.org
Info Tech Chair	Greg Neubauer	281-856-0546	grtu-president@grtu.org
Conservation Chair	Gary Cobb	512-719-6011	gary.cobb@grtu.org
NLC Representative	Mick McCorcle	972-569-9134	grtunews@grtu.org
Education Chair	Karen Gebhardt	830-980-7580	Karen.Gebhardt@grtu.org

## GRTU January 24, 2009 Meeting

“Guidance from the Guides:

Fishing the Quad from the Perspective of Those Who Guide on the River”  
Banning Collins, Alvin Dedeaux & Kevin Stubbs

**Three Raffle Drawings: A day of fishing with each guide**

Lease Access Orientation & Social Hour Begin at 9 AM

Business Meeting and Presentation Begin at 10 AM

Lunch and Raffles at Noon

**Guide Clinic to follow with technique and equipment demos**

## 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.

David Baird  
Bob Blair  
Randy Bland  
Andre Boutte  
Duane Brandt  
Alan Bray  
Walter Brown  
Gary Burns  
Walter Carver  
Sam Castleberry  
Mark Cavender  
Michael Collins  
Phil Dopson  
Oscar Dupre  
Joe Filer  
Jay Forrest  
Malcolm Freeman  
Karen Gebhardt  
Michael Gieringer

James Halbert  
Robert Heine  
Reed Helmly  
Milton Herrmann  
Randy Hoover  
Ralph Jenkins  
Todd Kremers  
Lloyd Mathews  
Mark McCollum  
Mick McCorele  
Michael McCoy  
Mark McCurley  
Scott Miller  
Doug Ming  
Cliff Moss  
Dennis Naidus  
Greg & Gretchen Neubauer  
Andy Niland  
Craig Norton

Sam Pate  
George Priggins  
Douglas Ragsdale  
Adam Roberts  
Michael Rotman  
Albert Sanders  
Jeff Schmitt  
William Spencer  
Peter Stiles  
Steve Stilp  
Kim Stoddard  
R. David Telling, Jr  
Robert Thomas.  
Rafael Torres  
Craig Townsend  
Douglas Trotman  
Roger Turner  
Douglas Wage  
Jeff Wooley

## *In the Hills Fishing Excursions*

Bill Higdon

1854 Ponderosa

Canyon Lake, TX 78133

830-964-5565

[www.inthehillsfishing.com](http://www.inthehillsfishing.com)

FLY FISHING THE BEAUTIFUL RIVERS OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY FOR TROUT, BASS, AND PANFISH FROM A RAFT OR DRIFT BOAT

Coming Soon: **The Guadalupe River Lodge**, an exclusive fishing lodge on the Guadalupe River

Check our website for the latest details on this new venture

**Guadalupe River  
Chapter of Trout  
Unlimited**  
PO Box 536  
Austin, TX 78767

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
AUSTIN, TX 78767  
PERMIT NO. 1627

### **GRTU Newsletter**

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

#### **Contacts**

**Greg Neubauer**, President, Houston, TX, (281) 856-0546, grtupresident@grtu.com; **Mick McCorcle**, Newsletter Editor, (210) 913-4177, grtunews@grtu.org.

#### **Advertising Rates**

Ad sizes: Business card size, 1/4, 1/2 and full page. Rates: Business card- \$75 for 1 issue, \$125 for 2 issues, \$175 for 3 issues; 1/4 page- \$90 for 1 issue, \$140 for 2 issues, \$200 for 3 issues; 1/2 page- \$150 for 1 issue, \$250 for 2 issues, \$375 for 3 issues; full page- \$275 for 1 issue, \$450 for 2 issues, \$625 for 3 issues. Ad Copy: Camera-ready black and white. Ad copy deadlines: January artwork due December 1; April artwork due March 1; October artwork due September 1. Payment: Due with artwork. Make checks payable to Guadalupe River Chapter, TU. Mail to GRTU c/o Phil Dopson, Chapter Treasurer, at PO Box 536, Austin, TX 78767.

With regard to your membership, change of address, not receiving *Trout* magazine, or other matters, write, phone, or E-mail:

Trout Unlimited

1300 North 17th St., Suite 500

Arlington, VA 22209-3800

Phone: (703) 522-0200

Fax: (703) 284-9400

E-mail: trout@tu.org

Worldwide Web: <http://www.tu.org/trout/>

Membership Phone: 1-800-834-2419

Membership E-mail: sdavison@tu.org

12 noon - 5PM Eastern Time