

No. 99 April 2012

Publication Data on Pg. 16

## GRTU Meeting

Saturday April 28, 2012

Canyon Lake CRRC  
South Access Road  
Sattler, Texas  
Directions and New Map on  
page 6

9AM- Social Hour  
10AM- Business Meeting  
11AM Speaker  
Russ Schwausch  
12- Raffle & Lunch  
1PM GRTU Board Meeting

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## Russ Schwausch Epic Angling & Adventure

At our next chapter meeting, Rus Schwausch of EPIC Angling & Adventure will tell us about two fishing destinations-of-a-lifetime located on the Alaska Peninsula – Alaska Wilderness SAFARI and Alaska Wilderness OUTPOST. Plus, he'll touch briefly on the controversial Pebble Creek Mine project in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Beginning in 1995, Rus spent a few summers in Alaska exploring remote rivers on unguided float trips with his buddies. They would fly with all their equipment to the headwaters by bush plane, then float and fish over 100 mile stretches for two weeks at a time. These trips “infected” Rus with Alaska and steered his life in a completely new direction.

Giving up his full time engineering job, he started guiding in Alaska during the summer of 2001 while continuing engineering consulting work the other 9 months back in Austin. In 2004, Rus took over the operation where he first guided, Alaska Wilderness SAFARI, and is coming up on season number twelve there.

Alaska Wilderness SAFARI, the more sophisticated operation, is written up in the book Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before You Die as “arguably the most isolated coastal fishing camp in Alaska and one of the best places in the world to pursue chrome-



Photo: TashBrown.com

bright, ocean-fresh salmon.” And there’s a lot more to do than just fish! This eco-diverse destination also offers daily wildlife viewing, waterfalls, tide pools and beach combing.

His second operation is Alaska Wilderness OUTPOST. It’s a rustic, early season camp offering excellent small stream fishing for rainbow trout, grayling, king salmon and more. Short on frills, this program is for the die-hard fisherman focused on quality fishing rather than extraneous amenities.

You can find out more about his operations at [www.epicanglingadventure.com](http://www.epicanglingadventure.com), or just come to the April meeting to see some incredible photography on the big screen.

Raffael Torres  
VP Chapter Affairs

## President’s Letter

April 2012

Our April general meeting will be held Saturday April 28th at the Canyon Lake Community Resource Center (CRRC) on the South Access Road in Sattler. There will be a social hour and lease access orientation at 9AM with the general meeting beginning at 10 AM.

This is our annual election meeting. During this month’s general meeting we will be voting on two important items. The first is an amendment to our bylaws (see the specifics later in the newsletter) that I overlooked transferring to our new bylaws. The second is to elect four members to the board of directors to address the four terms that expire this year. Our candidate committee led by Joe Filer will present a slate of candidates for your consideration. Please come and take part in the process.

Troutfest 2012 is in the books, and by all accounts it was our most successful to date. The reason is the combined efforts of our Troutfest committee, led again this year by Phil Dopson. Most, if not all of the committee members from last year served again this year, and the results show how that experience paid off.

Comments from Trout Unlimited CEO Chris Wood, Vice-President of Volunteer Operations & Watershed Programs Bryan Moore, and Director of Volunteer Operations Beverly Smith were overwhelmingly positive. If you will indulge me bragging for just a bit, the quality of our event, chapter and membership is indeed impressive! I was fortunate to spend a considerable amount of time with our guest speakers who absolutely gushed with how well they were

treated. Kudos to the committee and all the members who volunteered to make this event THE premier winter outdoor sporting event in our area.

I would like to recognize the Troutfest 2012 committee, and I hope you will seek these members out and thank them personally. Phil Dopson - Chairman Committee- Banning Collins; Doug Kierklewski; Mark Dillow; Gary Burns; Carroll Hall; Clint Jackson; Gary Lehman; Ted Mendrek; Cody Nauman; Bob Runion; Rafael Torres; Trey Nobles; Brad Wilkins

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the following people who once again contributed greatly to our event:

Jeff Eddins web and e-commerce, audio/visual  
Vanessa Buckmaster - administration - tickets and registration packets assembly, graphics/logo/printing.

While I am recognizing significant contributors, allow me add David Schroeder to the list. Many of you may have noticed our website problems in the weeks preceding Troutfest. David identified that our former service provider was experiencing some severe support issues, quickly identified a suitable replacement provider, and quietly moved our website and forums over during Troutfest weekend. He spent many hours in preparation and testing to prepare for the move. Hats off to you David!

This month we are experimenting with a digital newsletter format. Each of the directors and

officers has volunteered to participate in a pilot of this program. If successful, we will likely ask for more volunteers to participate in a larger pilot test in the near future.

Once we complete the proof of concept, the board will determine whether to offer members the option of receiving their newsletters electronically (through email). The benefits for chapter members who would opt in to such a program would be a faster delivery of your newsletter with higher quality text and photos.

The greater benefit would be for the chapter. We currently dedicate a great deal of money to print and mail newsletters to our 5,000 members. In fact, it is just over 8% of our budget. Funds saved due to members opting for electronic newsletters can be directed toward our other initiatives.

Though our trout fishing season is beginning to wind down as spring approaches, our chapter stays active to improve our river, and other coldwater fisheries. We are planning a river cleanup in April, led by Trey



## CDC Fluff Beast

Tied by Chris Johnson of Living Waters Fly Fishing

**Hook:** TMC 5212 or TMC 100, Size 8-12  
**Thread:** UTC Gel Spun Polyethylene (GSP) 50 Denier, White

**Abdomen/Underwing:** Blended and Spun CDC, 2 Tan Feathers, 3 Yellow Feathers. Trim the bottom of the abdomen flush with the hook.

**Wing:** Natural Elk Hair

**Legs:** Round Rubber, Medium, Brown

**Thorax:** Blended and Spun CDC, 1 Black Feather, 2 Brown Feathers. Trim the bottom of the thorax flush with the hook.

Nobles (please volunteer to help!). We are actively working on several conservation efforts, including an economic impact study in partnership with TPWD. Through our Coldwater Conservation Outreach fund, we are helping address the problem of invasive Lake Trout in Yellowstone Lake, which are decimating the Yellowstone Cutthroats in that system (read more about this in the Conservation Coldwater Outreach Fund web forum).

As many of you may recall hearing Chris Wood mention, GRTU was the first chapter to assist with the "Save Bristol Bay" efforts. We have established a reputation within Trout Unlimited as one of the major conservation minded chapters in the nation. I am proud to be one of you.

Thanks for all you do for GRTU,  
 Mark Dillow  
 GRTU Chapter President  
 president@grtu.org



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

# Troutfest Update

Thanks to each of you that attended Troutfest and a double thanks to each of you that volunteered to make this year's event a success! A special thanks goes to our partner for the event, Texas Parks & Wildlife, plus the extremely valuable support from WORD, (Water Oriented Recreation District). The net to



gross percentage was higher this year indicating we are more lean yet still producing a fun filled, educational and widely attended three day event. Not shabby for a volunteer operation.

My hat's off to every single person that pitched in to make the event a success. We always hear "I want to help". Taking that enthusiasm seriously and combining the many varied tasks with the available manpower is an art and it requires a lot of attention. Not unlike pulling together the auction items for the Banquet and pulling the program together for the entire weekend. Troutfest comes together as a result of a committed volunteer effort and I am proud to have chaperoned this

undertaking. Success comes from tireless preparation and dedicated execution. I witnessed both for a period from the August budget approval to February's event, from a group that included: Ted Mendrek – auction, expo and program coordination, Banning Collins, film festival and auction items including table centerpieces, Gary Lehman, kids events, Bob Runion and Doug Kierkelewski front



desk all three days, Carroll Hall fly casting competition, Clint Jackson for arranging all the fly tiers for the weekend, Trey Nobles for helping arrange and corral the volunteers, Raphael Torres arranged security for the event and otherwise was the heavy for issues and our illustrious President Mark Dillow for his at large support of the event, Gary Burns for help with donors and artist's on-site watercolor, Brad Wilkins for set up and tear down assistance and Cody Naumann for public relations and distribution of awareness information.

As I mentioned these guys prepared and worked diligently and should be congratulated. I am proud to be associated with each of them.

Let's hope for an even better event in 2013.

Stay tuned.

Phil Dopson



## Flow Committee Report

The Flow Committee is happy to report the following:

### Economic Impact Study

Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited (GRTU) has partnered with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to measure the economic impact and gather opinions of GRTU members who fished for trout in the Guadalupe River from November 2011 to the end of April 2012.

In early May an e-mail will be sent our GRTU database with a link to complete an online survey. Please help GRTU and TPWD gather this important information by taking a few minutes to complete the survey. Your responses will be confidential and will greatly help with future management of the fishery.

Thank you.  
Phil Dopson



## Directions to the Canyon Lake CRRC Recreation Center

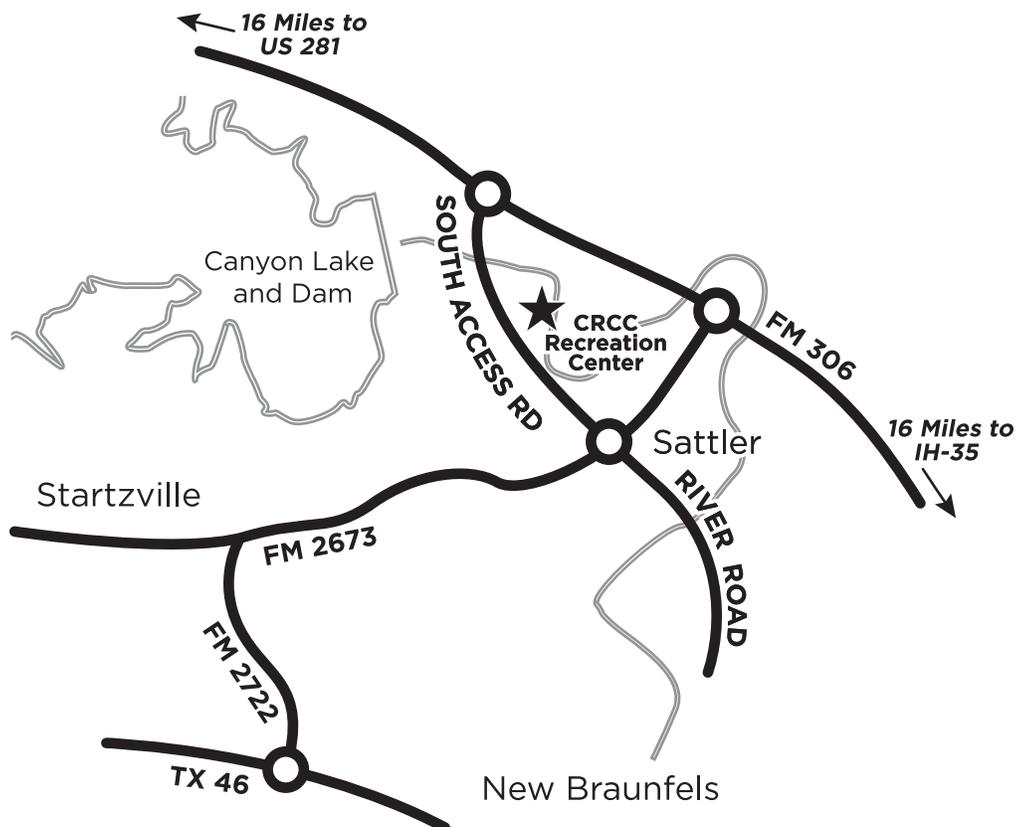
>From NORTH or SOUTH: Just North of New Braunfels on I-35 take Exit 191, (Canyon Lake Exit), which is FM 306 and go WEST, about 14 miles to Sattler (Canyon Lake area). Go past the traffic light at FM 2673 in Sattler for about 2 miles, (through Canyon City) and turn Left at the blinking caution light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

Follow our new map created by GRTU Volunteer Mark Broderick.

### Map of GRTU Meeting Area



## Trout Unlimited Volunteers Urge Legislators and Federal Employees to Support TU Initiatives and Key Legislation

Former GRTU President and TU Grassroots Trustee Mick McCorcle joined over a dozen other Trout Unlimited grassroots leaders and volunteers in Washington DC on February 1st to meet with legislators and Department of the Interior executives to urge their support for key TU initiatives.

“In order for us to have the funding and support we need to carry out TU’s mission,” said Mick, “we need our Texas legislators to understand the importance of the bills before them for our state’s natural resources and for the hunters and fishers it supports.”

As TU leaders from other states fanned out across Capitol Hill to meet with their own congressional delegations, Mick was joined by TU Director of Government Affairs Keith Curley in visiting the offices of Congressmen Michael Conaway and Quico Canseco and Senators John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison.

“The Farm Bill is a key piece of legislation for those who do habitat restoration,” said Mick, “but not all legislators realize that in supporting our farmers and ranchers to grow crops and livestock more efficiently and effectively, they can also help conserve water and improve its quality, which also benefits our local fisheries. Our job was to help their congressional staffers recognize that there are 5000 TU members across Texas who strongly support the conservation and habitat restoration portions of that bill.”

While in Washington, Mick also had a chance to further his pet project, the reintroduction of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout into McKittrick Creek in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park in west Texas. Mick joined TU Senior Scientist Jack Williams and Vice President of Government Affairs Steve Moyer in a meeting with Bert Frost, Associate Director of the National Park Service, who is responsible for NPS’s Natural Resource Stewardship and Science division.

“It was a very productive meeting,” said Jack Williams. “We were fortunate that Dr. Frost had been out to the park within the last year and had hiked McKittrick Canyon. He had not gone far enough up the canyon to see the rainbow trout now living in the creek, but his recent visit gave him a good understanding of the local terrain and the challenges inherent in such a project.”

Mick said there has been no further word from the Park Service, but he is optimistic that we will hear soon about what they plan to do with our proposal.

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## GRTU Bamboo Rod Raffle

Calling all Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited members you are now able to assist your Trout Unlimited Chapter in fund raising for conservation and other worthy cold water charitable work that GRTU helps with and at the same time have a chance at winning a beautiful bamboo rod.

This beautiful rod, donated by the wonderful people at Sportsman's Finest is an Orvis Battenkill Adirondack 5W 7' 6" 2 piece with an extra tip, rod sock and aluminum tube valued at over \$1700.00 the perfect rod for our beloved Guadalupe River or any other Hill Country fishery.

This is the rod of dreams the Orvis Battenkill Adirondack Bamboo Since 1856, from the legendary days of lancewood to today's Helios Fly Rods, Orvis has made a tradition of crafting quality fly rods made to be fished. No other fly rod builder has been more successful at this than Orvis. From Charles F. Orvis, the founder himself, to legends such as Wes Jordan, Howard Steere, and today's Ron White, Orvis has invested in fly rod builders revered for their knowledge, craftsmanship and vision.

Buy your tickets at the meeting on April 28 and on October 27.  
The Drawing for this rod will be at the October 2012 meeting.  
With over 5000 members surely we can make this a fantastic fund raising event for GRTU.



## Membership Update

Howdy, Y'all! What a beautiful time of year to be fishing in Texas! As VP of membership I've got a couple of membership-related announcements I want to share with you all. First, as some of you may have heard, we recently registered our 5,000th member. This is a first for Trout Unlimited, and definitely cements our position as the largest chapter in the country. In addition to our sheer numbers, we are gaining national prominence due to the dedication of both our leaders and general membership who have been on the front lines in supporting many national-level projects over the last few years. My hat's off to all of you who have stepped up to the challenge. Second, I would like to personally thank all the volunteers who sacrificed their time to help Trout Fest come off as spectacularly as it did. I know many of you would have rather taken more time to fish or attend the other activities, but you decided that helping out for the greater good was worth your time. I sincerely thank you all again. And last, I would like to invite you to participate in TU's National Stream Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 21 by helping us collect trash and recyclables from some of our upper lease sites. This will be a great opportunity to not only clean up some of our best fishing spots, but also to help build positive relationships with the area community. This would entail a couple of hours work in the morning, after which prizes will be awarded for various categories such as "Coolest Piece of Trash" and "Trashiest Volunteer". This is a great way to meet other chapter members, help give back to the organization, make some new fishing buddies, and maybe even learn their secret spots and flies (especially if Jimbo comes along). If you would like to participate, please email me at [NoblesT@grtu.org](mailto:NoblesT@grtu.org). Thank you all for what you do, have a great spring, and I'll see you on the river.

# GRTU Licence Plates

Order yours today to show your pride and support for GRTU.  
Part of the sale comes back to GRTU to aid in conservation projects.

Order your today at  
<http://www.myplates.com/landing/Passenger/103>



## Volunteer

Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited could not exist without volunteers. Our mission is to have an organization that makes a difference for its members and the trout fishery that we all love. We have a wide range of services that require voluntary help: membership, meetings, community events, newsletter, conservation, computer, fisheries, etc. etc. To become a more effective organization, the chapter is implementing a committee structure to utilize as many of our members as possible, who want to volunteer their time.

If you would like to volunteer  
please feel free to contact  
**Trey Nobles at [noblesT@grtu.org](mailto:noblesT@grtu.org)**

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# Fisheries Report

It has been quite a busy year for me in my first term as the GRTU V P of Fisheries.

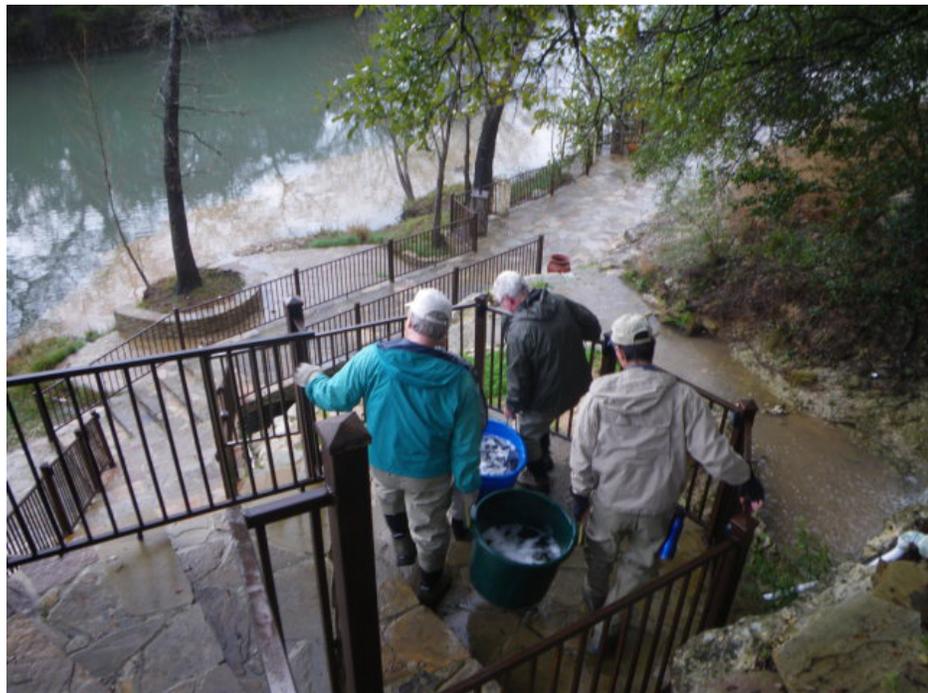
It began last spring when it was decided to explore stocking options, which resulted in polling our Lease Access Members to gauge their satisfaction with all facets of the Lease Access Program.

The results of that poll led to changes in the stocking strategy: to stock more fish and most fish below the 18" Trophy Trout Zone regs to try and keep more trout in the river. I think turned out to be fairly successful. I do miss all the huge trout that were common in the river in the previous years, but there is no doubt there are higher numbers of trout to catch, and not as many have been removed from the system this season.

The bad news was the loss of several of my favorite lease sites: Jak's and #6. But I think the new ones acquired this year; The Hideout and Rocky Beach, more than made up for the ones that were lost. It also allowed direct access to new areas that previously took a long wade to reach.

This year also saw some unusual stocking days. The first stocking saw big numbers of volunteers, about 70. We have come to expect these numbers now with the first stocking enthusiasm and the 2 buses easily accommodate those members wishing to participate. The second stocking saw something never seen before and an almost comical sight. The Hatchery Truck lost its air compressor for the brakes stranding it on Hwy 306. Fortunately we

were able to have a commercial grade wrecker come to the rescue. The wrecker ran a line from its onboard air compressor to the hatchery truck to allow it to operate its braking system, and then pulled the hatchery truck down River Road to our stocking sites. This limited the spots we could stock yet we were still able to put them in 7 at different sites. Not bad at all when I was having visions of the truck having to dump all the fish at the Whitewater Bridge. Marvin from Crystal Lake Fisheries really went the extra mile, hiring the wrecker and allowing us to stock all those different locations. The third stocking



saw huge rains overnight in the IH 35 corridor. I was surprised to see the numbers of volunteers still show up despite the weather and help get these trout into the river. This is so important; as without about 30 volunteers, stocking several locations that necessitate bucketing of the trout would be difficult to impossible. It was regrettable that we were not able to stock at #5 for fear of getting the Hatchery Truck stuck at the bottom next to the river. Nonetheless with the stocking strategy we used this year, we were able to spread the trout out up and down the river

making for good fishing at all of our sites.

We have been dealing with low flows again this year coming out of a 2-year drought and La Nina event. The flows started of the season with 50-55cfs being the norm. It began to rain around December and the flows started to run 80-90cfs in spite of the la Nina event. I am writing this on March 7th and we are seeing flows drop again now flowing at 75cfs. The lake is currently at 899.55' msl. I count ourselves lucky that through this drought as Canyon Lake's level has not dropped even further. NOAA has forecast an end to this La Nina event by early summer and a return to ENSO neutral conditions in the eastern Pacific. This would mean a return to normal weather patterns over central Texas. We still need big rains over the Guadalupe above Canyon Lake to raise the lake to 909. So having sustaining flows agreement with GBRA kick in the summer are unlikely.

I would ask that you remember to ask for rain in your prayers. Barring a near flood event on the upper Guadalupe, I expect for the river to warm and make trout fishing unwise by the end of May in all but the upper few miles just below the dam. I would ask that you watch water temperatures, checking them with a stream thermometer often and quit fishing for trout when temperatures reach 70 degrees.

We will have another follow-up survey again around the end of May to again gauge angler satisfaction with this year's program. This will be sent to all the Lease Access Members, as they are largely responsible for the funding of the Lease access program and the stocking of our



trout. I look forward to your feedback.

Jimbo Roberts  
GRTU V P of Fisheries

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## GRTU Membership Reminder

Our GRTU 2011-2012 Lease Access Program provides many access points on the river and is effective November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012. 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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## Change to GRTU Bylaws

I found an omission in the newly adopted bylaws that we need to correct. This clause was part of our former bylaws and was accidentally omitted in the process of moving to the new TU directed bylaws. The clause has been copied in full from our former bylaws. I will ask the members of the chapter present to approve this change.

Added to Article X, Assets and Dissolution:

Section 3. No officer, Director or member of this Chapter shall incur or be authorized to incur any debt or any other financial obligation on behalf of the Chapter without authority of the Board of Directors. The amount of any such debt should not exceed an aggregate of \$500.00 at any time without prior approval of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may authorize such obligations or debt only in pursuance of the normal business of the Chapter.

Thanks,

Mark Dillow  
GRTU President



**IN FINE FIREARMS & FLY FISHING**  
*Austin, Texas*

## 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	Bob Newman	Lt. Col. Paul A. Schubauer (Ret.)
Alan Bray	Chad Oliver	Betsy Story
Bill Cobb	Irving O'Neal	Bob Story
Dick Finta	William C. (Bill) Pabst	Marian Tilson
Rupert Gresham	J. Bill Parvin	Billy Trimble
Howard Itten	Basden L. (Bud) Priddy, MD	R.E. (Bob) Tuttle
William A. (Bill) Johnson	Glenn Richardson	Jim Vynalek
Hymar Karbach Jr.	Jeff Schmitt	William G. (Bill) West
James W Keeton	David Schroeder	T.B. (Tom) Whitehouse
Mick McCorcle	Mrs. Hazel Schubauer	

## The Guadalupe Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Honors Our

### Century Club Members

The following individuals have contributed \$100 or more for GRTU programs, including the Guadalupe River 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.

Hector Allende  
David Baird  
Denis Beaudoin  
James Boehm  
Andre Boutte  
DUane Brandt  
Alan Bray  
Walter Carver  
Sam Castleberry  
Roderick Coffin  
John Curney  
Mark Dillow  
Phil Dopson  
Clark Edgecomb  
Joe Filer  
Malcolm Freeman  
Edward Fritsch  
Jerry Gatlin  
David Gill  
Sam Godfrey  
Micheal Gordon  
Richard Grayson

Ron Groves  
Reed Helmly  
Jay Herbert  
Milton Herrmann  
W. Howard  
Stephen Hudak  
James Hughes  
Blake Jefferson  
John Kelly  
Jon Loehman  
Christopher Long  
Phil Mahan  
William Marshall  
Mark McCollum  
Mick McCorcle  
Paul Millar  
Ashby Miller  
John Moore  
Dennis Naidus  
James Orr  
Edmund Parsons  
Keith Phelps

William Poskey  
Ryan Reagan  
Mike Rhodes  
Gary Richardson  
Jimbo Roberts  
Oscar Robinson  
James Rogers  
Daniel Roth  
Jeff Schmitt  
Roy Schwitters  
Jeff Sipes  
Kim Stoddard  
Michael Sweeney  
Rafael Torres  
Bud Turner  
James Turner  
Thomas Waller  
Henry Warren  
John Webb  
Warren Wert  
Marvin Williams



### GRTU Officers and Board of Directors



President	Mark Dillow	512-923-7808	President@grtu.org
VP Chapter Affairs	Rafael Torres	512-560-4380	Vp-affairs@grtu.org
VP Fisheries	Jimbo Roberts	210-826-2766	RobertsJ@grtu.org
VP Membership	Trey Nobels	512-670-6861	NobelsT@grtu.org
Treasurer	Phil Dopson	512-413-3301	DopsonP@grtu.org
Secretary	Joe Filer	210-654-6220	FilerJ@grtu.org
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Director	Roger Turner	214-475-1551	TurnerR@grtu.org
Director	Gary Lehman	210-394-2833	LehmanG@grtu.org
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