



Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

# Newsletter



No. 105 OCT 2014

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## GRTU Meeting

Saturday October 25, 2014

CRRC Building  
South Access Road  
Sattler, Texas

Directions and Map on  
page 13

9AM Social Hour  
9AM Lease Access Orientation  
10AM Business Meeting  
11AM Speaker  
Pat Dorsey  
12- Lunch  
12:30PM Women Only  
Sheila Anderson  
1PM GRTU Board Meeting

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## October Speaker Pat Dorsey

A native of Colorado, Pat has been guiding for over 23 years. He spends approximately two hundred days a year on the water, enjoying a unique quality of life both personally and professionally. "I am blessed to be able to make a living as a fly fishing guide and I will never lose sight of how fortunate I am to really love my job."

Pat is Guide Director and a partner in the Blue Quill Angler fly shop. He oversees and trains more than 20 guides and helps to set the standard for integrity and professionalism in the Blue Quill Angler guide operation. Pat, also, writes the central Rocky Mountain stream report that monitors stream flows and conditions on the Blue, Colorado, South Platte (Cheesman, Deckers, Spinney Mountain Ranch, and Elevenmile Canyon), North Fork of the South Platte, and Williams Fork rivers.

Pat is proud to be a Simms Guide Ambassador. "I cannot imagine guiding without Simms apparel; their gear is simply the finest and most durable stuff available." Pat is also a member of the Sage Fly Rods Advisory Team. "My favorite rods are the Sage TCX 9' 4 weight and 9'5 weight VXP. I feel confident putting these rods in my clients hands as I know we will get a quick hook-set with enough suppleness in the tip to protect light tippet."

Pat is the Southwest Field Editor for Fly Fisherman Magazine. You can find his articles archived here. In 2005, Pat authored the book, A Fly Fishing Guide to the South Platte River, a complete how-to fly fishing manual for the entire South Platte River drainage. It encompasses a thorough look at each section of the river detailing the hatches and recommended fly patterns for each of the four seasons of the year.

Pat didn't stop there, in 2009 he authored Fly Fishing Tailwaters, a comprehensive book on how to fish tailwater fisheries. In 2010 a companion book to Fly Fishing Tailwaters hit the shelves, Tying and Fishing Tailwater Flies, which is jam-packed with how to tie Pat's favorite "guide flies". This book includes 500 step-by-step tutorials, as well as, helpful tips and illustrations on how to rig and fish them.

Pat is an accomplished fly tier and has originated a number of very effective patterns such as the Mercury series, UV scud, Limeade, Cherry-Limeade, Paper Tiger, Top Secret



Midge, Medallion Midge and the famed Black Beauty. Although Pat no longer has the time to tie flies commercially, he once produced over 28,000 flies in a year. Pat is a fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. Pat's signature flies are available at the Blue Quill Angler. Pat is also a Pro Team Member for Whiting Farms. Many of his flies incorporate Whiting Farm products.

Another one of Pat's interests is photography. He produces many digital slide presentations used in his speaking engagements at fishing clubs throughout the United States. He is a Celebrity Speaker for the International Sportsmen's Exposition in Denver and is very active in Trout Unlimited and the conservation of cold-water fisheries.

Pat is the proud father of three wonderful boys, Forrest, Zach, and Hunter. He also has two step children, Nicole and Michael Richardson. They, like their dad, enjoy fly fishing. Pat's wife, Kim, is an avid angler and often appears with Pat at trade shows and other speaking engagements. Kim and Pat, also, host a yearly trip to Alaska Sportman's Lodge each September with a group of his clients.

## TU Annual Meeting Report

The TU annual meeting was held this year in the "Land of Enchantment", Santa Fe New Mexico.

GRTU was represented by four members: President and TX Council Chair Mark Dillow, Treasurer Phil Dopson, National Leadership Council representative Rafael Torres, and Grassroots Trustee Mick McCorcle.

The TU annual meeting is held at a different locale each year, offering the opportunity to chapter members to attend and participate in meetings that help shape the future of TU.

You may recall last year that GRTU was honored in Madison WI with the Golden Trout award, recognizing us with the highest honor a chapter can receive.

This year, the national recognition of GRTU continued, as Mick McCorcle was elected to be the next Chairman of the National Leadership Council (NLC). Read more about that in the NLC update in the newsletter.

The GRTU contingent participated in meetings with various NLC workgroups like Western Native Trout, Climate Change, and New Initiatives. Additionally we were treated to the annual business meeting with TU CEO Chris Wood presenting "The State of TU", which is always a highlight of the annual meeting. This address is made available on the TU.org website, and I highly encourage all GRTU members to view it. There are some great things happening nationally for TU, from victories at Pebble Mine to turning the corner on saving native Yellowstone Cutthroats – issues GRTU has supported financially and in spirit.

Chairman of the Board and Trustee elections were conducted, as were NLC chair and secretary elections.

Next year's annual meeting will be in Scranton, PA.

In addition to the annual meeting, I would like to let chapter members know that we also have mid- south regional meetings each year, which are open for all GRTU members to attend. These are mini versions of the annual meeting, and allow us to work on issues common to our region. Recent examples of topics at the regional meeting have been climate change, hydro fracking, leadership development, the TU women's initiative, and working with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Mid-South region includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Missouri. This year's meeting will be held in Branson, MO March 5-7. Watch [www.TU.org](http://www.TU.org) for details as they develop.

Mark Dillow



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# President's Letter

Why are you a Trout Unlimited member? Why do you attend chapter meetings (if you do)?

I originally joined TU because I wanted to learn to fly fish for trout. I also knew I wanted to be part of an organization like Trout Unlimited because they wanted to leave the environment better than they found it. It felt good to contribute in a small way to bettering our cold water fisheries.

I have been an outdoorsman most of my life. I was taught by my father, and by those whose writings I absorbed in magazines like Field and Stream, that resources were limited, and that we were to be stewards of it for the next generation. As I grew, writers like Aldo Leopold, Harry Middleton, Gordon MacQuarrie, Wendell Barry, and Roderick Haig-Brown continued to mentor me down the path of conservationism. Looking back at these influences, it seems almost inevitable that I would become a TU member.

Maybe you are like me. Perhaps you joined to learn to fish for trout, or to participate in our lease access program. Perhaps you joined because of a membership drive that gave you a free or discounted membership, and you are just learning about TU. Maybe fishing is more

important than conservation to you presently. That's Ok, there is a place for you here.

Whatever your reasons for joining, and regardless of your station in GRTU, I want to encourage you to grow. Cultivate your natural curiosity. Learn new skills like fly tying. Become an amateur entomologist. Learn to identify the birds you see on the river, the tress, grasses and aquatic vegetation. When we learn the names of such, they become valuable to us.

Take a camera (waterproof would be my recommendation) when you fish and learn to use it more effectively. Share what you are learning with someone else. In so doing, learn to love our natural resources more. Become willing to conserve them for future generations by donating of your time, talent, and resources. We need you. Even if you live far from the Guadalupe in the Texas panhandle or in the DFW area, we need you. We need more pragmatic stewards of this amazing place that we live, to protect, reconnect, restore, and sustain it. Become more than an angler; become a conservationist.

Mark Dillow

## McKittrick Trout Project Moves Forward

Four years ago, a group of fifteen people representing a half dozen organizations hiked up McKittrick Canyon in the Guadalupe Mountains of far western Texas. Their goal was to share a glimpse of the wild trout that resided up McKittrick Creek at elevations over 5000 feet. They found a few fat trout in isolated pools, shaded by big tooth maples and surrounded by a rich grasses. When they turned over rocks in the pools, they found them alive with aquatic life. Trout would dart to the surface to grab an unsuspecting insect, sometimes right at the feet of the observers.

The group, which consisted of representatives from GRTU, TU, Texas Parks & Wildlife, New Mexico Game & Fish, New Mexico State University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service, was there to explore the possibility of returning a native trout to the state of Texas. Anecdotal data indicated that Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGCT) had once resided in McKittrick Creek but were over-stocked with rainbow trout decades ago and were out-competed by the rainbows. Since the creek resides in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and the National Park Service's objective of replacing exotic species with natives, a study was undertaken to determine the feasibility of returning the RGCT to the creek.

An Interim Report on field surveys has been completed by New Mexico State University and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. The June 2014 report, titled "Feasibility Study: Re-establishing Native Fish Fauna to McKittrick Creek, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas" describes the results of fish population, habitat, amphibian, and macroinvertebrate surveys carried out to date. Additional studies are planned for fall 2014. Stream temperature and flow information will be finalized in the final report.

Preliminary data provide some intriguing results. Longear sunfish, a possible native to the system, was collected from North and South McKittrick Creek. According to Matt Zeigler of NMSU, many of the rainbow trout appear to have traces of cutthroat trout, which could provide further inference that cutthroat trout were native to the system. The report describes densities of rainbow trout throughout the system, which will help inform potential carrying capacity for cutthroat trout in the future. The Rio Grande leopard frog was also collected from North McKittrick Creek. These surveys are intended to help understand the potential for the stream to support Rio Grande cutthroat trout and to form the scientific basis for an environmental assessment that will be prepared by the National Park Service on reintroduction efforts for Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

# THE WOMEN OF GRTU

Welcome to the Women of GRTU! I am proud to be a part of this initiative to promote fishing for women of all ages and all levels of experience. My goal is to provide women with the knowledge and practice to fully enjoy this great sport. No matter if you are brand new and have never held a rod in your hand or you have 20+ years of fishing, I plan to provide you with a conduit to further your enjoyment.

For anyone wanting to renew their membership with Trout Unlimited, you are offered 50% off your membership renewal. That is \$17.50. This also goes for anyone wanting to join for the first time. Half off the regular membership. Pass the word along to any woman you know who might want to join or renew. To do so, go to [www.tu.org/womenrenew](http://www.tu.org/womenrenew). It is fast and easy.

Some people wonder what they get for their membership. For me, it is the satisfaction that 87% of my dues will be for the conservation of coldwater fisheries. This is to help protect the streams and rivers that you enjoy and for the preservation of their habitats for fish. Very few organizations contribute this sizeable amount of their dues toward conservation or for whatever their purpose. In addition you will get a calendar and a subscription to a magazine with timely topics about the sport of fishing. Plus you will get to attend our GRTU meetings and with our new women's group, you get to attend our Lunch and Learn sessions. Keep reading to find out what we have already done and what we plan to do in the future.

Our first event was at Troutfest 2014 in February where I held a class on selecting the proper equipment for fly fishing. The second event was in April at the GRTU general meeting where we had a casting clinic with Terri Couteau helping us perfect our casting. The next event will be this October at the GRTU meeting in the Sattler/Canyon Lake area. Sheila Anderson, famed fisherwoman and fly tyer, will show us how to rig our fly rods using leaders and tippets and then we will get to practice knot tying. If you feel like you are all thumbs when it comes to tying your fly on your line or connecting your line, leader and tippet to catch the big ones, this is the clinic for you. In addition, you might just learn about some better knots from Sheila. She is very good about making things easy and fun. After our session, you can go down to the Guadalupe River and practice what you have learned. How great is that??

There is a lot more to come specifically for women as the year develops so stay tuned. BE SURE I HAVE YOUR EMAIL so you can stay current and informed. I don't always get your emails from our national organization in a timely manner so just send me an email personally to [wi@grtu.org](mailto:wi@grtu.org). This way you will always be informed about upcoming fishing events. As I find out about events sponsored in various parts of our great state, I will forward these events to you if you are on my email list. Your email that you share with me is strictly between you and me. I do NOT share your email address with others.

If you should hear about any fishing events in your area of the state, please forward to me so I can share with other women. If you are interested in hosting an event in your area, please let me know. I can provide you with help or contact information. It doesn't have to be big. Anything from a one hour session/clinic to a half or full day fishing event would be great. We are only effective if we help each other out, right?

If you are not getting my emails, let me know. Contact me at [wi@grtu.org](mailto:wi@grtu.org) and I will add your name. If you don't wish to receive these emails, I will gladly remove your name. Just say the word and I will delete your name from my list. I know what it is like to get tons of email each day so I sure don't want to give you news that you don't wish to receive.

Submitted by Mary Hulett, Chairperson for the GRTU Women's Initiative; [wi@grtu.org](mailto:wi@grtu.org)



## Women of GRTU Lunch and Learn Session

Plan to come to the general meeting October 25 and stay for lunch. Following lunch Sheila Anderson will be doing a session on how to rig our fishing lines with leaders and tippets and using knots. I know this is something that I need a LOT of practice with. How about you? This is for all levels of fisherwomen. There is something for everyone but this will be for WOMEN only. You can buy the catered BBQ lunch or bring your own. We will eat together and then have our rigging session.

Sheila Anderson is a 13-year member and past president of Texas Women Fly Fishers, she enjoys sharing her knowledge of the sport with all new members whenever possible, especially at the group's outings. She is also a volunteer staff member and casting instructor for Casting for Recovery, a national program where breast cancer survivors are introduced to the sport of fly fishing in weekend retreats. She loves to tie flies as much as she loves to fly fish, and has been a featured tier at the Houston Fly Tying Festival and the Sow Bug Roundup in Mountain Home, Arkansas. As a three year employee at Sportsman's Finest in Austin, her knowledge has grown in the areas of fly fishing gear and equipment, rod rigging, fly selection, and fishing locations and tactics. She is a 37-year resident of Austin and enjoys fishing the Texas Hill Country rivers and streams.

## GRTU provided funding for this intern through your generous donations.

Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited (GRTU)  
PO Box 536  
Austin, TX 78767

August 21, 2014

RE: GRTU/TPWD Summer Internship

GRTU Board,

I have concluded my summer internship with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries Division, and would like to thank you for making this opportunity available. I have learned a lot this summer about fisheries management and habitat conservation. I was presented with wide spectrum of tasks, exposing me to an array of experiences in this field. My responsibilities ranged from fisheries monitoring, evaluations and enhancement to angler outreach and human dimensions.

In particular, I helped with several tasks on the Guadalupe River system, including Canyon Lake, such as:

- Analyzing trout angler participation for the Camp Huaco Springs winter lease program (2013/14)
- Investigating a Canyon Tailrace report for zebra mussels
- Assisting with zebra mussel tow net monitoring at Canyon Lake
- Construction and installation of Portland Samplers at Canyon Lake marinas to monitor for zebra mussels
- Stocking Florida Largemouth Bass and monitoring vegetation habitat in Canyon Lake
- Scouting new trout regulation zone and placement of regulation signs
- Assisting with Canyon Lake brush-pile evaluation study
- Assisting with file conversions for Canyon Tailrace habitat mapping project by Greg Cummings
- Repairing rod and reels for WORD Fun Fish Event, showcasing trout fishing in the Guadalupe River

In addition to my work on the Guadalupe River system, I participated in two special population sampling studies. I spent a week at Lake Palestine for the "Flathead Catfish Rodeo", an electrofishing event used to survey the flathead catfish population in the lake. I spent another week at Lake Falcon helping with an alligator gar population study; gill nets were used to collect alligator gar for age, diet, and reproductive data. I also helped with aquatic vegetation planting projects on the Comal River, San Marcos River and Brushy Creek Reservoir.

I fully understand how valuable these student internships are in developing aspiring professionals. I want to, again, express my gratitude for this opportunity. I gained great field experience which will benefit my future career in conservation.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Higgs  
Texas A&M University  
Bioenvironmental Sciences

# Troutfest 2015

Mark your calendars now for Feb 20-22!

Plans have already begun for Trout Fest 2015. This will be our fifth year for this level of Trout Fest, and its reputation continues to grow nationally. What started as a small family picnic type of event seven years ago, has now grown to become the premier winter outdoor expo in central/south Texas.

Much of what you have come to expect from Trout Fest will continue. We will have a banquet on Friday night with a great meal, a great speaker, and both silent and live auction items. Tickets will be available on <http://www.grtutroutfest.org> as we get closer to the event.

On Saturday and Sunday we will have an expo, with a tent full of exhibitors, fly tiers, and celebrity speakers sharing information that is sure to make you a better angler. All of the activities during the day on the weekend are free of charge. We plan to show the Fly Fishing Film tour Saturday night, for which you may purchase tickets at the same time that you purchase your banquet tickets. You simply can't find a better outdoor bargain!

At this writing we are currently in negotiations for our keynote speaker for the banquet. As soon as we lock on a speaker, we will share that on the website and our web forum at [www.grtu.org](http://www.grtu.org). We will share updates at the chapter meeting. And yes we need volunteers to help out! Please email me at [president@grtu.org](mailto:president@grtu.org) if you can commit to even a couple of hours over the course of the weekend.

Mark Dillow, Trout Fest 2015 Chairman

## Former GRTU President Elected To Chair Trout Unlimited Council

At its annual meeting in Santa Fe, the National Leadership Council of Trout Unlimited (NLC) elected Mick McCorcle as its Chair. The NLC is the senior deliberating body for Trout Unlimited's grassroots organization, representing the 37 Councils, 375 Chapters and 155,000 members of TU. It consists of representatives from all of Trout Unlimited state organizations, called Councils. Texas is the only state without a Council to have a Representative on the NLC. Our current NLC Representative is Rafael Torres.

In his new role, Mick will also serve as the Vice Chair of TU's Board of Trustees. Mick was President of GRTU from 2004-2007 and served as the Newsletter Editor and Texas NLC Representative for several years thereafter. He currently chairs the Organization Development Committee on Trout Unlimited's Board of Trustees.

"It's a great honor to be chosen to lead this key group within Trout Unlimited's national organization," said Mick. "My time on the leadership team of GRTU really gave me a sense of the important work that TU does and I received good guidance and mentoring from former GRTU leaders like Jeff Schmitt, Alan Bray and Billy Trimble. This election is another indicator of the growing influence of GRTU on the national stage through the efforts of GRTU leaders like our NLC Representative Rafael Torres, President Mark Dillow and Treasurer Phil Dopson."

One of the key roles of the NLC is to be a liaison and line of communication between local chapters and members, on the one hand, and Trout Unlimited's national staff and Board of Trustees on the other. "Rafael and I should be spending a good portion of our time listening to the needs and suggestions of our members," said Mick, "so we can effectively represent the 5000 Texas members of TU."

"As your representative on the National Leadership Committee (NLC) I'm looking forward to working with Mick and other NLC members on several critical focus areas but specifically on a topic that will involve our Texas Chapter right here in Texas." The Native Western Trout work group which Rafael is a member of, might just get the chance to look at the reintroduction of the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout back into some of its home waters right here in Texas. There has already been some preliminary scientific studies needed to proceed to the next step and in about 6 months TU should have the needed scientific information compiled and given to the National Park scientist for their review. After that point our Chapter should have a definite word regarding proceeding with the project. So far it looks good and with Mick as the Chair of the NLC we can keep a closer eye on this matter for you.

GRTU president Mark Dillow notes that "Mick's experience with organizational behavior and business acumen will be key in moving the NLC to the next level, streamlining and mobilizing the greatest conservation team in the nation – Trout Unlimited."

So, if there are issues or concerns you'd like Mick or Rafael to take back to TU, you may contact them at [McCorcleM@grtu.org](mailto:McCorcleM@grtu.org) or [TorresR@grtu.org](mailto:TorresR@grtu.org).

# Catch and Release

Being a guide on the Guadalupe River exposes one to many different things. I have seen things during the summer that I wish I could forget, and I have watched clients land fish that will forever be lodged in my memory. From 100+ degree weather in the doldrums of summer, to an 11 degree morning last winter, I have seen most of what the Guadalupe has to offer. It never ceases to amaze me that we have a year-round trout fishery in Central Texas. That being said, if you are reading this, you are very aware of what GRTU does to support, enhance, and make this fishery a reality. Conservation is at the forefront of GRTU's mission, and conservation starts with the next fish you catch! Allow me to explain: GRTU stocks trout in the river – BIG TROUT. With the exception of Karen Gebhardt complaining to Bill Higdon about her arms hurting from catching so many large fish, I have never heard anyone complain about the leviathans that lurk beneath the surface of the Guadalupe. While big trout are a pleasure to catch and a sight to behold, I am absolutely dumbfounded by the number of people that improperly handle trout, both large and small, during the winter season. Improper handling often results in high mortality and/or an unsuccessful release. With a single trophy costing GRTU anywhere from 30-50 dollars, I have to ask, is a good picture worth the life of the fish? Now, I like a good fish picture as much as anyone, and my job requires that I take hundreds of them during the trout season, but there is a right way of going about it. Below are several pointers that will greatly help our trout survive throughout the season and hopefully the summer – which I can assure you some do, as I catch them every year during the “off” season.

- Never place fingers in a trout's gills or eyes – there really is not a quicker way to do more damage to a fish than sticking your fingers through its gills.
- Do not drag your fish onto the bank or onto the rocks – the trout will continue to thrash as it is landed, resulting in loss of slime coat and possibly more severe impact injuries.
- Do not try to unhook a deeply hooked trout – simply cut the line as close to the fly as possible. Your fly costs maybe \$3, the trout is worth more than that!
- To hold a fish for photos, wet your hands, grab just above the tail firmly and simply support the rest of the fish with your other hand – Do not squeeze the fish's middle as internal organs can be easily damaged.
- Never hold a fish while wearing cloth gloves – this removes their slime coat and makes them vulnerable to infection and disease.
- Always wet your hands before handling trout!
- USE A NET! Knotless, Cloth/Mesh bags are fine, rubber is best. Knotted nylon net bags are a bit rough on the fish.
- Keep the fish in the net as much as possible until you are ready for photos – Camera out, on, and ready to shoot.
- If you are holding a trout for a classic “grip-n-grin” type photo. Lift the fish out of the water for the photo and immediately place it back. If the fish is out of the water for more than 10-12 seconds, permanent damage has been done to its gills.
- You don't have to rock a fish back and forth to revive it, simply place it in the water facing upstream and after a short time (can be 10 seconds or 3 minutes depending on the fish) let the fish swim off in its own power.
- Watch your fish swim out of sight – if it is not fully revived, it will turn over out of exhaustion. Simply re-net the fish, and spend some more time reviving the trout.

I know that this seems like a lot to remember, but with some practice, it will become second nature. I look forward to seeing everyone on the river this season! Thank you all for being a major part of the mission of Trout Unlimited and GRTU. Let us all strive to set the example for others to follow.

Tight Lines,

Chris Johnson – VP of Membership

# Raffle Item

This year's GRTU fund raising raffle is courtesy of Chris of Living Waters Fly Shop in Round Rock, Texas.

This new rod from Scott Fly Rods is a 9' 4wt Living Waters Fly Shop donated is one of the all New Radian from Scott. Until now, you've had to choose between a rod with power and line speed or a rod with touch and feel. But thanks to Scott, those days are over.



Raffle tickets for this rod went on sale at the October 2013 meeting and the drawing for this rod will take place during the 2014 October meeting. Please purchase your tickets and help GRTU continue working to conserve and protect the Guadalupe River.



CDC Wilcox JC Special  
Tied by Chris Johnson of Living Waters Fly Fishing

Hook: TMC 212TR, Sizes 17-13  
Thread: Tiemco 16/0, Gray  
Tail: Coq De Leon hackle fibers, Medium Pardo  
Rib: Gold French Tinsel, X-small  
Abdomen: Natural beaver dubbing  
Wing: Natural CDC Puffs  
Thorax: Natural beaver dubbing  
Post: Tiemco Aero Wing, three color blend  
Hackle: Dark Barred Ginger or Cree  
Legs: Barred Round Rubber, Small, Tan



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

# Reel Recovery

APRIL 2015, 24 thru 26

I would like to thank each and every member of the Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited chapter for helping with a donation that makes it possible for a participant to attend a Reel Recovery retreat right here in central Texas for the last two years. I have been involved with this organization for the last 7 years and we have been able to offer these men this opportunity because of many organizations like GRTU giving of their resources to accomplish this mission.

The mission of Reel Recovery is to help men in the cancer recovery process by introducing them to the healing powers of the sport of fly-fishing, while providing a safe, supportive environment to explore their personal experiences of cancer with others who share their stories much like the "Casting for Recovery" does for the Ladies.

The Program goals are to provide a safe, reflective environment for the participants to discuss their disease and recovery with other men with shared experiences, thereby providing support and information to help them in their recovery.

To provide expert fly-fishing instruction that enables the participants to learn a new skill, form a healing connection with nature, and participate in a sport they can continue throughout their recovery and lifetime.

Reel Recovery retreats also provide participants information about cancer-related resources, both in the

local community and nationally, to facilitate networking and enhanced management of their recovery. This is all accomplished in the setting of three day retreats for the participants and for the last three years we have held the Hill Country Retreat at Joshua Creek Ranch. The friends at JCR are always ready to help in any way they can with the use of their facility and property simply they make the retreat a memorable event for the participants and staff. While the cost to the participants is free there are still costs associated with putting on this program and it is all done with voluntary donations from people like yourselves. I am asking Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited to assist Reel Recovery with the donation of time again this year. We are having a retreat at Joshua Creek Ranch on April 24, 25 & 26. Reel Recovery relies on a dedicated and growing group of volunteers who assist in coordinating and staffing retreats at the local level. The experience can be powerful and enriching, as your efforts can have an immediate positive impact on the lives of the men we serve. If you are interested in becoming involved please visit the Reel Recovery web site at [www.reelrecovery.org](http://www.reelrecovery.org) and fill out a volunteer application. There have been several GRTU members involved in this worthy project and they always need more help with volunteers and participants as well. If you would like to help with staffing this year's retreat for our area it will be at JCR APRIL 24, 25 & 26 2015 If you are interested in finding out more about being as a Fishing Buddy or want to know more about how you can help please email me Rafael Torres at [onthriverguides@yahoo.com](mailto:onthriverguides@yahoo.com). "Be Well, Fish On"

## JOIN NOW!

For anyone wanting to join Trout Unlimited for the first time, you are offered a half price membership. That is \$17.50. This is for ANYONE new to TU. By joining TU and living in Texas, you are automatically put into the GRTU chapter. We would love to have you join us! Just go to [www.tu.org/intro](http://www.tu.org/intro). It is quick and easy. Pass this newsletter along to anyone you know who might want to join a fabulous organization.

If you are a WOMAN and wanting to renew your membership, you also have the half price offer of \$17.50. Go to [www.tu.org/womenrenew](http://www.tu.org/womenrenew). You will get a year's membership tacked on to whatever is left of your current membership.

What do you get for your membership? You will get a calendar from TU, you will get a subscription to Trout, the magazine put out by TU with quality articles on fishing, fly tying and conservation efforts.

You will get to participate in the Lease Program for a fee. This allows you access to 20+ places along the Guadalupe that are private access only. You can find out more about the Lease Program at [www.grtu.org/membership](http://www.grtu.org/membership).

But most of all you get to know that your dollars are going toward conservation efforts to preserve and protect our coldwater fisheries. 87% of your money is devoted to your streams and rivers and lakes so that you can have years of enjoyment in fishing these waters.

Pass the word! We are looking for people interested in fishing and meeting great people. Won't you help by spreading the word to anyone you know?

Contact Chris Johnson, Membership chair at [johnsonc@grtu.org](mailto:johnsonc@grtu.org) or Mary Hulett, Women's Initiative Chair at [wi@grtu.org](mailto:wi@grtu.org) for more information.

## Youth Education Program

Modeled after Trout Unlimited's Headwaters Youth Program, the goal of the GRTU Youth Education Program is to engage and educate Texas youth about our natural resources through various programs and activities. The model is simple: We, as stewards of the Guadalupe River trout fishery, engage youth and teach them to fly fish, tie flies, learn about trout biology and riverine ecology, and in turn we create future stewards (and hopefully advocates) for our precious aquatic resources such as our Guadalupe River. From TU's Headwaters program: "Educating youth now means that the next generation will be ready, willing and able to sustain TU's work into the future-continuing to protect, reconnect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watershed." GRTU has recognized the need to step up and develop our own Youth Education Program. Those fortunate enough to attend our premier yearly event, Troutfest, will recall that all proceeds generated from Troutfest 2014 went to fund the Youth Education Program. Those funds coupled with WORD donations to GRTU will provide the resources necessary to develop a youth program and fund Trout Camp 2015.

Still in its first year, the GRTU Youth Education Program is preparing to make a big splash in the trout filled waters of the Guadalupe River this coming January with our very own Trout Camp 2015. Area youth will gain first-hand knowledge and experience of the Guadalupe River Trout Fishery. Throughout the weekend of January 17-18, kids age 10-17 and one parent or guardian will learn to fly cast, fly fish, tie flies, collect and identify aquatic insects and understand their role in trout fishing. Something magical happens when a child becomes educated and engaged in the outdoors. First, they enjoy it. Second, they understand it. Next, they care about it and become passionate about protecting it. Finally, they begin to share their enjoyment, knowledge, and passion with others. That's where you can become part of the GRTU Youth Education Program.

We need your help. The Youth Education Program and Trout Camp 2015 need volunteers to make this program a success. Anyone interested in helping in fly casting, fly tying, or helping cook meals for the weekend of Trout Camp is welcome to help out. This is a great opportunity to pass on your conservation legacy to the next generation of river stewards. For more information, please see the Youth Program forum on the [grtu.org/forum](http://grtu.org/forum) or contact Dakus Geeslin, Youth Program Chair directly at [dakus.geeslin@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:dakus.geeslin@tpwd.texas.gov)

### **GRTU VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

What: 2015 GRTU Youth Trout Camp

When: January 17-19, 2015. MLK Day weekend. Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> is a holiday

Where: Guadalupe River Trout Fishery. Exact Location TBD

Who: Youth age 10-17 and one parent/guardian. GRTU Volunteers needed.

Cost: \$100 Per Youth/Adult couple for entire weekend. Includes lodging and meals.

TU's Headwaters Program Stream of Engagement



# Fisheries Report

It's that time of year when we start thinking about cooler fall weather knocking on our door.

We've had another long hot summer and although the drought has continued throughout the southern United States we have conditions present in the Pacific that could bring higher than normal rains to Central Texas. We have had these conditions present before and seen no break in the drought, but this time is different. It is likely we will see above average rains this fall and winter. Will it be enough to break the drought? Only time will tell.

Right now, before the Labor Day weekend, we are seeing the lake at 898.53' msl and releases from the dam of 59cfs. Water temperatures in the river above Rio have been surprisingly good this summer. I have reports this week from friends fishing for holdovers that trout are indeed present in these waters and still biting.

This season will mark, for the first time, more restrictive harvest limits for trout in the upper river above Whitewater Sports. This could change the future for the fishery! We are hoping, with these more restrictive regulations, we will be seeing higher holdover numbers in this part of the river that would create a larger core trout population year to year. It might even contribute to higher recruitment of spawned fry to catchable sized fish.

Because of these changes our stocking program will shift to take advantage of this new cold water refuge. The plan is to increase the stocking of trout in this area, especially these next few years, too increase the numbers of trout per mile there. If this goes off as expected we are going to see dramatic changes in our trout populations leading to our long term goals of a significant year round fishery.

I am presently working on renewing our Lease Access Sites. I have already secured an additional year-round access in the tubers loop. There will be changes in some of the sites downstream as ownership changes among river outfitters. I am currently working to keep access in these areas stable and I believe we should see an increase to 19 sites in total with 10 of them year-round sites. I would like to thank everyone who has joined the Lease Access Program in the past and encourage everyone to sign up again as it is responsible for the funds used to purchase trout for the stocking program which is at the core of what we do to sustain the Guadalupe Fishery.

Myself, I am looking forward to another fabulous year of fishing for trout on the Guadalupe River. I can't wait to renew our quest for big trout in this the southern most trout fishery in the United States. Tight lines !!!

Jimbo Roberts  
GRTU V P of Fisheries



## Conservation Update

A few conservation item updates as we get ready to kick off another season of trout fishing on the Guadalupe River tailrace.

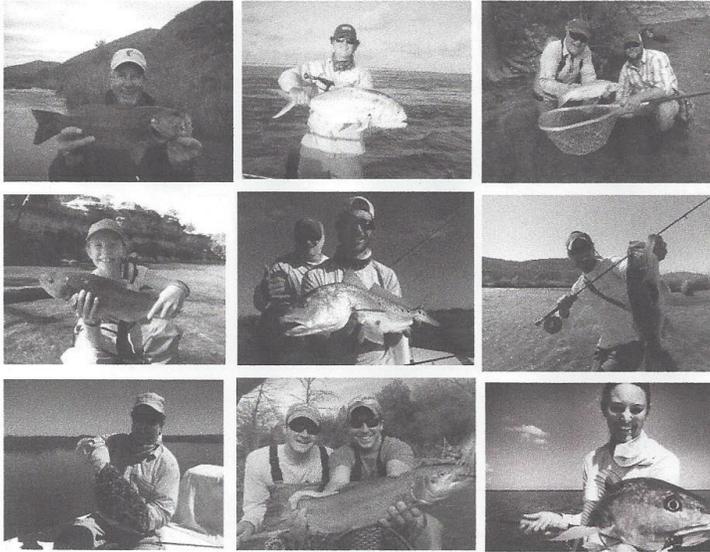
We corrected the problems with the temperature monitors and now have all working properly. We moved one unit upstream and have it measuring behind Maricopa Riverside Lodge. That location will give us better data from the upper portions of the tailrace. We are working through some problem with reporting on our new website but should have that worked out soon. Special thanks go to Phil Bynum for assisting with getting these monitors working.

Greg Cummings with TPWD is in the final stages of his cooperative study with Texas State University looking at trout habitat preferences in the river. Greg has completed the data collection and river modeling and is concurrently in the middle of habitat analysis and obtaining habitat availability/suitability from the modeling output. We eagerly await the

results of Greg's study and are hopeful it will provide direction for future habitat improvement projects.

In April GRTU met with TPWD to discuss a possible pilot project involving some basic instream and riparian improvements. Preliminary plans were made to implement the pilot at the Gorge area in the upper tailrace. We'll meet with Canyon Lake office of U.S. Corp of Engineers to discuss the plans and identify any permits and other requirements for implementing the pilot project. Please keep checking back for updates on this and other projects. If you are interested in volunteering to help with our conservation initiatives send an email to [cobbg@grtu.org](mailto:cobbg@grtu.org). If you are unable to assist with boots on the ground support you can also help through contributions to the Guadalupe Now fund.





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## Directions to the Canyon Lake CRRC Recreation Center

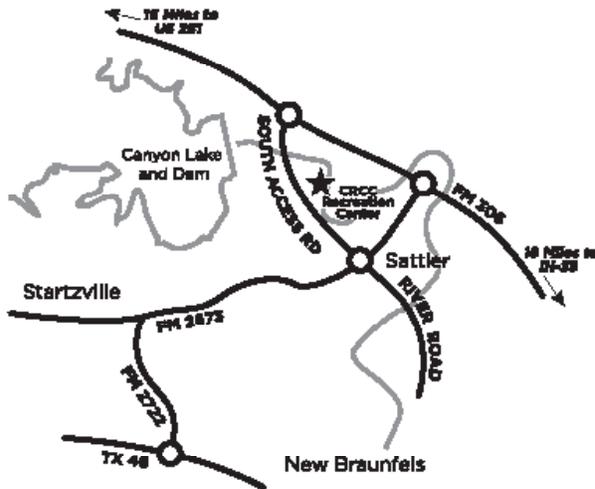
>From NORTH or SOUTH: Just North of New Braunfels on I-35 take Exit 191, (Canyon Lake Exit), which is FM 306 and go WEST, about 14 miles to Sattler (Canyon Lake area). Go past the traffic light at FM 2673 in Sattler for about 2 miles, (through Canyon City) and turn Left at the blinking caution light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



ALASKA PENINSULA  
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# DON'T WAIT!

CAUTION: Visiting the website below may cause a sudden desire to migrate North.

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PERBLE MINE

## The Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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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.

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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.

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

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