Past President Mick McCorcle to Speak at April Chapter Meeting

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Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Newsletter

No. 107 April 2015

Publication Data on Pg. 16

GRTU Meeting
Saturday April 25th, 2015
CRRC Building
South Access Road
Sattler, Texas

Directions and Map on page 13

9AM Social Hour
10AM Business Meeting
11AM Speaker
Mick McCorcle
12- Lunch
12:30PM Women Only Dakus Geeslin
1PM GRTU Board Meeting

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opportunity to learn how important it is to have conservation as a meaningful part of a TU chapter’s activities,” said Mick. “I was also able to fish on the Michigan streams where TU got its start in 1959 and learn of the rich heritage of TU.”

Upon returning to South Texas, Mick was quickly put to work in GRTU and became the Chapter President in early 2004, serving until 2007. He was elected the National Leadership Council Representative for Texas in 2007, then elected to the TU Board of Trustees in 2009, where he chaired the Organization Development Committee. Mick was then chosen as the Chair of the TU National Leadership Council last fall. “It’s been a great privilege to serve TU’s members here in Texas, both in GRTU and nationally,” said Mick. “I’ve had a lot of fun promoting our chapter and our unique fishery as I travel around the country. Few people would ever guess that we have trout in Texas, much less a Top 100 trout stream and the possibility of native trout.”

Mick has fly fished from the canals of south Florida to the Pacific Northwest to Alaska and the Arctic and from Hawaii to the Texas Gulf Coast to Lake Texoma to the upper Midwest and the Rocky Mountains, pursuing trout, salmon, stripers, reds, specks, bass, carp, buffalo and a whole list of exotics, including peacock bass and, most recently, trevally and trumpetfish. Consequently, Mick loves to tie all kinds of flies, for trout, salmon, warmwater and saltwater. He’s been tying flies nearly 20 years and regularly donates boxes of flies for raffles and charity auctions. Mick is also a Trustee and former Executive Director of Casting for Recovery and a past chair of the Texas Parks and Wildlife’s Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee.
President’s Letter

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (or The Byrds if you prefer) “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:”

The April chapter meeting serves as our annual business meeting, when we elect new officers and directors.
The directors will also elect a new chapter president, marking the end of my season in that role. It has been my great privilege to serve in that capacity for the last five years. Per our chapter bylaws, I have met the term limits prescribed for the office, and must pass the baton to a new leader. I will continue as ex-officio and the Texas State Council chair, so I will still be around.
This season gives me pause, and causes me to look back over some of the milestones that we as a chapter have accomplished over the last five years:

- Winning the Gold Trout Award in 2013 in recognition as the top chapter in Trout Unlimited
- Induction into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in 2015
- Establishment of a new special regulation zone, extending harvest protection for trout an additional 3 miles upstream
- Funding efforts to re-establish Rio Grande Cutthroat trout to McKittrick Creek in far west Texas
- Partnerships with two breweries that will generate funds for our efforts on the Guadalupe
- Five successful Trout Fest events
- Launch of our Women’s Initiative, and coming in second in a national contest to gain the most women members
- Launch of our Trout Youth Camp
- Multiple visits to the state capital to meet with lawmakers
- Hosting the Trout Unlimited Mid-South Regional meeting in 2013
- Launch of our new website
- Funding multiple Coldwater Conservation Outreach projects, helping other chapters accomplish important work like saving Yellowstone Cutthroats in Yellowstone Lake Wyoming, restoring critical trout habitat in New Mexico, and repairing eroding stream banks in Wisconsin
- Chapter membership of just over 5,400 as of this writing
- And many more…

The state of our chapter is strong. We have, and will always have, challenges before us. Drought, rapidly increasing demands on water, flow issues, water quality, and access all will continue to require our diligence as stewards of this gem of Texas, the Guadalupe River. Please get involved. Help where you can. Spread our message that science based management of our resources and common sense solutions are key to both preserving our natural heritage and keeping our state and country strong. Continue the proud tradition of the Lone Star State of standing for what is right.
Mark Dillow
Trout Fest 2015

Our fifth annual “big top” Trout Fest is now in the books. While we are calculating final numbers, we are thrilled at what a great event it was! We made a few changes that really improved the offerings to the public, like free casting lessons for all ages and skill levels, clinics for ladies only, and door prizes at the end of each day of the expo. We expanded the number of speakers to four, and offered more seminars than in past years.

Another popular change that I am sure will be back was our Fly Fishing Film Tour pre-party with free beer and pizza provided by Gruene Outfitters. I saw lots of happy folks participating in that event!

The food truck “Foodpalooza” that was on site stayed busy both days, with reports of great food for all.

I heard encouraging reports from vendors at the expo who had very strong sales. One vendor tripled the number of bookings that they got at a well-known national fly fishing show. Another told me that they did more sales on Saturday this year than both days of the expo last year.

Speaking of Saturday, we broke our all-time single day attendance for Trout Fest. We literally ran out of parking spaces and had to use an overflow area.

One of our celebrities mentioned that our event is one of the top 5 events that they have ever been to. I love to hear that kind of praise, but we aren’t done yet! The Trout Fest committee will be meeting in the coming weeks to identify lessons learned and brainstorm ways to make next year’s event even better.

An event of this size and caliber is only successful because of a lot of good folks working hard to make it so. So a tip of the Stetson goes to the Trout Fest committee and all the volunteers who pitched in.

Trout Fest Committee:

Gary Burns, Jeff Schmitt, Banning Collins, Casey Smartt, Gary Lehman, Rafael Torres, Phil Dopson, Brad Wilkins, Carroll Hall, Dakus Geeslin, Doug and Tania Kierklewski, Mary Hulett, Ted Mendrek, Janet Baca, Cody Naumann Jimbo Roberts, Brad Garner, Mark Dillow - Chairman
Women of GRTU Lunch and Learn Session

The April Women’s Initiative Lunch and Learn guest speaker will be Dakus Geeslin. Dakus will be talking about and showing us insects that are found on the Guadalupe river and matching them with a fly pattern. Dakus is an Aquatic Scientist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the Water Resources Branch where he works on aquatic resource conservation issues, large water projects, and instream flow studies. He received a Master’s of Science Degree in Aquatic Biology from Stephen F. Austin State University where he conducted fisheries research on stream fishes in the Angelina National Forest. After graduate school, he spent seven years as Fisheries Ecologist in Colorado conducting aquatic biological monitoring and instream flow studies throughout the Rocky Mountain States. He has worked on studies involving fish and aquatic invertebrate ecology for over 15 years in over a dozen states. Dakus is also an avid fly angler and fly tier. He enjoys public outreach and education and frequently gives presentations to fishing clubs and conservation organizations. He also serves as Chairman of the Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Youth Education Program.

Women’s Activities at Troutfest 2015

In February, the Women’s Initiative welcomed back Wanda Taylor as the Women’s sessions presenter and speaker. We were particularly fortunate to have her for the Women’s activities at Troutfest 2015. Wanda who is an accomplished casting instructor and guide in Georgia and Tennessee kept the women attendees engaged with her sense of humor, some really good tips on equipment care, hands on casting lessons, and covering equipment necessity. This was also a wonderful opportunity for women to polish their skills or learn new techniques in a relaxed atmosphere. Wanda’s over all enthusiasm, humor and positive reinforcement to all the women participants got rave reviews! Wanda helped the women gain confidence with the different casting methods which will make them become better Fly Fishing Women in the future! A Big Thanks go out to Mary Hulett, for getting the ball rolling and making the contact and to TFO for helping bring Wanda back to Texas.

GRTU Women have a Facebook Page

The Women of GRTU Facebook Page membership is growing! This is a private group and you only have to ask to become a member. It is that easy. Go to Facebook, type The Women of GRTU in the search bar, and then ask to join. It is for GRTU women members only. It will feature news and events as well as photos of women’s activities. It can be a “show and tell” with your fish photos. It can evolve as you see fit so feel free to give feedback on what you would like to see. Sign on today and start sharing.

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. It is quick and easy. Pass this information along to anyone you know who might want to join. 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 19 places along the Guadalupe that are private access only. You can find out more about the Lease Program at 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 or Janet Baca, Women’s Initiative Chair at wi@grtu.org for more information.
Wake up to the beautiful Guadalupe River in your back yard.  
3 bedroom 2 and a half bath in the main home.  
Large efficiency with a full kitchen on ground floor. Would make a great caretaker's home.  
You can step out of your back door and catch quality rainbow trout in the winter/spring and tube up to your back door in the summer. This is an ideal vacation rental opportunity.  
Located across from Rio Raft Co. in Sattler.  
$625,000  
Contact Michael Wood Keller Williams 512-771-8398 By Appointment Only please.
Reel Recovery

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.

Background
Reel Recovery was founded in 2003 by a group of avid fly-fishers, inspired by their friend’s ongoing battle with brain cancer. Witnessing first-hand the beneficial impact fly-fishing provided their friend, the group created Reel Recovery to provide the same opportunity for other men battling all forms of cancer.

Reel Recovery was brought to Texas in 2008 by Warren Wolf after he experienced a Colorado retreat in 2007 on the Frying Pan River. Warren and his life partner, Debbie and his close friend Tom worked diligently to find a site, raise the money, and recruit participants and volunteers for the first retreat. It was held November, 2008 at the Joshua Creek Ranch in Boerne. Warren succumbed to his cancer in May, 2011, but left a legacy that has grown from the foundation he created in Boerne on a November weekend 7 years ago.

Accomplishments & Goals
Nationwide Reel Recovery has served over 2000 men in 187 retreats since the first retreat, June 2003. (Our 2000th man attended the October 2014 Glen Rose, TX retreat)
Texas has held 13 retreats, serving 146 men in 7 years. (See what you started Warren!)
Texas has been instrumental in helping form chapters in Louisiana (2011) and in Warren’s home state of Oklahoma (2013).
Nationwide we want to serve another 1000 men in the next 3 years and with 28 retreats already scheduled for 2015 we are on our way.
Texas is proudly able to serve over 50 men in 2015 at 4 annual retreats (2 in Glen Rose, 1 in Boerne and our newest this fall in Navasota). This is six times as many men as served in the first retreat.

2015 Texas Retreats
2015 Spring: Glen Rose, TX (April 10-12); Boerne, TX (April 24-26)
2015 Fall: Navasota, TX (Oct. 9-11); Glen Rose, TX (Oct. 23-25)

Funding and Sources
All Reel Recovery retreats are Free to the men we serve. Each State Chapter is responsible for raising the necessary funds to support their retreats. The nominal cost is $700 per participant. Texas has been able to grow only because we have been fortunate to have a growing team of volunteers willing to staff retreats, serve as fishing buddies, help recruit participants and procure generous supporters. Doing the math you can see the budget has grown considerably from the first eight participants to over fifty.

Texas currently has two main fundraising events to provide up to 50% of our needs for our 4 TX retreats:
Chimy’s dinner and auction on June 14th in Fort Worth
Jon Henderson Memorial Classic Sporting Clays on August 22nd at Alpine Shooting Range, Fort Worth.
The balance of our funding comes from individuals, fly-fishing clubs, civic organizations, foundations, corporations and cancer clinics.
For the Texas Chapter to protect what we have built and to continue serving men coping with cancer by putting a smile on their face and providing them with a life changing experience the momentum must continue. We need help in every area of our work.

How YOU can help
Awareness: Reach out to your community to make it aware of Reel Recovery and its mission.
Volunteering of your time: Tie flys, presence at fly fishing events and various public health events, advocates working with cancer clinics (flyers, speak to support groups & manning tables to recruit participants), media support (flyers, web site & facebook support, newsletters, articles etc.)
Fundraising: Help with fundraising events (organizing, time and procuring auction items), locating funding resources (corporations, foundations, etc.), reaching out to a civic organization you may belong to.

So if you are not currently a volunteer and want a very rewarding experience please visit http://reelrecovery.org/how-to-help/volunteer/ and apply. If you are currently a volunteer and you want more to do, please let me know.
If you are a man or know a man who has or has had cancer, please visit our website, http://reelrecovery.org/programs/application/ and consider applying or encourage your friend to apply to a retreat.
BE WELL! FISH ON!

Mike Emerson
Texas State Coordinator
mgemerson1944@gmail.com
817-894-7832
Defense Funds Needed for GRTU’s Actions Concerning the GBRA Mid Basin Project

The Guadalupe – Blanco River Authority (GBRA) has filed a request with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a permit to construct one or more off-channel reservoirs (also called the Mid Basin Project) in Gonzales County to serve water customers downstream. The stated intent would be to divert flows from the Guad and store that water in the off-channel reservoir(s) to service water right holders downstream. The proposed off-channel reservoir(s) would have a combined storage capacity of up to 125,000 Acre Feet. The project’s actual yield is expected to be at least 25,000 Acre Feet per year.

GRTU’s major concern is that if downstream customer needs are met from the off-channel reservoir, water that currently flows through the tailrace to reach those customers would no longer have to be released through Canyon Dam, negatively impacting the health of the Guadalupe River and the trout fishery. Today we have some protection via our flow agreement, but it expires in 2018, a scant 3 years from now.

In order to be part of the conversation, GRTU had to be awarded “affected party” standing. We requested and were granted standing in a hearing on March 18th. Our participation in the hearing required use of some of our Defense Funds to pay for attorney and expert witness fees. We anticipate more activity will be needed to protect adequate flows for the fishery.

To that end, I am asking that chapter members who wish to support our legal defense of the southernmost sustainable trout fishery in the United States make donations to the Defense Fund. Online payments can be accepted through our website at http://www.grtu.org/donate/

Mark Dillow
GRTU Youth Trout Camp Report

GRTU hosted its First Annual Youth Trout Camp at Rio Guadalupe Resort over the weekend of January 17-18, 2015. Sixteen boys and girls, age 9-17, from all parts of Texas attended the weekend camp with a parent or grandparent. The weather was nearly perfect the entire weekend. The camp began with kids and parents arriving at Rio early Saturday morning and quickly putting on waders in preparation for the first weekend activity…….stocking Rainbow Trout in the Guadalupe River! Rio was kind enough to reserve a bus for the youth campers. For some of the kids, this was their first time to see a Rainbow Trout, put on waders, and wade into a river. This was a great introduction to our fishery!

After a warm bowl of chili for lunch, campers learned about the Trout fishery from Texas Parks and Wildlife Fisheries Management Biologist, had an interactive discussion with a local game warden, and got an introduction to fly fishing from a professional guide. Next, it was time to get outside, pick up a fly rod, and learn to cast. Campers received excellent casting lessons from a certified casting instructor and several volunteers. Campers also got a hands-on stream ecology demonstration as they collected and identified aquatic insects and discussed water quality and the importance of each to a healthy aquatic ecosystem. After a hamburger and hotdog dinner campers learned the art of fly tying. Some of the kids were experienced fly tyers and were able to assist their peers. Day 1 came to an end by watching a fly fishing movie that got the group excited for guided fishing the next morning.

Day 2 began with a half day guided fishing trip. Campers were paired up with a volunteer guide and waded, kayaked or fished from a raft. The fishing was great, with several campers catching multiple trout. After lunch we shared our Fish Tales and experiences from the morning. Next it was time for more casting instruction and an interactive discussion about fisheries conservation. The late afternoon was spent fishing along the picturesque banks of the Guadalupe River at Rio. The weekend culminated with a great fajita dinner and awards ceremony. Each youth camper was given a certificate for participating in the first ever
GRTU Youth Trout Camp and given a few prizes as well. By all accounts the weekend was a hit. The feedback from all involved has been overwhelmingly positive and confirmed we are doing it right with the Youth Education Initiative. We are already planning for the Youth Trout Camp next year and have heard some great suggestions to make our camp bigger and better each year to reach more youth and introduce them to our Trout Fishery.

The Youth Trout Camp was made possible by the generous time and resources from our partners and volunteers. A special thanks to Rio Guadalupe Resort for providing the lodging and meeting hall. This was the perfect home for our camp. Many volunteers (cooks, photographer, instructors, GRTU board members) helped out throughout the weekend including several outfitters who donated half day guide trips or merchandise. We would like to acknowledge Sportsman’s Finest, Hell’ N Back Outfitters, Reel Fly Fishing Adventures, and Living Waters Fly Fishing for their roles in camp.

The GRTU Youth Initiative is in the process of forming a formal committee to plan and coordinate various Youth events throughout the year including Youth Trout Camp. If you are interested in serving on the committee please contact Dakus Geeslin at dakus.geeslin@tpwd.texas.gov
Fisheries Report

Another season of low flows, NOAA talking about the El Nino forming in the eastern pacific, and the promise of more rain for Texas. We heard these promises before. We are getting some better rains, but the heavy stuff has continued falling east of the IH 35 corridor. Just this past weekend (3/8 & 3/9) 5-6” rains fell over Luling and Gonzales. San Antonio received around 2” and the upper Guadalupe less than that. Still it's Central Texas and who knows what might happen.

We have had a few weeks here and there were the flows were raised from the 55-60cfs releases we have seen during this drought like this past week. It's funny when we rejoice at flows around 80-100cfs when they used to be considered the lowest of flows, but that's been the reality we have been seeing for far too long. I will tell you, anytime I see a bump in flows I plan on fishing them.

That being said this season's fishing has been pretty good. The third stocking provided the large trout we've been hoping for and many of them have been caught and caught again. Catch and release works! Angler catch rates have been up the season compared to the last couple years. We should have good trout fishing through Memorial Day. And if we somehow finally see rains in the right place, maybe some summer trout fishing.

The big news is what we will be trying in the coming seasons. We are going to stock our usual 12,000lbs of Rainbows, but also we are going to try experimental stocking of Brown Trout again. I have talked to the hatchery in Colorado. We may get the first stockings next season, but it's only a maybe at this time because of the length of time it takes to grow them and orders already received ahead of us. To do this we will be raising the cost of the LAP program $15 for the next season. This will cover the cost of the additional Brown Trout and other increases in leases. It is my hope that we will see the same numbers in the Lease Access Program to cover these new costs. I will also pursue the acquisition of additional lease sites.

This time we will place the Browns in specific locations and TPWD will study their progress. The aim is to get more definitive science on how they grow and mature in the Guadalupe. Their are many skeptics saying they have not done well in the past. But no one can tell you why, maybe it was as simple as harvest, and with the new regulations in place that would be eliminated as a cause. What I have read Browns prefer deeper pools and cover compared to Rainbows who prefer current and runs. We will be placing some of them in deep water and some in runs and riffles. Their progress will be compared against Rainbows in the same types of water. Marcos De Jesus is one of those who is skeptical of their success, but not so much that he is not willing to go with this experimental program.

This Brown Trout stocking program will be evaluated on a year to year basis. Only the first stocking is guaranteed as TPWD controls the permitting process. I will press for at least 3 seasons to get a good handle on how they are doing in the Guadalupe over an extended time. One thing for sure, we have Brown Trout in the Guadalupe's future. These toothy critters will once again be giving Texas Anglers another Trout species to pursue. And who knows, maybe this time we will get better results. Wouldn't it be great if we can get them grow over the years, reach some truly trophy sizes, and maybe even create a sustaining fishery?

Jimbo Roberts
GRTU V P of Fisheries
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
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
Hymar Karbach Jr.
James W Keeton
Mick McCorcle
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.)

Bob Story
Marian Tilson
Billy Trimble
R.E. (Bob) Tuttle
Jim Vynalek
William G. (Bill) West
T.B. (Tom) Whitehouse
Phil Dopson
Doug & Tanya Kierklewski

The Guadalupe River 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.

Rafael Torres
Milton Herrmann
Bob Bliss
Jim Roberts
Mitchell McCorcle
Gary Richardson
Martin Stults
Mark Dillow
Warren Simi
Robert Frolichstein
David Gill
Sam Castleberry
Joe Filer
William Poskey
Kirk Brenner
Shelley Marmion
Richard Grayson
Ron Groves
Brad Wilkins
Sam Godfrey
John Deloach
Bill Cason
Kenneth Sly
Phillip Mahan
Bob Blair
Malcolm Freeman
Karen Gebhardt
James Montgomery
Phil Dopson
George Schaefer
Dirk Meyer
Ashby Miller
William Marshall
Kenneth Wells
Oscar Robinson
Palmer Moe
Darin Wyatt
Clark Edgecomb

Larry Crutsinger
James Rogers
William Poskey
Rick Dickinson
Robert Lende
Brad Garner
Mark Branning
Sam Castleberry
David Shomette
Thomas Allen
Roy Schwitters
Vincenzo Terracina
Marvin Williams
Col Edward Klaus
James Hughes
Chris Jackson
# GRTU Officers and Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mark Dillow</td>
<td>512-923-7808</td>
<td><a href="mailto:President@grtu.org">President@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Chapter Affairs</td>
<td>Cody Naumann</td>
<td>512-713-4512</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Vp-affairs@grtu.org">Vp-affairs@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Fisheries</td>
<td>Jimbo Roberts</td>
<td>210-826-2766</td>
<td><a href="mailto:RobertsJ@grtu.org">RobertsJ@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Membership</td>
<td>Chris Johnson</td>
<td>512-828-3474</td>
<td><a href="mailto:JohnsonC@grtu.org">JohnsonC@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Phil Dopson</td>
<td>512-413-3301</td>
<td><a href="mailto:DopsonP@grtu.org">DopsonP@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Joe Filer</td>
<td>210-654-6220</td>
<td><a href="mailto:FilerJ@grtu.org">FilerJ@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex Officio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Gary Burns</td>
<td>713-249-7764</td>
<td><a href="mailto:BurnsG@grtu.org">BurnsG@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Gary Cobb</td>
<td>512-257-0397</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CobbG@grtu.org">CobbG@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Gary Lehman</td>
<td>210-394-2833</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LehmanG@grtu.org">LehmanG@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Doug Kierklewski</td>
<td>512-250-0840</td>
<td><a href="mailto:KierklewskiD@grtu.org">KierklewskiD@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Ron McAlpin</td>
<td>830-980-8043</td>
<td><a href="mailto:McAlpinR@grtu.org">McAlpinR@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Ted Mendrek</td>
<td>512-507-6626</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MendrekT@grtu.org">MendrekT@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Director</td>
<td>Clint Jackson</td>
<td>512-576-4231</td>
<td><a href="mailto:JacksonC@grtu.org">JacksonC@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Brad Wilkins</td>
<td>830-481-4683</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WilkinsB@grtu.org">WilkinsB@grtu.org</a></td>
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<td>Austin/Central Texas</td>
<td>Matt Bennett</td>
<td>377-348-9140</td>
<td><a href="mailto:BennettM@grtu.org">BennettM@grtu.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas/North Texas</td>
<td>Roger Turner</td>
<td>214-475-1551</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TurnerR@grtu.org">TurnerR@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston/East Texas</td>
<td>Gary Burns</td>
<td>713-249-7764</td>
<td><a href="mailto:BurnsG@grtu.org">BurnsG@grtu.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>New Braunfels</td>
<td>Chris Jackson</td>
<td>830-708-3474</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ChrisJ@grtu.org">ChrisJ@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Antonio/West Texas</td>
<td>Karen Gebhardt</td>
<td>830-980-7580</td>
<td><a href="mailto:GebhardtK@grtu.org">GebhardtK@grtu.org</a></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Clint Jackson</td>
<td>512-576-4231</td>
<td><a href="mailto:news@grtu.org">news@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>Clint Jackson</td>
<td>512-576-4231</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ads@grtu.org">ads@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLC Chair</td>
<td>Mick McCorcle</td>
<td>972-569-9133</td>
<td><a href="mailto:McCorcleM@grtu.org">McCorcleM@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chair NBT</td>
<td>Mick McCorcle</td>
<td>972-569-9133</td>
<td><a href="mailto:McCorcleM@grtu.org">McCorcleM@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Info Tech Chair</td>
<td>Stephen Pritchett</td>
<td>903-276-0223</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Webmaster@grtu.org">Webmaster@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Womens Initiative Chair</td>
<td>Janet Baca</td>
<td>817-233-8935</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Conservation Chair</td>
<td>Gary Cobb</td>
<td>512-719-6011</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CobG@grtu.org">CobG@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLC Representative</td>
<td>Rafael Torres</td>
<td>512-560-4380</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TorresR@grtu.org">TorresR@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Chair</td>
<td>Ron McAlpin</td>
<td>830-980-8043</td>
<td><a href="mailto:McAlpinR@grtu.org">McAlpinR@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Youth Initiative Chair</td>
<td>Dakus Geeslin</td>
<td>512-389-8734</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Dakus.Geeslin@tpwd.texas.gov">Dakus.Geeslin@tpwd.texas.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troutfest Chair</td>
<td>Mark Dillow</td>
<td>512-923-7808</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Troutfest@grtu.org">Troutfest@grtu.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TU Grassroots Trustee</td>
<td>Mick McCorcle</td>
<td>972-569-9133</td>
<td><a href="mailto:McCorcleM@grtu.org">McCorcleM@grtu.org</a></td>
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Guadalupe River Chapter
of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 536
Austin, TX 78767

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Contacts
Mark Dillow, President, Round Rock, TX, (512)773-9155 President@grtu.org; Clint Jackson, Newsletter Editor, (512)576-4231, news@grtu.org.

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Arlington, VA 22209-3800
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E-mail: trout@tu.org
Web: http://www.tu.org/trout/
Membership phone: 1-800-834-2419
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