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**GRTU - Trout Fishing Club or Conservation Organization?**

“To conserve, protect, and restore North America’s coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.”

-TU Mission

“By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.”

-TU Vision

Recently a blog post on “Southern Culture on the Fly” came to my attention. I encourage you to read it. <https://blog.southerncultureonthefly.com/2016/11/28/an-open-letter-to-trout-unlimited/>

The blogger, in an honest and open fashion shared why he felt the need to leave TU and engage with other groups who were being more effective (in his view) with conservation efforts.

I commend the blogger for the attitude he displayed on this subject. Would that we all could have open, honest conversations without attacking or being attacked, especially in the politically charged atmosphere of social media.

I don’t agree with all his points, but they are his truth – and I respect that.

At a more personal level, the post and the replies to it highlight one of the challenges I have seen with GRTU.

Texas has no native trout like North Carolina does, so we do not have the conflict of potentially stocking hatchery rainbows over native fish. Our one known wild population of rainbow trout in McKittrick Creek of the Guadalupe Mountain National Park is protected, and too far from most GRTU members to be considered.

Thus to have a trout fishery at all (the southernmost sustainable trout fishery in the US, and a TU top 100 trout stream) our only option currently is to stock trout. This is a time, labor, and money intensive effort. As we all know, drought, flood, water flows/temps can all conspire to break the heart of even the most enthusiastic GRTU member some years.

Prior to Trout Fest which began in 2010 (by the way do you have your tickets yet? <http://www.grtu.org/troutfest/> ), stocking was the single largest volunteer effort that our chapter of nearly 6,000 members participated in. Not surprisingly this gives the impression to many inside and outside the chapter that GRTU is mainly a fishing club.

That impression gives rise to all sorts of potential conflicts, not the least of which being where our focus is as a chapter.

I submit that the fishing club aspect has value in attracting and maintaining members. We would not have a chapter at all without the opportunity to fish for trout in our river.

However, a major goal of our chapter should be to use fishing as the catalyst to create river stewards and conservationists. Teach people to love the resource, and I believe most will want to protect it as they come to understand its value.



**CALENDAR**

Jan. 14-15 2017 3rd Annual GRTU Youth camp @ Rio Guadalupe Resort

Jan. 28, 2017 GRTU General Meeting

Feb.17-19 TROUTFEST 2017

True, some will join and never make that leap. That is ultimately their decision to make. But as a chapter I think we need to focus our efforts on providing as many opportunities to move people from consumer to conservationist as possible. Our river is challenging with respect to implementing conservation (aka "rock rolling") projects. Private land ownership and government regulations complicate the process of working to improve habitat for trout and other species on the river. In my years in the chapter, I can think of only 2 "boots on the ground" projects we have initiated – transplanting watercress from Hueco Springs upriver to areas scoured by floods, and a willow transplanting effort at the "scar" where water overflowing the spillway destroyed streamside vegetation.

Other efforts in the area of conservation have been primarily helping fund projects that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) have implemented, such as telemetry studies and river substrate studies. But these efforts didn't really allow for many chapter members to roll up their sleeves and participate.

GRTU has funded several conservation projects on other rivers through our Coldwater Conservation Outreach fund that you can review here <http://www.grtu.org/conservation/>.

We are working hard to train the next generation of river stewards through Trout in the Classroom and our GRTU Youth Camp, both of which can use more volunteers (contact [VP-Affairs@grtu.org](mailto:VP-Affairs@grtu.org) to volunteer for youth camp and [McAlpinR@grtu.org](mailto:McAlpinR@grtu.org) to volunteer for TIC).

We have assisted in starting a student chapter of TU through the TU Costa 5 Rivers program (<http://www.tu.org/5Rivers>) at the University of Texas.

We funded a feasibility study of the aforementioned McKittrick Creek to determine suitability of potentially creating a Rio Grande Cutthroat refuge there (look for an update on that project soon in the newsletter).

However we should do more on our river to give chapter members the chance to contribute their time and energy.

Options to consider –

- More river cleanups. Currently we do cleanups in conjunction with stockings, but honestly the excitement of stocking the river takes precedence over cleanups. We used to do several of these a year when I joined the chapter several years ago. We need a new leader to champion this.

- GRTU outreach. Spend some time going to visit those trout anglers that are at the dam and Heuco Springs chasing trout who aren't members. Let them know who we are and what we do. I lived in central Texas almost 20 years before I heard about GRTU. I bet there are future river stewards in that crowd that we haven't discovered yet

- Participation in the Conservation Committee. Gary Cobb is our conservation chair ([CobbG@grtu.org](mailto:CobbG@grtu.org)). If you have technical expertise with hydrology, fisheries/aquatic science, writing grant submissions, etc. he can use your help.

Folks let's not see the fishing club model as the enemy. Let's embrace it and use it as a resource to build a stronger conservation organization. It is hard work that requires persistence and patience. Please join us. --MARK DILLOW

**Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited**

**YOUTH TROUT CAMP**

*On the Guadalupe River*

GUADALUPE RIVER



TROUT UNLIMITED





**WHO SHOULD APPLY?**

Youth (girls and boys), ages 12-17, with an interest in trout conservation and angling on the Guadalupe River

- One (1) parent/guardian per attendee is invited to attend

**COST:** \$150/duo  
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**WHEN:**  
 January 14-15, 2017  
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 2 Days/2 Nights in Riverside Cabins

**WHERE:**  
 Rio Guadalupe Resort on the Guadalupe River Tailrace

**APPLY TODAY!**  
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 Applications due December 9, 2016

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 Water quality  
 &  
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Instructors are GRTU volunteers, Past Youth Camp Participants, Professional Guides, and TPWD Staff



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
 Dakus Geeslin, Youth Program Chair | [Dakus.Geeslin@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Dakus.Geeslin@tpwd.texas.gov) | 512-934-0000

# Merry Fish-mas!

## Christmas Gift Ideas for the Fly Angler

I hear this question all the time: “What do I get my \_\_\_\_\_ (insert: friend, family member, or random fly angler) for Christmas?! He/She already has everything!” If you find yourself asking the same question this December, allow me to offer the following ideas and advice:

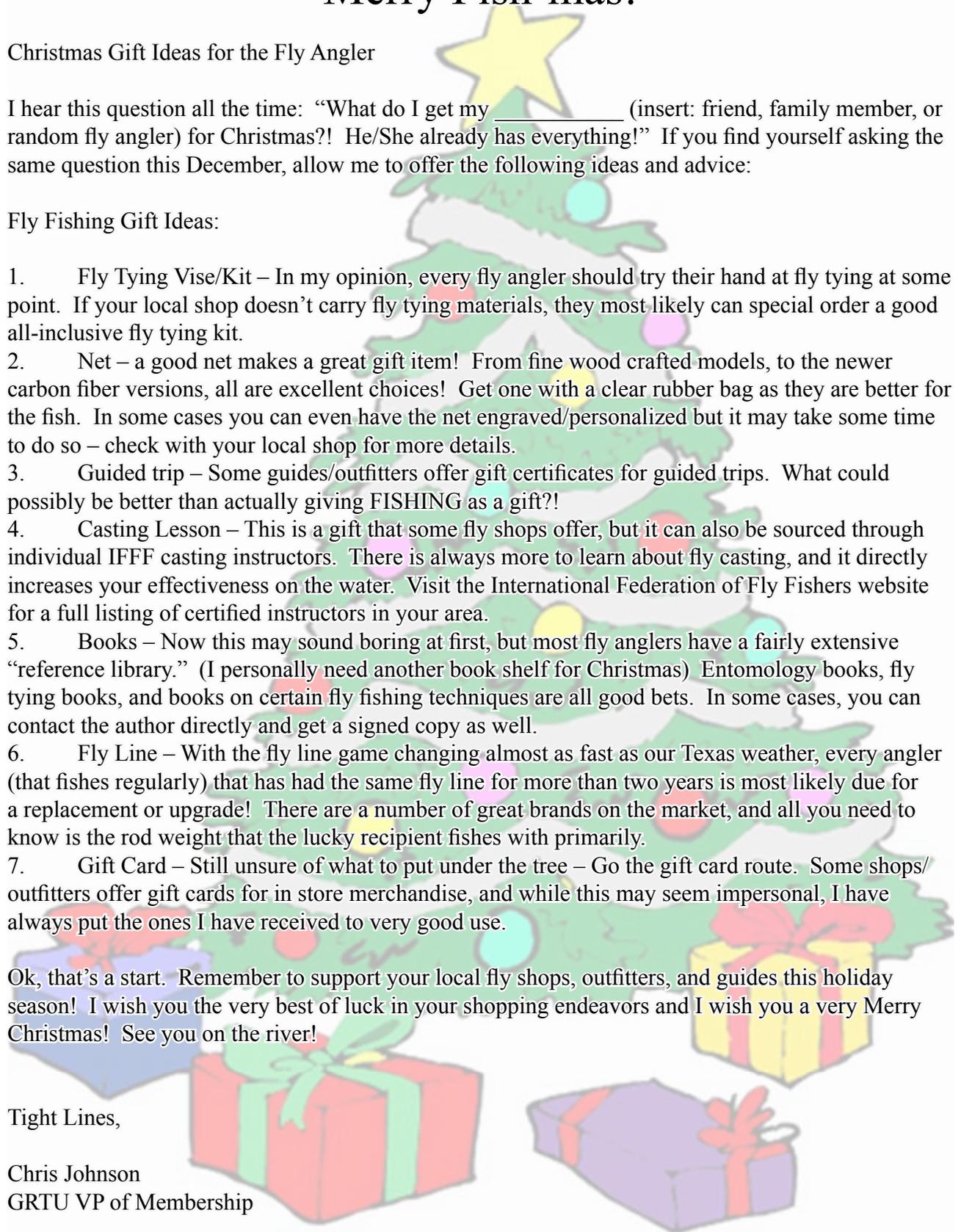
### Fly Fishing Gift Ideas:

1. Fly Tying Vise/Kit – In my opinion, every fly angler should try their hand at fly tying at some point. If your local shop doesn’t carry fly tying materials, they most likely can special order a good all-inclusive fly tying kit.
2. Net – a good net makes a great gift item! From fine wood crafted models, to the newer carbon fiber versions, all are excellent choices! Get one with a clear rubber bag as they are better for the fish. In some cases you can even have the net engraved/personalized but it may take some time to do so – check with your local shop for more details.
3. Guided trip – Some guides/outfitters offer gift certificates for guided trips. What could possibly be better than actually giving FISHING as a gift?!
4. Casting Lesson – This is a gift that some fly shops offer, but it can also be sourced through individual IFFF casting instructors. There is always more to learn about fly casting, and it directly increases your effectiveness on the water. Visit the International Federation of Fly Fishers website for a full listing of certified instructors in your area.
5. Books – Now this may sound boring at first, but most fly anglers have a fairly extensive “reference library.” (I personally need another book shelf for Christmas) Entomology books, fly tying books, and books on certain fly fishing techniques are all good bets. In some cases, you can contact the author directly and get a signed copy as well.
6. Fly Line – With the fly line game changing almost as fast as our Texas weather, every angler (that fishes regularly) that has had the same fly line for more than two years is most likely due for a replacement or upgrade! There are a number of great brands on the market, and all you need to know is the rod weight that the lucky recipient fishes with primarily.
7. Gift Card – Still unsure of what to put under the tree – Go the gift card route. Some shops/outfitters offer gift cards for in store merchandise, and while this may seem impersonal, I have always put the ones I have received to very good use.

Ok, that’s a start. Remember to support your local fly shops, outfitters, and guides this holiday season! I wish you the very best of luck in your shopping endeavors and I wish you a very Merry Christmas! See you on the river!

Tight Lines,

Chris Johnson  
GRTU VP of Membership



# Troutfest Is On for February 2017

Buy tickets now, only more 75 tickets are available

Planning and preparation for Troutfest 2017 has been underway for months and its shaping up to be the best Troutfest to date. "Troutfest has always been a great event and this year we are looking to build on our past success, attract new audiences, extend our offerings and make the event even better", said Troutfest Committee Chairman and GRTU Board Member Bill Marshall.

Troutfest will be held February 17, 18 and 19 at a new venue, The Lazy L&L Campground right on the Guadalupe River in New Braunfels. The Banquet will be held on the 17th at the Lazy L&L Pavilion. Tickets for the Troutfest Banquet are going fast, with over 225 of the 300 available tickets having already been sold. "We've sold more tickets than we did in total in 2015", Marshall said, "so now is the time to get your tickets before they are gone". This year GRTU has made corporate and group sponsorship tables available. "I'd like to thank our sponsors to date and encourage companies and groups to support GRTU with a sponsorship of Troutfest." Both individual and group table tickets are available at [grtu.org/troutfest](http://grtu.org/troutfest).

Kirk Deeter, Editor of Trout Magazine and Vice President of Trout Media for Trout Unlimited is the key note speaker and will be talking about the best tips around the country for catching trout. "I've been to visit GRTU a couple of times now, and it's one of my favorite stops. Great people and great enthusiasm," said Deeter, "I'm going to bring my A-game and give everyone the first glimpses at our new Trout Unlimited book project which involves fishing tips from members throughout the country. Great tips. You'll get better just by being there. And if anyone has any questions about TU and our magazines, where we're going with a new digital magazine or any of that...that's also why I'll be there." The Banquet will feature live and silent auctions with items from outstanding donors and a great dinner.

GRTU has greatly expanded the Troutfest youth activities this year, so if you want to divert your kids from their electronic devices, bring them to the weekend exposition. In conjunction with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Troutfest will offer kids fly casting instruction, a fishing pond, archery instruction and air gun instruction. Dakus Geeslin is the Youth Program Chair for GRTU and will be overseeing the Youth Programs at Troutfest "Bringing a new generation into our conservation efforts and the sport of fly fishing is one of our key goals" said Geeslin, "and the kids who come to Troutfest will have a great experience and will gain and grow

--TF2017 continued on page 5.

## TF-2017 SPONSORS

*GRTU would like to thank all of our great sponsors and donors.*

### **Platinum Sponsor**

Sportsman's Finest

### **Gold Sponsor**

Temple Fork Outfitters/Umpqua

### **Silver Sponsor**

Marquee Events

### **Bronze Sponsors**

Alaska's Bear Claw Lodge

The Camp Cinema

Living Waters Fly Fishing

Spirit of Nature Taxidermy

Conejos River Anglers

Black Canyon River Anglers

### **Donors**

Sportsman's Finest

Spirit of Nature Taxidermy

Minturn Anglers

TX Fly Co.

3 Creeks Outdoor Group

Conejos River Anglers

Galveston Fly Fishing Adventures

Black Canyon River Anglers

Alaska's Bear Claw Lodge

North Platte Lodge

Bill Marshall

Gary and Julie Lehman

Fishing's Future

North Platte Lodge

Derek DeYoung Studios

All Waters Guides

Bighorn Angler

Castell Guide Service

Casters Online Fly Shop

Cathy Munson Studio

The Camp Cinema

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Austin Canoe and Kayak

River Hills Outfitters

Duane Redford

Living Waters Fly Fishing

Simms Fishing

Guadalupe Brewing Company

Olivers Sports fishing Adventures

Brothers Flies

--TF2017 continued from page 4.

their appreciation of the outdoors.”

The event will include fly tying and fly casting instruction from International Federation of Fly Fishers Master Certified Casting Instructors and Certified Casting Instructors. This year, Troutfest will add casting seminars just for women and kids conducted by “The South’s First Lady of Fly fishing”, Wanda Taylor. Taylor is the first woman in the world certified by the International Federation of Fly Fishers as a Master Certified Casting Instructor and was recently the first woman inducted into the Southern Appalachian Fly Fishing Museum Hall of Fame. “Creating new anglers is my passion”, said Taylor, “and seminars that are just for women and just for kids are a great way bring new people into the sport.”

Taylor is only one of the outstanding Celebrity Presenters on the docket for the Troutfest Exposition. Some of the other notable presenters include George Daniel of Living on the Fly and author of “Strip Set”, Jen Ripple, Editor and Chief of Dun Magazine, Duane Redford of Minturn Anglers and author of “Fly Fisher’s Playbook” and Steve Galleta, owner of the Bighorn Angler. They will be conducting seminars and presentations on specific fly fishing tactics and regions including: Trout Tactics for Dry, Wet, Nymph and Streamer Flies, Fishing for Steelhead, Fishing the Driftless Region of Wisconsin and Fishing the Bighorn River in Montana.

The exposition will also include a wide range of top-tier exhibitors including local fly shops, guides and outfitters from around the world, local craftsman and some of the most recognizable names in the fly fishing industry.

This year, Troutfest proceeds will be primarily allocated to directly support GRTU’s Youth Programs, including Youth Trout Camp. Youth Trout Camp is the only one of its kind in Texas and a phenomenal outdoor experience for youths 12-17 years old. Troutfest additionally helps us support Project Healing Waters, Casting for Recovery and Reel Recovery.

“Troutfest is an excellent time to get together, learn and share experiences with like minded individuals who are concerned about conserving, protecting and restoring North America’s cold water fisheries and their watersheds and enthusiastic about trout fishing”, Marshall said. “It takes a lot work by engaged GRTU volunteers, sponsors, donors, exhibitors and presenters to make Troutfest a success. I’d like to thank them all for their commitment and support. Plus, it is a really enjoyable weekend on the river!”



## TF-2017 EXHIBITORS

Sportsman's Finest  
Minturn Anglers  
3 Creeks Outdoor Group  
Galveston Fly Fishing Adventures  
Brothers Flies  
Alaska's Bear Claw Lodge  
Yellow Dog Fly Fishing  
Fishing's Future  
Dun Magazine  
Bighorn Angler  
The Camp Cinema  
Land of Enchantment Guides  
Living Waters Fly Fishing  
Fly Wild Apparel  
Spirit of Nature Taxidermy  
TX Fly Co.  
Conejos River Anglers  
Black Canyon River Anglers  
The Meadows Center for Water and the  
Envur.  
Austin Canoe and Kayak

AND MORE!!

# McKittrick Creek Update

It's been a little while so time for a quick update on the effort to reintroduce Rio Grande cutthroat (RGCT) trout to McKittrick Creek in the Guadalupe Mountains of west Texas. For newer members unfamiliar with this project, rather than going into a detailed summary, I'll just direct you to the links titled Powerpoint presented April 2015 – Returning Native Trout to Texas? and TPWD Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout in Texas: 1991 on GRTU's Archive webpage.

Field work for the feasibility study completed between 2013 and 2015 included measurement of stream morphology, habitat characteristics, and assessing aquatic biota present. Results of the study were inconclusive due to record flooding that occurred. Unfortunately, all but one of the temperature monitors deployed for the study were lost during the flooding events. The temperature readings from the surviving monitor recorded temperatures above the tolerance limit for the RGCT and for the rainbows. Due to the loss of a majority of the temperature data its unknown if portions of the Creek have temperatures suitable for RGCT survival. It is encouraging that the temperature data exceeded the tolerance limit for rainbow yet they persist suggesting that temperature refugia are present.

One of the final steps of the study was DNA testing of fin clips collected from

Creeks' rainbow trout population. The theory behind this testing is that if RGCT and rainbows coexisted in the Creek after introduction of the rainbows, there may be genetic markers from the RGCT in the DNA of the rainbows. Fin testing completed by TPWD earlier this year was negative for evidence of RGCT genetic markers. A positive detection of RGCT markers would have been clear evidence that RGCT once inhabited the Creek whereas the negative results only indicate that the evidence was not detected and is not evidence that RGCT were never present.

So where does this leave the McKittrick Creek study? With the temperature study compromised by loss of data and the DNA testing inconclusive, the initial enthusiasm for this initiative has waned. Removing a sustainable rainbow population so RGCT can be introduced when data is not conclusive that the RGCT will survive goes against typical conservation strategies. Understandably representatives from the Park Service view this as an unacceptable risk and must be convinced of possible success before they will agree to proceed. Both TPWD and TU believe that McKittrick Creek would be an ideal genetic refuge for RGCT if suitable conditions do exist and in their view the project remains worthwhile. With increasing pressure on RGCT from habitat loss, pressure from non-native species, and impacts of climate change, it would be very beneficial to the survival of the species if we find an isolated

--Conservation continued from page 6.

location like McKittrick Creek where the genetic strain of the RGCT can be preserved. Additional temperature monitoring is planned in 2017 to supplement the feasibility study. If favorable temperatures can be demonstrated then perhaps interest may increase and the project will move forward. Stay tuned for additional updates. -GARY COBB

An advertisement for Troutfest 2017. The background is a close-up photograph of several fly fishing rods with cork handles and reels, arranged diagonally. The text is overlaid on the image.

Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Presents  
**Troutfest 2017**  
**Fly Fishing Banquet & Exposition**  
**February 17 - 19, 2017**  
Banquet Friday Night / Exposition Saturday and Sunday

Banquet Tickets \$50 prior to Feb 1st - \$60 after  
Exposition Saturday and Sunday - FREE!  
Lazy L&L Campgrounds - on the Guadalupe River  
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FLY TYING & CASTING SEMINARS - FISHING TANK - CELEBRITY PRESENTERS - SILENT & LIVE AUCTION

Go to [www.grtu.org/troutfest](http://www.grtu.org/troutfest) for complete details and to purchase your tickets



# REEL RECOVERY



Our 28th and final Retreat of 2016 was our third of the year in partnership with Project Healing Waters. 12 Veterans with Cancer joined us at Camp Capers in Waring, Texas, along with a dedicated team of 20 volunteers. The men participated in fishing and tying flies and it was a great way to end our season! We're looking forward to continuing this partnership in 2017, as well as serving 300+ more men living with cancer this year and over 2000 from our first retreat.

The mission of Reel Recovery as many of you know by now 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.

## PROGRAM GOALS

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.

To provide participants information about cancer-related resources, both in the local community and nationally, to facilitate networking and enhanced management of their recovery.-RAFAEL TORRES





Editor's note: The following is excerpted from *The Little Red Book of Fly Fishing*, by Kirk Deeter and Charlie Meyers.

It's axiomatic that the fly line, and thus the fly, follows the rod tip. Taking that one step further, the rod tip follows the thumb, which is the strongest digit and the one most anglers place on top of the grip for power and direction. Lee Wulff used to cast with his index finger on top of the grip because he felt it gave him better control. He was the exception to the rule. No matter. So long as you keep your thumb—or index finger—pointed straight for the target, your cast will go where it's supposed to go.

— Charlie Meyers



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# Fisheries Report



It's been a tough couple of months being the V P of Fisheries.

We had high lake and river temperatures. We had to delay the first stocking till after Thanksgiving. Finally water temps came down and we rushed to do everything necessary to pull off the first stocking on Dec 3rd. Then, in a heavy rain, dedicated volunteers came out to get the first load in the river. Everything went amazingly well.

The second stocking date remained as it was earlier set. Just 6 days after the first stocking we were gathering again at Rio in near freezing weather to stock the lower leases. We also stocked the new lease, Scott's, for the first time. This second load of Trout had some Big, and I mean really BIG Trout. We stocked the Lower Leases of course, but also scattered a number of these Big Trout in the upper leases also.

We have now accomplished stocking our leases top to bottom. Reports of Big Trout and numbers of Trout being caught by our members are filtering in.....

Now for thee some Bad news, which has kept me more than busy this last week.

I heard that John DeLoach had some trouble with our Lease Members. Seems they arrived at 4am in the morning shining their headlights on his house and waking both him and his wife. They then proceeded to shine a spot light down on the river. Later they walked down to the river way before sunrise and as John described it, "thrashed and splashed their way up and down the river. They then left shortly after sun up. I had conversation with John afterward. He was conflicted. He loves what GRTU does and yet the tranquility which was his home was gone. He didn't really want to cancel the lease, but he had to. If I knew who these people were they would be expelled and barred from ever participating in the Lease Access Program again.

So many rules were broken here. Our leases allow access from 30 minutes before sunrise till 30 minutes after sunset. They are a place to park and a path to the river. These members came way too early, did not show respect for the property owners shining their lights all over the place at an indecent hour, and then showed no respect for the river and those who live by it, making all that noise and commotion when most people are still sleeping. I can only assume the wildlife which John nurtures came nowhere near his backyard that morning at a time when they are normally fed by him. John told me in the beginning, "If I have to chose between my wildlife and the LAP members, the members will loose."

This behavior cost us another lease, and a prime one that will be impossible to replace in that reach of the river. Again 99% of our membership understand and abide by the rules. It is the thoughtless actions a just a few that penalize all of us. You don't know how frustrating it is for me, knowing the work that goes into maintaining a good reputation among the Canyon Lake community, only to have it shattered by events such as these.

**THIS MUST CHANGE !!!!!**

We rely on our members fishing within the rules laid down by the property owners. Leases are not easy to negotiate and maintain. Without maintaining a number of access points we can not sustain the Lease Access Program. The Lease Access Program is responsible for generating the funds necessary to maintain the stocking program. Without those funds to purchase the numbers and size of fish, the Trophy Trout Fishery we strive to establish and maintain collapses.

I have been talking to other Board Members about this problem. We must do a better job of educating 100%

**--Fisheries Report continued on page 11.**

--Fisheries Report continued from page 10.

of our LAP members, so they know all the rules they must follow. We will have to change the orientation process, because it is not doing it's intended job. I would ask that in the meantime everyone in the LAP go to the GRTU Lease forum and carefully read the topic "Lease Access Site Pictures". This topic contains information about each site which you need to familiarize yourself and obey. And as I am writing this another topic has showed up on the forum about 7 vehicles parking at #5 this Sunday which has a parking limit of 5 vehicles. Yet none called me while I could have done something about it. Reporting violations is not a betrayal and important in maintaining order. We must get a handle on this before it causes more damage. I need your accurate information in a timely manner. ... My phone is

210-415-5822.

I apologize to almost everyone in the Lease Access Program. That is because most of you are following the rules and then have to read about the few that are thoughtless and damage this unique program. Without your cooperation and help I can not guarantee we can sustain the quality program we have worked so hard to maintain. These people who violate the rules are stealing from those who do it right and I need everyone's help.

Jimbo Roberts  
GRTU V P of Fisherie



★

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# National Leadership Committee

Have you ever been curious about how Trout Unlimited functions at the national level, and how GRTU contributes to that process?

The GRTU board of directors elects two members annually to represent the chapter at the national level.

The first of these positions is the State Council Chair. Longtime treasurer Phil Dopson was elected to this role in the October board meeting. State Councils have broad responsibilities, and per the TU bylaws primarily exist to “coordinate the activities of the chapters ... and otherwise assist such chapters in their efforts to carry out the policies and objectives of Trout Unlimited.” Most activity for councils revolves around financial and organizational topics.

The second position, and the one I wish to explore in this article is the National Leadership Council (NLC) representative. I was elected to this position in October, assuming the responsibilities previously championed by Rafael Torres. Rafael served us well in this role for over four years.

The role of the National Leadership Council (NLC) and its rules for functioning are detailed in Article IV. of the TU bylaws (found on TU.org). The NLC is the volunteer body that sets the direction of TU and is made up of one representative elected from each state of TU’s 36 councils. In GRTU’s case we have a “shadow council” since we only have one chapter. Thus the GRTU board of directors acts as both chapter and council boards, and elects our NLC representative.

The NLC has three purposes:

- Establish the National Conservation Agenda (NCA)
- Facilitate implementation of the National Conservation Agenda (NCA)
- Build the organizational capacity of TU

Under the purview of the NLC, various workgroups have been formed to act as conduits to provide feedback to the national organization on the national conservation agenda. Each workgroup has a chairperson, who calls regular meetings and reports progress.

Current workgroups are as follows:

## Conservation Workgroups

- Great Lakes
- Western Native Trout
- Climate Change
- Delaware River
- TU DARE (Driftless Area Restoration Effort)
- Responsible Energy
- Conservancy
- Access
- Tailwaters

### Organizational Workgroups

- Women in TU (Now renamed “Diversity”)
- New Initiatives
- Communications
- Grassroots
- Education

NLC representatives are expected to participate in at least two workgroups. I am continuing Rafael’s direction of participating in the Tailwaters and Grassroots workgroups. We feel those are the most impactful for GRTU.

TU members are encouraged to participate in the workgroups they find of interest. One need not be in an elected leadership position to participate. If you have an interest in any of the listed workgroups, please review the link at the bottom of this article for current reports and information on how to participate. If you need assistance please feel free to email me.

Additionally – if you as a GRTU member have an item of concern about conservation or organizational topics that you wish to have raised to the national organization, please email me so that I can assist.

In coming months I plan to provide updates from the two workgroups I am participating in, as well as any issues of national concern that could impact GRTU.

More information on the NLC and the workgroups can be viewed at

[http://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer/tackle-box/business-practices/nlc?\\_ga=1.218781595.325350070.1474837335](http://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer/tackle-box/business-practices/nlc?_ga=1.218781595.325350070.1474837335)

Mark Dillow



# WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FLY FISHING DAY ON THE GUADALUPE



The GRTU Women's Initiative has a day of fly fishing scheduled on the Guadalupe with the Texas Women Fly Fishers. We are scheduled to meet up on Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 8:30am in the meeting room at Rio Rafts. The Texas Women Fly Fishers, club outing will be held over this same weekend at the Rio Raft Resort in Sattler, TX. The outing is open to any women wanting to learn more about fly fishing, GRTU and the Texas Women Fly Fishers.

The Texas Women Fly Fishers has what we call a Mullet Mixer on Friday nights starting off our outing weekends. The Mullet Mixer starts at 6:30 and it will be held at the meeting room at Rio Rafts as will the catered dinner on Saturday night. If you would like to join us for the Mullet Mixer—bring a dish to share and BYOB. We usually have a speaker on Friday night during the mixer at every outing at this point that has



not been decided yet.

The Texas Women Fly Fisher's will be having dinner catered Saturday evening at 6:30, so if you

would like to join us for that the estimated cost is between \$10-\$12 per person and we need to know at the time of registration if you will be eating dinner with us. Registration deadline is January 15, 2017 and the information for registration is listed below.

**GEAR LIST:** Current Texas Fishing License, Waders, Wading Boots, Wading Staff, 4wt - 6wt (8-9 foot) with floating line and 9-foot trout leaders in a 3x, 4x, or 5x. TWFF has three Fly Rods available for use and a couple of wading staff's, but if you have your own equipment please bring it. If you do not have waders or boots one of the local fly shops will rent them for a reasonable price.



--Women continued on page 11.

--Women continued from page 10.

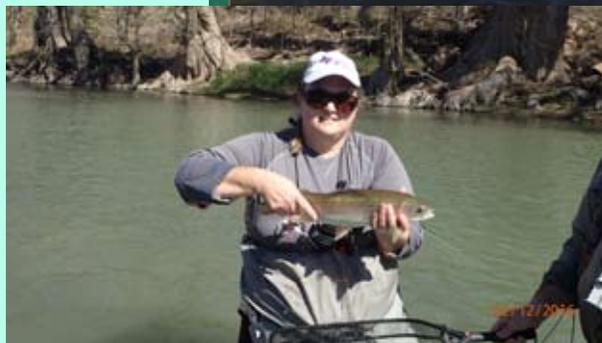


If you would like to attend and meet other women that enjoy fly fishing and want to learn more about what these two organizations are all about please send your RSVP to the following e-mail address; [twffoutingcoordinator@yahoo.com](mailto:twffoutingcoordinator@yahoo.com) . Information needed when registering is as follows (Full Name, phone number, e-mail address, if you will be joining us for the Mullet Mixer on Friday and eating Dinner on Saturday and if you are a GRTU Guest).

#### Area Fly Shops:

Action Angler & Outdoor Center  
9751 River Rd, New Braunfels, TX 78132  
(830) 708-3474  
[actionangler.net](http://actionangler.net)

Reel Fly Fishing Adventures  
1642 FM 2673 #3  
Canyon Lake, TX 78133  
Office: (830)964-4823  
Cell: (830)515-7285  
[Reelfly.net](http://Reelfly.net)



# FLY OF THE MONTH



**Mimic May – Hexagenia**  
Tied by Chris Johnson of Living Waters  
Fly Fishing

**Hook** – TMC 5212, Size 6-8  
**Thread** – 70 Denier, Yellow  
**Tail** – Grizzly Yellow Hackle Quills,  
Stripped  
**Abdomen** – Deer Body Hair, Yellow  
**Wing** – Deer Body Hair, Yellow  
**Thorax** – Spun CDC, Tan and Yellow  
**Hackle** – Whiting High and Dry, Grizzly  
Yellow



**Bennett's CF Baitfish**

**Hook:** Partridge Attitude Extra 4/0  
**Thread:** .006 Mono  
**Tail:** SF Blend and Flashabou  
**Body:** Craft Fur, reverse tied  
**Gill Color:** Polar Chenille  
**Eyes:** 10MM Mirage Eyes  
**Adhesive:** Loctite Gel Super Glue and  
Loon UV Flow



# BRAGGIN BOARD



Russell Moore caught this Gila trout in South East Arizon in late November 2016.



George Schaefer with a 24" Rainbow landed on the Aniak River in Alaska in July 2016



Send  
BRAGGIN BOARD  
photos to [news@grtu.org](mailto:news@grtu.org)

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

## 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.

Dakus Geeslin  
Jimbo Roberts  
Rafael Torres  
Stephen Baker  
Sam Perry  
Bob Frolichstein  
Gary Richardson  
Robert Carlen, Jr  
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William Marshall  
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Thomas Snyder  
Christopher Albright  
David Faulkinberry  
Stephen Overman  
Oscar Robinson  
Allan Farmer  
Samuel Pate  
Jay Gerrie  
Bill Balch



## GRTU Officers and Board of Directors

President	Joe Filer	210-654-6220	President@grtu.org
VP Chapter Affairs	Dakus Geeslin	512-389-8734	Vp-affairs@grtu.org
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Director	Russell Moore	512-557-5349	MooreR@grtu.org

## Regional Representatives:

Austin/Central Texas	Matt Bennett	377-348-9140	BennettM@grtu.org
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Houston/East Texas	Gary Burns	713-249-7764	BurnsG@grtu.org
New Braunfels	Chris Jackson	830-708-3474	ChrisJ@grtu.org
San Antonio/West Texas	Karen Gebhardt	210-414-7301	GebhardtK@grtu.org

## Other Positions

Info Tech Chair/Webmaster	Stephen Pritchett	903-276-0223	webmaster@grtu.org
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Advertising	Russell Moore	512-557-5349	ads@grtu.org
National Leadership Chair	Mark Dillow		DilowM@grtu.org
Vice Chair National			
Board of Trustees	Mick McCorcle	972-569-9133	MMcCorcle@grtu.org
Conservation Chair	Gary Cobb	512-719-6011	CobbG@grtu.org
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P.O. Box 160564  
Austin, TX 78716



Guadalupe River Chapter  
of Trout Unlimited  
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### GRTU Newsletter

Publication to over 5,000 Trout Unlimited members & friends in Texas

#### Contacts

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Russell Moore, Newsletter Editor, (512)557-5349  
news@grtu.org.

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(jpg or pdf preferred) To: news@grtu.org.

Payment due with artwork. Make checks payable to GRTU & mail to GRTU Treasurer, PO Box 160564, Austin, TX 78716

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12 Noon- 5 PM Eastern time