



January 2003

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From the President

Constance Whiston

Texas Women Fly Fishers will host the most important outing of 2003 at our birthplace, The Homer Martin Ranch. January 24-26 TWFF will present a slate of nominees to our members for a vote, a large raffle with all kinds of fly fishing goodies, fly tying/casting classes and a plenty of fly fishing. I sincerely encourage all of you to attend this outing. Come vote, meet your new officers, eat fabulous food, fish and meet the terrific instructors coming from Dallas to demonstrate the art of tying. Look for more details in this newsletter and on our web site. See you at the Ranch!

In closing out my two year term as President, I want to thank all the hard working officers and volunteers who founded and cultivated Texas Women Fly Fishers. I also want to thank, in advance, the new officers stepping in who I know will carry TWFF on to greater success. I hope each member will congratulate our new officers and offer to help them with their responsibilities. Creating Texas Women Fly Fishers along with Lisa, Coco, Frances, Sheila, Shug and Cindy has been a rewarding and educational experience. New officers came in when current ones needed to move on. Debi, Rudi, joy, Mary, Sarah and others poured their hearts into TWFF and deserve our thanks. your officers created t-shirts, hats, flyers, business cards, a web site, display board, history book, bank account, newsletter, by laws and taught women all over the state of Texas how to fly fish. My heartfelt thanks to the women who donated so much of their time, energy, money and passion to TWFF. You are the pioneers, you are the ones who will be remembered and you did it all in less than two years. Congratulations to you as you pass the baton on to the new officers who will serve Texas Women Fly Fishers. We look forward to the exciting changes our new officers will bring.



Outing Report: Texas Women Fly Fishers at Fairfield Lake

November 8-10, 2002

Debi Prather

We had a beautiful, classic fall weekend for the Fairfield Outing, although it was a bit on the windy side. Skies were blue and leaves were fluttering down as we camped in tents and trailers at Fairfield State Park. The park was full up with fly fishers from clubs across the state, including about 15 TWFF members. Saturday morning, some of us braved the gusty wind to paddle up to the end of the lake where we hoped to find some protection from the wind. We didn't find it -- but we had an invigorating paddle and a nice cruise back to the put-in with the wind at our backs. Others went a different direction on the lake and found a protected spot where they caught a few bass, and still some others enjoyed a leisurely breakfast and went off to Jewett to hit the flea market. TWFF member Ann Carr and other members of the Lone Star Dutch Oven Society prepared a wonderful meal of fried catfish with all the fixins on Saturday evening that was a real treat. Sunday morning we had short business meeting to address some current club issues before heading off to fish, pack up, or leave for home.

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

After some discussion, the Board voted to present to you three issues of amendment to the bylaws, to correct or address some issues that we did not anticipate when we drafted the original bylaws last spring.

1. We need to correct the provision about staggered officer terms to reflect that our current secretary, Sarah Valentine, was elected in January 2001 at the same time as the first vice president and treasurer. This correction will pertain to Article IV, Section 4, Term of Office.
2. The Board would like to formally include the Immediate Past President as an ex officio member of the Executive Board. Having the immediate past president continue to serve as a board member helps ease the transition from one board to another after elections. This will be done by adding a paragraph to Article IV, Section 2, Officers.
3. Finally, someone with sharp eyes noticed that our Executive Board has an even number of voting members with no provision for breaking a tie in case of a 50-50 split. Also, we had neglected to specify a term of membership for the trustees. To correct this, the Board proposes to revise the bylaws so that **two** (rather than three) trustees will be elected annually to serve for a **one**-year term. Our reasoning is that we would like to make these trustee positions somewhat less demanding than other officer positions -- so that more of you will be willing to serve as trustees on the board.

The exact wording of the amended bylaws provisions as well as instructions for voting will be distributed via email shortly.

Other business discussed included the reordering of hats at T-shirts, and a possible out of state trip next November over Veteran's Day Weekend, for some trout fishing at Beavers Bend, Oklahoma, which is just a few hours from Dallas. We'll have more information about that as it develops.



January 2003: Homer Martin Ranch On the Llano River

January 24-26, 2003

Coordinators: Coco Davenport, Sarah Valentine, Debi Prather, Frances Hamm

Update:

We're delighted to have Ronnie & Sherri Ray present at the Llano outing. Ronnie will lead the river wade fishing on Saturday.

At this time, Cabins 1, 4 & 7 are still available. To book a cabin, please contact Debi Prather ASAP. Also, Debi has a list of other lodging in the Mason area if all the HMR cabins are booked, so don't let the scarcity of cabin space deter you from attending!

Frances is organizing a great raffle and silent auction of donated items. The more good stuff we have, the more booty we each go home with, and our club treasury benefits. If you have anything to contribute to the pot, please contact Frances Hamm, 512.327.7711, fhamm@austin.rr.com.

Join TWFF at this historic 3500 acre ranch and hunting lodge in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. We'll have a variety of activities — casting instruction, fly tying, silent auction and raffle, wade fishing and kayak fishing — so there will be plenty to do regardless of the weather. In addition to scheduled activities, the ranch is a wonderful place for nature walks, hiking and bird watching. Share your favorite pot-luck dishes at evening meals in the Lodge and join us around the fire to swap fish tales.

The ranch has nine heated cabins that will book quickly. Tent camping is also available. The rustic Lodge House provides a fully equipped kitchen, dining room, social room and game room. Outside fire pits provide a great place for evening socializing around a fire. See reservation details below.

CLASSES*

Friday, 5 pm	Casting Instruction with Constance Whiston
Saturday 9 am	Fly Tying Instruction with Diane Fozdar Blair
Saturday 4 pm	Casting Instruction with Abby Goldman and Annie White

* Tentative schedule. Class space may be limited. For current schedule and to pre-register, please contact Coco Davenport, coco@n-link.com.

SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE

Great items will be up for bid in the silent auction and raffle. The auction and raffle will be set up in the living area of the Lodge. Stop by any time from 8:30 – 5:30 on Saturday to look at the booty, buy your raffle tickets and bid on your favorite auction items. Raffle drawings and silent auction winners will be announced after dinner on Saturday evening.

To contribute items to the auction or raffle, or to help with setup, etc., contact Frances Hamm, fhamm@austin.rr.com.

MEALS

Bring a favorite dish and join in on the fabulous potluck dinners on Friday and Saturday evening. Breakfast and lunch you'll be on your own. The lodge's full kitchen is available to use for all meals. The kitchen refrigerator and personal ice chests should be used for food storage only. Beer and wine can be

kept icy cold in the deer locker. Our use of the kitchen and lodge is a community effort, please do your part to care for our shared space by picking up after yourself and sharing in area cleanup chores. It never hurts to bring some extra napkins, paper towels, and don't forget plastic wrap to put away all those great leftovers.

RESERVATIONS

Cabins rent for \$60 per night with a 2-night minimum. Tent spaces are \$15 per tent, per night. If you would like to bunk in a cabin but do not have roommates, let Debi know and she will try to book you into a shared cabin.

Please contact Debi Prather to check on cabin availability. All reservations must be paid in advance by check payable to Homer Martin Ranch. Checks will be held until the outing – if you need to cancel before January 1, we will return your check. Cancellations after January 1 will depend on our being able to fill your cabin reservation. Please do not call the ranch to make reservations. Contact Debi Prather (dprather1@austin.rr.com, 512-259-0853 nights, 512/232-7941 days, 203 South Mustang, Cedar Park TX 78613.)

Cabin one: 2 single beds
Cabin two: 2 double beds
Cabin three: 1 queen and 1 bunk bed
Cabin four: 1 double and 1 single bed
Cabin five: 2 single beds
Cabin six: 1 queen, 1 double, 1 single
Cabin seven: 2 single beds - ***no bathroom***
Cabin eight: 2 double beds
Cabin nine: 2 double beds

An outside bathroom with shower is available for tent campers and Cabin 7 inhabitants.

Please note that no pets are allowed.

TENTATIVE OUTING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY EVENING

Check in, casting instruction, socializing at Lodge Dining Hall

SATURDAY

- Classes *
 - 9 am Fly Tying Instruction with Diane Fozdar Blair
 - 4 pm Casting Instruction with Abby Goldman and Annie White (* Tentative schedule. Class space may be limited. For current schedule and to pre-register, please contact Coco Davenport, coco@n-link.com.)
- Silent Auction and Raffle, 8:30 – 5:30
- Wade fishing. – **Ronnie Ray will lead a wade-fishing group.** For details, contact Coco: coco@n-link.com.
- Self-Guided River Trip (9 am - ?) See details below.
- Hiking, birdwatching, and hanging out by the fire
- Pot Luck Dinner at 7 p.m., followed by announcement of raffle and silent auction winners

Self-Guided River Trip. This is a self-paced, self-guided trip of approximately 4.5 miles, weather permitting. Previous cold-weather river paddling experience and appropriate clothing are strongly recommended. Depart from the Lodge at 9 am SHARP. We will drop off our boats at the put-in and return

vehicles to the takeout location. Since vehicles will be at takeout, participants can fish and paddle at their own pace and comfort level. Please let Debi Prather know if you plan to participate or if you have questions.

SUNDAY

9 am General membership meeting in lodge dining hall to elect 2003 officers. Please plan to attend.

11 am Clean up Lodge, fishing/hiking/socializing

WHAT TO BRING

Pot luck dinner contributions and personal breakfast/lunch food
Fly rod, flies (woolly buggers, poppers, clousers etc.) - 1x, 2x or 3x leaders or your own personal preference
Sunscreen & hat
River shoes & or wading boots

Waders or other weather-suitable fishing attire (layering recommended)
Camera

Sense of humor

If you plan to go on the river trip, don't forget:

Canoe or kayak, paddle, pfd

Dry bags for storage on your kayak or canoe
Insulated food bags/small cooler to carry lunch and snacks on river
Water/beverage containers

Neoprene waders or layered, water-resistant clothing recommended
Canoe or kayak, paddle, pfd

COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Coco Davenport (classes)	512-752-3503	coco@n-link.com
Sarah Valentine	210-637-0486	sval@flash.net
Debi Prather (cabin reservation)	512-259-0853	dprather1@austin.rr.com
Frances Hamm (raffle/auction)	512-327-7711	fhamm@austin.rr.com

DIRECTIONS TO HOMER MARTIN RANCH

See the Homer Martin Ranch website for a map and other detailed information about the ranch. www.homermartinranch.com/.

From Austin: Take TX 71 to Llano then TX 29 to Mason. (From north Austin, take US 183 north then TX 29 west to Mason.) As you enter Mason on Hwy 29, you will turn left at the Courthouse Square and go south on Hwy 87. Watch for RR 1723 on your right on the south edge of town (1.3 miles from the 29/87 intersection). Follow Ranch Road 1723/Simonsville Road for 9 miles to the ranch entrance, which is on the right, 1/2 mile after crossing the river.

From Dallas: Take I-35 to Georgetown then TX 29 to Mason. As you enter Mason on Hwy 29, you will turn left at the Courthouse Square and go south on Hwy 87. Watch for RR 1723 on your right on the south edge of town (1.3 miles from the 29/87 intersection). Follow Ranch Road 1723/Simonsville Road for 9 miles to the ranch entrance, which is on the right, 1/2 mile after crossing the river.

From Houston or San Antonio: Take I-10 to Comfort, then US 87 toward Mason. Go 8.5 miles past the 87/Llano River Bridge to RR 1723 (on your left as you approach Mason). Follow RR1723/Simonsville Road for 9 miles to the ranch entrance, which is on the right, 1/2 mile after crossing the river.

Upon entering Homer Martin Ranch, go past the ranch house and follow the signs to the camp. Please check the bulletin board outside the Lodge for information on cabin assignments, event schedules, and other information.

March 2003: Fishing for White Bass at Marble Falls, TX

March 21-23, 2003

Preliminary Announcement!

The plan is to fish at the "Ramp" on the Colorado River located just behind the Max Starke Dam. The waters directly below the Max Starke Dam are famous to central Texans for their huge quantity of white bass during the spring spawn. The cabins at the Ramp are primitive but economical, and RV and motel facilities are close by (see below). Coco Davenport and Sheila Hood will coordinate this outing. Saturday dinner will be at the world-famous Bluebonnet Café.

More information will be available in February, but make your reservations soon because white bass season accommodations can be hard to come by.

For more information, contact

Coco Davenport (classes)	512-752-3503	coco@n-link.com
Sheila Hood	512/932-3826	sahood@n-link.com

Lodging Information

The Ramp	830-693-2119 (motel units and cabins just below the Starke Dam in Marble Falls)
Riverview RV Park	Hwy 281 south, waterfront on Lake Marble Falls, close to The Ramp as well as downtown, Bluebonnet Café, etc.). Phone (830) 693-3910 http://www.touringtexas.com/riverview/
Hill Country Motel	1101 Hwy North 281. Phone 830-693-3637 FAX -693-6028
Ramada Inn	1206 Hwy. North 281. Phone 830-693-7531 FAX: 693-7080
Best Western	1203 Hwy. 281. Phone 830-693-5122, FAX 693-3108, Toll Free Res. Line: 1-800-Western
Hampton Inn	704 1st St. Phone 830-798-1895
Kampers Korner	200 Buena Vista Drive. Phone 830-693-2291
LCRA Camp Creek	Primitive Camping (no facilities), 8 miles east of Marble Falls on RR 1431. http://www.lcra.org/community/campcreek.html



State Wide Events

January 17-19	Texas Fishing & Outdoor Show, Mesquite, TX http://www.texasfishingshow.com/info.htm
Jan. 31 – Feb. 2	The Outdoorsman's Fishing & Hunting Expo, Reliant Arena, Houston. Casting pond, fly tying, basic instruction.
February 1	Texas Fly Fishers Annual Fly Tying Festival (Houston) Holiday Inn on I-10 at Antoine - 9am - 5pm. We will have fly tying vendors, a great raffle, over 40 guest tiers and our usual video camera assisted feature presentations. The entry fee will be \$10.00 per person as in past years with a special family rate of \$14.00, a seniors rate of \$8.00 and an under 18 rate of \$5.00. http://www.texasflyfishers.org/
March 29-30	Shallow Water Expo, Reliant Arena, Houston. http://www.castlow.com/txswfe.html

What about Trout?

The Guadalupe is open to fishing and boating! On December 11th, Comal County lifted a ban on fishing and water recreation on the Guadalupe, except within 300 feet of a clean-up work crew. Fresh, loose gravel has been deposited on the river bottom. Please fish and wade cautiously.

For more information about the Guadalupe from GRTU, check their newsletters at <http://www.grtu.org/news/index.html>

2002-2003 Trout Stocking Schedule now online:

See the TPWD website, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish/infish/reports/trout2000.htm

or call TPWD at 800-792-1112 and follow the menu options.



Shonto Ranch
C. D. McGehee, Biologist
P.O. Box 293280
Kerrville, TX 78029-3280
Phone/Fax: 830-257-5982
Phone: 210-884-0982
Email: shonto@krc.com
Website: www.shontoranch.com

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Texas' Popular Winter Trout Fishing Kicks Off Dec. 5

AUSTIN, Texas -- For an inexpensive, entry-level fishing experience the entire family can enjoy, it doesn't get much easier than winter trout fishing in Texas.

Beginning Dec. 5 and continuing through March, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will stock 239,000 rainbow trout at 97 sites across the state. Many of the fish stockings will be conducted at small urban lakes, state park lakes and popular river tailraces offering easy angling access.

The popular trout-stocking program has been an annual offering in Texas for the last two decades. All trout are hatchery reared and typically measure about 10 inches in length, although some "brood-sized" larger trout occasionally are included in the stockings.

The trout-stocking program is funded through the sale of Texas Freshwater Trout Stamps and through donations from local entities and conservation groups like Trout Unlimited. The \$7 stamps are required, in addition to a valid fishing license, for almost anyone fishing for freshwater trout in Texas waters. Those exempted from fishing license requirements, including children younger than 17 years old, are not required to have a trout stamp.

The freshwater trout stamps are available wherever fishing licenses are sold and are included in the purchase of a Super Combo license. The daily bag limit is five trout and there is no minimum length in all Texas waters except an approximately 10-mile stretch of the Guadalupe River below Canyon Lake Dam. For additional details about the special harvest regulations and the location of that river stretch, please consult an Outdoor Annual Guide. The special regulations are not in effect in the area immediately below Canyon Lake Dam.

Separate fees are not charged to fish for trout in state parks, just the normal entry and facility use fees. Trout stamps are required as in other public waters.

Trout normally are stocked by noon on the day listed, although times depend upon weather and the number of water bodies on the schedule. In many instances, youth are given first access to trout during special youth-only fishing.

Anglers heading to the Guadalupe River below Canyon Dam to test their skills in Texas' only year-round trout fishery will be starting from scratch this year due to flooding earlier in the summer, which altered much of the water conditions and wiped out all existing trout populations, according to Tom Wyatt, TPWD biologist at the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery in San Marcos.

"Anglers will have to look to different areas because the habitat has changed," said Wyatt. "Some of the old outstanding holes won't be there anymore due to the flooding and you'll have to find new hotspots. It'll be just like stocking a new water body."

More than 18,000 rainbow trout will be stocked by TPWD in the Guadalupe River on four stocking dates.

Wyatt also noted that angler access to the Guadalupe River will also be limited this year after Bean's Camp, a popular public access point in the past, now has new owners. "The new owners are not allowing public access, so you'll have to put in elsewhere," he explained. "We'll be putting the trout we normally stock there at other locations along the river."

For further information, contact the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery at (512) 353-0572, Dundee Fish Hatchery at (940) 586-1203, Jasper Fish Hatchery at (409) 384-2221, Possum Kingdom Fish Hatchery at (940) 779-2301, or the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center at (903) 676-2277.



Tips on Fishing with a Fly Fishing Guide

Constance Whiston

Most people think about the criteria for hiring a guide but have you ever thought about what the guide would like from you, the client? In terms of hiring a guide, look for the person who knows the most about the water you are about to fish - plain and simple. Does the guide love the water, spend time on the water, know the fish, know the flies, provide recommendations and a bio, offer gear, boat, rod, flies and lunch? What is the charge, how many hours will you be on the water, what do you the client need to bring and what does the guide provide? Know the questions you need to ask before you hire a guide. It's not important for the guide to be an FFF Certified Casting Instructor, though it is a nice asset. I've found that most guides do not focus on casting as much as working the fly, fishing and how to catch & release. By the way, the Texas fly guide who has won the most TPWD Angler Awards for biggest fish does not consider himself to be a great caster but I know him personally and he really knows his water and his fish. Now don't get me wrong about the certification, I am an FFF Certified Casting Instructor and a guide but when I hire a guide I don't care if they can cast because I can. So you see what you seek is up to your personal criteria. One of the best guides I've hired was on the Pierre Marquette in Michigan. He was fun, handed me a rod/reel with fly rigged and ready to go. If a fly broke off, he quickly handed me another rod/reel rigged and ready. He laughed, told stories and even took photos of me with my camera when he saw that my friend was too busy catching fish to shoot pictures. It was a memorable experience catching 35 pound salmon while being tutored by one of the most jovial and knowledgeable guides in the from Johnson's Lodge.

What do you think a guide looks for? A guide hopes to book clients who can endure bad weather, variations in the catch, changes in water levels, a person who can do without crepe suzettes or borscht but appreciates the delicacies the guide offers for lunch. The days of Vienna sausage and Twinkies are gone but don't expect caviar and champagne either. The guide prefers a client who is pleasant and respectful, a fly fisher who knows how hard a guide works, someone who shares humor, fishing stories and feels free to say "Hey, I need to stop now and visit a tree". All guides start the day hoping this will be the best fishing day of the client's life. Good clients understand the guide wants to provide a day where the client says joyfully, "I'm exhausted from catching all these fish!" One memorable client I guided was a woman whose husband bought a fly fishing trip for her as a birthday gift. She knew zip about fly fishing and after an hour on the river I could see she really didn't have her heart in it. What she did have her

heart in was talking about life, family, kids and schools. I asked her if she was tired and wanted to put the rod down and just let me paddle the canoe down the river while we talked. She loved the idea and we jabbered all the way to the take out. She was so happy with her “fly fishing” day on the river she added a big tip. A tip is considered a courteous gesture for a service rendered. If a client is pleased with a guide a tip of \$50.00 or more is normal. At the end of the day if your guide is unloading the boat, hauling gear to his/her vehicle and you feel like helping, it’s okay to lend a hand. In most guided trips the guide does everything, hauls the boat and all gear, offers flies, provides lunch, does all the rowing/paddling, teaches casting, points out fish, compliments, tells stories, takes photos of the client with his/her catch, takes care of the client’s personal needs and safety. A kind word to your guide goes a long way, guides work hard to make you happy. They live to hear you say “FISH ON!”



Conservation News from San Marcos River Foundation

San Marcos River Foundation is celebrating, after recently learning that they will receive a grant from the Hershey Foundation as well as one from the Vaughan Foundation. Dianne Wassenich reports, “There is still a long way to go on the water right project funding, but we are receiving some great support and encouragement, and SMRF is being nominated for many awards for taking on this essential piece of preserving our Texas rivers and estuaries.”

Following is an article from the SWTSU University Star (11/6/02) about the International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources at SWT, directed by former TPWD director Andy Sansom.

WATER RESOURCE INSTITUTE HELPS MEDIATE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

By David Doerr ddoerr@universitystar.com

SWT’s International Institute for Sustainable Water Resources (IISWR) is working to find solutions to controversies over water rights between developers and conservationists in the South Central Texas region.

One of the early priorities of the IISWR is to evaluate the attention placed on freshwater requirements for maintaining healthy estuaries and coastal ecosystems in the State Water Plan, which has recently been developed. The plan was mandated by the Texas Legislature in 1997 to address Texas’ water needs during the next 50 years, including water for estuaries.

“Just like humans need freshwater to live and be productive so do estuaries,” said Walter Rast, associate director of the IISWR. “Estuaries are the primary marine hatcheries of the sea and provide a unique habitat that consists of a mix of freshwater and saltwater that is the only environment certain species can live. “Without healthy estuaries along the Texas coast, Texans would not enjoy the variety of affordable fresh seafood we currently enjoy, to say the very least.”

Meeting freshwater requirements is achieved by allowing a certain amount of water in a river to flow to bays and estuaries — rather than using all of it before it goes into the ocean. This is often called in-stream flow.

The issue of in-stream flow is extremely controversial in rapidly growing regions such as South Central Texas. Developers and urban centers are demanding increasing amounts of water to meet growth expectations, and environmentalists are taking action to protect sensitive ecosystems.

The importance of water to Texas can be seen in the struggle over water rights between a local conservation group called the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF) and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA). In July of 2000, SMRF submitted an application for a water permit to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (since renamed Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) for 1.15 million acre-feet of water per year or approximately 40 billion gallons.

This equals almost all of the remaining unallocated water rights in the Guadalupe River. They based this amount on a study the Texas Parks and Wildlife agency published in 1998 titled Freshwater Inflow Recommendation for the Guadalupe Estuary of Texas.

The timing of the application is significant because water rights are assigned to water users in chronological order in Texas. This means that in times of droughts, those with the oldest permits are first in line to receive the available water. In periods of water shortage, those at the end of the line may not get any water until it rains again. SMRF just happened to put its application in before the GBRA submitted its proposal to pump water from the Guadalupe River to San Antonio.

SMRF cites supporting communities and ranchers along the San Marcos and Guadalupe rivers, protecting a seafood industry, a tourism economy and the last wild flock of whooping cranes in existence as reasons for taking action.

"We submitted our application because the fresh-water needs of humans and wildlife in the coastal area were not being considered in the development of the State Water Plan," said Diane Wassenich, executive director of SMRF.

A state law is in place that says applications for water rights 200 miles from the coast do not have to take into consideration in-stream flows, Wassenich said. The Guadalupe estuary relies on the San Marcos and Comal springs for fresh water in times of drought, which are beyond this arbitrary delineation.

"Since the state wasn't protecting in-stream flows in the Central Texas region, we felt we had no other choice but to do it ourselves," Wassenich said.

The GBRA and other opponents of SMRF's application claim that the regional water plans that have been submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for consolidation into the State Water Plan, consider in-stream flow and the general health of the estuaries. They also say that a private organization should not be allowed to control such a large amount of the precious liquid that could be used to meet regional increases in demand.

"We believe that in-stream flows are important, and we are committed to protecting the entire river system, including the bays and estuaries," said Bill West, general manager of GBRA.

West said the amount that SMRF has requested is unrealistic and that the GBRA's Lower Guadalupe River project will actually increase the amount of freshwater flowing to the estuaries since more treated wastewater will be flowing down the San Antonio River, which also flows into the Guadalupe River.

SMRF has said that it intends to place any water rights it might receive into the Texas Water Trust, which was created by the state Legislature in 1997 as a protector of one's water rights when not being used. Although it has been in existence for nearly five years no one has yet donated or temporarily placed their water rights in the trust.

The GBRA's Lower Guadalupe River project is currently in phase 1 and is expected to take 10 years to complete. This includes preliminary studies and planning of the project, but actual construction will not begin for another seven years, until the TCEQ decides whether to accept SMRF's application.

The project is a partnership between the GBRA and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) to provide San Antonio with an additional source of freshwater.

Currently, San Antonio uses no surface water for consumption and pumps all of its water from the environmentally sensitive Edwards Aquifer. The project includes pumping groundwater from other aquifers in the region and pumping water from Guadalupe River, into which the San Marcos River flows, through a pipeline from near the mouth of the river to San Antonio for consumption purposes.

The GBRA insists that there will actually be more fresh water flowing to the Guadalupe estuary since more water will be pumped from aquifers other than the Edwards, consumed, treated and sent down the San Antonio River.

"If Mr. West can actually assure that there will be more water flowing to the estuaries, then he shouldn't be opposed to our application because there should be enough water for all of us then," Wassenich said.

Andrew Sansom, director of the IISWR, hopes to begin a constructive dialogue between the two sides and to bring together these opposing points of view.

“Regardless of whether or not SMRF’s application is granted, it has helped focus attention on the importance of freshwater flows into the gulf and the impact (that) diverting too much water can have,” Sansom said.

The conflict has attracted national attention from news outlets as far away as the New York Times because of the potential to set a precedent. If SMRF’s water permit is granted, it could be the first of many conservation-intended water grants to be allowed in the state and perhaps the nation. Numerous articles have also been written in response to the conservation advocacy group, American Rivers, declaring the Guadalupe River No. 10 on its list of most endangered rivers in the United States.

The continued health of river basins such as the Guadalupe is one of the major focuses of the IISWR and is something the group hopes it can be involved in protecting through coordination of research and hosting forums on water issues, Sansom said.

The institute takes a holistic view on water, which means The IISWR sees all water as connected. He said people who make water policy decisions need to look at a river basin, from a spring to an estuary, in an integrated manner.

“The IISWR is in a unique position to be able to help mediate some of the conflicts between the SMRF and the GBRA,” Sansom said. “We can utilize the expertise of SWT faculty and staff in water resource issues and be a concerned but neutral moderator. It is a goal of the institute to get these parties talking because the alternatives are far worse.”



Federation of Fly Fishers Code of Angling Ethics

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The mission of the Federation of Fly Fishers is to lead activities that enhance and support the fly fishing experience for all anglers who fish with the artificial fly. As part of our efforts to educate through fly fishing, we believe that ethical behavior is a key component of the angling experience. While the need to preserve for all anglers the natural beauty and quality of fisheries for future generations is paramount, consideration for fellow anglers cannot be overlooked.

FFF believes it essential that fly anglers in all waters embrace an ethic that embodies consideration for the environment and for others whether they are fishing or not. This Code of Angling Ethics complements the Catch and Release philosophy that is the hallmark of the Federation of Fly Fishers and reflects the importance of ethical behavior for all anglers. Moreover, it provides a framework for improving the angling experience by combining consideration of the fishery with respectful conduct towards fellow anglers. Overall, the policy denotes a journey in ethical behavior for fly anglers and not a destination.

Person-to-person and person-to-resource ethics go hand-in-hand. Fly anglers strive to understand and practice the land ethic of Aldo Leopold, which extends ethical consideration to the land, plants, animals, fish, and water that comprise the entire ecosystem. An important part of this land ethic is that fly anglers support those programs that sustain high species diversity, and do not support policies that could cause the premature extinction of another species. The Native Fish Policy of the Federation of Fly Fishers is based on this ethic of preventing fish species extinction.

The following nine behaviors comprise the Federation of Fly Fishers' Code of Angling Ethics:

- Angling ethics begin with understanding and obeying laws and regulations associated with the fishery. Fly anglers understand that their conduct relative to laws and regulations reflects on all

anglers. Angling ethics begin with and transcend laws and regulations governing angling and the resources that sustain the sport.

- The opportunity to participate in the sport of fly fishing is a privilege and a responsibility. Fly anglers respect private property and always ask permission before entering or fishing private property. They seek to understand and follow the local customs and practices associated with the fishery. They share the waters equally with others whether they are fishing or engaging in other outdoor activities.
- Fly fishers minimize their impact on the environment and fishery by adopting practices that do not degrade the quality of the banks, waters, and the overall watersheds upon which fisheries depend. These practices include avoiding the introduction of species not native to an ecosystem, and cleaning and drying fishing gear to prevent the inadvertent transport of invasive exotics that may threaten the integrity of an aquatic ecosystem. In simplest terms, fly anglers always leave the fishery better than when they found it.
- Fly anglers endeavor to conserve fisheries by understanding the importance of limiting their catch. "Catch and release" is an important component of sustaining premium fisheries that are being over-harvested. Fly anglers release fish properly and with minimal harm. They promote the use of barbless hooks and angling practices that are more challenging but which help to sustain healthy fish populations.
- Fly anglers do not judge the methods of fellow anglers. Fly fishers share their knowledge of skills and techniques. They help others to understand that fly-fishing contributes to sound fisheries conservation practices.
- Fly anglers treat fellow anglers as they would expect to be treated. They do not impose themselves on or otherwise interfere with other anglers. They wait a polite time, and then, if necessary, request permission to fish through. They may invite other anglers to fish through their positions. Fly fishers when entering an occupied run or area always move in behind other anglers, not in front of them whether in a boat or wading.
- Fly anglers when sharing the water allow fellow anglers ample room so as not to disturb anyone's fishing experience. They always fish in a manner that causes as little disturbance as practical to the water and fish. They take precautions to keep their shadow from falling across the water (walking a high bank).
- When fishing from watercraft fly anglers do not crowd other anglers or craft. They do not block entrances to bays or otherwise impede others. Fly anglers do not unnecessarily disturb the water by improperly lowering anchors or slapping the water with paddles or oars.
- Fly anglers always compliment other anglers and promote this Code of Angling Ethics to them whether they fish with a fly or not.

The following is a shortened version suitable to be carried by the angler:

- Fly anglers understand and obey laws and regulations associated with the fishery.
- Fly anglers believe fly fishing is a privilege and a responsibility.
- Fly anglers conserve fisheries by limiting their catch.
- Fly anglers do not judge fellow anglers and treat them as they would expect to be treated.
- Fly anglers respect the waters occupied by other anglers so that fish are not disturbed
- When fishing from a watercraft, fly anglers do not crowd other anglers or craft or unnecessarily disturb the water.
- Fly anglers respect other angling methods and promote this Code of Angling Ethics to all anglers.

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