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*A Message From the President* Constance Whiston

Picture a bronze, gold and rust carpet of autumn leaves, coots softly calling along the edge of a lily pad covered lake, Texas White Oak logs burning red in the campfire, your buddies gathered round, smiling, telling fish stories and munching on the most delectable cuisine imaginable. This is not a romanticized concept of our last outing for 2001, it is a very right on the target description. Our closing outing of 2001 was one of the most enjoyable of the year. Members of Texas Women Fly Fishers, Fort Worth Fly Fishers, Dallas Fly Fishers, Austin Fly Fishers, Montgomery County Fly Rodders and a few from Texas Fly Fishers and Piney Woods Fly Fishers joined together November 9, 10 & 11 at Fairfield Lake State Park to fly fish for bass, tilapia, red fish and sunfish. The Lone Star Dutch Oven Society worked most of the day preparing our evening banquet. Brother, if you were there, I hope you had a chance to try "Butch's Bananas" – WOW! The stews, the chicken, the cobblers, and the breads – I thought I'd died and gone to food heaven! Even though the fishing was a bit slow we all enjoyed the two casting classes and camaraderie of fellow and sister fly fishers. It was a peaceful, wintry close to a very successful first year for TWFF.

Our second year promises to be even better. We start the year off with all our outings scheduled (listed here in the newsletter), new officers joining our team and a commitment to provide our members with fun, low cost fly fishing outings in the great state of Texas. Many of you have asked for classes in casting, knot tying and the basics of fly fishing. "Ask and ye shall receive." Beginning with our first outing, we'll have an "Introduction to Trout Fishing Class" and at each outing there will be a class specifically for that area.

Please let me take a moment to thank each of you for your feedback. I speak for all the officers when I say, we want to give you the kind of outings you want. You are invited to each business meeting; you are invited to give us your thoughts and desires, your suggestions for classes and future outings.

As we make our sincere efforts to put you on fish and give you a sweet fly fishing memory to take home, in turn, we ask you to volunteer to help. If you can teach a class, be a greeter, make a beginner feel at home, offer fly fishing tips, do some marketing, hang a poster, hand out maps or bring cookies – we need you!

The birth of Texas Women Fly Fishers in 2000 and lightspeed growth this year is due to the hard work of Coco Davenport (Historian), Sheila Hood (Vice President of Membership), Cindy Alexander (Vice President Fund Raising), Frances Hamm (Treasurer), Lisa Bellar (Web Master/Secretary) and Sheri Ray (Conservation Officer). We learned, we laughed, we fished and we worked our little fishy butts off. I take my black, Simms, long billed fly fishing hat off and bow my head in thanksgiving for having an opportunity to work with and fish with such a great team of women.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Welcome New Members**

Becky Hand, Austin  
Kathy Goodlett, Dallas  
Linda Love, Cypress  
Dianne Duke, Austin  
Betty Burleson, China Spring  
Peggy Bissing, Spring Branch

**Texas Women Fly Fishers  
Current Officers**

**President**

Constance Whiston  
cwhiston@io.com

**First Vice President**

Sheila Hood  
sahood@nlink.com

**Historian**

Coco Davenport  
Coco@n-link.com

**Conservation Chair**

Sherri Ray  
Rrray@cvtv.net

**Web Master**

Rudi Donaldson  
rdonaldson@houston.rr.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Debi Prather  
dprather1@austin.rr.com

**Consultant**

Sugar Ferris  
Shugferris@aol.com

Please contact any officer with questions or any input you may have.

(Continued from page 1)

Tell your friends to come join us in January for the Guadalupe River trout outing. Bring your boots, waders, trout flies, long underwear, big fish grins and let's get started on a colossal second year for Texas Women Fly Fishers.

Happy Holidays!

Constance Whiston  
President of Texas Women Fly Fishers

*From the Editor*

**Wanted: your input**

Our newsletter is one of our primary means of communication both to members and among members. As editor, I want to be sure the content is interesting and relevant to you. As a fly fisher, I want to hear about what you are doing. One of the biggest benefits of belonging to a club is the opportunity to learn from others. Over the years I have learned that I can learn something from everybody. No matter what our skill level, we all have stories and experience to share that will interest, entertain and benefit others.

Send me your **stories** about fishing, and your **feedback** on newsletter content and format. Tell me what you like or don't like (and don't worry about my feelings, tell me the truth.)

We'd like to introduce a new feature, a **Swap or Sell** column in which members can recycle their unused gear. What's in your gear closet that you've outgrown, replaced, or just don't use? Someone else is probably looking for it!

Send your contributions and swap/sell items to me by email to dprather1@austin.rr.com, or by mail to Debi Prather, 203 South Mustang, Cedar Park, TX 78613.

**Newsletter Advertising Rates**

	One issue	Annual
Swap/sell items — members	Free	
Text Ads (non-members)	\$5/ inch	--
Business Cards, Members	\$5	\$50
Business Cards, Others	\$7.50	\$75
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1/3 Page Display	\$30	\$300
1/2 Page Display	\$35	\$350
Full Page Display	\$50	--

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**Please visit our sponsor!**



<http://www.fishgame.com>



## 2002 TWFF OUTINGS SCHEDULE

January 25-26

Guadalupe River at the Summit  
Coordinator - Sheila Hood

March 8-10

Brazos River at Tres Rios River Resort, Glen Rose, TX  
Coordinator - Constance Whiston

May 24- 26

The Nueces River – Camp Wood, TX  
The Annual Bud Priddy Contest  
Coordinators - Rudi Donaldson & Mary Cole

July 12- 14

Medina River – Bandera, TX  
Coordinators - Coco Davenport & Sarah Valentine

September 13-15

Llano River – Homer Martin Ranch, Mason TX  
Coordinator - Constance Whiston

November (Dates TBA)

Fairfield Lake with all the Fly Fishing Clubs in Texas  
Coordinators - All TWFF Officers

### JOIN TWFF FOR TROUT FISHING ON THE GUADALUPE, JANUARY 25-26, 2002

We will be staying at the **Summit Vacation Resort**, located at **Canyon Lake** on River Road between the 3rd & 4th River Crossings. **Reservations will be made and fees paid in advance** to Sheila Hood. There are eight cabins with queen & twin bunk beds, linens included, shower, kitchenette with essentials. The fee for cabins due at time of reservation is \$53.00 per night. Cabins will be assigned in the order fees are received **GET YOUR RESERVATION IN EARLY**. There are travel trailers with essentials, queen & twin bunks, linens & towels not included for the same fee of \$53.00 per night. Those with their own travel trailers, there are full hookups for \$17.00 per night.

#### What to Bring

Bring a light weight fly rod (4 to 6 weight); reel with weight forward fly line to match your rod; 5x leader & 5x tippet; split shot; strike indicators; small nymphs (flies in size 22); wading boots; waders and very warm clothes. If you have neoprene waders and felt sole boots that will be fine. If you have Gortex waders and felt sole boots, wear polartec or long underwear. You will need boots and waders! You will need very warm clothes. Please make sure you have your fishing license and trout stamp.

#### Friday 7:30 PM

Join your fellow Texas Women Fly Fishers at the Summit Clubhouse for appetizers and a Trout Presentation by Constance Whiston.

#### Saturday

Fish the Guadalupe at your leisure. Do not wade fish if the flow is above 300 cfs. Join TWFF at 7:00 PM at the Summit Clubhouse for a Catered BBQ dinner and swap tales of the day. A \$7.00 per person fee should be mailed with your cabin reservation for the Catered BBQ.

#### Summary

##### ► Mail Reservation Fee of \$53.00/night Per Cabin

**Include names of persons staying in the cabin.** This is a gated resort. The office is open 24 hours a day, they will have your name and cabin assignment. You will be given a code for the electronic gate. Upon receipt of your reservation a map of the resort will be mailed to you.

##### ► Mail \$7.00 per person for Saturday evenings catered BBQ meal.

##### ► Think Trout!

Sheila Hood  
P.O. Box 219  
Kempner, Tx 76539-0219  
512/932-3826  
sahood@n-link.com

### *TWFF Historian's Report*

*Coco Davenport*

This was an exciting first year. Our scrapbook and Presentation Board are complete, showing all our activities for 2001. The scrapbook will be on display at every outing so that you can see for yourself where we went and what we did. Unfortunately, I have very few pictures of members catching FISH. We can remedy that by having each of you email or hard copy your great catches to me (coco@n-link.com. or Coco Davenport, HC 61 Box 58 A-1, Lometa, Texas 76853). We need as many pictures of our members as possible. Each of you usually takes a camera to the outings, so please share your pictures with me and our new Webmaster Rudi Donaldson (rdonaldson@houston.rr.com) so that we can put them in the book and on the website. I want our book to reflect our fun CATCHING FISH as well as our fun socializing. A special thanks to all of you who did send pictures.

## TWFF SPRING OUTING ON THE BRAZOS RIVER — MARCH 8, 9 & 10

### Tres Rios River Resort & RV Campground Glen Rose, Texas

Tres Rios River Resort & RV Campground is located at the convergence of the Paluxy, Squaw Creek and the Brazos Rivers just outside Glen Rose, Texas (about 70 miles southwest of Dallas/Fort Worth). Tres Rios offers a variety of types and size of cabins, beautiful riverside campsites, a dining hall, great wade fishing and canoe/kayak fishing.

#### White Bass Fishing !

#### Free Casting Lessons !

Free fly casting lessons will be offered on Friday evening for one hour starting at 5:00pm

#### Free Guided Canoe Trip !

This float trip will take most of the day. Canoes and kayaks can be rented from Rhodes Canoe Rentals 254-897-4214. To sign up for the free canoe trip, write to: [cwhiston@io.com](mailto:cwhiston@io.com)

#### Catered Dinner Saturday Night !

Ed Low, owner of Celebration Restaurant in Dallas (<http://www.celebrationrestaurant.com/welcome.htm>) will provide a catered dinner (est. cost \$10.00 per person). You must make your dinner reservation in advance so that Ed will know how much food to buy. The deadline for reservations is Friday, March 1st. Make your dinner reservations by writing [cwhiston@io.com](mailto:cwhiston@io.com) -- when you attend the dinner, pay Mr. Ed Low for his delicious meal.

#### Call Tres Rios to make your reservations NOW !

This place is so popular it will book up by February so call ASAP.

### Tres Rios River Resort & RV Campground

<http://www.tresrioscamping.com/contact.phtml>

2322 CR 312  
Glen Rose, Texas 76043

Mitchell George: Owner/Operator

Phone: (254) 897-4253

Fax: (254) 897-7613

Email: [mgeorge@itexas.net](mailto:mgeorge@itexas.net)

When you open the web site or call the owner you will see all the cabins offer different types of lodging, including cabins, motel rooms and large houses to rent.

#### What FF Gear to Bring

Bring your boots, waders, canoe/kayak, fly rod, flies for large mouth and white bass, (it will be white bass season!) sunscreen, hat, rain clothes, camera, swim suit, fish diary, warm & cold weather clothes, sandals to wade if it's warm.

Coordinator: Constance Whiston  
[cwhiston@io.com](mailto:cwhiston@io.com)  
512/916-4393

I can not emphasize how important it is to make reservations before February! Tres Rios is beautiful and very, very popular!

## SAFETY STRATEGIES FOR WINTER FLY FISHING

### Know the flow before you go.

Before fly fishing the Guadalupe River for the Texas Women Fly Fishers outing in January, members should be aware that our officers support our club members wading in the river with the following guidelines:

- **Fly fish with friend very close by**
- **The flow rate must be 300 cfs or less**
- **Notify our officers of your location and departure and return time.**

Due to heavy rains this fall, the lower Guadalupe river flow recently has been as high as 2500-5000 cfs. This is far too high for wade fishing or canoe/kayak fishing. River flow rates are measured in cubic feet per second (cfs). That rate can be obtained for many Texas rivers from the USGS website <http://tx.usgs.gov/> and other websites; however, some knowledge of the river is needed to interpret those numbers correctly. It is always good to check with a local fly shop or canoe livery located on or near the river you plan to fish. They will know whether the river level is safe and can inform you of any special hazards you need to be aware of. Rivers are ever-changing systems.

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## Stay warm and dry

In addition to high flow rates, fishing in cold water in cold weather increases the possibility of hypothermia. When pursuing any kind of outdoor winter activity, it is important to know how to **avoid, recognize and treat hypothermia**. The condition happens quite easily, often during prolonged exposure to temperatures that one might consider quite safe.

Avoid hypothermia by dressing in layers of non-cotton clothing. Cotton is a “negative insulator” — when wet, it will draw heat from your body. Synthetics, silk and wool are better choices. Layering is recommended by the American Red Cross:

**Inner Layer** — should be made of a synthetic fabric that does not retain moisture (capilene, polypropylene, etc.).

**Insulating Layer** — a quick-drying fabric that insulates even while it's wet is best (Qualofil, Pile, wool, etc.).

**Shell Layer** — will provide a windproof, and preferably waterproof, barrier (ripstop nylon, Gore-Tex, Supplex, etc.).

A hat is vital to staying warm; gloves, insulating socks, neck "gaiters" and headbands all protect you from the cold. Wool pants are a better choice than jeans or corduroys. Drink large amounts of nonalcoholic and decaffeinated fluids.

If your group is exposed to **WIND, COLD, OR WET**, think hypothermia. Watch yourself and others for the symptoms:

Uncontrollable fits of shivering	Vague, slow, slurred speech	Memory lapses, or incoherence
Immobile, fumbling hands	Frequent stumbling.	Drowsiness (to sleep is to die)
Apparent exhaustion	Inability to get up after a rest	

Hypothermia radically affects both one's judgment and response time. Be alert to early symptoms to prevent a potentially life threatening situation. Be sure to read the web sites, [www.hypothermia.org](http://www.hypothermia.org), Hypothermia, Prevention, Recognition and Treatment, and [www.redcrossaustin.org/safety.html](http://www.redcrossaustin.org/safety.html), Information on Hypothermia.

## If you are canoe/kayak fishing

Take a **waterproof flashlight** on the river with you in case your return is delayed past sundown.

Pack along a change of clothing and a space blanket or even a couple of large plastic trash bags, some hand-warmer packs, Power Bars or other high-energy snack, and some firestarter and waterproof matches. Should you or someone in your party get wet unexpectedly with no dry clothing available, this gear can prevent a quick descent into hypothermia.

## The following safety pointers apply to all fishing trips.

**Study maps** of the area; take them with you and know how long it will take to drive to your destination

**Drive the section of river** you are thinking of fishing, check it out for yourself before you get out of your car.

Get to know the locals at grocery stores, gas stations etc.

**Tell a friend** or relative when you are leaving, where you are fishing and when you will return

Take a rain jacket, **change of clothes** & shoes plus a warm sweater to have in your vehicle in case the weather turns foul

**Flashlight, "Fix A Flat"** for instant flat tire repair, make sure your spare is in good shape, know where the closest town with a garage is located.

Keep **extra stuff** -- paper towels, food bars or snacks, water & a blanket--- stored in dry containers

Use a **wading staff** if you are going into fast water

Fly fishers can take a tip from river paddlers and carry a river **whistle and knife**. A river whistle is much louder (ear-shatteringly loud) than an ordinary whistle. If you are fly fishing from a canoe or kayak be sure to have your personal flotation device (life jacket).

Take a **First Aid Kit**. I have personally experienced a few hook wounds and have treated my friends' hook wounds and minor injuries with my handy first aid kit. Antibiotic ointment is a must and I swear by aspirins with caffeine and ibuprofen. (Check with your doctor, first.) One more very important medicine to have on hand is Benedryl for plant and insect stings.

Wear the **proper wading boots** for salt water fly fishing to avoid sting rays and to give you sure footing when walking over slippery river rocks.

Take along plenty of **water**. In warm weather, carrying frozen water bottles will ensure you of a day long supply of cold water. (Tip: freeze bottles partially full depending on how much ice you want—just fill to the top with fresh water before you pack.)

## TEXAS TROUT & WHITE BASS

*Constance Whiston*

### **Texas trout season runs from November to March.**

The Guadalupe River running below Canyon Dam, in the heart of the Hill Country, is our home state trout river.

There are two ways to fish the Guadalupe, one by joining the Guadalupe River Chapter of Trout Unlimited and paying National T.U. dues, the local GRTU dues plus the lease access fee and attending a lease access orientation class culminating in an investment of over \$100.00. The second method is through the new sites acquired by Texas Parks & Wildlife. In 2000, TPWD acquired locations on the Guadalupe River where trout fishers can wade fish free of charge.

What's the difference between GRTU & TPWD? The size of the fish and the number of access locations. GRTU stocks larger fish and offers numerous lease member only locations. TPWD stocks fingerlings to mid size fish (8 to 14 inches) with 3 or 4 free public access locations. GRTU has already begun stocking fish, but keep in mind, all their locations are private. On Monday November 19th, the TPWD web site (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>) posted information on

stocking dates and information on the free fishing spots. By the way, TPWD stocks several places all over the state, not just the Guadalupe River, in a "catch and keep up to 5 fish" regulation while the law on the lower tail waters of the Guadalupe River is keeping only "one fish over 18 inches". If you see people with stringers or anyone in violation of the state law on the Guadalupe River, please phone the game warden. The Guadalupe is freezing cold this time of year, hard to wade and referred to as a nymph dragging river. Suggestion: "get your flies from a fly shop that knows the river". Stay away from dry flies until you master the "drag free drift" and learn how to fish the river by attending the next TWFF class/outing coming in January.

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### **White bass fly fishing is on the way!**

There is usually an early run of males in January then the females begin arriving around Valentines Day. Grab your boots and waders and get out there because it's a short, very hot run. The Pedernales, the Llano and Colorado rivers along with numerous creeks offer great White Bass fly fishing. Think "white and on the bottom". Red and white clousers or white lead head jigs fished on the bottom using either a sinking line or plenty of split shot to get the fly down. These fish are not leader shy so use line strong enough to get down there and drag on the bottom. At the last TWFF outing I got into a frenzy of prespawn males at Richland Chambers Lake. It made the hair on the back of my neck stand up! Voracious shad chasers attacking at the top of the water in tornado like swirls. The Max Starke Dam at Marble Falls, Colorado Bend State Park and Milton Reimers Fish Camp are the most frequently fished locations for whites.

Get ready to use everything you've ever read about fish etiquette! both trout and white bass fishing will require patience due to the bumper to bumper fly fishers and spin casters on the water. I recommend fishing during the week as opposed to the weekend to catch fish and stay sane. Fish for trout and whites at dawn and sunset, at times when the feeding/spawning fever is high, you can catch them all day. A few guidelines to keep in mind are: light rods, boots, waders, warm clothes, a thermos of hot coffee, rain jacket, the TPWD Outdoor Annual "rules & regs" book, fishing license with trout stamp, know the flow before you go, always fish with a friend, wading can be dangerous and take food, you will get hungry. If you cover all the bases, educate yourself prior to your outing then you may be rewarded with a miracle day like one I had a couple of years ago. Huge trout slammed anything I put in the water! The nymph fishing was so hot my tippet gave out so I tied on a 3x leader (that's heavy!) and a big purple bead head woolly bugger. The monsters devoured the pour fly, beat it to a pulp and my arm got tired from catching so many rainbows.

May you all be blessed with sweet fish memories and tired arms.



*Sign up now for the  
Spring Session  
May 3, 4 & 5*

*The Constance Whiston School of Fly Fishing*

Located on a beautiful private ranch in the Hill Country, each uniquely decorated cabin has a fully equipped kitchen and is air-conditioned. We will cover the fundamentals of fly fishing, casting, warm, cold & salt water, flies, and take you on a fly fishing excursion where you will have an opportunity to practice your skills. We encourage you to enroll early. Since we are focusing on individualized attention, we are limiting the spring session to 10.

For more information write:  
[cwhiston@io.com](mailto:cwhiston@io.com)  
or call: 512-916-4393

## **ANNUAL TROUT STOCKING KICKS OFF DEC. 4**

*(Press release from Texas Parks and Wildlife)*

AUSTIN, Texas -- For an enjoyable family outing, it doesn't get much easier or inexpensive than winter trout fishing in Texas.

Beginning Dec. 4 and continuing through March, Texas Parks and Wildlife will stock about a quarter-million rainbow trout at 90 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.



Anglers heading to the Guadalupe River below Canyon Dam to test their skills on Texas' only year-round trout fishery can get free access to the water at Camp Beans and Camp Huaco. These access points are the same fishing leases that were free to the public in the winter and spring of 2000-2001 as part of TPW's River Recreation Initiative, which provided funding to purchase the access rights. Because of their popularity last year, the leases have been extended an additional 50 days and the number of trout stockings on the Guadalupe has been increased from four to six.

The popular trout-stocking program has been an annual offering in Texas for the last two decades, although limited funding resources have hampered hopes of expanding the effort in recent years. TPW will purchase 137,000 trout from commercial fish hatcheries, and donations from city parks and recreation agencies and other groups will fund 114,343 additional fish.

The trout-stocking program is funded through the sale of Texas Freshwater Trout Stamps. 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 under 17 years of age, 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 possession limit is 10 in all Texas waters. There is no minimum length.

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.

For anglers headed to the Guadalupe, Camp Beans is located at the third bridge crossing on River Road northwest of New Braunfels. Located among towering bluffs, this has traditionally been a popular area with fly anglers because of its excellent trout habitat and wading water.

The Camp Beans river stretch is located in the special trout regulation zone in which an 18-inch minimum size and one-trout daily bag limit are in effect. Trout retained from this area must be caught on an artificial lure, although anglers can catch fish using any bait type they wish. The entrance to Camp Beans is about a quarter-mile north of the third bridge crossing on River Road. Camping is also available at this site for a fee.

Camp Huaco is located on both sides of River Road at the first bridge crossing, about 10 miles south of Sattler. This 32-acre campground contains a beautiful stretch of water with good wading and deep pools. About 6,000 trout will be stocked at this site. Anglers may harvest a daily bag limit of five trout, and there are no minimum size restrictions for trout at Camp Huaco.

Additional free access to the Guadalupe River for trout anglers is available directly below the dam at the hydropower plant on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property.

A total of 21,124 rainbow trout will be stocked by TPW in the Guadalupe River on six stocking dates.

For more information about upcoming rainbow trout stockings, check the TPW Web site (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish/infish/reports/trout2000.htm>) or call Texas Parks and Wildlife at (800) 792-1112 and follow the menu options.