



IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 2 | Officer Contact Information | 6 | Protecting River Flow in the Guadalupe:
Guadalupe River Association |
| 3 | Bud Priddy One Fly / May Lost Canyon Outing | 7 | Upcoming Events |
| 4 | July Outing: Medina River, Bandera TX | 8 | NWF Report on Texas Water Resources and
Native Fish |
| 5 | Guadalupe River Named Among
Top Endangered Rivers | | |



A Message From the President Constance Whiston

Texas Women Fly Fishers had a wonderful but chilly outing at Tres Rios Campground, March 8, 9 & 10. The festivities began Friday evening with a two-hour casting class offered by yours truly, then we snuggled down in our cabins for what felt like a winter sleep. Next morning, we created an entourage of kayaks and canoes heading down the Brazos River for a 5 mile paddle & fly fish trip lead by Ed Low. Ed served as our river guide and chef for the weekend. His river and food expertise come from years of guiding Montessori School children on Texas Rivers and as the owner of Celebration Restaurant in Dallas. It was a brisk morning so a few of our members chose to stay behind and wade fish Squaw Creek at camp. Tres Rios Campground is located at the convergence of Squaw Creek, the Brazos River and the Paluxy River, so those who did not attend the flotilla had several options for wade fishing. On our return from the Brazos trip, we were met with the bright faces of fly fishers who reported catching two or three fish each. Those who were not fishing Squaw Creek or running the Brazos tied flies next to a roaring fire, in the large dining hall with expert tyer, Martin Persch. Al Crise showed up just before dinner Saturday night to offer a few casting tips, then gave us an informative update on Fly Fish 2002 the Texas fly fishing show in Athens, Texas, at the Fresh Water Fisheries Center. An extra bonus from Al was the conservation news on the golden algae bloom from Possum Kingdom down to Glen Rose. During Al's presentation we dined on lasagna, fresh garden salad, garlic bread, wine and for dessert, peach and blackberry cobblers. Rudi Donaldson topped the evening off as our raffle facilitator. Earlier in the day she organized tables full of donations and sold raffle tickets in preparation for the drawings after dinner. The real excitement came when she topped off the raffle by auctioning some of our most valuable items.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Ed Low, Martin Persch, Al Crise and Rudi Donaldson for making our Texas Women Fly Fishers March outing a success.

If you think Tres Rios was fun, wait till you attend our next outing the Bud Priddy One Fly on the Nueces River at Camp Wood, Texas!

To me and Dr. Bud Priddy, the Nueces is one of the most beautiful rivers in the state. It is aquarium clear, wide open, perfect for fly casting and easy to wade. There are deep sections for those who

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Adrial & John Boals, The Woodlands

Diane Fozdar, Dallas

Kimberly Gaido, Houston

Lavene Jones, Austin

Diane Sansbury, Austin

Pamela Vestal, Spring

TEXAS WOMEN FLY FISHERS

Current Officers

President:

Constance Whiston
cwhiston@io.com

First Vice President

Vacant

Second Vice President

Sheila Hood
sheliahood@twff.net

Treasurer

Annette Blythe
ablythe@houston.rr.com

Secretary

Sarah Valentine
secretary@twff.net

Historian

Coco Davenport
coco@twff.net

Conservation Chair

Joy Emshoff
jemshoff@austin.rr.com

Newsletter Editor

Debi Prather
editor@twff.net

Web Master

Rudi Donaldson
webmaster@twff.net

Greeter

Mary Cole
marycole@webtv.net

Email all TWFF Officers

officers@twff.net

TWFF Homepage

<http://www.twff.net>

(Continued from page 1)

prefer to paddle their canoes or kayaks too. At Wes Cooksey Camp-ground outside Camp Wood there is a nice boat dock perfect for launching canoes/kayaks for a float fish expedition. Joy and I put in there last year and could not resist taking a swim. The boulders fairly beg you to jump from them into the 30 or 40 foot depths of crystal clear water. Our club will be staying at Lost Canyon Retreat, a secluded hideaway with plenty of fly fishing water for those who do not wish to join the contest. I would encourage all to try the contest since it is very low key with a small entry fee, plus a little zip lock bag is given to each contestant containing a tape measure, printed guidelines and a map with all the river crossings and put-ins.

The sponsors of the "BP" are the local FFF clubs, so if you've been a TWFF member for awhile, you will probably see friends from other clubs at registration or at the awards dinner. The Saturday night dinner and ceremony awards so many prizes to attendees that almost everyone goes home with a treat. You've got to come whip the socks off John! He is an Alamo Fly Fishers member (very sweet, kind and honest) who has won three years in a row and needs his socks whipped bad. Contact Sarah Valentine for reservations at Lost Canyon and join the TWFF gang for fun on the Nueces.

One more point, you do not have to be an expert to come fish with us, so come on out to the Nueces Canyon, fish the Nueces River and enjoy the finest in fly fishing Texas.

See updated information about the Nueces River / Lost Canyon /Bud Priddy Outing on page 3.

Please visit our sponsor!



<http://www.fishgame.com>

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
1/4 Page Display	\$20	\$200
1/3 Page Display	\$30	\$300
1/2 Page Display	\$35	\$350
Full Page Display	\$50	--

All ads must be prepaid. Ads with graphics should be submitted as low resolution GIF or JPG files. Send to Newsletter Editor Debi Prather, dprather1@austin.rr.com

TWFF Outing at Lost Canyon (Nueces River), Barksdale, TX, May 17-19, 2002

Update. At this time it appears that one cabin may be available at Lost Canyon. Also, see the list of nearby motels below. Contact Sarah Valentine concerning the cabin (sval@flash.net, telephone 210.637.0486 or 210.846.0486) or make your reservations directly with the motel of your choice. See the outings information page on our website, www.twff.net, for other details. A map, directions and other area information is available on the Lost Canyon website, www.lostcanyon.org. Lost Canyon is located on the western edge of the Texas Hill Country near Barksdale in Real County, 50 miles due north of Uvalde off Highway 55. Take Hwy 55 into Barksdale, where **the only turn you can make is Country Road 211.** (It will be on your left if you are travelling south on Hwy 55.) There is usually a large sign for Lost Canyon at the intersection, **however the sign has been down for repairs** and may not be up at the time of our outing. Take the country road (also known as Dry Creek Road) 4 miles to the Lost Canyon gate, which is on the left.

BUD PRIDDY MEMORIAL

One Fly Contest

on the
headwaters of the nueces river

Sponsored by the South Texas member clubs of
Federation of Fly Fishers

Note:
Alamo Fly Fishers
will be stocking the
Nueces with bluegill
on April 20, and
bass were stocked
last October.
Fishing should be
very productive!

Registration from 7:00 to 9:30
Downtown at Lindbergh Park
Camp Wood, Texas.
Saturday, May 18, 2002

Entry Fee is \$15.00
includes dinner and door prizes

Buffet Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
CASA FALCONE

For entry information, please call

Buddy Robichaux
210-492-7125
flyfshr@attglobal.net

Bruce Nelson
210-828-2734
bdntex@stic.net

Constance Whiston
512-916-4393
cwhiston@io.com

Mike Andrews
830-895-4580
MIKEINKERRVILLE@webtv.net

Accommodations Available

Nueces River Motel	(830) 234-3648
Woodbine Inn	(830) 597-2310
Hill Country Motel	(830) 597-3278
Ledge Water Camp	(830) 234-4178

Medina River Outing

July 12 –14, 2002

Bandera, Texas

Coordinators: Coco Davenport and Sarah Valentine

Ladies,

I have confirmation on the Medina River Outing based in Bandera. We will be staying at the River Front Motel in Bandera on Friday and Saturday, July 12-13 and returning home Sunday July 14. They have rooms for 2 and rooms for 4, frigs in the rooms. \$79.00 a night per couple. {That means per room for 2} If you want an additional person in your room that will be an extra charge of \$5.00 per person.

Go to <http://www.TexasHillCountryMall.com/> click on Hotel/ Motel and look for River Front Motel

Also Jelly Stone Campgrounds is across the hwy on the right of the bridge and we are on the left of the bridge so there is the option for camping if you wish. We will plan to eat in town or bring our own and cook out at the park in front of the motel. Town is 3 or 4 blocks from the River Front Motel.

The number for reservations is 1800 870 5671.

They request we make our reservations by phone with a credit card and the list of who will be staying with you in your cabin. They will not charge the card until we arrive but that way they have confirmation on who is coming.

Let me know if you have questions. I will be sending you information on the river and what flies to bring as we get closer to the date. Sarah has contacted a man who rents kayaks and we will get that information to you soon. He will also take us up river and we will paddle and fish as we come down river. I'm sure there will be a slight fee for transporting paddlers up river but Sarah will be getting back to all of us with that information. The river is quite shaded.

I plan to find us a place to wade fish also for those of us who would prefer wading to paddling.

Important the cut off date for holding cabins is June 15.

Make your reservations early.

Coco

Coordinator Contact Info:

Coco Davenport

coco@twff.net or coco@n-link.com

Phone: 512/752-3503

Sarah Valentine

sval@flash.net

Phone: 210/637-0486



2002 America's Most Endangered Rivers Report Names Guadalupe

(Press release dated 4/2/02. See supporting photos at www.americanrivers.org.)

(Washington, DC) - Today, American Rivers named Texas' Guadalupe River as one of the nation's Most Endangered Rivers for 2002, citing the risk of increased state-authorized water diversions that would reduce river flows to two Texas bays, seriously threatening fish and wildlife. At a series of press conferences and other events today, American Rivers and dozens of local and national partner organizations announced the annual list of the nation's most endangered rivers, placing the Guadalupe at the #10 spot on the list of 11.

"If the state of Texas doesn't take action to ensure that water keeps flowing in the river, existing and proposed diversions could dewater the river and deprive San Antonio Bay and Aransas Bay of needed fresh water. These flows are critical both to the health of the environment and to the continuation of economically significant activities, such as recreational and commercial fishing, birdwatching, and related tourism," said American Rivers President Rebecca R. Wodder.

A new state water plan adopted in January proposes numerous dams, pipelines, and other diversion projects with little consideration for the amount of water needed for healthy rivers and coastal bays. The threat facing the Guadalupe River is particularly imminent. Plans are in place to pump more water from Canyon Lake, build a reservoir that captures the flows of the Guadalupe near the coast, and to convert unused irrigation rights to municipal use, which would take water just above Guadalupe Bay and pump it 170 miles to San Antonio.

Responding to that threat, a Texas conservation organization, the San Marcos River Foundation, has filed an application for a water right guaranteeing that a reasonable amount of water will be left in the river. Should the Foundation secure the permit, it will donate the rights to a state water trust to ensure that the water stays in the river to reach the estuaries. Unfortunately, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, which has applied for new rights to divert water from the River to sell to other users, has filed a motion with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) to dismiss the Foundation's application.

"Texas water regulations provide for the protection of instream water rights," said the Foundation's Dianne Wassench. "We are hoping to protect this beautiful river and San Antonio and Aransas Bays, which mean so much to Texans. We also want to set a precedent for river protection in the state."

As the Guadalupe flows into the Gulf of Mexico, its fresh water nourishes San Antonio and Aransas Bays, which support commercial and recreational fisheries worth an estimated \$575 million each year and are home to the endangered whooping crane. If current water rights holders exercised their full allocations, freshwater flows from the Guadalupe would only be sufficient to support healthy estuaries less than half the time.

"Both people and wildlife can benefit from the protection of river flows," said Dr. Norman Johns, a water resources scientist with the National Wildlife Federation. "The future of commercial and recreational fishing and tourism, and the people those industries support, are intertwined with the whooping crane because they all depend on fresh water reaching the estuaries."

The requested conservation water right would be junior to all of the other water rights that have been granted in the basin and will not hinder the region's economic growth. San Antonio and the surrounding areas have a range of options to meet their water needs, including purchasing rights from existing permit holders, funding irrigation efficiency measures, and undertaking additional conservation. Most of these options would be less expensive than piping Guadalupe River water uphill from the mouth of the river to the city.

"The instream water right will not stop or inhibit growth in the region. In fact, by keeping a small amount of flow in the river during a drought, it will help maintain the river's role in the long-term growth and quality of life in this region," said Kathy Viatella, an economist with Environmental Defense.

Because the state has only recently had to consider the impacts of new water rights permits on rivers and bay systems, many streams and rivers across the state of Texas have been fully parceled out to users. If all users took the water they're entitled to, these streams would cease to flow, especially during dry periods. The Foundation and its supporters hope the Guadalupe and others Texas rivers can avoid that fate.

"Watersheds throughout Texas, such as the Lower Colorado River, face threats similar to those facing the Guadalupe River," noted Ken Kramer of the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter. "Through the Foundation's application for this conservation right and the listing of the Guadalupe as one of America's Most Endangered Rivers, our groups hope to bring attention to the plight of all rivers in the state and encourage decisions that will keep them alive and flowing for future generations."

Protecting River Flow in the Guadalupe

The Guadalupe River Assn., Inc., a non-profit corporation, will be holding a combination board and general informational meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2002 at the Guadalupe Valley Telephone Cooperative auditorium, 36101 FM 3159, Smithson's Valley, Texas. The evening will begin at 6:30 P. M. with a sandwich potluck meal. The meeting will begin at 7:00. The subject will include a briefing of the recommendations of the administrative law judge in the contested case hearing with the River Crossing Golf Course. The board will have to make decisions regarding how to proceed. Members and visitors are asked to bring potluck sandwiches of any variety for themselves and one additional person. Chips and condiments will be furnished. Desserts are always welcomed. Coffee, tea and water will be furnished by GVTC.



The association's current concern is making sure that enough water remains in the river during "normal" and drought times for the beneficial use of property owners, river recreationist and the public in general. The association's long time interest has been with the Guadalupe above Canyon Lake. Now our concern is to make sure water remains in the riverbed as much as possible. This interest helps to benefit all users from the river's origin to the coastal estuaries. We believe that the decisions of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) on this case will set the standard by which several other similar diversion requests will be governed.

The Association has taken the position of opposition to the diversion at a "historical average" normal river flows for several reasons: one, to insure that as water demands increase, there is continued fresh water flow which naturally augments the underground water in the Trinity Aquifer and other area aquifers; two, to insure that there is water flow in the river bed to allow for the natural uses of the resource, the watering of livestock and wildlife and to provide for the natural habitat for fish in the region; and three, in order to allow for the natural recreational use of the River.

During a two-month period that ended at the beginning of the rains of early October 2000, a three-mile stretch of the river just above the mouth of Canyon Lake was dry. According to one member of the Association, "This is the first time since flow records have been recorded (80+ years) that the river flow at the Spring Branch gauge was significantly lower than the flow at the Comfort gauge." In the two-month period noted above, the River flow at Spring Branch was at 6 cubic feet per second and within two meandering river miles, the flow was non-existent. "It appears that already something unnatural is occurring which is sucking the river dry," said another association member, who continued, "I don't believe that the river water should be sold to entities such as property developers and used for the sole purpose of watering things such as man-made golf courses. If everyone were allowed to do that, there would be many times in a not so dry year that there would be no river flow around the Spring Branch area."

Individuals and families wishing to take part in the continuing efforts of keeping the Guadalupe a more natural, clean and tranquil river are encouraged to join the Association. Membership applications will be available at the door. For more information, please call 830-228-5245 or see the website, website www.guadalupevalleyriver.org.

Contact information:

Guy W. Anderson, President
690 Specht's Crossing
Spring Branch, TX 78070
Work 210-484-2550
Home 830-885-7200
E-mail: guyw@gvtc.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS NATIONAL CONCLAVE, AUGUST 6 – 10, 2002 AT LIVINGSTON, MONTANA

The annual Federation of Fly Fishers National Conclave at Livingston, Montana is the epitome of fly fishing events. This year top fly fishers, casting instructors and fly tyers will gather at Livingston for classes and workshops sponsored by members of the Federation. For more information check your Spring edition of "FLYFISHER" magazine or the National FFF web site.

THE TEXAS WILDLIFE EXPO

Always on the first weekend in October

Mark your calendars now for the annual Texas Wildlife Expo at Texas Parks. The event is for the whole family and it's FREE! The coordinator of the Fly Fishing Tent has a standing invitation to all fly fishing clubs in Texas to set up booths, teach casting and demonstrate fly tying. This year more casting instructors are needed so if you would like to volunteer contact the coordinator at: constance.whiston@tpwd.state.tx.us For more information on the Texas Wildlife Expo check the Texas Parks & Wildlife web site: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

CONTRIBUTE TO THE FFF SOUTHERN COUNCIL OUTREACH COMMITTEE COOKBOOK

As I am sure you are aware (or, since I haven't heard from you - you may not be aware), The FFF Southern Council Outreach Committee is doing a cookbook. However, we are not limiting recipe submittals to the Southern Council only. We'll take any recipe we can get. We would appreciate having recipes from your and/or your spouses to include in our book. Submit as many as you like. We can use them. The recipes can be for anything whatsoever.

Send your contributions by email (cpsmh@centurytel.net), fax (870-424-7100) or mail (2603 Buford Spur Road, Mountain Home, AR 72653). Don't worry about format. I'll take care of that. I have to ship the recipes to the printer by May 1 in order to get them back to bring to Livingston in August.

Please let me hear from you.

Pat Smith, Managing Director, FFF Southern Council



Join High Desert Angler's Jan Crawford and Karen Denison for a week-long getaway June 1-7, 2002 at the beautiful 4UR Ranch in Creede, Colorado. Enjoy either a five day SCHOOL or the concurrent RETREAT PROGRAM.

For more information, please see our web page at www.highdesertangler.com/womenflyfish.htm or email Jan at jdchda@swcp.com.

We'd love to see you there!



People and Nature: Our Future is in the Balance

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

GULF STATES NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER
44 East Avenue Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78701

(512)-476-9805
FAX (512)-476-9810
<http://www.nwf.org>

Water Resource Management and Texas' Native Fish

Although the rugged Texas landscape may seem "natural" on the surface, a closer look at the state's rivers and wildlife that depend on them reflect one-hundred-and-fifty years of water development for various human uses. Over this period Texas' rivers and streams have been modified to supply water for agriculture, industrial, and municipal needs (e.g. dams, diversions, pipelines) as well as navigation and flood control purposes (e.g. levees, canals, channelization). These modifications often impose a heavy burden on fish and wildlife and negatively affect the productivity of our fisheries, the diversity of our native fish species, and the Texas economy. As demands for freshwater increase, we must ensure that sufficient water remains in our rivers and streams and flows to our bays and estuaries for Texas' native fish.



Sufficient water in rivers and fresh water inflows to coastal bays and estuaries must be set aside to support fish...

Since 1850, construction of more than 200 major reservoirs in Texas has permanently altered the hydrology of rivers and wildlife habitat and impacted our native fish species. Dams and diversions in Texas have resulted in reduction of *environmental flows* (sufficient water for fish and wildlife habitat) and loss of riparian habitats and contributed to the extinction of five native fish species. Today, nearly 20 percent of the state's native fish are threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Additional species are at jeopardy of extinction from increased diversions, new dams and channelization projects, and over pumping of groundwater and loss of spring habitat.

The following three native Texas fish species are threatened or endangered and are vulnerable from wasteful water use and new water supply projects:

- **Arkansas River Shiner** (*Notropis girardi*) [Threatened] Lives in the advancing ridges of sand across stream bottoms. Flows with the right amount of turbulence are paramount to maintain habitat for this animal. Diversions and groundwater pumping, poor water quality, and construction of dams have all contributed to the species' decline.
- **San Marcos Gambusia** (*Gambusia georgei*) [Endangered, likely extinct] Depends on the clear spring water coming from the headwaters of the San Marcos River. It may, in fact, already be extinct due to habitat degradation. Reduced groundwater flows from the springs and water pollution from the growth of nearby cities have directly contributed to the demise of this species.
- **Paddlefish** (*Polydon spathula*) [State Threatened] The oldest surviving animal species in North America, paddlefish are sometimes called a spoonbill, spoonbill cat, or shovelnose cat and can grow up to 87 inches and 200 pounds, although most are usually between 10-15 pounds. Paddlefish prefer to live in slow moving water of large rivers and need large amounts of flowing water to reproduce. Construction of dams and reservoirs along Texas rivers decreases water flow, interrupts spawning, and decreases reproduction.

Reduction of river flows can also degrade coastal bays and estuaries and the wildlife habitat therein. The estuary (semi-enclosed land and water interface where freshwater mixes with marine water allowing unique plants and animals to thrive) is an indispensable aquatic nursery for crabs, shrimp, and fish. Ninety-eight percent of the fish and shellfish harvested from the Gulf of Mexico directly depend on these habitats. Accordingly, the productivity of commercial and recreational fisheries largely depends upon sufficient volume and timing of nutrient and sediment rich freshwater inflows to the estuaries.

Estuaries support a significant part of the Texas economy – including some of the most productive fisheries in the U.S. This represents a 2.5 billion-dollar industry, supporting jobs from fishing guides to hotel operators, to commercial fisherman and restaurants. Further, healthy coastal fisheries provide important food for birds and other marine and estuarine wildlife.



The consequences of human water supply management are reflected in the diversity of our fish species and productivity of our coastal habitats. As we manage our rivers and streams, planners and decision-makers need to set aside sufficient water – environmental flows in rivers and freshwater inflows to the coast – to support wildlife habitat and thus the Texas economy. As we plan to meet future water needs, we must also ensure that our rivers and streams support the productivity and biodiversity of our fisheries for future generations.

Photo credit: Sam Marcos gambusia © Bob Edwards, TPWD

The State Water Plan – a planning tool that guides spending of tax dollars for state water supply development. Unfortunately it fails to provide water for wildlife and habitat. Wasteful and destructive new dams and reservoirs are proposed in the *State Water Plan* that will lead to significant habitat loss. A water plan that leaves out the environment and wildlife is no plan at all.

More information, see: www.nwf.org/texaswaterforwildlife , www.texaswatermatters.org, or call 512-476-9805.

How You Can Make a Difference !

- **Call and write your state Representative and Senator and tell them to oppose funding for new water supply projects until the *State Water Plan* safeguards our natural heritage by making sure we reserve water for wildlife and habitat.**

For contact information for your state Representative and Senator see: www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm , or call 512-463-1252.

- **Also, write to:**

Chairman David Counts
House Natural Resources Committee
Room GW.11, Capitol Building
Austin, TX 78768

Chairman J. E. “Buster” Brown
Senate Natural Resources Committee
P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

- Tell them that the *State Water Plan* fails to protect fish and wildlife, destroys our wildlife heritage, and wastes our tax dollars.