

# Purtis Creek Outing

## April 23-25, 2010

### **Purtis Creek State Park**

14225 F.M. 316

Eustace, Texas 75124

903-425-2332

(75 miles southeast of Dallas)

[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/purtis\\_creek/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/purtis_creek/)

**Outing Coordinators:** Karla Grimwood & Mary K. Janco

[PurtisCreekCoordinator@twff.net](mailto:PurtisCreekCoordinator@twff.net)

### **Headquarters**

Comfort Suites

Hwy 175 & 198

Mabank, TX 75147

(903) 887-0680

### **RV/Tent Spaces**

If you are planning to camp at the park, it is important to make your reservations **NOW** for one of the 59 sites. It is prime bass season and the park, especially the water-access sites, will fill up fast. To make your reservation, call **512-389-8900** or go to the website at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us) and reserve the number of nights you want to camp and designate what *type* of site you want, i.e. water and electric (\$16 night). Only the first night will be charged at the time of reservation. You are not able to reserve a particular campsite, as all of the sites are first come, first served. Entrance fee to the park is \$3.00. Kayaks and canoes can be rented through the Park office by calling **903-425-2332**.

### **Other Accommodations**

Comfort Suites

Hwy 175 & 198

Mabank, TX 75147

(903) 887-0680

The Comfort Suites in Mabank (8 miles from the state park) is brand new and eager to accommodate us. They are offering suites with 2 queen beds and a sofa sleeper for \$70 + tax (\$23 + tax for 3 in a room or \$35 + tax for 2 in a room). That's a \$39 a night discount plus a full, hot breakfast is provided each morning. There is also an indoor pool, hot tub, exercise room, and free Internet access. Rooms have everything you need including a microwave and refrigerator. They are holding some rooms for us, so tell them that you are with the Texas Women Fly Fishers when you call to make your reservation.

**Directions from Hotel to Park:**

Continue toward Eustace/Athens on US Hwy 175 East for 2.2 miles.  
Turn LEFT on CR 2938 (which will become CR 2398) for 3 miles.  
Turn RIGHT on FM 316 and you are at the park.  
Total trip = 5.2 miles

**Please make your reservations directly with the location of your choice. Send an email to [PurtisCreekCoordinator@twff.net](mailto:PurtisCreekCoordinator@twff.net) when your reservations are confirmed, as we need a head count of persons attending and where they are staying.**

**Friday Night Mullet Mixer – 6:30pm**

The Friday Night Mullet Mixer will be held at the Comfort Suites in Mabank (see address above). Please bring a dish to share. You are welcome to bring your own beverages, but a cash bar will also be available.

**Speakers – 7pm**

Our guest speakers this year will be Brian Hughes and Collins Illich. Brian is a guide on Purtil Creek and the host of the Texas Fishing and Outdoors Show. He's quite a celebrity in the fishing world. Go to his website to learn more about him: [www.texasfishingandoutdoors.com](http://www.texasfishingandoutdoors.com). Collins is a Temple Fork Outfitters (TFO) representative and will be assisting with rod and fly selections after Brian tells us where to catch them. You can learn more about TFO at [www.templeforkflyrods.com](http://www.templeforkflyrods.com).

**Saturday Night Supper – 4:30pm**

Supper on Saturday night will be in Eustace at the El Patron Mexican Restaurant:  
117 US Hwy 175 W  
Eustace, TX 75124  
903-425-8860  
[www.elpatron.embarqspace.com](http://www.elpatron.embarqspace.com)

**Directions from Hotel to Restaurant:**

Continue toward Eustace/Athens on US Hwy 175 East for 6.9 miles.

**Directions from Park to Restaurant:**

Start out from Purtil Creek State Park going south on FM 316 for 3.2 miles.  
Turn RIGHT onto US Hwy 175 and go 0.5 miles.  
El Patron is at 117 US Hwy 175 W.  
Total trip = 3.66 miles

*We will be eating early and having our business meeting at this time, so that those who want to can get back out on the water before dark.*

## Flies of Choice and Fishing Locations

A friend local to Eustace shared this information:

"I have always gone by the idea that fish are opportunistic feeders. By that I mean they don't sit around waiting on the biggest baitfish to come by. They eat the first thing that comes by, big or little. The baitfish in April are going to be about 1 to 2.5 inches long, so **size 6 hook on a Clouser with a skirt 1.5 or 2 inches long** would work for the underwater predators and a **Miss Prissy in size 8 or 10**. Purtis can be hard to fish because of all the deep water. Fish the pockets. There is good water about 1/2 mile from the ramp. 11 o'clock if you are looking straight down the ramp. There are all kinds of submerged timber 9 o'clock from the ramp, about 150 yards...wear your PFD. You will no doubt run up on some boats during your trip. Ask the rangers and anyone you see on the fishing piers for more tips of where the fish are biting. Bream usually start bedding around the first full moon in April, so hopefully you will catch it just right. I will try to get some fishing reports before you come down".

## Rods

A 5-8wt rod is recommended...remember we're going after those big bass! ☺

## Other Information

Saturday breakfast and lunch and Sunday breakfast are on your own, though Eustace is only about 4 miles away.

Paddleboats, rowboats, kayaks, and canoes can be rented from Purtis Creek State Park. \$11 for first hour and \$5 each additional hour or \$22 for 6 hours and \$32 for 12 hours. Call the park for reservations.

To refresh your memory, or if this is your first trip to Purtis Creek, you may want to refer to *Bass On The Fly* by Sean Polk, our guest speaker in 2008. You can find his article on the TWFF website by clicking on Fly Fishing Resources under the Putting It All Together section:

<http://www.twff.net/Fly%20Fishing%20Resources/Fly%20Fishing%20Resources.htm>

At this time of year, Sunrise will be about 7am and Sunset will be about 8pm. There will be a half-moon waxing toward full.

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is another fishing location option:

5550 F.M. 2495

Athens, Texas 75752

903-676-2277

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/visitorcenters/tffc/visit/information/>

Hours: 9am – 4pm Tuesday through Saturday & 1pm – 4pm Sunday

Admission: \$5.50 adults/\$4.50 seniors 65+/\$3.50 kids 4-12 yrs.

No dogs are allowed on the grounds

Updates will be posted on the Message Board. Remember, this will be a tax-free Saturday for all the TWFF items. License plate frames will be delivered at this time too. Bring your checkbooks!

\*Mark your calendar and **make those reservations today!**\*