**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 12, 2020

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**Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust Helps to Remove Abandoned Crab Traps**

**SEGUIN, TEXAS** – The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust joined forces with the San Antonio Bay Partnership for their 2020 Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program. GBRT’s Executive Director, Tyler Sanderson, and Development Director, Lisa Adams, volunteered for a day and pulled 50 abandoned crab traps from the San Antonio Bay.

“It is through partnerships like these that help to make a difference and to get the word out about the importance of keeping our coastal waters clean,” says Sanderson.

Thanks to GBRT’s Board Trustee, Mr. Ronnie Luster, a founding member of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), he and other partners concerned about the abandoned crab traps, lobbied for legislation to make it easier for anybody to help remove derelict crab traps from the water.

The Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program (ACTRP) was created by Senate Bill 1410 during the 77th (2001) Legislative session. This bill granted the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Commission authority to create a ten-day crab trap closure that begins the third Friday of each February.  Crab traps left in the water during this time are considered litter and may be disposed of appropriately.  Before this law, only law enforcement officials could legally remove abandoned crab traps from Texas’ marine waters.

Thanks to these efforts, several organizations have collaborated every year to collect these traps. Some are lingering in the ocean while several have washed up on the mangroves. Crabs caught in these abandoned traps are released back into the ocean.

According to TPWD’s website, since 2002, volunteers have removed 32,705 abandoned traps from Texas waters. GBRT staff were able to collect 50 abandoned traps during their visit. In the ten days of the closure, several volunteers collected 843 traps. To learn more about the Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program, you can visit the TPWD website at [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov).

The mission of the **GBRT** is to preserve the unique natural heritage of the Guadalupe watershed for future generations, by protecting open landscapes, working farms and ranches, and wildlife habitat through conservation easements, education, and outreach that connects people to the water and the land.

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust organization that was developed to conserve land in the Guadalupe River Watershed for its natural, recreational, scenic, historic and productive value.

For more information about GBRT, our programs or to volunteer in 2021, please email inquiry@GBRTX.org or call 830-560-3981.

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**About GBRT:**

The mission of the **Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust** is to preserve the unique natural heritage of the Guadalupe watershed for future generations, by protecting open landscapes, working farms and ranches, and wildlife habitat through conservation easements, education, and outreach that connects people to the water and the land. Amazingly, in Texas where land is so plentiful, we are losing this open land more rapidly than any other state. The Guadalupe River is one of the most biologically diverse rivers in the United States, stretching from the springs and canyons of the Texas Hill Country to the marine environment of the Gulf Coast wetlands and San Antonio Bay.

**What is the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust?**

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust organization that was developed to conserve land in the Guadalupe River Watershed for its natural, recreational, scenic, historic and productive value. It was founded in 2001 by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, a conservation and reclamation district created in 1933 by the Texas Legislature. The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) has also partnered with the Trust. The voluntary board of directors consists of citizens who share a love of the Guadalupe River - one of the most pristine rivers in Texas.