

WACO FLY FISHING CLUB

May, 2013 www.wacoflyfishingclub.org Volume XIX: No.5

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Location:

Waco Wetlands Center

Program:

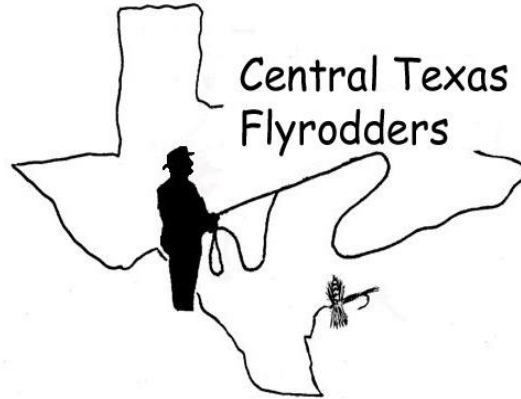
Texas IFFF Council President

Russell Husted

About 7:00 pm

Fly Tying and Tall Tales

About 6:00 p.m.



MAY PROGRAM - RUSSEL HUSTED – TEXAS IFFF COUNCIL AND COLORADO FISHING ON A BUDGET

Russell Husted is the president of the newly formed Texas Council of the IFFF, the International Federation of Fly Fishers. Texas fly fishing clubs were previously split between the Southern Council and the Gulf Coast Council. Given the size of Texas it just made sense for there to be a Texas Council.

Russell is going to discuss the new council and it's plans for the future. At the very least, the Texas Counsel should help the Texas fly fishing clubs communicate with each other and coordinate activities, but Russell will fill us in on much, much more.

To add icing to the cake, Russell will also give us a primer on fishing in Colorado on a budget and without having to become a complete Trout Bum to do it.



NEW CLUB WEBSITE

A little work is still needed but check out our new club website, version 1.0, at:

www.wacoflyfishingclub.org.

JUNE PROGRAM – LEFTY RAY CHAPA

If you have been involved with the Texas fly fishing scene for any length of time, you have probably heard of Lefty Ray Chapa. He has presented programs for us in the past, but it has been a while so it was time to invite him back.

Lefty Ray is a talented guy, a professional photographer, writer (see the January/February, 2013 issue of *Southwest Fly Fishing*), musician and fly fishing guide. His program will cover a lot of ground – Fishing the 12 Months of Texas (saltwater, coldwater, and warmwater fishing). This will be a quality program, mark your calendar and give some thought to inviting a guest. This would be a good time for our club to show off a little.

APRIL PROGRAM – WE WENT FISHING

A surprising number braved high winds to attend our April Club Outing at Highview Ranch. The winds really were pretty intense, too much for watercraft so we all waded fished. It was more like fishing the coast than inland.

Even so, everybody caught fish – some more than others. After a very successful fifteen minutes or so, John Maddux put up his fly rod to give the rest of us a chance. Oh, he also cooked dinner. There was something special about chowing down on tortilla wrapped hot links as the sun set. Thanks, John.

Lloyd Fason and Jim Gray mostly fished the tank up on the hill and reported a number of Bass and big Perch caught. Jeff Hoelter mostly fished the deep water from the dam and did well on Bass. Jim Gray just caught fish everywhere. Ray Emerson reportedly caught his share, but I didn't get a chance to talk to him.



Matt Bennett and I fished hard but only managed two each. Given the coastal-like winds I was a little surprised that my first fish was a Bass, not a Speck.

Many thanks to Rod Squires, Bob Bond and Dr. Tom Lundeen for allowing us to fish at Highview, it is a special place.

Bob Hanley

BUD PRIDDY MEMORIAL ONE FLY CONTEST – MAY 18, 2013

You are invited to the 2013 Bud Priddy Memorial One Fly Contest on the Nueces River in Camp Wood, TX on May 18. Registration for the One Fly Contest is located at Lindbergh Park in downtown Camp Wood, TX. The entry fee will be \$20 (plus a duplicate of the fly you intend to use) which will include dinner, trophies, and door prizes at the Casa Sifuentes Restaurant. A Mexican dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Trophy plaques will be awarded in three categories; 1. Longest bass, 2. Longest perch, 3. Most fish caught.

You will pick your favorite fly and all fish caught on that fly ONLY will count. If you lose the fly the contest is over, unless you can get it back, then you can continue to count fish. Once you lose the fly you can continue to fish, but any fish caught on another fly does not count.

For accommodations check out the Woodbine Inn at 830-597-2310, the Nueces River Motel at 830-234-3648, the Hill Country Motel at 830-597-3278, the Lost Canyon retreat at 830-234-3250, or the Ledge Water Camp at 830-234-4178. If you have any questions contact Lefty Ray Chapa at (210) 260-6154 or leftyray@leftyray.com.

Lindbergh Park is slightly north of the main intersection in Camp Wood. Registration starts at 7:00am. Fishing ends at 5:00pm with the results due at 6:00pm at the restaurant. Casa Sifuentes is located between the park and the main intersection on the west side of the highway.

Dr. Basden “Bud” Priddy was one of the original members of the Alamo Fly Fishers and grew up fishing the Nueces River in Camp Wood. Bud was very generous in his knowledge of fly fishing central Texas and became known as the “Dean” of Hill Country Fly Fishing. We honor his memory by holding this friendly contest every year.



OUTING AND JACK SPARKS 5 FLY CONTEST – LATHAM SPRINGS – SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013

If you can't make the Bud Priddy Memorial One Fly Contest maybe you can join other club members at Latham Springs Baptist Camp. This will be the first Saturday morning outing that we have had in several years. We will get the fishing started about 9:00 am and leave to let the fish recuperate about 1:00 pm. Hopefully the wind will be something less than hurricane force.

While we are there why don't we try a contest? Lets keep it simple, an award for the most fish caught on one fly. If you lose that fly you can tie on another and keep fishing, but any fish caught on that or subsequent flies do not count in the contest. The contest will be strictly voluntary. If you want to just fish without participating that is fine. If you want to participate. sign up at Latham Springs before you start fishing – look for the banner.

To sign up, donate a copy of the fly you will use in the contest together with an additional four flies of any pattern or \$5.00. That will make it a five fly contest and the club will use the donations to help offset the cost of the outing. By now you may be wondering why we are calling this the Jack Sparks 5 Fly when you can only use one fly The answer is that we have pins left over from the Jack Sparks 5 Fly Tying Contests we held a few years back. Each participant will get a pin.

By the way, you must be a club member to participate. If you haven't paid your 2013 dues yet we will be happy to take you money at Latham Springs.

The lakes at Latham Springs are known to produce Bass, big Perch and an occasional Crappie. You can fish from the bank, but a watercraft will allow you to cover more water.

This outing is strictly fishing so eat a big breakfast and BYO everything else except alcoholic beverages. Please do not bring any alcoholic beverages - Latham Springs is a Baptist Camp and we want to respect that.

Directions from Waco: I 35 north to the FM 2114/Downtown West exit 353. Turn into the Czech Stop to pick up some kolaches and other snacks – good eating and a bit of support for the West economy. After the Czech Stop, turn west onto FM 2114. Proceed west for approximately 12 miles, then turn onto the camp road by the Latham Springs Baptist Camp sign.

BRUSHY CREEK ONE FLY TOURNAMENT – SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2013

Our friends at the Living Waters Fly Shop in Round Rock are hosting the Brushy Creek One Fly Tournament on Saturday, May 25, 2013. In order to fish in the tournament you need to pre-register via email or by calling the shop. Tournament check-in at Living Waters Fly Shop begins at 8:30 A.M. the day of the tournament. You must attend the pre-tournament briefing held at 9:00 A.M., just before the start of the event.



If you are interested more information is available at www.livingwatersflyfishing.com or call the shop at (512) 828-FISH.

There will be prizes awarded so fish hard! So far, the record is 7 species on a single fly!

Also, remember that Living Waters has Tying Night on most Wednesdays and every Wednesday in May. You can start with dinner at Pok E Jo's BBQ at 6:00 P.M. Tying starts back at the Shop at 7:00 P.M.

WACO FLY FISHING 101 – NEW DATE - JUNE 11, 2013

Pat Vanek, Bill Whitehead and I completed the first Waco Fly Fishing 101 class before the March meeting with about a dozen "students." I think we made our basic point that there is nothing magic about casting a fly rod, which will hopefully encourage the newcomers to give it a try. Yes, we did warn them that it can become addictive. The feedback I got was positive.

Holding a basic fly fishing class before a few of our monthly meetings is an excellent way of introducing newcomers to the sport with a low degree of difficulty for us and for the newcomers for that matter. We are going to have another class before the start of the June meeting so the students will have the chance to stay for the meeting and hear Lefty Ray's program. If you know anybody who might be interested let me know. Keep in mind that we have to limit the classes to approximately twelve students.

Bob Hanley

LIVING WATERS FLY FISHING - FIFTH ANNIVERSARY BASH **SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2013**

A good day to visit our friends at the Living Waters Fly Shop in Round Rock, Texas. A fun filled day and giveaways. There will be more details in the June newsletter. For now, mark the date.

CENTEX CHAPTER – CCA- THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2013

The Centex Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association will host its 15th annual banquet on Thursday, June 30, 2013 at the Waco Convention Center. For ticket information call Joe Hague 254-265-5624.



TRIP REPORT – EPIC WHITE BASS FISHING ON THE NORTH BOSQUE

For several years now Pat Vanek has donated a guided White Bass fishing trip to our Christmas party. Last year John Maddux was the high bidder.

Of course this has not been the best year for chasing White Bass up our local rivers due to low flows, but Pat was undeterred. When the North Bosque put on a little bit of flow, Pat scouted it, caught a limit and then set up the trip with John. By the way, that scouting trip is the kind of sacrifice that Pat is willing to make.

John's story has been a sad one this year and for the later part of last year for that matter. His first trip in months was our outing at Highview. John braved the wind for a few minutes and made up for some of his lost time, but he really turned things around on the North Bosque.

Oh, John's story includes inviting Coach Menefee as his guest. As you can see, John and Coach caught a few fish, actually many fish, If Pat had been fishing rather than guiding there would have been three limits. It looks like a Crappie made it to one of the stringers.



NORTH BOSQUE RIVER ACCESS



As you can see from the photograph, the landowners wasted no time blocking our access to the North Bosque River at Delmar Ranch Road. I am a little surprised that they went with barbed wire instead of concertina wire. Maybe they figure the threats of prosecution combined with the video surveillance were enough.

My preliminary research leads me to believe that this fence is actually blocking a public easement to the river. Even though the county essentially closed the portion of the road behind the fence that closure should not destroy the public's right of access via the easement.

I am planning to form a non-profit organization that will file a lawsuit seeking a declaration that there is in fact a public easement at this location and, if necessary, injunctive relief to reopen it to the public.

I know a number of you have expressed an interest in being involved in this effort. Unfortunately, I did a poor job of keeping a record of the many who have expressed an interest in working in support of the public access. I am now in the process of getting organized, so please email your contact information to me if you are interested in working on this cause, even if you have contacted me previously. Also, if you know anybody else who would like to get involved ask them to send an email as well.

Bob Hanley

www.nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com

TRIP REPORT – BRAZOS RIVER

There are still some local access points. Early last Sunday I fished the Brazos River for a while. I keep checking my spot hoping it will turn back on. So far this year it has disappointed. I have been skunked more often than not. The two “successful” trips had produced one Perch each. At least they were very big Perch.

Sunday morning was also a one fish trip, but the fish was my biggest Striper ever. I even measured it – 23+ inches. Maybe it was a good thing it was a one fish morning. This fish was strong. The fight was long and my forearm is actually sore.



I don't keep many fish, but this one is headed for the grill, then covered with a shrimp/wine sauce with a glass of Red Caboose or Valley Mills Viognier on the side.

Bob Hanley

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2013

- **President & FFF Liaison -** John Maddux 666-9009
- **Vice President & Newsletter** Bob Hanley 776-5444, www.nevilleandhanley@yahoo.com
- **Treasurer/Membership** David Beyer
- **Education Chairman -** Bill “Coach” Menefee 772-1785
- **Webmaster -** Dale Connally 710-4004
- **At Large** Billy Whitehead